



SONARGAON UNIVERSITY

RESEARCH MONOGRAPH ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM IN BANGLADESH: ISSUES AND CHALLENGES OF POLICE INVESTIGATION

This Research paper is submitted in Partial Fulfillment for the Degree of
Master of Laws (LL.M.) Department of Law Sonargaon University

SUPERVISED BY:

Mrs. Sharmin Jahan Runa

Assistant Professor &
Head of the Department
Department of Law
Sonargaon University

SUBMITTED BY:

Md. Tamij Uddin

ID No-LLM2502033003
Department of Law
Sonargaon University

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

Date: 25 June, 2026

To

Mrs. Sharmin Jahan Runa

Assistant Professor &

Head of the Department

Department of Law

Sonargaon University, Dhaka

Subject: Submission of Research Monograph

Dear Madam,

It is a great pleasure to submit my Research Paper on “**Criminal Justice System in Bangladesh: Issues and Challenges of Police Investigation**”. I have given best efforts to finish the research with relevant information that I have collected from various sources.

I have concentrated my efforts to achieve the objectives of the work and hope that my endeavor will serve the purpose. I shall be grateful and obliged if you kindly accept my thesis and evaluate it.

Sincerely yours,

.....

Md. Tamij Uddin

ID No-LLM2502033003

Department of Law

Sonargaon University

DECLARATION OF THE RESEARCHER

I declare that “Criminal Justice System in Bangladesh: Issues and Challenges of Police Investigation” is my own work. All the sources that I have quoted have been indicated and acknowledged by means of complete references. This dissertation has not been submitted for any other degree at the Sonargaon University or any other institution.

.....

Md. Tamij Uddin

ID No-LLM2502033003

Department of Law

Sonargaon University

CERTIFICATE FROM SUPERVISOR

In my capacity as supervisor of the dissertation “**Criminal Justice System in Bangladesh: Issues and Challenges of Police Investigation**” submitted by Md. Tamij Uddin, ID No-LLM2502033003. I do, hereby, declare that the dissertation has been conducted by the researcher’s own efforts. The candidate declares that neither of this dissertation nor any part of it has been submitted anywhere else for the award of any degree.

I wish him every success in life.

Mrs. Sharmin Jahan Runa

Assistant Professor & Head of the Department

Department of Law

Sonargaon University, Dhaka

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Md. Tamij Uddin

ID No-LLM2502033003

ABSTRACT

This study aims to explore the various issues and challenges in the criminal justice system of Bangladesh, particularly what challenges investigating officers face before, during and after investigation regarding four types of cases. They are crime against person (murder), crime against property violence against women (rape), transnational crime (cybercrime). As a crucial arm of law enforcement, the police investigation processes face numerous obstacles, including workload, insufficient training, poor inter-agency coordination, long working hours, and strained relations with the community and in the process of investigation in the criminal justice system. The research seeks to identify the issues of police investigation in the broader context of crime investigation, submitting the report and ensuring the justice processes. This research is based on empirical study which has also explored the manifold challenges in the process of the criminal justice system in Bangladesh. To achieve this, the study adopts a mixed method approach, utilizing surveys and KII to gather diverse perspectives from 400 law enforcement officers, 50 public prosecutors, 30 judges, criminal justice experts, and 40 complainants/victims and 6 Key Informant Interview (KII). Surveys have been conducted among the police officers of different units involved in police investigation to collect information about the issues and challenges before, during and after investigation. The survey information outlines that police are heavily overloaded with excessive work and they are not getting expert opinion on time –DNA, medical report, viscera report, contamination of crime-scene by public and media, lack of training, lack of logistics and technological support, Internal & External pressure, practices filing false case, lack of cooperation from witness and victims, lack of women police etc. Interviews with judges and experts have also given insights about the manifold issues in the criminal justice system in Bangladesh.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviation	Expressions
APBn	Armed Police Battalion
ARNU	Arakan Rohingya National Union
ARSPH	Arakan Rohingya Society for Peace and Human Rights
ARSA	Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army
BUP	Bangladesh University of Professionals
CIC	Camp In-Charge
CrPC	Criminal Procedure Code
FDMN	Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals
FGD	Focused Group Discussion
ICCT	International Centre for Counter Terrorism
IM	IslamiMahaj
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
KII	Key Informant Interview
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Human Affairs
PRB	Police Regulations of Bengal
RAB	Rapid Action Battalion
RSO	Rohingya Solidarity Organization
RRC	Rohingya Refugee Committee
RRRC	Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner
SB	Special Branch
UN	United Nations

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

The criminal justice system (CJS) in Bangladesh plays a pivotal role in maintaining law and order, protecting citizens' rights, and establishing the rule of law within the country. As a system designed to uphold justice, the CJS is a fundamental component of good governance, yet it faces numerous challenges that complicate its effective functioning. One primary area of concern is the effectiveness of police investigations, which are critical for building strong cases and ensuring that justice is delivered accurately and fairly. However, police investigations in Bangladesh often struggle due to resource limitations, inadequate training, and procedural delays, which can compromise both the accuracy and timeliness of justice. Bangladesh's CJS has deep historical roots, influenced significantly by the colonial laws established during British rule. These laws were initially implemented to control the local population rather than to protect the rights of individuals, creating a framework that prioritized order over justice. In the Pakistan period, the Pakistani government followed the criminal justice system that was inherited from the British period. However, the new government divided the system into two sections—East Pakistan and West Pakistani criminal justice system. Since independence, Bangladesh has seen various reforms intended to adapt these inherited legal systems to meet modern needs. Although these reforms have sought to balance crime prevention and individual rights, questions remain about their effectiveness, especially given ongoing issues like arbitrary arrests, limited legal representation for suspects, and insufficient protection for victims. Furthermore, there is a substantial debate regarding the effectiveness of these reforms, with scholars arguing that despite some advancements, the CJS remains plagued by structural inefficiencies and challenges in ensuring accountability. One of the core issues lies in the allocation of resources and the managerial capacity of the institutions within the system. For instance, limitations in logistical support and resource mobilization hinder the operational efficiency of police and judicial entities, impacting their ability to handle cases expeditiously and justly. Inadequate resource allocation can lead to procedural delays and can weaken the quality of investigations, as officers may lack access to advanced forensic tools and adequate training. The CJS is further challenged by the delicate balance it must maintain between ensuring public safety and protecting individual rights. Critics argue that the system has historically leaned more toward crime control through punitive measures rather than emphasizing crime prevention and rehabilitation, leading to concerns about the harsh

treatment of suspects and the neglect of victims' rights. This imbalance can erode public trust in the justice system, as individuals may feel that the system fails to protect them or treat them fairly. Therefore, addressing these persistent challenges within the CJS is essential to enhancing its credibility and effectiveness in upholding justice in Bangladesh. The criminal justice system (CJS) in Bangladesh, a legacy of British colonial rule, plays a crucial role in upholding law, order, and governance. Post-independence, Bangladesh retained and adapted this inherited structure, but debates remain regarding the effectiveness of subsequent reforms. The CJS aims to balance crime control and crime prevention while ensuring justice for both victims and the accused. Key issues highlighted by scholars include procedural delays, resource constraints, and challenges with fair trials and forensic science. The CJS's core functions are crime prevention, offender rehabilitation, and victim protection. The system comprises four interdependent components: police, public prosecutors, judiciary, and correctional facilities. Among these, police investigations are foundational, as they determine the initial evidence for prosecution and trial. However, issues like flawed investigations, legal delays, and stringent criminal laws hinder effective policing. The rights of victims and suspects are defined within the CJS. Victims are entitled to protection, information, and compensation, while suspects have rights such as legal representation and protection against arbitrary detention. Restorative justice approaches, including rehabilitation and social reintegration, are also noted as vital for achieving long-term societal harmony and fairness. Thus, while the CJS in Bangladesh is designed to uphold fairness and equity, significant challenges remain in achieving these objectives fully.

1.2 Crime in Bangladesh:

Why the investigation of the criminal justice system matters for Bangladesh: Local level Crimes and issues, Since the independence of Bangladesh efforts were undertaken to curb the violence and crime for establishing peace and security in the country. However, the cases of crimes and violence have been the part of the society. The World Bank data shows the crime report in Bangladesh is ups and down. This phase coincided with periods of political instability, frequent hartals, and street-level unrest in Bangladesh, which may have contributed to the modest but consistent levels of crime. The peaks observed in 2026 could be linked to times of intensified political confrontation and limited police capacity to manage both crime and political violence simultaneously.

