

# Dr M: Countries will take back their people

By ROHAIZAD A. RAHIM

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan, India and Bangladesh have agreed to take back their nationals who are illegal immigrants in Malaysia.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the governments concerned were willing to take back their nationals once their nationalities were proven.

"We may waive the security deposit to pay for their way home," Dr Mahathir told a press conference here after visiting the Pakistan Aeronautical Centre (PAC) in Kamra, 80km from here, on the eve of his departure to Karachi.

Also present were Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and High Commissioner Datuk Yusof Hashim.

Dr Mahathir was responding to a question concerning the reaction of the governments of the three countries to a Malaysian ruling requiring visa and security deposits for nationals of India, Pakistani and Bangladesh.

He said the requirements were necessary as certain people destroyed their travel documents on entering the country in a bid to stay permanently.

On his visit to the Pakistani Aeronautical Centre, he said Malaysia would study its facilities with the possibility of es-

visits  
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establishing a joint co-operation programme.

He said Malaysia's Airod had similar facilities and it would be useful to study each other's capacity.

He said Malaysia would enhance its science and technology co-operation programme with Pakistan.

On trade relations, Dr Mahathir said the trade balance, currently in Malaysia's favour, should be viewed objectively.

"Though the figure may be big, the actual profit (for Malaysia) is small."

On the other hand, he said Pakistanis working in Malaysia remitted their earnings home and this could be considered as almost pure profit.

Dr Mahathir also clarified that Malaysia did not have a defence pact with India.

He said the defence co-operation programme with India was to source for parts and equipment which were no longer in production by the original manufacturers.

"We accept Pakistani and Indian officers for training at the National Defence College (in Port Dickson) and we send our officers for training in both countries."

He called on Third World countries to obtain materials from other Third World countries to promote South-South co-operation.