

# SOUTH ASIA CONFLICT MONITOR

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# Nepal

## The Rough Road Ahead



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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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## Nepal: The Rough Road Ahead

With less than a fortnight left for the second Constituent Assembly (CA) elections, which are scheduled to be held on November 19, uncertainty looms large over their peaceful conduct and the framing of the Constitution. This has resulted in lack of enthusiasm from people towards participation in the elections. People across the country also question the legitimacy of the elections given the boycott of the CPN-Maoist led 33-agitating political parties and their demand for holding the elections under a legitimate government. The CPN-Maoist is the largest group amongst the 33-political parties with the support of around 90 former CA members. Earlier, although the CPN-Maoist had declared its intention not to indulge in violent activities while boycotting the polls, the CPN-Maoist cadres have in recent times, increased their attacks on the NC, UML and UCPN-Maoist since mid-October. In fact, the party has recently declared a nationwide general strike across the country in the last ten days (from November 11) of the elections.

There are mixed responses over the CPN-Maoist's call for 10-day strike. The security agencies believe that the CPN-Maoist does not have potential to carry out massive attacks during the elections. It can prevent the candidates from campaigning and voters from casting their votes in their strongholds in Rukum and Rolpa districts and some areas of far-western districts. However, anticipating attacks during elections, security agencies have introduced a special security plan named "Operation Seal" in the mid-western region. Secondly, these areas are also equally influenced by the UCPN-Maoist. The UCPN (Maoist) has the potential to retaliate against the CPN-Maoist attacks. Therefore, the CPN-Maoist may succeed only in preventing voters and candidates from participating in the elections freely. Fourth, the CPN-Maoist is no more a rebel group. As a political party, it cannot not afford to indulge in violent activities. Last but not the least, there could be pressure from the international community on the CPN-Maoist for not obstructing the electoral process by adopting any violent means.

The second interpretation is that the CPN-Maoist will attack other party candidates and the elections may not be peaceful. The CPN-Maoist terror tactics will affect a large number of people adversely and they may not participate freely in the elections. In the post-election period, the party will continue to protest against the framing of the new constitution. Despite a three-tier security arrangement for the elections, people do not seem to have full faith on it. Some, in fact, are not ruling out cancellation of the elections at the last moment given large-scale violence before it.

Apart from the CPN-Maoist, the Federal Limbuwan Sate Council (FLSC) in the eastern region and illegal armed groups in the Terai region have been opposing the elections. The FLSC and the CPN-Maoist have already protested the holding of elections by organising strikes. Similarly, illegal armed groups in the Terai region have threatened to target Madhesi candidates.

Despite elaborate security arrangements, local administrations have failed to check violence across the country. Around 22 people are injured in 15 poll-related incidents, mostly targeted attacks by the cadres of the CPN-Maoist and armed groups operating in the Terai region since October 03. Given the increase in violent incidents and, security agencies have arrested a number of district level leaders of the CPN-Maoist as a precautionary measure to avoid further violent incidents during elections.

In response to the attacks of October 26 the UCPM-Moist directed all its committees to retaliate. It is widely believed that the CPN-Maoist was expecting a favourable response from the High Level Political Committee (HLPC) and the government over their two major demands. That could be the reason why the party did not obstruct the nomination process. With no response from the government and the HLPC until October 02, the party announced that the dialogue process with the HLPC had ended. The party decided to reach out the people in villages and discourage candidates from contesting the CA polls. The next day, clashes broke out between the UCPN (Maoist) CPN-Maoist, that opposed the polls, in Salyan district. Around a dozen cadres of the two sides were injured in the clashes.

Since the Nepal government and agitating parties are adamant on their respective positions on the election, there is the possibility of more violence occurring close to November 19 and even after. Significantly, the issue of federalism was one of the major and immediate factors for the dissolution of the 2008 CA in May 2012. Like 2008, this time also, federalism has dominated the election manifestos of various political parties. Given the differences in views on the issue, in the post-election period, the issue of federalism may delay the Constitution making process. The parties/groups opposing the polls will intensify their agitation and will demand the declaration of the November 19 elections as illegitimate. In the event of that happening, there are strong possibilities of ethnic conflicts erupting in Nepal due to further delay in the constitution making process.



***PROFILE-I*****The Federal Limbuwan State Council (FLSC), Nepal**

The Federal Limbuwan State Council (FLSC) was constituted in 2005 with an objective to form a separate Limbuwan province based on history and ethnicity. It began its political campaigning for a separate Limbuwan state in December 2006. So far, the demand for a separate province has been militant in nature. Before the formation of the FLSC, the movement got moral support from the Maoists, with Sanjuhang Palungwa as its first president. After the end of the Maoist conflict, the Nepal government and representatives of the Federal Limbuwan State Council (FLSC) entered into a five point agreement on March 19, 2008 for the participation in the Constituent Assembly election of April 10.

