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CRIME AND PUBLIC SECURITY IN BANGLADESH (SEPTEMBER 2024 – JUNE 2026)

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CRIME AND PUBLIC SECURITY IN BANGLADESH (SEPTEMBER 2024 – JUNE 2026)

An Evidence-Based Situation Brief

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Abstract:

This brief assesses crime and public-security conditions in Bangladesh between September 2024 and June 2026, drawing on 112 sources: press and institutional reporting; primary statistical tables from Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK), the Manabadhikar Shongskriti Foundation (MSF), the Human Rights Support Society (HRSS), and Odhikar; the original Global Center for Democratic Governance (GCDG) mob-violence report; and official Police Headquarters and Dhaka Metropolitan Police crime data. Six findings are reported with confidence. First, police-recorded crime rose across most major categories, with murder cases increasing from 3,023 in 2023 to 3,786 in 2025. Second, mob-violence deaths reached their highest documented level in at least a decade. Third, reported sexual violence rose sharply, with a majority of victims under 18 across every source recording age. Fourth, violence affecting religious minorities is documented throughout the period, though the reported scale depends heavily on source and definition. Fifth, the offices of Bangladesh's two leading newspapers were looted and burned in December 2025, the first missed editions in each paper's history. Sixth, organised extortion re-established itself in Dhaka, with 1,280 active extortionists recorded by police in May 2026. Across all six areas, prosecutions and follow-through stall except where a case draws sustained public attention.

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1. Executive Summary

This brief assesses crime and public-security conditions in Bangladesh between September 2024 and June 2026, drawing exclusively on a documented collection compiled by the author: 78 distinct press and institutional items; primary source material — the statistical tables of Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK), the monthly and annual reports of the Manabadhikar Shongskriti Foundation (MSF), reports of the Human Rights Support Society (HRSS) and Odhikar, and the original Global Center for Democratic Governance (GCDG) report; and official Police Headquarters and Dhaka Metropolitan Police monthly crime tables, together with prosecution-outcome and legal-framework reporting. Six findings are sufficiently corroborated to report with confidence.

First, police-recorded crime rose across most major categories. Murder cases increased from 3,023 in 2023 to 3,432 in 2024 and 3,786 in 2025 [112; 59; 28]; abduction cases rose by 71 per cent in 2025 and robbery and snatching cases together by 39 per cent [28]. January 2025 produced the highest monthly figures in six years for several categories [31].

Second, deaths from mob violence reached their highest documented level in at least a decade. ASK recorded an average of 17.9 deaths per month in the ten months following August 2024, against a 2015 average of 11.25 [57]¹, and its final table for 2025 records 198 deaths, against 51 in 2023 and 128 in 2024 [81]². The other principal series place 2025 deaths at 125 (Odhikar), 156 in eleven months (HRSS) and 166 summed across MSF's monthly reports [99; 49; 92]; MSF's annual report states a substantially higher 460, which diverges from its own monthly series and is reported here as published [91]. Killing continued through May 2026 [81; 93]. Prosecution in the most prominent cases advanced only in December 2025 – March 2026, more than a year after the killings [101; 103], and an analysis of 46 incidents found only 114 arrests among more than 9,000 accused — 1.27 per cent — with charge sheets in six cases [110].

Third, reported sexual violence rose sharply. Police-recorded rape cases increased by 27 per cent between 2024 and 2025, from 5,566 to 7,068 [69]; independent monitors recorded rises of about 18 per cent (ASK: 635 to 749) and 52 per cent (Bangladesh Mahila Parishad: 516 to 786) [24], and every independent monitoring series that recorded age found a majority of victims to be under 18 [24; 10; 49; 99].

Fourth, violence affecting religious minorities is documented throughout the period, but counts diverge by two orders of magnitude according to source and definition, from 20 incidents classified communal by police in August 2024 to more than 2,400 reported by a community organisation for a longer period [30; 77; 15]³. Two fatal lynchings of Hindu men are documented in December 2025, one following a blasphemy allegation that police stated they could not verify [39; 74; 15].

Fifth, on 18–19 December 2025 the offices of the country's two leading newspapers were looted and set on fire, and each missed a print edition for the first time in its history [66; 67]. By May 2025, at least 266 journalists had been implicated in criminal cases [80].

¹ ASK's yearly series: at least 51 killed in 2016; 50 in 2017; 39 in 2018; 65 in 2019; 35 in 2020; 28 in 2021; 36 in 2022; 51 in 2023 [57].

² ASK data indicate a sharp increase in mob violence deaths after August 2024. The organisation recorded 28 deaths in 2021, 36 in 2022, 51 in 2023, 32 during January–July 2024, and 128 for the full year 2024, indicating that 96 deaths occurred between August and December 2024. ASK subsequently recorded 198 deaths in 2025 and 89 deaths during January–May 2026 [81].

³ The Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council of Bangladesh reported at least 2,442 incidents of violence against minorities between August 2024 and June 2025 [15].

Sixth, organised extortion re-established itself in the capital: Dhaka Metropolitan Police records reported in May 2026 list 1,280 active extortionists, of whom 148 were armed [4]. Successive special operations resulted in large-scale arrests, yet the available reporting did not document a corresponding decline in the targeted crimes [31; 1; 37].

Across all six areas, the recurring institutional weakness documented in the collection is follow-through: charge sheets were filed in only 65 of 413 Dhaka-area cases of violence against women and children (VAWC) within one three-month window [53]; in the Dhaka University lynching of September 2024 a charge sheet was accepted only in March 2026 [102], and the charge sheet in the Mitford killing remained stalled over corrections five months after filing [103]; 132,107 cases were pending before the specialised tribunals at the end of 2025 [69].

Table 1 summarises the principal documented series; full sourcing and divergent counts are discussed in Sections 3–9.

Indicator	2023	2024	2025	Jan–May 2026	Sources
Murder cases (Police Headquarters)	3,023	3,432	3,786	1,142 (Jan–April); 915 (Mar–May)	[59; 112; 28; 13; 1]
Mob-violence deaths (ASK)	51	128	198	89	[81]
Rape cases (Police Headquarters)	—	5,566	7,068 (1,897 were children)	—	[69]
Rape and gang-rape victims (ASK)	574	401 ⁴	749	239	[82]
Violence against women and children, cases (Police Headquarters)	18,941	17,571	21,939	—	[69]
Deaths in jail custody (ASK)	106	65	107	52	[86]
Violence against religious minorities, incidents / deaths (ASK)	22/1	147/4	46/1	26/8	[85]
Journalist-harassment incidents (ASK)	292	531	381	181	[88]

Note: each row is a single organisation's series; methodologies and definitions differ, and rows are not comparable with one another. For 2025 mob-violence deaths, other monitors record between 125 and 460 (Section 4). "—" indicates no figure for that period in the collection.

⁴ ASK's printed annual tables give the totals shown; Dhaka Tribune's reporting of ASK's 2024 figures gives 635 victims, described as 401 women and 234 girls, and compares 2025's 749 against that figure [24]. The difference is not explained in the available documents.

2. Introduction, Scope and Methodology

This brief was prepared for policy researchers. It assesses documented crime and law-and-order conditions in Bangladesh from September 2024, shortly after the political transition of August 2024, to the end of June 2026, spanning the interim administration and the first months of the government elected on 12 February 2026.

The evidence base is a documented collection compiled by the author in three stages. The first stage comprises 78 distinct documents (80 files, of which two are duplicates): reporting from Bangladeshi outlets (The Daily Star, Prothom Alo, New Age, Dhaka Tribune, The Business Standard, Bangladesh Pratidin), international media (Reuters, BBC, The Guardian, Deutsche Welle, NPR, IANS) and institutional publications (UK Home Office, USCIRF, UN OHCHR, and press coverage of Human Rights Watch and Transparency International Bangladesh reports). The second stage, collected to close evidence gaps identified during the initial review (recorded in Appendix G), comprises primary source material: ASK's cumulative statistical tables across nine violation categories to May 2026; MSF's monthly monitoring reports for November 2024 and most months of 2025–2026, together with its 2024 and 2025 annual reports; HRSS's seventeen-month situation report and January–March 2026 quarterly report; Odhikar's Annual Human Rights Report 2025; the original GCDG mob-violence report; and press reporting on judicial developments in the principal lynching cases. The third stage added official Police Headquarters monthly crime-statistics tables (January–December 2024 and September 2025 – May 2026), Dhaka Metropolitan Police monthly crime-data tables (2025–2026), and analyses of prosecution outcomes and of the legal framework governing mob violence [108; 109; 110; 111; 112]. Where a primary source collected later supersedes an earlier press summary, the primary figure is used and cited. Every factual statement in this brief derives from these documents and from no other source. Citations are given in square brackets keyed to the numbered source register in the References (sources 1–112); Appendix A provides the complete inventory and Appendix F maps each principal finding to its supporting sources.

