

DEVELOPMENT OF TERRORISM IN BANGLADESH

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ABSTRACT

South Asia is one of the notable regions facing the threat of terrorism and the pros and cons of terrorism become a leading talked issue since it is crafting the barricade of national progress. It originated in Europe-American region. The main intent of the study is to explore the development of terrorism in Bangladesh. In a South Asian region, terrorism in Bangladesh is originated by the revolutions of Bengalis to free from British colonial rules. Terrorism turned into leftwing terrorist activities during liberation. After liberation, it turned to Islamic militancy, religious, political & ethnic terrorism. Terrorist groups like leftwing, rightwing, religious, and ethnic terrorist groups are belonging in our country. The Harkat-ul-jihad-al-Islami-bangladesh, Jamaat-ul-mujahideen bangladesh (JMB) Hizbut touhid, Islami biplobi porisod, Jagrata muslim janata, Purba bangla communist party are most prominent terrorist groups in Bangladesh. This study is a tiny endeavor to address the historical ancestry of terrorism in Bangladesh and try to figure out the developments of terrorism in different governing and political state of affairs on the basis of secondary sources.

KEYWORDS: Terrorism, Islamic Militancy, Left-Wing, Right-Wing, Politics

Article History

Received: 16 Jan 2018 | Revised: 28 Feb 2018 | Accepted: 06 Mar 2018

INTRODUCTION

At present violence concerned with a growing issue around the world. Terrorism activities around the wide world, create fear among the people about the term of Terrorism. The "Reign of Terror" during the French Revolution was first coined by Edmund Burke (1993) used to describe Robespierre "Reign of Terror" (Frost, 2009). Terrorism is the premeditated and unlawful use or threatened use of violence against a noncombatant population or target having symbolic significance, with the aim of either inducing political change through intimidation and destabilization or destroying a population identified as an enemy (Henderson, 2006). "Terrorism is seen as an anxiety-inspiring method of repeated violent action, threat- and violence-based communication processes between terrorist (organization), (imperiled) victims, and main targets (Schmid & Jongman, 1988). Terrorist activity means the hijacking or sabotage of any conveyance (2) the seizing or detaining & threatening to kill, injure, or continue to detain another individual (3) an assassination (5) A threat, attempt or conspiracy to do any of foregoing (Ronczkowki, 2004). Many Negative Effects fall on a country for terrorist activity & many people are victimized by the terrorist activities around the world. Terrorism destroys all the development of a country. Smuggling and sale of illegal goods and services: trafficking in drugs or arms, smuggling of people, trafficking in human beings all is related to terrorism. On the Bangladesh Left wing, Right wing, Religious, Recently

Ethnic Terrorism has found in terrorist activity. Anti-terrorism Act 2009, Amendment Act 2012 is initiated for the terrorism in Bangladesh (www.gov.bd. 2009). After the terrorist attack of 9/11 terrorism spreads all over the world (Ahmed, 2009). In Our country, it also stated in the worst form since 1995 to 2007 & recently some activity we may be concerned at Ethnic terrorism. Lastly Terrorist attack is remaining as a war of Islamic extremist. As an Islamic country of Bangladesh, it may fall under the condition of terrorist attack & as a root of the terrorist attack in this Asian subcontinent. South Asia today is paying dearly for events which were not created by them, Bangladesh is a moderate Muslim majority South Asian country is not an exception (Husain, 2009). And concerning some terrorist, the study is conducted with great importance.

BACKGROUND & STATEMENT OF THE STUDY

Terrorism is one of the most important topics in this period of the 21st century. The world terrorism has several meanings in different periods from the ancient period to this present world. In many forms, we can see the terrorist activity. Terrorism manifests in various activities such as bombings, assassinations, kidnappings, extortions, hijacking, arson etc (Darshon, 2008). Terrorism destruct the national progress for any country such as it destroys tourism, Foreign direct investment, foreign trade, stock market & Destroy urban economy, national income etc. of a state (Frey& Edward 2004). So terrorism is a very important issue for all over the world.