The FLSC was divided into two groups in 2008. FLSC leader Kumar Lingden decided to contest the elections under the umbrella of the Federal Democratic National Forum (FDNF) and formed the FLSC (Kumar Lingden). Later, the FLSC (Sanjuhang Palungwa ) was formed under Misekhang Thamsuhang . The FLSC got further divided while a number of cadres decided to establish the FLSC (Revolutionary). This group is much smaller than both FLSC (Palungwa) and FLSC (Lingden) and is often considered politically less sophisticated.

The FLSC, as a member of the 33-poll opposing parties, had opposed to the November 19 CA elections along with the CPN-Maoist. It argued that the government should first get consensus on federalism and remove the present Prime Minister, Khilraj Regmi from two constitutional positions. As part of anti-election programme, it opposed the voters' registration process in Eastern Nepal in response to the reduction of seats as per proportional representation in the November 19 elections.

Kumar Lingden is Chairman of the FLSC and Kamalraj Nembang is the Joint Secretary of the FLSC. Dilendra Subba is President, Limbu Language Development Organisation. It has a student wing called Limbuwan Alliance, an alliance of six Limbuwan student organizations. The alliance comprises the Limbu Students' Forum, the Federal Limbuwan Students' Union, the Limbuwan Student Council, the Limbuwan Nepal Students' Front, and Sunsari, the Federation of Nepal's Indigenous and Ethnic Students.

The FLSC organizes kangaroo courts in maoist dominated areas for instant justice to the victims. A major source of revenue for the FLSC is extortion. Apart from that they receive local and foreign donations. Some media reports have indicated that the FLSC cadres are collecting donations forcibly from businessmen and government officials.

The FLSC gets support from the Limbuwan ethnic community, spread across nine eastern districts of Nepal. The movement has spread over nine eastern districts of Nepal - Taplejung, Panchthar, Ilam, Jahpa, Khotang, Morang, Dhankuta, Terhathum, and Sunsari. The FLSC also gets support from the Dalit Upliftment District Coordination Committee, and the Nepal Federation of Indigenous Nationalities.

## COUNTRY ROUND UP

### BANGLADESH

The general shutdown became a common phenomenon in Bangladesh this month. The opposition parties used the tactics to put pressure on the government and the judiciary to protect their leaders from the 1971 war crimes trial. Activists of Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI) and Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) led a series of processions in Dhaka and other parts of the country demanding release of their leaders convicted in war crime cases or facing trials.

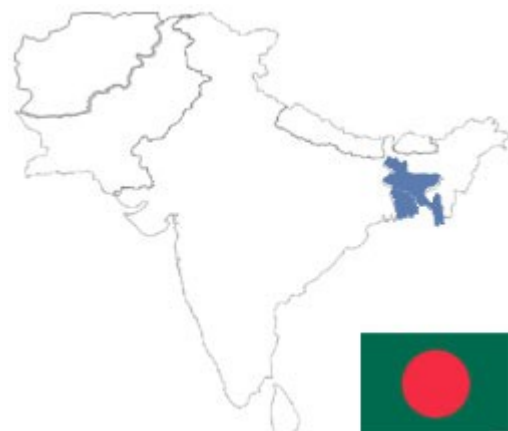
On the political front, there was no substantial progress on the issue of a caretaker government to supervise elections. Both the AL and BNP placed their proposals for the caretaker government. While the ruling AL offered an all-party caretaker government, the BNP-led 18-party alliance proposed a ‘non-party’ caretaker government with 10 former advisers selected from the 1996 and the 2001 caretaker governments.

With no substantial progress on this issue, as per the decision at the October rally by the BNP, the party and its allies participated in a series of meetings on the manner in which the anti-government protests are to be conducted. There were reports that while preparing for the October rally, two students were killed and three others were injured in a powerful explosion at Jamiatul Ulum Al Islamia Madrassah

controlled by the Hefajat-e-Islam (HeI) at Lalkhan Bazar in Chittagong. Police seized three hand grenades, 18 bottles of acid and tools used in making bombs from the spot. Police also seized arms and explosive making material elsewhere in separate incidents.

Meanwhile, many parts of Bangladesh witnessed sporadic violence because of intra- and inter-party attacks. The situation aggravated further with opposition parties’ protests which began against the government in late October. Around nine people were dead and around hundred people injured by October 29.

Although both the leaders have expressed their willingness for dialogue, the possibilities of any agreement over the caretaker government before February 2014 are remote. The continuing political unrest in Bangladesh may be conducive for proliferation of radical Islamist groups there, who were dormant for quite some time.