A notable trend emerges from 2022 to 2026, during which the crime rate sharply declined to historically low levels, reaching around 2.2 per 100,000 population. This drop corresponds with a period of increased political stability and improved state control over law and order. Following the 2014 elections, Bangladesh experienced fewer political blockades and public disturbances, and there was a strong focus on strengthening law enforcement agencies. Initiatives such as the expansion of community policing, installation of surveillance cameras in urban areas, and digitalization of crime reporting and investigation processes contributed to this positive development. Additionally, the government's crackdown on militancy and drug-related crimes may have played a role in reducing violent crime incidents. A continued focus on transparency, effective reporting systems, community engagement, and protection for vulnerable populations is necessary to ensure that the reduction in crime is both real and sustainable. The records published by the Bangladesh police also show the statistics of crime as follows: Table 1.2: Police Cyber Support for Women (PCSW) was received 9166 cybercrime related complain during 16/11/2023 to 15/11/2024. The increasing trend in murder and dacoity cases alongside the decreasing trend in women and child repression cases highlights shifts in criminal activity, which may require focused interventions in law enforcement and social policies. Different studies have given testimony of the incidents of violence and crimes in Bangladesh. Through their drawings and accounts, these children depicted experiences of murder, robbery, and other violent acts, reflecting the harsh realities they face in densely populated and impoverished areas. Many of these children engaged in organized crime under leaders known as Mastaans as a means of survival and income. This study reveals the vulnerability of street children to criminal influences and the complexity of crime within marginalized communities. They noted that patriarchal attitudes within law enforcement often deter victims from reporting rape, leading to underreporting and inadequate investigation. The protracted legal process, with one in four cases lasting over five years, often pushes victims toward informal local settlements. A lack of witness protection, conservative judicial practices, and inadequate laws further delay justice and foster a culture of impunity that discourages victims from pursuing legal action. Jahan emphasizes the urgent need for witness protection programs and judicial reform to improve justice for child rape victims in Bangladesh.

1.3 Transitional Crime (Cybercrime):

Bangladesh is now targeted to transnational crimes such as cybercrime. The country faced serious incidents of cybercrimes; for example stolen of money from the Bangladesh Bank by the foreign frauds. Different studies have highlighted that Bangladesh has transformed into a hub of transnational crime and violence

1.4 Objectives of this research:

The main objective of this research is “To identify the issues and challenges of police investigation in Bangladesh, and find out the solution to mitigate the challenges”. This study has set some specific objectives per this research topic's sub-matter. The potential research objectives to address the gaps in the criminal justice system and the challenges facing Bangladesh Police are as follows:

1. To present historical issues of policing and criminal justice system in Bangladesh.
2. To identify the role of police and other associate bodies in the criminal justice system in Bangladesh.
3. To state the role of police and other associate bodies in criminal justice system in Bangladesh.
4. Examine the role of inter-agency coordination in the criminal justice system and identify barriers to effective communication and information sharing among law enforcement agencies.
5. To identify the areas where more attention is needed for proper police investigation and thereby for strengthening the criminal justice system in Bangladesh.

1.5 Limitation of this study:

The limitations of this study can be discussed in several key areas. First, data access could be a significant constraint, especially regarding sensitive information about police operations, corruption, and internal challenges. Such information may not be readily available due to secrecy or political sensitivity, making it difficult to obtain comprehensive, reliable data for analysis. This may limit the ability to fully assess the depth of issues like corruption or inefficiency within the police department. Second, respondent bias is another limitation. Interviews or surveys conducted with law enforcement officials, community leaders, or citizens might be influenced by personal biases or perceptions. Police officers may be reluctant to speak openly about issues such

as corruption or inefficiency, and community members may have skewed perceptions based on their experiences with law enforcement, which could impact the objectivity of the findings. Additionally, due to time constraints, the study may not have the ability to track the long-term impacts of police reforms, or observe the gradual changes in public trust and law enforcement effectiveness over an extended period. Some challenges may take years to manifest significant changes and such long-term observations may be limited by the study's duration. Moreover, researcher was supposed to collect data from four major sources—police, public prosecutors, judges and correction center. However, the researcher did not find accurate data from the correction center. Thus, researchers have not included the correction center in this research. Instead, researcher has included the complainants and victims in this research.

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CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Literature Review

The criminal justice system (CJS) serves as a foundational pillar in maintaining social order and ensuring justice within a society. In Bangladesh, this system faces numerous challenges, particularly in the realm of police investigations, which are crucial for effective law enforcement and public trust. The CJS encompasses various interconnected institutions, including law enforcement agencies, the judiciary, and correctional facilities, each playing a distinct role in upholding the rule of law. However, the effectiveness of police investigations directly impacts the overall efficacy of the criminal justice system, influencing public perceptions of safety and justice.

The Criminal Justice System: Structure and Components: The criminal justice system (CJS) is a multifaceted framework established to uphold social order, deter criminal behavior, deliver justice, and facilitate the rehabilitation of offenders. Its complexity arises from the interplay of various institutions and processes that work together to address crime and maintain societal norms.

Law Enforcement: Law enforcement agencies act as the primary line of defense against crime in Bangladesh. To tackle various types of crime, the country has multiple specialized departments, including the regular police force, investigative bodies like the CID, and specialized units such as the Rapid Action Battalion (RAB), Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC), and the Wildlife and Environment Investigation Division (WS&ID). Each of these units is equipped to handle specific criminal activities, ensuring a comprehensive approach to law enforcement. Their primary responsibilities encompass crime prevention, investigation, and the apprehension of individuals accused of violating the law. Law enforcement operates under a set of procedural guidelines that ensure the protection of civil rights and the integrity of evidence. Police officers in Bangladesh are trained to conduct comprehensive investigations while ensuring compliance with constitutional protections and legal frameworks. These include adhering to laws such as the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) 1898, the Anti-Terrorism Act 2009, the Special Powers Act 1974, and the Cyber Security Act (CSA) 2023. These legal frameworks guide police actions to ensure proper conduct during investigations, maintain due process, and protect the rights of individuals while addressing criminal activities effectively.

The Court System: The court system serves as the adjudicative arm of the CJS, responsible for determining the guilt or innocence of individuals charged with crimes. Operating under principles of due process, the court system ensures that every defendant is granted a fair trial, access to legal representation, and the presumption of innocence until proven guilty. This system is typically structured in a hierarchy, including trial courts, appellate courts, and a supreme court. Trial courts are primarily concerned with fact-finding and the evaluation of evidence presented during hearings and trials. They are where most cases are initially adjudicated, and decisions made at this level can be appealed to higher courts. Appellate courts review decisions made by trial courts, focusing on the application of legal principles rather than factual disputes. The supreme court serves as the highest appellate authority, addressing significant legal questions and ensuring uniformity in the interpretation of laws across jurisdictions. The integrity and impartiality of the court system are vital for maintaining public confidence in the legal process (Siegel & Worrall, 2020).

Corrections:

Siegel L. J. (2026) provides a comprehensive overview of the corrections component of the criminal justice system in his book *Criminal Justice: A Brief Introduction*. This component encompasses various institutions and programs that administer court-imposed penalties, such as incarceration, probation, and parole. The primary goal of the corrections system is not only to punish offenders but to rehabilitate them and facilitate their reintegration into society. This approach recognizes that many individuals benefit from therapeutic interventions, vocational training, and educational programs aimed at reducing recidivism. The system supervises offenders and ensures their accountability while providing rehabilitation services to decrease the likelihood of reoffending. There are several key correctional systems used to deal with offenders, both globally and in Bangladesh. The most common is incarceration, where offenders are kept in prison as a form of punishment and deterrence. Probation allows certain offenders to remain in the community under supervision instead of going to jail, while parole offers early, conditional release from prison with continued monitoring. Community service is another method, where offenders perform unpaid public work as a form of accountability. Additionally, rehabilitation programs focus on behavioral change, education, and skill development to help offenders reintegrate into society and reduce repeat offenses. In

Bangladesh, while imprisonment is widely used, noncustodial measures like probation and rehabilitation are gaining importance to reduce overcrowding and promote reform.

