

# Concept of gender-based violence doesn't resonate within society

Says UNFPA report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The UNFPA report on the state of the world population this year finds that the concept of gender-based violence, particularly domestic violence, often does not resonate within the Bangladeshi society and is not readily identified, even among many victims themselves.

The report also mentioned that those who do recognise themselves as survivors of violence often remain silent because of the dishonour associated with this taboo.

The report, however, said Bangladesh could be an example of how a country can reduce population growth through not economically developed.

"Some laws are not women-friendly in Bangladesh and women do not enjoy equal rights in marriage, divorce, custody, guardian-

ship and inheritance," said Purnima Suchitta, UNFPA representative in Bangladesh.

He also said, "Although the constitution provides equal rights to men and women in public life in Bangladesh, it is silent about family and private life."

The report titled 'UNFPA state of world population 2008 report' was launched at a press conference at the National Press Club in the city along with other countries across the globe.

UNFPA publishes the report every year with the objective to draw global attention of the world leaders, politicians and the people.

The reports mentioned that women and girls are three fifths of the world's 1 billion poorest people, women are two thirds of 960 million illiterate adults and girls are 70 per cent of the 130 million chil-

dren who are out of school.

Regarding Bangladesh, the report also mentions that the contribution of women in the family and society is unrecognised and considered inferior to men. The report also mentions that women suffer from malnutrition more than men and lack access to healthcare.

More girls than boys drop out from school and women's and girls' opportunity to participate in wage employment outside the house is awfully limited, the report found. Men are primary decision-makers about child bearing, contraceptive use, while women themselves have no power to decide issues of their reproductive health.

Mojabbarul Islam Khan, Prof Hosne Ara Tahmina, Nurul Amin and Nur Mohammad were present at the press conference.

## Verdict in writ petition against Tac today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) will deliver judgement today in a writ petition challenging the legality of the Truth and Accountability Commission Ordinance-2008.

At the end of the hearing on November 11, an HC bench of Justice Mir Hasmat Ali and Justice Shamim Hasnain fixed today for delivering the verdict.

The government formed Truth and Accountability Commission (Tac) under the ordinance promulgated by the president on June 8, paving the way for the corrupt to walk free after voluntarily confessing to their corruption and handing the ill-gotten wealth back to the state exchequer.

On August 25, Supreme Court lawyer Adilur Rahman Khan Shubhro, Ubinig Executive Director Farida Akhter, Awami League Women Affairs Secretary Dipu Moni and Odhikar Acting Director Nasiruddin Elan filed the writ petition as public interest litigation (PIL) challenging the legality of the formation of Tac.

## Theatre festival of ethnic people begins in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A conference on diverse culture and second theatre festival of ethnic people began in the city yesterday.

Ethnic language movement hero U Sue and National Professor Kabir Chowdhury inaugurated the programme at Shilpakala Academy.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony, academics, artists and government officials called for equal rights of the ethnic people who are deprived of their basic rights as ensured by the constitution.

Speaking as chief guest, Education and Commerce Adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman said it is very important to show respect to ethnic minority.

"We want to build up a society where equal rights for all will prevail," he added.

The adviser said to make a beautiful country everybody has to show respect for each other in national and political life.

"The cultural diversity of the ethnic minority is our asset. We have to give proper attention to them and work to develop their social and economic conditions," he added.

Prof Mesbah Kamal, theatre activists Ramendu Majumdar, Nasir Uddin Yousuff, Aly Zaker, BSA Director General Bhuiyan Shafiqul Islam, and ActionAid Country Director Farah Kabir also addressed the programme.

The organisers said the programme will portray the cultural diversity of the minority people.

About 30 lakh ethnic people, including Chakma, Marma, Tripura, Santal, Garo, Khasia and Manipuri live in Bangladesh, they added.

Research and Development Collective in association with the Action Aid Bangladesh and Shilpakala Academy have organised the festival.

The inaugural programme was followed by a drama titled 'Karma Dharm' which was staged by Pauando theatre.

## Bengal Tours signs MoU with Italian team

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 10 travel writers, freelance travel journalists and travel photographers from Italy, who visited different tourist spots in the country from November 4 to 13, will promote Bangladeshi tourism in Europe.