### Major Events

**October 01:** The International Crimes Tribunal handed down capital punishment to Salauddin Quader Chowdhury a lawmaker from the main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) for his crimes against humanity committed during the country's Liberation War in 1971. BNP's Chittagong city unit announced a shutdown on October 02 immediately after the ICT verdict (Daily Star, October 01, 2013).

**October 06:** Despite mounting pressure from various quarters at home and the international community to initiate negotiations over the polls, both the ruling Awami League (AL) and the main opposition BNP have stuck to their respective stances over a caretaker administration (New Age, October 06, 2013).

**October 06:** Activists of Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI) and Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) brought out processions in Dhaka and elsewhere as part of their countrywide demonstrations to press for release of its leaders convicted in war crime cases or facing trials (New Age, October 07, 2013).

**October 06:** Acting on a tip-off, the Rapid Action Battalion held four activists of the outlawed Harakat-ul Jihad Islami (HuJI), and recovered some firearms, ammunition and explosive substances, in different parts of Dhaka (New Age, October 07, 2013).

**October 07:** Two students were killed and three others were injured in a powerful explosion at Jamiatul Ulum Al Islamia Madrassah, headed by Mufti Ijharul Islam, Hefajat-e-Islam (HeI) leader at Lalkhan Bazar in Chittagong. Police seized three hand grenades, 18 bottles of acid and tools used in making bombs from the spot. Police suspect that the incident happened while they were making bombs (New Age, October 08, 2013).

**October 08:** A leader and an activist of the Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) unit of Rajshahi University were injured as Islami Chhatra Shibir men attacked them in Rajshahi city (Daily Star, October 08, 2013).

**October 08:** The Rapid Action Battalion detained three members of the Ansarullah Bangla Team, a militant outfit, in Gomostapur upazila of Chapainawabganj (Daily Star, October 08, 2013).

**October 10:** An Islami Chhatra Shibir activist was killed in police firing during a protest in Damurhuda upazila of Chuadanga. The policemen came under attack when nearly 100 activists of Shibir were demonstrating as part of their countrywide programme for releasing its President Delwar Hossain (Daily Star, October 10, 2013).

**October 18:** Prime Minister, Sheikh Hasina, called upon opposition leader Khaleda Zia to send names of opposition lawmakers to be inducted into an all-party caretaker cabinet. Hasina, in a televised address to the nation, offered formation of an all-party government so that there was no doubt over holding of the parliamentary polls (New Age, October 19, 2013).

**October 19:** At least ten persons were injured in a clash between the activists of the ruling Awami League and opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party in a Sailkupa village under Jhenaidah district (New Age, October 19, 2013).

**October 21:** At a press conference at his Banani office, Jatiya Party chairman H.M. Ershad said that his party would not contest the polls if the caretaker government was headed by Sheikh Hasina. The statement came a day after he had held a meeting with the prime minister, Ershad brushed aside Awami League general secretary Syed Ashraful Islam's claims that Jatiya Party would stay with the Awami League-led 'grand alliance' till the election and contest the polls (New Age, October 22, 2013).

**October 22:** The BNP-led 18-party alliance sent a letter to ruling Awami League for holding a dialogue on BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's formula on a polls-time government. The BNP proposed 'non-party' election government with 10 former advisers selecting from 1996 and 2001 caretaker governments (Daily Star, October 22, 2013).

**October 22:** BNP members hurled crude bombs and damaged vehicles during a half-day strike called by the party in Sirajganj. The main opposition called a strike in protest against the arrest of 26 of its activists following a clash with police in Sirajganj (Bdnews24, October 22, 2013).

**October 23:** An activist of Jamaat-e-Islami was injured in a bomb blast at his residence in Bakulia upazila of Chittagong. Law enforcers recovered a huge amount of gun powder and different bomb-making materials during a raid (Daily Star, October 23, 2013).

**October 24:** The Bangladesh Nationalist Party reiterated that they would hold a public meeting in the capital on October 25 amidst the police ban. BNP joint secretary general Ruhul Kabir Rizvi at a news briefing at the party's central office urged the government to give them permission for holding what he said was their peaceful rally in front of the BNP central office at Naya Paltan (New Age, October 24, 2013).

**October 24:** At least 15 people were injured in a clash between Awami League (AL) and BNP in Kushtia Sadar upazila. Ten houses belonging to both party activists were also vandalised during the incident (Daily Star, October 24, 2013).

**October 24:** Addressing a rally, BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia said the Awami League-led government would become 'illegal' from October 25. She said the tenure of the present government ended on Thursday (October 24) and it was the 'responsibility' of the citizens to 'wage [a] movement' against the 'illegal' government for 'restoring' democracy (New Age, October 25, 2013).