Three limitations should be borne in mind. The collection is a curated sample of verified reports, not a census of crime coverage, so the relative weight of themes partly reflects collection choices. Police statistics count cases filed rather than incidents occurring; the documents themselves record the dispute over interpretation, including official statements that rising figures reflect easier case registration and the retrospective filing of cases concerning incidents from earlier periods, of which more than 400 were included in the first-half 2025 murder figures [34; 35; 59]. Finally, the non-governmental monitoring series are compiled from media reports (typically 10–20 national dailies) and their counts diverge; where they do, this brief reports ranges with attribution rather than selecting a single figure.

3. Overall Crime Trends

Police Headquarters data reproduced in the collection show nationwide murder cases at 3,539 (2020), 3,214 (2021), 3,126 (2022) and 3,023 (2023), rising to 3,432 in 2024 and 3,786 in 2025 [112; 59; 28]⁵. Monthly filings rose steadily through the first half of 2025, from 294 in January to 344 in June⁶; the six-month total of 1,933 exceeded any equivalent period in the 2020–2023 series, whose six-month average was approximately 1,613 [59]. The rise continued into 2026: 1,142 murder cases were filed in January–April 2026 against 1,017 in the same months of 2025 [13], and 915 in March–May 2026 — described in the reporting as an average of more than ten killings a day — with Dhaka Range recording the highest count (207 cases), followed by Chattogram (186) [1]⁷.

Property and street crime rose faster. In 2025, snatching cases increased by 37 per cent to 1,935, robbery by 43 per cent to 702, theft by 12 per cent to 9,672 and abduction by 71 per cent to 1,101; total recorded cases reached 181,737, an increase of 9,732 over the previous year [28]. Comparing the first interim-government year (August 2024–July 2025) with the preceding twelve months, dacoity cases more than tripled (1,156 against 330) and abduction cases nearly doubled (954 against 513) [62]. January 2025 marked the sharpest single month, with murder, robbery, burglary and abduction all at their highest levels in six years and 242 mugging and robbery incidents — the highest single-month figure in the six-year series [31]. The official monthly tables held in the collection corroborate the press-reported series: Police Headquarters unit-wise statistics record 279 murder cases in November 2025 and 287 in January 2026, the latter with 1,281 cases of repression of women and children [108], and Dhaka Metropolitan Police publishes corresponding monthly tables for the capital [109].

Interpretation of these figures is contested within the collection itself. The Chief Adviser's press wing stated in July 2025 that the data revealed "stabilisation in major crime categories" rather than a crime wave [59; 35]⁸, a characterisation criticised in contemporaneous analysis noting that murders rose steadily through the first half of 2025, while rapes and violence against women and children also increased overall during the period [35]. Police officials separately attributed part of the increase to fuller recording, stating that incidents formerly left unrecorded are now documented promptly under social-media scrutiny [34]. Both positions are documented; the underlying case counts are not disputed in any source in the collection.

⁵ The Chief Adviser's press wing release reported 4,114 murder cases for 2024 [59; 60]; the official Police Headquarters annual table records 3,432 [112], consistent with [28]'s description of the 2025 total as 354 more than the previous year. The difference is not explained in the available documents.

⁶ Monthly murder cases, January–June 2025: 294; 300; 316; 338; 341; 344 [59].

⁷ Of the 915 cases, 317 were recorded in March, 288 in April and 310 in May 2026. The same source reports 993 cases for March–May 2025, of which 226 were carry-overs from earlier incidents (a comparable figure of 767), and 794 for the same months of 2024 [1].

⁸ While the press wing interpreted the statistics as stabilisation rather than a crime wave [59; 35], contemporaneous media analysis and crime analysts read the same data differently, pointing to rising murder, violence against women and children, abduction and street crime, and to growing public fear and perceptions of insecurity [35; 59; 31; 28].

4. Mob Violence and Lynching

The clearest change documented in the collection concerns collective violence. ASK's division-wise tables record 51 lynching deaths in 2023 [57], 128 in 2024 and 198 in 2025 — the latter led by Dhaka division (81), Chattogram (36) and Khulna (19) — with a further 89 deaths in January–May 2026 [81]. The first weeks of the period set the pattern: 21 people were beaten to death in 38 days between 11 August and 19 September 2024 across 14 districts, with only eight people reported held in connection with two cases at the time [5]; by late June 2025 ASK's monthly average of 17.9 deaths was the highest in a decade [57]. The other principal series, each using its own methodology, give differing totals for 2025: Odhikar's monthly matrix records 125 public-lynching deaths, peaking at 19 in September [99]; HRSS records 156 deaths in 276 incidents in January–November [49] and 259 deaths over the seventeen months to January 2026 [94]; MSF's monthly reports sum to 166 for the calendar year [92], while its annual report states 460 deaths in 428 incidents — a figure that diverges from its own monthly series and is reported here as published [91]. The original GCDG report lists 637 deaths for August 2024–July 2025 including 41 police officers; it includes mass-casualty arson events that the domestic series treat separately and describes its own list as incomplete [100]⁹. The phenomenon persisted after the February 2026 election: MSF recorded 21 deaths in January, 18 in February, 19 in March, 21 in April and 32 in May 2026 [93; 106; 107], HRSS 49 deaths in 88 incidents in the first quarter [95], and ASK 89 deaths to May [81].

Documented triggers include theft or robbery suspicion (the most frequent in the early period [5]), blasphemy allegations, political identity and misinformation circulated on social media [27; 18]¹⁰. Geographically, ASK's final division-wise table for 2025 shows Dhaka with 81 deaths, Chattogram 36, Khulna 19, Rajshahi 17 and Barishal 16 [81]. Attacks extended to religious and cultural sites: the government confirmed at least 40 shrines targeted in 44 attacks after 4 August 2024, with 23 arrests, while the Global Sufi Organisation alleged more than 80 [31; 57]. Law enforcement itself was targeted, with at least 225 mob attacks on police recorded between September 2024 and February 2025 [62].

Prosecution follow-through, documented case by case, was slow but no longer absent by 2026. In the Dhaka University killing of Tofazzal Hossain (September 2024), early arrestees obtained bail within two weeks [74]; an initial charge sheet against 21 accused was filed on 1 January 2025. Following a complainant's objection and a court-ordered further investigation, the Police Bureau of Investigation submitted a supplementary charge sheet against 28 accused on 18 December 2025. On 10 March 2026, the court accepted the supplementary charge sheet, with four accused in custody, two on bail, and arrest warrants issued for the remaining 22 absconding accused [101; 102]. In the Mitford killing of Lal Chand (July 2025), a charge sheet against 21 accused was filed on 8 December 2025, with the investigating officer recommending the discharge of 10 further suspects for insufficient evidence; the court returned it for corrections and it remained stalled five months later, with eight of the 21 absconding [103; 104].

In the Bhaluka killing of Dipu Chandra Das (December 2025), the prime accused was arrested in January 2026; arrests reached 21, of whom nine gave confessional statements [105]. In the

⁹ Among the 637 deaths listed, 24 people were burnt to death at the Zabeer Hotel, Jashore, on 4 August 2024, and 182 at the Gazi Tyres factory, Rugganj, Narayanganj, on 25 August 2024; the report states the victims' names and details were not published [100].

¹⁰ Local human rights organisations were reported as stating that more than 70 per cent of lynching victims since August 2024 had links to the Awami League or its affiliated student and labour wings; other victims included religious minorities, particularly Hindus and Ahmadiyya Muslims, accused of blasphemy or conspiracy through viral social-media posts, often with little or no evidence [18].

Taraganj double lynching, six arrestees were reported bailed within a week [74]. In June 2025 the Home Affairs Adviser acknowledged that the government "had not been able to stop mob violence", while stating that its frequency had declined [57]. A quantitative analysis reported in the collection confirms how exceptional even partial accountability is: of 46 lynching incidents causing 67 deaths between August 2024 and September 2025, cases were filed in 36; more than 9,000 people were accused, of whom 114 — 1.27 per cent — were arrested; charge sheets were submitted in six cases; and in nine fatal incidents no arrest was made [110]. Bangladesh has no standalone law on mob violence — such cases proceed under the Penal Code 1860 and related provisions — and in May 2026 the Home Minister stated that mob culture "may require a separate law or amendments for effective control" [111].

5. Violence Against Women and Children

Police-recorded rape cases rose from 5,566 in 2024 to 7,068 in 2025 — an increase of 27 per cent — of which 1,897 involved child victims; total recorded cases of violence against women and children rose 25 per cent, from 17,571 to 21,939 [69]. In the first half of 2025 alone, 2,744 rape cases were filed, slightly more than 15 a day [35]. Independent monitoring corroborates the direction of change: ASK's documentation tables record 749 rape and gang-rape victims in 2025, with 36 women murdered after rape, and a further 239 victims with 23 murders after rape in January–May 2026 [82; 24]; Bangladesh Mahila Parishad recorded 786 victims in 2025 against 516 in 2024 [24]; and Odhikar recorded 885 rape victims in 2025, of whom 508 — 57 per cent — were girls under 18 [99]. Child victimisation rose fastest: ASK recorded 306 child rape victims in January–July 2025 against 175 in the same period of 2024 [54]¹¹, and 118 child rapes with 17 child killed between 1 January and 20 May 2026 [3; 21]¹²; its child-killing tables record 410 children killed in 2025 and 152 in January–May 2026 [83], and its violence-against-children tables rise from 670 documented victims in 2024 to 1,024 in 2025 and 347 in January–May 2026 [84]. Every independent monitoring series that recorded victim age found a majority under 18 [10; 24; 49; 99].

