

Taming the Rebels

India's Negotiations with the ULFA



UNITED LIBERATION FRONT OF ASOM



ASSAM
Guwahati

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The *South Asia Conflict Monitor (SACM)* aims to provide in-depth analyses, country briefs, summary sketches of important players and a timeline of major events on issues relating to armed conflicts, insurgencies and terrorism. It also aims to cover the government's strategies on conflict resolution and related policies to tackle these risks and crises.

The *South Asia Conflict Monitor* is a monthly bulletin designed to provide quality information and actionable intelligence for the policy and research communities, the media, business houses, law enforcement agencies and the general reader by filtering relevant open source information and intelligence gathered from the ground contacts and sources.

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Taming the Rebels: India's Negotiations with the ULFA

India has applied different conflict resolution methods to bring peace and development in its three important conflict theatres since the 1980s. Dialogue and negotiation tactics has been widely applied to find a lasting resolution. In the case of the north-east insurgent groups, counter-insurgency operations have largely failed because of the inhospitable terrain, nature of conflict and last but not the least resilience of the militants due to external support. The same is the case with Jammu and Kashmir militancy and Left wing Extremism (LWE) in the Eastern and Central India. Even though, India had resolved the Sikh insurgency (Khalistan movement) in Punjab by applying military force, these tactics however, are not free from collateral damages including right violations.

Arguably, the successful negotiations with the Arabinda Rajkhowa faction of the United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) remain a major achievement for both the Union and Assam governments for bringing the rebels onto the mainstream for lasting peace and development. However, the region is yet to be free from conflict given the unwillingness of the Pares Barua-led hardliners' faction, now known as ULFA (Independent), for negotiations, and the formation of new insurgent groups in that region. Suspected ULFA (I) militants and the Karbi People's Liberation Tigers militants had attacked with hand grenades in Bokolia area of Karbi Anglong district on July 24, 2013. One person was killed and seven others injured in the attack. ULFA militants again struck with grenades on July 28 at Paltan Bazar of Assam which left 16 people, including three children, injured.

The ULFA was formed in 1979 in Sivasagar (Assam) to achieve a sovereign socialist Assam through an armed struggle. There have been many theories about the formation of the ULFA. There were views that the ULFA was formed as a reaction to the illegal immigration of labourers from Bihar (India), Bangladesh and other adjacent regions to the tea plantation areas of Assam. Another theory argues that the ULFA has been a movement against under-development and exploitation of the region. The ULFA believes that a separate sovereign state would bring development and prosperity to the region. Another theory observes that the ULFA does not represent entire Assam and basically it is an extortionist organization being operated under the garb of fighting against injustice. Amongst these three major theories, the last theory matches the operational activities of ULFA. Available documents suggest that most of its top leaders were either living in Bangladesh or the Myanmar-China border area. They are believed to have lavish lifestyle with booming business ventures that ranges from hotels and hospitality to arms smuggling spanning at least three neighboring countries.

Paresh Barua: Elusive Militant Mastermind of Northeast India

In April 2008, Indian authorities had requested their counterparts in Bangladesh to hand over a most wanted separatist leader who has been hiding in the neighboring country for over a decade. To the utter dismay, Bangladesh authorities conveyed that he was no longer in their territory and believed to have escaped to Bangkok (Thailand). He is Paresh Barua, (a.k.a Paban Barua, Nur-Uz-Zaman and Kamruzzaman) the commander-in-chief of the most violent separatist militant group of India, United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA). Barua has Interpol red corner notice against him since 1997 (Notice Control No: A-340/7-1997). Elusive since then, Paresh Barua is believed to be spearheading ULFA's armed struggle for an independent and sovereign Assam from his hideouts that spread across at least three Countries: Bangladesh, Thailand and Myanmar.

Born in May 1957 in a village called Jeraichkali Bhariagaon, located in Dibrugarh district of Assam, Barua worked briefly as railway porter and then as a worker at Duliajan branch of Oil India. He received armed and explosive training and tactics of Guerrilla warfare from the Naga militant group NSCN (Nationalist Socialist Council of Nagaland), Kachin Independence Army (KIA), Myanmar and Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence in mid 1980s, according to the findings of the Criminal Investigation Department of Assam Police. Pakistan's ISI is believed to have procured different passports for Barua. Involved in criminal activities that ranging from Bank robberies, extortions from business houses to abduction for ransom, to fund armed training of new recruits, Barua and his cohorts received covert support from then Assam Gano Parishad government for a while. The most prolific abduction and killing case perpetrated by Paresh Barua and his cohorts were in late June 1991 when at least 14 high ranking officials including Russian engineer Sergei Gritsenko. Gritsenko was killed along with two Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) officials during the course of rescue operations. ULFA also blamed for the killing of social worker Sanjay Ghosh in July 1997. The list of bombings, Grenade attacks and targeted killings of Hindi speaking people carried out by ULFA at the behest of Paresh Barua is endless.

Parseh Barua was last spotted in a militant camp located inside Eastern Nagaland jungle (in the neighboring Myanmar while playing a soccer match along with other separatist leaders (The Week, May 05, 2012). The idea behind this soccer match was to bring like minded anti-India Northeastern militant separatists groups under one platform under Naga warlord militant S.S. Khaplang, chairman of the NSCN (Khaplang) faction.

Undoubtedly, New Delhi's peace overtures have triggered a strain within the ranks and file of ULFA and there has been a split between its Chairman Arabinda Rajkhowa and the military commander (also Vice Chairman,) Paresh Barua. Most recently, in early May 2013, the Paresh Barua-led faction rechristened as ULFA-Independent (ULFA-I) severing all ties with the liberal or Pro-Talk faction of ULFA (led by Aravind Rajkhowa). In an emailed statement from the faction's chairman, Abhijit Asom, said: "Looking at the political context and the proposal of a dialogue between the government and ULFA hardliners, the faction decided to continue to stick to its previous stand of discussing the issue of sovereignty and to sit for the discussion in a separate country in presence of UN representatives."

The gap between declared objectives and its *modus operandi* brought divisions in the outfit. This also led to disillusionment amongst the cadre. Most importantly, local support to the outfit shrank due to frequent attacks on civilians and forced extraction of money. The security agencies took advantage of the situation and intensified operations against it. The union government withdrew the militant surrender policy, which had not shown desired results, and had decided to go after the Bangladesh-based underground groups after the visit of a high-power delegation to Assam following serial bomb blasts on April 06, 2009, in Guwahati. Around eight persons were killed and 62 others had been injured in the attack. The delegation was particularly concerned about ULFA's support from pan-Islamic groups and Pakistan intelligence agencies, which were operating in Bangladesh. Following that decision, the unified command security structure and inter-state coordination helped arrest and neutralize many ULFA cadres.

Apart from inland operations, Delhi also sought help from the Bangladesh government for sharing of information on ULFA leaders, who had been living there to evade police action. However, the safe haven of the outfits dwindled with the emergence of the Awami League (AL) as the largest party in the 2008 general elections in Bangladesh. The AL government took strong action against the ULFA operations staged from Bangladesh. That resulted in the arrest and surrender of many top leaders. By end of 2010 almost all the top leaders of ULFA, except Paresh Barua, were arrested or had surrendered in Bangladesh and India.

In an effort to bring further peace and stability, the Tarun Gogoi government in Assam wanted to bring the rest of the rebel cadres onto the mainstream by offering peace talks. Barring the ULFA (I) almost all the militant groups operating in Assam had been in peace talk mode by end of 2011. The government used its political influence to bring the ULFA to the negotiating table for peace talks. The ULFA leaders were also looking for a safe landing after the arrest of their top leaders. However, the peace offer brought about a vertical split in the ULFA, with Arvinda Rajkhowa and other leaders agreeing for peace talks.