**October 25:** At least 15 BNP activists were injured when Awami League men allegedly attacked a motorcade of former home minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury in Sadar upazila of Patuakhali. The incident took place when Hossain along with his henchmen were going to attend a rally of BNP-led 18-party opposition combine at Badarpur in Sadar upazila (Daily Star, October 25, 2013).

**October 25:** AL leader Khaleda Zia delivering her speech in a rally at Suhrawardy Udyan in Dhaka called for a 60-hour hartal (shutdown) from 6:00 am on October 27, giving the government a two-day ultimatum for initiating dialogue on a neutral caretaker government (Daily Star, October 25, 2013).

**October 27:** Five people including a municipality-level Jubo League leader and a Jubo Dal activist were killed and at least 45 injured in different districts of the country on the first day of the opposition combine-sponsored 60-hour shutdown. The opposition parties ordered the strike to go ahead after talks between Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and opposition leader Khaleda Zia failed on October 26. The opposition parties have been demanding the prime minister quit and



make way for polls under a caretaker government (Daily Star, October 27, 2013).

**October 28:** The offices of Awami League, Jubo League and BNP were torched and vandalised in Ishwardi upazila of Pabna on the second day of the 60-hour hartal. Incidents of violence like clashes, explosions and vandalism were also reported from different parts of the country (Daily Star, October 28, 2013).

**October 28:** Sporadic violence, killing and fights between activists and law enforcers marked the second day of the countrywide hartal enforced by the BNP backed 18-party alliance. There were also reports of train derailments and vandalised vehicles in many places. A total of 40 were injured during clashes between parties and with law enforcers (New Age, October 28, 2013).

**October 28:** Four people including a BNP leader, an Awami League activist and a truck driver were killed in separate clashes in Jhenaidha, Jamalpur, and Chittagong districts respectively during the second straight day of the 60-hour countrywide general strike, enforced by the BNP-led alliance (New Age, October 28, 2013).

## INDIA

In India, Jammu and Kashmir witnessed an increase in terrorist attacks and cross-border firing between the Pakistani and the Indian Army. The Indian army successfully neutralised an unaccountable number of infiltration bids across the border and also fidayeen attacks. India's army claimed that they killed seven militants out of 30 to 40 infiltrators, who had crossed the Control (LoC) in September, in Kashmir region. The region also witnessed protests and rallies funded and supported by Pakistan-based militant groups. The separatist groups with the support of Pakistan again tried to internationalize the J &K issue.



Barring Manipur, India's northeast remained peaceful. Two people were killed in a series of bomb blasts near the chief minister's house. The state also witnessed frequent strikes organised by various groups against the construction of the fence along the Manipur-Myanmar border. Apart from that, Corcom called for an 18-hour general strike to protest the "illegal" merger of Manipur to the Indian Union on October 15, 1949.

In central India, despite disclosure of Indian Mujahideen's (IM) plans and linkages with other groups by arrested IM mastermind Yasin Bhatkal and Asadullah Akhtar, alias Haddi, security agencies failed to neutralise another subversive action of the IM in Bihar. Six people were killed

and 66 injured in six serial bomb blasts near the venue of BJP prime ministerial candidate Narendra Modi's rally in Patna minutes before he reached there to address it. An independent IM module, with around 18 IM activists, was reportedly involved in the attacks. IM's long term goal is to uphold Sharia in India like the Mujahideen in Afghanistan and Somalia.

As India is gearing for Assembly elections in four states including Chhatisgarh, the Maoists may target members of the major political parties and security forces in their stronghold. The outfit has already ordered its armed squads to prepare the list of attack spots and persons to be targeted. The IM also continue to be active during public rallies by various political parties.

### Major Events

**October 02:** Arrested Indian Mujahideen (IM) mastermind Yasin Bhatkal has revealed that the IM was in touch with CPI (Maoist) in Harsa region of southern Nepal, discussing a possible tie-up to procure explosives and ammunition for use in terror attacks in India (Times of India, October 02, 2013).

**October 04:** Two terrorists were killed in Gujjartur in Jammu and Kashmir as the army foiled another infiltration bid from across the border. The operation took place west of Shala Batu village in Keran sector in the Kashmir Valley where the army has been involved in an encounter with militants for the last 11 days (NDTV, October 04, 2013).

**October 05:** The Indian army claimed that it killed seven militants in 24 hours in Kashmir region. Army sources said it fought 30 to 40 infiltrators who crossed the Control (LoC) in September (Tribune (Pakistan), October 05 2013).

**October 06:** Andhra Pradesh continued to remain on the edge. Curfew was imposed in Vijayanagaram district following arson and looting. Power in some districts has been hit as several government workers have joined the protests (IBN Live, October 06, 2013).

**October 07:** The government identified 128 organizations across the country as so-called front organizations operating on behalf of the Communist Party of India (Maoist) that's spearheading the radical Left movement in India (Livemint, October 07, 2013).