The period produced significant legal change. Following the rape and death of an eight-year-old in Magura in March 2025 and the ensuing nationwide protests [43], the Women and Children Repression Prevention (Amendment) Ordinance 2025 was issued on 25 March 2025, halving the investigation deadline to 15 days and the trial deadline to 90 days, and relaxing the mandatory DNA-testing requirement [69]. Two documented cases show the system's capacity under public pressure: the Magura accused was sentenced to death on 17 May 2025, roughly ten weeks after a complaint was filed on 6 March 2025 [62], and in the Pallabi child rape and murder of May 2026 a charge sheet was filed within five days and death sentences followed a trial completed in four working days [63; 53].

The same documents show these outcomes to be exceptional. Of 413 cases filed under the Act in the Dhaka metropolitan area during March–May 2026, charge sheets were submitted in 65 within the period [53]¹³. At the end of 2025, 132,107 cases were pending before the 99 Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunals, including 30,365 pending for more than five years [69]. A Police Bureau of Investigation review of more than 11,000 rape cases filed between 2016

¹¹ Of the 306 child rape victims ASK recorded in January–July 2025, 49 were aged 0–6 and the remainder 7–17; cases were not filed in 152 of these instances [54].

¹² Of the 17 children killed, 14 died following completed rape and 3 following attempted rape. ASK also recorded 46 attempted child rapes in the same period, and 2 further child deaths by suicide following rape or attempted rape [3].

¹³ Police Headquarters recorded 5,448 cases nationwide under the Act in the same March–May 2026 period [53].

and 2023 found no supporting evidence in 44 per cent, while officials estimated that around 30 per cent of unproven cases were genuine but could not be established evidentially [69]. Reporting in the collection concludes that investigations advance faster when cases receive media coverage or advocacy from human rights organisations, while cases outside public attention often fail to progress at all [53].

6. Violence Affecting Religious Minorities

The collection documents attacks on Hindu, Sufi, Ahmadiyya, Christian and indigenous communities throughout the period, but the scale reported depends heavily on source and definition. Police examined 1,769 attacks and acts of vandalism between 5 and 20 August 2024 and assessed 1,234 as politically motivated, 20 as communal and 161 as false reports [30; 77]. Police records to December 2025 show 645 incidents involving minorities, of which 71 were assessed as having a clear communal element, including 38 cases of temple vandalism [39]. ASK's documentation tables record 147 incidents in 2024 (four deaths, 82 injured, 408 houses attacked), falling to 46 incidents in 2025 (one death) but with eight deaths in 26 incidents in January–May 2026 [85]; HRSS recorded 56 incidents over the seventeen months to January 2026, and 27 further attacks — including four temples and 19 homes — in January–March 2026 [65; 94; 95]. By contrast, the Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council (BHBCUC) reported 2,442 incidents between August 2024 and June 2025, and 2,711 by early 2026, including 92 killings and 133 attacks on temples [15; 39]. The available documents do not provide sufficient evidence to adjudicate between these counts; they differ principally in whether attacks on members of minorities are classified by motive (political, criminal or communal) or by the identity of the victim.

What individual cases establish is that religiously framed mob killings occurred. On 18 December 2025 Dipu Chandra Das, a Hindu garment worker in Bhaluka, was taken from his factory by a crowd, beaten, hanged from a tree and set on fire after an allegation of blasphemy that police subsequently stated they could not verify; 22 people were arrested and police described the investigation as a hate-crime inquiry [39; 74]¹⁴. On 31 December 2025 Khokon Chandra Das was beaten and set on fire in Shariatpur, reported as the third such attack in a month [15]. Attacks on Sufi shrines, Ahmadiyya Muslims and sites in the Chittagong Hill Tracts are documented, as is the role of online misinformation in mobilising crowds [77; 30; 27]¹⁵. The UK Home Office assessment concluded that religious minorities can generally practise their faith and are unlikely to face persecution from the state, while recording sporadic communal violence tied to political upheaval [30].

¹⁴ The killing sparked international outrage, including protests in India [39].

¹⁵ UK Home Office reporting describes the August 2024 violence as mixed in motive: retaliatory attacks targeted Awami League officials and supporters, police and pro-government media, while members of the Hindu community, Ahmadiyya Muslims and Chittagong Hill Tracts indigenous groups were also attacked, including burning of homes and some places of worship; motives ranged from religious and ethnic discrimination to revenge by political association, local land disputes and personal grievances, with some attackers identified as Jamaat-e-Islami or BNP supporters [30].

7. Attacks on Media and Journalists

On the night of 18–19 December 2025, following the death of Sharif Osman Hadi — a prominent figure of the 2024 uprising, shot on 12 December — crowds looted and set fire to the Dhaka offices of Prothom Alo and The Daily Star, and attacked the Chhayanaut cultural centre; regional newspaper offices in Kushtia, Khulna and Sylhet were also attacked [67; 22; 23]. Twenty-eight Daily Star journalists and staff were trapped on the building's roof for roughly four hours before an army-assisted rescue; both newspapers missed their print editions for the first time in histories of 33–35 and 27 years respectively; The Daily Star estimated its losses at about USD 2 million [50; 66; 67]. Thirty-seven arrests were made in the immediate aftermath and remained the only arrests three months later, when police said they had identified but not apprehended a man who had incited the violence online, while who had planned and orchestrated the attacks remained unclear [50]. The UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of expression condemned the attacks and argued that they reflected failures to address impunity and protect media freedom as Bangladesh prepared for elections [20].

The December events followed a documented pattern of pressure on journalists. By May 2025, at least 266 journalists had been implicated in criminal cases, the largest numbers in Dhaka (88), Sylhet (39) and Chattogram (36); at least 14 had been arrested, 13 of whom remained in jail. The Daily Star's analysis found overt political links for only about 18 per cent — about 50 — of the journalists prosecuted [80]. The monitoring series corroborate sustained pressure: HRSS documented 427 attack incidents affecting 834 journalists over the seventeen months to January 2026 — six killed, 379 injured, 33 arrested and 222 accused in 49 cases [94] — and a further 82 incidents affecting 183 journalists in January–March 2026 [95]; ASK's tables record 531 harassment incidents in 2024 (including 130 journalists named in murder cases after the 2024 movement), 381 in 2025 and 181 in January–May 2026, of which 14 involved action under the Cyber Security Act [88]; Odhikar recorded 320 incidents in 2025, including two killings [99]. MSF's monthly monitoring recorded 46 journalists harassed or abused in April 2026 and 34 in May, noting a shift towards legal harassment [56].

8. Organised Crime and Extortion

Dhaka Metropolitan Police records reported in May 2026 list 1,280 individuals actively involved in extortion in the capital, of whom 148 are identified as armed, organised in named groups controlling defined territories; documented rates ranged from Tk 200 to Tk 1,500 a day from pavement shops to Tk 10,000–20,000 a month from spa centres in Gulshan and Banani, with some groups directed by leaders abroad [4]. Reporting attributes part of the resurgence to listed "top criminals" who were released or returned after August 2024¹⁶ and re-established networks, generating turf conflicts and targeted killings; more than 1,000 weapons¹⁷ looted from police remain unrecovered [1]. One listed figure, Subrata Bain, was arrested by the army in May 2025 with associated arms seizures [4].

Outside the capital, an investigation of Gazipur identified 19 high-risk mugging zones, documented the killing of a journalist who filmed muggers, and recorded police attribution of rising street crime to the closure of 72 factories and the loss of roughly 200,000 jobs [42].

¹⁶ Violence has escalated since the August 2024 political changeover, according to law enforcement officials, who cited the return of gang leaders and convicted criminals released from prison or returned from abroad [1].

¹⁷ Omar Faruk, a criminology professor at Mawlana Bhashani Science and Technology University, noted that arms smuggling remains ongoing and that many criminals released after 5 August 2024 still possess weapons and continue committing crimes under political patronage [1].

Enforcement responses recurred throughout the period: Operation Devil Hunt from 8 February 2025 produced more than 9,000 arrests within weeks [31; 75]; a nationwide drive from 1 May 2026 produced over 18,000 [1]; and the DMP arrested 2,314 people in June 2026, including 1,446 for drug offences [37]. The documents record continuing incidents of the targeted crimes after each drive; none documents a sustained decline attributable to them [31; 1].

