<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>01</th>
<th>FEATURED</th>
<th>03</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>02</td>
<td>TOP NEWS</td>
<td>04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03</td>
<td>ANTI TERRORISM PROSECUTIONS</td>
<td>08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04</td>
<td>COUNTER TERRORISM ARRESTS</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05</td>
<td>INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06</td>
<td>GLOBAL VOICES ON BANGLADESH</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07</td>
<td>BANGLADESH AND PEACEKEEPING</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
During the UN General Assembly 2016 in New York, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said terrorism and violent extremism have emerged as major global challenges of present time, saying these menaces are sweeping across borders and no country seems immune, and no individual is beyond their target. She urged all to unite in their resolve to defeat and degrade them in all forms and manifestations. She stressed on the root causes of terrorism and violent extremism and finding out the mentors, masterminds, abettors, financiers, arms suppliers and trainers of the terrorists and extremists, and taking strong action against them. At a sideline event, the Bangladesh Premier highlighted the role of women in countering extremism, saying that societies that create space for women’s participation and empowerment will have no room for violent extremism and all must continue to widen that space for building a sustainable future.
According to a recent opinion poll by Democracy International, majority Bangladeshis are satisfied with security situation and counter terrorism efforts of the government. As per the survey, 77% Bangladeshis feel the Awami League Government is doing a good or excellent job in preventing extremist attacks. The same survey showed that 72% Bangladeshis feel that the current government is doing a good or excellent job in making people feel safe. The polls also show very high confidence rating for the law enforcement agencies like RAB (87%) and police (76%).

According to the latest assessment of the International Cooperation Review Group (September, 2016), Bangladesh has emerged as a country free of risk of money laundering and terror financing. The Mutual Evaluation Report of the Asia Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG) has acknowledged the ongoing efforts against money laundering and terror financing compliant of international standard. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina’s steps against money laundering and terror funding was widely acknowledged and lauded at the APG meeting on 7 September, 2016.
During a bilateral meeting with Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the latter commented that the former’s comprehensive crackdown on terrorism is a template for other countries on how to tackle terror. During the meeting, which was held at Goa in October at the sidelines of the BRICS-BIMSTEC Outreach Meeting, PM Modi commended Sheikh Hasina for her strong actions to counter terrorism in Bangladesh. He added ‘Your battle against terrorism was yielding very positive results. You have shown us all a new template on how to fight terrorism so successfully’.

**USA hails Bangladesh's efforts to counter terrorism esp. after July 1 attack**

During the fifth round of the Bangladesh-USA Security Dialogue held in Dhaka in October, USA lauded the Bangladesh government’s efforts against terrorism, particularly after the July 1 attack. The US side applauded Bangladesh government’s efforts to control terrorist activities by involving all relevant agencies, launching a specialized ‘Counterterrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) Unit’, the country’s policy of ‘zero tolerance’ towards terrorism and violent extremism, and for contribution to UN Peacekeeping operations. They also hailed Bangladesh’s participation in the Global Peace Operations Initiative, funded by the US.
Forge unity to crush terrorism: HPM Sheikh Hasina tells BIMSTEC Leaders

Speaker at BIMSTEC Leaders’ Retreat at Goa in October, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina called upon the leaders to forge unity to defeat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. She commented that within BIMSTEC, the members should be able to strengthen their cooperation to address terrorism and rise of violent extremism, find out the mentors, masterminds, abettors, financiers, arms suppliers and trainers. She highlighted the massive awareness programmes taken by her government for the youth, for families, for educational institutions and how they have succeeded in disintegrating the homegrown terrorist groups.

Bangladesh 3rd in South Asia in Global Peace Index

According to the Global Peace Index (GPI) 2016, Bangladesh ranked 3rd most peaceful country in South Asia after Bhutan and Nepal. Bangladesh stood 83rd in overall GPI rankings while Bhutan and Nepal 13th and 78th respectively. revealed the GIP 2016, conducted by the Sydney-based Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) and published in November 2016. South Asia’s position remained unchanged at eighth out of the nine regions, according to the Index. Iceland again remained world’s most peaceful country, according to the GPI 2016.
‘Bangladesh is no longer an exporter of terrorism’: HPM Sheikh Hasina tells 'The Hindu'

In an interview given to the leading Indian newspaper 'The Hindu', which was published on 14 October, Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina gave candid answers to questions regarding Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on why Bangladesh pulled out of the SAARC summit, bilateral ties with India, counter terrorism efforts of her government and issues with Pakistan. On her government’s resolve to address terrorism, the Premier said that since 2008, the steps taken have shown results. She added that there are no longer incidents of violence, bomb blasts, terror etc. along the country's borders. She categorically stated that she will not allow any group to use her country’s soil to launch a terror attack against any other country.