**October 07:** Normal life was disrupted in Manipur in response to the 12-hour general strike called to highlight the problems stemming out of the construction of the fence along the Manipur-Myanmar border. A number of organisations have extended support to the general strike (The Hindu, October 07, 2013).

**October 09:** An ULFA militant was killed in an encounter with police at Melanjatiapa-Jakuriapara in Kamrup district. An unspecified amount of arms and explosives, including TNT, were recovered from him (Zee News, October 09, 2013).

**October 11:** A joint statement from CorCom (Coordination Committee of six major insurgent outfits) and the National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT) called for an 18- hour strike from midnight of October 14 in Manipur and Tripura to protest the merger of the two states with the Union of India (Zee News, October 11, 2013).

**October 14:** A top commander of Hizbul Mujahideen was arrested by security forces from Bandipora district of Kashmir Valley (IBN Live, October 14, 2013).

**October 14:** An Assam Rifles vehicle was damaged in a bomb attack launched by the People's Liberation Army (PLA), the military wing of the Revolutionary People's Front (RPF), at Nungshangkong along the Imphal-Ukhrul road in Ukhrul district (e-pao.net, October 14, 2013).

**October 15:** Naxals have started threatening villagers in some parts of Chhattisgarh with dire consequences if they vote in next month's Assembly elections, after which the Centre sent additional 40,000 paramilitary personnel (Business Standard, October 15, 2013).

**October 15:** Normal life was thrown out of gear in Manipur as a result of the 18-hour general strike called by CorCom from Monday midnight. This was to protest the "illegal" merger of Manipur to the Indian union on October 15, 1949 (Hindu, October 15, 2013).

**October 17:** Three police commandos were killed in a landmine blast triggered by Maoists in Gadchiroli district, a border area between Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh. This was a major attack by Maoists in the last few months after police eliminated more than 23 Maoists in different operations this year (Times of India, October 17, 2013).

**October 21:** Arrested Indian Mujahideen (IM) leader Yasin Bhatkal during his interrogations said IM is now trying to grow as a terror network like Al-Qaeda, keeping a close liaison with Pakistan-based Al-Qaeda network, Tehreek-e-Taliban. He also claimed that their ultimate mission is to uphold Sharia in India like the Mujahideen in Afghanistan and Somalia (Times of India, October 21, 2013).

**October 23:** At least 50 tribals, including seven children, deserted the CPI (Maoist) front organisation Chasi Mulia Adivasi Sangha (CMAS) in Koraput district of Odisha. Police said the villagers were supporting the Maoists out of fear (DNA India, October 24, 2013).

**October 25:** Indian Mujahideen operative Asadullah Akhtar, alias Haddi, gave a list of associates and even disclosed Indian Mujahideen's terror links with other terror organisations (India Today, October 25, 2013).

**October 27:** Six people were killed and 66 injured in six serial bomb blasts near the venue of BJP prime ministerial candidate Narendra Modi's rally in Patna minutes before he reached there to address a public rally (Times of India, October 27, 2013).

**October 27:** Life was affected in Srinagar and in other parts of the Kashmir Valley due to a shutdown called by many separatist groups against the landing of the Indian army in Jammu and Kashmir this day in 1947. Muzaffarabad-based supreme commander of the Hizbul Mujahideen guerrilla group, Syed Salahuddin has also supported the protest shutdown called by Kashmiri separatist leaders (Zee News, October 27, 2013).

**October 30:** Around four persons were killed in fresh communal violence in Muzaffarnagar district of Uttar Pradesh. Police has arrested eight persons related to the incident. The violence started due to a land dispute between people from two villages. Last month, around 50 persons were killed and 45,000 became homeless in the same area (NDTV, October 31, 2013).

**October 30:** Two persons were killed and seven other were injured when a powerful bomb, allegedly planted by militants, exploded at Yaiskul area in Imphal West district of Manipur. The

bomb (improvised explosive device) was planted near the road at Yaiskul bus stand to attack the security personnel (Times of India, October 30, 2013).

## MALDIVES

The political crisis in Maldives continued despite the Supreme Court's (SC) order for rescheduling of the first round of presidential elections on October 19. The country failed to hold the elections because of non-cooperation from the Maldivian police. The EC again rescheduled the election date for November 9, after the police forcibly brought a Supreme Court-ordered re-vote to a halt on October 19. Earlier, the court annulled the September 07 presidential elections pointing out irregularities in the voters' lists and bogus voting during the last elections. Meanwhile, the MDP organised street rallies as a protest against the cancellation of October 19 elections. The protestors also demanded removal of the police commissioner and formation of a caretaker government headed by the Speaker. Police used coercive methods to drive out democratically organised rallies and arrested around 17 MDP members.



