

News

World Population Data predicts Bangladesh to be 7th most populated nation by 2010

Bangladesh, presently holding the ninth position in the status of world population with its 124.7 million people, will seize the seventh position in 2010, reports UNB.

According to 1999 World Population Data Sheet received here yesterday, the country's population will reach 150.2 million in 2010 with the current 1.8 per cent annual growth rate.

The data sheet of US-based Population Reference Bureau (PRB) estimated Bangladesh's population at 177 million in 2025 showing a bit better shifting to the eighth position.

The PRB annual report, however, did not mention the position of any countries according to their density of population.

At present, some 2,260 people

live per square mile in Bangladesh, a country of 55,598 square miles area.

According to the report the population of Bangladesh will be doubled in 38 years time with current 1.8 per cent growth rate.

The births of child per 1000 population are 27 whereas the deaths per 1000 are only 8. On an average the life expectancy of men is 59 years and women 58 years, the report added.

The total fertility rate of the country is 3.3 per women.

The data sheet showed the status of top 50 countries according to the population size in 1999, 2010 and 2025.

The top four positions presently held by China, India, the United States and Indonesia would remain same till 2025 with their increased number of populations.



Shyampur BNP unit led by Sadek Hossain Khoka brought out a procession at Demra yesterday protesting the 'false statements' against BNP leader and deputy leader of the opposition in parliament Prof A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury and Tarek Rahman. Star photo

Weather

No change in temp

Moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at most places over Chittagong, Barisal and Khulna divisions and at many places over Dhaka, Sylhet and Rajshahi divisions till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Moderately heavy falls is also expected at places over Barisal, Chittagong and Khulna divisions during the period, Met Office said.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The country's highest temperature 33.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and Chuadanga and the lowest 23.2 degrees at Teknaf and Satkhira.

The sun sets in the city today at 6:50 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:16 am.

Maximum and minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	30.3	26.0	89	88
Chittagong	31.7	24.0	86	88
Rajshahi	33.2	25.5	88	95
Khulna	31.0	24.6	90	98
Barisal	30.2	24.2	94	98
Sylhet	31.7	24.8	88	80
Cox's Bazar	30.4	25.8	86	92

Beating at BLRI

Condition of injured JU students deteriorate

By JU Correspondent

Condition of two students of Jahangirnagar University (JU) who injured their eyes in an attack by some unidentified persons on June 15 at Savar deteriorated further.

The two students, witnesses said, were beaten up in the Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute (BLRI) area on the evening on June 15 when they went to collect tolls from a jackfruit leasee, Abdul Khaleque.

The on-duty guard at the gate of BLRI said Abdul Khaleque acting on previous information had briefed local people staying in the area about the two students. Later, when the people saw the two students, they swooped on them with bamboo-sticks. They also cut their eye-lids and fled the scene.

But, BLRI leaders denied that the two students had gone there to collect tolls. "They went to have a walk," BLRI JU unit president Nuruzzaman Shaikh told the journalists immediately after the incident.

Kamol, one of the two injured, has lost his left eye while

the condition of his other eye is critical, his relatives said. He had an operation on his eyes at Islamic Eye Hospital. He was later transferred to BIRDIM hospital as both his kidneys are not working. He is a second year student of Department of Economics and a resident student of Shaheed Salam Barkat Hall.

The other injured student, Shafiq Hasan Munna, also a second year student of Department of Geography, is now in a critical condition. Both of his eyes are severely injured, and he is now getting treatment at Shuhrawardi Hospital. He is likely to lose normal eyesight, sources informed. He is a resident student of AFM Kamaluddin Hall and an active worker of Bangladesh Chhatri League (BCL) JU unit, with condition of anonymity, some students said he is one of the 13 accused in the Ananda Murder Case of October 97.

A case (43/15.06.99) was filed with Savar Jharna under section 323 and 325 of the penal code.

JCD's 12-point demands included immediate release of all arrested JCD activists, removal of BCL terrorists from the residential halls and rehabilitation of ousted JCD men in their halls.

Among others, Monwar Hossain Rana, A B M Mosharraf Hossain, Sultan Salauddin Tuku, Manir Hossain, Mostafizul Islam Mamun and Asaduzzaman Asad addressed the rally which was followed by a procession on the campus.

In the second session designed to discuss on 'Character-

Seminar on anthropology begins at JU

By JU Correspondent

Leaders of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), the student wing of opposition BNP yesterday urged the student community for a vigorous countrywide movement to oust the "autocratic" government.

They were addressing a rally in front of the DUCSU Building of Dhaka University organised to welcome the freshers of the university and to press their 12-point demands.

Condemning the DU authorities for allowing Bangladesh Chhatri League (BCL) terrorists to stay at the halls, the JCD leaders urged the authorities to take immediate steps to rehabilitate the JCD activists ousted from their respective halls, by removing the BCL 'terrorists.'

Addressing the rally, JCD vice-president Monjur Elahi alleged that the ruling Awami League government to destroy the JCD activities from the country, he alleged. He urged the AL government for immediate stoppage of repression on JCD activists.

In the first session yesterday, three different papers were presented on the study of Anthropology in Bangladesh. Prof A K M Zehadul Karim, Chairman of Anthropology Department, Rajshahi University presented the keynote paper on "The Development of Anthropology in Bangladesh: An Exploration." Kazi Afzal Ahmed and Nazrul Islam, two lecturers of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, jointly presented their papers on "The problems of Studying and Teaching Anthropology in Bangladesh." Sayeed Ferdous and Mirza Taslima Sultana of JU jointly presented papers on "Evolution of Texts: Tendency of Changing Anthropology in Bangladesh."