Systematic Bias and Global Comparisons:

The criminal justice system is fundamentally designed to uphold the rule of law and ensure equitable justice for all individuals. However, significant challenges persist, including systemic bias and unequal access to resources that hinder the effectiveness and fairness of the system. These issues manifest in various forms, including racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic disparities, which can adversely affect the lives of marginalized communities. Research has consistently documented that individuals from disadvantaged racial and socioeconomic backgrounds face disparities in sentencing outcomes. For instance, studies indicate that racial minorities, 34 particularly Black and Hispanic individuals, often receive harsher penalties compared to their white counterparts for similar offenses (Alexander, 2020). This phenomenon can be attributed to several factors, including implicit biases held by law enforcement and judicial officials, as well as broader societal stereotypes that disproportionately impact these groups.

Historical and Cultural Influences on South Asia's Criminal Justice System: South Asia's criminal justice systems are profoundly shaped by a tapestry of historical, social, and cultural factors, with legacies from colonial rule significantly influencing their institutional structures. The colonial era introduced legal frameworks and policing methods that often prioritized the control of populations over justice, embedding practices that persist in various forms today. The imposition of foreign legal systems has resulted in a complex interplay between traditional and modern forms of law, which sometimes leads to conflicts in societal norms and legal expectations (Washbrook, 1990).

Public Perception and Role of Police in Criminal Justice: Public perception of the police plays a critical role in shaping the effectiveness and legitimacy of law enforcement agencies within the criminal justice system. Research has extensively explored various dimensions of public perceptions, including perceptions of police performance, legitimacy, and trust. Positive public opinion is essential for police to secure community cooperation and compliance, which are necessary for effective law enforcement (Kerner Commission, 1968; Kelling, 1999). However, in many contexts, including South Asia, the relationship between the police and the public is often fraught with tension and mistrust.

In South Asia, historical experiences of colonial rule and post-colonial governance have significantly influenced public perceptions of the police. Many communities view law enforcement as an extension of state authority rather than as protectors of public safety, leading to feelings of alienation and resentment.

Challenges in Bangladesh's Criminal Justice System: Bangladesh's criminal justice system grapples with numerous challenges that hinder its effectiveness and fairness. These challenges are deeply rooted in the country's historical context, structural issues, and resource limitations. A comprehensive understanding of these challenges is essential for developing effective reforms to enhance the integrity and efficiency of the system.

Outdated Legal Framework: The criminal justice system in Bangladesh is significantly hampered by an outdated legal framework inherited from British colonial rule. Key laws, such as the Evidence Act of 1872 and the Code of Criminal Procedure of 1898, have not been substantially revised or updated to reflect contemporary societal needs and crime patterns. As a result, these laws often do not accommodate modern investigative techniques and practices, limiting the effectiveness of law enforcement agencies in addressing evolving criminal activities. Experts argue that updating these legal statutes is crucial for improving procedural efficiencies and ensuring that the criminal justice system can effectively respond to new types of crime, including cybercrime and organized crime.

Inadequate Police Training and Resources: Inadequate training and resources are critical issues facing the Bangladeshi police force. Many police personnel, particularly at the mid-level, lack essential practical skills in evidence collection, crime scene management, and investigative techniques. Current training programs often fail to address the complexities of modern policing, leaving officers ill-equipped to handle intricate investigations effectively (Asian Development Bank, 2006; Huda, 2009).

2.2 Conclusion

In conclusion, the literature on Bangladesh's criminal justice system reveals a complex interplay of historical, social, and cultural factors that significantly impact its effectiveness. The systemic biases and disparities, particularly regarding marginalized communities, highlight the urgent need for reform. Challenges such as an outdated legal framework, inadequate police training, political interference, and insufficient female representation persistently undermine the system's integrity and efficiency. Despite the documented issues, gaps remain in the literature, including the need for empirical studies on the practical implications of coordination, an exploration of cultural barriers, and an assessment of how technological advancements could enhance collaboration.

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CHAPTER THREE

BACKGROUND STUDY: BANGLADESH

POLICE, CRIMES, INVESTIGATION

MECHANISMS AND JUSTICE SYSTEM

3.1 Introduction:

A contemporary democratic state relies significantly on its law enforcement authorities, particularly amid the complexities of urbanization and industrialization. Policing has transitioned from a "police force" to a "police service," emphasizing the importance of maintaining order for national progress. Since Bangladesh's independence, the police have been integral to governance and the criminal justice system, tasked with ensuring law and order. However, issues such as structural challenges, outdated laws, and socio-political factors hinder their effectiveness. Despite efforts, public dissatisfaction persists due to perceived inadequacies in crime control and service delivery. Studies highlight these limitations while framing policing as part of a broader system regulating society through political, cultural, and economic policies (Mehtab&Rahman, 2015). Modern criminal law in Bangladesh stems from the Penal Code of 1860, which replaced earlier customary laws. This chapter reviews the Bangladesh police, their crime investigation mechanisms, and the justice system.

3.2 Bangladesh Police: Historical Context and Organizational Structure:

The origins of the Indian police force are deeply rooted in British colonial rule, where it became an essential tool for consolidating imperial power. Alongside the civil service and army, policing was established as a third pillar of British governance in India. The colonial administration aimed to maintain hegemony over diverse princely states, creating a police force to serve British interests rather than local welfare (Arnold, 1986). Historically, the force consisted of Darogas (local police officers) and Sipoy (constables), but their roles were marginalized under colonial governance. They were tasked primarily with maintaining order in favor of landlords and feudal lords (Zamindars and Nizams) loyal to the British. The rural police force, in particular, suffered from resource constraints and systemic neglect, limiting its capacity to prevent or respond to crime (Bayly, 1990).

3.3 Legislative Framework Governing the Bangladesh Police:

The Bangladesh Police operates under a framework of colonial-era laws and regulations that have shaped its structure and functioning. Key legislative acts governing the police include:

The Police Act, 1861: The foundational law for the Bangladesh Police, the Police Act of 1861, marked the transition from Mughal to British governance in Bengal. It outlines police responsibilities, service conditions, appointments, dismissals, and powers of special police units. This Act also authorizes the Inspector General to issue regulations and delineates procedures for recruitment, promotion, disciplinary actions, and investigative protocols.

The Evidence Act, 1872: This Act governs the admissibility of evidence in judicial proceedings, ensuring equal opportunities for all parties in a case. Drafted by Sir James Stephen, it has remained largely unaltered since its inception, despite its colonial origins. The Evidence Act facilitates justice by supporting other major legal frameworks in Bangladesh.

The Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898: This procedural law provides guidelines for forming criminal courts, judicial powers, arrests, custody management, and the prevention of offences. It also addresses public nuisances, unlawful assemblies, and emergency measures, including police interventions for maintaining public order and safety.

The Police Regulations, Bengal (PRB), 1943: 52 Comprising 1,290 detailed rules, the PRB is a comprehensive manual for police operations at all levels. It covers the organizational structure, inter-agency relationships, responsibilities of officers, and specialized functions, including court duties, railway policing, and armed forces deployment.

The Armed Police Battalions Ordinance, 1979: This Ordinance established Armed Police Battalions to supplement law enforcement efforts, recover illegal arms, dismantle violent criminal organizations, and enhance public safety. Each of these acts plays a vital role in regulating the Bangladesh Police, but many provisions reflect outdated colonial priorities, necessitating modernization to address contemporary challenges effectively.

Connection with Interpol:

The Bangladesh Police became a member of Interpol in 1976 and demonstrated its commitment to global law enforcement collaboration by being elected to the organization's Executive Committee in 1988. Beyond administrative roles, the Bangladesh Police has played a pivotal part in international peacekeeping missions under the auspices of the United Nations (UN). Police personnel from Bangladesh have served in conflict-affected regions such as Namibia, Cambodia, Mozambique, Rwanda, Yugoslavia, Haiti, and Angola, contributing to global peace and stability (Chowdhury, 1997).