The present political crisis in Maldives may soon turn into a constitutional crisis after the end of the incumbent President's tenure on November 02 and perhaps after the rescheduled presidential election in the second week of November. Anti-democratic forces with the support of the police and the judiciary will try their best to further delay the elections to prevent liberal democratic forces winning the elections.

### Major Events

**October 01:** Acting Foreign Minister of Maldives Dr Mariyam Shakeela in her address to the UN General Assembly referred to "concerted efforts by external forces to prevent the emergence of an indigenous democratic system of governance in the Maldives [by] attempting to shape the outcome of, what is, an internal issue." Interestingly, on October 02, President Mohammed Waheed Hassan vowed to reject any external attempts to intervene in the country's affairs, which he argued could be avoided if the national interest was put first (Minivan News, October 02, 2013).

**October 02:** UN Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs Oscar Fernandez-Taranco briefed the Security Council on the situation in Maldives, following the suspension of the run-off elections, ongoing protests and the submission of a "letter of concern" signed by senior military officers to their leadership. A senior UN official warned that recent democratic gains were "under threat" and that there was "potential for trouble" (Minivan News, October 05, 2013).

**October 05:** Police arrested 12 persons during a Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP) protest on charges of police assault and obstruction. The MDP held a large-scale protest calling for immediate elections (Minivan News, October 06, 2013).

**October 08:** The Supreme Court of the Maldives annulled the September 07 presidential elections. The case was filed by the leader of the Jumhooree Party (JP) of Maldives, Gasim Ibrahim alleging serious irregularities in the first round of the presidential election. As per Article 113 of the Maldivian Constitution, the Supreme Court of the Maldives is the highest authority for deciding any disputes regarding elections (Miadhu, October 08, 2013).

**October 8:** Dhivehi Rayyithunge Party (DRP) Leader Ahmed Thasmeen Ali announced his intention to maintain his new alliance with the Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP) going into the re-scheduled presidential elections. DRP announced its decision to support Mohammed Nasheed in the scheduled run-off just days after Waheed received just 5% of the popular vote (Minivan News, October 08, 2013).

**October 10:** The Supreme Court opened at midnight to issue a ruling ordering the Election Commission (EC) to restart the entire election re-registration process. The court also ordered the EC to give candidates the choice whether to stay on the ballot paper or withdraw from the election, contrary to the EC's previous announcement (Minivan News, October 11, 2013).

**October 13:** Jumhooree Party (JP) presidential candidate MP Gasim Ibrahim will individually contest the election rerun scheduled for October 19. JP Policy Secretary Mohamed Ajmal confirmed that talks between Gasim and President Dr Mohammed Waheed and MP Abdulla Yameen of the Progressive Party of Maldives (PPM) had failed to result in an agreement to form an election coalition (Minivan News, October 13, 2013).

**October 14:** Eight council members of Gaume'e Itthihad Party (GIP) decided to support the Jumhooree Coalition. Speaking at the press conference, GIP council member, Immigration Controller Dr Mohamed Ali said that given the current situation, efforts have to be made to save the country (Sun.mv, October 14, 2013).

**October 19:** The Election Commission issued a statement that police had moved to prevent the election from taking place. The police issued an earlier statement stating that they "will not support an election held in contravention of the Supreme Court verdict and guidelines" (Minivan News, October 19, 2013).

**October 18:** Two members of the Peoples' Majlis belonging to the Dhivehi Rayyithunge Party (DRP) announced their support for the presidential candidate of the Jumhooree Coalition, Gasim Ibrahim in the upcoming presidential election. Both the members supported the president Dr. Mohammed Waheed in the September elections (Miadhu, October 18, 2013).

**October 21:** Police arrested five men for allegedly obstructing police while they were trying to open to the roads closed by Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP) supporters in protest over the cancellation of presidential elections by police on October 19 (Minivan News, October 21, 2013).

**October 21:** The Election Commission (EC) has set the first round of presidential elections for November 9, after the police forcibly brought a Supreme Court-ordered revote to a halt on October 19 (Minivan News, October 21, 2013).

**October 23:** The Human Rights Commission of Maldives (HRCM) found that police blocked the Election Commission (EC) from conducting the re-vote of the presidential election on October 19 in contravention of the Constitution, the Police Act, and the Elections Act. Earlier, on October 22, the Commission said in a press statement that it had replied to a letter sent by the Maldives Police Service (MPS) seeking to clarify which laws the police had violated (Minivan News, October 23, 2013).

**October 27:** Parliament approved a proposal by the Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP) parliamentary group leader Ibrahim Mohamed Solih for the Speaker of parliament to assume the presidency in the absence of a president-elect by midnight on November 10 (Minivan News, October 27, 2013).

