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## **Preventing Extremism: The Role of National Security Forces in Countering Terrorism in Bangladesh**

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### **ABSTRACT**

This paper will examine how national security agencies prevent extremism and counter terrorism in Bangladesh and how these mechanisms of operation and organization can influence the effectiveness of counterterrorism. This study combines both quantitative and qualitative data analysis of the trends of terrorism using a comparative mixed-method design, through the examination of semi-structured interviews and documentary materials. The paper discusses the co-ordination of national security organs like the police, intelligence, and counterterrorism special units in addressing the ever-changing terrorism threat in the country. The results show that the number of cases associated with terrorism went down significantly in 2013 to 2021, and increased in 2023, which indicates a cyclical trend to extremist actions due to the suppressive phase and the adjustment phase. This trend reflects the difficulty of maintaining counterterrorism advantages over time, as extremist groups typically change their approaches to counteractions of the states. Also, the data on fatalities have shown that the number of terrorist-related deaths has dropped in the early 2020s, whereas in 2023 the number of civilian victims highlights the difficulty in combating terrorism without losing public confidence. The GTI score of Bangladesh decreased in 2023, which indicates that the situation related to security was ameliorated, but also indicates that the risk of extremist groups is significant. The study, on the basis of these findings, proposes to improve the inter-agency coordination, invest in the intelligence-led policing, improve the community engagement, and optimize the counterterrorism legal frameworks. These are essential measures that ensure the prevention of extremism and enhancing the efficiency of counterterrorism measures in the long run. The analysis also recommends further adjustment to new terrorist strategies and long-term training of the population to support the national security in a highly geopolitically unstable environment.

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### **1. Introduction**

The counterterrorism in Bangladesh occupies three areas: national security, citizen safety, and democracy. The last ten years have presented a transformation in the extremist networks, recruiting routes, and modifying attack strategies by the security agencies. The Internet places a larger role in idea dissemination, connection, and movement of people

between belief and action. There are those groups that remain small and secretive, whereas those seek to recuperate following crackdowns by renaming, replacing leaders, or strategies. Simultaneously, the reaction of Bangladesh has remained multi-layered and active. It comprises of intelligence activities, targeted operations, arrests, border and financial controls, and prosecution case building. Prevention also is associated with less hard work like community policing, local reporting, and lessening the social environment that facilitates easier recruitment. Such combination provokes a real policy dilemma: security agencies are to prevent attacks in seconds, yet they are to earn the trust of people, receive information and tolerate the state intervention.

### ***1.1 Background of the Study***

Bangladesh's counterterrorism architecture is largely law-enforcement-led, supported by intelligence agencies and specialized counterterrorism units. Studies published in Bangladesh also claim that counterterrorism should be undertaken where civil and security actors organized them in order to ensure that prevention and disruption remain synchronous across agencies. [1]. Global benchmarking also demonstrates that Bangladesh experiences a lower impact of terrorism than most of the high-burden countries but it still indicates the country has a lot to be vigilant since threats change forms and approaches with time. [2]. This activity is conducted in the framework of a clear legal system under the leadership of the Anti-Terrorism Act system and its subsequent amendments which guides the investigation, prosecution, and measures against the support and financing network [3]. Nonetheless, prevention in Bangladesh is not restricted to enforcement activities only. UNODC programs are based on community policing and beat policing to develop public confidence, reinforce the system of early warnings, and integrate regular local policing with nationwide counterterrorism goals [4]. Also, indications given by national-level measurements indicate that sustained pressure on enforcement has limited militant networks. As an example, the U.S. State Department has published that no recorded cases of transnational terrorist violence occurred in Bangladesh in 2023, as the authorities were still working to find and attack militant actors [5].

### ***1.2 Problem Statement***

Although the counterterror capacity has become stronger, and the legal mechanisms have become broader, research-based on Bangladesh shows no clear understanding of what national security-force functions lead to the most credible prevention outcomes. The main functions are intelligence-led policing, specialized counterterror units, border and immigration control, criminal investigation, prosecution support, financial disruption of support networks and community-based prevention. However, these roles are frequently researched individually and thus there is no understanding of how they integrate to mitigate incidences, interfere with networks and enhance individual cooperation in the long term. These constraints are further exacerbated by deficits in coordination and legitimacy. In such contexts, siloed operations evidenced by delayed intelligence dissemination, competing mandates, and insufficient clarity in joint planning and command result in uneven prevention and the gradual dissipation of earlier progress. Trust among the citizens is also important since cooperation, reporting, and witness encouragement requires citizens to be convinced that such actions are legal, equitable, and accountable. The paper will fill these gaps by focusing on the role of security-force strategies and inter-agency response in the prevention of extremist violence in Bangladesh and the efforts of countering terrorism and explaining how the effectiveness can be enhanced without exceeding legal restrictions and accountability norms.