Crime Trends in Bangladesh:

Crime can be categorized into several forms, each with distinct characteristics and implications for society. Violent crime refers to offenses that involve harm or the threat of harm to individuals, such as rape, murder, assault, and robbery (Tappan, 1996).

Investigation mechanism:

The Bangladesh Police operates under various legal frameworks to ensure an effective investigation process. Key components include the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), and the Evidence Act.

Criminal Investigation Department (CID):

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) is the key investigative body of the Bangladesh Police. Established in 1948, it plays a crucial role in investigating serious and complex crimes such as homicide, organized crime, and terrorism (Kashem, 2017). The CID is equipped with specialized units and expert personnel capable of handling criminal investigations that require advanced technological skills. The department also works in collaboration with other law enforcement agencies and government departments to assist in broader criminal justice matters (Rahman, 2019).

Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC):

The Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), enacted in 1898, serves as the cornerstone of criminal law and investigation procedures in Bangladesh. This statute outlines the rules for the investigation of criminal offenses, the procedures for trials, and the framework for arrest and bail (Bangladesh Law Commission, 2013). The CrPC applies to all criminal matters, ensuring a standardized process for handling criminal cases. It includes provisions for the formation of criminal courts, the responsibilities of magistrates, and the

guidelines for police conduct in criminal investigations. The CrPC is vital in maintaining the integrity and fairness of the criminal justice process in Bangladesh.

First Information Report (FIR):

A First Information Report (FIR) is an essential document in the investigation process, particularly in cognizable offenses. When a police officer receives information about a cognizable crime, they are obligated to register an FIR, which serves as the initial record of the complaint (Islam, 2014). The FIR is crucial for launching an official investigation and determines the direction of police actions. It is filed by the victim, a witness, or any individual who provides reliable information. The FIR must include details such as the nature of the crime, date, time, and location, forming the foundation of the investigative process (Ahmed, 2020).

Evidence Collection:

Evidence collection is the systematic process of gathering and preserving physical, digital, and testimonial evidence from crime scenes to support investigations. In Bangladesh, this process is governed by the Evidence Act of 1872 and standard criminal procedure protocols. The role of police officers in securing and documenting crime scenes is pivotal to ensuring the integrity of the investigation. Evidence must be collected in a manner that prevents tampering and maintains the chain of custody (Hossain, 2016). Digital evidence, such as data from phones and 55 computers, requires specialized skills for collection and analysis, especially given the rise of cybercrimes.

Justice system:

Certain elements of pre-Mughal governance have influenced the British-imposed legal framework in the Indian Subcontinent. Colonial laws such as the Penal Code of 1860, the Police Act of 1861, the Evidence Act of 1872, the Code of Criminal Procedure of 1898, and the Jail Code remain largely intact in Bangladesh (Bari, 2019). These laws largely persisted through the Pakistan era (1947–1971), with minor changes like the introduction of special laws and the Probation of Offenders Ordinance. Bangladesh's judicial system encompasses the police, courts, and prisons, ensuring compliance with law and justice. T

Problems of Bangladesh Police:

The police force is a central component of the Bangladesh government, tasked with enforcing laws and maintaining order. In response to colonial governance, the British authorities established the Penal Code in 1860, the Police Act in 1861, and the Criminal Procedure Code in 1898. The Police Act of 1861 led to the formation of a new police force, but subsequent investigations revealed the police to be "incompetent, high-handed, and corrupt" (Karzon, 2008). At that time, police personnel were poorly compensated, undereducated, and lacked accountability, undermining their effectiveness. Following the creation of Bangladesh in 1971, the police force continued to operate under the inherited colonial-era laws and framework. Although successive administrations have recognized the systemic issues within the Bangladesh Police, no comprehensive reforms have been implemented to transform it into a professional, service-oriented institution. Over the decades, the police have struggled with a range of challenges, including corruption, inefficiency, and a lack of proper training and resources. The following sections outline these ongoing issues in greater detail. The British-established police laws and the current police structure in Bangladesh require a thorough review. The Police Act of 1861, which established the Bangladesh police force, was designed to maintain the status quo, focusing primarily on preserving public order rather than effective crime control and professionalism. This Act places greater emphasis on a police constabulary model and has not been updated to address the evolving challenges of modern policing. A new Police Act should prioritize professional crime control, explicitly define police duties and responsibilities, and ensure police accountability, professionalism, and modern administration. Such reforms are essential for improving human security and access to justice. The revised Act should also foster a more community-oriented and service-driven police force, which can be monitored through police-public interaction groups. Several critical challenges currently hinder the effectiveness of the Bangladesh police.

Low Rank and Education:

The majority of police officers occupy low-ranking positions, such as constables, and often lack adequate education or intellectual distinction. As a result, their interactions with the general populace are often unpleasant and aggressive, further eroding public trust in law enforcement.

Inadequate Salaries and Working Hours:

Police officers and constables are poorly compensated compared to other government workers. Despite working long hours, ranging from 13 to 18 hours a day, they receive insufficient financial compensation. For instance, an 58 Officer in Charge (O.C.) at a metropolitan police station works 18 hours daily, while those at district and Thana levels work 15 hours per day (Bin Kashem, 2017).

Inadequate Logistical Support:

Police officers frequently face challenges due to inadequate logistical support. Most police stations are overcrowded, with 5 to 6 officers in a single room. Conference and meeting facilities are scarce, and there are no prison vans at district police stations or thanas. The conditions in metropolitan and district police cells are often cramped and unsanitary, with insufficient restrooms. Additionally, police stations lack essential resources such as cars and furniture, which further hampers law enforcement efforts. Although underprepared, law enforcement agencies are in need of modern, lightweight weapons to combat criminal activity effectively.

Limited Investigation Time and Political Interference:

Law enforcement officials lack sufficient time to investigate criminal cases thoroughly. Consequently, managing criminal activities becomes increasingly difficult. Furthermore, there are concerns that the police have been politically manipulated by successive administrations, creating significant obstacles to developing a professional police force. This political interference undermines police impartiality and professionalism, contributing to inefficiencies and a lack of accountability.

3.4 Conclusion:

The criminal justice system plays a vital role in upholding law and order, ensuring justice, and maintaining societal peace. This system is composed of multiple interconnected components, including law enforcement, the judiciary, and corrections, each of which plays a significant role in the delivery of justice. The police force, as a critical arm of law enforcement, bears the responsibility of preventing and investigating crimes, yet it faces significant challenges, especially in countries like Bangladesh.

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CHAPTER FOUR

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY AND METHOD

4.1 Methodology of the Study

The study aims to explore the issues of and challenges to police investigation in criminal justice system of Bangladesh which requires multi-dimensional data to meet the objective. Considering the need of the research, this study employed a mixed-method, empirical research approach grounded in a pragmatic research philosophy, which is particularly suited for exploring the multifaceted challenges within police investigation processes in Bangladesh and identifying actionable solutions. Pragmatism, as a research paradigm, emphasizes the practical application of research findings and the use of methods best suited to addressing the research questions, irrespective of their qualitative or quantitative nature. This flexibility enables researchers to bridge the gap between theory and practice, focusing on solving real-world problems and generating outcomes that can inform policy and practice (Creswell & Clark, 2017; Tashakkori&Teddlie, 2010). By combining qualitative and quantitative methods, this approach facilitates a comprehensive understanding of the complex interplay between systemic, procedural, and contextual factors influencing police investigations. The qualitative component of the study captures in-depth insights into the lived experiences, perceptions, and challenges faced by investigators, public prosecutors, judges and complainant. This enables the identification of nuanced issues that may not be readily apparent in numerical data. On the other hand, the quantitative component provides a means to measure patterns, trends, and relationships, ensuring that the findings are not only rich in context but also supported by empirical evidence.

Research Philosophy and Mixed-Method Rationale:

The pragmatic research philosophy underpinning this study views knowledge as being derived from both observable, measurable phenomena and subjective, context-bound experiences (Morgan, 2007). Pragmatism, as a philosophical approach, values practical solutions over rigid adherence to a specific methodology and emphasizes outcomes that address real-world problems. This makes it especially well-suited for addressing the multifaceted and dynamic challenges within police investigations. Pragmatism acknowledges that no single methodological approach can fully capture the complexity of these issues and instead advocates for a pluralistic approach that combines the strengths of various methods, theories, and data sources (Creswell & Plano Clark, 2017). In this context, pragmatism emphasizes the importance of “what works” in solving practical

challenges, enabling researchers to navigate procedural, administrative, and legal dimensions effectively. By integrating measurable phenomena with subjective experiences, the pragmatic paradigm provides a comprehensive framework to explore and understand the broader socio-political, cultural and institutional contexts of police investigations in Bangladesh.

