Original Research Article

Origins of Religious Extremism in Bangladesh: Intimidation to Internal Security

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Abstract: This study examines the dynamics of religious terrorism in Bangladesh and its implications for internal security. Terrorism motivated by religious ideology has become a critical concern, undermining social cohesion and state resilience (Arefin & Ritu, 2025; Mostofa, 2021). The research investigates the origins of militancy, the structures and activities of Islamist extremist groups, and their strategies between 1999 and 2017. It also considers the drivers of radicalization and the financial mechanisms that sustain these networks (Rone et al., 2025). Methodologically, the study employs qualitative content analysis of secondary sources, supplemented by expert interviews and testimonies from conflict-prone areas (Huda & Mojumder, 2025).

The findings identify Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB), Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh (JMJB), Harkat-ul-Jihad-al-Islami Bangladesh (HUJI-B), and Hizb ut-Tahrir (HT) as the principal extremist groups. These organizations have mobilized thousands of adherents, operated under shifting identities, and maintained transnational linkages with networks in Pakistan, India, and Gulf states (Hasan & Parvez, 2021). The study contributes to scholarship on terrorism and security by highlighting the persistence, adaptability, and international dimensions of Islamist militancy in Bangladesh (Mostofa, 2021; Rone et al., 2025).

Keywords: Terrorism, Internal Security and Bangladesh

1. Introduction

Religious extremism has become a significant non-traditional threat to Bangladesh's internal security, undermining constitutional principles, social cohesion, and state authority. Although Bangladesh emerged in 1971 with a strong commitment to secularism, subsequent political shifts—particularly after the mid-1970s—created opportunities for religion-based political mobilization. Over time, these developments enabled extremist ideologies to gain legitimacy and organizational space within the political and social landscape.

The origins of religious extremism in Bangladesh are rooted in an interaction of historical legacies, political transformations, socio-economic vulnerabilities, and transnational influences. Constitutional amendments, the re-emergence of religion-oriented parties, and exposure to global jihadist movements collectively facilitated the gradual radicalization of certain groups. These dynamics intensified as extremist actors adopted violence and intimidation as strategic tools.

Religious extremism now poses a direct challenge to internal security through targeted attacks, ideological coercion, and the erosion of public confidence in democratic institutions. Understanding its origins is

therefore essential for developing effective, preventive security and governance responses.

1.1. Background of the Study

Neither Islamic fundamentalism nor extremism is new to Bangladesh. After in 1975 The assassination of the founding father of nation, Sheikh Mujibur Rehman, the hold of fundamentalist forces over the government-whether military or democratic witnessed a sharp increase.

During Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's first stint at the helm in the first half of the 1990s, Jamaat and other fundamentalist outfits were given free rein. Over the years, Jamaat set up thousands of madrassas in Bangladesh, many of which are known to recruit and train jihadi fighters. Poor, jobless students from the madrassas became easy target of the recruiters of militant Islamist organizations. By late 1990s we had militant organizations such as Jamiatul Mujahedin Bangladesh (JMB) and Harkatul Jihad Al-Islami (HUJI) that took roots in Bangladesh. Starting from 1999 to 2005, the militants bombed temples, churches, political rallies, cultural functions, cinema halls etc.

The government and the opposition kept on blaming each other for those attacks. Even when grenades attack was made on the AL rally in Dhaka on 21 August 2004 killing 21 people and injuring the AL Chief Sheikh Hasina, the government blamed it on the opposition. The series bombing on 17 August 2005 finally compelled the government to come out of the denial mode and stand up to the terrorist threat.

In 2006-07, we saw a series of arrests, prosecution and handing down of sentences, including death sentences, on some of the terror leaders. Since then there has been no major terror attack in Bangladesh, but that the terrorists are active is evident from the frequent arrests of activists and seizure of large cache of arms and explosives from their hideouts.

Many were from the Quomi Madrassa background. HuT has penetrated among schools and universities, professionals – engineers, doctors, government officials and even among the security apparatus. Although the party was banned in 2009, its clandestine activities continue in the country.

1.2. Justification:

Most of the terrorist groups in Bangladesh are connected with worldwide terrorist group .Religious Extremism is not only our country problem it also worldwide problem. The Islamic militancy and terrorism are also involves political stability, human and national security, socio economic development and deteriorating law and order situation and internal relations.

JMB and HujiB are come from Afghanistan and Pakistan. They are connected with worldwide Islamic terrorist group such as Al Qaeda.