In the sixth round of talks, the union government in-principle agreed to address the major issues – prevent illegal migration from Bangladesh, safeguard indigenous people and protect the land rights of the indigenous people, etc. The ULFA leaders reportedly were happy with the talks and wanted to seal a deal as soon as possible by participating in the forthcoming Parliamentary elections. Despite these developments, there were multiple challenges before the Union and Assam governments to free the region from political violence.

Chronology of Peace Talks

- **October 25, 2009:** ULFA said it was ready for negotiation with Centre but would not give up arms.
- **December 03, 2009:** Assam Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi offered peace talks to ULFA, but clarified that the entire process will be handled by the Central government.
- **June 16, 2010:** New Delhi appointed former Intelligence Bureau Chief P.C. Haldar as its interlocutor and the Assam government facilitated the release of Arvinda Rajkhowa and other top jailed leaders on bail.
- **June 21, 2010:** A six-member Assam delegation of Citizen's Forum met Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh in New Delhi to discuss issues related to revive peace talks between the ULFA and the government.
- **February 10, 2011:** An eight-member Rajkhowa-led ULFA delegation had first round of unconditional peace talks with the Centre in New Delhi with the then Union Home Secretary, G.K. Pillai.
- **July 12, 2011:** ULFA (Rajkhowa faction) declared a unilateral indefinite ceasefire to ensure that the ongoing political negotiations between the insurgent outfit and the Centre can continue in a peaceful atmosphere.
- **August 05, 2011:** ULFA handed over the 'framework of charter for negotiation' to Union Home Minister, P. Chidambaram and Chief Minister, Tarun Gogoi.
- **June 26, 2013:** The sixth round of tripartite peace talks with ULFA was held in New Delhi under the chairmanship of Union Home Secretary R.K. Singh to review the progress made in talks with ULFA and also to discuss their demands.

The first and the foremost amongst them is ULFA (I) faction's opposition to the ongoing peace process and its external support. The faction is still adamant on the sovereignty issue. According to a government source, the ULFA (I) has killed 16 persons in Assam during the last two years (till July 15, 2013). A recent report of the *Assam Tribune* said around a hundred militants of the ULFA (I) have been staying in the camps in Myanmar and its chief has been "visiting China from his Myanmar bases quite often." Although the faction's movements in Assam have been curtailed drastically, it has the potential to carry out major attacks in Assam and adjacent areas. The Rajkhowa faction agreed for peace talks when they realized that Delhi might not compromise on the sovereignty issue and could not sustain itself against the anti-ULFA operations in Bangladesh. ULFA (I), is still firm on its demands and may take advantage of governance issues in the state. It has shifted its base camps to the Myanmar-China border and has opened multiple base camps.

Second, the ULFA committee on July 24, 2013 has warned that the ongoing peace talks might not be successful. The Assam government has failed to implement the rehabilitation package for SULFA, and unless the government brings other factions and all surrendered ULFA militants into the confidence, the peace talks will not move forward or survive. The committee also

demanded withdrawal of nearly 15,000 criminal cases pending against around 3,000 surrendered militants in Assam. They feel isolated due to the peace talks taking place only with the Rajkhowa faction. The Barua faction does feel vulnerable presently due to good understanding between India and Bangladesh on exchange of intimations on militant groups operating in the border regions.

Last but not least, earlier experience indicates that since the ULFA has been using Bangladesh territory as a safe haven, especially the ULFA (I) faction, the political dynamics in that country will determine the future of the Assam insurgency. The strong and coordinated action by the AL regime in Bangladesh has to some extent forced the rebel groups in the Northeast, the ULFA in particular, into peace negotiations. If the recent municipal corporation results in Bangladesh are any indication, the AL may not perform well in the forthcoming National Assembly elections in Bangladesh. In that case, the ULFA (I) may again get easy access to Bangladesh territory for more subversive activities to derail the ongoing peace process. Therefore, it would be in the interest of India to enter into an agreement with the ULFA faction supporting peace talks before the National Assembly elections in Bangladesh.



Guest Commentary:**Nepal: Struggling Himalayan Democracy**

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Post Bahadur Basnet is a career journalist and researcher, presently a Visiting Fellow at the New Delhi based Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA). He began his career as a journalist in 2003 and worked with the Kathmandu Post and the Republica, two leading English language daily in Nepal as a political correspondent and sub-editor. Basnet had a stint at the International Crisis Group (ICG) in Kathmandu as a researcher in the past. He extensively covered Nepal's leftist movement and parliamentary affairs for both newspapers. Besides news reporting, he has written editorials, political commentaries and opinion pieces on contemporary issues plaguing Nepal. He contributed a number of political commentaries and analyses to various newspapers and magazines, especially the Himal South Asian. His research interests are: Social Movement, Political Violence and Democracy.

The second constituent assembly (CA) elections in Nepal, slated for November 19 this year, were to give some hope to the politically frustrated masses and bring the derailed transitional political process back on track. But that did neither.

The initial euphoria following the formation of an elected government last March and the subsequent announcement of a poll date has got a jolt, with some parties threatening to boycott the election and even resort to violence to disrupt the process. The major political parties, on the other hand, still look like lame ducks, not much enthused about the elections, while political pundits also look at the prospect of elections in November with serious doubts. By contrast, most political analysts and politicians in the capital Kathmandu say the election is likely to be postponed to next April that may add further uncertainty to the rudderless transitional politics of the young republic.

The radical Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist (CPN-M) led by Mohan Baidya alias Kiran has recently centre stage in the country's political process. The last central committee (CC) meeting of the party officially decided to boycott the elections – 'actively' and 'forcefully'-- and even 'raise arms' if need be. As decided, the party has implemented the CC resolutions by launching a nationwide programme against the CA election on July 26. The leaders of the party fanned out different parts of Kathmandu city and some of them reportedly smashed a mock ballot box. Further, the Parbat district chapter of the party on July 29 decided to prevent people from voting by using force.

The Mohan Baidya-led party, which split from the Prachanda-led Unified Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) [UCPN-M] in 2012, has almost half of the war-time cadres who don't have faith in electoral politics and advocate capture of the state through violent means.

The party has put forward two preconditions for its participation in the election: roundtable conference of all-stakeholders and dissolution of the current Interim Electoral Council of Ministers [IECM] led by Chief Justice Khil Raj Regmi, which they believe was formed by ‘external powers’ to fulfill their ‘vested interests’. Interestingly, the second rung leaders from the top four political parties also subscribe the same view. They believe that the Baidya faction may join the electoral process if the Chairman of the IECM resigns as the Chief Justice.

But these preconditions only seem to be excuses to disrupt the polls. The radicals argue that the roundtable meeting should resolve the outstanding constitutional issues before the elections are held, which is not acceptable to the other major parties. Nor will the dissolution of the IECM lead to solutions; it will only deepen the political crisis as the country doesn’t have a consensus candidate at this moment to lead a new government.

The move to disrupt the polls, party insiders say, comes from their necessity to justify the vertical split of the party in 2012. If they participate in the elections, they cannot differentiate themselves from the Maoists led by Prachanda whom they accused of ideological deviation by dabbling with electoral politics. And if they just boycott the elections, they will be out of the corridor of power and marginalized in national politics. Hence, the need for disruption of the elections.

Are they strong enough to disrupt the polls? While they are strong only in the Midwestern hills of the Himalayan country, the possibility of their alliance with deposed king Gyanendra and other nationalist forces cannot be ruled out. If this potential alliance materializes, the elections will see significant violence throughout the country. Still, they will not be able to disrupt the whole electoral process.

