

THREAT OF GLOBAL TERRORISM FOR BANGLADESH: A REALITY OR A MYTH

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Introduction

The end of the cold war in the early nineties apparently led to a new global security environment. In early 21st century, a new global threat emerged with the terrorists' 9/11 attacks on United State of America (USA). Subsequent terrorist attacks in western countries and sharp rise in terrorist activities in North African region and Middle East, defined a new threat perception for the world community and United State (US) led 'War on Terror' thereof gave a new height to the spectrum.

In the era of globalization and technological advancement, terrorism has gained multi-dimensional height, where in terrorist think globally, organized regionally but act locally. Due to revolutionary scientific inventions, social media is playing a crucial role to abuse this invention to propagate terrorist's ideologies. Therefore, terrorist domain has now been extended far beyond any national, regional or international boundary.

Emergence of Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) in 2014, gave yet another new height to the spectrum of terrorism¹. The ISIS has exceptional capability in the use of social media and online products to address a wide spectrum of potential audiences around the globe.² Like many other regions, South Asia also could not stand beyond the reach of global terrorists. In the recent past, significant activities of the terrorist groups are noticed in Afghanistan, Pakistan and India. The security threat in India is further heightened with the growing ISIS influence and Al Qaeda in Indian Subcontinent (AQIS).³ As a result, South Asian countries remain vulnerable for indoctrination to global terrorist outfits.

In the present context of globalized terrorism, Bangladesh has not been insulated from the phenomenon. Bangladesh witnessed the threat in the form of leftist

1. Gunaratna,R., Global Threat Assessment New Threats on the Horizon, www.rsis.edu.sg, February 16, 2016 .
2. Country Reports on Terrorism 2014, www.state.gov/documents/organisation/239631.pdf .accessed on February 16,2016, p.7.
3. Op.cit., p. 8

and insurgency movement soon after its independence which was successfully brought to an end through peaceful resolution. New pattern of terrorism in the form of 'religious extremism' surfaced in Bangladesh in late nineties and early twenties. But the country has shown credible success in fighting terrorism. Therefore, terrorist outfits of Bangladesh were dormant for couple of years. But again they came in the forefront in 2013 to indicate their resilience. Here question may arise in the global scenario that whether Bangladesh will be affected by global terrorism in future or not. Given the possibility of influence by global terrorist, Bangladesh along with its counter terrorism strategy, is closely working with its international partners to combat the threat. The present government of Bangladesh with its 'Zero Tolerance' policy against terrorism has enacted and undertaken comprehensive legal measures. Despite all these efforts Bangladesh cannot stand immune from the trend of global terrorism. Therefore, it is imperative to continue to adopt appropriate strategy and policy to obviate the influence of transnational terrorist with a view to maintain current progress and prosperity of Bangladesh.

Having this into consideration the paper will discuss about terrorism and global terrorism- a theoretical outlook, trends of terrorism in Bangladesh , ongoing efforts of counter terrorism in Bangladesh, addressed the answer of the question- will Bangladesh be affected by the global terrorism? And finally round off the research with a few recommendations.

Terrorism and Global Terrorism- A Theoretical Outlook

Definitions

Radicalization: The UK Home Office, MI5's parent agency, bluntly defines radicalization as "The process by which people come to support terrorism and violent extremism and, in some cases, then join terrorist groups"⁴.

Terrorism: Terrorism, as defined by US law, is premeditated, politically motivated violence perpetrated against noncombatant targets by sub national groups or clandestine agents⁵.

4. Ibid

5. Title 22, Chapter 38 of the United States Code (regarding the Department of State) contains a definition of terrorism ... https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Definitions_of_terrorism visited 29 September 2016.

