

RMG ORDERS SHRINK

Garment orders slow down, as buyers wait for price adjustment

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SHUVOGATA FEELS THE HEAT

Controversy puts pressure on the national team batsman

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TRACING THE "QUIET BEATLE"

Martin Scorsese tells the story of George Harrison in his new documentary

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MOBILE-TALKING 22 drivers fined

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A mobile court yesterday fined 22 drivers a total of Tk 5,500 on different charges including careless driving and talking over the mobile phone while driving on the approach road to Bangabandhu Bridge in Tangail.

Of the 22, the drivers of passenger buses and goods-laden trucks, who were seen talking over the mobile phone while driving, were fined Tk 300 each under motor vehicle ordinance. The others were fined Tk 200 each for careless driving.

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Population 14.23cr

Fifth census finds it grew by 1.8cr in 10 years

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country's population now stands at 14.23 crore, which is 1.8 crore more than a decade ago.

The annual growth rate is 1.34 percent, according to preliminary findings of the Population and Housing Census 2011.

The number of people living in every square kilometre is 964, compared to 834 in 2001.

The latest census, fifth of its kind, also reveals that average size of household has decreased in last 10 years, as families have become smaller.

Currently, household size is 4.4 persons, compared to 4.8 in 2001 and 5.5 in 1991.



In the 2001 census, Bangladesh had 12.43 crore people.

The preliminary results of the census were unveiled yesterday at a press conference at Planning

Commission in the capital.

Experts and officials of Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) say the tally could increase by five to seven percent in the final report, expected to be published in September after a series of verifications and adjustments.

The findings would be tested and verified by Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) to ensure that everyone has been counted.

Bangladesh is the third most populated country in South-East Asia after India and Pakistan, which have 121.45 crore and 18.48 crore people, according to United Nations Population Fund.

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Confusion over census outcome

RIZANUZZAMAN LASKAR and RAKIB AHAMMED

The preliminary results of the latest census, which puts the country's population at 14.23 crore, do not tally with the figures projected last year by different United Nations bodies and government high-ups.

Debates and confusions regarding the population count arose when United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in its 2010 world population report said Bangladesh's population that year was around 16.44 crore. The government criticised the report for being inaccurate.

Quoting government statistics, Finance Minister AMA Muhith in October last said the country's population was 14.60 crore.

Following the minister's remark, population experts and researchers had assumed that the population count in the fifth census would be lower than 16 crore.

Then in March, the UNFPA revised its projection of Bangladesh's population to 14.80 crore.

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Shab-e-Barat tonight

UNB, Dhaka

Holy Shab-e-Barat, the night of fortune, will be observed across the country tonight with Muslim devotees seeking blessings of Almighty Allah for the wellbeing of mankind.

The devotees will pass the night through prayer, reading the Holy Quran, milad mahfil, zikr, visiting the graveyards of their near and dear ones and offering special munajat.

On the occasion, different organisations have drawn up programmes, including sermons, zikr, nafl prayer and akheri munajat.

According to Muslim belief, Shab-e-Barat is the night when Allah, the Almighty, arranges the affairs of the following year. On Shab-e-Barat, Allah writes the destinies of all the creations for the

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HOLIDAY NOTICE

The offices of The Daily Star will remain closed today on the occasion of Shab-e-Barat. Therefore, there will be no issue of the newspaper tomorrow.

ASSAULTED BY HUSBAND Rumana won't see, ever

Surgery on her right eye also fails to raise any hope

RAKIB AHAMMED

Rumana Manzur is never going to see again.

Eye surgeons at Vancouver General Hospital in Canada could not repair the optic nerves in her right eye on Friday, while hope for the left eye had already been shattered.

A team of six surgeons and several other experts conducted an hour-long surgery on the right eye and tried in every possible way to restore her sight, Rumana's cousin Rashed Maqsood quoted her father Manzur Hossain as saying.

Rumana, a teacher of Dhaka University's international relations department, underwent another

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Essentials' price racing up

Vegetables going beyond people's reach

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Consumers feel the pinch of soaring prices of essentials and vegetables nearly two weeks ahead of the Ramadan.

Prices of onion, rice, pulse, sugar and chickpea have already gone up in city markets. Vegetables such as aubergine, bitter gourd and okra have also become dearer in the last few days. They are now sold between Tk 40 and 50 a kilogram, which was between Tk 24 and Tk 36 a month ago.

Onion was sold at Tk 28-34 a kg yesterday, 38 percent higher than a month ago. Retailers sold sugar for Tk 68-70 a kilogram, 12 percent higher than a month back, according to the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh.

Prices of loose cooking oil remained unchanged. However, prices of packed cooking oil rose at the end of the last month. Retailers now charge Tk 595-605 for a 5-litre can of edible oil, which was Tk 560-570 early last month.

Prices of essentials continue to soar ahead of the

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Islami Bank My Bank

A Legend sequence in credit rating

AA+ ST-1

Credit Rating Information & Services Limited (CRISL) reaffirmed the Long Term Rating of Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited "AA+" (Pronounced as Double A plus) and Short Term Rating "ST-1".

The Bank rated "AA+" (High Safety) in the long term is adjudged to be of high quality, offer higher safety and has high credit quality. This level of rating indicates a corporate entity with a sound credit profile and without significant problems. Risks are modest and may vary slightly from time to time because of economic conditions.

The Bank rated "ST-1" (Highest Grade) in the short term is considered to have highest certainty of timely payment. Short-term liquidity including internal fund generation is very strong and access to alternative sources of funds is outstanding. Safety is almost risk free like Government short-term obligations.

	Long Term	Short Term
Surveillance Rating 2010	AA+	ST-1
Surveillance Rating 2009	AA+	ST-1
Outlook	Stable	
Date of Declaration	June 22, 2011	

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