Religious Terrorism make unstable our society and country. They settle their ideology by using violence. It is relate to destructive activities. As a result we are losing in economically and deteriorating law and order situation.

The study will identify connection of Genes of Religious Terrorism in Bangladesh and A Threat to Internal Security. Internal security is entirely dependent on the internal law and order situation in the country. But terrorism always hampers internal and external security of a country like Bangladesh. It present, some religion based terrorist groups have appeared who are creating terrible insecurity for the country

It will also analyze the nature of religious extremism, cause and consequences of religious extremism in Bangladesh. The study will also look at the funding sources, strategies and techniques used by various terrorist groups. These findings can have policy implications for undertaking future action plan in combating Islamic militancy and other terrorist activities in Bangladesh.

1.3. Aim and Objectives of Study

The principal objective of this study is to assess how genesis of religious terrorism poses as a threat to internal security of Bangladesh. Nevertheless, the study focuses on the following specific objectives:

1. To identify the level of National Security threats which the terrorist organization poses in Bangladesh.

2. To identify the nature of religious terrorism in Bangladesh.

3. To find out the root cause of religious terrorism.

4. To analyses the holistic impact of religious terrorism in Bangladesh.

5. To analyses the mass people perception under uprising terrorism in the context of Bangladesh and to evaluate those events and activities in terms of separate and intended incidents.

6. To find out how the counter terrorism strategies be manifested and implemented in Bangladesh

2. Literature Review

2.1. The Origins of Religious Extremism around the world:

Religious Extremism and Terrorist Activities around the world: Scholars throughout the world have made valiant efforts to define terrorism and to determine its root causes and linkages with other tangible and intangible entities.

Hoffman Bruce ,Inside Terrorism, *New York: Columbia University Press, 1998; 2nd expanded and revised edition 2006; Third Extended and Completely Revised Edition, September 2017);*

In his book 'Inside Terrorism', he provides an in-depth account of the trends in terrorism and key historical and historical issues where he provided valuable insights on the definition of terrorism, the dominance of ethnic nationalism and the difficulties of separatist terrorism in the post-colonial period. Also, the book discusses the evolution of terrorists' goals, strategies, and technologies, and explores the relationship between terrorism, the media, and public opinion.

But the publication have not been converse recent nature and trends of religious terrorism in Bangladesh.

My research explored the nature and tendency of religious extremism, the root cause of terrorism, security threats. Overall my research proves that the strategy of religious terrorist activities is changing. That is why the nature and trends of recent religious extremism is changing.

Winegar, Jessica, **The Huminity Game:Art, Islam and the War on terror***; June, 2008* have been expressed in his publication that such an effort today is seen to focus on Muslim groups have been coincidentally accused to be responsible for the September 11 attacks. This badly affects the whole Muslim society worldwide due to an accusation made by the US government on Islam through most of the western media for the tragedy at the World Trade Center.

The publication have been tried to make understand the Bangladesh will be a hub of pro-Al-Qaeda terrorism in South Asia.

But the author has not deliberated root cause, trends and nature of religious extremism in his publication. My research will try to bring out for display how the religious extremism groups have transferred their techniques of terrorism. That is why nature and trends of religious extremism have been changing.

2.2. Religious Extremism in Bangladesh

The resurgence of radical Islamism is however not new phenomenon. Some of the mainstream political parties recognize the role of the religion in the polity. A tendency has been noticed in Bangladesh where more than 80% of the people practice Islam that various rightist political parties raise religious issues especially during the election period to enlist popular support.

"The Next Islamist Revolution?" by Eliza Griswold, *The New York Times Magazine, January 23, 2005* **discussed at the Magazine: The** most recent example in this regard that received a good deal of attention from far and wide is Eliza Griswold's report "The Next Islamist Revolution?" The report claims that Siddiqul Islam alias Bangla Bhai (Bengali brother), the operational commander of Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh (JMJB, literally – Awakened Muslim Masses of Bangladesh), and Mufti Fazlul Haque Amini, the Ameer (chief) of Islami Oikya Jote (IOJ – United Islamic Front, an umbrella organization of different small Islamist groups) have links with Al-Qaeda and the Taliban of Afghanistan.

The Author has not discussed about root cause as well as nature and trends of religious extremism in the journal. But my research have exposed that how the terrorists are slowly transfer their techniques to terrorism . That is why nature and trends of religious extremism have been changing.