### ***1.3 Research Questions***

The research questions are the following:

1. What does prevent extremism mean to the national security forces in Bangladesh and how they practice it in their daily counterterrorism activities?
2. Which functional areas, like intelligence gathering and analysis, focused enforcement measures, criminal investigation, border patrol, and community involvement, are most related to the outcomes of prevention?
3. How are key agencies coordinated, and how do the weaknesses of coordination affect the overall performance of counterterrorism?

4. What role does the legal requirement and legitimacy factors such as the public trust, accountability, and cooperation of the citizens play in counterterrorism actions effectiveness?

#### ***1.4 Research Objectives***

The following objectives are the ones pursued in this research:

1. To chart the institutional role of national security forces in the prevention of extremism and combating terrorism in Bangladesh.
2. To determine the impact of core capabilities in preventing, disrupting, investigating, prosecuting its support and inter-agency coordination on counterterrorism outcomes.
3. To look into operational/governance barriers that minimize effectiveness and specifically look at the issue of coordination quality and legitimacy concerns.
4. To come up with evidence-based recommendations to help reinforce prevention and be consistent with legal protections and accountability standards.

#### ***1.5 Scope of the Study***

The research paper under discussion is dedicated to the national security system and law-enforcement in Bangladesh in relation to counterterrorism and combatting violent extremism. It looks at the duties of the major state actors, such as their specialized counterterror missions, intelligence-driven policing, border and internal security missions, and inter-agency coordination mechanisms. The areas include the legal and institutional backgrounds to define the counterterror mandates and accountability, operational roles, coordination structures, and the information-sharing practices that determine the result of the prevention and disruption, and prevention that relies on the community trust, co-operation of the people, and legitimacy.

The effect of capacity constraints, training, resources and oversight practices on performance amongst agencies is also examined in the analysis. It does not delineate operational methods, tactical process, and sensitive deployment and deployment information that may pose security threats, and it offers only what is needed to conduct institutional and policy analysis on the extremist groups and other non-state actors.

## **2. Literature Review**

### ***2.1 Patterns of Threat of Terrorism and Risk Level in Bangladesh***

The recent literature describes Bangladesh as a situation in which terrorism threat is real but changes over time, and the ability of the actors, their recruitment, and the frequency of incidents change. Blazes Bangladesh at a lower level of impact than most high-burden states, but still within a risk environment where the threat forms may vary according to the state [2].

Continued pressure on militant actors is also emphasized in national reporting, and the lack of any transnational terrorist violence reported in 2023 is viewed as an assertive stance of prevention coupled with enforcement. These trends indicate that the threat environment is adapting following the enforcement pressure. The emphasis is shifted to long term prevention ability.

### ***2.2 Architecture and Specialization of National Security Roles Through Law-Enforcement***

Bangladesh counterterror policy and research indicate that the current policy is law enforcement based with counterterror units and intelligence capabilities in support. Authoritative definitions highlight specific counterterror requirements in policing and the necessity of a concerted effort at the level of units dealing with investigation, disruption, and ensuring safety to the population [4]. Similar arguments are made in Bangladesh-oriented literature, while effectiveness is viewed as the result of synergy among state tools, such as civil-military coordination as an effort-enhancing factor, in place of agency action. Role clarity is important since a situation whereby mandates overlap may slow down decision making and weaken accountability. The quality of the coordination usually determines consistency in prevention between regions [5].

### ***2.3 Intelligence-led Policing and Evidence Based Counterterror Practice***

One of the current trends reflected in the literature is the transition to intelligence-led policing (ILP) to aid prevention, early detection, and focused disruption and minimize dependence on purely reactive policing. [7]. The international

studies present ILP as a methodological framework in which the resources and risks are managed through information gathering, analysis and prioritization. [8].

Bangladesh-oriented writing also observes that even when counterterror agencies are successful in their operations, there are still gaps of evidence-based knowledge to counter extremist narratives, and it requires greater coordinating capacity and ability to bridge ILP with Prevention of Violent Extremism (PVE) or Community policing and legitimacy (CVE) efforts [9]. ILP is enhanced when the data is exchanged between agencies in real time and risk indicators are shared among them. It is the lack of feedback loops that makes intelligence work more of a burst rather than constant prevention.

