

Fresh hope for 2 lakh expatriates

Undocumented Bangladeshi workers in Malaysia get chance to be legalised from Feb 15

BELAL HOSSAIN BIPOB

More than two lakh undocumented Bangladeshi migrants in Malaysia are set to be regularised, with the legalisation procedure expected to begin next week.

The process will go on simultaneously with the recently-agreed recruitment of 1.5 million fresh Bangladeshi workers, said sources in Bangladesh High Commission in Kuala Lumpur.

"The legalisation process of the undocumented Bangladeshis will start on February 15," Shahidul Islam, the Bangladesh high commissioner to Malaysia, told The Daily Star by phone yesterday.

He expects the regularisation would complete in two to three months.

Under the plan, irregular migrants, who have no criminal records there, can register with the government without any fee. But those with criminal links will be deported, if any, the sources said.

The development comes as a welcome relief amid concerns over the fate of the irregular workers who went there

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



For underprivileged children, life is blighted by poverty and neglect. Many, like Liton, cannot attend school. Every day the kid collects polythene bags, broken glass and plastic bottles from the landfill at Parairchalk in Dakkhin Surma upazila of Sylhet. He can afford a meal only after selling the things he collected. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

Lawyer seeks to sue Star editor for sedition

Court asks police to seek govt permission to probe charge; two more defamation suits filed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday ordered police to seek permission from the government for investigating a sedition charge brought by a lawyer against The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam.

Besides, two more defamation suits, demanding Tk 50 crore and Tk 10 crore from Mahfuz Anam, were filed by local leaders of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) in Cox's Bazar and Copalganj yesterday.

With two other libel suits filed in Laxmipur and Khulna on Tuesday, the Star editor now faces four such cases for publishing without independent verification reports on Sheikh Hasina based on information provided by the Directorate

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

2004 ATTACK ON UK ENVOY

HC upholds death for 3 Huji men

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday upheld death penalty of three Huji members, including its chief Mufti Abdul Hannan, and life imprisonment of two others over the 2004 grenade attack on the then UK envoy in Bangladesh.

The two other condemned operatives of the outlawed militant outfit are Sharif Shahedul Alam Bipul and Delwar Hossain alias Ripon.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



Anwar Choudhury

SC JUDGES

Law minister for proper code of conduct

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The code of conduct for the Supreme Court judges should be one that every judge follows ensuring their accountability, Law Minister Anisul Huq said yesterday.

The existing code of conduct does not say what should be done if that is

SEE PAGE 17 COL 5

UP polls from Mar 22

First time in partisan manner; voting in 6 phases

PANKAG KARMAKAR

Elections to 752 union parishads, the biggest grassroots-level polls, will be held on March 22 on partisan lines for the first time.

More than 4,000 UPs will go to election in six phases till June, Election Commissioner Shah Nawaz said while announcing the polls schedule yesterday.

The last date of filing nominations is February 22, and those will be scrutinised by returning officers (RO) on February 23-24. Candidates would be able to withdraw

nominations by March 2 in the first phase of the polls, Shah Nawaz told reporters at his office at the Election Commission secretariat.

They will be allowed to start election campaigns after allocation of polls symbols on March 3, he said.

There are more than 4,500 union parishads, the lowest tier of the local government system. Of them, 4,275 will go to polls in six phases between March and June. Elections to the rest will be held later, said EC sources.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



TOP QUOTE

"If the government cuts fuel price, the benefit goes to the transport and related sectors, not to the common people."

STATE MINISTER FOR ENERGY
NASRUL HAMID
SPEAKING IN PARLIAMENT



Bangladesh cricketer Saif Hassan completes a spectacular diving catch to dismiss West Indies skipper Shimron Hetmyer in the ICC Under-19 World Cup semifinal at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. It was an isolated moment of brilliance from the Young Tigers as they were defeated by three wickets after being dismissed for a sub-par 226. STORIES ON PAGE 18

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

US scientists detect ripples in spacetime

Einstein's theory confirmed thru 'discovery of the century'

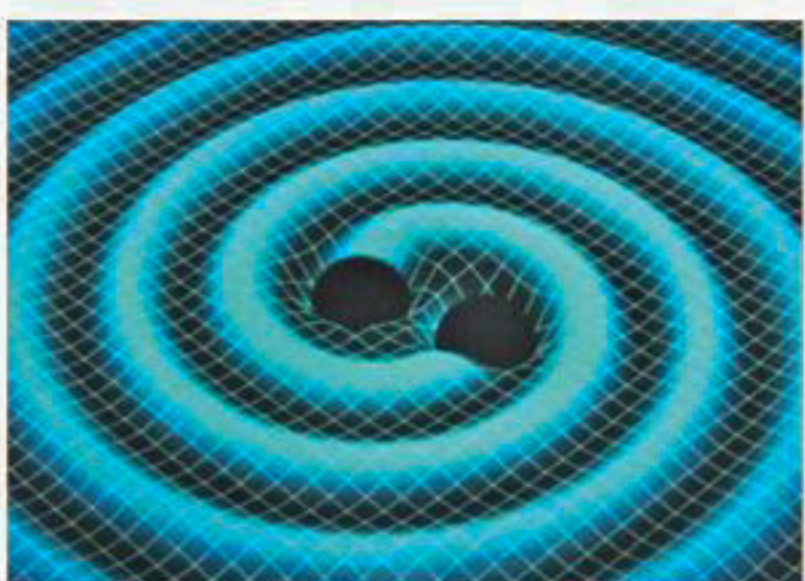
AGENCIES

US researchers have confirmed they have successfully measured "ripples in the fabric of spacetime".

"We have detected gravitational waves, we did it," David Reitze, the executive director of the Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory (Ligo) announced yesterday, reported Deutsche Welle.

In a highly-anticipated news conference in Washington, he confirmed that his team on September 14, 2015, had detected the waves from two colliding black holes, remnant stars with gravitational fields so intense that no matter or radiation could escape.

"It took us months of careful check-



ing, rechecking, looking at every available piece of data ... to make sure that what we saw ... was a gravitational wave," he added.

Reitze added that it was "exactly" what Albert Einstein predicted about the waves for two colliding black holes a century ago.

"The two black holes are indeed about 30 solar masses. They are about 1.3 billion light years away," he added.

Playing an audio clip of the short wave that the team were able to measure, another Ligo researcher Gabriela González said the signal took a billion years to come to earth.

"The signal came from the Southern sky, in the rough direction of the Magellanic clouds [the satellite galaxies of the Milky Way]," adding that they couldn't tell with existing technology, exactly where the black holes merged.

Hailing their discovery, she added from now on, "We will not only be able to see the universe but we will be listening to it too."

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2

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