Militant Islam in Southeast Asia: Crucible of Terror by Zachary Abuza, *(Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2003)*: Abuza writes about the militant Islam in Southeast Asia in general; his arguments about the rise of "Islamic extremism," relevant to the case in Bangladesh, are as follows: "Increasing gaps between the rich and poor, unemployment, corruption, a lack of economic diversity, and the lack of a viable political alternative have all given rise to Islamic extremism.

Abuza discussed the root cause of religious extremism in his journal.But he has not discused how religious extremism is increase and nature and trends of religious extremism is changing day to day. My research will try to prove how terrorists are slowly changing their tactics. How nature and trends of religious terrorist activities in Bangladesh have been changing.

Faces of Terrorism in Bangladesh (*A. M. M. S. Ali, 2006*): This book is a volume of 26 columns on religion based militancy those published in various leading daily newspapers in Bangladesh between the years 2004 and 2006. The issue of terrorism in Bangladesh has become a subject of considerable public debate for granted. The media and the civil society of Bangladesh played an important role in laying bare the different faces of religious terrorism.

Through the columns the author figured out different concepts of terrorism, i.e political terrorism and governance in Bangladesh, investigating acts, conventional terrorism, different terrorist incidents that happened then and specially the terrorism in the name of Islam.

Author aimed to provide information and data for readers to form their own judgment on terrorism facts but he didn't discuss the root cause of terrorism, trends and nature of religious extremism.

My research seeks to explore the terrorism movement in Bangladesh by placing it into its proper historical context, nature of religious extremism, root cause of terrorism, security threat. My research will try to prove that trends and nature of religious extremism is changing day by day.

Terrorism in the 21st Century: Perspectives from Bangladesh (*Imtiaz, A., edited, 2009):* Authors described possibilities and reasons of terrorisms, regional security environment and menace of terrorism, anti-terrorism activities of media, place of Islam in Bangladeshi's identity creation, the rise of Islamic militancy in Bangladesh, countering terrorism, and analyze the relationship between Bangladesh and India.

The authors stated anything regarding terrorism that stemmed from ethnic intolerance or its remedial actions by education or any mean.

He didn't discuss the root cause of terrorism, its present nature, and trends in religious extremism in Bangladesh. My findings will identify that the nature and trends of religious extremism in Bangladesh have been changed

and how the religious extremism have been increased day by day.

It is found from the above literature reviews are mainly based on secondary data sources. But my study is based on primary and secondary data. Primary data will be based on fieldwork to interviews.By taking interviews to politicians from mainstream political parties and also from religion-based political parties will be taken In addition, members of law enforcement agencies, members of civil society such as academics, journalists, members of the think tank will be selected as key informants for this study and their detailed interviews will be conducted

3. Theoretical Framework

3.1. Religious Extremism

Extremism can be defined as the holding of extreme political or religious views. Another word that can be used to mean extremism is fanaticism. It also refers to a person who favors or resorts to immoderate, uncompromising or fanatical methods or behavior. one of the most dangerous problems we face is religious extremism. While certainly Islāmic Jihadists are foremost in many people's minds, Islam is not alone extremist views. Christian extremism is also on the rise as well as in Judaism to a more limited degree. Religious extremism can be defined as a person or group that takes the position that if others do not follow their ways, they will be damned. While these extremists present themselves as deeply spiritual, religious fanaticism comes not from deep faith, but from a lack of it. The only thing religious fanaticism really demonstrates is weakness on the part of the fanatic. Weakness in his own faith.

There is much confusion regarding terms that the media and other groups banter around, such as religious fundamentalism, religious fanaticism, and conservatism. To many intellectuals and media types, these terms are essentially equivalent to religious extremism. However there are important differences. My religious conservatives lead quiet exemplary lives. Religious fanatics or extremists, however, are often very aggressive, seeking to impose their views on other people or people groups. These extremism often preach intolerance against all who disagree with their own viewpoints. We have seen this with Islāmic extremists who cannot tolerate any adverse portrayals of Islam or its leaders or icons. Fundamentalism as well is not fanatical in and of itself. Many fundamentalists are truly seeking the roots of their particular faiths. However, fundamentalism can quickly turn into dogmatic fanaticism. These types often present themselves as holier-than-thou and openly condemn the practices and beliefs of the society around them with dogmatic certainty, promoting themselves as having a monopoly on the truth.

