

INDIA CENSUS
Population goes up to 1.21bn

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

India's population has grown by 181 million people over the past decade to 1.21bn, according to the 2011 census.

More people now live in India than in the United States, Indonesia, Brazil, Pakistan and Bangladesh combined.

Although its rate of population growth is slowing, India is on course to overtake China as the most populous country around 2030, figures show.

The census also reveals a continuing preference for boys - India's sex ratio is at its worst since independence.

Statistics for the past 10 years show fewer girls than boys are being born or surviving. They show 914 girls were born for every 1,000 boys under the age of six, compared with 927 for every 1,000 in 2001 census.

US policy towards Cuba is 'a mistake'

Says Jimmy Carter

BBC ONLINE

Former US president Jimmy Carter - on a visit to Cuba - has criticised US policy towards the island.

US policy towards Cuba, including the trade embargo and travel ban, is a mistake, said Carter.

Carter, who is wrapping up a three day visit to the communist island, also called on the Cuban government to move towards democratic reforms.

Carter said the decades-long US trade embargo and travel ban damaged the Cuban people and hindered rather than helped reform.

During his three-day visit Jimmy Carter held talks with the Cuban leader Raul Castro, as well as leading dissidents.

He also met the jailed US contractor Alan Gross, but did not secure his release.

"We should immediately end the trade embargo which the US has imposed on the people of Cuba," Carter told a news conference before leaving Havana.



Jimmy Carter

He also said a US travel ban on American citizens visiting Cuba and keeping Cuba on a list of state sponsors of terrorism were counterproductive.

Carter - who met leading dissidents including several who have recently been released from jail - said he was optimistic that Cubans would gain more freedom.

My own hope is that in the future, there will be a complete freedom for all Cuban people for speech and for assembly and for travel; that all the internationally adopted standards for human rights will be enforced in Cuba," he said.

Carter added that he hoped Cuba would release the jailed US contractor Alan Gross and that the US would also free five jailed Cuban intelligence agents.

Raul Castro hailed Carter as an "honest man" and said the visit had helped address "common problems".

"It was a good visit, for him from his perspective and for us from our own," Castro said.

Libyan FM defects, flies to UK

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Libyan strongman's 41-year rule erupted more than six weeks ago.

The defection of foreign minister Mussa Kussa was widely seen yesterday as an indication that the strongman's regime is crumbling.

Kussa arrived at a Farnborough Airfield, west of London, on Wednesday, a Foreign Office statement said.

"He travelled here under his own free will. He has told us that he is resigning his post," it added.

British Foreign Secretary William Hague insisted that Kussa, who has been blamed for atrocities including the 1988 Lockerbie bombing, had not been offered immunity from prosecution in British or international courts.

"Mussa Kussa is not being

offered any immunity from British or international justice," Hague told reporters.

He said the minister was being interviewed "voluntarily" by British officials.

Also Scottish prosecutors said yesterday they had requested an interview with Mussa Kussa over the Lockerbie bombing.

We have notified the Foreign and Commonwealth Office that the Scottish prosecuting and investigating authorities wish to interview Mr Kussa in connection with the Lockerbie bombing," a Crown Office spokeswoman said.

Kussa's defection was a "sign that the regime's days are numbered," defected immigration minister Ali Errishi told France 24 television yesterday.

"It is the end... it is a blow

to the regime (and) others will follow," said Errishi who himself defected soon after the insurrection began.

Kussa was his most trusted aide. Gaddafi no longer has anybody. It's just him and his kids."

Libya's former deputy ambassador to the UN, Ibrahim Dabbashi, told France 24 in a separate interview that Kussa's defection "was very important at this stage because he knows a lot of secrets of the regime. He has been working with the Gaddafi regime for a long period now."

"He's been involved with the regime in the latest period. He knows how Colonel Gaddafi is directing the operations against the revolutionary forces and how he behaved even inside his own closed circle. Maybe he

has more information about the intentions of many high officials around Gaddafi."