**October 28:** Parliament committees have seen a drastic shift in control as the Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP) gained chair and majority of some of the key committees. With the support of their new coalition partner Dhivehi Rayyithunge Party (DRP), MDP installed chairs in 6 key committees with the party's parliamentary group leader MP Ibrahim Mohamed Solih to head the committee on national security forces (Sun.mv, October 28, 2013).

## NEPAL

In Nepal, candidates were busy filling nomination papers and campaigning for the November 19 elections. The number of poll-related violent incidents increased sharply as the CPN-Maoist tried to prevent candidates to campaign freely in their stronghold. In the Terai region, some armed groups also attacked the candidates during campaigning. Normal life was affected due to frequent general shutdowns organised by the Federal Limbuwan State Council (FLSC).



As the election date gets closer, there are possibilities of increase in poll-related violence in Nepal. Since the CPN-Maoist has decided to declare a general shutdown from November 11 to 19, there are possibilities of clashes between the CPN-Maoist and security forces and also between rival political parties.

### Major Events

**October 02:** The CPN-Maoist led by Mohan Baidya formally announced that the dialogue process with the High Level Political Committee (HLPC) ended. Baidya said they would reach out to the people in villages and discourage candidates from contesting the Constituent Assembly (CA) polls slated for November 19 (Ekantipur, October 02, 2013).

**October 03:** Clashes broke out between the UCPN (Maoist) and the poll-opposing CPN-Maoist in Salina district. Around a dozen cadres of the two sides were injured in the clashes (Republican,

October 03, 2013).

**October 03:** The shutdown called by the Federal Limbwan State Council (FLSC) hit normal life hard in the various nine districts of the eastern region. The FLSC protested against the preparations for the forthcoming CA election (Himalayan Times, October 03, 2013).

**October 11:** UCPN (Maoist)'s seven cadres were injured when a group of CPN-Maoist cadres attacked them in Bam VDC in Myagdi district (Republican, October 11, 2013).

**October 13:** Ten people were injured in a clash between Nepali Congress and CPN-Maoist cadres at Bide village of Mug district. Maoist cadres reportedly attacked the door-to-door election campaigning by the Nepali Congress (Republican, October 15, 2013).

**October 19:** A UCPN (Maoist) district member in Dang was attacked by an unidentified gang (Republican, October 19, 2013).

**October 19:** The Federal Limbwan State Council (FLSC) disrupted a mass meet organized by Kamala Tape-led Rastriya Prajatantra Party-Nepal (RPP-N) in Panchthar and by the Nepali Congress in separate incidents (Republican, October 19, 2013).

**October 20:** At least three persons were injured in clashes between cadres of the Nepali Congress (NC) and Unified CPN-Maoist in the course of election campaign at Aathbiskot-2, Radibazaar in Rukum district (Himalayan Times, October 21, 2013).

**October 23:** Female cadre belonging to UCPN-Maoist was set on fire by a group of CPN-Maoist cadres in Rasuwa district. In a separate incident, suspected cadres of the CPN-Maoist had torched an election campaign vehicle of UCPN-Maoist in Kaski district (Himalayan Times, October 23, 2013).

**October 24:** Poll opposing parties including the CPN-Maoist enforced shutdown in Dhankuta to obstruct the pre-scheduled arrival of UCPN (Maoist) Chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal in the district for election campaign. Cadres had disrupted vehicular movement by felling trees on the Koshi Highway (Ekantipur, October 24, 2013).

**October 25:** The cadres of CPN-Maoist and FLSC assaulted the UCPN (Maoist) candidate of Taplejung Constituency – 1. The irate cadres of the poll-opposing parties snatched the weapons from the deputed security personnel (Republican, October 25, 2013).

**October 25:** Cadres of CPN-Maoist vandalised the election campaign vehicle of CPN-UML Secretary Shanker Pokharel in Tulsipur Dang district (Ekantipur, October 25, 2013).

**October 25:** Security forces seized improvised explosive devices (IEDs) in two different places in the Siraha district (Republica, October 25, 2013).

**October 26:** After the 33-party alliance stepped up its anti-poll activities, the UCPN-Maoist has directed all its committees to counter the attacks. The CPN-Maoist has warned of further protests if their leaders and cadres, arrested during their anti-election campaign across the country, are not released at the earliest (Himalayan Times, October 26, 2013).

**October 27:** A vehicle owned by UCPN (Maoist) candidate from Makawanpur Constituency No.3 Prahlad Lamichhane was set ablaze by suspected cadres of the CPN-Maoist (Republican, October 27, 2013).

**October 27:** Cadres of CPN-Maoist attacked and injured UPCN (Maoist) Ilam Constituency No.2 candidate Ramesh Lingden at Sarangdanda in Panchthar district (Ekantipur, October 28, 2013).