(https://religiousextremism.wordpress.com/2011/03/11/what-is-religious-extremism/)

Religious extremists, in most cases, are not psychopaths. The general characteristics of psychopaths are charm, no signs of irrational thinking, lack of remorse or shame, pathological egocentricity, being incapable of love, not having insight and no life plan. While some of these characteristics can be seen in people who turn extremist, many others are not. For example, while an extremist may numb himself to any feelings of guilt or shame in certain situations, in many cases and with the people he feels close to, he shows such feelings.

Some characteristics of religious extremists can be noticed: sense of absolutism, a sense of righteousness, bias, a sense of knowing an ultimate meaning, dehumanize whoever does not fit their view, idealize historic figures or stories, an utter certainty that they are right, a sense of unwillingness to compromise, too much focus on the life after death, psychological defenses.

(http://www.huffingtonpost.com/roya-r-radma-psyd/what-turns-ordinary-people-into-religious-extremists_b_3375890.html)

3.2. Theoretical Perspective of Internal Security:

The term internal security can be said to connote not just an aggravated form of law and order but must comprehend within its fold on assurance of peace and provision for necessary infrastructure in which stable and peaceful conditions are the pre-requisites for pursuing normal vacation and proper utilization of resources.[15] The maintenance of internal security is one of the greatest challenges that confronts law enforcers today who are otherwise often hapless and helpless before the nefarious activities of the miscreants under the patronage of their respective 'godfather.'

Internal terrorism, practiced by a state against its own people, has produced some of the most elegant violations of human rights that the world has ever seen. Terrorists violate human rights with less qualm or concern than that of the government. The hidden agenda of the terrorist is perhaps democracy itself as it is only in democracy that the "Rule of Law" subsists and their goal is to cripple the system. Without internal security, there can be no government and without constitutional government there can be no freedom and the slogan of the rule of law will remain a far cry. Finally, internal security is the act of keeping peace within the borders of a sovereign state or other self-governing territories, generally by upholding the national law and defending against internal security threats. Responsibility for internal security may range from police to paramilitary forces, and in exceptional circumstances, the military itself.[16]

4. Methodology

4.1. Data collection techniques

Multiple methods were used to collect the data for this study. Secondary analysis was the primary source of data. Despite the drawbacks of studying terrorism based on secondary, official and biased journalistic sources, to ensure the maximum reliability and validity, the same data were verified against different sources.

4.1.1. Secondary data analysis

In the absence of primary data, a content analysis of secondary sources such as newspapers reports, internet publications, books, magazines, journal articles, and intelligence documents was the main method of data collection. This study also verified the content of available and accessible books, booklets, leaflets, press briefings, press releases, reports, letters, articles, magazines, and newsletters and internet publications or interviews or statements published in any newspaper to understand the actual agenda of the groups and the reasons of their terrorist activities. Data on terrorist groups, their types, numbers, ideologies, activities, strategies, funding sources, and locations were gathered from the newspapers. It is

important to mention here that terrorism and religious militancy as subject matter of study being very sensitive for investigation and very hard to get access to all required information.

4.1.2. Survey:

Using a random (probability) sampling technique a series of questions will ask to 200 men and women aged between 25 and 60 years living in convict area. Purposive sampling technique used to select respondents for key informant interviews. In this case respondent's depths of knowledge on the subject matters will the primary consideration. The survey will design to provide a representative analysis of perceptions of religious terrorism relate to threat to internal security in Bangladesh.

4.1.3. Key informant interviews (KIIs)

KIIs will conduct in Dhaka with a broad range of civil society members (including journalists teacher and intelligent). The sample is consisting of key officials of research organizations, civil society members representing the following agencies who were considered to be able to provide deeper

understanding of their views on terrorism in Bangladesh.

4.1.4. Media survey

I will collect data from two leading national dailies the Daily Ittefaq and the Daily Star. Considering the volume of circulation and the neutrality of these dailies we have selected them. We covered ten (12) years of newspaper. In addition to that, the Daily Prothom and the New Age will consult to supplement the news reports and the recent government strategies and actions. .