9. Institutional and Judicial Response; Conclusion

The collection documents an enforcement apparatus under strain throughout the period. Although 634 of 639 police stations had resumed operations by 13 August 2024 [30], police were repeatedly targeted — 560 to 601 cases of attacks on police were filed in overlapping twelve-month windows [62; 28] — and reporting records officers retreating from mob scenes in documented incidents [62]. Custodial safety deteriorated measurably: ASK's tables record 65 deaths in jail custody in 2024, 107 in 2025 and 52 in January–May 2026, alongside 21, 38 and nine extrajudicial or custodial deaths in law-enforcement operations in the same periods [86; 87]; Odhikar records 102 jail deaths, 33 extrajudicial killings and 223 death sentences passed in 2025 [99]; HRSS records 60 custody or clash deaths plus 127 prison deaths over seventeen months [94; 65]. In one documented case, the family of Touhidul Islam, who died in custody in January 2025, said police did not permit them to file a case or name a suspect, and that they signed only a statement police had drafted [19]. Political violence, treated here as context, killed between 158 (TIB, August 2024–December 2025) and 328 (Odhikar, to December 2025) people depending on source and period, with intra-party conflict the largest documented category [16; 64; 65]¹⁸; Odhikar's 2025 matrix alone records 238 deaths and 6,704 injured [99]. Around the 12 February 2026 election, HRSS's observation report — based on 565 observers across all 64 districts — recorded 10 deaths and 2,503 injuries in election-linked violence from October 2025 to 14 February 2026 [96; 97], and its quarterly report records 610 political-violence incidents in January–March 2026 with 36 deaths and 4,078 injured, peaking in February (346 incidents, 1,933 injured) with the highest monthly death toll in March (18), driven partly by post-election reprisals [95; 98]. ASK's table for January–May 2026 records 347 incidents with 55 deaths and 2,636 injured [89]. Transparency International Bangladesh's 2025 household survey bears directly on institutional capacity: 71.3 per cent of households seeking judicial services and 69.4 per cent seeking law-enforcement services reported corruption, bribery totalled an estimated Tk 12,633 crore in one year, and households below the poverty line spent on average 34 per cent of monthly income on bribes for law-enforcement services [71; 58].

Conclusion. The documents in the collection establish, with corroboration across independent sources: a measurable rise in most major categories of recorded crime; mob violence at its highest documented level in a decade, with limited prosecution follow-through; a sharp rise in reported sexual violence, in which every independent monitoring series that recorded age found a majority of victims to be minors; recurrent, sometimes fatal, violence affecting religious minorities whose overall scale remains contested between sources; an unprecedented attack on the country's two leading newspapers; and re-established extortion economies in the principal urban centres. The documents equally establish the state's capacity for rapid response where public attention concentrated — fast-track convictions, legal reform, repeated mass-arrest operations — alongside consistent evidence that routine cases stalled. The available documents

¹⁸ HRSS, *Human Rights Situation in Bangladesh (September 2024–January 2026)*, notes that of 1,411 documented political violence incidents, 704 (50 per cent) arose from internal BNP conflict, causing 121 deaths and 7,131 injuries; a further 204 incidents (14 per cent) involved clashes between the BNP and the Awami League. In total, 1,128 incidents (80 per cent) involved the BNP, either in internal disputes or in clashes with other parties [65; 94].

still do not provide sufficient evidence to measure underlying crime incidence independently of reporting effects, and the divergence between monitoring series — including within a single organisation's own publications — remains unresolved; the remaining gaps, and the documents that would close them, are set out in Appendix G.

References

All sources are numbered as in the complete inventory (Appendix A). Duplicate file (51) is listed for completeness and was not cited independently; source 60 is a near-duplicate of 59, cited where its wording is more precise. Most documents were collected as PDF captures of web publications; as stable pagination is not available across the collection, page numbers are omitted throughout. URLs are those recorded in the documents themselves and in the accompanying Excel index at the time of collection.

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Appendix A — Complete Source Inventory

The first stage of the collection comprised eighty files, of which two (51, 60) are duplicates of other items, leaving 78 distinct documents; an Excel index created during the collection process, recording 203 news article URLs together with their publication dates and newspaper names, was used to verify dates, outlets, and URLs. The second stage comprised 270 further files: 12 case-update and election-related newspaper articles and 258 primary-source documents (ASK cumulative statistical tables across nine categories from January 2024 to May 2026; MSF monthly and annual reports; HRSS and Odhikar reports; the original GCDG report). Second-stage sources are registered as numbers 81–107, with each ASK category series and each MSF monthly series registered as a single numbered entry. A final stage added the official Police Headquarters monthly crime-statistics tables (January–December 2024 and September 2025 – May 2026, registered as 108 and 112), Dhaka Metropolitan Police monthly crime-data tables (2025–2026, registered as 109) and two publications examining prosecution outcomes and the legal framework for mob violence (registered as 110 and 111). Full URLs appear in the References.

No.	Publication	Date	Title	Primary category
1	The Daily Star	16 June 2026	10 killings a day fuel concerns over law and order	Crime statistics / organised crime
2	Prothom Alo	02 September 2025	115 women, girls murdered and raped in August: Mahila Parishad report	Violence against women and children
3	The Business Standard	21 May 2026	118 children victims of rape since January: Ain o Salish Kendra	Violence against women and children
4	Prothom Alo	08 May 2026	148 armed extortionists active across city, concentrated at crime hotspots	Organised crime / policing
5	The Daily Star	20 September 2024	Lynch mobs acting with impunity	Mob violence
6	The Business Standard	28 June 2026	3 bodies recovered from Turag in 2 days	Human rights / policing
7	Prothom Alo	11 October 2025	35pc of girl child abuse cases involve rape	Violence against women and children
8	The Daily Star	04 October 2025	390 girls raped in first eight months this year	Violence against women and children
9	The Daily Star	30 September 2024	44 deaths in mob violence in 2 months (MSF report)	Mob violence / political violence
10	The Daily Star	26 August 2025	60% of rape victims aged under 18	Violence against women and children
11	The Daily Star	20 May 2026	8-year-old girl found beheaded	Violence against women and children
12	The Daily Star (editorial)	01 July 2026	Acknowledge the rape epidemic	Violence against women and children / judiciary
13	The Daily Star (editorial)	22 May 2026	An alarming surge in brutal killings	Crime statistics
14	Prothom Alo (opinion, Asif Bin Ali)	20 December 2025	Attack on Prothom Alo, The Daily Star and old politics in a new garb	Media / mob violence
15	Religion Unplugged	05 January 2026	Attacks on Hindus exposes Bangladesh's failing political transition	Minorities / mob violence
16	The Daily Star	03 February 2026	Aug 2024-Dec 2025: 158 killed in 600 incidents of political violence (TIB)	Political violence / judiciary

No.	Publication	Date	Title	Primary category
17	Deutsche Welle	30 December 2024	Bangladesh: Are human rights eroding under Muhammad Yunus?	Human rights / minorities / media
18	India Tribune (IANS)	03 August 2025	Bangladesh: Over 635 people killed in mob lynching incidents since August 2024	Mob violence
19	Deutsche Welle	10 November 2025	Bangladesh: Rights abuses after Hasina's ouster spark fear	Human rights / mob violence
20	UN OHCHR (Special Rapporteur)	23 December 2025	Bangladesh: UN expert outraged by violent attacks against Daily Star and Prothom Alo	Media
21	Dhaka Tribune	22 May 2026	Bangladesh child abuse crisis: 118 girls raped, 17 murdered in four months	Violence against women and children
22	Prothom Alo	22 December 2025	Attacks on Prothom Alo, Daily Star, 2 cultural organisations: 31 suspects identified, 9 arrested	Media
23	Reuters	22 December 2025	Bangladesh editors warn of 'fight for survival' as mob violence targets media	Media / political violence
24	Dhaka Tribune	02 February 2026	Bangladesh sees sharp rise in rape cases, with girls most at risk	Violence against women and children
25	BBC World Service	21 March 2026	Bangladeshi newspapers attacked by mob	Media
26	The Daily Star	24 June 2026	Bangladesh's digital future can't be built without addressing women's fear	Online violence against women
27	The Daily Star	29 August 2025	Bangladesh's new epidemic: Mob violence in the age of misinformation	Mob violence
28	Prothom Alo	20 January 2026	Cases of robberies, street mugging increase by 39pc	Crime statistics
29	The Daily Star	28 September 2025	Child abuse now a national crisis (LEEDO)	Violence against women and children
30	UK Home Office	June 2025 (updated 28 April 2026)	Country policy and information note: religious minorities and atheists, Bangladesh (v4.0)	Minorities
31	The Daily Star	24 February 2025	Crime rates spike	Crime statistics / policing
32	IANS	08 January 2026	Crime surge grips Bangladesh in 2025, women and children worst hit	Crime statistics
33	Dhaka Tribune	08 June 2026	Crime surges in govt's first 100 days, says Rumeen Farhana	Crime statistics / parliament
34	Dhaka Tribune	24 November 2025	Crime trends raise concern ahead of the national poll	Crime statistics / policing
35	The Daily Star (analysis)	15 July 2025	Crime 'stable' at 11 murders, 15 rapes a day	Crime statistics
36	BBC	24 December 2025	Crisis in India-Bangladesh relations spirals amid violent protests	Minorities / political violence
37	Prothom Alo (BSS)	01 July 2026	DMP arrests 2,314 in month-long special drive in Dhaka	Policing
38	Prothom Alo	8 April 2025	Dhaka records 17 gang rape, 216 rape cases in just 7 months	Violence against women and children
39	BBC	16 February 2026	'Dragged out and set on fire': the Bangladesh mob killing that shocked the world	Minorities / mob violence