They came to Bangladesh on invitation of the Bengal Tours Ltd, a private tour company, and visited different places including Paharpur Buddhist Monastery, Sundarban, Sixty Dome Mosque in Bagerhat and Bandarban which were sponsored by the local tour company, said Executive Director of the tour agency Masud Hossain.

The Italian team, came under the organisation of I Viaggi di Maurizio Levi, will publish their promotional stories in their respective media which will create keen interests among the Italian people about Bangladesh, he added.

He further said that they have reached a consensus that Bengal Tours will operate all the tourists from Italy and the foreign tourists will promote Bangladesh there.

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was also signed last night between Bengal Tours and I Viaggi di Maurizio Levi to this effect.

Bengal Tours Managing Director Mattiur Rahman and owner of I Viaggi di Maurizio Levi Maurizio Levi signed the MoU on behalf their respective organisations at a city hotel.



Members of Council of Advisers see off Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed at Zia International Airport in the city yesterday prior to his departure for New Delhi to attend the second summit of the Bimstec. (Story on Page 1)

## 27TH BCS EXAMS Students relax fast-unto-death programme as guardians fall ill

DU CORRESPONDENT

The candidates who came out successful in the first phase result of the 27th Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) examinations but became unsuccessful as per the second phase result yesterday relaxed their fast-unto-death programme as many of their guardians fell ill in the last few days.

They have been observing the programme along with their guardians at Central Shaheed Minar in the city since November 1.

"At least 150 of our guardians have already fallen ill and undergoing treatment in different city hospitals. So, we have decided to relax the programme and to continue it by rotation until our demands are met," agitating candidates said at a press conference at the same venue yesterday.

However, the candidates vowed

that they would stay at the Shaheed Minar until the government gives validity to the first-phase viva result.

They hoped that the gazette, which approved the appointment of 3,046 candidates who became successful as per the results of the second phase, would not be published until their demands are met.

They expressed their hope that the government would take a positive decision about their appointment in Sunday's cabinet meeting as per the assurance of the chief adviser.

Earlier on Tuesday, Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed assured a delegation of Dhaka University (DU) led by its Vice Chancellor Prof SMA Faiz that the issue will be discussed in the next cabinet meeting scheduled to be held on Sunday.

The DU team at a meeting with the chief adviser at his office placed a one-page recommendation to

resolve the crisis. Meanwhile, the candidates would continue their demonstrations till Sunday to press home their demands.

Azam Sawdagar read out a written statement at the press conference.

Meanwhile, candidates who came out successful both in the first and second phase results in a statement said that if the first phase results of the exam were not reinstated, they would be the worst sufferers, says a press release.

"We did not find our expected cadres in the second-phase viva result as we were marked for our success in the first-phase result. If we get appointment as per the second phase result, it would create a complication in our job in the future. So we demand our appointment as per the first phase result," they said.

## UK welcomes chefs from Bangladesh for curry industry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Britain has welcomed skilled chefs from Bangladesh for recruitment in its curry industry which is dominated by Bangladeshi and Indian restaurants.

"The UK needs skilled chefs. Therefore, the UK will continue to welcome them from Bangladesh and other countries around the world," said Stuart Percival, head of immigration, at the British High Commission in Dhaka.

He made the statement in a press release yesterday after the UK government on Tuesday published an occupation list which says Britain has shortage of skilled senior care workers, nurses, chefs and secondary school teachers in maths and science to be filled by the migrants.

According to the list, the UK also needs migrants in the professions of consultant doctors, dentists and some engineering occupations.

The Migration Advisory Committee (MAC), an independent panel of economists examining the UK's economic needs, conducted a thorough and in-depth analysis of its labour market to advise the government on specific sectors and occupations which can be sensibly filled by migration.

The government has accepted the recommendations, said the press release.

The shortage occupation list will be used in conjunction with the forthcoming Points-Based System (PBS) for skilled workers and will make it easier to recruit the skilled migrants required by Britain.

The list will start to be used when Tier 2 (skilled workers category) of the Points-Based System is launched on November 27.

Tier 2 enables UK employers to employ nationals from outside the resident workforce.

Under the PBS, prospective applicants need to accumulate points attached to various attributes in order to qualify for a visa.

