

THE DAILY Star ON FRIDAY

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With 16-page tabloid-size special supplement
on The Daily Star Opinion Survey

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Your Right to Know

SHIAS THE TARGET

Iraq bombings leave scores dead
amid rising sectarian tensions

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ARTICLE 70

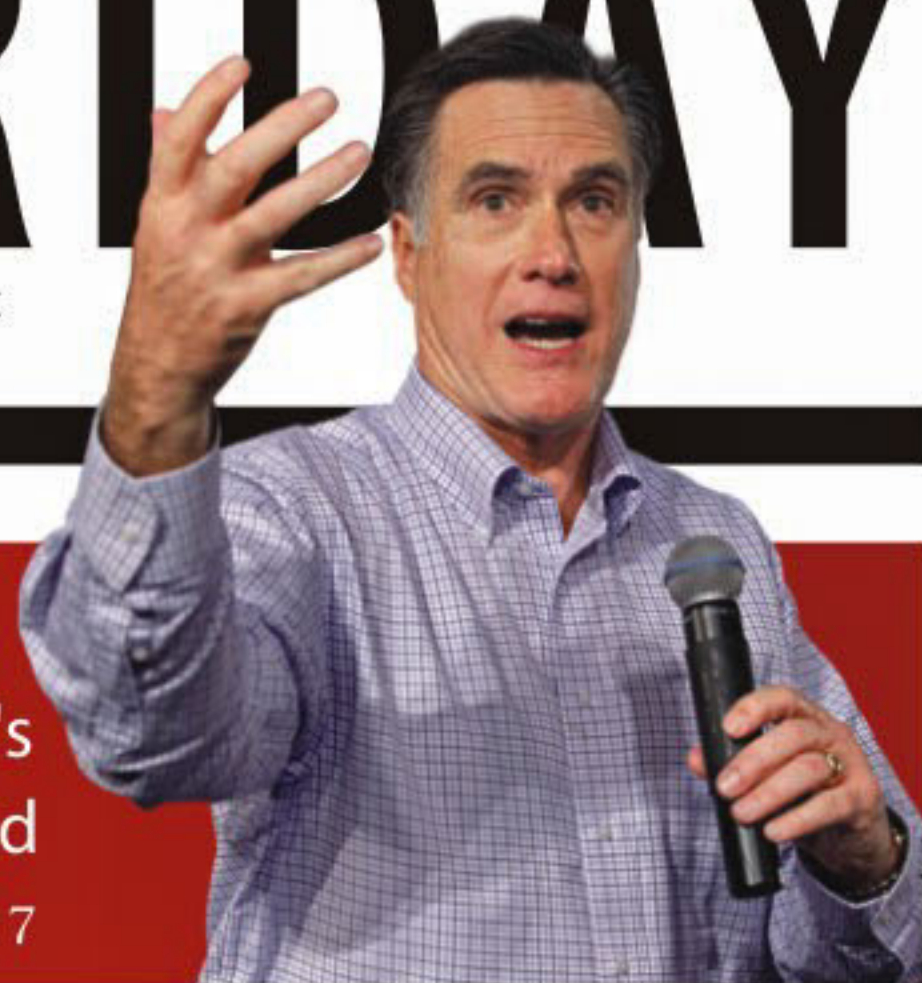
Scrapping of the constitutional provision is
necessary for a mature parliamentary system

