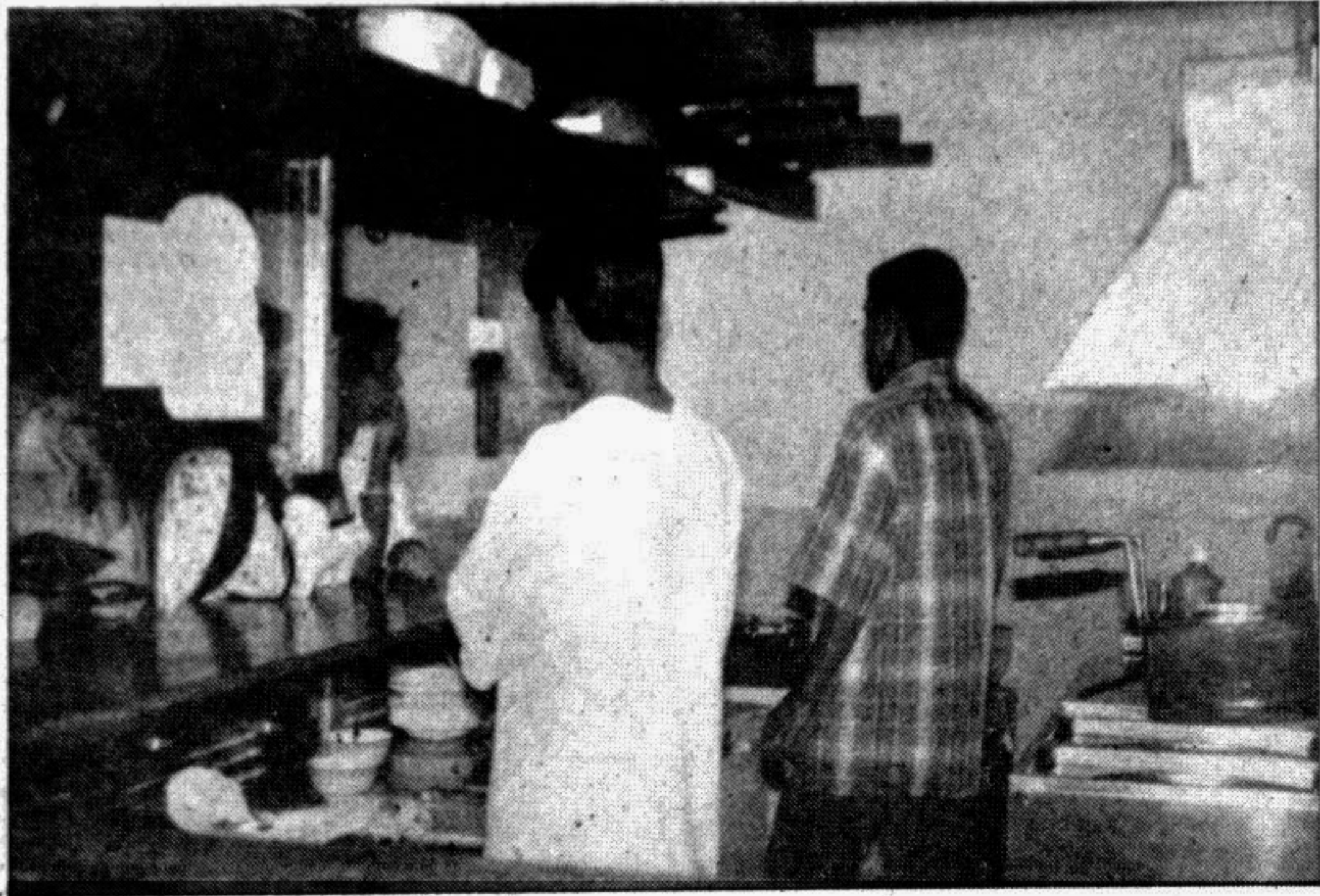


Dhaka Day by Day

Where Food Connoisseurs can Feel at Home

by Schrezad Joya Monami Latif



Hot Hut counter

If you have been assailed by the longing for a juicy hamburger complete with lettuce and tomato and the odd bit of cheese melted in; or even the pizza with a multitude of toppings, thin crust of course but have been disappointed over and over again by poor but not so cheap imitations, try Hot Hut, at the Raj Laxmi Complex in Uttara or in the canteen at the International University Bangladesh (IUB) or soon, if you can wait about a month, in Dhanmondi, near the Shukrabad area.