Global Terrorism: Global terrorism is a term, meaning use of violence and threats by self-financed and organized, international networks of terrorism. Hence global terrorism involves the citizens or property of more than one country.⁶

Pattern of Global Terrorism

Historical Perspective of Terrorism: The history of terrorism is an old tradition to Change the autocratic ruler or express dissatisfaction on any issue of the internal or external matters by the depressed population of a community or a country. The four-wave concept of terrorism of 'David C. Rapoport' was the most convincing overarching analysis of the historical evolution of modern terrorism where he mentioned about the Anarchist wave, the Anti-colonial wave, the New Left wave and the Religious wave⁷. But lastly Jeffrey Kaplan gave the concept of "fifth wave" of terrorism theory where he mentioned about the groups organized by foreign patrons or the result of foreign educations or the influence of foreign ideas or religious beliefs on founders of groups.

Terrorism - Post 9/11 Attack: After the 9/11 attack, terrorist's activities have become more globalized than ever before in the history of terrorism. On retaliation to this, attack on Afghanistan and Iraq by US led collision forces gave more diversification to the global terrorism. AQ led by Osama Bin Laden fought against the US collision forces at Afghanistan and tried to expand their network all over the globe in the name of religion. 'Terrorism is now in full bloom around Afghanistan and Pakistan, strategic centre of the Islamic world.'⁸ This has made the Asian Region more volatile and susceptible to new terrorist growth and has further galvanized the radical elements in the Muslim world.

Recent Trend of Global Terrorism: "The withdrawal of US led coalition forces from Iraq in December 2011 and marginalization of Sunnis by Nouri Al Maliki government created the condition for the rise of the Islamic State of Iraq (ISI)"⁹. The proclamation of Islamic Caliphate by ISIS on 29 June 2014 has diverted the loyalties of dispersed jihadist groups and individuals worldwide¹⁰. It has managed to engage a wide audience effectively with extensive use of social

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6. Ansari, Asif Ahmed Lt Col, 'Terrorism in Bangladesh: Home Grown or Beyond! How to combat', Individual Research Paper, AFWC, National Defence College, Bangladesh, 2008, p.5
 7. "The Four Waves of Modern Terrorism", [http:// international.ucla.edu/media/files/Rapoport-four-Waves-of-Modern-Terrorism,,](http://international.ucla.edu/media/files/Rapoport-four-Waves-of-Modern-Terrorism.pdf) visited on April 19, 2016.
 8. Gupta, K.R., Global Terrorism, Atlantic Publisher, New Delhi, 2004, p.1.
 9. Ibid
 10. Ibid

media including Internet, Face book and Twitter. The outfit could also successfully draw the attention of the significant segment of Muslims worldwide especially highly educated youth. This has led to a virtual split among diverse jihadist groups in the Middle East, Asia, and Africa, with many groups supporting ISIS.¹¹ As a result, numbers of foreign fighters from different countries are joining ISIS. This indicates wide and quick spread of ISIS ideology all over the world including Asian region. On the other hand, AQIS was created after the depletion of its Arab rank-and-file. “Pakistan and India are the main targets of AQIS. AQIS also seeks to enlist dispossessed Rohingya Muslims to strike inside Myanmar”¹². Bangladesh is having huge number of Rohingya refugees in Cox’s Bazar area. This Rohingyas may be radicalized by the terrorist outfits like AQIS or ISIS. As a result South Asian countries including Bangladesh remain vulnerable for indoctrination to global terrorist outfits.

An Analysis of the Trends of Terrorism in Bangladesh

Causes of Terrorism

Political Shelter: Political shelter helps to grow terrorism in the country. Although very often than not political parties deny their patronization and affiliation with terror outfits, but in reality the situation is different where some of the political parties, especially Islamic political parties were seen intimately involved with act of terror in Bangladesh.

Establish Islamic Law: In late nineties and early twenties Islamic extremism came in the forefront in Bangladesh in the plea of fighting against non- Islamic activists in the country. These groups protested about the different activities of the cultural organizations like ‘Uddichi’ as opposed to Islamic law.