#### ***2.4 Legal Framework, Support of Prosecution, and Counter-Terrorist Financing Instruments***

The literature discusses the counterterror system of Bangladesh as highly influenced by the Anti-Terrorism Act (2009) and other legal means that govern the investigation, prosecution, and the action of support networks. [10]. In comparative legal analysis, the impact on the operational space of security agencies and the courts is brought into the focus of how domestic definitions and penalties, including aspects of terrorism financing, influence them. [11]. Formal duties of financial intelligence functions are also distributed by institutional rules in accordance with the corresponding legal provisions as the way the financial monitoring, the financial reporting and the financial enforcement streams. [12]. Legal power is based on the consistency of enforcement and the quality of case records. Poor collaborations between investigators and prosecutors lead to lesser ratings.

#### ***2.5 Prevention of Violent Extremism (PVE/ CVE), Community Policing and Legitimacy***

An emerging literature associate's prevention performance with community trust, police legitimacy, and cooperation, stating that early warning and community reporting is more enhanced when citizens perceive policing as just and accountable. [13]. UNODC programming in Bangladesh clearly encourages community and beat policing as a preventive tool against radicalization and reinforcement of police-community collaboration as a prevention measure. [14]. A research paper based in Bangladesh also addresses the subject of community policing as an effective means against religious extremism, but it also lists obstacles to its implementation and long-term effectiveness. [15]. The issue of legitimacy is not only a value issue, it influences the flow of information and the speed of investigations. The success of prevention programs is enhanced by communities being comfortable enough to report in issues at an early stage.

### **3. Methodology**

#### ***3.1 Research Design***

This study adopts a comparative, mixed method research design of a sequential nature to determine the effectiveness of national security agencies in extremism prevention and countering terrorism in Bangladesh. It is a mixture of (i) quantitative analysis over time to explain variation in the risk of terrorism and the prevention-related outcomes (ii) evidence of qualitative processes to determine which institutional and operational mechanisms are plausibly generating such outcomes.

The quantitative element determines the trends at base and identifies meaningful changes over periods that are associated with policy, legal, or institutional changes. The qualitative aspect then examines the operationalization of prevention in the terms of specialization of roles, routines of information sharing, coordinating structures, and legal-process channels (investigation-to-prosecution flow). The methodology of the study is a triangulation to combine numerical trends with the evidence of interviews and documents to support the inference and decrease the bias of individual sources. It is an adequate design since the effects of prevention can be measured both in the number of incidents, disruptions, and indicators of case progression (measured) and in less observable variables (quality of coordination, legitimacy, and cooperation of the people).

#### ***3.2 Unit of Analysis and Setting of the Study***

The research is placed in the context of national counterterrorism and prevention in Bangladesh where the policies of the public safety institutions are designed to prevent the extremist mobilization and to fight against the terrorist

violence. The location encompasses state-wide plans of approach, coordination and supervision, and field-level execution which entails prevention, disruption, investigation and community involvement. This environment is treated as an institutional system whereby the results are made by the combination of organizational mandates, coordination routine, resource capacity and governance constraints. It is also aware of the fact that overtime operational priorities can change in reaction to the changing perceptions of threats and policy accent.

The role of the institution, as well as the coordination process implementation of counterterrorism and prevention, is the unit of analysis. The paper looks at the definition and practice of specific institutional duties and the role of coordination in the transfer of information and cases within organizations. The analysis will give emphasis on functions that play a direct role on prevention and response such as intelligence-informed prevention, disruption functions, investigative and evidentiary functions, border control functions, financial disruption actions, and community-facing prevention functions. Certain incidences and certain individuals are considered as contextual content and not the main focus of analysis and the study in question is able to focus on processes that can be replicated and patterns of performance within institutions.

### **3.3 Data Sources**

The research presents several sources of data so as to conduct triangulation and enhance credibility of the findings.

#### **3.3.1 Quantitative Sources**

Terrorism incident event information in internationally recognized terrorism databases to build the time-based measures of both frequency and severity of the incidents.

- Benchmarking at the country level will report on the impact of terrorism in Bangladesh in terms of other contexts and monitor trend over time.
- Geopolitical risk indicators to have a contextual series to compare their situation over a period with indicators of terrorism.

Financial intelligence and anti-money laundering/ counter-terrorist financing reporting to define institutional capacity and trends that are applicable in disrupting financing and support networks.

#### **3.3.2 Qualitative and Documentary Sources**

- Terrorism and counterterrorism at the national level reporting the changes in the priorities of the threat assessment and official response.

1. First to be studied legal documents and regulatory tools to chart out the mandates, offences, procedures, and institutional obligations.

Research on the nature of organizational roles, mandate, and coordination responsibilities by concerned agencies published in official institutional publications.

- Prevention, community and Bit policing program and training materials to study the legitimacy-oriented approaches and mechanisms of local cooperation.