Hot Hut first started in 1988 as a fast food joint in wheels, parked next to Video Connection in Gulshan. In those days they had the reputation of being the safest place to eat phuchka and chotpoti at because all the water used was boiled and the food was made in an hygienic way. Hot Hut was actually an entrepreneurial breakthrough at the time because it had tapped into a market that was just awakening and young people were itching for a fast food place. The owners themselves say that business on wheels was very good and that their turnover was fantastic. But it all burnt down literally, one night by alleged arsonists. It was a major setback for Hot Hut owners, Tanvir Mirza and "Rafia" who then had to replan their future, one of which had been to open a Hot Hut in Dubai.

After a bit of reassessment, Hot Hut opened again, this time in Raj Laxmi where it stands on the ground floor, the decor similar to that of a ship's cabin, all done in pinewood. There are quite a few fast food places that have opened in Dhaka over the years that serve burgers and pizzas and other junk food but Hot Hut's burgers are probably the tastiest to a burger connoisseur. Tanvir Mirza says that "the reason our burgers are very good is because we have consistent quality which we maintain by applying the proper science of manufacturing

food. We don't use preservatives and we use only soyabean oil." Everything from the hot dog and hamburger buns to the crust and the sauce for the pizzas to the mayonnaise is made in the Hot Hut kitchen where men are working full-time, around the clock. The kitchen itself is at the owner's home where everything is very clean and cooked in cast iron skillets, coal ovens and deep friers and other equipment that usually has to be imported from outside. Every single bit of equipment used at the Hot Hut kitchens, however, were purchased locally. The name of the place Tanvir won't divulge, it is after all his trade secret. It shows that with a little imagination and entrepreneurial knowledge of the city, everything can be locally purchased with the optimum results.

Hot Hut prices are very cheap. A meal at the roadside hotel or restaurant costs at least Tk 30 and that is the price of a Hot Hut burger. Recently, a new cook was acquired and now, the store also caters exotic dishes such as momo, steamed Nepalese dumplings; pizza bolognese; enchilida de-carnie, all for Tk 25 a plate. At the bottom of the menu, one will see in block letters "We serve Bottled Drinking Water". And the fact is, no one has been known to get sick from Hot Hut food. The owners say that they want to keep their prices as cheap as possible because they want to reach the masses and their smaller price margin will be made up for by their higher turnover. "Still", Tanvir admits, "business in Gulshan was much better because the flow of traffic in Uttara isn't the best."

And where will Hot Hut be in say, ten years time? "We want to expand internationally. We want little Hot Huts all over the world! We'll all watch out for that but meanwhile, try the Hot Hut nearest you (in Dhaka that is), soon!

Biswas condoles deaths in tornado

President Abdur Rahman Biswas expressed profound sorrow at the loss of life and property in tornado and hail-storm in Munshiganj district, reports UNB.

In a message yesterday, President Biswas said, the government had already geared up relief operation in the affected areas and hoped voluntary organisations would come forward to help the affected people.

The President also hoped that the tornado-hit people would be able to overcome the situation with courage and resilience.

Biswas conveyed his deep sympathy to the members of the bereaved families and prayed for the salvation of the departed souls. He also wished early recovery of the injured now under treatment in different hospitals.



Shamsul Islam, Minister for Commerce and Information, visiting the tornado-hit area at Louhajang under Munshiganj district yesterday.

B. Chowdhury ends Munshiganj visit

Deputy Leader in Parliament Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury returned to Dhaka last night after two-day visit to the tornado-hit areas of Louhajang, Sirajdikhan and Srinagar, reports BSS.

During the visit Prof Chowdhury went from house to house to express sympathy and support to the victims. He gave advice to doctors at thana health complexes regarding treatment of the injured.

Prof Chowdhury distributed relief goods among the affected families and assured all relief support of the government for their rehabilitation.

Deputy Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives A Hye, Wing Commander (Retd) Hamidullah Khan, MP, and local BNP leaders were with him during the visit.

Meanwhile, he inaugurated the reconstruction work of four feeder roads and laid foundation stones for the construction of three new educational institutions in Srinagar.

Use of anabolic steroids on the rise

Unabated consumption of a 'wonder' drug pouring in from India, by a section of people craving for a will endowed body is creating health hazards for the users, reports UNB.

Reports say women from the poorer segments of society, along the country's borders have been taking a particular anabolic steroid to become healthier in hope for better marriage. But the after effects of the drug make them sick and they suffer serious pains in their joints. This steroid is basically used to fatten cattle.

The drug, in tablet form, has also made its way into the capital under various names, such as 'Decatone' and 'Decadurapolin'.

Rufia, 35, one of the users in the Anbagan slum near the Green Super Market, told UNB that she cannot stand on her feet for long as her joints have swollen and pain a lot. Though she had gained considerable weight while using the drug, she has once again become emaciated following treatment for side effect. She had bought each tablet at Tk 1 from a vendor who sells it at Tk 50 a packet of 50 tablets which have no strips.