The talks over the Baidya-Gyanendra alliance, on the other hand, have also created a rift in the 33-party alliance led by Baidya. Matrika Yadav, who leads a small radical communist party, especially in the Terai, has vehemently opposed the CPN-M’s move saying the monarch is not a ‘nationalist’, while a few other leaders have complained that they are being ignored by Baidya while formulating the party’s policy.

Again, the potential conflict between the security forces and the Baidya party cadres may plunge the country into another round of violence. The violence against this party may force the latter to go underground and begin another round of Maoist insurgency. Even if they launch an

insurgency, they are likely to be limited to some pockets of the country. But, with their potential alliance with other forces they have the capacity to create widespread chaos.

Profile: Janatantrik Terai Mukti Morcha- Rajan Mukti Faction

Around 13 illegal armed outfits active in the Terai (southern part of Nepal) have merged and have formed a new front called Janatantrik Terai Mukti Morcha- Rajan Mukti Faction (JTMM-RM) against the State on July 03. The agreement was reached after a week-long meeting among the groups in an undisclosed location reportedly somewhere in Bihar, India. The important armed groups participating in the meeting including the Jaya Krishna Goit-led Akhil Terai Mukti Morcha, Rajan Mukti's Janatantrik Terai Mukti Morcha, Nagraj's Terai Cobra, Prashant's Terai Rashtriya Mukti Morcha, Jivan's Madhes Mukti Tigers. During the meeting, the front nominated Rajan Mukti as its chairman. Although the details of its long-term objectives and modus operandi is not yet available in the public domain, it has come up with an short-term agenda to foil the November 19 Constituent Assembly (CA) elections.

The JTMM adopted an eight-point plan of action regarding the CA elections. In fact, the JTMM has branded some Madheshi leaders, including Bijaya Gachhadar, Mahantha Thakur, Rajendra Mahato, Upendra Yadav, Mahendra Yadav, Anil Jha and Rajkishor Yadav as "traitors of the Madhes." It has threatened the government to vacate all the police stations and armed police camps in the Terai within 15 days or face 'dire consequences.' Most of these outfits indulge in criminal activities in the region. They demand 'one madhesh, one pradesh' of the Terai region just to cover up their illegal activities. The JTMM, on July 14, in a statement had renewed its threats of taking physical action against central and district leaders of the Madheshi parties, including Madheshi Janadhikar Forum Nepal, Madheshi Janadhikar Forum-Loktantrik, Madheshi Janadhikar Forum-Ganatantrik, Sadbhawana Party and Terai Madhes

Among those who are advocating the election boycott, the Upendra Yadav-led Madheshi Janadhikar Forum, Nepal (MJF-N), Ashok Rai-led Federal Socialist Party (FSP) and J.P. Gupta-led Terai-Madhes National Campaign are comparatively strong in certain constituencies. They are, however, likely to participate in the elections if the government addresses their demands to increase the number of seats under proportional representation.

As per the existing provision, 240 members will be elected under a first-past-the-post system and another 240 under the proportional representation and 11 will be nominated by the newly formed cabinet to the 491-member House. If these parties really back the CPN-M, the situation will only aggravate, and the second Constituent Assembly will also lack legitimacy.

Similarly, the Terai armed groups, which have formed an alliance called: Janatantrik Terai Mukti Morcha (JTMM) under Rajan Mukti in July this year, have threatened to resort to violence to disrupt the polls. Recently, they shot two members of the Madhes-based parties in the country's southern plains to create terror in the region. While the government claims they are not strong

enough to disrupt the electoral process, they can create disturbances at the local level and target candidates.

On the other hand, despite their public rhetoric, the commitment of the four major parties to the scheduled election is questionable. First, the political equation and people's loyalty might have changed significantly since the last constituent assembly elections in 2008, and the political parties are not sure about their real strength. Many survey reports show that a very large section of the population is undecided over which party they will vote for.

So the parties will try to buy time to work out an appropriate strategy and woo their supporters. Second, all the major parties suffer from serious factionalism and the parties are likely to see disputes among the factions over the fielding of the candidates. And they also need time to make preparations and settle these disputes. Third, with less than 120 days left for the elections, the top four political parties are yet to forge a consensus on delimitations of the constituencies' total number of seats in the House and the use of old or new voters' list.

And, finally, Prachanda doesn't want Baidya to participate in the elections as that would lead to the sharing of the Maoist votes. But if Baidya contests the election, it will damage the electoral prospect of the Prachanda-led party and benefit the Nepali Congress (NC) and the CPN-UML. So these parties also need time as they hope to bring Baidya's party onboard. Likewise, Madhesi parties have become weak in their constituencies in the southern plains and have so far failed to forge alliances among themselves, which may prompt them to oppose the elections.

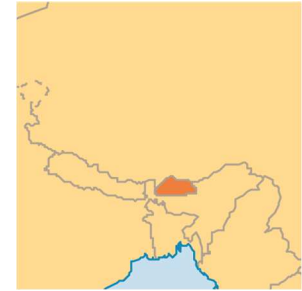
All these factors may lead to the postponement of the election to next April (2014). But, not holding elections soon would mean letting the current elected government continue to lead the country. As the political parties function through a network of patronage in this part of the world, they cannot afford to stay out of power for long and lose their support base. Postponement of elections for a few months may provide an opportunity to bring onboard those advocating the boycott of elections. The political transition in Nepal is getting more complex and the parties will have to overcome many previously unseen hurdles along the way.



COUNTRY ROUND UP

BHUTAN

In the first half of July, two major political parties of Bhutan were busy in election campaigning. Unlike the 2008 National Assembly elections, the parties had criticized each other over their political manifesto. The then opposition party, the People's Democratic Party's (PDP), criticized the ruling party, the Druk Phuensum Tshoga (DPT), for the financial mess, failure in checking corruption, rising unemployment, and for the



first time it criticized the DPT for straining the country's relations with India. The issue figured prominently in Bhutanese media when India reduced subsidies on Petroleum products and Kerosene after June 30. The PDP took advantage of the development and blamed DPT for this. The media also interpreted the subsidy issue as the DPT's inclination towards China. There was a growing public perception in Bhutan that India took that action deliberately to defame the DPT for its pro-China policy. People in fact started believing those speculations while the PDP secured 32 out of 47 seats of the National Assembly elections on July 13, 2013 and the DPT managed 15 seats with a new role as the opposition party.

The election results were quite surprising to many in Bhutan including the DPT which secured the largest number of votes and stood on top in the primary round of elections for the national Assembly in the end of May 2013. Therefore, suspecting some irregularities and external influence during the elections, the DPT initially decided not to join the National Assembly as the opposition. The members in the party convention from July 17-19 felt that "the general election was grossly unfair and that many factors were involved in influencing the outcomes." The party then brought out the irregularities by presenting a 15-point note to the King. However, the party decided to join the national assembly as the opposition after the King had assured the DPT that "he'd look into the matter and instructed the Election Commission of Bhutan accordingly."

The dissatisfaction of the DPT and its 15-point note to the King may deepen the suspicions between two top parties of Bhutan. For small and land-locked Bhutan, the branding and identification of parties like pro-King, pro-China or India and on the basis of regions may lead to political instability and chaos in future.