PAGE 15

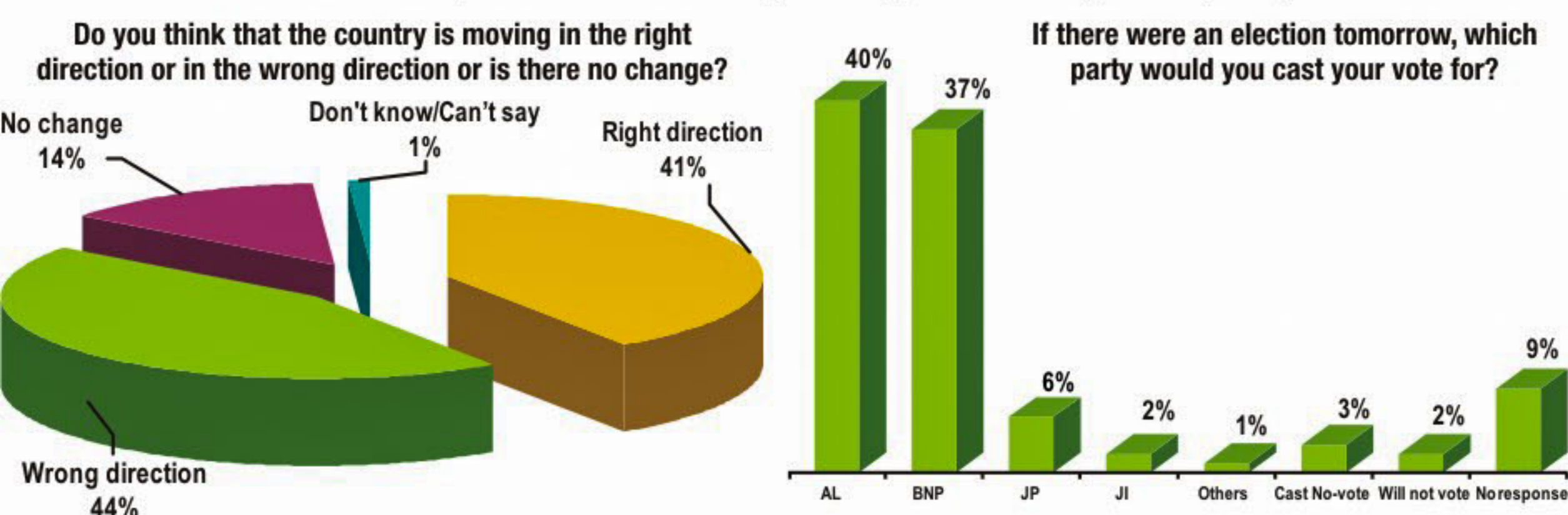
RACE TO WHITE HOUSE

Iowa victor Romney gets Senator McCain's
backing for his Republican nomination bid

PAGE 7



AL's votes static, BNP's jump

Swing voters make the difference; govt's popularity suffers jolt,
reveals The Daily Star opinion survey on govt's 3-year performance

INAM AHMED

Three years ago, the Awami League came to power with perhaps the biggest political bang since independence with a four-fifths majority in parliament. Today much of that popularity has waned, reveals The Daily Star opinion survey on the government at the end of its three years in power.

On the other hand, the BNP which somehow limped to the election, suffering its biggest defeat with a mere 29 seats because of unabated misrule, now seems to have recouped much of its lost position. And if the question of voting came right

now, the AL would still be marginally ahead of the BNP by holding on to its core votes. But the BNP, which lost its ground quite significantly in the last election, has regained votes this time.

In this whole game of gaining votes it is very obvious, even mathematically, that a large section of the swing voters are now opting for the BNP.

The poll, fifth in a series, was conducted on 2,520 respondents in 44 of the 64 districts covering all seven administrative divisions. Designed by The Daily Star, it was conducted by the Centre for

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

The Daily Star wish list

As the Awami League-led government steps into its fourth year today, The Daily Star would like to see the government urgently complete a number of urgent tasks that the AL pledged in the election.

1. Resolve stalemate over caretaker government

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8

People's interest first priority

Vows PM as govt completes 3 yrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called upon the opposition political parties to give up confrontational politics and work for the people and the country rising above party interests.

"Our party and ideology might be



RAKIB HASNET SUMAN and PANKAJ KARMAKAR, from Comilla

The Nagorik Committee-backed candidate Monirul Haque Sakku triumphed at yesterday's maiden mayoral polls to Comilla City Corporation, defeating the ruling



Awami League-backed contender Afzal Khan by around 30 thousand votes.

Sakku, who had earlier resigned as joint secretary general of Comilla district (south) BNP to contest the

election boycotted by his party, SEE PAGE 19 COL 1 MORE ON PAGE 9 & 20

HUMAN CHAIN FOR KAMAL MAJUMDER

School children forced to join

RASHIDUL HASAN

Ruling Awami League lawmaker Kamal Ahmed Majumder yesterday forced hundreds of students and teachers of Monipur and two other high schools to line up along a city street to protest "a conspiracy against him".

The children were seen being dragged out of their school vans to join a quarter kilometre-long human chain

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5 PHOTOS ON PAGE 5

The end of a visionary

SAJJADUR RAHMAN

It is truly the end of an era, and a remarkable one at that.

Samson H Chowdhury left behind an unmatched legacy of entrepreneurship and industrialisation. He built up from scratch Square Group, one of the largest conglomerates in Bangladesh, and set an example of ethical business that is certain to inspire many



Samson H Chy

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4 MORE IN STAR BUSINESS




We Mourn

Eminent industrialist, honorable Chairman of Square Group, **Mr. Samson H Chowdhury** breathed his last on January 5, 2012, at the age of 86. He was under treatment in Singapore.

We all are deeply shocked at his sad demise.

We convey the heartiest sorrow and sympathy to his family, on behalf of the Board of Directors and all the partners and employees of Pioneer Insurance Company Limited. We also wish a solemn peace to his departed soul.

PIONEER INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED
পাইওনিয়ার ইন্স্যুরেন্স কোম্পানী লিমিটেড
Head Office: Symphony (5th Floor), Plot # SE(F) 9, Road # 142, South Avenue, Gulshan-1, Dhaka 1212



We are greatly saddened and disheartened at the demise of the Honorable Chairman of Square Group

Mr. Samson H Chowdhury

He breathed his last yesterday morning at 10.20 am in Raffles Hospital Singapore. There will be a prayer service for the peace of his soul at the **Catholic Church (Cathedral), 1 Kakrail Road, Ramna, Dhaka 1000 at 10.00 pm on Friday, 6th January 2012.**

The body will be kept for paying last respect to the deceased.

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