Much of the world has become preoccupied with terrorism since September 11, 2001, but the terror dragon has been marauding the planet for many centuries. In ancient period the terrorism was in the form of destruction & collision among groups, one to another, in an early 13th century, it was the forms of the ruthlessness of the Emperor like Genghis Khan which was spread in Persia, Baghdad, Afghanistan, and much of Eastern Europe (Frost, 2009). During the enlightenment of the 18th century, the Reign of terror was the name for the bloody violence imposed upon the French citizens by their revolutionary leader, maxim lien Robespierre. By the mid- 1800s, the term changed to describe violent revolutionaries who revolted against governments. In the early 1900s in the U.S., the term was used to describe labor organizations and anarchists (Ronczkowki, 2004). From the mid-1960s to the early 1980s, the term terrorism was associated with the activities of the left-wing groups worldwide, many of which were opposed to conflicts such as the Vietnam War. As left-wing groups diminished, the rise of religious extremists came into being with the Iranian Revolution in 1979 and the transformation of Iran into an Islamic republic. Terrorism by non state actors subsided in Russia and elsewhere after World War I. Terrorism in the Twentieth Century based on Ethnic and Religious Terrorism i.e., the Sunnis and Kurds in Iraq, the Sunnis and Shi'a in Iraq, Irish Catholics in Northern Ireland, and the Tamils and Sinhalese in Sri Lanka etc (Frost, 2009). Than Suicide Bomber & women's participation in Terrorism, we can see. In the March 2003 invasion of Iraq, under the banner "Operation Iraqi Freedom." the National Counterterrorism Center (2007) reports a considerable increase in the number of lethal and nonlethal terrorist attacks since its creation in 2003(Wikipedia, 2003). It was in the 50s to 70s the interest of terrorism go to the concern in the Middle East & South Asia (Hussain, 2007). So the world terrorism turns in different forms in different countries around the world.

Recently, terrorism has generally been associated with the Middle East, and perhaps to a lesser degree Western Europe or North America & increase to Asia that is taking center stage in the world of international terrorism (Smith). After 9/11 era the non state entities challenging the power of the state that found throughout the world- from Sri-lanka to Spain, Yemen to England, from Indonesia to India, & lastly in Bangladesh (Ahmed, Imtiaz, 2009). Al Qaeda is expected in the future to rely on its terrorist networks and associate organizations, such as Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) in Southeast Asia,

to conduct operations against Western targets and allies, diffusing the terrorist threat globally (Curley & Thomas, 2005). The people of this region have seen the use of terrorism as a weapon since the subcontinent was partitioned in 1947 (Hussain, 2007). From 1999 to 2005 Bangladesh, the world's third largest Muslim country, was swept by a wave of Islamist militancy where Bangladesh would fall prey to Islamist extremism & result in an ideology and tactics brought back to Bangladesh by returnees of the Afghan war against the Soviet occupation in the 1980s (Khan, Moinul, 2011). It was seen that Ohabi idealism from the Middle East, Pakistan-India conflict, & Contribution of national & international Islamic NGO are the responsible for Islamic militancy & terrorism in Bangladesh (Riaz Ali, 2008). Bangladeshi Islamic militants believe that Almighty has created the Universe only for them, & to establish their 'dogma' by force, are mainly responsible for creating an anarchic situation in the society (Alam, 2009). As terrorist attacks, the bomb attack on a pro-left cultural rally on 6 March 1999, the bomb explosions in 63 districts on 17 August 2005 & suicide bombers targeting courtrooms & court premises in three districts on 3 October 2005 are the major events in Bangladesh (Ahmed, Imtiaz, 2009). So to understand the roots of Terrorism in Bangladesh as historical perspectives have the greater importance to study.

Article about Terrorism is available in Bangladesh. Terrorism in the 21st century: perspectives of Bangladesh by Imtiaz Ahmed (2009), Terrorism in South Asia: Bangladesh perspective by B. G. M. Sakhawat Hussain (2009), Islamic Militancy: Bangladesh Context by Farid Ahmed (2009), Islamist militancy in Bangladesh: why it failed to take root by Moinul Khan (2011) are some examples of it. And focusing the background this study is conducted on the issue of development of terrorism in Bangladesh.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The main objective of the study is to explore the development of terrorism in Bangladesh.