Major Events

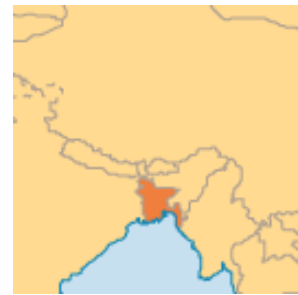
July 04: Bhutan's relations with India became a major election issue this time. Responding to People's Democratic Party's (PDP) allegations that Druk Phuensum Tshoga (DPT) had strained relations with India, DPT chief Jigmi Y Thinley said PDP has been playing with Bhutan's relations with China and India (Bhutan Observer, July 04, 2013).

July 13: Bhutan conducted peacefully the general round of elections for the National Assembly with 66.7 per cent voter turnout. Of the 381,790 registered voters, 252,853, including 44,259 postal voters had showed up. Two major political parties (Druk Phuensum Tshoga and People's Democratic Party) contested the elections (Kuensel Online, July 14, 2013).

July 14: The people of Bhutan elected the former opposition, People's Democratic Party (PDP), to form the government in the country's second parliamentary elections. PDP went on to claim 32 seats in the 47 seats National Assembly, leaving 15 seats for the Druk Phuensum Tshoga (DPT) the former ruling party (Kuensel Online, July 14, 2013).

BANGLADESH

The opposition political and religious parties have organised hartals, and protest marches throughout the month in Bangladesh. The opposition parties especially the Jamaat-e-Islam (JeI) and its student wing Islami Chattra Shibir (ICS) members kept demanding immediate release of its central committee president Delwar Hossain and information on their 'disappeared' leaders and activists. During these



protests a large number of people including police personnel were killed and injured. An unaccountable amount of public and private property was damaged. The situation deteriorated further after July 15 while the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) convicted former Jamaat-e-Islami chief Ghulam Azam with 90-year jail sentence for his role in the murder and genocide during Bangladesh's war of independence in 1971 and also the trial of its secretary general Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed. Soon after, the Jamaat-e-Islami rejected the verdicts and declared a series of hartals. On the other hand, secular forces including Gonojagoron Mancha and 11 student organisations staged a day-long countrywide shutdown for July 16 demanding death penalty to Ghulam Azam and other war criminals.

Meanwhile, the Gazipur municipal corporation election results emboldened the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP)-led opposition alliance. The Awami League suffered a huge defeat in the first mayoral elections in Gazipur city. The BNP-supported candidate won the election with a big margin. This was the fifth blow to the Awami League (AL). The ruling party had earlier lost elections in four municipal corporations. Gazipur is the second largest municipal corporation in

South Asia in terms of population. The Jatiya Party's decision to contest the forthcoming general elections independently may be difficult for AL to secure a comfortable victory.

Given that more 1971-war crime trials are going to take place in the coming days and also poor performances of the AL in the city elections, Bangladesh is likely to witness more protests and violence in the coming days. The opposition party will try to use street protest tactics to put more pressure on the government to hold the general elections under a neutral interim government. Again, much is depending upon the verdict on the legality of Jamaat-e Islami as a political entity and very likely August will be a tumultuous month for Bangladesh.

Major Events

July 02: The chairman of Jatiya Party (JP), Hussain Muhammad Ershad, said his party would take part independently in next general elections. JP is presently a major partner of the Awami League (AL)-led government (New Age, July 02, 2013).

July 02: Ten people received rubber bullet injuries during a clash between Jamaat-e-Islam (JeI) and its student wing Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) members and police at Kandirpar area in Comilla. ICS on July 01 called a countrywide dawn-to-dusk general strike on July 03 for demanding immediate release of its central committee president Delwar Hossain and information on their 'disappeared' leaders and activists (New Age, July 02, 2013).

July 02: Eight policemen were injured as ICS activists hurled bombs at them at Chapai Nawabganj Government College campus (Daily Star, July 03, 2013).

July 03: Five police personnel were injured in a clash with activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) in Comilla during the daylong nationwide hartal (shutdown) enforced by ICS. The ICS activists torched two vehicles in Bagerhat and Chapainawabganj and blasted 16 cocktails in Bogra and Chittagong. ICS enforced the hartal demanding the release of its leaders and activists including central president Delwar Hossain (Daily Star, July 03, 2013).

July 13: Major cities of Bangladesh witnessed explosion, vandalism and road blockage during the Jamaat-e-Islami called eight-hour long hartal (shutdown) in Kaliganj upazila of Satkhira. Nobody was injured during the violence. The BNP-led 18-party alliance supported the hartal and enforced the shutdown protesting the arrest of Moslem Uddin, Kaliganj upazila unit ameer of the party (Daily Star, July 13, 2013).

July 15: Former Jamaat-e-Islami chief Ghulam Azam was handed 90-year jail by International Crimes Tribunal (ICT)-1 for his role in the murder and genocide during Bangladesh's war of independence in 1971. Rejecting the verdict, Jamaat-e-Islami declared hartal for July 16 (Daily Star, July 15, 2013).

July 15: Gonojagoron Mancha and 11 student organisations including Chhatra Union, Chhatra Federation and Chhatra Front had called a daylong countrywide shutdown for July 16 demanding death penalty to Ghulam Azam and other war criminals (Daily Star, July 15, 2013).

July 15: Five people were killed and many injured as the Jamaat-e-Islam enforced a day-long countrywide general strike. JeI enforced the dawn-to-dusk general strike in protest against what it claimed 'the government conspiracy to kill Jamaat leaders in the name of judgement.' (New Age, July 16, 2013).

July 16: Four people including two Jamaat-Shibir activists were killed while some 30 more people, including nine policemen were injured in a clash between the law enforcers and Jamaat-Shibir men in Satkhira during of daylong Hartal by JeI (New Age, July 16, 2013).

July 17: Jamaat-e-Islami had called the day-long shutdown protesting at the trial of its secretary general Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed alleging that the government was hatching a conspiracy to judicially kill Mojaheed in the name of war crimes trial (New Age, July 18, 2013).

July 22: Bangladesh requested India to hand over Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's assassins who are hiding inside India. Bangladesh made the request at the 14th meeting of Home Secretaries of India and Bangladesh in New Delhi held from July 19- July 22 (UNB Connect, July 22, 2013).

July 25: A violent clash took place between Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) cadres and security force personnel in Noakhali town during a protest rally taken out by the Jamaat e Islami (JeI)-ICS activists against the Election Commission's (EC) decision to exclude their leaders who were convicted by War Crimes Tribunals from the voter list. (The Daily Star, July 25)

July 29: At least 10 Islamic Chhatra Sibir (ICS) members, the student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI) were arrested in Dhaka's Mirpur area following a protest rally turned violent (Daly Star, July 29, 2013).

July 30: Police have arrested Jamaat-e-Islami's Dinajpur district unit chief Anwarul Islam from Birampur's Rail Ghumti area on charges of obstructing government work and inciting sabotage (Priyo News, July 30, 2013).

INDIA

In India, the Jammu and Kashmir region again experienced civil unrest after the death of two youths in Army firing. Local people protested through rallies against the security forces after the incident. The government was forced to impose curfew to manage the public unrest. In another incident six persons were killed and 30 others injured after the Border Security Force (BSF) fired at protesters outside their camp in Gool area of Jammu and Kashmir's Ramban district. The protests erupted after the brother of a religious leader was allegedly beaten by the BSF following an argument over offering late-night prayers during Ramzan.



Despite peace talks with the ULFA pro-talks faction, the Northeast witnessed some grenade attacks by the anti-talks faction of the ULFA. However, India's effort to bring more Northeast-based rebel groups into the peace process continued. Meanwhile, the formation of Manipur

Nagaland Revolutionary Front could unleash fresh violence in the region. The outfit was formed as a reaction to the NSCN-IM peace talks with the Government of India.

