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Forex reserves enough for 6-9 months' food import: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said Bangladesh would be able to meet six to nine months' food import expenditures with its current forex reserves.

"We have money in our hands to import food grains and other [essentials] items for at least three months during any crisis. With our current reserve, we'll be able to import food not for only three months, but for six to nine months," she said.

The premier was addressing the 28th founding anniversary programme of Bangladesh Awami Swechchhasebak League at the capital's Krishibid Institution Bangladesh auditorium. She joined the event virtually from the Gono Bhavan.

Swechchhasebak League, an associate body and the volunteer wing of the ruling Awami League, was founded on July 27, 1994.

Hasina said despite having enough forex reserves, the government would have

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POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS 2022

Family planning paying dividends

TOTAL POPULATION
16,51,58,616



MALE
8,17,12,824



FEMALE
8,33,47,206



TRANSGENDER
12,629

SLUM POPULATION
1,80,00,486

FLOATING POPULATION
22,185 in 2022 from **147,674** in 2011

DHAKA CITY POPULATION

Dhaka north **59,79,537**

Dhaka south **42,99,345**

TOTAL **1,02,78,882**

RURAL
11,30,63,587

URBAN
5,20,09,072

POPULATION DENSITY
1,119

LITERACY RATE
76.66% in 2022 from
51.77% in 2011

INTERNET USERS
30.68%

MOBILE USERS
55.89%



BARISHAL	91,00,102
CHATTOGRAM	3,32,02,326
DHAKA	4,42,15,107
KHULNA	1,74,16,645
MYMENSINGH	1,22,25,498
RAJSHAHI	2,03,53,119
RANGPUR	1,76,10,956
SYLHET	1,10,34,863

PREVIOUS CENSUSES	1974	7.14cr
	1981	8.71cr
	1991	10.63cr
	2001	12.43cr
	2011	14.40cr

POPULATION BY RELIGION in%	2022	2011
Muslim	91.04	90.39
Hindu	7.95	8.54
Buddhist	0.61	0.62
Christian	0.3	0.31
Others	0.12	0.14

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Bangladesh's population growth rate has slowed over the past four decades, a decline that experts attribute to massive family planning campaigns and the country's socio-economic advancement.

The growth rate came down to 1.22 percent from 1.46 percent in 2011, according to the preliminary report of the Population and Housing Census 2022. The rate was 2.84 percent when the second census was conducted in 1981.

The sixth census, officially unveiled in the capital yesterday, shows that the country's population is 16.51 crore, excluding the expatriates.

About the decline, officials and experts say Bangladesh is getting the dividends of efforts from the government and non-government organisations to control the population boom.

Besides, women empowerment, rational decision-making, rising education levels, especially among women, are the reasons for which the country's population dynamism is in the right direction as revealed in the preliminary report.

"Population growth rate is gradually declining due to the continuous decrease in the total fertility rate. Massive family planning campaigns, use of contraceptives and women education also played key roles in controlling the population boom," said Prof Mohammad Mainul Islam, former chairman of the Department of Population Sciences at Dhaka University, yesterday.

He, however, said since this is the preliminary report, a final result should be published shortly to chalk out an appropriate policy.

Echoing Islam's views, Dr Ubaidur Rob, country director of Population Council, said the use of contraceptive was crucial in reducing the growth rate, and the country is gradually heading towards population stabilisation when the growth rate will be zero.

"Gradually birth rate will decline

and death rate will increase and at one point the growth rate will be zero. It is expected that the population will stabilise by 2050," he said.

The population growth rate means annual average percentage change of population size, for a given country, territory, or geographic area.

It is the highest in Dhaka among all the divisions with 1.74 percent while the lowest in Barishal division with 0.79 percent.

In the last 11 years, the country's population has grown by 2.1 crore and the population rose to 16.51 crore, excluding the expatriates.

Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) released the primary report of its first digital census at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the capital. Dildar Hossain, project director of the BBS, highlighted various aspects of the report.

Apart from this, the country witnessed another major demographic shift with females outnumbering males for the first time.

Of the population of around 16.5 crore recorded in the latest census, 81,712,824 are males and 83,347,206 females -- which means for every 100

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THAKURGAON POLLS VIOLENCE

Infant hit by bullet, dies in mother's lap

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A one-year-old girl died after being hit by what locals said was a stray bullet fired by police amid post-polls violence in Ranisankail upazila of Thakurgaon last evening.

Several hundred villagers demonstrated in front of Ranisankail Police Station until late last night demanding justice.

But Additional DIG Walid Hossain of Rangpur range police said the cause of death would be investigated because she might also have been hit by a brick chip thrown by the villagers.

Upazila Vice-Chairman Soheli Rana said he heard that a woman holding her baby was standing near the polling centre at Bhangbari VF Junior High School when the supporters of a defeated union parishad chairman attacked election officials and police around 6:00pm.

As police used firearms to disperse the locals, the baby got hit by a bullet in the head and died at the scene, he added.

Several other villagers told The Daily Star that a stray bullet fired by police had hit the infant.

The girl, Asha, was the daughter of farm worker Mohammad Badsha who is a resident of Mirdang village, said Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Soheli Sultan Zulkar Nain Kabir.

The UNO said the supporters of a defeated candidate in the election to Bachor Union Parishad started demonstrating as soon as the result was announced in the afternoon, claiming that the election was rigged.

After the election officers managed to leave the polling station with the electoral materials, the locals attacked police deployed in the area, he added.

Police then used two tear gas shells and fired four blank shots, said the UNO.

"I came to know later that a child died during the

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CORRUPTION CASE

Ex-OC Pradeep gets 20yrs in jail, his wife 21yrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Former Teknaf OC Pradeep Kumar Das amassed wealth through bribery and transferred it to his wife Chumki Karan, a judge observed yesterday.

Accumulating such wealth would not have been legitimately possible for a low-income government official, Chattogram Divisional Special Judge Munshi Abdul Majid added while delivering the verdict in a graft case filed against Pradeep and Chumki.

Pradeep was sentenced to 20 years and Chumki to 21 years in prison in the case filed by Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC). The court also instructed authorities

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No worries over fuel stock

Says BPC chairman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation yesterday said the government has a fuel import plan for the next six months and that there is no problem with the import, storage and supply cycle.

BPC Chairman ABM Azad said the country has 4.31 lakh tonnes of diesel, which is enough to meet 32 days' worth of demand, and the current stock of petrol (21,883 tonnes) is enough for 15 days.

Even if the government stops importing fuel, the current stock of octane (12,238 tonnes) is enough for nine days, furnace oil (85,041 tonnes) for 32 days, and jet fuel (62,891 tonnes) for 44 days, he told a press conference at BPC's Dhaka Liaison Office.

"This does not mean that the BPC will stop importing from tomorrow. Import, storage and supply is a cyclical process. At present, the stock of octane is for nine days. Within a couple of days, a ship carrying 30,000 tonnes of octane will reach Bangladesh. Then, the stock of octane will rise to 28 days. It's an ongoing process," he said.

According to the energy and mineral resources division, the daily demand is 13,607 tonnes for diesel, 1,300 tonnes

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BRAC BANK
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BRAC Bank has been awarded the prestigious The Asian Banker Transaction Finance Award 2022 in two categories:

The Best Transaction Bank in Bangladesh
The Best Cash Management Bank in Bangladesh

Our heartfelt gratitude to all the valued customers and stakeholders for their continued support