### **3.4 Sampling and Data Collection.**

#### **3.4.1 Sampling Strategy**

In this study, purposive sampling is used to select those participants who have direct knowledge of counterterrorism and prevention functions and could describe coordination routines and institutional constraints. Sampling gives preference to role diversity in prevention, investigation, coordination, legal-process support, and work facing the community. This is then followed by a snowball methodology to locate other participants in the inter-agency coordination and oversight, and the sample will be based on central and peripheral actors of coordination. The process of sampling will carry on until the thematic saturation is reached that is, no new themes can be substantively added to the interviews, which follow the previous one.

### 3.4.2 Data Collection Procedures

The process of data collection is a combination of semi-structured interviews and focused document collection. Interviews are guided by a common template and concentrate on the definition of prevention in its practice, performance of roles, flows of information among agencies and the limitation of outcomes. Documentary materials are gathered in order to confirm institutional requirements, coordination setups and policy or legal adjustments which can serve as reference points to interpretation. To ensure the security and ethical aspects, the study will not use operationally sensitive information, seek tactical means, details about deployments or any secret intelligence operations.

**Table 1:** Planned sample structure and data types

Data component	Sampling approach	Target participants / materials	Expected volume	Key outputs
Semi-structured interviews	Purposive and snowball	Officials and practitioners involved in prevention, investigations, coordination, border-related control, financial disruption support, prosecution support, and community-facing prevention	25 to 40 interviews or until saturation	Mechanisms linking roles and coordination to outcomes; barriers and enabling conditions
Key-informant interviews	Purposive	Senior role-holders with oversight or coordination responsibility	6 to 10 interviews (subset of above)	System-level view of coordination, mandates, accountability, and capacity
Documentary collection	Criterion-based selection	Laws, rules, policy documents, official mandate descriptions, public program documents, training/strategy materials, published oversight or evaluation reports	30 to 60 documents (approx.)	Mandate mapping, timeline markers, triangulation evidence
Field notes and analytic memos	Continuous	Researcher-generated notes during interviews and document review	Ongoing	Audit trail, theme development, triangulation record

The interviews will be done in the semi-structured format to ensure comparability and flexibility. Interviews are transcribed and audio-recorded, even with permission. In case it is not allowed to record, detailed notes are made. All respondents will be anonymized by their role numbers and transcripts will be kept in safe places. To minimize the bias and enhance reliability, the study includes a consistent interview guide, a document log with inclusion criteria, and cross-checks the statements made in the interview with documentary evidence wherever feasible. The interviewing participants representing different functional areas and the probing of exceptions to usual claims attempt to disconfirm the cases.

### 3.5 Data Analysis and Integration

The research has an analysis plan that is consistent with the sequential mixed-method design, with quantitative analysis to provide the patterns and qualitative analysis to provide the mechanisms.

The analysis of quantitative data is divided into three steps. To begin with, incident pattern and outcome indicators are summarized over time using descriptive statistics. Second, time-based comparisons are also carried out to investigate changes over significant time periods, with points of institutional change or policy change serving as reference points. Third, robustness tests are performed by altering indicator definitions and examining patterns in different time frames to make sure that the conclusions are not made based on one specification. The quantitative stage will give a definite account of the time of changes and the direction of movement of the outcomes.

The thematic analysis is used to analyze the qualitative data with the help of a structured codebook. The coding process is done in two phases. The former is the first step, which involves the use of descriptive codes to describe the roles of institutions, coordination patterns, information channels, legal-process channels, prevention habits, and capacity limitations. The second phase uses the analytic codes to select causal mechanisms and conditions that facilitate or disable prevention performance. Also based on constant comparison of groups of participants and documents, theme development is concerned with convergence and contradiction between sources. Analytic memos are kept in order to record interpretive decisions and aid transparency.

The process of integration is carried out at two stages, in the process of case interpretation, and in the process of final synthesis. The qualitative themes in the interpretation phase are applied to the quantitative trend periods to further clarify the reason behind the emergence of changes and the plausible processes in the institutions that may have contributed to it. Synthesis phase involves collage of the evidence by the study through a collaborative presentation methodology that connects positions, coordination and empirical results. This generates a complex explanatory paradigm that determines the routes between institutional role and prevention performance such that one can be informed of the circumstances whereby the pathway becomes strong or weak. The impact of this is the final output which is a structured role-mechanism-outcome framework which can be used to make evidence-based conclusions and policy recommendations.

