



Defeat terror

PM Hasina urges BIMSTEC leaders to strengthen anti-militancy cooperation

UNB, Goa

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged BIMSTEC leaders to find out the mentors, masterminds, abettors, financiers, arms suppliers and trainers of terrorists and extremists to defeat terrorism.

"We must be prepared to take strong actions against terrorists and their supporters. I firmly believe that within BIMSTEC we should be able to strengthen our cooperation to address terrorism and the rise of violent extremism," she said.

Hasina was delivering her statement at the BIMSTEC Leaders' Retreat held at the tourist city of Goa.

Chaired by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Retreat programme was also addressed by leaders of other BIMSTEC countries.

In Bangladesh, Hasina said, her government has taken a zero-tolerance approach to terrorism and violent extremism. "We've also taken massive awareness programmes for the youths, for families, for educational institutions. We've succeeded in disintegrating the homegrown terrorists."

Hasina said as she stood there as one of the four founding leaders who had inspired the launching of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) way back in 1997, during the past 20 years, BIMSTEC has made progress in connecting two regions -- South Asia and South East Asia.

"Understandably, our progress has been slow, but the groundwork has been done. It's now time to hasten the process of integration," she added.

Hasina added time has come to seriously re-look at how BIMSTEC could be made more effective and result-oriented one as well as to draw synergies with other groupings.

"While we've 14 areas of cooperation under BIMSTEC, I believe we should try to focus more on some key areas like trade and investment, energy, connectivity and counterterrorism for next five years. Regular ministerial meetings on the key areas of cooperation are important for building momentum."

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in a group photograph with other BIMSTEC leaders in Goa of India yesterday.

PHOTO: PIB, INDIA



TOP!
QUOTE

"I firmly believe that within BIMSTEC we should be able to strengthen our cooperation to address terrorism and the rise of violent extremism."

PRIME MINISTER SHEIKH HASINA

Hasina, Modi talk Teesta, terrorism

'More discussions needed to reach Teesta solution'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, from Panaji

Terrorism and Teesta river water-sharing issues came up for discussion as Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina met her Indian counterpart Narendra Modi in Goa last night.

The Teesta issue came up at the meeting between the two prime ministers and it was agreed that more discussions were needed to arrive at an acceptable solution, said Foreign Secretary Md Shahidul Haque.

Briefing the media after the half-an-hour meeting, Shahidul and PM's Press Secretary Ihsanul Karim said Modi commended the way the Bangladesh premier is tackling the menace of terror in Bangladesh and requested her to share her government's experience in this area.

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Goa brings together Saarc leaders

BRICS-BIMSTEC outreach summit gives Saarc leaders scope to discuss ways to connectivity, fighting terrorism

SHAKHAWAT LITON

One might call it a "mini Saarc summit" as leaders of five out of the eight member states of the regional association gathered in Goa of India for BRICS-BIMSTEC outreach meet and voiced against terrorism and focused on connectivity.

"BIMSTEC has focused intensely on connectivity. Digital connectivity is of particular relevance where India will be happy to take a lead," Indian foreign ministry in a tweet quoted the Indian prime minister as saying in the meeting of BIMSTEC leaders.

"Technology can bridge gaps and connect com-

munities. It can also deliver services that make a difference in our daily lives," said Modi as he chaired the meet.

Modi and some other leaders also spoke against terrorism with the Indian PM calling for a strong united stand against the "mothership of terrorism" in the South Asian region, in a thinly veiled reference to Pakistan.

India organised the outreach in its ongoing diplomatic blitz to isolate Islamabad in the international community after the September 18 Uri attack for which New Delhi blamed Pakistan-based terror

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Sohel who was behind the wheel of the ambulance that killed four people inside DMCH.

PHOTO: STAR

Teen driver placed on remand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 19-year-old driver of the ambulance that ran over and killed four people inside Dhaka Medical College Hospital on Saturday was placed on police remand for a day yesterday.

Producing Sohel, who was at the wheel of the vehicle, before a Dhaka court, Sub-Inspector Shah Alam of Shahbagh Police Station sought seven days' remand.

Sohel, a driver's assistant, was arrested after the incident that also left three

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MR. EXPERT DAMP STOP

দেয়ালে পড়েছে ডাম্প, নষ্ট হচ্ছে প্লাস্টার...
ফাংগাসে বিবর্ণ রঙ, প্রেস্টিজ পাংকচার...

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Private 'ambulances' operate beyond law

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Two years ago Abul Kashem of Agargaon area in the capital bought a rickety microbus for Tk 10 lakh. It had two owners before.

He ripped out the rear seats, stuck an oxygen cylinder and a stretcher in it. He then slapped some ambulance sticker on it and a siren with flashing lights on top and voila! He had a "serviceable" ambulance.

He got the vehicle registered with the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority spending Tk 1.3 lakh and started renting out the vehicle to patients.

Kashem is one of 34 ambulance owners who have been running private ambulance service in front of the National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation (Nitor) for the last couple of years without any problems.

The other ambulances there have pretty much the same story. And it is not different at most other hospitals in the capital.

According to the BRTA, there are 4,527 ambulances in Bangladesh, 2,639 in Dhaka alone, as of August 31, 2016.

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"I'm so glad I'm on Mypill"

বার্থ-স্পেসিং-এর জন্য আমার ডাক্তার যখন মাইকো-ডোজ 'মাইপিল'-এর কথা বললেন, প্রথমে খানিকটা দ্বিধা হলেও ভাবলাম "why not! I am glad, I did." ভাবতেও পারিনি 'মাইপিল' আমাকে এত perfectly suit করবে।

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