

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

| | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| DHAKA H 33.7 L 27.6 | MYMENSINGH H 32.4 L 27.3 | CHITTAGONG H 30.2 L 26.6 | SYLHET H 31.8 L 26.2 | RAJSHAHI H 33.0 L 26.4 | RANGPUR H 28.3 L 27.1 | KHULNA H 34.5 L 25.5 | BARISAL H 31.2 L 27.0 | COX'S BAZAR H 30.2 L 25.6 |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|

Light to moderate rain/thundershowers with temporary gusty wind may occur at most places over Rangpur division and at many places over Rajshahi, Mymensingh and Sylhet divisions & at a few places over Khulna, Barisal, Dhaka and Chittagong divisions with moderate to very heavy falls at places over northern part of Bangladesh in next 24 hours till 6:00pm today, UNB said quoting the Met office. The sun sets in the capital today at 06:07pm and rises tomorrow at 5:44am.

An EC has to be perceived neutral

Former CEC says at book launch

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former chief election commissioner Mohammad Abu Hena yesterday said an election commission should demonstrate neutrality through holding dialogue with all political parties and stakeholders. "You have to be perceived as neutral through your work and communicate with every political party. Dialogue should be held with all stakeholders of an election. Their problems should be heard and resolved. Otherwise, confidence cannot be earned," said Abu Hena, recalling his role as the CEC during the 1996 election. A book titled "Mohammad Abu Hena: Jibon O Kormo" (Mohammad Abu Hena: Life and Work) was launched yesterday at



Guests hold copies of the book, "Mohammad Abu Hena: Jibon O Kormo", written by former chief election commissioner Mohammad Abu Hena, during its launch at Bangla Academy in Dhaka yesterday. The ceremony was organised by Habaspur-Bahadurpur High School Praktan Chhatra Samity. From left, President of the samity Dr MA Majed, National Professor Anisuzzaman, the writer, former Bangladesh Bank governor Mohammed Farashuddin, educationist KM Mohsin, and lawmaker of Rajbari-2 Zillul Hakim.

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'Will apply as much strength as needed during nat'l polls'

Says BGB chief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) will apply as much strength as possible during the upcoming national election to maintain law and order across the country and they have also taken extra initiative to tackle arms smuggling ahead of the polls, the director general of BGB said yesterday. "We will put the training programmes on hold during the national election. No officials will be allowed to take leave except for emergencies, and all other workloads will be minimised," Maj Gen Shafeenul Islam, the BGB director general, told a press conference at the BGB headquarters. The BGB chief said they have also sought cooperation from India and Myanmar to protect the border during the upcoming national election, as many BGB members will be on poll-duty. "We have already made plans regarding these matters," he said, adding that BGB will abide by the instructions of the government about the election-specific matters. Asked about the unguarded areas of the border with India and arms smuggling, the BGB official said they have taken extra efforts to tackle arms smuggling three months ago. "In line with our efforts, we have also recovered 53 firearms between January and September 9," he added.

Reckless traffic sergeant hits and injures bicyclist

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A traffic sergeant, while driving his motorcycle on the wrong side of the road, hit and injured a bicycle rider in the capital's Gulshan area yesterday morning. The traffic rule violation by Sergeant Pijush led to the accident at a time when Dhaka Metropolitan Police is observing a month-long traffic awareness campaign that started on September 5. The injured cyclist Abdur Rahman, 19, received treatment at Kurmitola General Hospital and was later dropped off at his home by police. Abu Bakar Siddique, office-in-charge of Gulshan Police Station, said the accident took place around 9:30am as Rahman was heading towards Gulshan from Hatirjheel while Pijush was riding his bike

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ENTRY INTO CIVIL SERVICE JS body recommends extending age limit to 35yrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A parliamentary body yesterday again recommended that the government raise the age limit for entering civil service to 35 years, a longstanding demand of students. The parliamentary standing committee on public administration in a meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban also asked the concerned ministry to further increase the age limit for retirement from government services. Currently, age limit for entering the public service is 30 years, while retirement age is 59 years. Retirement age of freedom fighters is 60 years. Earlier in June, the parliamentary committee on public administration had recommended to increase the age limit for entering civil service to 35 years. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on January 31 told the parliament that her government has no plans to increase the existing retirement age in

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Election schedule to be announced any day after October 30: EC secretary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Election schedule for the upcoming national polls will be announced any day after October 30, Election Commission Secretary Helaluddin Ahmed said yesterday. "Countdown for the next election will start from October 30, as the schedule for the 11th parliamentary election will be announced any day after that," the EC secretary said while talking to reporters at his office in Dhaka's Nirbachon Bhaban. He also said 80 percent of the election preparation has already been completed and the rest will be done after announcement of the schedule. "We have already completed demarcation

Rejoinder

The road transport and bridges ministry has sent a rejoinder to a report under the headline, "No passenger suffered during AL's election-eering tour," published in The Daily Star on September 10. Signed by the ministry's Senior Information Officer Md Abu Naser, the rejoinder said Obaidul Quader's speech was deliberately distorted in the report with an ill-intention to confuse people. It said the report quoted the minister as saying, "Media often spreads propaganda ..." Actually, the minister in his speech mentioned a section of media, not all media, the rejoinder said. We regret the error.

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