The additional objectives are--

- To find out the background events of terrorism in Bangladesh.
- To explore the motivations for terrorism in Bangladesh.
- To describe the terrorist groups of Bangladesh.
- To explore which influence as a zone of terrorism in Bangladesh.
- To know the present situation of terrorism in Bangladesh.

METHODOLOGY

Research Methodology is a way to systematically solve the research problems & helps us to understand the methods or techniques that are used for conduction of research (Kothari, 2004). The study nature is exploratory as well as a qualitative research based on secondary analysis by using content analysis & the data or information was collected from a secondary source, such as books, journals, articles, newspapers, & from internet sources.

FINDINGS

The findings of the study are based on the development of terrorism in Bangladesh by exploring several backgrounds. And analyzing the backgrounds it tries to link and find out the development of terrorism in Bangladesh. *Firstly*, we have to know about some movements of the Indian heroic revolutionist (movements by the Indian heroes) regarded as swadeshi movements to free from British (1900-before 1947). *Secondly*, after 1947 some events of Pakistan

period, which are regarded as terrorist attacks (as starting of terrorist activities in Bangladesh). *Thirdly*, the left wing terrorism in Pakistan period (1947 to the present 1971). *Fourthly*, Post liberation Terrorism in Bangladesh period (1972 to 2000) tries to present. *Fifthly*, the existing terrorist groups of Bangladesh & their contributions for terrorist activities in Bangladesh. And *lastly*, the political linked between the national & international terrorism in Bangladesh. All these are related to selecting to conduct the study. Consequently, all these are given below for the findings of the study

Terrorist Attacks by the Indian Persons of Bengal to Free from British (1900-before 1947)

In this period terrorist attacks are treated from the events committed against to gain independence from the British for own Martyrdom. The terrorist at that time is considered there who have raised their attacks against all persons who come toward & assist the cause of justice with information or evidence (Chaturvedi & Baksh, 2007). The history of Bengal or Bangladesh can be traced to the time of the Mahabharata (Nitish, 2011). In 1900, India was part of the British Empire & in this Nineteenth Century, India was ruled by the British, After 1918, nationalism within India intensified, In 1919, the Government of India Act was introduced by vote & In India, the 1920's saw the emergence of three men who were to have a huge impact on the future of India: Jawaharlal Nehru, Mahatma Gandhi, and Muhammed Jinnah (India 1900-1947, HistoryLearningSite.com). Joint Congress movement was committed in 1920. In 1928-1929 Communist revolutionaries M.N Roy, with Nalini Gupta, Abani Mukherjee Jatin Mitra (members of WPP) led strike against British under the banner of Bengal jute Workers Association(registered as terrorist) & its place are the East Bengal districts like Mymensingh, Tippera & Pabna ((Nitish, 2011). On 11 September 1932, a band of revolutions led by Pritilata staged a second daring attack on the European club at 10.00 pm& sacrifice her lives for securing the freedom of India from British colonial rule (Ghosh (1994). The bomb explosion at Muzzaffarpur in 1908 is a striking incident by Khudiram Bose & Shri Prafulla Chaki (Baksh, 2007). By sacrificing the lives of Pritilata, Master-da, Khudiram Bose, Shri Prafulla Chaki, Dinesh, Kanailal & many other heroes to remove the British from Bengal is seen as a heroic revolution but at that time their swadeshi movements assumed as terrorist activity on British period. These events may be an issue on further revolutions, but the ideology was different.

Left Wing Terrorism in Pakistan Period (1947-1971)

In 1947 Lord Mountbatten concluded that peace could only be achieved if partition (north-west and north-east regions of India) introduced. In August 1947 Indian Independence Act was signed & separation created a state of Pakistan. Some people found themselves on the wrong side of frontiers (provinces of the Punjab and Bengal) & when two moving groups met, violence occurred in Punjab province & 2, 50,000 people were murdered in religious clashes (BBC History article, 2010). From 1947 until 1954, the East Bengal was an independent administrative unit which was governed by the Pakistan Muslim League nexus of Communist Party, Marxist-Leninist Party allying with the Awami League (Nair, 1990). East Pakistan's culture was influenced by the Communism in neighboring India. The socialist rule was violently ended in 1958 by the U.S.-backed military ruler General Ayub Khan against the communist mass in both East and West Pakistan from 1958 until 1971, is often regarded as the period of mass repression, resentment, and political neglect, and ignorance& economic disparity also remain (Syedur, 2010).After gaining the win in an election they west Pakistan want to share leading but from East Pakistan announcement of independence on March 26, 1971 and began an armed struggle against the West Pakistan (Nurul, 1986).