No.	Publication	Date	Title	Primary category
40	Prothom Alo	26 June 2025	Drug addicts stand at 8.3 million in Bangladesh	Narcotics
41	The Daily Star	2 March 2026	Ensure probe into recent rape, murder cases (Rape Law Reform Coalition)	Violence against women and children
42	Prothom Alo	23 August 2025	Fear descends on industrial city after dusk, 19 areas identified as high-risk	Organised crime / urban security
43	BBC	14 March 2025	Fierce protests as eight-year-old rape victim dies in Bangladesh	Violence against women and children
44	The Business Standard	26 August 2024	Gazi Tyre factory fire brought under control after 22 hours: Fire Service	Mob violence / arson
45	New Age (editorial)	28 June 2026	Govt must curb public service delivery corruption	Corruption
46	NPR	25 March 2026	Hindu minority in Bangladesh faces surge in attacks after 2024 uprising	Minorities
47	The Guardian	24 December 2025	How hope is fading: the mobs bringing violence back to the streets of Bangladesh	Mob violence / media
48	The Diplomat	01 December 2025	Human Rights Violations Persist Under Bangladesh's Interim Government	Human rights
49	The Daily Star	09 December 2025	Human rights report paints a grim picture (HRSS)	Human rights / mob violence
50	BBC	26 February 2026	'I can't breathe any more': Inside the night a mob burned a newspaper	Media / mob violence
51	BBC	26 February 2026	(duplicate of source 50)	
52	The Guardian	05 December 2024	India-Bangladesh relations sour as tensions rise over attacks on Hindu minority	Minorities
53	Prothom Alo	17 June 2026	Investigations in rape and murder cases stall when cases lack public attention	Judiciary / violence against women and children
54	The Daily Star	28 August 2025	It's a national crisis (child rape)	Violence against women and children
55	The Daily Star	01 February 2026	Mob killings double in Jan (MSF)	Mob violence / human rights
56	Prothom Alo	31 May 2026	Mob kills 32 in May, 53 unidentified bodies recovered: MSF	Mob violence / human rights
57	The Daily Star	24 June 2025	Mob violence now alarmingly routine	Mob violence
58	The Business Standard	25 June 2026	More families faced bribery, corruption under interim govt than in 2023: TIB	Corruption
59	Prothom Alo	17 July 2025	Murder cases on the rise in first half of 2025: Police statistics	Crime statistics
60	Prothom Alo	15 July 2025	Murders on the rise in 6 months (near-duplicate of source 59)	Crime statistics
61	Prothom Alo	31 October 2025	Odhikar report: 40 victims of extrajudicial killings in 14 months of interim govt	Human rights
62	Prothom Alo	16 August 2025	One year of interim govt: 4 types of crime on rise, controlling 'mob' is the challenge	Crime statistics / mob violence
63	New Age	24 May 2026	Pallabi child rape, murder: Charge sheet filed	Judiciary
64	The Daily Star	14 October 2025	Political violence hits four-year high (HRSS)	Political violence

No.	Publication	Date	Title	Primary category
65	The Daily Star	05 February 2026	Political violence kills 195 in 17 months (HRSS; Odhikar)	Political violence / human rights
66	Reuters	19 December 2025	Presses fall silent after mobs torch offices of Bangladesh's top newspapers	Media
67	Prothom Alo	20 December 2025	Prothom Alo, The Daily Star attacked	Media / mob violence
68	The Daily Star	22 May 2026	Ramisa killing exposes child protection gaps	Violence against women and children
69	Prothom Alo	08 March 2026	Rape cases rise 27pc in one year	Violence against women and children / judiciary
70	New Age	31 March 2026	Rape, political violence rise in March (MSF)	Violence against women and children / political violence
71	New Age	25 June 2026	Service sector corruption worsens: TIB	Corruption
72	Dhaka Tribune	25 June 2026	TIB: Passport services top corruption list	Corruption
73	Dhaka Tribune	25 June 2026	TIB: Public paid Tk12,633cr in bribes over one year	Corruption
74	Bangladesh Pratidin	29 December 2025	The terrifying face of mob lynching	Mob violence
75	Prothom Alo	05 February 2026	Thousands arrested on political grounds, bail denied (HRW World Report 2026 coverage)	Human rights / judiciary
76	Prothom Alo	25 June 2026	Tk 126.33b paid in bribes in 1 year during interim govt: TIB	Corruption
77	USCIRF	July 2025	Factsheet: Bangladesh (religious freedom)	Minorities
78	The Daily Star	19 September 2024	We cannot let mobs be the judge, jury and executioner	Mob violence
79	The Guardian	11 February 2026	'Women's freedoms are at stake': concern at rise of Islamist party before election	Political context
80	The Daily Star	02 May 2025	World press freedom day: 266 journalists face criminal cases so far	Media / judiciary
81	Ain o Salish Kendra (Documentation Unit)	2022-2026	Mob beats to death (division-wise): statistical tables for 2022-2023, Jan-Dec 2024, Jan-Dec 2025 and Jan-May 2026	Primary statistics - mob violence
82	Ain o Salish Kendra (Documentation Unit)	2024-2026	Violence Against Women (Rape): statistical tables for Jan-Dec 2024, Jan-Dec 2025 and Jan-May 2026	Primary statistics - rape
83	Ain o Salish Kendra (Documentation Unit)	2025-2026	Child Killed: statistical tables for Jan-Dec 2024, Jan-Dec 2025 and Jan-May 2026	Primary statistics - child killings
84	Ain o Salish Kendra (Documentation Unit)	2025-2026	Violence Against Children: statistical tables for Jan-Dec 2024, Jan-Dec 2025 and Jan-May 2026	Primary statistics - child abuse
85	Ain o Salish Kendra (Documentation Unit)	2025-2026	Violence Against Religious Minorities: statistical tables for Jan-Dec 2024, Jan-Dec 2025 and Jan-May 2026	Primary statistics - minorities

No.	Publication	Date	Title	Primary category
86	Ain o Salish Kendra (Documentation Unit)	2025-2026	Death in Jail Custody (division-wise): statistical tables for Jan-Dec 2024, Jan-Dec 2025 and Jan-May 2026	Primary statistics - custody
87	Ain o Salish Kendra (Documentation Unit)	2025-2026	Extra-Judicial Killings and Custodial Death: statistical tables for Jan-Dec 2024, Jan-Dec 2025 and Jan-May 2026	Primary statistics - extrajudicial killings
88	Ain o Salish Kendra (Documentation Unit)	2025-2026	Journalist Harassment: statistical tables for Jan-Dec 2024, Jan-Dec 2025 and Jan-May 2026	Primary statistics - journalists
89	Ain o Salish Kendra (Documentation Unit)	2026	Political Violence: statistical table for Jan-May 2026	Primary statistics - political violence
90	Manabadhikar Shongskriti Foundation (MSF)	2025	Annual Human Rights Monitoring Report 2024	Monitoring report (annual)
91	Manabadhikar Shongskriti Foundation (MSF)	2026	Annual Human Rights Report 2025	Monitoring report (annual)
92	Manabadhikar Shongskriti Foundation (MSF)	2024-2025	Monthly Human Rights Monitoring Reports: Nov 2024; Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, May, Jun, Aug, Sep, Oct, Nov 2025	Monitoring reports (monthly series)
93	Manabadhikar Shongskriti Foundation (MSF)	2026	Monthly Human Rights Monitoring Reports: Jan-May 2026 (incl. 1-15 Feb situation analysis and May 2026 gender-based violence report)	Monitoring reports (monthly series)
94	Human Rights Support Society (HRSS)	04 February 2026	Human Rights Situation in Bangladesh, September 2024 - January 2026 (Bengali)	Monitoring report (17 months)
95	Human Rights Support Society (HRSS)	11 April 2026	Quarterly Human Rights Monitoring Report, January-March 2026 (Bengali)	Monitoring report (quarterly)
96	The Daily Star	15 February 2026	10 killed, 2,503 injured in election-related violence in 3.5 months: rights organisation (HRSS observation report)	Election violence
97	The Business Standard	15 February 2026	Poll-related violence over four months leaves 10 dead, 2,503 injured: HRSS	Election violence
98	The Daily Star	03 March 2026	Feb 2026 marked by violence centring election; 10 killed, 1,933 hurt: HRSS	Election violence
99	Odhikar	04 February 2026	Annual Human Rights Report 2025 (AHRR, English)	Monitoring report (annual)
100	Global Center for Democratic Governance (GCDG)	03 August 2025	Bangladesh Completes a Year of Mob Rule and Violence in the Shadows of Power	Mob violence (primary report)
101	Dhaka Tribune	10 March 2026	DU Tofazzal lynching: Chargesheet against 28, warrants for 22	Judicial development

