voice of india

India warns Bangladesh against normalising terrorism: MEA

PTI, NEW DELHI: During his recent meeting with Bangladesh interim government's foreign affairs advisor Touhid Hossain in Muscat, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar conveyed that Bangladesh "should not normalise terrorism", the Ministry of External Affairs said on Friday.

The two leaders met on the sidelines of the 8th Indian Ocean Conference (IOC) in the Omani capital last week.

At his weekly media briefing, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal was asked if SAARC came up during the discussions between the two ministers in Muscat.

"Yes, the matter was

brought up by the Bangladesh side when our EAM met their foreign advisor in Muscat. Everyone in South Asia is aware as to which country and what activities are responsible for stymieing SAARC. The EAM conveyed that Bangladesh should not normalise terrorism," he said.

In an interactive session at a think-tank meet in 2024, Jaishankar, without naming any country, had said the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) was in trouble as one of its member nations had been relentlessly backing terrorism.

The SAARC is a regional

bloc comprising India, Padealings -- yes, obviously we kistan, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Bhutan, the Maldives, have taken note of such re-Nepal and Sri Lanka. marks, which are of course Unprecedented stunot helpful. It is for con-

dent-led protests in Bangcerned individuals to reflect ladesh last year had precipion the implications for their tated the fall of the previous particular domains." government led by Sheikh Bangladesh's interim gov-Hasina, who fled to India on ernment has been insist-August 5, leaving behind a ing on the revival of SAARC country in political turmoil. which has been suspended The country is currently for a long time.

being led by Chief Advisor Muhammad Yunus assisted hankar on February 16 after by his team of advisors. the meeting did not mention Replying to a query,

SAARC. Jaiswal said at the briefing, "Met Foreign Affairs Adviser Md Touhid Hossain of "Regarding your second question about comments the Interim Government of being made by certain ad-Bangladesh. The conversation was focused on our bivisors and what sort of im-

An X post made by Jais-

pact will they have on our lateral relationship, as also on BIMSTEC," he wrote.

> A Bangladesh foreign ministry statement issued last week after the two leaders met in Muscat said, "Hossain sought to initiate discussions for the renewal of the Ganges Water Treaty signed in 1996 and emphasised the need for convening the SAARC standing committee meeting and requested New Delhi's support on

the matter." "Both sides recognised the challenges the two neighbours are facing in terms of bilateral relations and discussed the necessity to work together to address those," it added.

No namaz break in Assam Assembly after nearly 90 years

PTI, GUWAHATI: The decades-old Assam Assembly tradition of a two-hour break to facilitate Muslim legislators to offer 'namaz' on Fridays was discontinued for the first time during the ongoing budget session.

The decision to do away with the break was taken in the last session of the House in August, but implemented from this sitting. Expressing dissatisfaction over it, AIUDF MLA Rafiqul Islam maintained that it was a decision imposed on the strength of numbers.

"There are about 30 Muslim MLAs in the assembly. We had expressed our views against the move. But they (the BJP) have the numbers and are imposing it on the basis of that," Islam said. Leader of Opposition De-

babrata Saikia of the Con-

Today, several of my party colleagues and AIUDF MLAs missed important discussion as they went to offer 'namaz'. Since it is a special prayer requirement only for Fridays, I think a provision can be made for it nearby - Rafigul Islam AIUDF MLA

er day", which was placed before the Rules Committee gress said provision can be made for the Muslim MLAs and passed unanimously. to offer 'namaz' nearby on Fridavs

"Today, several of my party colleagues and AIUDF MLAs missed important discussion as they went to offer 'namaz'. Since it is a special prayer requirement only for Fridays, I think a provision can be

had welcomed the decision,

stating that it was a practice introduced by the Muslim League's Syed Saadulla in 1937, and the decision to discontinue the break "prioritised productivity and shed another vestige of colonial baggage".

made for it nearby," he said.

The decision to discon-

tinue the nearly 90-year-

old practice was taken by

the Rules Committee of

the House, headed by the

Speaker, in August last year.

ry, "in view of the secular

nature of the Constitution,

had proposed that the As-

sam Legislative Assembly

must conduct its proceed-

ings on Fridays like any oth-

CM Himanta Biswa Sarma

Speaker Biswajit Daima-

voice of business

MPC minutes: Rate cut

appropriate monetary policy

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Required Sales Executive attractive fixed Salary+ Incentives, Interested candidates shares CV on Min 1year experience should have

PTI, MUMBAI: Reserve be more appropriate at the Bank Governor Sanjay Malhotra opined that rate minutes.

Malhotra, along with five other members of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) had voted for a 25 basis points reduction in the short-term lending rate (repo) to 6.25 per cent. The RBI at its meeting held from February 5 to 7 effected the rate cut

"Given the macroeconomic outlook when inflation is expected to align with the target, and recognising that monetary policy is forward-looking, I view a lower policy rate to

SPICY WOES

response, opined RBI Guv current juncture," Malhotra said, according to the Chairing his first MPC meeting, he had also

pointed out that rising uncertainties on global financial markets and trade policy front, coupled with continuing risk of adverse weather events pose risks to the inflation and growth

outlook While the central bank had reduced the rate, it continued with the neutral stance of monetary policy. "This will provide the flexibility to respond to the evolving macroeconomic environment. By taking this logical course, monetary policy will be able to fulfil its mandate and play its part in the sustainable development of the Indian economy," Malhotra said.

moving above the upper tolerance band in October, has moderated and was at a five-month low of 4.3 per cent in January. MPC member and RBI

Deputy Governor M Rajeshwar Rao said that at the current juncture, with a further alignment of headline inflation towards the 4 per cent target, there is greater space to address concerns regarding growth by way of reduction in the policy repo rate.

"This monetary policy measure in conjunction with the fiscal measures announced in the Budget should give a fillip to aggregate demand conditions. Furthermore, the government has reaffirmed its commitment to fiscal consolidation, which should help to anchor medium-term inflation expectations." Rao said.

Headline inflation, after

reduction was an approcommissions, freshers may apply. priate monetary policy response at this juncture cit-Send your CV with snap to ing movement of inflation towards the central bank's 2025005715 4 per cent target, said the World renowned company looking for Business Leaders to work in MPC meeting minutes re-Finance/ Insurance. Unlimited leased on Friday. earning potential. Least investment.

after a gap of five years.



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The Update' has some significant findings relevant to India. Between 2017 and 2024, Russia's share in India's oil imports increased from just 1 per cent to 30 per cent. India's imports from China are rising but its exports to China are falling,"

Ramesh said. "India's exports to the USA and Europe are increasingly dependent on China. ASEAN appears to have been the main recipient of the US shift away from trade with China. The dependence of the USA on China is shifting with countries like Vietnam now intermediating trade flows between the world's two largest economies," the

VP Dhankhar: Use AI to boost agriculture, rural lives

PTI, NEW DELHI: Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Friday said disruptive technologies like artificial intelligence (AI) should be used for improving the agriculture sector, and asserted that the rural population represents both opportunities and responsibilities.

Speaking at the inaugural session of 21st General Session of African Asian Rural Development (AARDO) Conference, the vice president also stressed using technology to alleviate suffering.

Speaking at the event, Dhankar said the rural regions nurture 3.6 billion lives, including 894 million rural Indians, "representing both our opportunity and responsibility."