In 1954, the Communist Party had brutally defeated the Pakistan Muslim League and had the major influence in a poor mass of the East Pakistan & supporting from United states, Soviet Union, India,. East Bengal became East Pakistan, and in 1971 became the independent state of Bangladesh after a successful war of independence (McLane, 1965). So, here the terrorist activity was regarded as the war to become freedom & for independence.

Post Liberation Terrorism in Bangladesh period (1972 to 2000)

After 1970 Islamic militancy based terrorism unfurled in Bangladesh (Islam, Johir, 2005). Between 1972 & 1975 Communist & Ultra left parties most prominent sarbahara rise with a country strike with the bomb attack, target assassinations & seizure of public building destruction. In 1974 Sarbahara succeed destabilizing the country, series of terrorist killing was precipitated by Mujib Government (Naeem, 2012). In 1977, the Parbatya Chhatagram Jana Shanghatti Samiti (PCJSS) launched their first attack on a Bangladesh Army convoy to resist government policies, Since the 1980s, gave a new identity to the hill people. It was Jumma nationalism (Hussain, 1999). After the Soviet withdrawal in 1989 many of stayed to fight Afghanistan's civil war & transformed into a member of Taliban, In Bangladesh the HUJI-B was formed on April 1992 based on Ideology of Taliban & committed terrorist activities (Hussain, 2009). In 1999 the bomb attack in programmed of Udichi is one of the most prominent terrorist attacks in Bangladesh. So, here it the terrorism in Bangladesh within these periods was based on Islamic Militancy based terrorism.

Religious, Political & Ethnic Terrorism in Bangladesh Period (After 2000-2012)

After the horrific incident of 9/11 hatred of the western society has spread in many folds to the Muslim community & for that rather than curbing terrorism militancy has increased over the world (Alam, Farid, 2009, P 18). Bangladesh is not out of this concern. After 2000 religious militancy increased with political view & now a day the incident of Ramu turns the terrorism into Ethnic terrorism. The election of 2001 imposes that not only the international support, but also national political party has importance to create militancy politics in Bangladesh (Islam, Johir, 2005). Several types of terrorist attack committed in this period they are, In 2001, bomb attack at a political rally of the communist party of Bangladesh (CPB), in Dhaka in Pahela Boishakh, Baniachor Gopalganj, 23 September in Bagerhat, 26 September in AL public meeting in Sunamgonj (Riaz, 2008). In 2002 December series bomb attack in movie theater in Satkhira, Mymensingh (BBC news, 2011). In 2003 village fair Tangail, 2004, reporter killed in khulna are also included. In 2004 August - Grenade attack on an opposition Awami League rally in Dhaka, In 2005 January - Prominent Awami League politician Shah AMS Kibria is killed in a grenade attack at a political rally, In 2005, 17 August - Around 350 small bombs go off in towns and cities nationwide, Spate of bombings, blamed on Islamic militants, hits Chittagong and Gazipur which was happened in November, 2005 (BBC news, 2011). This period was the worst situation of history Bangladesh terrorism.

After 2005 'Elliza Griswold' the reporter of the New York times magazine after visit of Bangladesh when reported that JMB leader 'Banglabhai' is the chief of militancy & Harkatul Jihad has connection with Al-Queda but the Government of Bangladesh was silent about this topic & since 2001 terrorist activities were openly committed (Alam, Farid, 2009). Now 9 September 2012 Ramu violence attacks on Buddhist monasteries, shrines, and houses of Buddhist inhabitants in Ramu Upazila in Cox's Bazar District in Bangladesh by local Muslim create a great concern in Bangladesh (Daily star, 01 October 2012). Violence spread to Buddhist monasteries and Hindu temples at Ukhia Upazila in Cox's Bazar District and Patiya Upazila in Chittagong District (Bd News. September 30, 2012). So it may the symptoms of rise of ethnic terrorism in Bangladesh.