Political Unrest: In the recent time in 2013 and 2015, the country experienced significant drawback in terms of law and order deterioration which was conducive for the terrorist growth. The recent increase of terrorist activities in Bangladesh may be the spillover effect of political unrest of last few years.

11. Ibid

12. Gunaratna, PR “Counter Terrorist Trends and Analysis”, www.rsis.edu.sg, volume7, issue1, 2015 , accessed on February 16, 2016, p. 8.

Oversight of Government: Due to oversight of the government machineries, religion extremist flourished in early twenties in the north- western part of Bangladesh.

Polarization of Social Media: Homegrown terrorist outfits are extensively using social media for recruitment. Maximum people of terrorist groups are polarized and motivated towards terrorism through social media. As such well educated people from different educational institutions and rich families tend to join terrorist outfits.

Wrong Interpretation of Islam: Islamic extremists always give the misconception of Islamic word 'Jihad' to motivate people. They explain that any one killed during Jihad would become 'Shahid' and enter Haven directly. This wrong explanation of 'Jihad' allures people to join terrorist groups.

Rise of Terrorism in Bangladesh

Before Liberation: "During British rule, first political agitation was marked by the peasant against forced cultivation of indigo by East India Company in Bengal"¹³. Then the communist ideology flourished in 1925 and 1947 in the name of East Pakistan Communist Party, EPCP (Beijing) and the EPCP (Soviet). "These groups later involved themselves in different kind of terrorist activities like arson, anarchy, subversive and extortion activities within the country"¹⁴. After the separation of India – Pakistan, the leftist terror movement of Naxalbari started in 1967 in the then East Pakistan (present Bangladesh) in the south-eastern and northern part of the country by Purba Bangla Communist Party –Janajuddah (PBCP) and the Sarbahara Party (SHP). From the analysis it is found that no transnational terrorist outfits were involved in any terrorist activities in the country before liberation.

After Liberation: After the independence of Bangladesh, the ultra-leftist terrorism continued in 12-15 districts of south, south-western and north-western parts of the country in the form of extortion, killing, abduction, etc¹⁵ "The first attempted abduction of Indian High Commissioner in Bangladesh in 1973 was the first ever incident of terrorism in Bangladesh"¹⁶. In 1980s around 3400 volunteers from Bangladesh travelled to Afghanistan to fight against Soviet aggression. This was the first ever move of Bangladeshi outside country.

13. Sobhan , F, Countering Terrorism In Bangladesh, The University Press Limited, Dhaka,2008, p.14-15.

14. Ibid,p.24

15. Sobhan , F, Countering Terrorism In Bangladesh, The University Press Limited, Dhaka,2008, p.4.

16. Sobhan , F, Countering Terrorism In Bangladesh, The University Press Limited, Dhaka,2008, p.3-4.

They were deeply motivated by religious whims and took it as a Jihad against the 'Kufirs'. These Mujahideens after returned to country did not have enough opportunity for employment except in Madrasas and they started to organize Islamic Extremism in the country.

Terrorism after Late Nineties (Up to 2008): Before 1999, terrorism in Bangladesh was mostly dominated by leftist groups. "The first major terrorist attack other than leftist group was launched on Udichi function on March 06, 1999 at Jessore"¹⁷. Through this incident, Islamic Militancy came in the forefront in Bangladesh from 1999 to November 2005. The main groups came in the lime light were HuJI-B, JMB, JMJB, Hizb-ut –Tahrir (HT), Hizbut Towhid (HuT).

Latest Scenario of Terrorism (From 2009 to October 2016): The older terrorist groups have been decimated by the government since 2009 but surviving groups and new formations have come to the forefront again. Bangladesh has witnessed two waves of religious radicalism in recent decades. The first wave was led by HuJI-B and JMB from 1999-2005. The second wave was sparked for setting up the domestic tribunal in 2010 to try accused of war crimes of 1971 war.