### ***3.6 Rigor and Ethics***

This research enhances the methodological rigor by triangulating, being transparent, and being systematically biased. To start with, it uses data triangulation by matching the trends of quantitative factors with qualitative evidence of interviews and documentary sources. Second, it integrates method triangulation in that it integrates both time-based quantitative analysis and thematic qualitative analysis to enhance the dependency of any specific method. Third, it keeps an audit trail, such as a document log, interview metadata, coding decisions and analytic memos, therefore interpretation is traceable and logically reproducible. Fourth, negative-case analysis gets to test competing explanations by actively seeking cases that can be explained by non-dominant themes, and by testing whether other mechanisms can be more appropriate to explain observed results. Lastly, the reliability of the coding is enhanced by using a structured codebook and checking of consistency as one undergoes re-coding of a set of transcripts and checking the boundaries of categories to prevent drift across time.

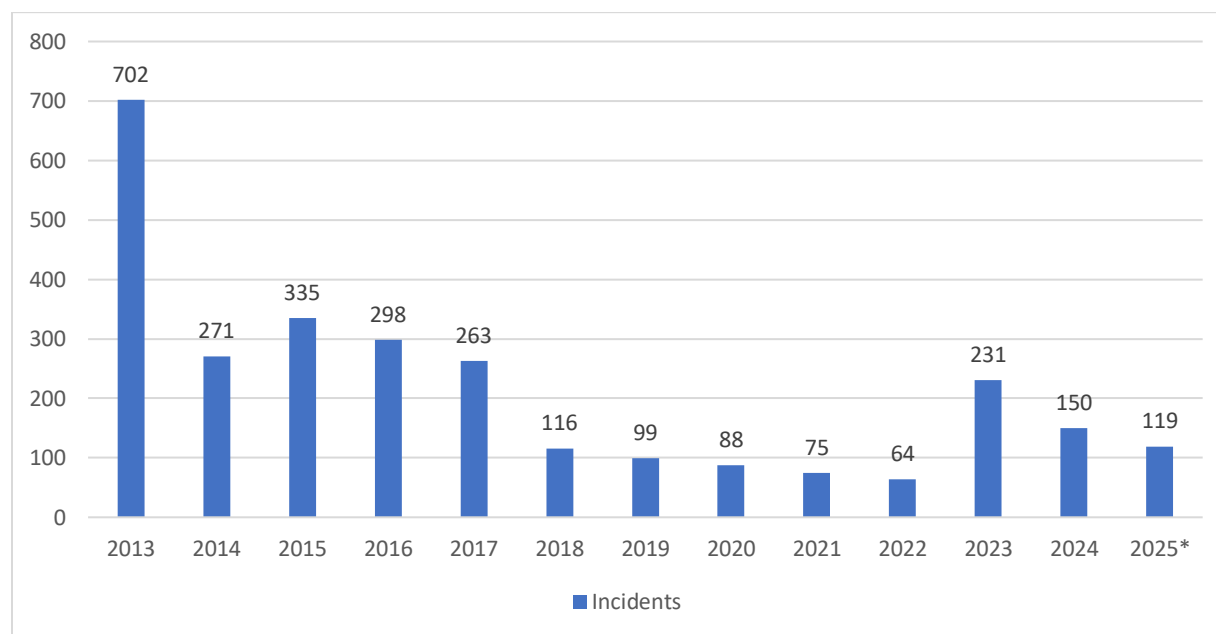
The research ethical guidelines are adhered to when conducting research on sensitive policy areas. The participation will be voluntary, there will be an informed consent and the participants may refuse to answer any question or they may withdraw without question. Anonymization of role-based identifiers, the elimination of personally identifying information, and storage of transcripts and notes in a secure location are all employed to guarantee confidentiality. The research does not gather or document operationally sensitive data such as the tactical operations, confidential intelligence operations, or operational deployment details that will pose security risks. The results are reported at a general scale to keep the participants and institutions safe, but at the same time facilitate academic content analysis of the roles, coordination, and governance circumstances.

## **4. Results**

### ***4.1 Trend in Terrorism-Related Incidents***

The national trend in terrorism-related incidents shows a significant peak in 2013, with a sharp decline in the following years. From 2014 to 2016, incidents remained relatively high, although there was a noticeable reduction compared to 2013. After 2016, incidents continued to decrease, reaching a particularly low point in 2018 to 2021, with fewer than 100 reported incidents annually. However, in 2023, there was a marked increase in incidents, reaching 231, suggesting a resurgence of terrorist activity after years of relatively lower levels. The rise in 2023 and 2024 suggests that after a period of suppression, extremist groups may be adapting their methods or expanding their activities in response to enforcement actions. The figures for 2025, shown as year-to-date, indicate a potential return

to lower levels of terrorism-related incidents, continuing the cycle of suppression and adaptation observed in the past. The trends suggest that while enforcement efforts can reduce visible terrorist activity, they also may drive shifts in the tactics and strategies used by terrorist organizations. This ongoing cycle of suppression, adaptation, and resurgence underscores the dynamic nature of counterterrorism efforts and the need for sustained vigilance.

