METROPOLITAN

23pc of total population live in urban areas

The figure likely to reach 40pc in 2020

UNB, Dhaka

About 50 per cent of the country's total population will be living in urban areas in 2035 while the urban population is likely to hit 40 per cent in 2020, making it harder for the government to catch up in the race to provide civic amenities.

Some three crore people or 23 per cent of the country's total population are now living in cities and towns, and the rate of urbanisation in Bangladesh is 25 per cent, which is much lower than many countries.

The statistics were revealed in a paper released on the occasion of World Habitat Day. Prof Amirul Islam Chowdhury, a teacher of Economics Department of Jahangirnagar University, prepared the

Although a large number of people in Bangladesh are now living in urban areas, they are being deprived of basic civic

The survey showed that economic activities in urban areas of the country had risen to 43 per cent, but still there was 50 per cent deficit in utility services for the city and town dwellers.

It said 40 per cent of urban dwellers were living below the poverty line while 35-50 per cent living in slums hardly get facilities like water and sanitation. Another survey said that by the

year 2020 there would be a need to raise employment opportunities by 23-30 per cent every year in the formal sector and 5-7 per cent in the informal sector.

The money spent by a typical male

smoker in Bangladesh is five times

higher than his expenditure on

housing, 18 times higher than

what he spend on healthcare, and

20 times higher than what he allo-

Women in Bangladesh who

smoke hukkas spend almost as

much on tobacco as the per capita

expenditure for housing, and over

three time as much as per capita

expenditure on healthcare and

education, according to a study by

PATH Canada, a Canada-based

pact of tobacco on poor in Bang-

ladesh" said 10.5 million fewer

children would go hungry and 350

deaths of under-five children from

malnutrition can be prevented each day, if the country decides

country could save 15 million

dollars in foreign currency spent

to import tobacco every year, in-

crease employment in formal

sector by 18 per cent and largely

increase investments in housing,

that "a net gain to jobs of as much

as 18 per cent if smokers spent

their money on other goods and

"What is unique about tohacco

The study quoted World Bank

education and healthcare.

You'll

like

the

tune

our

services."

Besides, the study said, the

not to consume tobacco.

The study on "Economic im-

BSS, Dhaka

cates for education.

organisation.

As there is no possibility of cre-

Money spent on smoking

can save lives of 350

children a day: Study

ating employment opportunities Development Plan, RAJUK has in the formal sector at this ratio, also taken up projects to construct there will be tremendous pressure some new roads and expand some on the informal sector, the paper existing ones, construct residential There are 522 small and big ur- commercial and industrial plots,

ban centres in Bangladesh and of them six are city corporations.

Even though the revenue earning of the urban authorities rose by 20 per cent in the last 20 years, it's still only one per cent of the national income, the survey

for the planned development of capital Dhaka, in its master plan decided to expand the city area by 590 sq. mile by 2015.

As per the plan, the city will be expanded up to Gazipur municipality in the north, up to the Dhaleswari river in the south, up

to Bangshi and the Dhaleswari also among the proposed roads. rivers in the west and up to the Shitalakhya and Meghna rivers in the east.

that began in 1995, RAJUK has taken up a 20-year long-term infrastructure plan, which will be completed in 2015. A mid-term urban area plan will be implemented by the year 2005.

To build up a planned capital, RAJUK is implementing a detailed area plan, which is now nearing completion. The areas are northern Mirpur to Uttara, Kamrangirchar, Keraniganj, adjacent areas of Begunbari canal, northern side of DND and the proposed by-pass from Airport to Demra and its adjacent areas.

is not its ability to generate em

ployment, but rather its ability to

bility of a negative impact of sharp

decline of the use of tobacco, say

ing the economy would not suffer,

as when people stop consuming

tobacco, their savings would not

money on other items that involve

labour in their production, trans-

cultural crop in Bangladesh, and

thus decreasing production would

not likely to affect people, par

ticularly given economic viability

of alternative crops." the study

JU vacation

JU CORRESPONDENT

press release.

schedule.

begins today

Jahangirnagar University (JU) goes

on an 11-day vacation today on

the occasion of Durga Puja, Lak-

smi Puja and Shab-e-Barat, says a

and 22, the release added.

DYNASTY

MONARCH MANOR

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Rather, they may spend the

"Tobacco is not a major agri-

disappear from the economy.

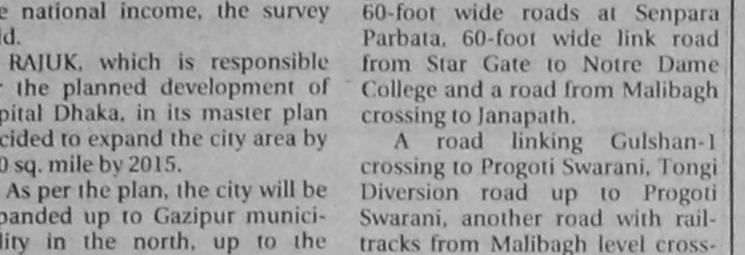
portation and sale.

The study ruled out the possi-

kill its users," it commented.

