

# **The Daily Holiday**

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## **Terrorist research centre launched in Bangladesh**

### **Special Correspondent**

Bangladesh Institute of Peace and Security Studies (BIPSS), a non-governmental research and study organization has launched a specialized centre to carry out research on terrorism. The new organ, Bangladesh Centre for Terrorism Research (BCTR) will carry out comprehensive research and analysis on terrorism in Bangladesh, Major General (rtd) ANM Muniruzzaman told a press conference last week. Without any country-specific bias, General Munir mentioned that lack of space for democratic practice in a society often created ground for terrorism. Islam is often wrongly blamed for terrorism when other religious groups like Sivasena in India are engaged in terrorist activities. Dr Rohan Gunaratna, head of the International Centre for political violence and terrorism research of S Rajaratnam School of international Studies in Singapore also spoke before the press on the occasion. According to the organizers, Bangladesh being a Muslim majority country has been under focus of international community following the recent incidents of violence and terrorist acts by radical Islamic groups. They observed that Harkatul Jihad groups had international connections while JMB or Banglabhai was a locally organized group. Realising the treat of terrorism in Bangladesh, BIPSS set up the new centre with an aim of understanding the terrorist phenomenon and suggest measures to combat or minimize the treat. BIPSS has undertaken the mission to create dynamic hub activity that bridges the academicians, researcher and policy makers bringing them together in dealing with the security and peace issues in a better manner.

Responding to queries from newsmen, Dr Gunaratna said that terrorism is still a debated term as the struggle of freedom or democracy often branded as terrorist act. He however, accepted the UN explanation saying that a politically motivated violence targeting the civilians should be identified as terrorism. He mentioned the violence committed by the army or law enforcing agencies in Afganistan, Iraq or Israel should be treated as war crime.