4.2. Data Processing and Analysis

The data, acquired from the survey using three different techniques, will process and analyze independently and then triangulated. Under the newspaper survey, articles or any kind of news on community security, radicalization, terrorism, drugs and arms trafficking and the use of explosive devices were collected from the 12 selected newspapers. For quantitative data processing, SPSS (Version 17.0) will use for data analysis. Data processing involve the following stages:

Data entry and entry verification

1. Cleaning and processing of data

2. Coding and code transfer

3. Development of analysis plan

4. Analysis of program development

5. Program running and report generation

5. An Overview of the genesis of religious extremism in Bangladesh

Terrorism linked to religious fundamentalism has been rising in Bangladesh since mid-1990.A section of terrorists who are using violence to propagate their brand of Islam in the impoverished nation, wants to establish *Sha'riah* based Judiciary. The *religious extremists* favoring *Sha'riah* law for the nation do not believe in secular laws. The spate of bombing has been on the rise in Bangladesh for at least six years. The blasting of terrorist's activities reached a catastrophic proportion on the dates. The *Islamists* (some so-called religious leaders who work in the name of religion and fundamentalism) proved that they are well organized to blast hundreds of bombs or hand grenades synchronously. Religion based terrorist attacks began in the northern part of Bangladesh in 2000. They launched various terrorist activities after organizing themselves and ran their trainings in the islands, the hilly areas, the halls and residents in educational institutions including *Madrashas* and the remote countryside areas.

They are providing various types of training to the students on how to handle explosives, firearms, and war tactics. A stock of arms and ammunitions is also being created. A number of terrorist organizations based on religion such as Jagrata Muslim Janata, Mujahideen Bahini, Al-Hiqma, Harqat-Ul-Jihad and Jamayatul Mujahidden have started their activities openly. Bangla Bhai, who was the chief of Jagrata Muslim Janata, has come over ground after holding a meeting on November 17, 2005. Most jehadis (armed) caught by the police of Bangladesh have categorically said to the press: "To do armed jehad is my right, and to participate in armed jehad is my responsibility as a Muslim. No one has the right to stop one from doing jihad." Hizbut Touhid, another religion based terrorist organization, had met over resuming their activities in Gournadi in Barisal area. The Hijbut activists have announced that they would wage Jihad till they die to avenge the death of their fellow activists.

In this way, the outlawed Islamic militants suddenly burst into prominence on 16 August 2003 and for the next fortnight they featured prominently in all the national news media. As a result police, and BDR hunt was launched against the militants in many districts such as Dinajpur, Naogaon, Panchagarh, Thakurgaon,

Bogra, Chapai Nawabganj, Gaibandha and Joypurhat. Some were caught in connection

with this case. They indicated that they were waging a *jihad* for Islamic rule. It was also proved that some of the militants had been trained in Pakistan and Afghanistan and some of their ammunitions came from Pakistan. It was also learnt that the illegal organizations have active power all over the country.

5.1 Religion Based Terrorist Groups in Bangladesh

There are some religion based militant outfits in Bangladesh. A brief discussion about the profile of these groups is given below:

5.1.1 Harkrat–ul-Jihad-al-Islami (HUJI):

The main militant outfit in Bangladesh, the Harkrat-ul-Jihad-al-Islami (HUJI), was formed in 1992, allegedly with financial support from Osama bin Laden himself, HUJI now has an estimated strength of 15,000 followers and is led by Shawkat Osman aka Sheikh Farid in Chittagong. Its members were recruited mainly from various parts of Bangladesh, An internal document from HUJI lists no less then 19 "training establishments" all over Bangladesh but it is uncertain how many of them actually offer or receive military training.

5.1.2 Jamaat-Ul Mujahideen in Bangladesh (JMB)

JMB is a religious militant organization formed in 1998 in Palampur, Dhaka Division. It was noticed for the first time in Parbatipur in Dinajpur district. The leader of JMB is Abdur Rahman. The JMB's highest decision-making body is called 'Majlish-e-shura' of which *Bangla Bhai* is a member and commander of the anti-sarbahara venture. JMB is active in northern and northwestern and in the south and central areas of Bangladesh. It has divided Bangladesh into nine organizational divisions with a divisional office each in Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet, and Chittagong and two in Dhaka and three in Rajshahi.

5.1.3 Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh (JMJB)

Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh (JMJB) means 'awakened muslim masses'. JMJB came to limelight in 2003 after the operation in Khetlal, in which 18 militants were arrested with leaflets dealing with its organizations activities. Bangla Bhai is the top leader of JMJB. Bangla Bhai goes by various names Siddiqual Islam, Azizur Rahman, Siddiqur Rahman etc.

JMJB has three-tier system for its cadres:

Ehsar: Fulltime activists who act on the directives of higher echelons,

Gayeri Ehsar: part-time activists,

Third Tier: This involves people from all sections who indirectly co-operate with JMB and JMJB.