Recently terrorists are mostly targeting soft, specific and very sensitive personalities what has been termed as 'Targeted Killing'. They carry out small scale operation and follow heat and run tactics; i.e. sleeper cell killing missions. They have a circuit break point in every tier.

In 2013, a new terrorist group named Ansarullah Bangla Team (ABT) emerged as a new threat for the country. It appears to have less sweeping goals and preferring to eliminate specifically identified individuals by hacking to death. The outfit has been banned on May 2014. They emerged as 'Ansarul Al Islam' as new identity. This outfit is maintaining its presence in virtual world through online propaganda and seemingly targeting and killing secular and free thinker, bloggers, publishers, and gay workers etc.

Another new terrorist outfit named 'Nabba JMB' emerged in 2015. They claimed to be part of IS. In last 10 months this outfit launched total 42 operations out of which 28 were claimed as IS operations.¹⁸. Most of the members of this outfit are from modern rich families and students of renowned colleges and universities. Reportedly they have launched attack on Shia Mashjid, killed religion people, foreign nationals, Holey Artisan Bakery, Eid congregation in Sholakia, Kishorganj

17. Ibid,p.4

18. Sultan, T, 'Terrorist Activities in Bangladesh Third Phase' Prothom Alo, August 06, 2016.

etc which bear the hallmark of terrorists' expertise and capability to carry out attack in line with global terror outfits. In this pretext, Rohan Gunnaratna mentioned that terrorists of Bangladesh got financial and organizational direction from IS¹⁹. But so far no concrete evidence found in reality about the claim except photograph of Holy Artisan Bakery incident published through IS site which has a lot of controversy.

Terrorist Groups in Bangladesh

The name of the major terrorist groups is given in figure- 1 below:

Figure 1. Major Terrorist Groups in Bangladesh					
Serial	Terrorist Group	Year of Emergence	Present Status	Probable Ideology	Remarks
1.	Leftist Group	1967-1972		-	Presently Active
2.	SHP	1967-1972		-	Presently Active
3	Shanti Bahini	1973	-	-	
4.	HuJI-B	1992	Banned	Taliban	
5.	JMB	1998	Banned	IS	Presently Active
6.	JMJB	1998	Banned	-	
7.	HT	2000	Banned	-	Presently Active
8.	HuT	2009	Black listed	-	
9.	Allahr Dal		Black listed	-	
10.	ABT	2013	Banned	AQIS	Presently Active
11.	Ansarul Al Islam	2013		AQIS	Presently Active
12.	Shahadat-e-Hikma Party		Banned	-	
13.	Nabba JMB	2015		IS	Most active

19. Ibid

Ongoing Efforts to Counter Terrorism in Bangladesh

Government Steps on Counter Terrorism

Anti -Terrorism Act 2009: Bangladesh for the first time enacted the Anti-Terrorism Act 2009 to combat terrorism which has been amended twice (2013) to bring it in line with the UN's Action Plan on Counter Terrorism Strategy and other resolutions.

Cooperation with UN Agencies: Bangladesh complied with the UN Security Council Resolutions 1267, 1373, 1455 and other relevant resolutions. Bangladesh also worked with delegation of Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED) in June 2007. As per the report of the UNCTED, Bangladesh came close to the international standard on combating terrorism in all its manifestation on counter terrorism preparedness.

Motivational Campaign: The government is trying to motivate general mass to stop abuse of religion as a pretext for terrorism. The posters and leaflets decrying extremism have been prepared in consultation with eminent scholars and disseminated through electronic and print media. Besides, rally, seminar, symposium are also being held to aware the general mass. During Friday Congregation, the Imams are condemning such heinous crimes quoting from the Holy Quran to motivate general people.

Formulation of Different Committees: A seventeen member “National Committee on Militancy Resistance and Prevention” headed by the State Minister for Home Affairs and an eight-member “National Committee for Intelligence Coordination,” with the Prime Minister as the Chairperson, to co-ordinate the intelligence activities of different agencies”. Moreover, after the attack in Gulshan, counter terrorism committees are being formed at district and upazilla level by DC (Deputy Commissioner) and UNO (Upazila Nirbahi Officer) to monitor the situation.

