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**WITH TODAY'S ISSUE**

Star **Showbiz**

**ICC AND ITS CHAIRMAN**

Was it a big deal when Srinivasan violated ICC rules? Yes, it was: Prof Nizamuddin Ahmed

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**THE SPY GAME**

Britain eavesdropped Argentina for years over Falklands: Snowden leaks

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## 3 MONTHS OF NON-STOP BLOCKADE

# Farmers struggle to recover loss

Low prices of produce, increasing transport cost put them in tight spot

**PORIMOL PALMA**

Last winter, Naresh Chandra Biswas grew potato, cauliflower and cabbage on two acres of land.

He invested Tk 1.2 lakh, hoping to make a good profit from the yield. But fate had something else in store for him. All he got from sale of his produce was Tk 47,000, about one-third his investment.

"I had to sell potato at Tk 3-4 a kg and fed most of the cauliflowers and cabbages to the cattle," said Naresh, 47, of Berakuthi village in Nilphamari Sadar.

Thanks to the indefinite countrywide blockade since January 6, his area saw a low turnout of wholesale traders who buy vegetables from farmers and ship it to different markets in Dhaka and Chittagong. Truckers would mostly stay off the road, fearing petrol bomb attacks that have already claimed around 70 lives across the country.

As a result, the vegetables Naresh grew would often either perish in the field or were sold at a shockingly cheap rate.

Failing to recoup even his investment, Naresh was forced to lease out 60 decimals of his six acre land to pay off the fertiliser and pesticide dealers he owed.

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Farmers harvest potatoes at a field in Sirajdikhan of Munshiganj. Despite having a great season, hartals and the blockade are preventing them from shipping their produce to other districts, causing the prices to plummet. The photo was taken recently. PHOTO: STAR

## Death toll in Buriganga boat capsizes rises to 11

**STAR REPORT**

Three more bodies were recovered from the Buriganga river yesterday, raising the death toll to 11 in the Narayanganj trawler capsizes.

The dead are Jamila Khatun, 65, wife of late Abdur Rashid of the capita's Lalbagh, Russell, 20, son of Raju Ahmed, and Alamgir Hossain, 30, son of late Korban Ali, of the same area.

During the rescue operation, the diving team of firefighters found the bodies, reports our correspondent from Narayanganj.

Families claimed two people were still missing.

They are Md Kajol, 25, son of late Manik Miah, and Samad, 25, son of late Wahab Ali, of Lalbagh area.

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# World, Iran hail deal, Israel fumes

## Netanyahu demands agreement should include recognition of the Jewish state

**AFP, Tehran**

Well-wishers hailed Iran's nuclear negotiators as they returned to Tehran yesterday from reaching a potentially historic framework deal with world powers, but Israel warned it was a "very dangerous" step.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu demanded that any nuclear agreement signed with Iran must endorse Israel's right to exist, while also insisting pressure be kept up to ensure a sound deal is reached.

While calling the emerging deal a bad one, he said the choice was not only between a bad deal or war.

"There is a third alternative - standing firm, increasing the pressure on Iran until a good deal is achieved," he said in a statement.

And "Israel demands that any final agreement with Iran will include a clear and

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WHO SAID WHAT -- PAGE 8

**Who got what from Iran nuke deal**

**ABCNEWS ONLINE**

As details emerged of the interim agreement reached between six world powers and Iran over principles for rolling back its nuclear program, the question on everyone's mind is which way did the scales tip?

While Obama acknowledged a formal agreement won't be signed until June, ABC News breaks down the essential elements of who got what at the end of the eight-day marathon negotiations in Switzerland.

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## CITY CORPORATION ELECTIONS 2015

# NOMINATION CANCELLATION

## Candidates wait for appeal verdicts

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The fate of three mayor hopefuls and around two dozen councillor aspirants for the upcoming Dhaka city corporation polls will be decided today.

The divisional commissioner of Dhaka will deliver the verdict on the appeals of three mayor aspirants, including Abdul Awal Mintoo, BNP-backed mayoral aspirant for Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC), and

Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu, former BNP lawmaker and a mayoral aspirant for Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC).

Mintoo's nomination was cancelled on April 1 due to mistakes in filing procedure, while Pintu's nomination was cancelled on the same day for providing incorrect information about the cases filed against him.

Both of them filed appeals on Thursday with the divisional commissioner of Dhaka.

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**BNP sets up new platform for campaign**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The BNP has formed a new platform comprising professionals from different sectors to boost support for the party-backed mayoral aspirants in the upcoming Dhaka city corporation polls.

Formed under the directives of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, the platform will be headed by former

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MORE ON PAGE 16



Women flash the "V for Victory" sign as they celebrate on Valiasr Street in northern Tehran on Thursday after the announcement of an agreement on Iran nuclear talks. PHOTO: AFP

## 12kg gold seized at airport

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Customs Intelligence officials seized 12 gold bars, weighing around 12kg, at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in the capital early yesterday.

The gold bars were found in a wooden box of electric fans at the cargo unit of the airport around 1:45am, said Moinul Khan, director general of Customs Intelligence.

The estimated value of the gold is Tk 6 crore. The gold was shipped over from Hong Kong by a cargo flight of Cathay Pacific, he said.

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## They're coming back, finally

### 2 Bangladeshis abducted in Libya on way home

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Two Bangladeshi migrant workers, who were freed on March 24 after being abducted by militants for 18 days in Libya, may return home tomorrow.

The Austrian Value Added Oilfield Services (VAOS) Ltd, which employed the workers, brought them to its Tripoli office from Misrata on Thursday, ending all confusions over the whereabouts of the Bangladeshis after their release, said officials at the Bangladesh embassy in Libya yesterday.