Apart from the religion based terrorist organizations, there are also some terrorist groups, organizations and areas in Bangladesh. They include denizens of the underworld who were once in the same group. Some are the gurus; some are the 'disciples'. They broke up over responsibilities, sharing the booty and power tussles. They got involved in murder. Even the police have a hand in the killing of terrorists by terrorists. There are a lot of allegations of such involvement.[23] Extremist outfits Sharbaharas, in southwestern Bangladesh, are reportedly going through many upheavals. Seven such active outfits in Khulna are:

i. Purbo Banglar Communist Party (ML-Janajudhho),

ii. Purbo Banglar Communist Party (ML)

iii. Purbo Banglar Maoist Communist Party

iv. New Biplobi Communist Party

v. Biplobi Communist Party

vi. Dakhhin Banglar Chhinnomul Communist Party and

vii. Jihadi Party.

Actionists of these outfits do not hesitate to kill even their patron, not to speak of

politicians, journalists, police and even their own colleagues. Apart from the criminal underworld and *Sharbaharas,* there are a few more areas from where terrorism might have started to take extreme turn. Situation in Chittagong hill tracts may get out of hand if it is not wisely tackled. They have once again plunged into unrest after seven years of the landmark peace accord signed between the government and the tribal rebels, *Shanti Bahini.* Growing incidents of human rights violations and armed hostilities have now gripped the region. The 5th anniversary of signing the Chittagong Hill Tracks Treaty (CHTT) was observed in December 2, 2005. But it bore all the marks of impending trouble in this region if the right steps are not taken by Bangladesh. All major parties of the region held separate rallies to advance their conflicting programs. If this happens, this region might once again plunge into crisis.

After August 17, 2005, the top two JMB leaders and Chief, Shaikh Abdur Rahman and operation commander Siddiqul Islam (Bangla Bhai) were captured on 2nd March and 6th March' in 2006'. Finally the Bangladesh government made the right decision in <u>banning Hizbut Tahrir in Bangladesh</u> in October 22, 2010.Deputy Commissioner Nisarul Arif of Dhaka Metropolitan Police told "The New Nation"(daily English newspaper) that they arrested the chief coordinator of banned Hizb ut Tahrir, Prof. AKM Mohiuddin Ahmed, from his Green Road residence, who is also an Associate Professor in the Institute of Business Administration of Dhaka University, on charge of instigating subversive activities in the city in the early hours of April-19, 2010.

6. Preliminary Result of the Research

The following decisions have been achieved from the study:

a. Basic concepts of terrorism and violent activities have been defined and considered in the article. People of various groups think that terrorism refers to any kind of endangered, terrible and violent activities. The main reason of uprising terrorism is largely due to socio economic insecurity in the country.

b. Some so called organized groups and organizations formed to establish Islamic law are involved in terrorist activities, It has, of late, been recognized that incompatibility of the *Madrashas* with the religious schools as well as the education system in the country identified as cause of involvement in terrorism.

c. Several Muslims and intelligence agencies of interested states are marked as the financial purveyor of terrorism.

d. Contemporary terrorism prevails though it is not at a highly dangerous level. The concept of internal security in the context of contemporary security is defined as development of economic condition. All the sectors of internal security like politics, economic and social, are influenced by uprising terrorism.

e. Terrorism helps to hamper democracy building process in the political sphere, makes obstacle to overall economic development, create lack of confidence among the people in the social sector, and damages the image of the state in international area.

f. Terrorism might invite unsolicited foreign intervention. Fragile security system may be easily defeated by the strong terrorists.

g. Terrorism is not an isolated incident. It often gets mixed up with the ideological motivation and takes a turn to the conspiracy against the country. The government initiatives have not been enough to prevent terrorism because the government was not conscious but from the very beginning

7. Conclusion

Terrorism in Bangladesh represents a multidimensional security challenge,

increasingly reinforced by transnational networks. Extremist groups have strategically exploited religious sentiment to advance their agendas. The August 17, 2005, serial bomb blasts highlighted the entrenched presence of militancy within the country. Organizations such as Jamat-e-Mojahedeen Bangladesh actively pursue destabilization under religious pretexts. If left unaddressed, terrorism threatens to undermine Bangladesh's political stability, economic development, and social cohesion. The emergence of suicide bombings and sophisticated attacks demonstrates the

extremists' evolving capacity. Political actors and state institutions cannot evade responsibility for the permissive environment that has enabled radicalism. Addressing structural drivers such as poverty, inequality, and corruption remains essential for long-term resilience. While citizens overwhelmingly seek peace, extremism continues to erode internal security. A comprehensive, coordinated, and sustained response is therefore critical to safeguarding national stability.

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