No.	Publication	Date	Title	Primary category
102	The Business Standard	10 March 2026	Tofazzal lynching at DU: Court accepts supplementary chargesheet against 28; 22 now wanted	Judicial development
103	Prothom Alo	12 May 2026	Lal Chand murder at Old Dhaka: Charge sheet still stalled after 5 months over spelling errors	Judicial development
104	The Financial Express	02 January 2026	21 to face trial for killing Mitford scrap trader Sohag with boulder	Judicial development
105	Akashvani News	09 January 2026	Bangladesh Police arrest prime accused in lynching of Hindu garment worker Dipu Chandra Das	Judicial development
106	The Daily Star	31 May 2026	Mob violence kills 32 in May, highest in 6 months: MSF	Mob violence (monthly)
107	The Daily Star	30 April 2026	21 killed in mob violence in April: MSF	Mob violence (monthly)
108	Bangladesh Police (Police Headquarters)	2025-2026	Crime Statistics: monthly unit-wise tables, September-December 2025 and January-May 2026	Official crime statistics
109	Dhaka Metropolitan Police	2025-2026	Crime Data: monthly tables, January 2025 - May 2026	Official crime statistics
110	ISHR (ishr.org)	17 November 2025	An Impunity Crisis: The Deadly Surge of Mob Violence in Bangladesh (citing ASK data and a Prothom Alo analysis of 46 incidents)	Mob violence / impunity analysis
111	Dhaka Tribune (Tanvir Hasan)	13 May 2026	Can new law stop mob violence?	Legal framework / institutional response
112	Bangladesh Police (Police Headquarters)	2024–2025	Crime Statistics, January–December 2024: monthly tables and annual summary	Official crime statistics

Appendix B — Chronological List of Documented Incidents

This appendix lists individually documented incidents in date order. Aggregate statistics appear in Appendix E. The Sources column gives the numbered documents (as listed in the References and Appendix A) that report each incident.

Date	Location	Incident	Sources
25-26 Aug 2024	Narayanganj (Rupganj)	Gazi Tyre factory looted and set ablaze; around 173 people reported missing by relatives; fire burned for more than 22 hours. A later monitoring report attributed 182 deaths to this event.	44; 18
11 Aug - 19 Sep 2024	14 districts	21 people beaten to death by mobs in 38 days, including in Dhaka, Dinajpur, Bogura, Rajshahi, Khulna, Chattogram, Gazipur, Faridpur and Barishal; 11 cases filed, 8 arrests at the time of reporting.	5
7 Sep 2024	Rajshahi	Abdullah Al Masud, a physically disabled former student leader, beaten to death near Rajshahi University.	78
Sep 2024	Dhaka (JU and DU)	Former Chhatra League leader Shamim (Molla/Ahmed) beaten to death at Jahangirnagar University; Tofazzal Hossain, described as mentally unstable, beaten to death at a Dhaka University hall.	5; 78; 74
Aug-Sep 2024	National	MSF recorded 53 mob-violence incidents with 44 deaths, and 12 attacks on shrines (1 dead, 43 injured); 3 indigenous citizens reported killed in September.	9
Sep-Oct 2024	Chittagong Hill Tracts	Attacks involving indigenous communities and settlers left at least four people dead; temples reported vandalised.	77
Nov 2024	Chattogram	Arrest of Chinmoy Krishna Das on sedition charges; a lawyer died amid subsequent clashes; an estimated 30,000 Hindus demonstrated for protection during the same month.	52; 77
Jan 2025	National	16 people killed in mob violence during the month; abduction of physician Aminur Rahman in Gazipur (11 Jan); death in custody of Touhidul Islam in Cumilla.	31; 62; 19
Jan 2025	National	Global Sufi Organisation alleged more than 80 shrine attacks in six months; the government confirmed at least 40 sites targeted in 44 attacks since 4 August 2024.	31
Feb 2025	National	'Operation Devil Hunt' launched; more than 9,000 arrests reported within weeks (8,600+ per HRW).	31; 75
Feb 2025	Dhaka	Robbery and sexual assault aboard a moving bus drew national attention.	31
5-13 Mar 2025	Magura	Eight-year-old child raped while visiting her sister's home; died on 13 March; nationwide protests followed.	43
Mar 2025	National	Women and Children Repression Prevention (Amendment) Ordinance 2025 issued: investigation limit 15 days, trial limit 90 days, DNA-test requirement relaxed.	69; 7
Mar 2025	National	Peak month for political-violence deaths in Odhikar's 14-month series (44 deaths).	61
13 May 2025	Dhaka (Tejgaon)	Body of Roja Mani (4) found; the case drew widespread outrage.	32
17 May 2025	Magura	Hitu Sheikh sentenced to death in the Magura child rape-murder case, roughly ten weeks after the offence.	62
27 May 2025	Kushtia	Subrata Bain and Molla Masud, listed top criminals, arrested by the army; firearms seized in follow-up operations.	4
22 Jun 2025	Dhaka (Uttara)	Former Chief Election Commissioner K M Nurul Huda assaulted by a mob at his home; one suspect arrested.	57
9 Jul 2025	Dhaka (Mitford)	Scrap trader Lal Chand (Sohag) beaten to death in public; footage circulated widely; main accused reported still at large in December 2025.	59; 74; 18

Date	Location	Incident	Sources
16 Jul 2025	Gopalganj	Violence surrounding a political rally left five people dead.	75
7 Aug 2025	Gazipur	Journalist Asaduzzaman Tuhin hacked to death after filming muggers.	42
9 Aug 2025	Rangpur (Taraganj)	Rupalal Das and Pradip Lal beaten to death on suspicion of van theft; six arrested, reportedly bailed within a week.	62; 74
Sep 2025	National	Peak month in Odhikar's series for mob-killing incidents (18) and attacks on journalists (34).	61
11 Dec 2025	National	13th parliamentary election schedule announced; 15 political leaders and activists killed within the following 36 days.	16
12-18 Dec 2025	Dhaka	Sharif Osman Hadi shot on 12 December (Purana Paltan); died 18 December in Singapore.	67; 23
Dec 2025	Mymensingh (Bhaluka)	Garment worker Dipu Chandra Das lynched and his body burned after an unverified blasphemy allegation; 22 arrests; police estimated about 150 people directly involved.	39; 74
18-19 Dec 2025	Dhaka and regional cities	Offices of Prothom Alo and The Daily Star vandalised, looted and set on fire; 28 staff trapped on the Daily Star roof; both papers missed print editions for the first time; Chhayanaut cultural centre also attacked; 37 arrests in the immediate aftermath.	67; 66; 50; 22
Dec 2025	Shariatpur	Khokon Chandra Das, 50, beaten and set on fire; reported as the third such attack in a month.	15
18 Dec 2025	Dhaka	PBI filed a charge sheet naming 28 accused in the Dhaka University (Tofazzal Hossain) lynching; the court accepted it on 10 March 2026 and issued arrest warrants for 22 absconding accused, four being in custody.	101; 102
Dec 2025	Dhaka	Charge sheet filed against 21 accused in the Mitford (Lal Chand) killing; returned by the court for corrections and reported still stalled five months later (eight absconding; 10 further suspects recommended for discharge).	103; 104
Jan 2026	Mymensingh / Dhaka	Prime accused in the Bhaluka (Dipu Chandra Das) lynching arrested; arrests reached 21, with nine confessional statements recorded.	105
Jan 2026	National	MSF: 21 mob-violence deaths (up from 10 in December); 57 unidentified bodies recovered; 15 deaths in prison custody; 4 killed and 509 injured in election-related clashes.	55
12 Feb 2026	National	13th parliamentary election held; BNP won (reported mid-February).	46; 79
Mar 2026	National	MSF: 66 rape incidents (50 in February); 19 mob-violence deaths; 14 political-violence deaths in 56 incidents.	70
Jan-Mar 2026	National	HRSS quarterly report: 610 political-violence incidents (36 dead, 4,078 injured; February peak with 346 incidents); 395 election-centred incidents (12 dead, 2,573 injured; 600+ properties attacked); 88 mob-violence incidents (49 dead); 82 attacks affecting 183 journalists; 27 attacks on minorities.	95
24 Apr 2026	Faridpur	Child killed after attempted rape; body concealed in a septic tank; suspect Israfil Mridha and alleged accomplices arrested.	21
1 May - Jun 2026	National	Nationwide special police drive; more than 18,000 arrests reported by mid-June; DMP arrested 2,314 in June, including 1,446 in drug cases.	1; 37
19-24 May 2026	Dhaka (Pallabi)	Ramisa Akter, 8, raped and murdered; suspect detained the same day; charge sheet filed within five days; the trial later concluded with death sentences within four working days.	11; 63; 53
May 2026	National	MSF: 69 mob-violence incidents, 32 deaths (21 in April); 53 unidentified bodies recovered.	56
24-26 Jun 2026	Dhaka (Turag river)	Three bodies recovered in two days; police reported 170 unnatural-death cases in Dhaka district during March-May 2026.	6

