

ILLEGAL MIGRATION

India to retain act for arbitrary deportation

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

The Indian cabinet has reversed the previous BJP-led government's decision to scrap the Illegal Migration (Detection by Tribunals) Act of 1983 which was introduced in the northeastern state of Assam to protect 'foreigners' against arbitrary deportation.

A meeting of the cabinet presided by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh yesterday decided to retain the IMDT Act, introduced in Assam during the tenure of late prime minister Indira Gandhi at the height of agitation by All Assam Students

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BDR on high alert to thwart any more push-ins

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) have been put on alert to thwart further efforts to push in Indian nationals along the more than 2,250 kilometres of border shared with West Bengal.

Twenty-six Indians, who were

pushed in Tuesday by India's Border Security Force (BSF) and stranded on the no-man's land, were pushed back yesterday through various points in Lalmonirhat and Panchagarh.

There were no further push-in attempts yesterday, but BDR sources said they have information about the BSF herding up Indians to

push in across borders in Panchagarh, Dinajpur, Rangpur, Joypurhat, Jessore and some other districts.

Most of the Indians gathered along the border are Bangla speaking poor Muslims from Delhi, sources add.

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Indian PM favours joint operations with neighbours

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has favoured joint or coordinated operations with neighbouring countries against Indian insurgents.

"We are for cooperation and dialogue with all our neighbours, including joint or coordinated action...to ensure that no Indian insurgent group finds willing sanctuary or sustenance and that the supply and transit routes are cut off," Singh told a gathering of India's top military commanders here Tuesday.

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RECRUITMENT AT NATORE

Civil surgeon made OSD as minister's 'diktat' ignored

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The civil surgeon of Natore has recently been made OSD (officer on special duty) for not recruiting employees following a deputy minister's 'diktat'.

Meanwhile, the office of civil surgeon opened yesterday after being forcibly closed for two days by the dejected supporters of the deputy minister.

Dr Shahjahan Ali, Natore's civil surgeon, has been asked to join the director general's office in Dhaka by today (Thursday), by orders faxed

from the ministry concerned.

"I was punished because I could not guess who the deputy minister had really wanted to get the jobs. He (the minister) recommended hundreds of people for 19 posts", Dr Ali told The Daily Star.

A deputy minister, state minister and some other ruling alliance high-ups had reportedly thrown their weight behind some 1000 candidates, who applied for 19 posts in six categories of MLSS, steno cum office assistant, junior mechanics, ward boy, gardener, and driver last month.

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Barisal hospital staff call off strike

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A three-day strike at Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital (BSBMCH) to protest recruitment of

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Sehri-Iftar			
Ramadan	Oct	Sehri	Iftar
13	28		5-25
14	29	4-42	5-25

Prayer Timing		
October 28		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fair	4-41	4-47
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-25	5-30
Esha	7-15	7-45
Source: Islamic Foundation		

Purchase of 423 Rab vehicles okayed

STAR REPORT

The Cabinet Committee on Government Purchase yesterday approved seven purchase proposals worth Tk 591 crore but deferred a decision on a controversial proposal for expansion of digital telephone exchanges because of loopholes in it.

One of the approved proposals provide for procurement of 616 vehicles for the police, including 413 for the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), involving Tk 83 crore.

"For the first time in Bangladesh has purchase proposal of so many vehicles been okayed for raising mobility of the police and strengthening highway patrol," Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman told reporters after the meeting at the Secretariat.

The committee earlier sent back the proposal to the home ministry, saying that it was not consistent with the Public Procurement Regulations, 2003 and that the tender floated for the proposed purchase specified certain brands, which also went against the regulations.

He added that often it is said that police fail to keep law and order due to a lack of logistics, which is why they have been provided with so many vehicles with people's money to protect people.

About the controversial proposal on installation and expansion of digital telephone exchanges in district towns on Chinese supplier's credit, Saifur said a decision on the issue has been deferred as there are many loopholes in the proposal,

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PHOTO: STAR

A paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles trooper strikes down an illegal installation on the pavement in the New Market area in Dhaka yesterday as a crowd looks on.