Curbing Terror Financing: “The Bangladesh government enacted the Money Laundering Prevention Act 2012 to curb money laundering and terrorist financing. Bangladesh has also become a member of the Asia Pacific Group on Money Laundering. Due to successful reforms to anti-money laundering and anti -terrorist financing measures, the Financial Action Task Force removed Bangladesh from their “grey list” in February 2014.

Social Measures to Combat Militancy: “The government has formulated a strong anti -militancy National Education Policy including reform of Madrasa curriculum in 2010 and introduced anti extremism chapters in academic text books”. Besides, the government has integrated the civil society, Non-Government Organizations (NGO) and media to strengthen the campaign against terrorism and militancy. Parents, teachers, social elites are also advised by honorable Prime Minister to monitor the activities of their children.

Commitment of Law Enforcing and Intelligence Agencies: Law enforcing agencies have apprehended almost all the top leaders of terrorist outfits during the last few years. A good numbers of successful joint operations were conducted by RAB (Rapid Action Battalion), Police, Coast Guard and intelligence organizations and could apprehend terrorist groups with huge arms, ammunition and explosive in 2015 and 2016. They also launched “Operation Thunderbolt” at Holy Artisan Bakery in Gulshan where 5 terrorists were killed and 13 hostages were rescued alive on 02 July 2016. Yet another successful operation at Kalayanpur , Dhaka on 26 July 2016 bears the commitment of the security forces.

Banning and Black Listing Terrorist Organizations: The government has banned and black listed extremist outfits for their involvement with terrorist activities in the country. As a result members of the banned outfits cannot move and operate freely and they are brought under justice when they are arrested.

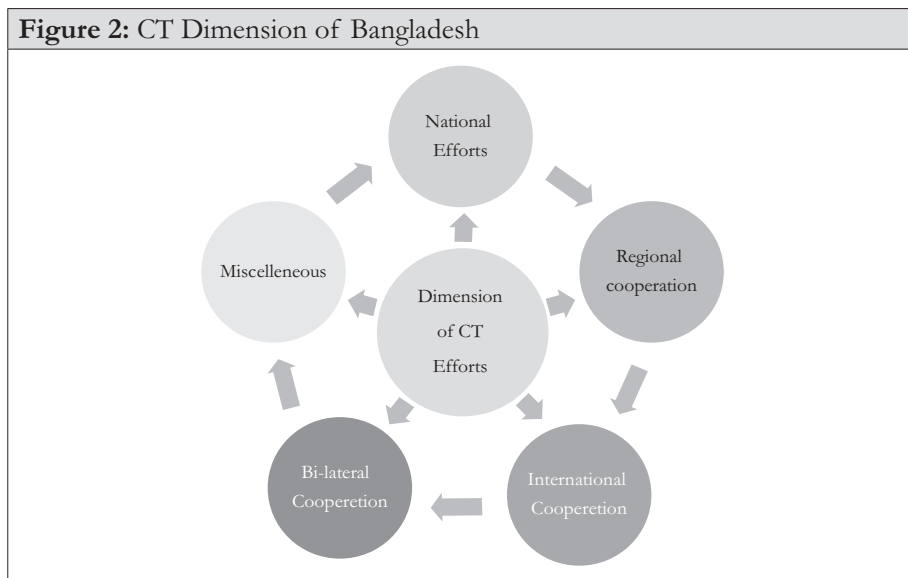
Formation of Counterterrorism and Transnational Crime Unit (CTCU) in Police: CTCU has been formed under the DMP on 31 December 2015 to enhance the capability of the police against terrorism. This newly raised unit is in preparatory stage. They would take some time to come into full effect.

