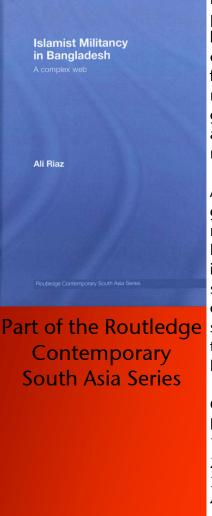
## Islamist Militancy in Bangladesh A Complex Web

## Ali Riaz, Illinois State University, USA



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In an unprecedented show of force, organization and skills, two proscribed Islamist militant organizations exploded more than 450 bombs within a span of less than an hour throughout Bangladesh on 17 August 2005 sending a strong message that they were a force to be reckoned with. This catastrophic event, followed by a number of suicide attacks, forced the-then reluctant Bangladeshi government, a coalition of centre-right parties with two Islamists among them, to acknowledge the existence of a network of militants and take action against this threat.

Against this backdrop, this book is the first academic study on the growing Islamist militancy in Bangladesh. It examines the relevance, significance and trajectories of militant Islamist groups in Bangladesh, exploring the complex web of domestic, regional and international events and dynamics that have both engendered and strengthened Islamist militancy in Bangladesh. The three factors - domestic, regional and international aspects - are each discussed separately and their connection and links are analysed. It goes on to consider possible future trajectories of militant Islamism in Bangladesh.

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