The Central and eastern region of India witnessed many attacks by the Maoists. The outfits ambushed a police party by killing five police personnel in Pakur district of Jharkhand. In another daring attack, six persons including three security personnel and two private security personnel were killed in an attack by the CPI-Maoist in Aurangabad district. The Maoists looted 30 rifles from the site. Meanwhile, intelligence sources said the Maoists are preparing to disrupt the 2014-Parliament elections. In this regard the outfit is busy in recruiting new cadres and imparting them training in the use of sophisticated weapons. One source indicated that the CPI-Maoist is trying to raise an additional 14 battalions of People's Liberation Army (PLA). A series of nine bomb blasts near Mahabodhi Temple in Bodh Gaya of Bihar had added complications to the conflict in the central-eastern region. Investigating agencies suspect the Indian Mujahedeen's involvement in the attacks.

Profile: Manipur Naga People's Front (MNFP)

The Manipur Naga People's Front was formed on March 11, 2013 during a general body meeting between the Manipur Naga Revolutionary Front (MNRF) and the United Naga People's Council (UNPC). It is mandated for a united struggle of all the revolutionaries to achieve the goal of sovereignty and self-determination. Both MNRF and UNPC were formed in 2008 and have been involved in incidents of extortion, threats and intimidation since then. The outfit has formed its armed wing the "Manipur Naga People's Army (MNPA)" in order to achieve its objective.

The party statement says taking serious note on the importance of the people, the Manipur Naga People's Front (MNPF) has adopted "For the People" as its motto as The MNFP is managed by a Central Committee with John Francis Kashung as chairman, Wilson Tao as general secretary and Pairson Shily as home secretary, Isaac Shang ('finance secretary'), Jack Kapso ('organization secretary'), Thomas Numai ('deputy finance and deputy publicity secretary') and Ahao Jajo ('deputy defence secretary'), etc. The formation of the MNFP may affect the Nationalist Socialist Council of Nagaland – Isaac Muivah's (NSCN-IM's) struggle for integration of Naga areas in Manipur. Clarifying its objectives the party sources said: "We shall not demoralize our political vision by remaining aloof like the organizations under cease-fire pacts [NSCN-IM, NSCN-Khaplang (NSCN-K) and NSCN-Khole-Kitovi (NSCN-KK) are currently under ceasefire with the Government of India] whose interest is either higher autonomy or an economic package. Their submissive policy at the cost of people's blood and sweat has demoralized the revolutionary spirit, thereby losing people's confidence at large."

Another objective of the outfit has been to bridge the gap between all revolutionary groups of the region – Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland and Tripura.

Major Events

July 01: A media report indicated that the Maoists have opened up a new route, an almost-virgin corridor that is providing them the necessary space to re-establish their organization in West Bengal. They visit the villages of West Medinipore district occasionally in small groups for holding meetings (Times of India, July 01, 2013).

July 01: Three security personnel were killed and two others were injured in an encounter with militants in Pulwama district of Kashmir. Three militants were also killed in the same incident. The encounter happened amid a strike call by separatists in the Valley in protest against the death of two young men in Army firing on June 30. Protesters had set on fire an Army school in Bandipora which continued to remain tense over the death of the two men (IBN Live, July 02, 2013).

July 02: Five policemen, including a district police chief, were killed in an ambush by the CPI-Maoist in Dumka district of Jharkhand (NDTV, July 02, 2013).

July 02: Andhra Pradesh police claimed that sustained intelligence based anti-Maoists operations led to decline in Maoist violence to 57 per cent between January and June 2013 as compared to the corresponding period in 2012, which also resulted in the arrest of 106 Maoists (Economic Times, July 02, 2013).

July 03: Intelligence sources said the CPI-Maoist has constituted 'Baal Action Teams' to deploy school children in different capacities in their attempt to regroup the child cadres and boost their perceived military strength in the Bastar region of Chhattisgarh (Zee News, July 03, 2013).

July 03: Intelligence agencies said the CPI-Maoist is steadily infiltrating labour unions and workers' groups in Delhi and the National Capital Region. Front organizations of the CPI-Maoist are reportedly active in Delhi's satellite towns like Gurgaon and Ghaziabad (India Today, July 03, 2013).

July 06: Quoting internal documents of the CPI-Maoist, Andhra Pradesh intelligence wing revealed that the outfit has firmed up plans to raise an additional 14 battalions of People's Liberation Army (PLA). The task of PLA reorganization, training and placement of forces is entrusted to a central committee (CC) member, Sonu, alias Nambala Keshav Rao (Tribune, July 06, 2013).

July 07: Eight Maoist cadres were killed in an encounter with police near Etapalli area in the Gadchiroli district of Maharashtra. Police recovered six bodies of Maoists and one carbine, one modern rifle, three twelve bore rifles and huge explosives from the spot (Hindustan Times, July 07, 2013).

July 07: Two Buddhist monks were injured in nine serial bomb blasts near Mahabodhi Temple in Bodh Gaya of Bihar. Police defused a third bomb from nearby area. Although no body is arrested in the incident, police suspects IM involvements in the attacks (Hindu, July 07, 2013).

July 10: Angry villagers lynched three militants belonging to the breakaway faction of the A'chik National Volunteers Council (ANVC-B) in Omarpur village in North Garo Hills district of Meghalaya. Two Chinese pistols were recovered from one of the victims

(Newstrack India July 10, 2013).

July 11: The CPI-Maoist AOB Special Zonal Committee called for a strike in Andhra-Orissa border (AOB) areas on July 21 protesting against the killing of Ganti Prasadam by the special intelligence branch of Andhra Pradesh on July 4 (Indian Express, July 11, 2013).

July 11: Security forces gunned down two militants belonging to the anti-talk faction of the National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB) in Assam's Sonitpur district. Two police personnel were injured in the incident. (Business Standard, July 11, 2013).

July 17: Five persons including three security personnel and two private security personnel were killed in an attack by the CPI-Maoists in Aurangabad district. The Maoists looted 30 rifles from the site (ibnlive.in.com, July 18, 2013). However, the toll in the incident increased to six with death of the driver of the bus in which the security forces were being moved (IBN Live, July 18, 2013).

July 18: Six persons were killed and 30 others injured after the Border Security Force (BSF) fired at protesters outside their camp in Gool area of Jammu and Kashmir's Ramban district. The protests erupted after the brother of a religious leader was allegedly beaten by the BSF on July 17-night following an argument over offering late-night prayers during Ramzan (Hindustan Times, July 18, 2013).

July 20: An ULFA militant, belonging to Paresch Barua faction, was arrested along with three surrendered ULFA militants with ransom money worth Rs 15 lakh (Business Standard, July 20, 2013).

July 21: Indian Intelligence agencies confirmed that Laskhar-e-Taiba (LeT) and its indigenous arm Indian Mujahideen, the Pakistan-based terror outfit is busy opening another front close to the northeast region, along the Bangladesh-Myanmar border. The report further said LeT and its over ground avatar, Jamaat-ud-Dawa (JuD), are working to extend their influence along the Bangladesh-Myanmar border by riding piggyback on the sectarian violence targeted against Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar's Rakhine state (Times of India, July 21, 2013).

July 23: Bangladesh has agreed to hand over ULFA leader Anup Chetia to India in July or August of this year in exchange of two Bangladeshi criminals — Subrata Bain and Sajjad Hossain — who are in Indian jails. Besides, New Delhi also assured Dhaka of coordination with the latter's agencies to track, arrest and hand over the killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The ULFA 'general secretary' has been in jail in Bangladesh since 1997 (Times of India, July 23, 2013)

July 23: Security forces shot dead a self-styled Chief Commander of Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) outfit in an encounter in Kupwara district of north Kashmir. Yasir, a resident of Nooristan in Swat valley of Pakistan, was active in the Valley since 2005 (Zee News, July 23, 2013).