Regional and International Measures: Bangladesh is closely working with regional and international communities to counter terrorism in Bangladesh. “Bangladesh has enacted the Mutual Legal Assistance Act 2012 which provides a legal framework for inter-country cooperation for carrying out enquiries, prosecutions and trial of criminal activities. Bangladesh closely working with South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC) countries, Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) and Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectorial Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) on intelligence sharing; financing of terrorism; transnational crimes; and legal and law enforcement. On 28 January 2013, Bangladesh and India signed an extradition treaty for disrupting regional connections and networks among terrorist outfits

in South Asia. Bangladesh and India has also agreed to implement a Coordinated Border Management Plan (CBMP). Bangladesh signed an agreement with the USA on 22 October 2013, to enhance counterterrorism cooperation between the two countries in capacity building, information sharing, and ensuring increased training exchanges between law enforcement agencies.”

Dimension of Counter Terrorism (CT) Efforts

Bangladesh is taking lot of steps in different dimension to control the terrorism issue in the country. Dimensions are illustrated in figure -2:



Will Bangladesh be Affected by the Global Terrorism?

Reports of Various Organizations

As per the report of the Global Terrorism index 2015, Bangladesh’s position is at 25th among 162 countries in the world whereas Afghanistan, Pakistan and India remains in 2nd, 4th and 6th position respectively²⁰. It has mentioned that “The government counterterrorism efforts have made it more difficult for transnational terrorists to operate in or use Bangladeshi territory”²¹. As per the report of RSIS,

20. Global terrorism index 2015”,www.economicsandpeace.org, accessed on February 16, 2016, p.10.

21. Country reports on terrorism 2014”,WWW.state.gov/documents/organisation/239631.pdf, accessed on February 16, 2016, p. 224.

there is no specific evidence of transnational terrorist connection or presence in Bangladesh. But it suspect that ABT likely to be a key partner of AQIS. As per the report of Prothom Alo, 15 Bangladeshi have travelled to Syria out of which 2 have been killed.²² There are constant efforts to attract Bangladeshi youths by promoting the concept of Islamic State in the society through social media²³. Members of JMB may have been trying to establish a link with the ISIS²⁴.

International Supports and Perception on Terrorism in Bangladesh

US Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs emphasized that “USA is very much eager to work with Bangladesh to counter violent extremism before it takes root here”²⁵. Bangladesh and Kuwait also decided to work closely against terrorism at a Prime Minister level meeting in Bangladesh on 04 May 2016. “Besides, Indian Foreign Secretary during his visit to Bangladesh expressed strong support of India to counter terrorism effort of Bangladesh.”²⁶ After the attack on Artisan Bakery at Gulshan, world’s top leaders from USA, Japan, Italy, India and others extended their cooperation and support for Bangladesh. Having such kind of cooperation and supports, growing or existence of transnational terrorism in Bangladesh is a far cry.

Inclusive, Tolerant and Secular Culture of Bangladesh Prevents Terrorism

Bangladesh is a secular country whose cultures are homogeneous. Irrespective of any religion, culture, ethnicity, caste people live in peace and harmony. Bangladeshi culture by default urges people to be united on the basis of friendship, soberness, peace, harmony, mutual respect and cooperation. These attributes greatly prevents the incubation of terrorism in the society.

22. Sultan, T., , ‘Terrorist Activities in Bangladesh Third Phase’ Prothom Alo, August 06, 2016.

23. Basher, I, 2015 “Counter Terrorist Trends and Analysis”,www.rsis.edu.sg/research/icpvtr/ctta, accessed on February 16,2016, p.35.

24. Ibid.

25. Star Report, ‘US Ready to Help Fight Terrorism’, The Daily Star, May 06, 2016.

26. Diplomatic Correspondent, ‘US, India to work together to help Dhaka fight terror,’ The Daily Star, May10, 2016, 2016.

