



WITH TODAY'S ISSUE
STAR WEEKEND

PERFORMANCE TARGETS
Govt ties down state banks to binding agreements to reach higher targets
PAGE B1

YEMEN CRISIS
Kerry warns Iran over its alleged support for Houthi rebels
PAGE 9

Tabith BNP's final choice for DNCC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The BNP last night endorsed mayoral aspirant Tabith Awal in Dhaka North City Corporation polls, as the Supreme Court upheld the High Court order rejecting his father Abdul Awal Mintoo's writ petition against the cancellation of nomination.
Yesterday's SC order apparently left BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia with no option but to pick Tabith, eldest son of her adviser Mintoo, to fight against Awami League-backed heavyweight Annisul Huq in the mayoral race, said party insiders.
A BNP leader close to the party chief told The Daily Star, "The BNP chairperson thinks Tabith will get people's sympathy."
SEE PAGE 17 COL 5



Parties push hard for single runner

AL, BNP apply 'force', persuasion to get rebels off city councillor race
STAR REPORT
In a bid to ensure single councillor candidate in each ward of the three city corporations going to polls on April 28, the Awami League has made many grassroots leaders quit the race on the last day of nomination withdrawal yesterday.
The BNP, on the other hand, used persuasion rather than force to make sure its rebels step aside.
Over the past few days, the ruling party compelled more than 200 councillor hopefuls in the two Dhaka city corporations to sign nomination withdrawal forms and instructed them to submit those to the Election Commission, insiders said.
However, in many wards AL dissidents are still in the race, ignoring party decision.
Before expiry of the deadline for withdrawing nomination, the BNP managed to ensure single councillor candidate in around 50 of the 93 wards in Dhaka north and Dhaka south city corporations, said a party leader.
The party could not do the same for the remaining wards for a lack of time and manpower, as many of its leaders and workers are either in jail or on the run, the leader added, asking not to be named.
After consulting party chief Khaleda Zia, BNP Standing Committee Member Nazrul Islam Khan yesterday finalised the list of 50 candidates and asked the others to pull out.
SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



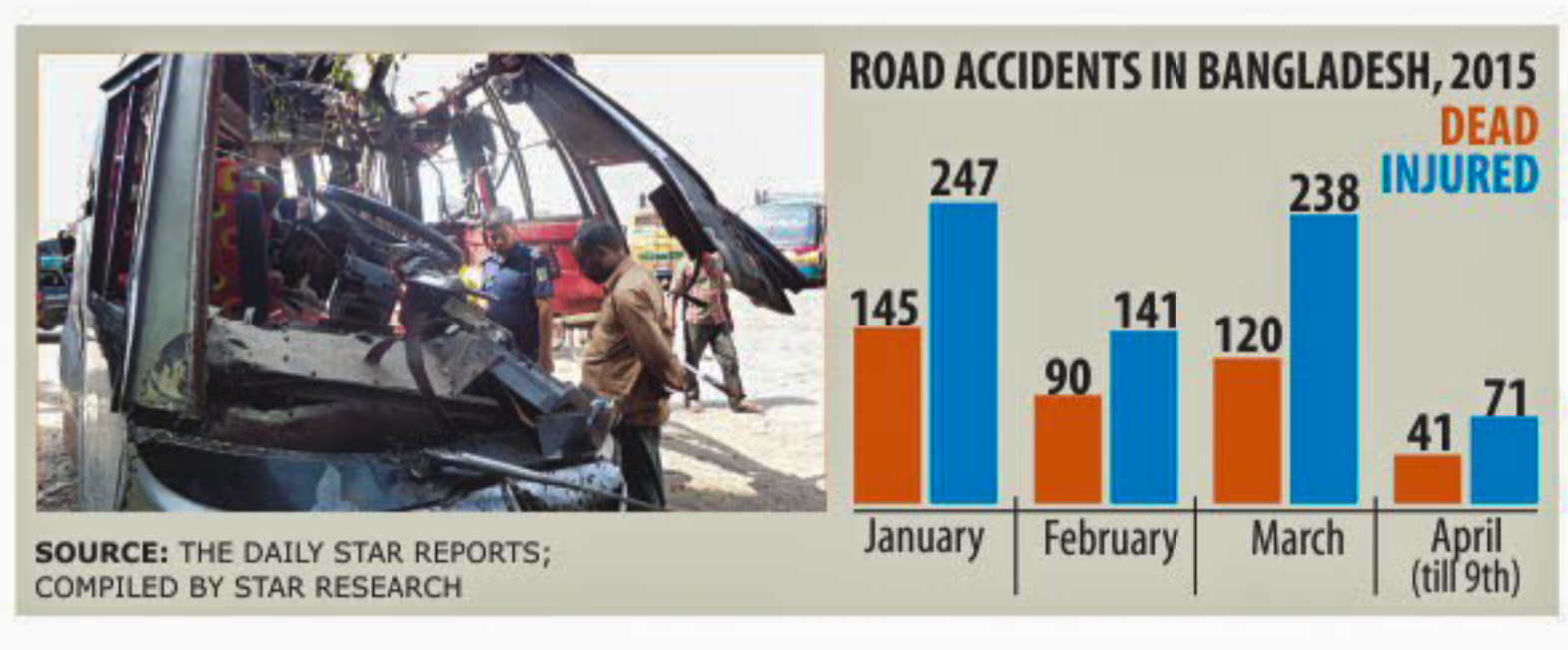
Kamaruzzaman seeks time to 'think about' mercy petition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
With differing views coming in over how much time a war criminal would get to ask for presidential clemency, death-row convict Muhammad Kamaruzzaman yesterday said he would decide on the matter "after giving it more thought".
State Minister for Home Asaduzzaman Khan, talking to reporters at his secretariat office yesterday afternoon, said Kamaruzzaman must decide by yesterday (Thursday) if he would
SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