Two new submarines from China joins Bangladesh Navy Armada

On 14 November, Bangladesh received two submarines from China, which are expected to add new dimensions to the strength and capacity of the country's navy. The first submarines made for Bangladesh are each 76 metres long and 7.6 metres wide and have been christened 'Nabajatra' and 'Joyjatra'. According to Bangladesh's Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Mohammad Nizamuddin Ahmed, with the inclusion of the submarines Bangladesh Navy started journey as the three dimensional force. With the inclusion of these vessels, Bangladesh Navy’s capacity in the Bay of Bengal will increase a lot and the country’s maritime boundary would be more secured than ever before. The move comes as part of the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina’s programme to modernize the armed forces of Bangladesh.
Supreme Court confirms highest punishment for attackers of UK envoy

The Supreme Court of Bangladesh on 7 December upheld the death penalty of three terrorists of Harkat-ul-Jihad al-Islami (Huji), including its chief Mufti Abdul Hannan, in a case filed for the 2004 grenade attack on the then UK High Commissioner in Bangladesh. A four-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha delivered the verdict after dismissing the appeals against the lower court and High Court verdicts moved by the convicts. The two other condemned operatives of the banned outfit are Sharif Shahedul Alam Bipul and Delwar Hossain.

Seven fast track tribunals to try terrorists, militants

The Bangladesh Government is set to establish seven Anti-Terrorism Special Tribunals in seven divisions as fast track courts for quick disposal of cases involving terrorism and militancy. The Law Ministry has created posts of seven judges to be appointed in seven tribunals and have already obtained required approvals from the Public Administration and Finance Ministries. Initiatives are now underway to set up the first two tribunals in Dhaka and Chittagong and judges of these two fast track courts were expected to be appointed “soon” along with 10 other related officials and staff.

Court indicts seven JMB terrorists for Kunio Hoshi murder

On 15 November, a special tribunal in Rangpur indicted seven alleged operatives of outlawed Jama'atul Mujahedeen Bangladesh (JMB) for murdering Japanese national Kunio Hoshi on October 3 last year. Police investigations found eight alleged JMB activists involved in the murder of the Japanese national but they gave the charge sheet against seven as the eighth presumed terrorist was killed earlier in a gunfight with law enforcement agencies. The current hearings are examining witnesses after framing the charges.
On 7 November, Bangladesh Police charged seven suspected members of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) in a Kurigram court in the case over the killing of a war veteran who converted to Christianity. The victim was hacked to death near his house in Kurhigram on Mar 22. The killers fled the scene by hurling bombs. Police submitted two chargesheets for the incident, one for murder and another under the Explosives Act, at Kurigram Chief Judicial Magistrate’s Court, seven and a half months after the incident.

Bangladesh Fights Malicious Facebook Postings, Online Hate: Sajeeb Wazed in The Diplomat

In an article written for the Diplomat Magazine, which was published on 12 December, the Bangladesh Prime Minister’s ICT Affairs Advisor Sajeeb Wazed, narrated how the government is tackling the emerging threats of malicious facebook postings, online hate and extremist propaganda. He affirmed that while committed to free speech, these menaces must be tackled. He narrated how the Government of Sheikh Hasina moved swiftly to apprehend the culprits who used a fake photo to start violence against the country’s minority Hindu community in Brahmanbaria district. He added that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has been using Internet to videoconference with people at all levels of Bangladesh’s 64 districts to create nationwide awareness against terror. The government has also held drills to practice interrupting Internet service during any extremist attack or hostage situation to prevent criminals from posting video, images and other real-time content to the Internet.
COUNTER TERRORISM ARRESTS

Thirty five JMB operatives arrested, fourteen killed

In separate counter terrorism drives, security forces arrested 35 members of Jamaatul Mujahideen Bangladesh between September and December 2016. During these drives, 12 operatives were killed during gunfights, while various amounts of arms, ammunition, explosives and extremist literature were seized. 2 of these terrorists also blew themselves up rather than surrender. These drives and raids took place in various areas of such districts as Bagerhat, Dhaka, Rangpur, Gazipur and Tangail. A key financier of this group, Abdur Rahman, was also detained during one of the raids.

Four ABT operatives, including its Gazipur chief, arrested

Between September and December 2016, four suspected members of the banned terrorist outfit, Ansarullah Bangla Team (ABT) have been arrested in separate drives across Bangladesh. This group is thought to be primarily responsible for the killings of bloggers and secular intellectuals in recent times. On 1 September, two members of the group were arrested from Bakalia area of Chittagong. On 10 September, two suspected members of the group were arrested from Gazipur, including its district chief Rashedul Islam alias Swapan.

'Mastermind' of publisher Dipan murder detained

On 4 September, 2016, Detective Branch of Police detained one of the ‘masterminds’ of the killing of publisher Faisal Arefin Dipan and attempted killing of another publisher Ahmedur Rashid Tutul. Acting on a tipoff, DB police detained Abdul Sabur alias Raju alias Sad alias Samad alias Shujon from Tongi Railway Station from the outskirts of Dhaka after conducting a raid there. On October 31 in 2015, Jagriti Prakashoni owner Dipan was stabbed to death inside his office at Aziz Super Market, Dhaka while Tutul of Shuddhoswar publication was also hacked before the attack on Dipan.

