PRAN-RFL GROUP



Directorate of Family Planning,

however, claimed at the report

unveiling programme that the

population of the country is

around 14.4 crore. In the fourth

Population and Housing

Census 2001, the population of

Bangladesh is stated 12.43

report 2010, 28 percent people

of the country live in urban

areas where the population

growth is 3.2 per thousand. The

fertility rate in the country is

2.25 percent with 72 of every

1,000 female aged between 15

and 19 years' old giving birth to

their first child. Only 18 percent

women of the country receive

service from skilled attendants

According to the UNFPA

crore, he added.

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People's Right to Know www.thedailystar.ne

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

report.

of Change."

The country's population is

now 16.44 crore while the

population growth 1.4 per

thousand, said a UNFPA

Population Fund (UNFPA)

yesterday launched its world

population report 2010. As for

Bangladesh, Food and Disaster

Management Minister

Muhammad Abdur Razzaque

unveiled the report "State of

World Population 2010" at a

city hotel yesterday. The theme

of this year's flagship publica-

tions was "From Conflict and

Crisis to Renewal: Generations

population of the country would be 22.25 crore

Ganesh Chandra Sarkar, director of

The United Nations

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TOXIC PARACETAMOL CASE

Accuser now speaks for the accused

Puzzled prosecution promptly seeks adjournment on the proceedings started 19 years after death of 76 children

CHAITANYA CHANDRA HALDER and EMRAN HOSSAIN

The accuser yesterday sided with the persons accused of manufacturing adulterated paracetamol syrup that caused the death of 76 children in 1991.

Standing on the dock 16 years after hearing of the muchpublicised case against Adflame Pharmaceuticals began, complainant Abul Khair Chowdhury, the then drug superintendent, spoke in favour of the five accused, three of them still on the run.

A puzzled prosecution immediately sought an adjournment on the proceedings. The Drug Court of Judge Mohammad Abdul Majid adjourned cross-examination of the complainant till January 5 following the petition by prosecutor Mahmud Hossain Jahangir.

Prosecutor Jahangir said, "I was stunned hearing the answer. I saw the case was going to be lost and I had no other **SEE PAGE 15 COL 7**

- Over 2,000 children died from toxic paracetamol of 5 companies between 1980-92
- Corruption sabotaged the criminal cases
- Never-ending High Court stay orders prevent cases from being tried
- Families kept in heart-breaking wait for justice in one of the worst ever crimes
- Case against Adflame reopened November 11, 2009 upon The Daily Star inquiry; one company was not even prosecuted, two other cases stuck in stays, another acquitted

CJ in disguise Population 16.44cr visits Dhaka lower courts

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Chief Justice ABM Khairul Haque in guise of a general visitor made surprise visits to different lower courts in Dhaka to see their proceedings yesterday.

ABM Khairul Haque, the 19th chief justice of the country, is the first CJ known to make such visits.

Sources said the CJ went to the court area around 11:30am and visited different courtrooms of the Dhaka District and Sessions Judge, Metropolitan Sessions Judge, Chief Metropolitan Magistrate and Chief Judicial Magistrate.

Supreme Court Registrar Ashraful Islam and others accompanying him were all in plain clothes.

Most of the judges and magistrates while conducting **SEE PAGE 15 COL 3**

Old Address:

Dhaka 1000

68 Dilkusha C/A

Population

States UNFPA report; minister Razzaque

feels food security threatened

16.44 crore

Population growth 1.4 (/1000 people)

Infant mortality 41 (/1000 people) Access to improved water

80% Under-5 child mortality boy 58%, girl 56% Primary school enrolment

High school enrolment boy 43%, girl 45%

boy 89%, girl 94%

The UNFPA report also predicted that the in their labour.

The mortality rates of under-five-year-old male and female in the country are 58 and 56

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

No extra flight

Biman pilots threaten in demand for restoring benefits

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Pilots of Biman Bangladesh Airlines yesterday threatened to stop flying extra hours, unless airline authorities withdrew an order that increased their retirement ages but curtailed some benefits.