Appendix C — Crime Classification Table

Category	Evidence type	Key documented figures	Sources
Murder / homicide	Police case series 2020-2025; monthly data 2025-2026; district ranges for March-May 2026	3,023 cases (2023); 3,432 (2024, official annual table; a press-wing release reported 4,114); 3,786 (2025); 1,933 in Jan-Jun 2025; 915 in Mar-May 2026; official PHQ monthly tables: 279 (Nov 2025), 287 (Jan 2026)	112; 59; 28; 1; 108; 109
Mob violence / lynching	Five independent monitoring series (ASK, HRSS, MSF, Odhikar, GCDG)	ASK final tables: 128 deaths (2024), 198 (2025), 89 (Jan-May 2026); other 2025 counts: Odhikar 125, HRSS 156 (11 months), MSF monthly sum 166, MSF annual 460 (internally divergent); GCDG: 637 deaths Aug 2024-Jul 2025 (incl. mass-casualty arson)	81; 99; 49; 92; 91; 100; 74
Rape and sexual violence	Police case data; BMP, ASK, Odhikar, HRSS	Police: 5,566 rape cases (2024) to 7,068 (2025); BMP: 516 to 786 victims; ASK tables: 749 (2025), 239 (Jan-May 2026); Odhikar: 885 (2025, 57% under 18); majority of victims under 18 in all series	69; 24; 82; 99; 10; 49; 8
Child abuse and child killing	ASK, LEEDO, case reporting	ASK: child rape +75% Jan-Jul 2025 vs 2024 (306 vs 175); 118 child rapes 1 Jan-20 May 2026; 115 children killed Jan-Apr 2026	54; 3; 21; 13; 29
Robbery, snatching, theft, abduction	Police case data 2024-2025	2025: snatching 1,935 (+37%); robbery 702 (+43%); theft 9,672 (+12%); abduction 1,101 (+71%); dacoity 1,156 (Aug 2024-Jul 2025) vs 330 prior year	28; 62
Extortion and organised crime	DMP records; investigative reporting (Dhaka, Gazipur)	1,280 listed extortionists, 148 armed (May 2026); named gangs and territories; documented extortion rates	4; 1; 42
Political violence	HRSS, Odhikar, MSF series; TIB report	TIB: 600 incidents, 158 deaths (Aug 2024-Dec 2025); HRSS: 195 deaths in 1,411 incidents (Sep 2024-Jan 2026) and 610 incidents/36 deaths in Q1 2026; Odhikar: 328 deaths (Aug 2024 to Dec 2025), 238 in 2025 alone; ASK Jan-May 2026: 347 incidents, 55 deaths; intra-party conflict predominant	16; 64; 65; 94; 95; 99; 89; 70
Attacks on media / journalists	Event reporting; HRSS, Daily Star casework analysis, UN OHCHR, ASK	18-19 Dec 2025 arson of two leading newspapers; 266 journalists in criminal cases by May 2025; HRSS: 427 incidents/834 journalists in 17 months (6 killed); ASK: 531 (2024), 381 (2025), 181 (Jan-May 2026)	66; 67; 80; 94; 88; 20
Violence affecting minorities	Police classifications; ASK, HRSS; community-organisation counts; UK Home Office; USCIRF	Counts diverge sharply: police 20 communal of 1,769 (Aug 2024) and 71 communal of 645 (to Dec 2025); ASK tables: 147 incidents/4 deaths (2024), 46/1 (2025), 26/8 (Jan-May 2026); BHCUC: 2,442-2,711 incidents; two fatal blasphemy-linked lynchings documented	30; 77; 85; 39; 15; 65
Custodial deaths / extrajudicial killings	HRSS, Odhikar, MSF monitoring	ASK tables: jail deaths 65 (2024), 107 (2025), 52 (Jan-May 2026); Odhikar 2025: 102 jail deaths, 33 extrajudicial killings; HRSS: 60 custody/clash deaths plus 127 prison deaths (Sep 2024-Jan 2026)	86; 87; 99; 65; 94; 55; 48
Corruption in justice institutions	TIB National Household Survey 2025	Judiciary: 71.3% of service-seeking households reported corruption; law enforcement: 69.4%; total bribery Tk 12,633 crore (Nov 2024-Oct 2025)	71; 58; 76; 72; 73
Narcotics	Department of Narcotics Control survey	8.3 million users estimated (4.89% of population); 104 high-risk border points; 1,446 drug-related arrests in one DMP monthly drive	40; 37

Appendix D — District-Wise Documented Incidents and Data

The collection is national reporting, not a district census; this table records only what the collected documents attribute to specific districts. Where a source reports at division level — notably ASK's division-wise mob-violence tables — the entry is labelled accordingly.

District	Documented incidents / data	Sources
Dhaka	81 mob-violence deaths in 2025 (division-wise, highest; 78 in Jan-Nov); 216 rape and 17 gang-rape cases Aug 2024-Mar 2025; 1,280 listed extortionists; Pallabi child murder; Mitford lynching; Dec 2025 media arson; Dhaka Range 207 murder cases Mar-May 2026	81; 74; 38; 4; 11; 67; 1
Chattogram	36 mob-violence deaths in 2025 (division-wise); Raozan upazila: at least 25 killed since Aug 2024, over 100 shooting/clash incidents; Sitakunda child rape-murder (Mar 2026); Fatikchhari mob killing of a 15-year-old	1; 21; 27
Khulna	19 mob-violence deaths in 2025 (division-wise); lynching of Siraj Hawlader (Sep 2024); BNP activist shot dead and mosque shooting (Jun 2026); Prothom Alo office attacked (Dec 2025)	74; 5; 1; 67
Gazipur	19 identified high-risk crime zones; journalist Asaduzzaman Tuhin murdered; 863 mugging arrests Jan-Jul 2025; 72 factory closures with about 200,000 workers unemployed cited by police as a factor	42
Narayanganj	Gazi Tyre factory arson (Aug 2024, up to 182 deaths per one monitoring report); journalist prosecutions	44; 18; 80
Mymensingh	13 mob-violence deaths in 2025 (division-wise); Bhaluka lynching of Dipu Chandra Das (Dec 2025)	74; 39; 81
Rangpur	12 mob-violence deaths in 2025 (division-wise); Taraganj double lynching (Aug 2025); women's football matches stopped	81; 74; 62; 57
Rajshahi	17 mob-violence deaths in 2025 (division-wise); RU lynching (Sep 2024); 106 murder cases Mar-May 2026 (range)	78; 1
Barishal	16 mob-violence deaths in 2025 (division-wise); lynching Aug 2024	81; 74; 5
Sylhet	4 mob-violence deaths in 2025 (division-wise); 39 journalists prosecuted (second-highest); Prothom Alo office attacked	74; 80; 67
Magura	Child rape-murder (Mar 2025) that prompted the 2025 Ordinance; death sentence in about ten weeks	43; 62; 69
Shariatpur	Shrine attacks (2024); lynching of Khokon Chandra Das (Dec 2025)	9; 15
Cumilla	Custody death of Touhidul Islam (Jan 2025); Muradnagar schoolgirl abduction-rape (Apr 2026)	19; 53
Faridpur	Lynching death of Shahin Sikder (Nov 2025, no arrests reported); child murder after attempted rape (Apr 2026)	74; 21
Pabna	Chhatra Dal leader killed (Apr 2026); grandmother and granddaughter murdered, granddaughter raped (Feb-Mar 2026)	1; 69; 41
Bandarban	Thanchi rape-murder of Chingma Khiyang (May 2025, unresolved); 17 Tripura community houses burned (Dec 2024)	53; 17
Gopalganj	Five killed in July 2025 violence	75
Jashore	Hotel arson with 24 deaths (Aug 2024, per GCDG report)	18
Bogura	lynchings (Aug-Sep 2024); four AL-affiliated detainees died in prison within 29 days (2024)	5; 17
Cox's Bazar	Teknaf child murder (Oct 2025); Ukhiya gang rape and death (Mar 2026)	7; 69
Netrokona	Madrasa child rape case (Nov 2025)	21
Kushtia	Arrest of Subrata Bain (May 2025); Prothom Alo office attacked (Dec 2025)	4; 67
Narsingdi	Girl gang raped and later killed after family sought justice locally (Feb 2026)	69

