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Help take Rohingya case to int'l court

PM also urges OIC member states to show zero tolerance for terrorism

UNB, Makkah

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday sought support from the OIC member states to launch the Rohingya case at the International Court of Justice with voluntary funding and technical help to ensure legal rights of the Rohingyas and address the question of accountability and justice.

Mentioning that the Abu Dhabi Conference of OIC Foreign Ministers, held in March, created a pathway to move the court, she thanked Gambia for steering the process this far.

Hasina was speaking on behalf of the Asia Group at the 14th OIC Makkah Al-Mukarramah Summit titled "Hand in Hand Towards the Future" at the Safa Palace in Makkah.

The PM said Bangladesh has given shelter to more than 1.1 million forcibly displaced Rohingya Muslims of Myanmar despite having resource constraints. "But their dignified return is still uncertain as Myanmar consistently fails to honour its promises to create a conducive environment for their return to Northern Rakhine."

She also called upon the OIC to devise a comprehensive strategy to meet the challenges of adverse changes in world economy, ecology and security.

"We have more than a third of the world's strategic resources and majority of its youths. We, ourselves, should be able to solve our own problems."

Hasina urged all to pursue a course of "zero tolerance" for terror, deny territories for use by any individual or group for launching any terror and extremist agenda and fight it together.

To this end, she recalled her four-point formula for the Muslim world -- stopping supply of arms, stopping financing for terrorism, removing divisions within the Ummah, and pursuing peaceful settlement of conflicts through dialogue.

Hasina said it is heartwarming to see that the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) is taking the much-needed path of reforms and renovations to adapt itself to the 21st century.

"While we change and adapt, we must aim for the values of Islam -- fraternity,"

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Ahead of Bangladesh's ICC Cricket World Cup campaign opener against South Africa in London today, their most experienced pair -- captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza (L) and Shakib Al Hasan -- discussed tactics during a break in training yesterday.

PHOTO: BCB

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Warner fires Aussies; Kiwis demolish Lanka

AFP, Cardiff

David Warner scored an unbeaten 89 as champions Australia launched their World Cup defence with a seven-wicket thrashing of Afghanistan in Bristol yesterday after New Zealand pacer Matt Henry led an inspired bowling unit to run through Sri Lanka's batting in the Black Caps' 10-wicket win.

In his first major international appearance since a year-long ban for his role in a ball-tampering scandal, Warner scored a brisk 89 off 114 balls with the help of eight boundaries. He looked in fine form and will probably rue

the fact that the Afghans had not scored a bit more given that the Aussies romped home with 91 balls to spare, as 11 more runs would have made him the first player at this World Cup to score a century.



Afghanistan's total of 207 all out, made following captain Gulbadin Naib's surprising decision to bat first at Bristol on Saturday, never looked like troubling Australia.

Former Australia captain Steve Smith, who was also given a 12-month ban for his part in the ball-tampering affair in South Africa, made 18 before being dismissed just three runs shy of a victory completed.

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Will conditions favour Tigers in opener?

SAKEB SUBHAN from London

Early in his pre-match press conference, Bangladesh captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza provided a guideline of what to expect by strongly asserting that South Africa were the favourites in the Tigers' opening World Cup match at The Oval today. Bangladesh may have won their maiden ODI multi-team tournament a fortnight ago in Ireland, but the odds are stacked against the Tigers against an opposition they have beaten just thrice in 20 ODIs.

The match is scheduled to start at The Oval in London at 10:30 am (3:30 pm Bangladesh time). The good news for Bangladesh is that star opener Tamim Iqbal, who hurt his forearm in practice on Friday, was seen batting yesterday and will likely play today, with Mashrafe saying that the final call will be up to the batsman. Pace-bowling all-

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2 'drug dealers' killed in a 'gun battle' with BGB

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Two suspected drug peddlers, including a Rohingya, were killed in a "gunfight" with Border Guard Bangladesh members in Teknaf of Cox's Bazar early yesterday.

The dead are Md Abdul Gafur, 40, of Myanmar's Mongdu Nafpura area, and Md Sadek, 23, of Teknaf's

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