They also can calculate their points and likelihood of being successful ahead of their application.

## DU 'Ga' unit admission test tomorrow

DU CORRESPONDENT

The admission test of first year for 'Ga' unit under Faculty of Business Studies of Dhaka University (DU) for academic session 2008-09 will be held tomorrow.

The revised seat plans are as follows: Roll number 10001 to 13025 (including O level and A level candidates) at Faculty of Business Studies, 13026 to 16726 at Arts Building (Kala Bhaban) including Lecture Theatre, 16727 to 19365 at Curzon Hall, 19366 to 20429 at Mokarram Hossain Bhaban, 20430 to 20614 at Institute of Statistical Research and Training, 20615 to 22173 at Science Annex Building, 22174 to 22373 at Institute of Nutrition and Food Science, 22374 to 22691 at Institute of Modern Language, 22692 to 23391 at Institute of Education and Research, 23392 to 24053 at University Laboratory High School and College, 24054 to 24467 at Institute of Social Welfare and Research, 24468 to 25967 at Home Economics College (Azimpur), 25968 to 28458 at Munshi Abdur Rouf Rifles College (BDR College), 28459 to 30078 at Sheikh Borhan Uddin College (Nazimuddin Road), 30079 to 31837 at Ideal College and 31838 to 36000 at Titumir College.

## Death anniversary

METRO DESK

Today is the 16th death anniversary of Anwara Begum, former managing director and former president of Bangladesh Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association, says a press release.

On the occasion, Quarkhwani and milad mahfil will be held at her eldest daughter former Member of Parliament Sultana Daula's residence and at Anwara Memorial Complex in Gazipur.

## Haji Abu Bakar

Today is the 3rd death anniversary of Haji Abu Bakar, a former banker, says a press release.

He is the father of Mahmud Hasan, special correspondent of the daily Jugantar.

On the occasion, Fateha will be offered at his grave at Banani while Quarkhwani and milad mahfil will be held at Banani Madrasa after Zohr prayers.

Food will also be distributed among the destitute.



Chinese Ambassador Zheng Qing Dian calls on BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia at her Gulshan office in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 16)

## 'Cancel registration of Jamaat'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday demanded that the registration of Jamaat-e-Islami as a political party be cancelled immediately so that its members cannot stand in the parliamentary elections.

They also called on all to come forward to vote out Jamaat in the elections.

Freedom fighters, writers, professionals and rights activists took part in the discussion organised by the Forum for Secular Bangladesh at the auditorium of Women's Voluntary Association in the city to mark the 37th Constitution Day.

They also demanded that elec-

tions must be held on schedule.

Justice Ghulam Mohammad Rabbani said the constitution of 1972 has to be restored in order to bring the war criminals to book.

Shahriar Kabir, acting president of the Forum, said Jamaat does not want to take part in the election in December as this is the month of our victory. So, it is trying to defer the election date.

"Our main goal is to restore the constitution of 1972 and the people have an important role to play. They must not vote for the war criminals," said Maj Gen (ret'd) KM Shafiqul.

"We have to take necessary steps so that the war criminals cannot take part in the polls," he added.

Women's rights activist Ayesha Khanam, called on the political parties not to form any alliance with them.

Lt Col (ret'd) Shawkat Ali, chairman of Mukti Juddha Sanghati Parishad, said elections must be held in December at any cost.

"If the election is delayed, the Election Commission and the government will have to take the responsibility," he said.

Prof Abdul Ahad Chowdhury, chairman of Central Command Council, Golam Mohammad Idu, president of Udichi Shilpi Goshthi, and Shaymoli Nasreen Chowdhury, vice-president of the Forum, also spoke.

## Booklet on violence against women launched

METRO DESK

A booklet on 'Breaking the Silence on Violence Against Women in Bangladesh' was launched at a workshop held at a city hotel on Tuesday, says a press release.

The event was organised by Research Evaluation Associates for Development (READ) and sponsored by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Secretary of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs Rokeya Sultana and Netherlands Ambassador Bea Ten Tusscher were present as the chief guest and special guest.

More than one hundred gender specialists and experts representing government departments, NGOs, women's organisations and the donor agencies took part in the workshop.

