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India suspends 4 BSF men for killing 2 Bangladeshis

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

The Indian Border Security Force has suspended four of its personnel for "procedural lapses" in connection with the killing of two Bangladeshis along the border in West Bengal earlier this week.

Assistant Sub-Inspector Narayan Singha and head constable YN Bhatt, and constables Prasenjit Das, and Mohammed Ayub Ali have been taken off active duty.

According to BSF sources, two Bangladeshis were killed in BSF firing, between late June 11 night and early June 12, when they along with others were allegedly trying to smuggle cattle across the border.

A BSF patrol team,

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Transparent ballot boxes are being taken to polling centres in Khulna yesterday from Khulna Zila School, which the Election Commission turned into an electoral material distribution point.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Human genes cannot be patented

Rules US court

AP, Washington

The US Supreme Court yesterday ruled that companies cannot patent parts of naturally-occurring human genes, a decision with the potential to profoundly affect the emerging and lucrative medical and biotechnology industries.

The court's unanimous judgment reverses three decades of patent awards by government officials. It throws out patents held by Myriad Genetics Inc. on an increasingly popular breast cancer test brought into the public eye recently by actress Angelina Jolie's disclosure that she had a double mastectomy because of one of the genes involved in this case.

Justice Clarence Thomas, who wrote the court's decision, said that Myriad's assertion that the DNA it isolated from the body for its proprietary breast and ovarian cancer tests were patentable had to be dismissed because it violates patent rules. The court has said that laws of nature, natural phenomena and abstract ideas are not patentable. "We hold that a naturally occurring DNA segment is a product of nature and not patent eligible merely because it has been isolated," said Mr. Justice Thomas.

The company has used its patent to come up with its BRACAnalysis test, which looks for mutations on the breast cancer

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DHAKA'S TRADE BENEFITS Obama nears final decision

REUTERS, Washington

President Barack Obama could soon decide to cut off trade benefits for Bangladesh, in a largely symbolic response to tragedies in the country's garment sector that have cost more than 1,200 lives in the past eight months.

The US Trade Representative's office, with input from other government agencies, is completing its recommendations in preparation for a White House announcement by June 30.

Even though the trade benefits affect less than one percent of Bangladeshi exports to the United States, its government has pleaded with the Obama administration not to cut them off.

The AFL-CIO, the largest US labour organisation, first filed a petition to suspend Bangladesh from the US Generalised System of Preferences programme in 2007.

The US government has put off that decision for six years, hoping the threat would be enough to encourage Bangladesh to make long-needed labour reforms.

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Manpower export to UAE slows down

Restrictions continue for 'anomalies' in recruitment

BELAL HOSSAIN BIPLOB

The Bangladeshi workers' migration flow to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has been declining since September last year due to a restriction on the grounds of irregularities in the recruitment process.

Around 7,000 Bangladeshis have migrated to the UAE till May this year after the restriction imposed in August last year, according to the statistics of the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET).

On an average, 500 to 700 Bangladeshis have been migrating to the UAE every month while the figure used to hover around 15,000 to 20,000 per month before August last year, according to the statistics.

The UAE had also been the biggest labour market for Bangladeshi workers till August

last year as it alone hosted more than two lakh Bangladeshis out of around six lakh workers migrated to different countries last year.

The declining migration flow has been taking toll on the remittance sent by the Bangladeshis from the UAE.

According to the BMET statistics, Bangladeshis in the UAE sent \$250 million in January, which has come down to \$215 million in May of the current year.

Bangladesh Ambassador to the UAE Muhammad Imran said the migration of other nationals to this country had also been decreasing, not the Bangladeshis alone.

"As the work opportunity in construction sector is shrinking, the demand for

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World population to hit 10.9b by 2100

AFP, United Nations

The world's population will hit 7.2 billion next month and 10.9 billion by 2100, with most of the growth a result of high birthrates in the developing world, the United Nations said Thursday.

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Water pollution and overfeeding of junk food by visitors of Hazrat Baizid Bostami shrine have made the large turtles there very sick. Experts say that the turtles are of a rare species and they are not seen in the wild much.



PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

Iran votes for new president

Khamenei slams US doubts over fair polls

REUTERS, Dubai

Millions of Iranians voted to choose a new president yesterday, urged by supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei to turn out in force to discredit suggestions by arch foe the United States that the election would be a sham.

The 50 million eligible voters had a choice between six candidates to replace incumbent Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, but none is seen as challenging the Islamic Republic's 34-year-old system of clerical rule.

The first presidential poll since a disputed 2009 contest led to months of unrest is unlikely to change rocky ties between the West and the OPEC nation of 75 million, but it may bring a softening of the antagonistic style favoured by Ahmadinejad.

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The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you think that the city corporation elections in four metropolitan cities will be held in a free and fair manner?

Yes (36%) No (64%)

TOTAL VOTES: 122

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think it is justified for the main opposition BNP to be skeptical about holding fair elections to four city corporations?

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Fashion

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Last date of submission: June 15, 2013