

44,849,973 male : 42,202,051 female : Dacca city  
34,58,602 (male 20,12,059 : female 14,46,543)

# Population now 8,99,40,000

By A Staff Reporter

Population of Bangladesh By District, 1901 to 1981 (in '000)

District	1901	1911	1921	1931	1941	1951	1961	1974	1981
Chittagong	1353	1508	1611	1797	2153	2309	2983	4315	5476
Chittagong H.T.	125	154	173	213	247	288	385	508	746
Comilla	2139	2455	2696	3056	3860	3792	4389	5819	6880
Noakhali	1143	1303	1473	1707	2217	2274	2383	3234	3813
Sylhet	2031	2241	2298	2466	2832	3059	3490	4759	5650
Dacca	2617	2929	3172	3449	4224	4073	5096	7612	10049
Faridpur	1781	1958	2030	2163	2650	2710	3179	4060	4768
Jamalpur	3922	4531	4842	5135	6030	4558	1449	2059	2445
Mymensingh							4083	5508	6543
Tangail						1227	1487	2078	2444
Bakerganj	2485	2613	2844	3194	3811	2636	3068	3928	4668
Jessore	1647	1597	1590	1552	1695	1703	2190	3327	4016
Khulna	1268	1380	1472	1629	1944	2076	2449	3557	4353
Kustia	885	842	783	808	920	884	1166	1884	2273
Patuakhali						1006	1194	1499	1840
Bogra	884	1017	1083	1122	1260	1278	1574	2231	2718
Dinajpur	1126	1168	1220	1236	1336	1355	1710	2571	3198
Pabna	1418	1425	1385	1438	1696	1584	1959	2815	3418
Rajshahi	1902	2000	2028	1993	2198	2205	2811	4268	5263
Rangpur	2202	2434	2555	2646	2924	2916	3796	5447	6490
TOTAL	28928	31555	33255	35602	41997	41932	50840	71479	87052

The total population of Bangladesh now stands at 8 crore 99 lakh and 40 thousand, according to the preliminary report on the Population Census of Bangladesh, 1981, formally released at a Press conference in Dacca on Saturday.

Planning Minister Dr. Fasihuddin Mahtab addressed the Press conference held at the state guest house 'Meghna'.

Dr. Fasihuddin Mahtab pointed out that on the basis of the preliminary count, the total population of Bangladesh comes to 87,052,024 with 44,849,973 males and 42,202,051 females. He said that since under-count of population was common in all national censuses, a post enumeration check (PEC) was undertaken which indicated that there had been a national under count of 3.3 per cent. After adjusting the estimated under-count, the population of Bangladesh was shown at 89,940,000.

Dr. Mahtab told the news conference that about 206,000 enumerators and 46,300 enumerator's supervisors (including a 5 per cent reserve in both categories) were engaged during the enumeration conducted on March 6, 7 and 8, 1981. He said that the preliminary report of the census was formulated on the basis of manual tabulation.

The Planning Minister announced that the final report of the census would be published sometime in June, 1982 — although efforts were underway to publish it earlier.

**SEX RATIO**

According to the preliminary report, the sex ratio (males against 100 females) is 106, the number of households is 15,135,000. The density of population per square mile, including river area has been shown at 1586 (excluding river area 1575). Per capita availability of land is estimated at 0.38 acres.

The report shows that on the basis of adjusted population of 1951, 1974 and 1981 the computed growth rates were as follows: from 1961 to 1974 2.70 per cent, from 1974 to 1981 2.36 per cent and from 1961 to 1981 2.59 per cent.

**SAMPLE SURVEY**

The Planning Minister told a questioner that a detailed sample survey would be conducted in November this year to gather data on housing, income, assets, profession and cultural patterns in rural Bangladesh. The sample survey would form a part of the census and would cover about one per cent of the total households in the country.

Dr. Mahtab said that the sample survey would provide answers to 59 questions which are not covered by the census.

**COST OF CENSUS**

He told another questioner that the total cost of the national population census would run into Tk. 15.7 crore, of which Tk. six crore would come from the UNFPA. The remaining portion would be funded by the government of Bangladesh.

The Planning Minister pointed out that urbanisation was a relatively new phenomena in Bangladesh — the rate of urbanisation being between 12 to 13 per cent. He said that in the neighbouring countries like India and Burma the rate of urbanisation was above 30 per cent.

**GROWTH CENTRES**

He disclosed that the government had taken up a scheme to build up 1200 growth centres in the country where attempts would be made to stimulate non-agricultural economic activities.

He added that these growth centres would be provided with basic infrastructural facilities like electricity and road communications with a view to setting off a multiplier effect.

This, he went on, would take off the undesired pressure on the existing urban areas where all the non-agricultural economic activities are concentrated.

**79 MUNICIPALITY**

The 1981 population census covered 79 municipality (pourashava) locations. The population of the Dacca Statistical Metropolitan Area (SMA) was shown to be 3,458,602 including 73,788 floating and transient persons (counted on March 5 night). The population of Chittagong SMA was found to be 1,388,475 including 24,883 floating and transient persons.

The population of Khulna SMA is 623,184 which includes a floating and transient population of 8,175. The Rajshahi SMA has a population 171,600 including a floating transient population of 2,000.

**SUNDERBANS**

For the first time, an attempt was made to enumerate population in the Sunderbans area during this year's census. The entire population of the Sunderbans area was divided into two groups viz floating persons who go there temporarily and the householders who generally live in forest.

Total population recorded during the census night in the Sunderbans area is about 20,682 of which 17,853 belong to the floating group and 2,829 are household group. Almost all the floating people are male.

**DAHAGRAM**

The Planning Minister told a questioner that census would be undertaken in the Bangladeshi enclaves of Dahagram and Angorpota between July 6 and 13, as per an agreement with the Indian authorities.

**65487 VILLAGES**

The preliminary report showed that there were 65487 villages — with 50 or more households — in the country (with an average population of 1276). There were also 20163 smaller settlements around the villages (whom the local people called villages) with less than 50 households each (and an average population 172 each). The report explained that according to the 1974 census "there were 68385 villages and, subsequently some of the large villages were split into "Paras" or hamlets as new settlements came up".

The census report showed the number of police stations to be 469 (excluding five new ones created after the census), with an average population of 185000.

The number of unions (rural) was shown as 4365 with an average population of 17820.

**HIGHEST POPULATION**

ESS adds: The District of Dacca has the highest population of 1 crore 49 thousand according to the preliminary report of the census.

The report revealed that the population of Comilla district is 6880000 followed by Mymensingh 6543000 and Rangpur 6490000 Chittagong Hill Tracts with 746300 population is the smallest district.

The growth rate over 1974 in Chittagong Hill Tracts is the highest (46.85 per cent). This is mainly due to in migration from other districts Dacca with 32.02 per cent and Chittagong with 28.91 per cent have the second and third largest growth mainly due to rapid urbanisation in and around the two metropolis where population increased very sharply according to the report.

Growth rates in Faridpur (17.44 per cent) Tangail (17.62 per cent) and Noakhali (17.80 per cent) are among the lowest; growth rate areas of Bangladesh, the report said.