Dr Syed Jahangeer Haider, managing director of READ, presented the prevailing Bangladesh context along with 21 case study findings of victims of domestic violence.

The workshop highlighted the harrowing life stories of the victims, such as their sufferings through murder, rape, acid attack and beating.

## Avoid formula milk for full growth of newborns

Breastfeeding Foundation urges all

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Breastfeeding Foundation has called on all to avoid formula milk for their babies and to feed them breast milk up to six months of age for their full growth.

In a statement, the foundation said complementary food items should be given along with breastfeeding after six months.

Breastfeeding and home-made proper complementary food like two fistful of rice, one fistful of dal, five spoons of oil, one egg or a piece of fish or meat and one fistful of vegetable can provide 670 kilocalories and 20 grams of protein is enough for a baby to save it from malnutrition, it added.

Chairperson of the foundation SK Roy said it is documentary evidence that powdered milk contains not also melamine like toxic chemicals, it also contains many harmful different types of metallic substances and micro-organism which are responsible for germs of diarrhoea, pneumonia, bronchitis and other diseases.

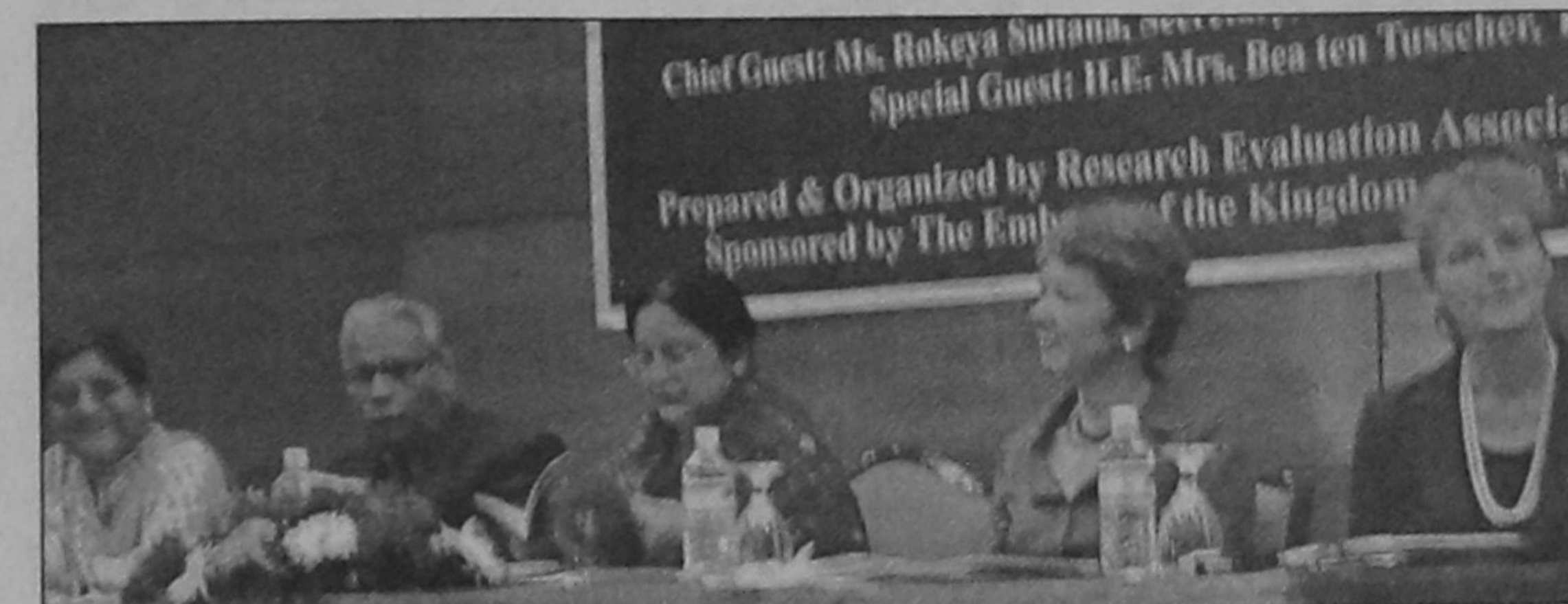
World Health Organisation (WHO) and Food and Agricultural

Organisation (FAO) in 2004 also said infant formula is not a sterilised food and it can contain micro-organism. Review of the data collected from several countries showed that ensuring initiation of breastfeeding within one hour of the childbirth reduces 31 per cent of all neonatal mortalities, he added.

