



Militants grow in silence

Two local terror groups spreading fast their tentacles; 47 killings in 18 months

ZAYADUL AHSAN writes for The Daily Star

While the government was taking pride in containing militancy by cracking down on Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) over the last several years, two new radical Islamist groups have built up an extensive network that remained relatively unnoticed until late last year.

One group is leaning towards al-Qaeda while the other influenced by Islamic State (IS).

The pro-Qaeda outfit is called Ansar Al Islam. Major (dismissed) Syed M Ziaul Haq, who made headlines by trying to engineer a military coup in 2012, is its military commander.

Around 200 trained members are active in the country to execute the plans of Ziaul Haq, detectives say based on statements of some of its arrested members.

Ansar Al Islam was previously called Ansarullah Bangla Team.

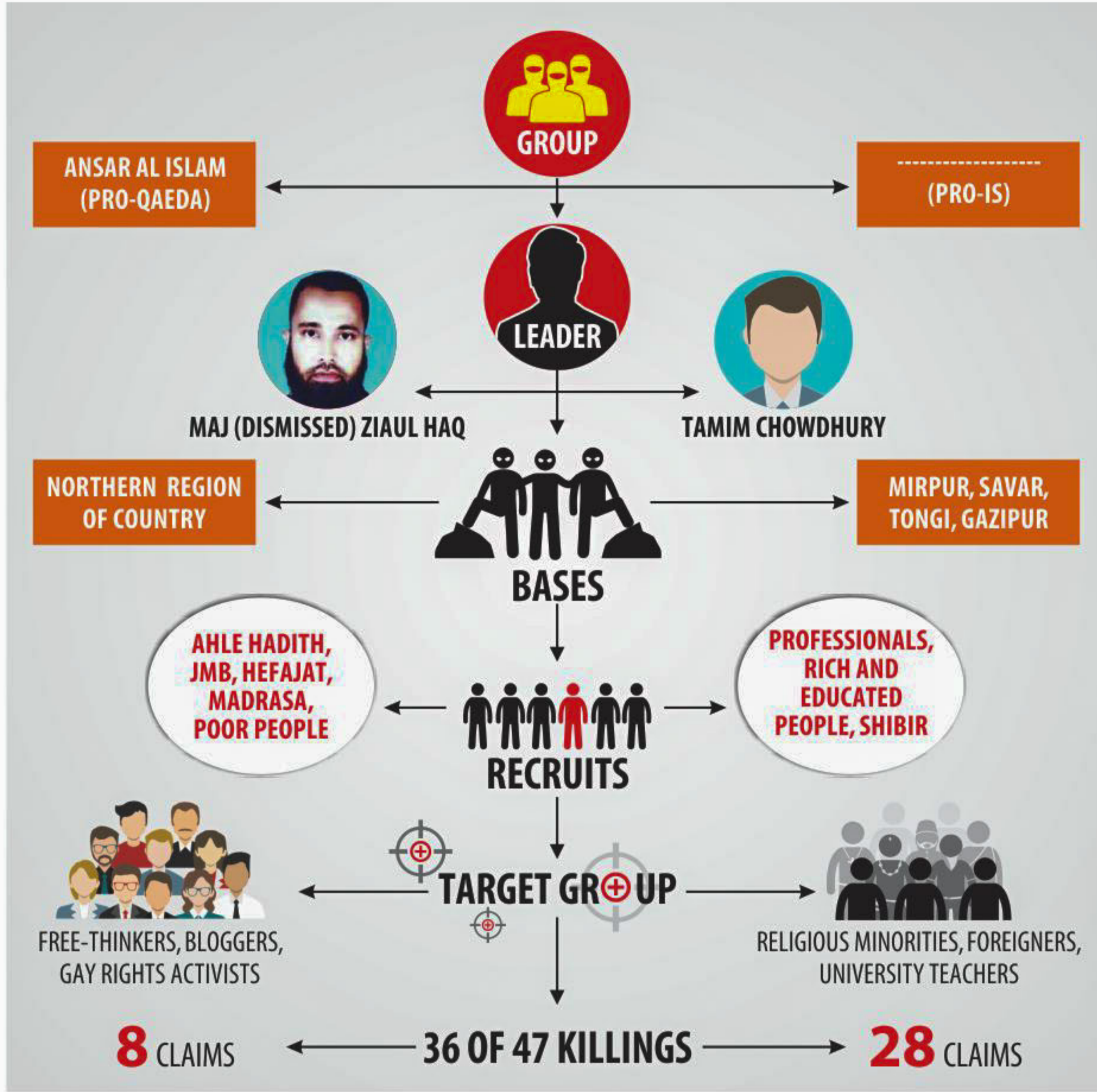
As a rising militant outfit, Ansarullah wanted to launch al-Qaeda in Bangladesh (AQIB) like al-Qaeda in Indian Sub-Continent (AQIS). But the AQIS headquarters in Pakistan did not approve the idea and suggested Ansarullah be renamed Ansar Al Islam and work as the Bangladesh branch of AQIS.

