

Population stands at nearly 7.15 cr

Bangladesh is the eighth most populous country in the world with the highest density having a population of 71,479,071 according to a final report of the 1974 Population Census, reports BSS.

Of the total population as on March 1, 1974, 37,071,740 are males and 34,407,331, are females.

According to 1961 census the population of the region now forming Bangladesh was 50,840,235. The intercensal annual growth rate (exponential) has been estimated at 2.6 per cent.

The final report of the 1974 population census which has just been published by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics said that a post enumeration check survey was undertaken to test the quality of the operation immediately after the census which was taken in February 1974. An under enumeration to the extent of 19.3 per cent in four big cities—Dacca, Chittagong, Khulna and Narayanganj and 6.5 per cent in the rest of the country was estimated. On the basis of this under enumeration the estimated population of Bangladesh on March 1, 1974 was readjusted to 71,479,071, the report said.

According to an official source, The Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics has just published its

final report of the 1974 population census entitled "Bangladesh Population Census Report 1974: National Volume".

The census was taken in February 1974. The provisional results were published in the form of a bulletin. A second bulletin provided the final figures of population down to Thana. A third bulletin containing Union Population Statistics was published in the form of a book. Besides, village population Statistics were published in the form of books one for each of 19 districts. The final report entitled "Bangladesh Population Census Report 1974: National Volume" contains as many as 24 tables along with their analytical notes on population, demographic and socio-economic characteristics.

According to the report, the enumerated total population of Bangladesh as on 1st March, 1974, was 71,479,071 of which

(Continued on page 12 col. 5)

Population stands

(Continued from page 1)

37,071,740 were males and 34,407,331 females. With this population Bangladesh stands eighth populous and the highest densely populated country of the world. According to 1961 census, the population of the region now forming Bangladesh was 50,840,235. The intercensal annual growth rate (exponential) has been estimated at 2.6%.

A post enumeration check survey was undertaken to test the quality of the operation immediately after the census. An under enumeration to the extent of 19.3% in 4 big cities (Dacca, Chittagong, Khulna and Narayanganj) and 6.5% in the rest of the country was estimated. On the basis of this under enumeration the estimated population of Bangladesh on March 1, 1974 was readjusted to 71,479,071.

Half of the total population was below 16 years of age and the average age of the population was 21.5 years. Population below 15 years of age comprised 48.1% and those of 60 years and above comprised 5.7% of the total population showing more than one-half of the population being dependent on less than one-half.

Ranked by size of population cities of Dacca, Chittagong, Khulna and Narayanganj are the biggest four cities among urban

localities. The population of Rajshahi and Mymensingh Municipalities have increased to more than 100,000 in the 1974 census. The cities having population 100,000 or more are: Dacca city—1,679,572; Chittagong City—1,079,760; Khulna city—437,304; Narayanganj city—370,680; Mymensingh city—1,82,150 and Rajshahi city—1,32,909.

Ranked by size of population Dacca stands first among the districts followed by Mymensingh, Comilla and Rangpur.

The literacy rate in Bangladesh is up by 4.4 percentage points in 1974 compared to that in 1961. The 1974 literacy rate is 24.3% (for population 5 years and over). Urban literacy rate is 44.0% which is nearly double the rate for rural areas. Males had higher literacy rate (32.9%) than the females (14.8%).

Civilian labour force (10 years and over) formed 28.7% whereas population not in civilian labour force (house wives (23.3%) and inactives) formed 36.0% of the total population. The percentage distribution of civilian labour force by agricultural and non-agricultural labour force was 77.2% and 22.8% respectively in the 1974 census. The corresponding percentages in the 1961 census were 86.0% and 14.0% indicating large increase in the non-agricultural labour force during the last 13 years.

Population by Division and Districts are given below:—

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	Both sexes.	Male	Female
BANGLADESH.	71,479,071	37,071,740	34,407,331
CHITTAGONG DIVISION	18,636,177	9,709,005	8,927,172
Chittagong District	4,315,460	2,308,807	2,006,653
Chittagong Hill Tracts District	508,199	271,863	236,336
Comilla District	5,819,176	3,012,088	2,807,088
Koekhal District	3,234,061	1,658,269	1,575,792
Sylhet District	4,759,281	2,457,978	2,301,303
DACCA DIVISION	21,316,067	11,132,492	10,183,575
Dacca District	7,611,807	4,065,587	3,546,220
Faridpur District	4,059,511	2,086,843	1,972,668
Mymensingh District	7,566,825	3,910,533	3,656,292
Tangail District	2,077,924	1,069,529	1,008,395
KHULNA DIVISION	14,195,274	7,321,061	6,874,213
Bagerganj District	3,928,414	2,021,629	1,906,785
Jessore District	3,326,778	1,711,251	1,615,527
Khulna District	3,557,460	1,854,244	1,703,216
Kushtia District	1,883,635	971,041	912,594
Patuakhali District	1,498,987	762,896	736,091
RAJSHAHI DIVISION	17,331,533	8,909,182	8,422,351
Bojra District	2,231,003	1,136,640	1,094,363
Dinajpur District	2,570,572	1,334,127	1,236,445
Pabna District	2,814,645	1,452,776	1,361,867
Rajshahi District	4,268,417	2,175,727	2,092,690
Rangpur District	5,446,916	2,809,910	2,637,006