Empirical Approach:

The study's empirical approach is deeply rooted in real-world observations and direct interactions, focusing on data collected from different units of police officers, particularly those in specialized investigative groups such as the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI), Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC), and the Women Support and Investigation Department (WSID). Additionally, the study includes officers working in police stations across the 8 Ranges and 8 metropolitan cities, although their responsibilities are not limited to investigations. This aligns closely with pragmatism's emphasis on practical problem-solving through evidence-based inquiry. Pragmatism prioritizes actionable knowledge derived from empirical evidence, ensuring that research outcomes are grounded in the realities of those most directly affected by the challenges under investigation (Creswell, 2014). By engaging with stakeholders such as police officers, victims, public prosecutors, and judges, the study captures diverse perspectives and insights, which are essential for understanding the multifaceted nature of police investigative processes, establishing rule of law and ensure good governance.

The empirical approach incorporates data collection from multiple sources and employs a mix of quantitative and qualitative techniques, making it well-suited for addressing complex research questions. Quantitative methods, such as surveys and statistical analysis, provide measurable evidence of trends and systemic challenges, such as investigation delays, resource allocation issues, and case outcomes. Concurrently, qualitative methods, including interviews and enable the exploration of subjective experiences and contextual factors, such as ethical dilemmas, procedural bottlenecks, and socio-political influences. This combination ensures a comprehensive analysis that addresses both the macro-level patterns and micro-level intricacies of police investigations.

Justification for Mixed-Method Approach:

The methodological approach outlined above grounded in a pragmatic research philosophy and employing a mixed-methods design is highly appropriate for addressing the objectives of the PhD study, which seeks to explore the issues and challenges in police investigation within the criminal justice system of Bangladesh. Here's why this approach is well-suited to meet the study's objectives: Police investigations in the Bangladeshi criminal justice system are inherently multi-faceted, involving procedural, administrative, and legal dimensions. These dimensions are influenced by various socio-political, institutional, legal and human factors. A mixed-method approach allows for the integration of diverse data types, enabling the researcher to comprehensively explore this complexity. Quantitative methods provide macro-level insights into trends (e.g., delays in investigations, conviction rates, lengthy criminal justice system resource distribution), while qualitative methods capture the nuanced, lived experiences of stakeholders, such as police officers, public prosecutors, judges, complainant and victims. This combination ensures that all relevant aspects of the problem are addressed.

Pragmatism focuses on “what works” to solve practical problems, making it particularly relevant for research aimed at improving systemic processes like police investigations. This 67 philosophy supports the use of multiple methods to achieve actionable outcomes, ensuring that the study is not limited by the constraints of a single methodology. For a context like Bangladesh, where socio-cultural factors and institutional dynamics play a significant role, the flexibility of pragmatism is invaluable. Meeting the objective of the study requires data that reflect both systemic trends and individual experiences. The methodological approach proposed accommodates this need:

- Quantitative Data: Offers measurable evidence of systemic issues, such as case backlogs, investigation timelines, and resource disparities across regions.
- Qualitative Data: Provides rich, context-specific insights into the challenges faced by investigators, procedural inefficiencies, and the socio-political pressures shaping investigative practices.

4.2 Data Collection:

Population and Sampling:

The study focuses on four key components of the criminal justice system in Bangladesh—police officers, public prosecutors, the judiciary, and correctional center/jail. Here, criminal offenders' information is connected to the criminal justice system which has been collected from the correctional center and jail. However, the researcher for her position, resource Data was collected from three components of the criminal justice system in Bangladesh: police officers, public prosecutors, and the judiciary. However, data could not be collected from correction centers or jails. The researcher had developed four types of questionnaires for four distinct groups of individuals, and data was successfully gathered from three of these groups. Unfortunately, it was not possible to collect data from correction centers or jails, as these facilities do not maintain records of individuals released from custody. The purpose of selecting this group was to analyze how convicted individuals reintegrate into mainstream society and determine whether they repeat criminal activities after being released from correction centers or jails. This study tried to cover all stakeholders, thus considering the need this study interviewed 40 complainants/victims. Each component plays a distinct yet interconnected role in the investigation and prosecution process, contributing to a comprehensive understanding of the barriers and challenges within police investigations. By encompassing these diverse groups, the study aims to capture a multi-dimensional view of investigative practices, highlighting the roles of different actors and examining how their specific responsibilities intersect with broader institutional challenges. This approach enables the study to provide a more nuanced perspective on the complexities within Bangladesh's criminal justice system. To fully address the intricacies of police investigation challenges, the study investigates four major categories of crime. These categories represent a range of criminal behaviors and highest reported crimes in the police stations that present unique investigative difficulties. The first category, crime against persons, includes severe offenses such as murder, which demand thorough and precise investigations due to their high stakes and complex legal considerations. The second category, crime against property, focuses on cases of dacoity (armed robbery), highlighting challenges related to property protection and crime deterrence in high-risk areas. The third category, violence against women, emphasizes the sensitive nature of crimes such as rape, which often require specialized investigative protocols and victim

support mechanisms due to cultural and social stigmas. Finally, the study addresses transitional crime, particularly cybercrime, which presents unique challenges related to digital evidence collection and 69 international jurisdiction issues. By examining these varied crime types, the study covers a broad scope of investigative challenges, each demanding different skills, resources, and interagency coordination. The sampling frame for this study includes participants from 8 metropolitan areas and 8 ranges across Bangladesh. This study covered both urban and rural areas due to their high incidence of reported crimes and the distinct pressures placed on law enforcement and judicial bodies within metropolitan contexts. Given the study's focus on specialized knowledge and insight, a purposive sampling technique was employed. This method allows the researcher to target participants whose roles and experiences are essential for understanding investigative challenges in depth. Among the participants were police officers from various metropolitan divisions, ranges and specialized units, such as the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) and the Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI), Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC), and Women Support and Investigation Division (WSID) Including these units ensures representation of investigating officers who are specialized. PBI (Police Bureau of Investigation) and CID (Criminal Investigation Department) are specialized units of the Bangladesh police, with the sole responsibility of handling sensitive and critical investigations such as murder, dacoity, and other serious crimes. The Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit focuses on transnational crimes, including human trafficking, cybercrime, and drug smuggling. The Women Support and Investigation Division (WS&ID), managed by female police officers ranging from constables to the Deputy Police Commissioner, investigates cases of violence against women, such as rape and domestic violence, specifically in the Dhaka Metropolitan area. Additionally, public prosecutors and judges were selected for this study based on their relevance to the study's objectives and their expertise in managing cases within the criminal justice process. Furthermore, four categories of crime complainants were selected, based on the support they received from police stations when filing their cases and the level of cooperation they perceived from investigating officers during the investigation. This approach also aims to measure the lengthiness of the criminal justice process.

These interviews utilized semi-structured questionnaires tailored to each group of respondents—police officers, public prosecutors, judges and complainants — incorporating sections on demographic information, case-related details, and specific recommendations for improving investigative processes. By customizing these questionnaires, the study accommodated the unique perspectives and roles of each group, ensuring that relevant aspects of their professional experiences were captured effectively. Semi-structured questions allowed participants to elaborate on their views while guiding the conversation to cover critical themes related to the research questions.

4.3 Secondary Data Collection:

To complement and contextualize the empirical data, a comprehensive secondary data collection strategy was implemented. Secondary data were drawn from multiple reputable sources, including peer-reviewed academic journals, institutional reports, government publications, and credible online databases such as Scopus, Web of Science, JSTOR, Emerald Insight, SAGE Journals, ScienceDirect, Springer Nature, and Google Scholar. This approach aimed to ground the study within the existing body of literature on police investigation challenges, criminal justice processes, and institutional barriers, as well as to provide a theoretical foundation for interpreting the findings. The use of secondary data was essential for several reasons. First, it allowed for a literature review that contextualized the study's findings within broader research on criminal justice systems in developing countries, focusing particularly on systemic issues faced by law enforcement in South Asia. This review highlighted key themes such as resource constraints, procedural delays, inter-agency coordination challenges, and the sociocultural factors affecting investigative processes, all of which are prevalent in similar studies on police efficacy in emerging economies (Karn, 2013; Sangha&Kapur, 2020).