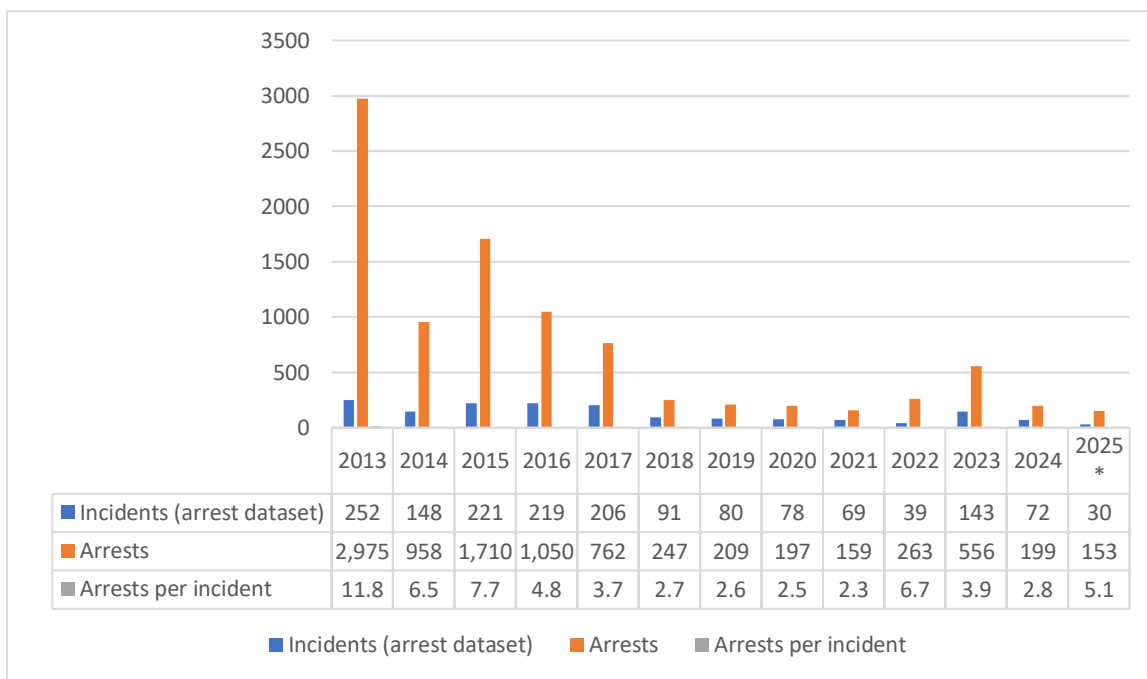


**Figure 1:** Annual Count of Terrorism-Related Incidents in Bangladesh (SATP), 2013 to 2025

The graph shows a sharp peak in 2013, followed by a steady decline in incidents through 2021, with a notable increase in 2023. The rise in 2023 suggests a potential adaptation of extremist tactics after years of suppression. Provisional data for 2025 indicates a return to lower levels, continuing the cyclical pattern of suppression and adaptation observed in previous years. This highlights the dynamic nature of terrorist activity and the challenges in maintaining long-term counterterrorism effectiveness.

#### **4.2 Trend and Composition of Fatalities**

Arrest trends show sustained enforcement pressure over time, with notable increases during periods of higher incident counts. This supports the interpretation that prevention is not only “incident reduction,” but also continuous disruption and containment. Even when incidents fall, arrests do not drop to zero, which is consistent with a prevention posture that targets recruitment, facilitation, and regrouping.



**Figure 2:** Terrorism-related arrests and arrests-per-incident (SATP)

The GTI score change reflects both the intensity of terrorism-related activities and the effectiveness of counterterrorism efforts. The decrease in Bangladesh’s score in 2023 compared to previous years indicates some success in limiting the scale of terrorist incidents and improving security conditions. However, the relatively high GTI score and moderate ranking demonstrate that Bangladesh remains at risk and must continue to invest in counterterrorism and prevention strategies.