Geo-Political Reality for Bangladesh

Bangladesh being the small country it does not have enough spaces for organized large groups to operate inside country like global terrorists are doing in other parts of the world. Moreover, Bangladesh is far away from main breeding place of ISIS and AQ i.e. Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq, Syria, etc. Global terrorist organizations may only influence through social media. They may also try to establish connection with homegrown terrorist outfits of Bangladesh to spread their ideology.

Radicalization of Bangladeshi Diaspora

As per the law enforcing agencies, so far hardly any concrete evidence found to join any person from Bangladesh directly to international terrorist outfits. Recently few persons were arrested in Singapore for allegedly involvement in the terrorist activities which was proved to be doubtful in the investigation of law enforcing agencies in Bangladesh.

Nature of Atrocities by Global Terrorist

The pattern of activities of global terrorist groups involves in mass killing, mass abduction, occupy territory, and fight against conventional forces. In case of Bangladesh sporadic and isolated killing occurs very secretly except in the incidents at Artisan Bakery and Eid Congregation at Sholakia where terrorists tried to put resistance against law enforcing agencies.

Claims of Transnational Terrorist Attacks in Bangladesh Denied

Killing of foreigners, bloggers, secular atheist writers, newly converted Christians, other religion minority groups, worker of gay supporter and attack on Artisan Bakery at Gulshan, Dhaka have been claimed by suspected IS account from SITE Intelligence Group. But so far no definite evidence found and law enforcing agencies and other stake holders strongly denied such claim of SITE intelligence. Home Minister and Inspector General of Police (IGP) denied the involvement of IS or AQIS by saying, “There is no existence of IS or AQ in Bangladesh”²⁷. Above all, honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said in the closing speech of the 10th session of the parliament, “Many will try to play with the fate of the

27. Press Meet IGP, ‘37 Terrorist Attacks in Three Years: 90% Causes Identified’, Prothom Alo, May 04, 2016.

country in the name of militancy. But I won't allow this to happen as long as I am alive"²⁸. She also expressed her deep concern and added that there will be no space for terrorism in the soil of Bangladesh.

Analysis

Nature and trend of terrorism in Bangladesh is far different than the global one. Geo-political location, people's security mindset, and government efforts would deter transnational terrorist presence in Bangladesh. So far no concrete evidence found about the presence of transnational terrorist in Bangladesh. Sometimes homegrown terrorists are self-proclaiming as the member of transnational outfits for "Global Branding" and to draw attention at home and abroad. However, homegrown terrorists may have some ideological similarity with the global terrorist outfits. Bangladesh being the third largest Muslim country, young population of Bangladesh and, homegrown terrorist outfits like JMB and ABT are also vulnerable for future inclination with transnational terrorist outfits.

Recommendations

- A comprehensive, deliberate and integrated program should be undertaken to monitor on line activities of the terrorist outfits.
- Comprehensive massive awareness campaign against terrorism should be undertaken involving credible voices of the society i.e., teachers, intellectuals, academicians, religious scholars.
- Monitor movement and activities of Bangladeshi Diaspora living abroad with special emphasis where they are working in close proximity to global terrorist's outfits.
- Measures to be taken so that Rohingyas are not exploited by any terrorist outfits in Bangladesh. Rohingyas issues must be solved immediately before it becomes a serious threat to Bangladesh and region as a whole.
- Proper implementation of Anti Money Laundering and Terror Financing Act 2013 to weaken the core strength of terrorist organizations.

28. Staff Correspondent, 'No Place for Terrorism on Bangladesh Soil-PM Tells Jatiya Sangsad', The Daily Star, May 06,2016.

Conclusion

Threat of global terrorism is increasing due to globalization and Online radicalization by social media. Young educated people are being attracted and motivated to join the terrorist outfits. Huge numbers of people are travelling across the world to join the terrorist groups in Iraq and Syria. Now the world is in full bloom of terrorism especially in Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Middle East. This has given the birth of the terrorist outfits like AQ and ISIS. Besides, AQIS is also operating in Indian Sub-Continent which poses serious threat to Asian region.