Additionally, secondary sources were instrumental in supporting the theoretical frameworks applied in this study, such as systems theory and institutional theory. By referencing prior studies on police investigations, secondary data provided a foundation for understanding how various elements within the criminal justice system interact and affect investigative outcomes (Manning, 2015; Bayley, 2018). This theoretical grounding enabled a more structured interpretation of the empirical findings, helping to identify gaps between policy and practice, as well as institutional bottlenecks. The inclusion of

institutional reports and government publications was also crucial for ensuring that the study's findings were aligned with national legal frameworks and policies. Official reports from Bangladeshi law enforcement agencies, the Ministry of Home Affairs, and the Police Reform Program provided insights into the country's current policies, procedural guidelines, and institutional objectives. These sources not only provided factual data on the operational structures within the police force but also highlighted ongoing reforms and areas of policy focus, which helped contextualize the study's recommendations within the national policy landscape (Bangladesh Police, 2020; Ministry of Home Affairs, 2021). Furthermore, this study incorporated cross-national comparisons by reviewing secondary sources on police investigation challenges in other countries. Studies from South Asia, Africa, and Latin America were reviewed to draw parallels and contrasts with Bangladesh's police system, revealing common challenges and potential solutions that could be adapted for the Bangladeshi context. For instance, studies from India and Pakistan highlighted similar issues related to resource limitations, case backlogs, and training deficiencies, underscoring the need for capacity-building and institutional reforms (Gill, 2019; Ahmed, 2021). Finally, secondary data from reputable databases such as Scopus, Web of Science, and JSTOR ensured that the study's literature review included high-quality, peer-reviewed studies. These databases provided access to a broad range of research on criminal justice, law enforcement practices, and public administration, enabling the researcher to draw upon the latest empirical findings and theoretical advancements in the field. This approach not only validated the study's methodology but also enriched its analysis by linking the empirical data with a robust theoretical foundation (Tashakkori & Teddlie, 2010).

4.4 Data Collection Procedures:

The data collection process for this study was methodically structured to ensure that insights were captured accurately and comprehensively from all relevant actors within the criminal justice system. The primary data collection method was semi-structured interviews, allowing for both a guided inquiry into predetermined topics and the flexibility to explore unanticipated insights. This approach enabled participants to share their experiences in depth, while still ensuring that key research areas were systematically addressed. Semi-structured interviews are particularly effective for studies involving complex systems like law enforcement, as they encourage participants to elaborate on

their unique perspectives while allowing the researcher to probe deeper when necessary (Bryman, 2016).

Interview Process:

Semi-structured interviews were conducted with various stakeholders, including police officers, public prosecutors, and judges, along with other relevant individuals in the criminal justice system. These interviews varied in length, lasting between 30 and 40 minutes, depending on the depth of each participant's responses and their role in the investigative process. By tailoring the duration of each interview to the participant's availability and engagement, the researcher was able to gather comprehensive insights without compromising the richness of the data. Audio recordings were used during interviews, with all participants providing informed consent for recording.

Snowball Sampling:

During the data collection phase, snowball sampling was applied as a supplementary technique to expand the participant pool. Snowball sampling involves asking current participants to recommend other individuals who might provide valuable insights, thereby gaining access to additional, potentially hard-to-reach participants (Miles et al., 2014). This approach was particularly useful in engaging participants within higher ranks or specialized roles in the criminal justice system, who might otherwise be challenging to approach directly. In researching criminal justice system research in Bangladesh, snowball sampling is especially effective for accessing hard-to-reach or closed groups, such as law enforcement officials, justice sector personnel, or individuals involved in sensitive criminal justice matters. In Bangladesh, where issues of trust, hierarchy, and bureaucratic barriers often limit direct access to respondents, snowball sampling helps identify participants through referrals from trusted insiders. This method builds credibility, encourages participation, and allows researchers to gather insider perspectives that might not be possible through random or formal sampling techniques. It is particularly useful when researching sensitive topics or working within institutions where formal access is restricted. Snowball sampling is recognized as an effective method for qualitative research, especially in studies where direct access to certain groups may be restricted by organizational structures or hierarchical barriers (Atkinson & Flint, 2001). Through these referrals, the study was able to include voices from various specialized units and departments, broadening the scope and diversity of perspectives.

Questionnaires and Interview Structure:

Semi-structured questionnaires were developed specifically for each group of participants— police officers, public prosecutors, judges and complainants. Four types of questionnaire were developed for four types of group of people. These questionnaires were carefully structured to cover three main sections:

Demographic Information

This section gathered basic details about participants' roles, ranks, and years of experience, helping to contextualize their insights within their professional backgrounds.

Case-Specific Information

In this section, questions were designed to elicit participants' experiences with specific cases and investigative processes, including any systemic challenges they encountered, such as resource limitations or procedural obstacles.

Recommendations and Insights – This section encouraged participants to provide their perspectives on potential improvements to the investigation process, offering practical solutions and highlighting institutional needs.

Data Analysis:

The data analysis procedures for this study were meticulously designed to comprehensively examine both quantitative and qualitative data, enabling a robust exploration of trends, patterns, and themes related to investigative challenges within Bangladesh's criminal justice system. This mixed-methods approach ensures that the analysis captures both the measurable and contextual dimensions of the issues at hand. Quantitative data were analyzed using descriptive statistical methods to identify key patterns and trends, such as rates of investigation delays, resource allocation disparities, and variations in case outcomes across different regions. Descriptive statistics, as noted by Babbie (2020), are crucial for summarizing large datasets and providing an overarching view of systemic issues, forming a foundation for deeper analysis. For qualitative data, thematic analysis was employed to extract, categorize, and interpret recurring themes from stakeholder narratives, including those of police officers, victims, and legal professionals. Thematic analysis, as described by Braun and Clarke (2006), is particularly effective for identifying patterns in qualitative data that reflect participants'

lived experiences, perceptions, and challenges. This method allows the study to uncover nuanced insights into procedural bottlenecks, institutional barriers, and socio-political influences that impact police investigations. For instance, themes such as lack of training, political interference, and resource constraints were systematically identified and analyzed to provide a rich, contextualized understanding of the challenges.

Quantitative Data Analysis:

Quantitative data, gathered through structured questionnaires, were systematically analyzed using Microsoft Excel. The data analysis involved generating descriptive statistics, including frequencies, percentages, means, and standard deviations, to summarize and interpret the key trends and patterns across different respondent categories, such as police officers, public prosecutors, judges, and complainants. The use of descriptive statistics enabled a clear presentation of participants' demographic profiles, crime-related experiences, and perspectives on investigation-related challenges, providing an essential overview of quantitative findings (Field, 2013). To facilitate a straightforward interpretation of quantitative data, results were organized into tables and charts. Tables were used to present numerical data on participant characteristics, such as rank and years of experience among police officers, while charts (e.g., bar and pie charts) visually represented data on prevalent themes like perceived obstacles in the investigation process and the frequency of certain investigative challenges. This approach made it possible to identify patterns and trends at a glance, providing valuable context that would later inform the qualitative analysis and contribute to a holistic understanding of the issues (Saunders et al., 2019).

Limited Generalizability beyond Metropolitan Areas: While the study includes a broad range of metropolitan areas across Bangladesh, its findings may have limited generalizability to non-metropolitan or rural regions. The challenges and experiences reported by police officers working in police stations (Thana) in Bangladesh may differ significantly from those in specialized units like CID, PBI, CTTC, and WS&ID. This is due to variations in workload, investigation time limits, resource limitations, types of crimes handled, and interactions with the community.

