

**ISS Risk Special Report:
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Executive summary

Bangladesh is firmly on the radar these past few weeks with a significant spike in terrorist activities across the country. The focus of attention has remained Chittagong in southeast Bangladesh, with attacks, raids and a large number of terrorists arrested. With the overspill of the Rohingya refugee crisis and reports of radicalisation focusing international attention on the area it is important not to become blinkered by the here and now, there is much more evolving than what is merely in the popular press.

This report looks at the trends and patterns of activity beyond the here and now, the events building up to this spike in activity over the past few months, how that has and is contributing to the increasing levels of militancy and the transitional nature of the threat. We draw out the connectors and combat indicators pertaining to the rapidly increasing activities that demonstrate the fluidity of the situation on the ground and cross fertilisation taking shape across the country and rippling beyond Bangladesh itself. This spill over into Eastern India, Assam, and potentially Rhakine State in Myanmar supports ISS Risk's hypothesis of Bangladesh as an emerging bridgehead of jihadist activity between South and South East Asia.