

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	KHULNA	BARISAL	RANGPUR	COX'S BAZAR
	H 25.2 L 17.0	H 27.5 L 15.4	H 20.6 L 15.4	H 26.8 L 12.8	H 29.0 L 16.5	H 28.0 L 15.4	H 24.5 L 13.0	H 27.4 L 16.5

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country with chance of light rain or drizzle over Sylhet division and the regions of Mymensingh, Dhaka and Comilla till 6:00pm today. Moderate to thick fog may occur at places over the country during mid night till morning. Met Office said. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:29pm and rises tomorrow at 6:43am.



A brick kiln built in an agricultural land at Dhalhara village of Magura sadar upazila, violating environmental rules. Forty-nine more such illegal kilns have popped up across the district. They burn a huge amount of wood, and the emissions have already started to have adverse impacts on local agriculture, said villagers. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

AL to probe rebel-backer lawmakers' roles

To serve municipal rebel candidates show cause notices; hold central committee council March 28

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Awami League Central Working Committee (ALCWC) yesterday decided to serve notices asking rebels why they should not be expelled for contesting against the party-nominated candidates for mayor posts in last month's municipality polls. It also decided to form investigation committees led by the AL's divisional secretaries to find the roles played by AL lawmakers and grassroots leaders who backed the rebels. The party's highest decision-making

body, at a meeting at Gono Bhaban with the party's President Sheikh Hasina in the chair, also decided to extend its tenure by six months and hold its triennial council on March 28, said party sources. ALCWC's tenure expired on December 28, 2015 and it failed to hold the council, as had been previously decided, that month for, as the leaders said, the municipality polls. Earlier, the party suspended around 55 rebels, 19 of whom secured victory, and identified 22 rebel-backing lawmakers. SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Events chalked out marking Bangabandhu's Homecoming Day

The nation observes today the historic Homecoming Day of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. On this day in 1972, Bangabandhu, the undisputed leader of the then

Brick kiln rules breach adding to pollution

Experts tell Bela, Prothom Alo roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Very few brick kilns in Bangladesh have been built following the proper design, resulting in huge environmental pollution, experts said yesterday. The construction of kilns in violation of rules must be stopped immediately for sustainable development, they told a roundtable, "Brick Making and Kiln Establishment (Control) Act 2013". The experts also called for cutting the use of clay in brick-making and adopting new technologies to make those materials like silicate and concrete. Bangladesh Environment Lawyers' Association (Bela) and Prothom Alo jointly organised the discussion at the newspaper's office in the capital in association with Global Environment Fund (GEF) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Brick kilns are the largest source of green-

house gases in Bangladesh, said Syeda Rizwana Hasan, chief executive of BELA. They emit 87.5 lakh tonnes of greenhouse gases per year, she added. Rizwana said a large number of the environmentally-friendly zigzag kilns, which were said to have been converted from conventional kilns, were changed in the documents only. She also noted that the 2013 act did not state anything about how a kiln should be constructed. Md Raisul Alam Mondal, director general of the Department of Environment, said, "We have to think about the harmful effects of brick kilns on the environment though they are necessary for ongoing works for sustainable development of Bangladesh. Abdul Qayyum, associate editor of Prothom Alo, also the discussion's moderator, said, "We need bricks to construct infrastructures...but not by harming the environment."

25 upazila health complexes to get telemedicine centres today

BSS, Dhaka

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Division under its 'Info Sarker' project will launch 25 Telemedicine Centers at different upazila health complexes today to provide healthcare facilities to the rural people. Physicians and doctors of 11 medical university and college hospitals and institutions, including Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, Dhaka Medical College Hospital, Shaheed Suhrawardy Hospital, will provide advice and treatment regularly to the patients of rural areas free.

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