

Population 222 million by 2051

Says speakers DU CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a dialogue yesterday expressed concern over the unplanned population explosion and stressed on the need of effective measures for its control.

They said Bangladesh's population would be 222 million by 2051 and 250 million by 2081, with a yearly rate of 1.8 to 2 million.

Dhaka University population sciences department disclosed the information at the dialogue on population and development challenges in Bangladesh at DU.

Speakers said Dhaka would be the fastest growing mega city by 2025 in spite of a low growth rate of 2.72% from 2007.

Arther Erken, UNFPA representative to Bangladesh, moderated the programme with DU Vice-Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique as chief guest.

# 'Food producers struggle with food insecurity'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It is the farmers who produce food, but they cannot have enough food to eat. The question is that how long they will continue to feed others, having suffered from malnutrition for whole life.

"Will they continue to be neglected by the policymakers and the urban people living on their produces? No that cannot happen," said media and agriculture personality Shykh Seraj.

The observation comes as Hridoye Mati O Manush, a programme on agriculture by Channel i, launched a new initiative titled "Returning to the Roots" at its office yesterday.

"The country cannot develop without improving the lives of 60 percent of the country's labour force, which are involved in farming," he said.

Under the programme, four BBA students of East West University will go to a remote village of Narsingdi on



Four BBA students of East West University who will go to Narsingdi to work as farmers pose for photograph with Shykh Seraj, right, Faridur Reza Sagar, centre, and Dr Farashuddin, left.

PHOTO: STAR

January 16 to realise farmers' struggles and miseries.

They will be employed there as agricultural labourers to work during the current boro season, said Channel i Director and Head of News Shykh Seraj, adding that they

will have to survive for three days with the wages they will get as per their performances.

The students of different universities will be sent to different areas in peak crop cultivation or harvesting periods in ten batches throughout

the year, said Seraj, anchor of Hridoye Mati O Manush.

After returning to Dhaka, they will prepare a report suggesting ways to improve farmers' lives, said Seraj.

"In Bangladesh, the farmers still do not get just price of their produces. The middlemen eat up the cream," said East West University Trustee Board Chairman Dr Farashuddin.

The most important task therefore is forming cooperatives of the farmers who themselves can realise their entitlements, he said.

Reaz Mohammad Noor, one of the four students, said, "It is not merely a hobby, rather a challenge to live the life of farmers."

Faridur Reza Sagar, managing director of Channel i, said, "It will be surely a great award for one getting experience on the lives of farmers. It can grow huge confidence in them."

## BDR MUTINY TRIAL Jawan admits guilt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An accused BDR jawan admitted to mutiny yesterday during cross-examining a prosecution witness before a special court at BDR Darbar Hall in Pilkhana.

Witness sepoy Masudur Rahman, in his depositions, told the court that he saw the accused sepoy Sajjad discussing with other jawans in the morning of the mutiny.

The special court-8, headed by Deputy Director General of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) Brig Gen Obaidul Haque, later asked Sajjad to cross-examine the witness.

During the cross-examination, Sajjad said, "I'm a mutineer according to BDR act but the allegations of the witness are false and baseless." Prosecutor Lt Col Jayed Hossain instantly requested the court to note the point.

The court was adjourned till March 20.

## Division in jail of OC Rafique challenged

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The prosecution yesterday appealed to a Dhaka court seeking cancellation of first class division in jail of the then officer-in-charge (OC) of Motijheel Police Station AKM Rafiqul Islam, accused of killing college student Kamrul Islam Momin in September 2005.

Special Public Prosecutor (SPP) SM Rafiqul Islam submitted the petition on grounds that OC Rafique's first class division in custody is illegal as he is not in the rank of people who are entitled to get the privilege of division.

## NPC ELECTION

# Hearing on stay order today

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The newly elected executive committee of National Press Club (NPC) yesterday appealed with Dhaka District and Sessions Judge's Court for vacating a lower court stay order on its functions.

Judge Mohammad Jahangir Hossain will hear the civil appeal and decide today whether the stay order will continue.

Newly elected President Kamal Uddin Sabuj and Secretary General Syed Abdal Ahmed filed the appeal against Monday's stay order of Judge Sheikh Muzahidul Islam of the Fourth Assistant Judge's Court of Dhaka.