The embassy officials also met the Bangladeshis at the VAOS office in Tripoli on Thursday.

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**TOP QUOTE**

**ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER BENJAMIN NETANYAHU REACTING TO IRAN NUKE DEAL**

"This deal would pose a grave danger to the region and to the world and would threaten the very survival of the state of Israel."

# Islam growing faster than any religion

**Pew research shows Muslims, Christians to make up nearly equal share of world population by 2050**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

There will be almost an equal number of Muslims and Christians in the world in 35 years, according to a study that says Muslim population is growing faster than any other major religious group.

The study by the Washington-based Pew Research Centre has found that in the coming four decades, Christianity will remain the world's largest religious group, but Islam will see a major increase that will make the two religious groups almost equal

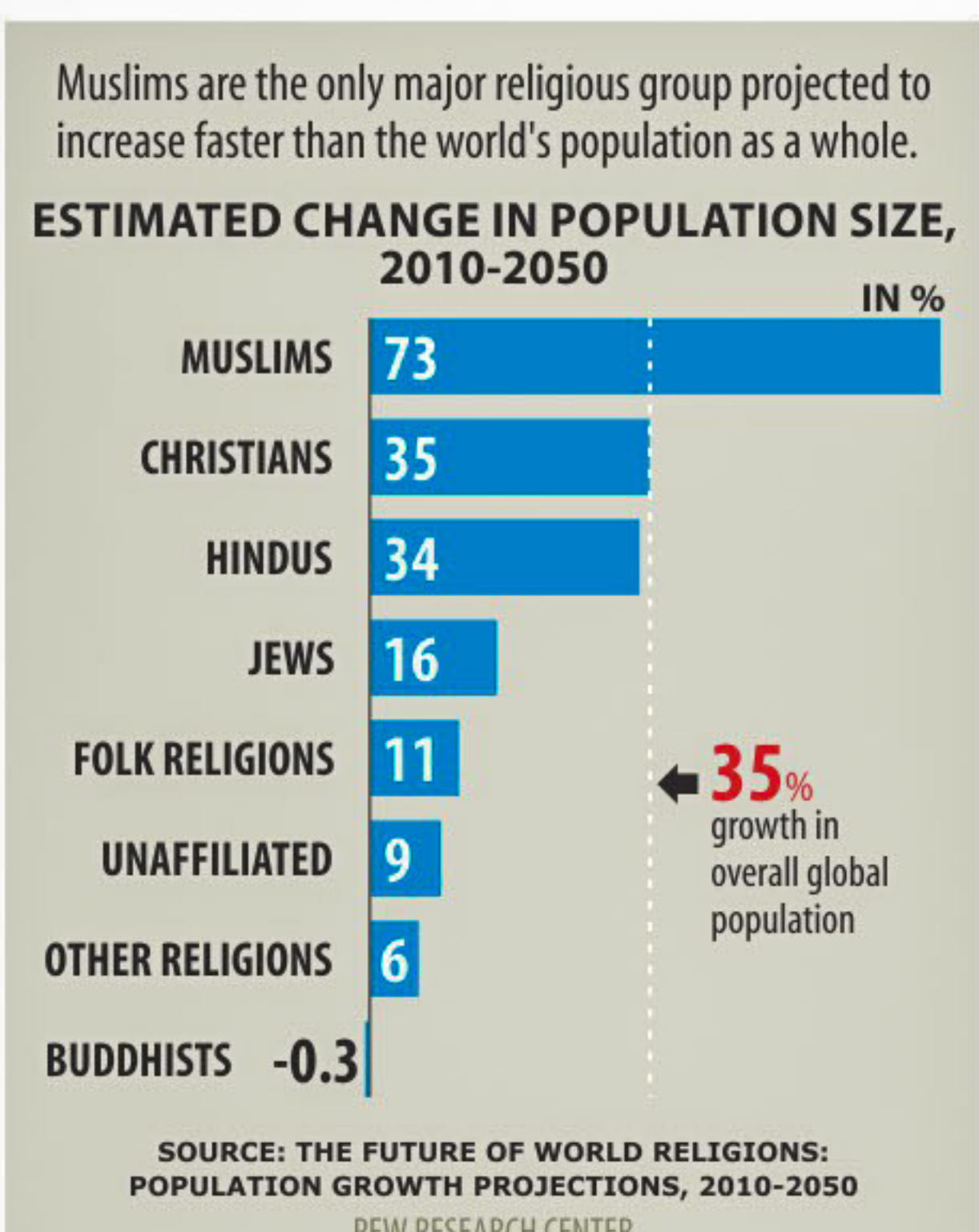
in numbers by 2050.

"Muslim populations are expected to grow in absolute number in all regions of the world between 2010 and 2050," says the report titled "The Future of World Religions: Population Growth Projections, 2010-2050".

The Pew Research Centre used demographic trends to project the change by religion and by country.

The study, released on Thursday, was done over the past six years and will continue. Its projections are based on data from

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উদ্ভাসিত আগামীতে আপনার আস্থা

**সফলতার...**

**২১ বছর**

২১ তম প্রতিষ্ঠা বার্ষিকীতে আমাদের সমস্ত সাম্প্রতিক কর্মকাণ্ডে একাত্ম থাকায় সকল সম্মানিত গ্রাহক, পৃষ্ঠপোষক, জমির মালিক ও শুভাকাঙ্ক্ষীদের জন্যই আন্তরিক কৃতজ্ঞতা ও ধন্যবাদ।

**বিল্ডিং ফর ফিউচার লিঃ**

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