This group began gaining strength in 2013-14 -- especially in northern regions. It recruits from JMB, Ahle Hadith, Hefazat-e Islam, different madrasas and financially vulnerable families.

The other group, which is leaning towards IS, is being led by a Bangladeshi-Canadian named Tamim Chowdhury, who identifies himself as Shaykh Abu Ibrahim Al-Hanif, according to the IS mouthpiece Dabiq. It recruits from

It was pointless to argue whether there was IS in Bangladesh or not, as the threat of these militant groups was real. These groups would continue to

DETECTIVES SAY



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Ramadan begins today

UNB, Dhaka

The holy month of Ramadan, the lunar month of self-purification through fasting and abstinence, begins in the country today as the new moon was sighted yesterday.

Lailatul Qadr, the night of divine blessings and benediction, will be observed on the night of July 2.

The National Moon Sighting Committee announced the decision in a meeting at its Islamic Foundation office yesterday evening after reviewing reports on Ramadan moon sighting.

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Police HQ alerted Babul to possible attack

Home boss 'suggests Israeli link to recent attacks'

HASAN JAHID TUSHER and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Over a month ago, the Police Headquarters had warned Superintendent Babul Akter about a possible militant attack and instructed him to beef up his own and his family's security.

The warning came after police recovered a note from a JMB leader arrested in a Northern district around one and a half months ago. The note contained a plan for attacks on family members of law enforcers, Babul's family and sources in the

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Students form a human chain in Jhenidah's Shailakupa yesterday, protesting the killing of SP Babul Akter's wife in Chittagong on Sunday. Babul is from Shailakupa.

PHOTO: AZIBOR RAHMAN

Death warrant issued for Mir Quasem

SC releases full text of verdict upholding his death penalty

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal yesterday issued a death warrant for convicted war criminal Mir Quasem Ali hours after the Supreme Court released the full text of its verdict upholding his death penalty.

The ICT registrar's office sent the warrant to Dhaka Central Jail around 7:30pm following the tribunal's directives, Registrar Shahidul Alam Jhinuk told The Daily Star last night.

Copies of the warrant were also sent to the Dhaka district magistrate, and the home and the law ministries.

Shahidul said his office received a copy of the full verdict around 3:30pm.

Nearas Alam, jailer at Dhaka Central Jail, told this correspondent that they received the warrant at 7:50pm and "would send it to Kashimpur Jail-2 in Gazipur" where the Jamaat leader has been kept.

He, however, didn't say when the warrant would be sent there.

On November 2, 2014, the ICT-2 handed down capital punishment to 63-year-old Quasem, chief of Chittagong Al-Badr Bahini, for committing crimes against humanity during the 1971 Liberation War.



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Saudi to recruit 5 lakh more Bangladeshis

UNB, Jeddah

Saudi Arabia has expressed willingness to recruit some 5 lakh Bangladeshis to meet its demand for workers in various sectors.

"We want to recruit 5 lakh more workforce from Bangladesh," Saudi Minister for Labour Mofarrej Al-Haqbani said when he met Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Royal Conference Palace here on Sunday night.

PM's Press Secretary Ihsanul Karim briefed reporters after the meeting.

The premier is now in Saudi Arabia on a five-day official visit at the invitation of Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud.

The Saudi minister said the Bangladeshis, including some 42,000 female domestic helps, were working in the Arab country with a good reputation.

Bangladeshi workers started working in Saudi Arabia in 1976. The kingdom has now over 2 million Bangladeshis, making it the largest destination for Bangladeshi manpower.

The two leaders agreed to stamp out the influence of

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Advertorial

Bilateral Agreement Signing Ceremony on Manufacturing of Hi-Tech Products

A bilateral agreement on manufacturing high tech products had been signed on 5th June, 2016 between **Aristopharma Ltd** and **Sanofi Bangladesh Ltd**. During the Signing ceremony, on behalf of **Aristopharma Ltd** Chairman & Managing Director Mr. M.A. Hassan along with other directors and high ranking officers and on behalf of **Sanofi Bangladesh Ltd**, Managing Director Dr. Riad Mamun Prodhani and other directors were present.

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