Reliance on Purposive Sampling: The study's purposive sampling approach, while effective for targeting participants with relevant expertise and insights, may limit the scope of the findings. This sampling method inherently narrows the participant pool to individuals with specific characteristics or experiences, potentially excluding other voices that could contribute valuable perspectives on investigative challenges. For example, while purposive sampling ensures depth by focusing on police officers, public prosecutors, judges and complainants it may overlook the views of support staff, lower-ranking officers, or additional community stakeholders who interact with the criminal justice system (Saunders et al., 2019). This limitation affects the representativeness of the data, meaning findings should be interpreted within the context of the chosen sample rather than generalized to the entire criminal justice system.

Temporal Constraints on Data Collection: Due to time constraints in conducting fieldwork, the study represents a snapshot of investigative challenges at a specific point in time. The criminal justice system is inherently dynamic, with new policies, technologies, and social issues continuously emerging. This temporal limitation means that the findings may not fully reflect longer-term changes or newly implemented policies that could impact investigative practices. Longitudinal studies or follow-up research could enhance understanding by examining how challenges and solutions evolve over time (Creswell & Poth, 2018).

Potential Limitations of Secondary Data Sources: The study also relies on secondary data sources for literature support and contextual insights, including journal articles, reports, and government publications. While these sources provide valuable background and theoretical grounding, the availability and scope of research on police investigations in Bangladesh remain limited. Some sources may lack recent or locally relevant data, which could restrict the theoretical depth of the literature review and its alignment with the present-day challenges faced by the criminal justice system in Bangladesh. As a result, the study may occasionally draw on findings from other countries or contexts, which may not fully correspond to the unique sociopolitical dynamics in Bangladesh (Yin, 2017).

Reliance on Self-Reported Data: Finally, the study's findings are based on self-reported data collected through interviews, which, while providing valuable insights, can also be subject to social desirability bias. Participants, particularly those in law enforcement, may feel pressure to present themselves or their institutions in a positive light, potentially influencing their responses. Although efforts were made to foster an open and non-judgmental interview environment, the inherent limitation of self-reported data should be recognized in interpreting findings (Patton, 2015).

4.5 Conclusion:

This study, examining the challenges of police investigations within Bangladesh's criminal justice system, offers a nuanced perspective on institutional barriers and potential areas for reform. Employing a mixed-methods approach, the study successfully integrates quantitative trends with qualitative insights from key stakeholders, providing a comprehensive analysis that reflects the complexity of police investigation processes in Bangladesh. Through targeted data 84 collection from police officers, public prosecutors, judges, complainants and high-ranking officials across eight metropolitan & eight ranges areas, the research sheds light on the structural, procedural, and contextual obstacles faced in addressing diverse crime categories, including violent crimes, property crimes, violence against women, and cybercrime. Despite its comprehensive approach, the study acknowledges several limitations, including possible response biases due to the sensitivity of the subject matter, limited generalizability beyond urban areas, and the inherent restrictions of purposive sampling. These limitations, along with time constraints and a reliance on self-reported data, suggest that while the findings provide critical insights into metropolitan investigation challenges, they may not fully capture the broader dynamics across rural regions or all levels of law enforcement. The study's data analysis procedures combining descriptive statistics for quantitative data and thematic analysis for qualitative insights demonstrated the utility of both Excel and QDA Miner in processing and interpreting complex data. However, the reliance on self-reported and secondary data sources necessitates careful interpretation, particularly given the potential for social desirability bias in interviews and the limitations of available literature. Future research could expand upon this study by incorporating longitudinal data, a more diverse geographic focus, and broader stakeholder inclusion, enhancing the scope and applicability of findings across Bangladesh's criminal justice system. Overall, this

research contributes significantly to the understanding of police investigation challenges within an urban Bangladeshi context, identifying critical areas for policy and procedural improvements. By highlighting both specific obstacles and suggested solutions, the study provides a foundation for further exploration and dialogue, paving the way for reforms that could improve the efficacy and equity of police investigations in Bangladesh.

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CHAPTER FIVE
ISSUES OF POLICE INVESTIGATIONS

5.1 Introduction:

Effective justice system in any country depends on many issues including the police investigation. This chapter discusses the issues of police investigation based on empirical data: investing officers and public prosecutors. Indeed, investigation involves a series of critical steps, each of which demands careful attention to detail and proper execution. The investigation typically begins with the starting time of investigation, where timely action is essential to prevent evidence from being compromised or lost. Once the investigation commences, proper crime scene management becomes crucial to ensure that the scene is preserved, and all potential digital evidence is identified and safeguarded (Prince, Lum, &Koper, 2021). Physical evidence collection follows, where investigators must gather not only traditional evidence but also electronic devices, storage media, and any other items relevant to the crime. Alongside, the use of technology plays an integral role in analyzing digital evidence, tracking online activity, and identifying cybercriminals, requiring investigators to be well-versed in cyber forensics and data retrieval techniques (Hekim, Gul, &Akcam, 2013). When necessary, the arrest of suspects is carried out, and it is vital that investigators adhere to legal protocols while managing the situation. In parallel, the management of logistics support is essential, particularly when coordinating between various departments, managing resources, and ensuring smooth operations throughout the investigation process. The work environment also plays a critical role in the success of an investigation, with a supportive and well-equipped environment fostering effective collaboration and focus. Finally, the investigation culminates in the charge sheet or final report, which must clearly outline the findings, the evidence collected, and the legal basis for any charges filed. This report not only serves as a critical document for prosecuting the case but also as a record of the investigative process, ensuring accountability and transparency.

5.2 Major issues in police investigation:

Time and working hours The timely execution of police investigations is crucial, as every hour spent can significantly impact the collection of evidence, the success of the investigation, and the pursuit of justice. This study asked a question of time and working hours of investigation to the investigating officers.

This disparity in working hours stems primarily from the differences in the scope and nature of responsibilities assigned to each unit. Police stations manage a broad range of routine duties essential for maintaining law and order, which limits their ability to focus on individual investigations (Khan, 2020). In contrast, specialized units are designed to handle complex, highstakes, or sensitive cases, allowing them to allocate more time to thorough investigations. The higher time investment in these units reflects the intricate procedures required for cases with significant implications, such as organized crimes, gender-based violence, or cybercrime. Another contributing factor is the public perception and operational challenges faced by police stations. Investigations at the Thana level are often criticized for issues like corruption, inefficiency, and bias. Cases originating from police stations, especially those involving smallscale crimes like theft, snatching, or missing documents, frequently lack rigorous follow-up, contributing to lower investigative hours (Ahmmed, 2023). Moreover, high-stakes or sensitive cases are often forwarded to specialized units, which are better trained and equipped for such tasks, further emphasizing the disparity. For justice to prevail, the time and effort invested in investigations play a pivotal role. Enhancing the investigative capacity of police stations through targeted reforms, adequate resources, and training could ensure fairer and more transparent case handling, thereby bridging the gap in investigative performance between Thanas and specialized units.

Type of Work without Investigation. In contrast, 256 out of 400 police officers working in police stations (Thanas) play a broader, more immediate role in public safety. Their responsibilities go beyond investigations and include responding to emergency calls (such as national emergency 999 calls), accidents, or incidents requiring urgent attention. Additionally, they are tasked with providing security for very important persons (VIPs) and ensuring the safety of key individuals. An essential aspect of their duties involves "beat policing," which is a proactive approach to community engagement. Officers in this role regularly patrol assigned areas, engage with local communities, and address emerging public issues. They also serve as mediators, resolving disputes and preventing minor issues from escalating into serious problems (Ahmmed, 2023). As the first line of contact for the community, these officers often handle a wide variety of tasks that require significant time and attention, often beyond regular investigative work.