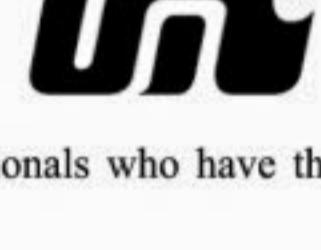
Meanwhile, Libya's government shrugged off the departure of Mussa Kussa, saying Gaddafi's regime "does not depend on individuals," in its first admission of the defection.

"This is a struggle for the whole nation. It's not dependant on individuals or officials" regardless of their ranking, government spokesman Mussa Ibrahim told reporters.

"I'm not confirming anything... silence is our weapon," he said.

Asked whether Col Gaddafi and his children are still in Libya, he said: "Be assured, we are all here. We will all be here until the end. It is our country. We are strong on all fronts."

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT



Tullow Oil plc is one of the largest independent oil and gas exploration companies in Europe. The Group has 86 licences in 23 countries, with operations in Africa, Europe, South Asia and South America. Tullow has been involved in oil and gas exploration activities in Bangladesh since 1997.

TULLOW BANGLADESH LTD. (TBL) invites applications for the following positions from Bangladeshi nationals who have the required qualifications:

1. Electrical Engineer (1 position- Field based)

Responsibilities: Inspect and evaluate existing electrical generation and distribution systems; identify standards; audit existing electrical installations, check and update as-built electrical drawings; prepares schematic drawings, sketches, and reports to reflect changes or alterations made in equipment, circuits; ensure all maintenance activities are safely conducted using the correct maintenance techniques and procedures; assist in setting up and populating the CMMS by collecting and reviewing base data for all electrical equipment; establish schedule and task sheets, entering equipment histories; co-operate with Materials department to develop spares and consumables stocks and max/min levels; prepare training materials.

Minimum requirements: BSc in Electrical & Electronic Engineering with having minimum 7 years of experience in hydrocarbon, petrochemical and/or power generation industries

2. Electrical Specialist (1 position- Field based)

Responsibilities: Responsible for performing and recording maintenance activities; perform breakdown repairs and be pro-active in identifying opportunities to improve plant, machinery reliability and performance; respond as appropriate to plant upsets and emergencies; responsible for electrical isolation of equipment and switching; understand hazardous area zones and ensure equipment is selected and maintained to the appropriate electrical safety standard; ensure a high standard of housekeeping; participate in the commissioning of the facilities as part of an integrated team; provide assistance to project team and contractor as required on future plant enhancements.

Minimum requirements: BSc in Electrical Engineering with having minimum 7 years of experience in hydrocarbon, petrochemical and/or power generation industries.

3. Instrumentation Specialist (1 position- Field based)

Responsibilities: Understand and maintain Distributed Control Systems (DCS), Emergency Shutdown Systems (ESD) and Fire and Gas (F&G); understand the basics of ladder logic; inspect test, adjust, and repair electric, electronic, mechanical, and pneumatic instruments and systems; inspects meters, indicators, and gauges to detect abnormal fluctuations; tests accuracy of flowmeters, pressure gauges, temperature indicators, controllers and other recording, indicating or controlling instruments to locate defective components in system, use test equipment and maintenance manuals; traces out and tests electronic solid state circuitry and components to locate defective parts in analog and digital protection; lubricates instruments and replaces defective wiring and tubing; calibrates readings on instruments according to standards and adjusts phasing and aligns stages to ensure accuracy of recording and indicating function; prepares schematic drawings, sketches, and reports to reflect changes or alterations made in instruments, circuits, and systems.

Minimum requirements: BSc in Electrical/Electronic Engineering with having minimum 5 years of experience in hydrocarbon, petrochemical facility. Knowledge of control system and related qualified degree will be given preference.