Hajj flights will, however, remain out of the movement, they

"From October 22, we won't fly extra hours, unless our demands are met," said Captain MA Basit Mahtab, general secretary of Biman and Bangladesh Pilots' Association (BAPA), at a press conference.

This means, Biman's scheduled flights might be delayed in case authorities deny the pilots' demands.

The ultimatum came just one and a half months after the national flag carrier was jolted by violent staff protests over pay.

The press conference was held at a restaurant in Uttara, as the authorities imposed a restriction on BAPA, an umbrella body of

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Padma bridge work from Mar

Cost rises to \$2.9b for design change; Muhith terms talks with WB fruitful; donors firm on graft issues

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Construction of the Padma Bridge will start in March next year instead of this year, and the cost will be \$2.9 billion instead of the earlier projection of \$2.4 billion, said Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday.

The construction cost increased due to changes in the design, and some other factors, he said. Speaking at a media briefing returning from a month-long

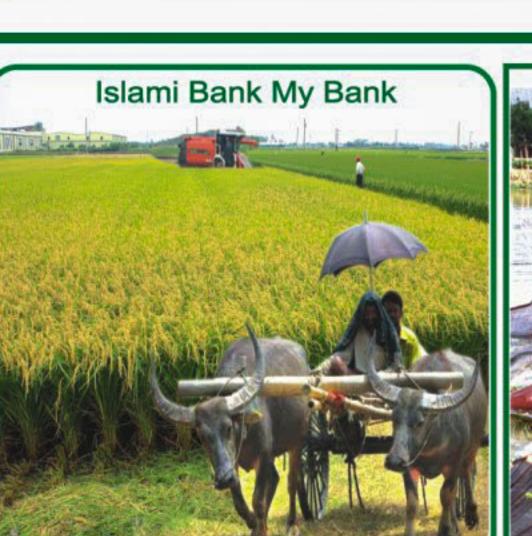
visit to the US, leading a delegation, the finance minister said they had fruitful discussion with the World Bank about the Padma Bridge project. He also said although there were some differences of opinion

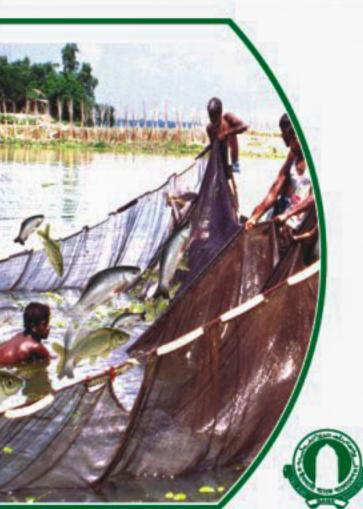
with the WB on the bridge, those were resolved.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4









Grand Opening

Nabiganj SME/Krishi Branch

on 21 October 2010, Thursday

as 246th Branch of the Bank

at Nabiganj, Hobiganj

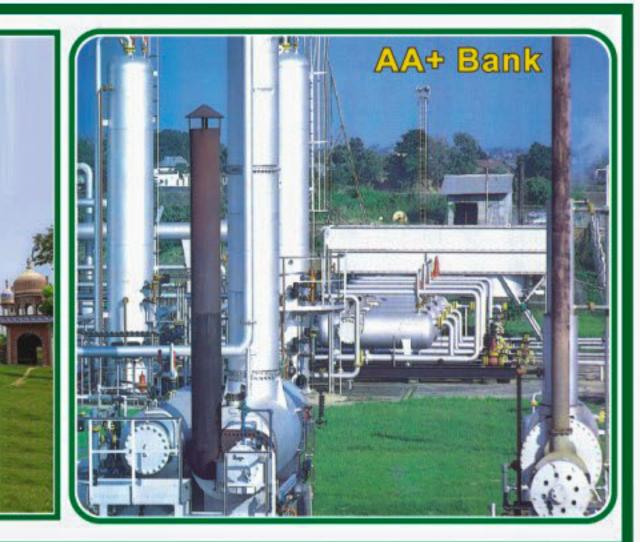
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