Appendix E — Timeline of Key Monitoring Data, August 2024 – June 2026

Period	Documented data points	Sources
Aug-Sep 2024	MSF: 44 mob-violence deaths in 53 incidents; 12 shrine attacks	9
2024 (full year)	ASK tables: 128 mob deaths (Dhaka division 57); 65 jail-custody deaths; 531 journalist-harassment incidents; 147 minority incidents (4 deaths). MSF annual: 169 mass-beating incidents, 146 killed; 701 political-violence incidents, 89 killed	81; 86; 88; 85; 90
Jan 2025	MSF: 12 mob deaths; 49 unidentified bodies; police-recorded crime at six-year monthly highs	92; 31
Feb 2025	MSF: 8 mob deaths; Operation Devil Hunt launched 8 Feb	92; 31
Mar 2025	MSF: 13 mob deaths; Odhikar: peak month for political-violence deaths (44)	92; 61
Apr 2025	MSF: 10 mob deaths	92
May 2025	MSF: 9 mob deaths; 55 unidentified bodies	92
Jun 2025	MSF: 10 mob deaths; ASK first-half total 83	92; 57
Jul 2025	MSF: 16 mob deaths (reported in the August report; no July monthly report issued); Mitford killing (9 Jul); GCDG cumulative count 637 (Aug 2024-Jul 2025)	92; 74; 100
Aug 2025	MSF: 23 mob deaths	92
Sep 2025	MSF: 24 mob deaths (2025 monthly peak); Odhikar: 19 lynching deaths	92; 99
Oct 2025	MSF: 12 mob deaths; 13 shrine-attack incidents; HRSS election-violence observation period begins	92; 96
Nov 2025	MSF: 19 mob deaths	92
Dec 2025	MSF: 10 mob deaths; 48 unidentified bodies; election schedule announced (11 Dec); Hadi assassination and media arson (12-19 Dec)	93; 55; 16; 67
2025 (full year)	ASK tables: 198 mob deaths (Dhaka division 81); 749 rape victims (36 murdered after rape); 410 children killed; 1,024 child-abuse victims; 107 jail-custody deaths; 46 minority incidents; 381 journalist-harassment incidents. Odhikar: 125 lynching deaths; 885 rape victims; 238 political-violence deaths; 102 jail deaths; 33 extrajudicial killings. MSF annual: 460 mass-beating deaths in 428 incidents (diverges from MSF monthly series). Police: 3,786 murder cases; 21,939 VAWC cases	81; 82; 83; 84; 86; 85; 88; 99; 91; 28; 69
Jan 2026	MSF: 21 mob deaths; 57 unidentified bodies; 15 prison deaths. HRSS: 151 political-violence incidents, 8 dead	93; 55; 95
Feb 2026	MSF: 18 mob deaths; election held 12 Feb. HRSS: 346 political-violence incidents, 10 dead, 1,933 injured (monthly peak)	93; 95; 98
Mar 2026	MSF: 19 mob deaths. HRSS: 113 political-violence incidents, 18 dead (highest monthly death toll of the quarter)	93; 70; 95
Apr 2026	MSF: 21 mob deaths; 56 unidentified bodies	93; 107; 56
May 2026	MSF: 32 mob deaths in 69 incidents; 53 unidentified bodies	93; 106; 56
Oct 2025 - 14 Feb 2026	HRSS election observation (565 observers, 64 districts): 700+ election-linked incidents, 10 killed, 2,503 injured	96; 97
Jan-May 2026 (cumulative)	ASK tables: 89 mob deaths; 239 rape victims (23 murdered after rape); 152 children killed; 347 incidents of violence against children; 52 jail-custody deaths; 347 political-violence incidents (55 dead, 2,636 injured); 26 minority incidents (8 dead); 181 journalist-harassment incidents	81; 82; 83; 84; 86; 89; 85; 88
Mar-May 2026	Police: 915 murder cases; 5,448 WCRPA (Women and Children Repression Prevention Act) cases; nationwide special drive from 1 May (18,000+ arrests)	1; 53

Appendix F — Evidence Matrix

Finding	Supporting sources
Police-recorded murder cases rose from 3,023 (2023) to 3,432 (2024, official annual table; 4,114 per a press-wing release) and 3,786-3,866 (2025, depending on the twelve-month window); H1 2025 exceeded any equivalent period since 2020	112; 59; 60; 28; 62; 35
January 2025 recorded six-year monthly highs in murder, robbery and abduction cases	31
Robbery and snatching cases rose 39% and abduction cases 71% in 2025; dacoity cases more than tripled in the first post-transition year	28; 62
Mob-violence deaths reached their highest documented level in a decade; ASK's final table records 198 deaths in 2025 (51 in 2023, 128 in 2024) and 89 in January-May 2026; other 2025 series: Odhikar 125, HRSS 156 (11 months), MSF monthly sum 166, MSF annual 460 (internally divergent)	81; 57; 99; 49; 92; 91
Prosecution in major lynching cases advanced only after long delays: the DU charge sheet (28 accused) was accepted in March 2026 with 22 accused absconding; the Mitford charge sheet (21 accused) remained stalled over corrections five months after filing; the Bhaluka prime accused was arrested in January 2026	101; 102; 103; 104; 105; 74
Police-recorded rape cases rose 27% between 2024 and 2025; independent monitors recorded rises of 18-52%	69; 24
A majority of documented rape victims were under 18 in every independent monitoring series that recorded age	10; 24; 49; 54; 99
The March 2025 Ordinance shortened investigation and trial timelines and relaxed the DNA requirement	69; 53
132,107 cases were pending before Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunals at end-2025	69
Fast-track outcomes occurred in nationally prominent cases (Magura: verdict in about ten weeks; Pallabi: charge sheet in five days, death sentences after a four-working-day trial), while cases without public attention stalled	62; 63; 53
Counts of minority-directed violence diverge sharply by source and definition (police: 20-71 incidents classified communal; community organisations: 2,442-2,711 incidents)	30; 77; 39; 15
Two fatal lynchings of Hindu men occurred in December 2025; the first followed a blasphemy allegation that police stated they could not verify; no motive is stated in the sources for the second	39; 74; 15
The 18-19 December 2025 arson caused both leading dailies to miss print editions for the first time; 37 arrests followed but orchestrators remained unclear months later despite police identifying an unarrested online instigator	66; 67; 50
At least 266 journalists faced criminal cases by May 2025; monitoring groups recorded 242-293 attacks on journalists in overlapping periods	80; 61; 49
DMP records listed 1,280 active extortionists (148 armed) reported in May 2026; listed top criminals released or returned after August 2024 re-established networks	4; 1
Successive special operations produced mass arrests (9,000+ Feb 2025; 18,000+ May-Jun 2026) - yet the available reporting did not document a corresponding decline in the targeted crimes	31; 75; 1; 37
Monitors documented 40+ extrajudicial killings, 60 custody/clash deaths and 127 prison deaths in overlapping periods	61; 65; 55
TIB found corruption affecting 71.3% (judiciary) and 69.4% (law enforcement) of service-seeking households; households below the poverty line spent 34% of monthly income on bribes for law-enforcement services	71; 58
Political violence killed between 158 (TIB, Aug 2024-Dec 2025) and 328 (Odhikar, to Dec 2025) people depending on source and period; intra-party conflict predominated; At least 15 killed within 36 days of the election schedule announcement	16; 64; 65
Election-linked violence killed 10 and injured 2,503 between October 2025 and 14 February 2026 (HRSS observation, 565 observers); political violence in January-March 2026 comprised 610 incidents with 36 deaths, peaking around the 12 February poll	96; 97; 95; 98

Finding	Supporting sources
Custodial deaths rose year on year in ASK's tables (65 in 2024 to 107 in 2025); Odhikar recorded 102 jail deaths, 33 extrajudicial killings and 223 death sentences in 2025	86; 87; 99
ASK's minority-violence tables show incident counts falling (147 in 2024 to 46 in 2025) while deaths rose to eight in January-May 2026	85
Impunity in mob-violence cases is quantified: of 46 lynching incidents (67 deaths) to September 2025, cases were filed in 36; 114 of more than 9,000 accused were arrested (1.27 per cent); charge sheets were submitted in six; no standalone law on mob violence exists	110; 111

Appendix G — Additional Evidence Sought and Its Resolution

Final status of the additional evidence identified as needed during the review. All items are closed: documents subsequently located and collected resolved them, or the outstanding items were not yet published at the time of writing and are not required for this report. This appendix is retained as a record of the evidence-gap procedure.

Item sought	Status after later collection stages	Remaining need
MSF monthly reports for missing months	Obtained: Nov 2024; Jan-Jun and Aug-Nov 2025; Jan-May 2026; annual reports 2024 and 2025	Closed. July and December 2025 monthlies unavailable; both periods covered by the 2025 annual report
ASK final statistics	Obtained: cumulative statistical tables to May 2026 across nine violation categories	Closed
Original GCDG lynching report	Obtained, including the attached incident list and the report's own incompleteness disclaimer	Closed
Systematic data on prosecutions for mob killings	Obtained: analysis of 46 incidents (cases filed in 36; 114 arrests among 9,000+ accused; charge sheets in six) and legal-framework reporting including the Home Minister's May 2026 statement	Closed
Verdict coverage in major lynching cases	Obtained to charge-sheet stage	Closed for this edition; no verdict had been documented in any major lynching case at the time of writing
Post-election monitoring (Feb-Jun 2026)	Obtained: HRSS quarterly Jan-Mar 2026, HRSS election observation coverage, MSF monthly reports to May 2026, ASK tables to May 2026	Closed. MSF June 2026, ASK January-June 2026, HRSS April-June 2026 and the Odhikar half-yearly report were not yet published at the time of writing; they are not required for this report and may inform a future updated edition
Official police statistics	Obtained: Police Headquarters monthly unit-wise tables (January–December 2024 and September 2025 – May 2026) and DMP monthly crime-data tables (2025–2026)	Closed

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