5.3 Time of Starting Investigation after Case Filed:

In the above pie chart (Figure 6.5), participants were asked how many days after the filing of a case an investigation can be initiated. The responses varied due to operational realities and procedural strategies across different departments. A total of 22% of participants indicated that investigations can begin instantly after the filing of a case. These cases may be considered urgent or high-priority, or there may be pressure from the authorities to proceed without delay. One-fourth of the participants, i.e., 25%, stated that investigations typically begin a few hours after the filing of the case. This likely reflects standard operating procedures in the country, where investigators require a short amount of time to gather initial information, allocate resources, and prepare the investigation framework. This also indicates that certain processes, such as documentation or primary assessments, need to be completed before the investigation starts. 89 (22%) 102 (25%) 125 (31%) 22 (6%) 62 (16%) Time of Starting Investigation after Case Filed Instant Start a few hours Within 24 hours Within 48 hours Investigation can be started immediately after receiving the copy of Ezha 113 The largest percentage, 31%, said investigations are generally started within 24 hours of the case being filed. This suggests a more common timeframe in which the investigation process begins once the case has been registered. This period allows for time to review the FIR, assign the case to an officer, and coordinate any necessary follow-up actions from senior officials. Six percent of participants reported that investigations begin within 48 hours after the case is filed. This may reflect situations where authorities experience delays or do not consider the case serious enough to warrant immediate attention. Furthermore, as Bangladesh is a densely populated country, the availability of police officers or investigators may be limited, which could contribute to delays in initiating investigations (Ahmed & Hasan, 2020). Finally, 16% of participants indicated that an investigation can only begin immediately after receiving the copy of Ezha. This refers to the process of obtaining an official copy of the case documents (such as the FIR or special authorization), which are necessary for the investigation to be officially launched. This step may be required in cases where documentation or legal protocols must be in place before any investigative actions can be taken. These responses highlight the variation in timelines for initiating investigations, depending on the nature of the case, the urgency involved, the availability of resources, and the legal requirements of the police force or department. The differing timelines also

reflect the need for more capable officers and responsible actions in handling various types of cases

Equipment during the investigation:

That 97% (388 out of 400) participants use modern equipment in their investigations, while only 3% do not use such equipment. The use of modern tools in investigations is essential, as the increasing involvement of technology in daily life is undeniable. Technology aids in solving cases by providing more clues and ensuring that investigations are based on accurate and reliable evidence. It helps reduce errors, speed up processes, and allows for the tracing of illegal activities, particularly in cyberspace.

Physical Evidence in Criminal Investigation:

According to the respondents affirmed that physical evidence plays a crucial role in criminal investigations, while only 1% disagreed. These findings underscore the critical importance of physical evidence in solving crimes. Physical evidence often serves as tangible proof that links suspects to criminal activities, offering an impartial source of truth that can strengthen cases and ensure justice (Clark & Burgess, 2021). The overwhelming consensus among respondents suggests that physical evidence is widely recognized as a key element in investigations.

The investigation officers manage their logistical support during investigations. According to the data, the majority of logistical support, 71% (234 out of 400), is arranged personally by the officers themselves. This indicates a significant gap in the institutional provision of essential resources like vehicles, which are crucial for timely and effective investigations. Additionally, 18% (71 out of 400) of the logistical support comes from the Officer-in-Charge (OC), while only 5% (18 out of 400) is obtained through car requisitions. A smaller portion, 2% (8 out of 400), receives logistical support from plaintiffs or defendants. These figures highlight the lack of institutional support for officers, forcing them to rely on personal arrangements to manage their logistics. This organizational failure impacts the ability of officers to respond quickly to time-sensitive cases, limits their access to crucial evidence, increases their workload, and makes coordination more difficult. Ultimately, this operational inefficiency reflects poorly on law enforcement and negatively influences the public's perception of policing. The reliance on personal arrangements for logistics also underscores the need for structural improvements to ensure that officers have the necessary resources to perform their duties effectively.

Recommendations for the Improve the Environment of Investigation: This section presents how the investigators improve their working condition for bringing more productive and fruitful result in the investigation process.

5.4 Conclusion:

Police investigators in Bangladesh face various difficulties caused by organizational limits, resource shortages, and systemic inefficiencies. Important problems like time limits and long workdays make it difficult for officers to conduct in-depth investigations. These difficulties are made worse by a lack of access to contemporary equipment and insufficient instruments for processing crime scenes, which compromises the gathering and examination of evidence. It is more difficult to guarantee accurate and trustworthy results when there are inadequate capabilities for preserving tangible evidence. When combined with an excessive amount of work, investigators are frequently overworked and unable to give each case enough attention. The lack of specialized teams and poor coordination are examples of internal management problems that cause delays and inefficiencies in the investigation process. Officers are also subjected to excessive stress from both internal and external sources, which affects their impartiality and decision-making. These sources might range from organizational expectations to political meddling.

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CHAPTER SIX
CHALLENGES OF POLICE INVESTIGATION
AND MEASURES TO OVERCOME

6.1 Introduction:

Police investigations encounter a range of complex challenges that impact both the effectiveness and fairness of the justice process (Kashem, 2017). As the first responders to any crisis, police officers are frequently hampered by resource constraints, insufficient funding, outdated equipment, poor training opportunities and inadequate efficient officers. These limitations can impede thorough evidence collection, especially in high-profile or resource-intensive cases. Moreover, officers often work under significant legal restrictions that dictate how evidence must be gathered, preserved, and presented. (Hossain, & Sakib, 2022). This is further complicated by a lack of cooperation from the public, which can stem from mistrust of law enforcement, fear of retribution, or community pressures. Such factors may result in crucial evidence or eyewitness testimony being withheld, affecting the strength of the investigation.

6.2 Challenges for police investigations:

This chapter based on a survey from police officers who are investigating officers (IO), Public Prosecutors (PP). Interview data were collected from Judges, complainants and victims. Key Informant Interview (KII) collected from expert and experienced senior police officers and 154 teachers from criminology and law department from the University of Dhaka. The study try to explore the challenges from police officers before investigation, during investigation and after investigation. Study also try to explore the challenges pre-trial, ready for trial and during trial from Public Prosecutors and challenges from Judges during trial.

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CHAPTER SEVEN

RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

7.1 Recommendations

The following recommendations are proposed to improve the effectiveness, transparency, and accountability of the criminal justice system:

- Regular and specialized training programs should be arranged for investigating officers on modern investigation techniques, evidence collection, forensic science, cybercrime investigation, and human rights standards.
- Capacity-building initiatives should focus on improving analytical and problem-solving skills.
- The government should establish and modernize forensic laboratories across the country.
- Timely forensic examination of evidence can improve the accuracy and reliability of criminal investigations.
- Investigations should be conducted independently without political interference or pressure from influential individuals.
- Legal safeguards should be strengthened to ensure the professional autonomy of investigating officers.
- Adequate numbers of trained police personnel should be recruited to reduce excessive workloads.
- Police stations should be provided with modern equipment, vehicles, communication systems, and technological resources.
- Effective monitoring mechanisms should be established to prevent corruption, misconduct, and abuse of power during investigations.
- Internal and external oversight bodies should regularly review investigation practices.
- A comprehensive witness protection program should be introduced to ensure the safety and cooperation of witnesses.
- Victims and witnesses should receive legal and psychological support throughout the investigation process.
- Better coordination should be ensured among the police, prosecution, judiciary, forensic experts, and correctional institutions.
- Information-sharing systems should be improved to facilitate effective case management.

- Investigation records, case files, and evidence management systems should be digitized to increase efficiency and reduce opportunities for manipulation.
- The use of databases, surveillance technologies, and crime analysis software should be expanded.
- Community participation should be encouraged to build public trust and improve information gathering.
- Strong police-community relationships can contribute to more effective crime prevention and investigation.
- Existing laws and procedural frameworks should be updated to address contemporary forms of crime and investigative challenges.
- Clear guidelines should be developed to ensure compliance with constitutional and human rights protections.

7.2 Conclusion

The criminal justice system of Bangladesh plays a vital role in maintaining law and order, protecting citizens' rights, and ensuring justice. Among its various components, police investigation serves as the foundation of the entire criminal justice process, as the quality of investigation directly influences prosecution and judicial outcomes. However, police investigations in Bangladesh continue to face numerous challenges, including inadequate resources, insufficient training, political interference, corruption, delays in forensic examinations, heavy workloads, and limited technological support. These challenges often undermine the effectiveness and credibility of criminal investigations, resulting in delayed justice and reduced public confidence in the criminal justice system. Addressing these issues requires a comprehensive approach involving institutional reforms, capacity development, technological modernization, enhanced accountability, and stronger inter-agency cooperation.

By implementing the recommended measures, Bangladesh can significantly improve the quality and efficiency of police investigations. An effective, transparent, and professional investigative system will not only strengthen the rule of law but also contribute to ensuring justice, protecting human rights, and fostering greater public trust in the country's criminal justice system.

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