July 24: One person was killed and seven others were injured after the anti-talks faction of the ULFA militants lobbed a grenade at a crowded place of Bokolia area in Karbi Anglong district of Assam. Police sources said the same outfit had triggered two grenade blasts on July 23 at Lakhimpur town, injuring five civilians (Business Standard, July 24, 2013).

July 24: Six people suspected to be members of the People's Liberation Front of India (PLFI)

were killed by the outlawed Communist party of India-Maoist (CPI-Maoist) near Namsilli village in Khuti district of Jharkhand. Both outfits are engaged in internecine war in a few districts of Jharkhand (Newstrack India, July 24, 2013).

July 28: At least 15 persons were injured, two of them seriously, in a grenade blast this evening at the busy Paltan Bazar area near the railway station in Guwahati in Assam, the fifth such incident in the state in a week. The blast, suspected to be a handiwork of the banned United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA), took place when police were checking vehicles near the station at GS Road. The injured include two police home guard personnel. (Business Standard, July 29, 2013).

July 30: Indian Mujhadeen terrorist Shahzad Ahmed has received a life term for killing Inspector M.C. Sharma during the infamous September 19, 2008 Batla House encounter. Shahzad was also sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment for attempting to murder two other Police Officials by shooting at them, seven years for assaulting Policemen and five years for destruction of evidence. Shahzad was also fined INR 95,000. (Times of India, July 31)

MALDIVES

Preparations for the presidential elections continued in Maldives. While the election commissioner was busy in updating the voters' lists, the parties were busy in negotiations for future alliances. In a big blow to the incumbent President Mohamed Waheed, two political parties - Dr Hassan Saeed's Dhivehi Qaume Party (DQP) and Adhaalath Party - who had earlier agreed to support his candidature in the September presidential elections, joined the Jumhoory Party (JP). The change in coalition partner of these two parties has left only the Dhivehi Rayyithunge Party (DRP) in the coalition led by President Waheed's Gaume Ithihad Party (GIP). Meanwhile, the MDP won all 11 seats in the first Women's Committee Elections held after the adoption of the new Constitution and Decentralization Act. This indicates the support base of the MDP still exists. However, there are possibilities that religious issues would play a central role in the September presidential elections.



Major Events

July 04: President Mohamed Waheed urged MNDF personnel to follow the three major principles on which lies the foundation of a true soldier – to stay firm in Islamic principles, provide selfless national service, and maintain the rule of law (Miadhu July 04, 2013).

July 05: President of the Progressive Party of Maldives (PPM) and former President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom's brother in law, Ilyas Ibrahim resigned from PPM. He said that he does not believe that the PPM is now run according to the ideology of former President Gayoom (Miadhu, July 05, 2013).

July 07: Maldivian President Mohamed Waheed vowed to work with the Islamic party ahead of upcoming elections, and rejected opposition fears it would lead to increased radicalisation in the

luxury tourist destination. Waheed is standing for re-election at the September 7 poll as part of a coalition of four-parties, including the Adhaalath Party (Miadhu, July 08, 2013).

July 10: The religious conservative Adhaalath Party (AP) has issued a statement slamming claims by President Mohamed Waheed to media that the pre-poll alliance for which he is going to contest the President elections included “extremists” (Minivan News, July 10, 2013).

July 17: The religious conservative Adhaalath Party (AP) declared it has entered into a coalition agreement with Gasim Ibrahim’s Jumhoree Party (JP). The AP severed its coalition agreement with President Mohamed Waheed, following his remarks to the AFP newswire that it was “better to work with” the self-claimed Islamist party, despite suggesting some elements in the party held “extreme views” (Minivan News, July 17, 2013).

July 18: Presidential advisor Dr Hassan Saeed's Dhivehi Qaume Party (DQP) decided to quit the coalition led by President Mohamed Waheed for the September presidential elections and join Jumhoory Party (JP). DQP's decision leaves only Dhivehi Rayyithunge Party (DRP) in the coalition led by President Waheed's Gaume Party (GIP). Religious conservative Adhaalath Party left the GIP-led coalition and joined the business tycoon's JP last week. (Haveeru Online, July 19, 2013).

July 29: Police Commissioner Abdulla Riyaz said his institution would continue to refuse any orders it decides are “unconstitutional”, while expressing concerns over leaked proposals allegedly devised by the Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP) to reform the country’s security forces (Minivan News, July 29, 2013).

NEPAL

In Nepal, although the election commissioner has announced the election code of conduct 120 days ahead of the November 19 elections, the 33 agitating parties led by the hardliner CPN-Maoists continue to oppose the electoral process. In this regard, the party held its central committee meeting in Pokhara and unanimously passed a resolution to boycott the elections. The party also agreed to react strongly in case the



government tried to take action against them. It warned that it would strongly retaliate if the government and the four political parties forcibly held the November elections. The party reiterated that it would not participate in the Constituent Assembly (CA) election unless the 11-point deal and 25-point ordinance on removing constitutional difficulties were scrapped. Meanwhile, around 13 Terai, southern Nepal based illegal armed groups have formed a front called Janatantrik Tarai Mukti Morcha (JTMM) to oppose the November elections. The front has threatened physical action against the Madhesi political leaders. In its first ever action against the leaders, on July 25, the JTMM killed the Mahottari district secretary of the Madhesi People’s Rights Forum Nepal (MPRF-N) at Jaleshwor.

Despite poll preparations by the government and top four political parties, there is a strong feeling in Nepal that the November 19 elections may not take place. In case they do take place, they may not be peaceful.

Major Events

July 02: Top leaders present at the Pokhara central committee (CC) meeting of the CPN-Maoist (hardliner groups) supported Chairman Mohan Baidya's proposal of boycotting the November 19 Constituent Assembly (CA) elections. The faction has been opposing the elections under the Chief Justice-led interim government in Nepal (Republica, July 02, 2013).

July 02: Samyukta Janatantrik Terai Mukti Morcha (Kautilya group), a former armed outfit active in the Terai (southern part of Nepal), has formally merged with Rajendra Mahato-led Sadbhawana Party (SP). The outfit had signed a five-point agreement with the government and had given up its armed movement in 2012 (Ekantipur, July 02, 2013).

July 05: Around 1,352 former Maoist combatants, who opted for integration, have completed their training provided by the Nepal Army (NA) (Ekantipur, July 05, 2013).

July 07: The CPN-Maoist has said that it would not participate in the Constituent Assembly (CA) election unless the 11-point deal and 25-point ordinance on removing constitutional difficulties are scrapped (Republica, July 8, 2013).

July 09: A fact sheet on Nepal-India partnership released said Nepal Army (NA) is all set to receive the first consignment of military hardware from India after eight year of unilateral prohibition. India had banned the supply of such hardware since February 2005 after former King Gyanendra Shah took over executive powers (Ekantipur, July 11, 2013).

July 12: Chairman of the Federal Socialist Party Ashok Rai said his party would launch a stern movement against the 'four-party syndicate' and the 'partyless' government if they fail to hold an all-party conference (Himalayan Times, July 12, 2013).

July 14: Janatantrik Terai Mukti Morcha, a united front of Terai based armed outfits, led by Rajan Mukti, threatened to take physical action against leaders of seven Madhes-based parties (Ekantipur, July 15, 2013).