"Various anabolic steroids marketed in different names like Decatone and Decadurapolin" which reportedly prevent loss of weight, wasting,

debility and emaciation, tiredness, lack of stamina, etc are all false and unproven claims, intended to misguide the people," National Professor Dr Nurul Islam told UNB while commenting on the drug.

Prof Nurul Islam said anabolic steroids are a combination of iron, vitamin, hormones, and enzymes. They contain both male and female hormones. Such drugs are recommended for the old and the infirm. Often, the companies claim the drugs increase sexual powers, but there is no scientific proof of such effect.

Most of these preparations or products contain sex hormones, and when given in large quantity, may produce various side-effects like change of voice, hirsutism, and may even cause baldness and, in young boys, may lead to precocious sexual development, Prof Islam said.

"In view of these serious side-effects, which far outweigh the benefits, if any, unrestricted use of such drugs cannot be justified. If such products are totally withdrawn from the market, many people will be saved. Admittedly, there are rare conditions in which use of anabolic steroids is indicated. This problem must be dealt with by the specialists," Prof Islam said.

BNP Ctg div councillors' confce Apr 18

The Chittagong division councillors-conference of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) will be held tomorrow at 7 pm at the central office of BNP, the press release added.

An emergency meeting of the conference preparatory committee will be held tomorrow at 7 pm at the central office of BNP, the press release added.

National standing committee members of the division, members of the advisory council, office-bearers and members of national executive committee, ministers, members of Parliament have been requested to attend the meeting.

Khan Foundation workshop opens

State Minister for Planning Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan has said that overall national development could not be achieved without engaging the womenfolk in the mainstream of development process, reports BSS.

"So it is imperative to ensure women's active participation in the policy making and decision implementation process," he said while inaugurating a workshop organised by the Khan Foundation at the auditorium of Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD) in Comilla Saturday.

Among others, Dr Saleh Uddin Ahmed, Director General of BARD, Dr Kennedy Graham, secretary general of New York based organisation parliamentary for global action and Rokshana Khandakar, executive director of the Khan Foundation.

Dr Moyeen Khan said the present government had undertaken a huge development programme to develop the socio-economic condition of the women.

Shamsul visits tornado-hit Munshiganj

LOUHAJANG, Munshiganj, Apr 10: Commerce and Information Minister M Shamsul Islam today visited the tornado-affected areas of Munshiganj district, reports BSS.

A total of 22 unions under three police stations of Louhajang, Sri Nagar and Sirajdikhan had been badly hit by the tornado which lashed on Saturday. The primary estimated loss due to the tornado is more than Taka 10 crore.

The minister visited the areas of Palsa, Bejgaon, Gaodia, Boltali under Louhajang and some areas of Sirajdikhan and talked to the affected people. He urged all to face the calamity with courage and fortitude. Shamsul Islam also talked to the doctors engaged in the treatment of the wounded and assured them that medical facilities on priority basis would be ensured.

The minister then visited the camps built for people rendered shelterless by the tornado.

Later, while addressing the district officials at Louhajang thana, the minister called for giving top priority to the rehabilitation of the affected people.

Dhaka to join APO study mission in Tokyo

Bangladesh will take part in a multi-country study mission on Food Processing Industry beginning in Japan from April 12-20, reports UNB.

The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) Vice President Alhaj Khondoker Rashiduzzaman Duda left Dhaka for Japan to attend the programme.

Some 16 countries from Asia will take part in the programme organised by Asian Productivity Organisation (APO).

Tongi polls free and fair: SRG

Study and Research Group (SRG) described yesterday's Tongi pourashava polls as free and fair, reports BSS.

In a statement SRG said that it had fielded polls observers, one each in the 72 polling stations to monitor the elections. It said voters were enthusiastic with the new identity card (ID) system.

SRG further said a large number of voters particularly women were seen exercising their right to franchise in an orderly manner. It said that in some places people had to wait in long queues to cast their ballots.

The SRG observers also noticed certain inadequacies in the issuance of ID cards and physical preparations.

The polling was held in a peaceful atmosphere and there were no reports of untoward incidents. Law enforcing personnel were deployed but they were found to be in a relaxed mood.

The SRG election observation team include Fakhruddin Ahmed, ex-advisor to the interim government now chairman of FEMA, Abul Ahsan, ex-secretary general of SAARC, KG Mustafa, journalist, Dr Salehuddin Ahmed, Ataur Rahman, Moqbul Hossain, Dr Yusuf of FEMA and Dr MA Kalimullah and Advocate Itrat Amin of SRG visited many polling stations during the day.

65 held in city

Police rounded up 65 people from different parts of the city in the last 24 hours on various charges; a DMP press release said yesterday, reports UNB.

Of the arrested, five were wanted criminals, two were held under the Arms Act and two for stealing.