Among the discussants were Prof Tajul Islam Hashemi, Director of School of Humanities and Liberal Arts of Independent University, Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman, Senior Research Fellow, BIDS, Prosanta Tripathi, Chairman of Anthropology Department of JU and Dr Farzana Islam of Anthropology of JU. Prof S M Nurul Alam coordinated the first session.

The PCs will be used by students between the ages of 14-18 to qualify for the national curriculum on computer studies for higher secondary and senior secondary standard.

This initiative from BT will greatly benefit the Sylhet community, the press release said.

isites and Perspectives of Fieldwork, Siddique Rahman of JU Anthropology Department presented keynote on Applied Anthropology: Research Methodology and an Analysis." Prof S M Nurul Alam presented his paper on "Nativing Anthropology: New Directions and Trends in Anthropological Fieldwork." Prof Imdadul Haq of Sociology Department of Dhaka University presented the keynote paper on "Fieldwork in Social Research" while Monjur Mannan presented his paper on "Engaging Deshi Anthropologists in Development: A Reflection on Current Practice."

Dr K M Ashraful Aziz of BRAC, Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman, Prof Helaudin Khan Arefin and Dr Shahjalal discussed the topics of the second session and Prof A K M Zehadul Karim coordinated the session.

A number of teachers and students participated in the open discussion after the presentation of the papers.

BT to donate computers to schools in Sylhet

British Telecommunications (BT), a leading telecommunications provider in the world, will donate personal computers (PCs) to schools and colleges in the country's Sylhet region, reports BSS.

The beneficiaries of the donations will be schools in Bishwanath, Balaganj, Beambazar, Gopalganj, Nabiganj, Maulibazar and Jagannathpur areas of Sylhet division.

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APB unit of Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) organised the 9 AM to 5 PM hunger strike to press their demands. The demands of the aggrieved journalists include immediate reopening of the news agency, withdrawal of orders transferring four journalists to non-journalistic job, payment of four months' arrears and upholding the dignity of the journalists, DUJ press release said.

Representatives of different professional groups, speaking on the occasion, cautioned BEXIMCO authorities, the owners of the agency, against their evil design.

Journalist union leaders declared that the country's journalist community would resist the mischievous plan of the owners of APB to make "non-journalists" out of the journalists.

They described the efforts of the owners of the news agency to rob journalists of their professional identity as "terrorism of sorts" and resolved to resist such designs. They called for reunification of the union to protect the dignity of the profession.

On the transit issue he said,

"We can think of transit if it brings benefit to us, but we don't need to think if it is for corridor purpose or not. We must take our decision on the basis of our national interest."

He said it will not be wise for Bangladesh to proceed towards other issues or think new ones until the solution of the Bangladesh-Nepal transit affair.

Former deputy prime minister Jamaluddin Ahmed said, Transit cannot be confined within two countries and it should be on a regional basis so that everybody can benefit from it. The transit should be chalked out considering geo-political, social and economic aspects.

"Being a minister I could not go to my own country's land due to the Tin Bigha corridor. The Indian authority didn't allow me to cross a little land to meet Bangladeshi. I had to cheer the people standing in Patgram," he said, while questioning the government of India.

He said India and Sri Lanka signed a bilateral free trade accord despite SAPTA, but it could not see the light for long as India denied access to Lankan goods.

Jamaluddin said basically there is no economy in the seven-sister states and per capita income of those states' people is less than 100 US dollars.

Prof KMHS Sirajul Haque, Chairman of Cardiology Department at BSMMU said Dhaka-Calcutta bus service is cheaper in Bangladesh than in Calcutta.

The cost of a bypass heart



Journalists of APB, a BEXIMCO media-owned news agency, observed a token hunger strike at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday in support of their various demands.

— Star photo

Dhaka-Calcutta bus service won't lure away more patients, local doctors say

Medical specialists in Dhaka do not feel that a larger number of people will go to India for treatment with opening of Dhaka-Calcutta direct bus service, reports UNB.

Reliable sources indicate that about 85 per cent of total visitors from Bangladesh to India go there for medical treatment, and it is suspected widely that the number might increase with direct bus service.

Asked about the reasons for going to India once or twice a year for treatment are now taking treatment from local specialists as they find similar treatment here as in Calcutta or Madras, Dr Harun-ur-Rashid said.

Dr Rashid, a reputed specialist of Nephrology and Kidney at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, said patients are actually reluctant to go India as one needs to go there several times for treatment of a single ailment. "After going there twice or thrice, patients prefer local specialist," he said.

However, they do not wholly agree that the patients prefer treatment in India in apprehension of 'wrong diagnosis' and lack of proper care by local doctors here.

The specialists gave different views over the cost of treatment in Dhaka and Calcutta. All of them however admitted that pressure of a large number of patients and inadequate salary in hospitals compel the specialists to entertain the patients in their private chamber.

Besides, M A Hashem and M Asifur Rahman have been elected as the Vice-Chairman and Benajir Ahmed as the Treasurer of the Board of Governors of the Foundation.

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JS body calls for implementation of projects to protect Ashuganj port

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Water Resources Ministry yesterday called for implementation of the projects for protection of Ashuganj port, Bhairab power tower and such other vital installations from river erosion on priority basis, reports UNB.

The committee meeting with Abdul Momin in the chair discussed the projects for river training and protection of vital areas and towns from river erosion included in the current year's budget.

It suggested the government to take adequate steps for protection of flood prone areas from flooding.

A report of the sub-committee that inspected the CERP works of Kolapara thana of Patuakhali district was placed in the meeting.

Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzaque, M Anwarul Islam, MA Bari, Sharifuddin Ahmad, Oli Ahmed