The same court also directed the president and secretary general of the executive committee to return the charge to the previous committee within seven days of the order.

Daily Samakal Editor Golam Sarwar and daily Jugantor Executive Editor Saiful Alam, who contested the election but lost, filed a case against Mohammad Zakaria Pintu, chairman of the NPC election commission, and 11 others.

## British Council to hold painting competition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

British Council is going to organise a nationwide painting competition among children as part of the upcoming World Cup Cricket celebration.

The aim of the competition is to create awareness among children about sports and outdoor activities.

The competition will be held in three age groups. Children aged between 5 to 7 years will be in group Ka, 8 to 10-year-olds will be in group Kha and 11 to 14 year old children will be in group Ga.

First stage of the competition will be inter-divisional. Ten participants will be selected from each group. Total 210 will get the chance to participate in the final competition in Dhaka on 25 February.

The age group, name of division, name of participant, birth date, name and address of school, class and roll number, home address and phone number must be provided on the back of the paper. Two copies of passport size photograph must also be submitted.

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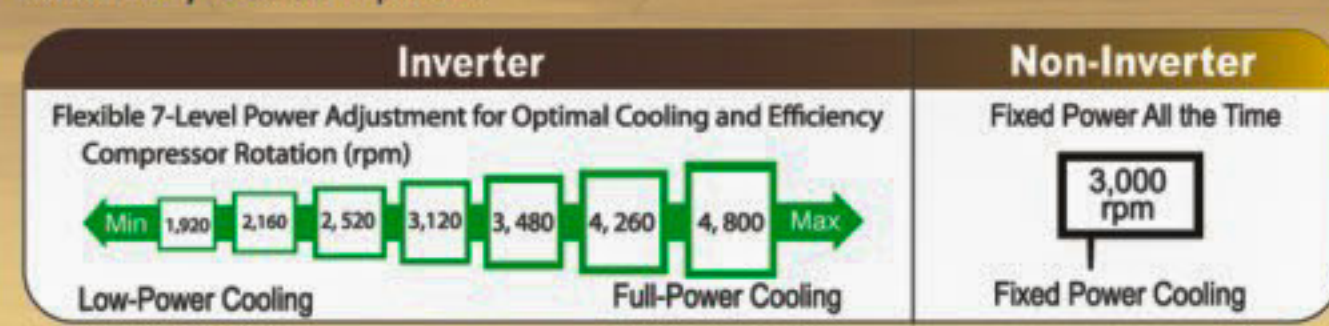
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\* Compared with Induction model NR-BY515M

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### M.K ELECTRONICS

(Gulshan Branch): Hamid Tower, 24 Gulshan Avenue, Circle-2, Gulshan, Dhaka-1212. Tel: 9863108, 9894225, 9893109, (Stadium Branch): 95, Bangabandhu National Stadium Market, Dhaka-1000. Tel: 9554232, 9558487



**DHAKA TODAY**

**Discussion**  
Digonto Dhara will hold a discussion. Time: 4:00pm, Venue: Public Library.

**Road Show**  
Bangladesh Submarine Cable Company Ltd (BSCL) will organise a road show. Time: 6:30pm, Venue: Institute of Diploma Engineers.

**Programme**  
Department of Music of Dhaka University (DU) will organise a programme. Time: 11:00am, Venue: Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban, DU.

**Meeting**  
Climate change trustee board of the ministry of environment and forests will hold a meeting. Time: 3:00pm, Venue: The ministry conference room.

**Meeting**

গুলশান নিকেতনে লেকের পাশে চারদিকে খোলা

৮, ৯০০ টাকা (শেষ বাক্য)

৩৬৪০ বর্গফুটের রেডি ফ্ল্যাট বিক্রয়

০১৭৩০৭২৬৪১১, ০১৭৩০৭২৬৪১০, ০১৭৩০৭২৬৪০৯  
০১৭৩০৭২৬৪১৩, ০১৭৩০৭২৬৪১৫, ০১৭৩০৭২৬৪০৭  
০১৭৩০৭২৬৪১৪, ০১৭৩০৭২৬৪১৬