4. Planning and Costs Engineer (1 position- Dhaka based)

Responsibilities: Provide a 6 weekly look ahead plans for all significant activities of operation at the site office Bangora including accommodation requirements and any transport needs; ensure all disciplines and all significant activities at site to avoid clashes in potential activities and the planned work and activities; highlight the areas where the overloads of activities could occur; prepare minor modifications work breakdown structures, schedules all modifications and minor project works at site; assist senior maintenance staff with a major equipment forward profile plan for significant overhauls and maintenance; produce, present and maintain 6 weekly plan, monthly plan and develop 5 yearly plan for such events and update all plans on regular basis; prepare a statutory compliance and inspection plan and allocate this to individuals to manage; liaise with the vendors and contractors and ensure the validity of their plan' monitoring project schedule and costs / budgets, making recommendation for corrective action where necessary; for cost and planning purpose, has to have regular site visits to hold discussions with the Field Managers and maintenance staff and others.

Minimum requirements: Engineering in any discipline with having 10 years of work experience in a planning role within oil and gas or petrochemical facility and a minimum of 5 years of working experience with a recognized planning system such as Primavera or MS Project. An in depth knowledge of XL and databases is a must. Evidence of having developed and implemented integrated and complex plans in an operational or project environment; experience in creating work breakdown structures to 3-4 levels and of resource allocation and costing against plans and experience of commitment management against budgets are required.

5. Competency Assurance and Operational Management Administrator (1 position- Dhaka based)

Responsibilities: Produce, administer, review, updated, reformat the Integrated Management System (IMS) of Tullow; manage and reviews of such documents and ensure revisions are agreed, circulated and properly made available to site; ensure consistency of the procedure and update the site with proper document and versions of the IMS procedures; make translations as required into the local language; test and re-test the Competency Assurance Management Scheme (CAMS) using a formal testing process involving their technical mentors and identify discrepancies then send for re-testing to verify competency; set up competency matrix requirements for each posts and verify with individuals and with mentors; arrange retraining, retesting and refresher courses against a defined schedule required by the competency management process to ensure that individuals remain competent; provide inductions to new starters on basic competency modules to ensure that the information about safe system, safe work and safety policies are provided; responsible for managing the integrity of data of both the IMS and CAMS database.

Minimum requirements: University degree Level in English or Equivalent; a minimum of 5 years experience of working with a computerized document management system; experience with computer databases and with maintaining records and data integrity within these.

Excellent communication skills in written and spoken English and proficiency in computer is a must for all the positions. Salary and other benefits will be highly competitive and negotiable for experienced candidates.

Interested persons having required qualification and experience are requested to send applications along with resumes mentioning names of two professional referees and one copy of recent photograph to Manager- HR and Administration. Tullow Bangladesh Ltd. House 17, Road 9, Baridhara, Dhaka-1212 by 12th April, 2011. Please write the position applied for on the top of the envelope.

Tullow Bangladesh Ltd. is an equal opportunity employer.

France rallies

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association for promoting microcredit and social business, particularly microcredit activities of Grameen Bank and its affiliates.

Juppé made the remark to clear up France's position following the Bangladesh government's decision to remove the Nobel laureate from the Grameen Bank.

Yunus, the founder of Grameen Bank, now fights a legal battle to retain his post of managing director of Grameen.

In the question-answer session in the French National Assembly on Wednesday, lawmaker Jerome Chartier stated that the Bangladesh government's attacks against Prof Yunus and Grameen are driven by political and financial interests and are threatening Grameen's independence.

In the document, released yesterday, China gives a downbeat assessment of the regional security situation.

"Profound changes are taking shape in the Asia-Pacific strategic landscape. Relevant major powers are increasing their strategic investment," it says.

"International military competition remains fierce."

In response, the French foreign affairs minister expressed strong support for Grameen's independence and acknowledged Prof Yunus' pioneering work.

He said the Nobel laureate's name would always be attached to microcredit.