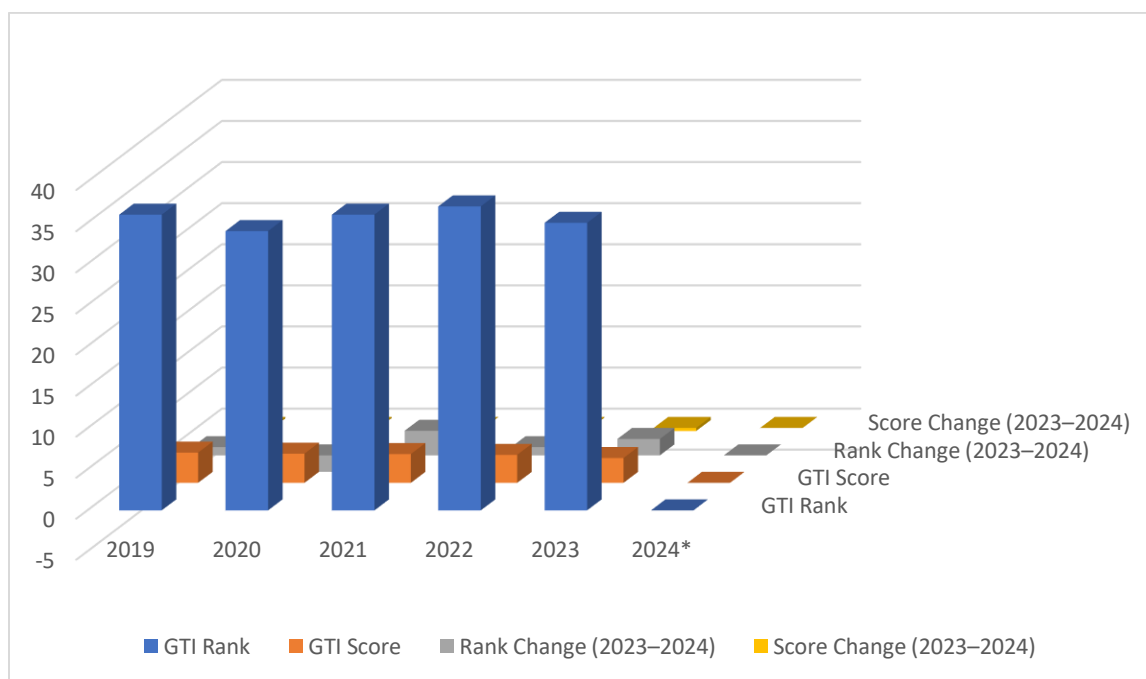
### 4.3 External Benchmarking of National Terrorism Impact

External benchmarking provides a comparative context for assessing Bangladesh's terrorism impact relative to other countries. The Global Terrorism Index (GTI) is a widely used tool for this purpose, ranking countries based on the level of terrorist activity, with scores ranging from 0 (low impact) to 10 (high impact). Bangladesh has consistently ranked lower on the GTI scale, indicating a relatively moderate terrorism impact compared to many other high-burden countries. However, the fluctuations in Bangladesh's GTI score reflect periodic changes in the security landscape, underscoring the need for continued vigilance and proactive counterterrorism measures.

**Table 3:** Bangladesh GTI Summary (2023-2024)

Year	GTI Rank	GTI Score	Score Change (2023–2024)	Rank Change (2023–2024)
2023	35	3.03	-0.38	+2
2022	37	3.41	-0.10	+1
2021	36	3.51	-0.05	+3
2020	34	3.56	-0.13	-2
2019	36	3.69	-0.19	+1

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**Figure 3: Bangladesh's GTI Score (2019–2024)**

This table shows the changes in Bangladesh's GTI rank and GTI score from 2019 to 2023, reflecting the country's relative terrorism impact over time. The GTI score is an indicator of the severity of terrorism-related incidents, where lower scores indicate fewer and less severe terrorist events. The score change column highlights the annual variation in Bangladesh's terrorism impact, while the rank change column shows how Bangladesh's position in the global ranking fluctuates based on those changes.

#### **4.5 Outcome Signal for "International Terrorism" Exposure**

An important policy-facing outcome indicator is whether a country experiences incidents of international terrorism in a given year. In the case of Bangladesh, national-level reports and global terrorism datasets are used to assess exposure to terrorism that has transnational links, including terrorist groups operating beyond national borders or involving foreign nationals in attacks. In 2023, the U.S. State Department's Country Reports on Terrorism indicated that Bangladesh had no reported incidents of international terrorism, which highlights a significant achievement in containing cross-border terrorist activities. These reports are critical for evaluating Bangladesh's role in the regional and global fight against terrorism, as well as assessing its success in curbing the spread of extremist ideologies across borders.

**Table 4:** Bangladesh's International Terrorism Exposure (Reported Incidents)

Year	International Terrorism Incidents	Notes
2019	0	No incidents involving transnational terrorism
2020	0	No incidents involving transnational terrorism
2021	0	No incidents involving transnational terrorism
2022	0	No incidents involving transnational terrorism
2023	0	No incidents involving transnational terrorism
2024*	0	Data still provisional

**Table 5:** U.S. Department of State's Assessment on Bangladesh's Terrorism Status (Country Reports on Terrorism 2023)

Year	International Terrorism Risk	Report Summary
2023	Low	No international terrorism incidents reported, with ongoing national security efforts to contain terrorist threats.
2022	Low	No international terrorism incidents reported, continued prevention focus in counterterrorism policies.
2021	Low	No international terrorism incidents, Bangladesh maintains its vigilance and counterterrorism strategies.
2020	Low	Bangladesh continues to manage and prevent international terrorism risks with no reported incidents.
2019	Low	No transnational terrorism incidents reported, reflecting strong security enforcement measures.