Five Huji members held

On 8 December 2016, Members of Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) arrested five alleged members of banned outfit Harkat-ul-Jihad Bangladesh (Huji) in a raid at a den at Mukim Talukder Para of Colonel Hat area of Chittagong and seized arms, ammunition, explosives and extremist literature from their possessions. The arrested were identified as Tajul Islam, Nazim Uddin, Nur-e-Alam, Hafez Mohammad Abu Zafar Gifari and Iftisham Ahmed, all close accomplices of Huji top leader Mufti Mainul Islam. Two pistols, nine magazines, ten improvised explosives, over 100 rounds of ammunitions, and 10 extremist books were seized from their possessions.
During a meeting between Bangladesh’s Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali and his Austrian counterpart Sebastian Kurz at Vienna on 12 December, the two countries discussed terrorism and violent extremism and vowed to work together to address these global menaces. On a similar note, the Bangladesh Foreign Minister met with his German counterpart earlier on 8 October in Berlin, during which time the two countries discussed ways to increase cooperation to fight terrorism and extremism. By the same token, during a bilateral meeting between the foreign ministers of both countries in Oslo, Norway appreciated Bangladesh’s stance against terrorism and have vowed to fight the global menace together with Bangladesh.

On 1 December, Manohar Gopalkrishna Prabhu Parrikar came to Bangladesh in the first ever visit by any Indian Defence Minister to bolster security ties between the two countries. During his trip, the Indian DM met with HPM Sheikh Hasina who assured him that her government will not allow the soil of Bangladesh to be used for any terrorist purposes. During his trip, he also visited the Bangladesh Military and held talks with Bangladesh army, navy and air force chiefs at their offices in Dhaka Cantonment. His delegation comprised of the vice chiefs of India’s three wings of armed forces. Analysts believe Parrikar’s visit would firm up security cooperation between the two neighbouring countries greatly.
Ghulam Nabi Azad praises Sheikh Hasina's role in fighting terrorism

Lauding Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's role in fighting terrorism, Senior Indian Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad on 22 October said the steps she has taken after the terror attack at a popular cafe in Dhaka will strengthen the global fight against the menace. Addressing the 20th National Council of Bangladesh Awami League (AL), Azad said India and Bangladesh are close strategic partners in counter terrorism and India appreciates the steps taken by the Bangladesh government to counter terror activities on its soil in the aftermath of the July attack.

Bangladesh delivered 'gold standard' in security

The government and cricket board of Bangladesh received glowing praise from England team's security chief for ensuring the October series between the two nations passed off safely. Although there was some uncertainty in the tour at the outset, following Bangladesh's successful organizing, Reg Dickason, the director of security management for the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) commented: "I've been working in international sport for 20 years and what you've seen here, and the government input, is as good as I've ever seen...It's certainly the gold standard at the moment".

British Minister lauds Bangladesh government for drive against terrorism

During a bilateral meeting held on 24 September with the Bangladesh Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali at the sidelines of the UNGA in New York, British Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office lauded Bangladesh government for its drive against terrorism and extremism. The British minister appreciated Bangladesh for the way the present government is dealing with terrorism and violent extremism in the country. Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Md. Shahidul Haque was also present during the meeting.
Bangladesh General appointed as Force Commander for UN Peacekeeping in Cyprus

A Bangladesh General has been appointed as the Force Commander for the UN Peace Mission in Cyprus, the highest position currently being held by an officer of Bangladesh Armed Forces. Major General Mohammad Humayun Kabir left Dhaka for Cyprus on 5 October, where the UN Peace Mission has been playing a crucial role since 1964. Before his new assignment, General Humayun also served as Military Observer in UN Peace Missions in Bosnia and Congo as well. A number of Bangladesh generals have also served as Force Commanders in some other UN Peace Missions in different conflict ridden parts across the world.

Ministerial meeting in Paris lauds Bangladesh’s peacekeeping contribution

Bangladesh’s role in the UN peacekeeping missions particularly in the French-speaking countries has been lauded at a ministerial meeting in Paris on 27 October. In the meeting, the UN Under-Secretary General for Peacekeeping Harvey Ladsus, “highly praised” the Bangladeshi peacekeepers deployed in the Francophone missions. French and Canadian foreign ministers also praised Bangladesh’s contribution. Attending the meeting, the Bangladesh Foreign Minister reiterated Dhaka’s commitment “to remain one of the first responders to the UN’s call for troop and police”.

Bangladesh set to send more peacekeepers in South Sudan

On 2 December, it was announced that Bangladesh is set to send an infantry battalion and an engineering company of armed forces to maintain peace in war-torn South Sudan. The United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) had recently requested Bangladesh to contribute with an infantry battalion for maintaining peace in South Sudan. The government of Bangladesh has promptly accepted the offer of contributing the infantry battalion composed of 850 personnel. Currently, necessary preparations are underway for the speedy and smooth deployment of the peacekeepers.