The statement said experts also found that breast milk has the exact combination of protein, fats, vitamins, minerals, enzymes and sugar needed for the babies at various stages of their growth.

Due to the anti-infective properties of breast milk, breastfed babies tend to have low incidence of diarrhoea, respiratory illness, allergies and ear infection. Breast milk also helps the baby for their mental development and disease control. In addition, it increases the babies' IQ level, intelligence, empathy and strengthened bonds between the mothers and babies.

Mothers also benefit from breastfeeding as it decreases the risk of breast and ovarian cancer, it added.



Participants at a workshop on 'Breaking the Silence on Violence Against Women in Bangladesh' held at a city hotel on Tuesday, Research Evaluation Associates for Development (READ) organised the event.

## MGH offers scholarships to AUW students

METRO DESK

The Asian University for Women (AUW) has announced that MGH Group, a Bangladesh-based multinational conglomerate, awarded the university with two scholarships for eligible women, says a press release.

MGH Group is the first local company to award scholarships to Asian University for Women students.

"MGH Group is proud to play a role in supporting AUW's initiative to empower women in the region by providing a valuable education to talented women no matter what their financial resources or family background," said Anis Ahmed, managing director of MGH Group.

"The Asian University for Women is honoured and grateful to receive this contribution from MGH Group," said Kamal Ahmad, CEO and founder, Asian University for Women Support Foundation.

"Their generosity will support the studies of two well qualified local women who will learn the skills needed to someday give back to their communities as models of leadership and change."

The Asian University for Women will welcome its inaugural class of undergraduate students in the spring of 2009.

## DHAKA TODAY

**View exchange meeting**  
Nagorik Forum organises a view exchange meeting on the '9th parliamentary election: Neutrality of government and Election Commission'. Venue: Dhaka Reporters' Unity. Time: 11:00am.

**Workshop**  
Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) organises a workshop on 'Confronting AIDS challenges in the 21st century: The student community'. Venue: IUB library building. Time: 10:00am.

**Photo exhibition**  
The inaugural ceremony of a three-day photograph exhibition titled 'Skill development: Creating jobs, building lives' will be held. Venue: Dnk Gallery. Time: 10:00am.

**Film screening**  
The screening of the film 'Amar Ace Jal' marking the birth anniversary of litterateur and filmmaker Humayun Ahmed will be held. Venue: Public Library auditorium. Time: 10:30am.



M Ghaziul Haque, chairman of MGH Group, hands over a cheque to Jack Meyer, chairman of Asian University for Women Support Foundation, at a programme in Dhaka recently. The MGH Group is the first local company to award scholarships to AUW students.

## Diagnostic centre owner shot dead in N'ganj

Son injured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The owner of a diagnostic centre was shot dead at Madanpur in Narayanganj and his son was wounded in an armed attack last night.

In another incident, armed criminals shot and injured an unidentified youth at Motijheel in Dhaka.

The police said four armed criminals riding two motorbikes sprayed bullets on Mohammad Shahjahan, 45, owner of Alfazan Diagnostic Centre, and his son Mohammad Masud, 20, when they were returning home by a rickshaw at about 10:00pm.

Both of them were rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared Shahjahan dead.

DMCH sources said Shahjahan received two bullets in his chest and back and his son in his forehead.

Meanwhile, another armed gang shot the unidentified youth, aged about 25, at AGB Colony at about 11:45pm.

Motijheel police said the bullet-wounded youth wearing jeans and a shirt was found lying on roadside.

His condition was stated to be critical as he received bullets in his head, back and abdomen.



## Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 31.5 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Teknaf and Sitakundu and lowest 14.6 degrees Celsius at Srimongal.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:13pm today and rises at 6:13am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	29.7	18.8	47	62
Chittagong	30.0	19.7	77	65
Rajshahi	29.8	16.5	88	76
Khulna	30.0	20.5	74	74
Barisal	29.5	18.6	82	91
Sylhet	31.0	17.0	63	64
Cox's Bazar	31.4	21.3	64	69