July 20: The 33-agitating parties, led by CPN-Maoist, have appealed to the international community and diplomatic missions not to interfere in the internal matters of Nepal and eschew supporting the purported Constituent Assembly elections (Himalayan Times, July 20, 2013).

July 22: The CPN-Maoist warned that it would strongly retaliate if the government and the four political parties forcibly held the November elections. It suggested the government make efforts at accommodating all the political parties in the elections to the Constituent Assembly (CA) through dialogue (Republica, July 22, 2013).

July 20: The Rudra Pakhrin faction of the CPN-Maoist led by Mohan Baidya, detonated an explosive at Panchayat Silver Jubilee Pillar at Hetauda-4 in Makwanpur district. No casualties were reported in the incident (Ekantipur, July 22, 2013).

July 25: Madhesi Janadhikar Forum-Nepal (MJF-N) leader Prakash Sah was injured in shooting incident at the Mahottari District party office. The Rajan Mukti-led Janatantrik Tarai Mukti Morcha (JTMM-R), an armed outfitting operating in Madhesh, claimed responsibility for the firing. (Himlayan Times, July 26)

July 29: One person was abducted and later murdered by suspected Jwala Singh faction called Janatantrik Terai Mukti Morcha-J (JTMM-Jwala) in the Mahottari district. This was the second attack on civilians by the Terai based armed groups, who recently formed a front to disrupt the November elections and target Madhesi based political leaders. After these incidents, Terai based political parties have requested the government to provide protection to their party members (Ekantipur, July 29, 2013).

PAKISTAN

Islamist extremism and sectarian violence continued in Pakistan in July 2013. The militant groups led by Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) continued to target security forces across the country in reaction to the government's counter-insurgency operations in general and drone attacks in particular. In one such incident nine people were killed in a suicide car bomb attack by the Tehreek-e-Taliban affiliated Jundullah group on the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and police living quarters in Sukkur on July 24.



Whether it was the attack by the TTP or targeted sectarian violence in Karachi, the Shia community had lost maximum number of lives in attacks in the month of July. In a single incident around 57 people were killed and more than 167 others injured in twin suicide bomb attacks in the Parachinar bazaar of Kurram tribal region. A large number of victims in the incidents were from the Shia community. Parachinar witnessed major sectarian violence in 2007. Many protest rallies were organised especially by the Shia and Shia Hazara community against the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz. They blamed the government for failure in curbing terrorism and sectarian violence. They demanded protection and action against the culprits.

TTP and other militant groups may undertake more attacks on security forces in the coming days after recovery of 22 suspected militants' mutilated dead bodies from Khyber Agency area on July 25.

Major Events

July 01: Two policemen were killed in a militant attack on a security check post near Abbas Terminal of Pishtakhara in Peshawar (Dawn, July 01, 2013).

July 01: Eight people, including three activists of Sunni Tehreek, were gunned down in targeted killings in Karachi in separate incidents (The Nation, July 02, 2013).

July 01: Majlis-e-Wahdat-e-Muslimeen (MWM) organised a rally in Karachi to protest against the June 30-attack on Imam Bargah Abu Talib in Quetta. Protestors raised slogans against Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and its affiliated terrorist outfits. While addressing the protesters MWM leader Allama Hassan Zafar Naqvi criticised “lenient policy” of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz, which has been encouraging and emboldening the terrorists groups. Around 31 people belonging to the Shia Hazara community were killed in the attack (The Express Tribune, July 02, 2013).

July 01: Four people were killed in Naseerabad and Jaffarabad by indiscriminate fire by unidentified people in Quetta (The Nation, July 02, 2013).

July 02: Six Frontier Constabulary (FC) personnel were killed and 10 others injured in Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) attack on the Kishan Ganga check-post near Frontier Region (FR) of Jina Kor. The TTP also kidnapped two security forces' personnel (Dawn, July 03, 2013).

July 02: Around 17 people were killed and two others injured in a US drone attack which targeted a house near Miramshah bazaar in Sirai Darpakhel area targeting the Haqqani residential compound and a car in the North Waziristan tribal region (Dawn, July 03, 2013).

July 02: Two people were killed and about dozen were injured in a grenade blast and firing by unidentified armed assailants at Mandara Mohalla in Hungorabad area of Lyari, Karachi (Daily Times, July 03, 2013).

July 03: Five persons including a woman were killed by unknown gunmen in Agra Taj Colony area of Lyari in Karachi (Geo TV News, July 03, 2013).

July 03: Unidentified armed motorcyclists gunned down a lady health worker in Swabi area while she was administrating anti-polio drops to children (Daily Times, July 04, 2013).

July 03: Three people were killed in separate incidents across Balochistan. The Frontier police also seized an unspecified number of weapons and arrested two men from the Kuchlak area (Daily Times, July 04, 2013).

July 04: Four security personnel were killed in a suicide bomb attack at a security check post in the North Waziristan tribal region (Dawn, July 04, 2013).

July 04: Four militants on two motorcycles attacked a NATO tanker and killed its driver and injured two others in Khuzdar district of Balochistan (Dawn, July 04, 2013).

July 04: Four people, including women and children were killed and several others wounded in Lyari shootout between two rival groups continued in Hungorabad and Usmanabad on the fifth consecutive day (Daily Times, July 05, 2013).

July 04: The residents of Lyari protested against continuous violence and targeted killings in the neighbourhood. Protesters blocked the roads that disrupted traffic flow. They pelted passing vehicles with stones and had set fire two trailers in Lyari, Karachi (Daily Times, July 05, 2013).

July 05: Six officials, including an Afghan border commander, were killed and 19 others injured in a suicide bomb attack at the Pakistan-Afghanistan border near Chaman region of Balochistan (Dawn, July 05, 2013).

July 05: Five security personnel were killed and three were injured in a suicide attack on Bowia check post in North Waziristan (Daily Times, July 05, 2013).

July 06: Two people were killed and seven injured when a bomb exploded near a mosque in Kohat, a southern city of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. The bomb was planted in a motorcycle parked near the mosque and a temporary bus-stand (Dawn, July 11, 2013).

July 07: Five people were killed and 50 others injured when a bomb went off in Anarkali area of Lahore. The casualties reportedly included children (Dawn, July 07, 2013).

July 07: Around 14 people, including five activists of the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM), a worker of Sunni Tehreek and a policeman, were shot dead in separate incidents of target killings across Karachi city (Daily Times, July 09, 2013).

July 08: Seven people were killed and 10 others injured in a suicide attack in Hangu district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. The explosion also destroyed seven other vehicles. No militant group has yet claimed responsibility for the attack. Separately, two bomb disposal officers were killed while attempting to defuse a bomb in Swabi district of the same province (Dawn, July 08, 2013).

July 08: Two people were killed and three others wounded in separate incidents of violence, while three NATO containers were attacked in Balochistan (The Nation, July 09, 2013).

July 10: A loud explosion rocked Karachi's congested New Town neighborhood injuring several people. The exact number of casualties could not be confirmed (Dawn, July 10, 2013). Meanwhile, four persons were killed and several others injured in fresh spate of violence in different localities of the metropolis (The Nation, July 10, 2013).

July 10: Three persons including President Asif Ali Zardari's chief security officer were killed and over a dozen were wounded in a suicide blast near Guru Mandar in Karachi (Daily Times, July 11, 2013).

July 13: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Pervez Khattak warned the PML-N-led government in the Centre to justly distribute electricity among provinces; otherwise he would lead a protest against power cuts (Daily Times, 14 July, 2013).

July 15: Ten suspected militants were killed and 12 others injured as Pakistani air force targeted nine militants' hideouts in Khyber tribal region and Darra Adam Khel (Dawn, July 15, 2013).