These tables indicate Bangladesh's low exposure to international terrorism in recent years, which suggests successful mitigation efforts to prevent cross-border terrorist activities.

**5. Discussion**

The results of the work indicate that though Bangladesh has achieved a great attainment in the decrease of the instances of terrorism and exposure to the impacts of extremism in the last 10 years, the phenomenon is dynamic and should be constantly monitored. The trend analysis of the incidents related to terrorism reveals that there was a sharp peak in 2013, a gradual decrease except for 2015, and a new rise in 2023, which shows a clear tendency toward suppression and adaptation. This trend illustrates the shortcomings of the enforcement-focused strategies since extremist groups are now changing their strategy and reaching out to the vulnerable populations to support them. Although the data indicates a decline in the number of deaths in 2019 to 2021, the number of deaths in 2023 and 2024, especially among civilians, clearly demonstrates the necessity to manage the dynamic character of threats. This covers enhancement of community interactions and intelligence-sharing systems that are essential in early warning and prevention.

Comparing it with the trends of global terrorism, it can be seen that the impact of terrorism in Bangladesh has been a moderate level compared to most of the countries with a high-risk level of terrorism. The reduction of the GPI score in 2023 is a positive indication of the ability to limit terrorist operations, but the GPI rank and score of Bangladesh imply that there are still serious risks of attacks. In addition, the fact that there are no cases of international terrorism in Bangladesh, according to the reports mentioned in the U.S. State Department, indicates that Bangladesh is winning

its war against cross-border terrorism and the proliferation of extremist ideas. The threat of adaptation in the terrorist tactics, however, highlights the relevance of adaptive counterterrorism approaches.

## **6. Conclusion and Recommendations**

### **6.1 Conclusion**

To sum up, Bangladesh has achieved a significant breakthrough in dealing with and averting acts of terrorism related activities within the last ten years, especially by enforcing and conducting specific counterterrorism actions. Nonetheless, the cyclic behavior of terrorist operations, i.e., the intervals of silencing and the intervals of acculturation, puts a sharp emphasis on the problems of long-term stability. The breakdown of the fatalities and the cooperation between security agencies are the main factors of the efficiency of the counterterrorism structure in Bangladesh. Although the lack of international terrorism in recent years can be discussed as a major victory, the number of innocent people in 2023 shows that the community should become more engaged, share information, and coordinate the work of different law enforcement and intelligence agencies. It will be important to continue marketing towards these regions in order to maintain the gains that have been attained and deal with new threats that come with it.

### **6.2 Recommendations**

- Improve inter-agency coordination

The coordination between the specialized counterterror units, intelligence agencies, border control, and local law enforcement agencies will be enhanced to facilitate a better information-sharing and improve operational effectiveness. It must focus on joint training and formal communication channels as the means of offering timely and effective response to emerging threats.

- Pay attention to the community work

To avoid the occurrence of extremism, Bangladesh should further enhance its community policing operations and communities' alert mechanism through different forces. Development of relationships with local communities and creation of avenues through which citizens can report suspicious acts without apprehension of reprisals is important towards long-term prevention.

- Increase Intelligence Led Policing (ILP)

Bangladesh is encouraged to invest more in intelligence-led policing in order to thwart the activities of terrorists before they take place. These include increased use of data analysis as well as early warning and proactive disruption plans, and both local and transnational threats are emphasized.

- Where legal and financial frameworks are concerned

Although the legal framework in Bangladesh has helped in the success of the counterterrorism, the laws regarding terrorism financing, and financial disruption should be reviewed continuously. The reinforcement of financial monitoring and reporting, and the legal accountability within the sectors will curb the extremist funding streams.

- Follow up and adjust to emerging threats

Since extremist groups are capable of evolving, Bangladesh should invest in constantly changing their counterterrorism policies. The threat assessment will have to be conducted on a regular basis, including local intelligence as well as global trends to ensure that the next breed of extremism is not allowed to develop new roots.

The recommendations are expected to add to the achievements achieved by Bangladesh in combating terrorism, but will fill gaps in coordination, level of community trust and proactive prevention. The future adjustment of strategies will be critical in dealing with the future threats and ensuring national security.

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