25 killed as bus rams into tree

Reckless driving blamed
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur
Twenty-five people were killed and 23 injured as a bus crashed onto a roadside tree on Dhaka-Barisal highway in Bhanga upazila of Faridpur early yesterday.
The Barisal-bound bus from Dhaka was speeding and trying to overtake another when the accident occurred around 1:15am at Koidubi Sadardi, some 35km from Faridpur town. After hitting the tree, the bus plunged into
SEE PAGE 17 COL 5



BNP Vice-Chairman Abdullah Al Noman campaigns for party-backed mayor candidate for Chittagong City Corporation Manjur Alam Manju at Halihsahar of the port city yesterday.

Plagued by perennial problems, Dhaka and Chittagong -- our two major cities -- go to polls on April 28. What will a mayoral hopeful do to solve those problems if elected? How all the modern amenities will be ensured? What is his vision for the future of the city? Looking for the answers, The Daily Star has talked to a mayoral candidate.

Goal a modern Ctg
Manjur eyes second term to 'continue development'

PRANABESH CHAKRABORTY, Ctg
With the promise of keeping "the wave of development" on, M Manjur Alam Manju eyes a second consecutive term as mayor of Chittagong City Corporation (CCC).
"I have decided to contest the polls again in order to continue the development work and the improvement in services that started during my tenure," said Manjur, who took the CCC
SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

TOP QUOTE
"Reasonable time does not mean seven days."
ATTORNEY GENERAL MAHBUBEY ALAM ABOUT HOW MUCH TIME KAMARUZZAMAN SHOULD GET FOR SEEKING PRESIDENTIAL CLEMENCY

oppo
N3
It's Your Turn
• Motorized Camera
• VOOC Flash Charge (0 to 75% charge in 30 minutes)
• Auto Panorama
64 MP ULTRA HD
O click 2.0 wireless control
OPPO Exclusive Store now available at
Bashundhara City Level- 01 & 05/ Eastern Plaza Level 05/ Rupayan -Gulshan Avenue Level-01
Mirpur 01- Khalil Bhaban/ Eastern Plus- Level 05/ 31 D.I.T. Road, Malibag

PEDROLLO mountain bike challenge
In celebration of International Year of Soils 2015 & 30 years of Pedrollo in Bangladesh
30 mountain bike riders and trail runners
30Km
April 10 - 11, 2015
Halda Valley Chittagong
for more information www.adventurebangladesh.net