The French minister said the Grameen Bank's microcredit model has been unanimously recognised as a "magnificently successful" poverty alleviation tool and replicated across the world, particularly to help empower women in developing countries.

Meanwhile, former French president Jacques Chirac and ex-French prime minister Michel Rocard have thrown their weight behind Prof Yunus and Grameen Bank.

The two eminent French personalities joined the honorary committee of Friends of Grameen, chaired by ex-Irish president Mary Robinson, also former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Maria Nowak, president of ADIE, a pioneering French microfinance institution, chairs its executive committee.

Dr Yunus was unceremoniously relieved of his duties as managing director of Grameen Bank on March 2 through a Bangladesh Bank letter on grounds that his reappointment was not done in line with the laws that govern the microfinance bank.

The move sparked off outrage at home and abroad and prompted calls from the international community to reach a compromise.

The Nobel Peace Prize winner has challenged the central bank decision at the Supreme Court that will hear his petition next week.

China concerned over US military 'competition'

BBC ONLINE

China says the United States is increasing its military presence in the Asia-Pacific region, which is becoming more "volatile".

It also says there has been a rise in operations directed against China.

The views were made in China's National Defence white paper, issued by the government.

The paper outlines the country's current views on security issues and gives an overview of its military forces.

In the document, released yesterday, China gives a downbeat assessment of the regional security situation.

"Profound changes are taking shape in the Asia-Pacific strategic landscape. Relevant major powers are increasing their strategic investment," it says.

"International military competition remains fierce."

The document singles out the United States. According to China, it is reinforcing military alliances and getting more involved in regional affairs.

Beijing also says foreigners are now more suspicious of China - and have increased "interference and countering moves" against it.

Relations between China and the United

States, particularly on military matters, have been strained over recent years.

That tension eased slightly following Chinese President Hu Jintao's state visit to the United States earlier this year.

But the potential for disagreement remains high.

"We admit that our military ties continue to face difficulties and challenges," said Col Geng Yansheng, spokesman for the Ministry of Defence, at a press conference to launch the white paper.

No issue threatens the relationship more than US support for Taiwan, a self-governing island off China's eastern coast that Beijing considers its own.

"The United States continues to sell weapons to Taiwan, severely impeding Sino-US relations," says the white paper.

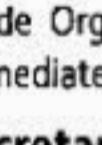
Col Geng made it clear that the two countries must respect each other's core interests. For China, that includes Taiwan.

China is willing to work with the US, based on respect, trust, equality and mutual benefits," he said.

The United States and some of China's neighbours occasionally express their concerns about the ultimate aim of Beijing's military modernisation.

But the white paper reiterates that no one has anything to fear.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY



The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), the apex Private Sector Trade Organization of the country is inviting applications from qualified persons for the following positions for immediate appointment:

Secretary (International) -1

Requirements: The candidate should have Masters Degree with Hons. from a recognized university having good academic career in the field of English/Economics/International Relations/ Public Administration/Commerce/Development Economics with sufficient knowledge in international norms and protocol and considerable experience in Government/ Non-Government/International Organizations with minimum 20 years experience in related field. Candidate must have International Affairs background. He/she must be computer literate and fluent in English in speaking & writing. Age minimum 50 years. Salary: Negotiable

Economist -1

Requirements: The candidate should have Ph.D/Masters Degree with Hons. in Economics from recognized University having at least 2 (two) first class in educational career with considerable experience in Government/ Non-Government/International Research Organizations. Candidate must have research background with own publications. Age maximum 55 years and minimum 20 years experience. Salary negotiable

Joint Secretary (Public Relations) -1

Requirements: The candidate should have Masters Degree with Hons. preferably in Journalism from a recognized university having good academic career with considerable experience in Public Relation, Protocol, Media involvement. Candidate must have Journalism & Public Relation background with 10 years experience in the relevant field. He/she must be computer literate and fluent in English in speaking & writing. Age minimum