Terrorism in Bangladesh rises in different forms in different times. These events create the development of terrorism in Bangladesh and the study try to explore shortly by stating several events.

National Politics Linked with Terrorism in Bangladesh

The concept of terrorism was changed at different times in different forms, but the linked with politics or the political parties in Bangladesh we do not concerned about it. After 1970 Islamic Militancy rises in Bangladesh (Emerson et al, 2006). Ali Reaz in his writings of “the politics & the ideology of Islam in Bangladesh” written that in the 2001 election of Bangladesh unity of BNP and Jamayat Islami creates the militancy in Bangladesh (Islam, Johir, 2005).

The political context of the potential influence of Islamist extremism is demonstrated by the role that Islamist parties played as coalition partners in the previous BNP government. Because The BNP government of Khaleda Zia ruled with coalition support from the Jamaat Islami (JI) and Islami Okiya Jote (IOJ) political parties. These two political parties have an Islamist political agenda and are thought to have ties to radical extremists (Vaughn, 2010) When by having Unity with Jamayat Islami they won in 2001 election JI taking advantage through this politics & JMJB established their own court and waging a class struggle to clean the society of petty bourgeois (Hussain, 2009). Sheikh Hasina the chief of Bangladesh Awami League was in power during the period of 1996 to 2001, Bill Clinton, the former president of USA traveled Bangladesh but his tour schedule has been cut short due to fear of possible attacks from militants but the Government did not pay heed at words that recommended from the security experts & at last the trend of militancy have flourished in the country (Alam, Farid, 2009). Bangladesh authorities stated that the Jamaat ul-Mujahideen (JMB) attacks in Bangladesh on August 17, 2005, which killed 30 in a series of nationwide blasts, were of Indian origin. Six of the eight arrested in India in connection with the bombings are thought to have received training from Lashkar-e-Toiba at terrorist camps in Pakistan. Lashkar is a Pakistan-based, Al Qaeda-allied terrorist group in the regime of BNP leading Government (Vaughn, 2010). It may argue that it is the constant bickering in the national politics that has created the space for the rise of Islamic militancy in Bangladesh (Ahmed, 2009). It was an issue like such of the type of thinking that at the time after 2000 the most terrorist bomb attack occurred in our country. In recent the incident of ramu in cox's Bazar is creating an issue of impeachment between two political parties (AL & BNP) in our country and we can see these types of comment in our newspapers. So, without little support all activities of terrorism cannot be committed. It may not all but some events of the terrorist attacks in Bangladesh have some connection to political parties in Bangladesh that have been explored from this study.

CONCLUSIONS

Nowadays terrorist attack in around the world is a very common issue & in Bangladesh it also considered as an important issue. Terrorism creates fear among the people of the world. It is very important to explore the historical development of terrorism in all country as well as in Bangladesh. For that this paper is related to historical roots of terrorism in Bangladesh. This paper is based on different background events that create the development issue of terrorism in Bangladesh. Harkat-ul-Jihad al-Islami, Hizb-e-Abu Omar, Jadid al Qaeda, Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh, Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh, Islamic chatro Sibir, Islamic biplobi porisad, Pubo Bangla Communist party etc are recognized as Islamic terrorist group in Bangladesh. The terrorist attack was the most in the period of 2001 to 2007. Bombing attacks in this period create fear among the people of Bangladesh. In different periods several types of violence regarded as terrorist activity, but nowadays the terrorism is not a national issue, it is an international issue & formidable to all of the people of the world. Drug trafficking, alien smuggling, money laundering, terrorist activities, illicit arms

trafficking, sea piracy, insurance fraud, computer crime, trafficking in persons, illicit drug trafficking, fraudulent bankruptcy, infiltration of legal business, corruption etc all are related crime for terrorism. It destroys tourism, foreign direct investment, foreign trade, stock market, Urban economy, national income, damage the reputation of a country. Bangladesh being a typical third world weaker and a soft state is no exception from another nation of developing world. So the terrorism in Bangladesh destroys to gain development. As a member of our country for growing concern this paper will be helpful to identify the events, where the terrorism came from Bangladesh. People all of us need to be conscious of the upcoming issues related to terrorism in Bangladesh.

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