All the arrested people were produced before court, the press release added.

BJMC Advertisement International Tender Notice

Sealed quotations are invited by Adamjee Jute Mills Ltd, Adamjeenagar, Narayanganj for import of the following materials from genuine manufacturers/suppliers under 16th Japanese Debt Relief Grant (1st & 2nd Tranche) or any other available foreign exchange allocation showing FOB & C&F (C) Chittagong/Dhaka Airport/Benapole border prices separately.

Tender schedules with full detailed of requirement, specification, terms and conditions may be obtained from the office of Dy General Manager (Accounts), BJMC, Adamjee Court, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka, Zonal General Manager, BJMC, Chittagong Zonal Office, Sattar Chamber, 99, Agrabad C/A, Chittagong and Dy General Manager (A&F), Adamjee Jute Mills Limited, Adamjeenagar, Narayanganj on payment of Tk 1,000/-, 100/-, 160/-, 310/-, 100/-, 280/- & 130/- per set against SI No 1 to 7 respectively (non-refundable) except opening date.

(1) Polythene Granules, (2) Spares and Accessories for Leeson, FLCB, Extruder and Sizing/Dressing Machines, (3) Electrical Spares Travelling Blower complete for Apron Draft Spg M/C (5) Electrical Spares for lathe and Milling Machines, (6) Tin, Lead and Zinc Ingot, (7) Misc. Workshop materials (Nalflac, Hack saw Blade, Crucibles and Chucks etc.).

Earnest money to be paid in the form of Pay Order/Bank Draft in favour of Adamjee Jute Mills Ltd. Tender schedule purchased money receipt also to be enclosed with the tender, otherwise tender will be straightway cancelled.

Tender to be dropped in the tender box kept in the office of the Dy General Manager, Planning Division, BJMC, Adamjee Court, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka and Dy General Manager (SP), Adamjee Jute Mills Ltd, Adamjeenagar, Narayanganj and will be opened on 17th May, 1995 at 11.30 AM in presence of the bidders, if any. Tender box will be closed at 11.00 AM.

The Management reserves the right to accept/reject any tender in full or part without any obligation or assigning any reason.

BJMC:231
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Repatriation of Rohingyas may be completed-by Sept

Repatriation of the Rohingya refugees from Bangladesh to Myanmar is expected to be completed by September, an UNHCR official said yesterday, reports UNB.

The Dhaka-based official hoped that if the current rate of return continues without interruptions, their repatriation would complete within the next five months.

About 15,000 refugees are going back to Myanmar every month," he said.

Some 2,50,877 Rohingyas Muslims fled Myanmar since early 1991 and took shelter in Cox's Bazar and Bandarban areas in Bangladesh. Of them, some 1,85,000 have so far returned home.

According to the latest official estimate, about 65,877 Rohingyas refugees are still living in 10 camps. Of the total, 20 camps which has been set up to accommodate the refugees, 10 have already been closed while two more are likely to be shut soon.

The UNHCR official expressed surprise at a news published in a section of the press that some 10,000 Rohingyas refugees had escaped from the camps since their arrival in 1991.

But an official source said that the actual position could be ascertained only after head-counting and it would be done soon.

PIB seminar for editors

A two-day seminar for newspaper editors of the country's Eastern region begins at the Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB) in the city Wednesday, reports UNB.

Twenty editors from greater Chittagong, Sylhet, Comilla, Noakhali and Chittagong Hill districts are expected to take part in the seminar, said a press release yesterday.



A demonstration was held in front of the main entrance of the Film Development Corporation (FDC) in the city yesterday protesting the last Friday's incident in which three film artists were reportedly harassed by FDC security guards. —Star photo

Weather

Thundershower likely

Rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind with hail may occur at few places over Dhaka and Chittagong divisions during the next 12 hours ending 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Similar weather may prevail at one or two places over Rajshahi, Khulna and Barisal divisions during the period. Met Office forecasts.

Day temperature may rise by 1-2 degrees Celsius over the country.

The country's maximum temperature 38.8 degrees Celsius was recorded at Ishurdi while the minimum 17.7 degrees at Dhaka.

The sun sets today at 6.18 pm and rises tomorrow at 5.43 am.

Maximum and minimum temperature and humidity percentage recorded at major cities of the country yesterday are given below:

City	Temperature		Humidity	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	34.5	17.7	80	72
Chittagong	32.2	24.5	68	71
Cox's Bazar	33.0	24.0	71	81
Rangpur	30.5	20.5	78	71
Sylhet	27.3	19.3	98	80
Barisal	34.0	23.5	72	66
Khulna	35.5	26.8	76	69
Rajshahi	38.1	22.6	77	60
Dinajpur	29.8	20.0	71	63

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