As part of the globalized world Bangladesh is not out of the influence of terrorism. Bangladesh had the leftist dominated terrorism in the early stages and religion extremism surfaced in the late nineties and thereof. The most dominated terrorist groups like JMB, HuJI-B, ABT and Nabba JMB are active in the country in different magnitude in different phases. Presently ABT and Nabba JMB are most active in the country. In 2015 and 2016, targeted killing of secular-atheist writer's, bloggers, publishers, security forces personnel, gay workers and other incidents have changed the dimension of the terrorist activities. But attack on Artisan Bakery at Gulshan and Eid Congregation at Sholakia by terrorists has showed the paradigm shift of terrorist capability in Bangladesh. They challenged the security forces and carry out attack in line with the global terrorists.

In the scenario of present terrorism, Bangladesh government has given highest priority and 'Zero Tolerance' policy to address the issue. Lot of domestic, regional, international and bi-lateral cooperation and measures are being taken to curb the terrorism in Bangladesh. With the present efforts, Bangladesh has made remarkable progress in controlling terrorism in the country which has been appreciated by international organizations.

Terrorism has always been an internal affair of Bangladesh. A social media like SITE Intelligence group claim the killing in Bangladesh by IS member which strongly rejected by the law enforcing and other agencies of the country. Home Minister and IGP reiterated the issue by saying that there is no IS in Bangladesh. Besides, honorable Prime Minister in her speech in 10th session of parliament strongly clears her position against terrorism. After the incident in Gulshan, world's top leaders from USA, India, Italy, Japan etc extended their further cooperation to counter terrorism in Bangladesh. However, Bangladesh being the third largest Muslim country having huge young population may be susceptible

to global terrorism in future and terrorist outfits might pursue to exploit any opportunity to radicalize the young people. More so, Diasporas living in different countries are also vulnerable to radicalization by transnational terrorist groups. Notwithstanding the fact that ISIS, so far has not been able to established its physical presence in Bangladesh, but the country and its people, especially members of the radical organizations remain ever vulnerable to propaganda campaign by ISIS and its affiliates. But if national holistic efforts can be harnessed together under the rubric of 'Zero Tolerance' policy against terrorism adopted by the present government, Bangladesh with its secular strength can fight the terror in any forms and manifestations. Therefore, with the government's will and people support it may be argued that the impact of global terrorism on Bangladesh appears to be a myth rather than a reality.

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Brigadier General AKM Nazmul Hasan, psc, was born on 02 January 1969. He was commissioned in the corps of Infantry on 24 June 1988 with 18th BMA Long Course. Beside his regimental appointments as Adjutant, Quarter Master, and Company Commander in four Infantry units, he was Second in Command of 23 Bangladesh Infantry Regiment. He has vast experiences in Command in different fields. He has commanded two Infantry battalions, 8 Bangladesh Infantry Regiment and 26 Bangladesh Infantry Regiment respectively for about four years. He commanded a Sector Reserve Infantry Company in UN mission at Darfur, Sudan and a Military Police unit in Bangladesh. Brigadier General Nazmul is a Paratrooper. He was grade three staff officer in the School of Infantry and Tactics and Deputy Assistant Adjutant and Quarter Master General at 98 Composite Brigade Headquarters at Jamuna Bridge. He has served as Deputy Provost Marshal at Army Headquarters. He also served twice in Chittagong Hill Tracts in Counter Insurgency Operations. Before joining National Defence Course-2016, he was serving as Colonel General Staff in Directorate General of Forces Intelligence. He attended number of courses at home and abroad including Defence Resource Management Course in USA. He has obtained Masters Degree on Defence Studies from National University of Bangladesh. He is also a graduate from Mirpur Staff College. He has served in UN mission in Bosnia –Herzegovina in the Bihac Pocket and Darfur, Sudan. He visited as many as 16 countries across the globe. His hobby is gardening and playing games.