July 15: Four Hazaras were gunned down and two passers-by seriously wounded in a targeted killing incident in Quetta. Hazara Democratic Party (HDP) gave a strike call for July 16 following the incident, while the Balochistan Shia Conference has announced one-day mourning against the killing of Hazara people (Daily Times, July 16, 2013).

July 18: Six people including two police personnel were killed in various incidents of violence in Karachi (The Nation, July 19, 2013).

July 19: Three members of different political parties were shot dead in separate incidents of target killing in Karachi (Daily Times, July 20, 2013).

July 20: Around 28 militants and six security personnel were killed during an encounter in Khyber Agency and FR Kohat in a second day of military operation in Khyber Agency (The Nation, July 20, 2013).

July 22: Two persons were killed and several others injured in a bomb blast near Custom House in the border town of Chaman (Daily Times, July 23, 2013).

July 23: Seven persons were killed and several others injured including a woman in fresh spate of violence in different localities of Karachi. Meanwhile, police arrested more than 10 criminals and recovered arms and drugs from their possession in separate incidents (The Nation, July 23, 2013).

July 24: Around 15 persons are killed in a series bomb blasts in the southern town of Sukkur in Karachi (Dawn, July 24, 2013).

July 26: The Pakistan People's Party (PPP) announced boycott of the upcoming presidential election. Other opposition parties have also taken the similar stand claiming that sufficient time was not given to campaign for the presidential elections. Earlier, the Supreme Court overruled the Pakistan Election Commissioner's decision of August 06 as the election date and fixed on July 30 (Dawn, July 26, 2013).

July 26: The death toll in the July 24 suicide car bomb attack on Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and police living quarters in Sukkur has reached nine. Meanwhile, Tehreek-e-Taliban Jundullah group claimed responsibility of the attack, saying that it was to avenge Wali-ur-Rehman's death and the drone attacks (Daily Times, July 26, 2013).

July 26: Around 57 people were killed and more than 167 injured in twin suicide bomb attacks in the Parachinar bazaar of Kurram tribal region. This was one of the deadliest attacks to hit the country during the Islamic holy month of Ramzan. Parachinar has a significant Shia population that has previously been attacked by hardline Sunni militant groups. In another incident, two persons were killed and six injured when an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) hit a pick-up van at the Sherko road of the region (Dawn, July 26; Express Tribune, July 26, 2013).

July 27: Four paramilitary Frontier Corps (FC) personnel were injured in a militant attack on their check post at Tall in Hangu district. Six militants were killed in retaliatory fire by the FC. Around 50 militants reportedly participated in the attack (Dawn, July 27, 2013).

July 27: An early morning suspected militant attack on a coastguard check post in Gwadar, Balochistan, resulted in the killing of seven coast guard personnel and injuries to seven others. Around 24 heavily armed militants reportedly participated in the attack (The Nation, July 27, 2013).

July 28: Six suspected militants were killed in a missile strike in North Waziristan tribal region (Daily Times, July 29, 2013).

July 30: More than 240 prisoners including 30 militants were escaped in a militant attack on prison in Dera Ismail Khan of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Province. Some 40 prisoners were rearrested. A TTP commander reportedly claimed that the operation was codenamed 'Freedom from Death', which took six months to plan. Investigating agencies found that the attack was masterminded by Adnan Rasheed who is the 'chief operational commander' of Ansar- al Aseer (supporters of prisoners), Taliban's special unit to free prisoners (Express Tribune, July 30; ARY News, July 30; The News, August 1, 2013).

SRI LANKA

In Sri Lanka, the proposals to re-amend the 13th Amendment to the Constitution before the Northern Provincial Council elections dominated the political discourse. The political parties had witnessed internal divisions on the issue. In fact, the Sri Lankan government responding to India's suggestions on the 13th Amendment clarified that the country cannot afford another war and there is no guarantee that a future Northern Provincial government would not do the same as what the LTTE did. Therefore, Sri Lanka cannot risk a provincial government forming its own army through police powers devolved to provinces under the 13th Amendment to the Constitution. Meanwhile, apprehending consequences over India's position on full implementation of the 13th Amendment and justifying its reservations on the 13th Amendment, the Sri Lankan government told a visiting European Parliamentary delegation that LTTE front organizations continue to raise funds in foreign countries and therefore, sustained vigilance over such activities is necessary.



Major Events

July 02: The Sri Lanka Muslim Congress (SLMC), an ally of Sri Lanka's ruling party, is on the verge of a split due to internal dissention over government proposals to re-amend the 13th Amendment to the Constitution. A senior leader of the party is reportedly against the party stance of opposing the government's proposals (colombopage.com, July 02, 2013).

July 02: The Tamil National Alliance (TNA) has unanimously nominated Jaffna District Parliamentarian and the general secretary of Ilankai Tamil Arasu Katchchi (ITAK), Mavai Senathirajah as the Chief Ministerial candidate to the Northern Province (colombopage.com, July 02, 2013).

July 05: Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa issued a directive to the Election Commissioner to hold the elections for the Northern Provincial Council (colombopage.com, July 05, 2013).

July 05: During a meeting with Sri Lanka's Economic Development Minister and President's senior adviser, Basil Rajapaksa in New Delhi, India's External Affairs Minister Salman Khurshid emphasized that the 13th Amendment should be fully implemented including the devolution of police and land powers to the provinces (colombopage.com, July 05, 2013).

July 08: Bodu Bala Sena (BBS), Sri Lanka's Buddhist extremist group, has decided to demand from the government, imposition of a ban on face covering in public places. The organization argues that face covering in public is a big threat to national security of Sri Lanka. (colombopage.com, July 08, 2013).

July 16: Sri Lanka's major Muslim party, Sri Lanka Muslim Congress (SLMC) announced that it would not ally with the Tamil National Alliance (TNA) to contest the Northern Provincial Council elections. SLMC sources said the problems of the Muslims were different from those of the Tamils (Colombopage.com, July 16, 2013).

July 18: The Sri Lankan government told a visiting European Parliamentary delegation that LTTE front organizations continue to raise funds in foreign countries and therefore, sustained vigilance over such activities is necessary (colombopage.com, July 20, 2013).

July 21: The Sri Lankan Army said it would not get involved in security activities in the North during the forthcoming provincial council elections, unless a request is made by the police (colombopage.com, July 21, 2013).

July 22: The ruling United People's Freedom Alliance (UPFA) Government's allies discussed the ways and means of fielding candidates under a common platform for the provincial elections. The SLMC had said it would contest all provinces on its own. (Daily Mirror, July 22, 2013).

July 22: Speaking to The Hindu, Economic Development Minister, Basil Rajapaksa said that Sri Lanka cannot afford another war and there is no guarantee that a future Northern Provincial government would not do the same as what the LTTE did. Therefore, Sri Lanka cannot risk a provincial government forming its own army through police powers devolved to provinces under the 13th Amendment to the Constitution (Daily News, July 22, 2013).

July 29: Tamil National Alliance (TNA) said it would not accept the proposed Presidential Commission to probe the disappeared during the period of the war (Colombo Page, July 29,

2013).

July 30: Attorney General of Sri Lanka filed charges against six former Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) militant over a 2006 attack on a Navy vessel, SLNS Sayura. The SLNS Sayura was attacked in the seas near Negombo city of Western Province. The six LTTE ex-combatants are accused of conspiring with LTTE leaders in Mullaitivu, Kilinochchi Mannar, Negombo, Colombo and Wattala. (Colombo Page, July 30, 2013).