Under Dhaka Metropolitan

buildings, develop residential, and preserve water bodies and To ease the city's traffic jam, construction of 10 link roads is



under process. Those are Daya-

ganj-Jurain link road, 100-foot and

RAJUK has also undertaken some projects to build up planned residential areas such as Pur-To implement its master plan bachal new model town and Jhilmil residential project.

ing to Tejgaon railway station are

It will also build up Ashulia as recreation centre.

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yesterday protesting adulteration of foods.

Free primary edn programme

5.5 cr textbooks to be distributed

BSS, Dhaka

The government will distribute about 5.52 crore textbooks among pupils under the Compulsory Free Primary Education Programme (CFPEP), education ministry officials said.

They said printing of the books demic year. for classes up to five was underway. The books would be distributed at the beginning of the next academic year. The Primary and Mass Educa-

tion Department sources said the fiscal to make the CFPEP a sucgovernment distributed 5.52 crore cess. books at the beginning of current were revised over the period.

brought some changes in the book distribution policy.

Under the revised policy, and Durga Puja. books will be distributed among run by Khulna City Corporation, Board and Geneva Camp Primary School and Pratibandhi Schools free of charges from the next aca-

Besides, the government has launched a stipend project involving Tk 663 crore for the students of all schools outside pourasabha areas from the current

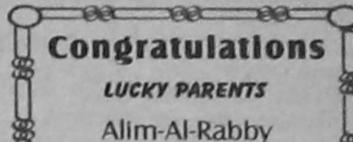
Under the stipend project, academic year. Eight textbooks each of the families with a schoolgoing student will get Tk one hun-The government has already dred and each of the families with two such students will get Tk 125 as stipend.

US embassy closed on Oct 13, 15

UNB, Dhaka

The US Embassy offices will remain closed on October 13 and 15 on the occasion of Columbus Day

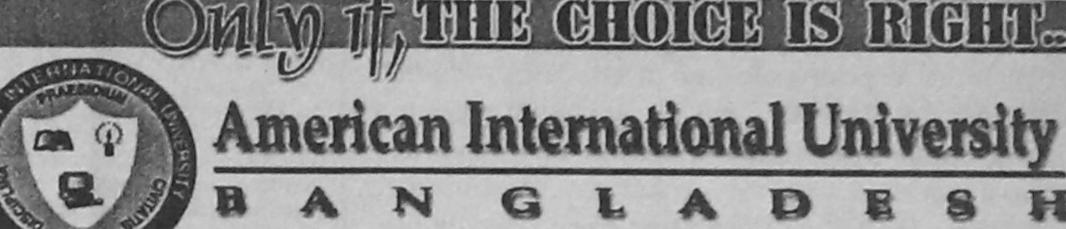
The American Embassy offices, the students of primary schools | including its Public Affairs Section, Information Resource Centre and SOS Shishu Palli and Cantonment | the student counselling service, will remain closed on Sunday on the occasion of Columbus Day, an American national holiday, and on Tuesday due to Durga Puja.



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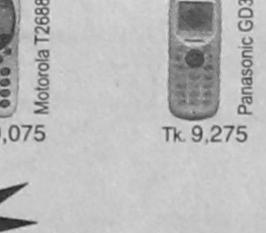
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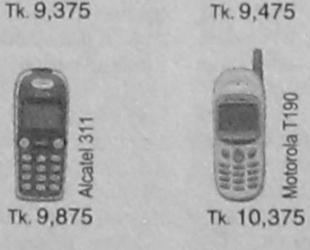
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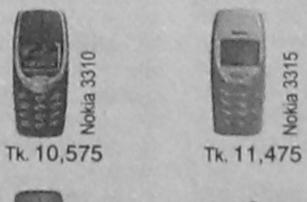
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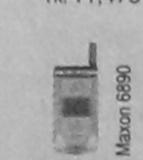


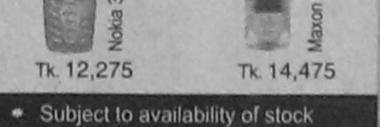


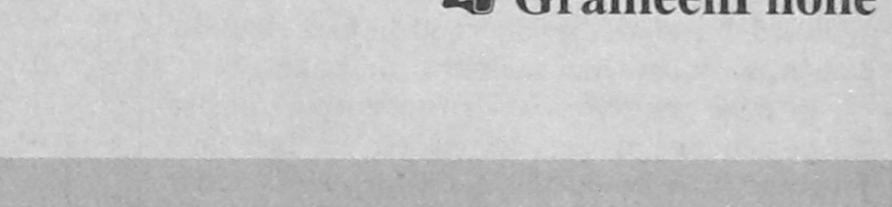


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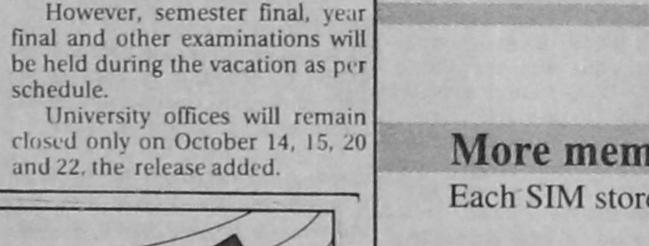
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