**October 28:** Normal life was crippled in the eastern region due to bandh called by the Federal Limbuwan State Council (FLSC). The FLSC called the bandh in the nine districts of the Eastern Region demanding the release of its cadres who were arrested on the charge of anti-poll activities (Republica, October 28, 2013).

**October 28:** After efforts for electoral alliances with other political parties at the Centre could not materialise, the Federal Socialist Party Nepal (FSPN) is working on forging a collaboration with like-minded forces at the local level (Ekantipur, October 28, 2013).



**PAKISTAN**

TTP's attack on security forces across the country continued. The levels of casualties in these attacks were less compared to previous months. In fact, the number of attacks on civilians also came down possibly due to strong counter-insurgency operations and offer of peace talks from the government. In an interview to BBC, Pakistan Taliban leader Hakimullah Mehsud said the outfit is open to 'serious talks' with the government. The TTP denied that the government has not approached them formally. Although, the TTP responded to the peace talk offers by demanding that any ceasefire should include an end to drone attacks, it clarified that it would continue to target 'America and its friends'.



There was a general perception that external forces were involved in the recent attacks on churches in Peshawar and also violence in Karachi. Despite deployment of Rangers, Karachi continued to witness sectarian violence. Around 14 persons were killed in two incidents.

The TTP will continue to target security forces and NATO allies in the coming days. The offer of peace talks may progress further with the government consulting the US on drone attacks.

**Major Events**

**October 01:** The Rangers arrested a number of criminals, associated with the Muttahida Quami Movement (MQM), including the alleged killer of senior advocate Naimat Ali Randhawa, and recovered Indian-made weapons. The Rangers claimed to have recovered banned Indian military weapons from MQM's sector office in Quaidabad (Nation, October 02, 2013).

**October 02:** The Pakistani Taliban insisted the US drone strikes in Pakistan's northwest must stop before they will consider peace talks with the government. TTP spokesman Shahidullah Shahid said any ceasefire must include an end to US drone attacks in the tribal areas (Nation, October 03, 2013).

**October 03:** Around 17 persons were killed and 22 others injured in Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) attack in Spin Tall area on the border of Orakzai and Kurram tribal regions. TTP spokesman, Shahidullah Shahid, claimed responsibility for the attack (Dawn, October 03, 2013).

**October 04:** A road-side bomb targeted a police van in Peshawar's Pishtakhara locality killing a policeman and injuring two others. The attack took place a day after the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government promised not to interfere in the police operation against terrorists in the province (Dawn, October 04, 2013).

**October 04:** A Friday meeting of military and civilian leadership of Pakistan suspected

involvement of a 'foreign hand' in recent terrorist incidents, particularly those occurring in Peshawar (Nation, October 05, 2013).

**October 07:** Two people were killed including one policeman and one member of a peace committee and 13 others were injured in an explosion near a medical facility in Bazid Khel village of Budh Bher's Suleman Khel area on the outskirts of Peshawar. Both the bombs were fitted with remote-controlled detonation equipment (Dawn, October 07, 2013).

**October 06:** Three soldiers were killed and seven others wounded in a roadside bomb blast in Bannu region near Miranshah in the North Waziristan tribal district bordering Afghanistan (Daily Times, October 07, 2013).

**October 08:** Eight persons including policemen were injured in a hand-grenade attack at Quetta's New Sariab police station. Quetta has been witnessing an upswing in violence in recent months from a separatist insurgency, sectarian violence and Taliban militants (Dawn, October 08, 2013).

**October 09:** Pakistani Taliban leader Hakimullah Mehsud told the BBC he is open to 'serious talks' with the government but says he has not yet been approached. He denied carrying out recent deadly attacks in public places but said he would continue to target 'America and its friends' (Nation, October 10, 2013).

**October 09:** Eight people were gunned down in targeted killings in different incidents across Karachi (Daily Times, October 10, 2013).

**October 15:** 11 people, including five constabulary personnel, were injured in a grenade attack on a convoy of the Balochistan Constabulary in Quetta (Dawn, October 15, 2013).

**October 21:** At least seven persons were killed and 16 injured when a passenger train was struck by a bomb explosion in Balochistan's Naseerabad district. Senior police officials suspected that Baloch rebels were responsible for the attack (Dawn, October 21, 2013).

**October 24:** Three persons were dead and four others wounded in violence that broke out between two armed groups in Lyari area of Karachi (Dawn, October 25, 2013).

**October 26:** Eleven people, including children, women and four suspected criminals were killed in separate incidents in Karachi's Lyari area (Dawn, October 27, 2013).

**October 27:** A roadside bomb killed a soldier and wounded three others at Chashma Pul, two kilometres east of Miramshah, the capital of North Waziristan tribal region, known as a bastion of Taliban and Al-Qaeda-linked rebels (Dawn, October 27, 2013).

**October 30:** Four people were killed and 20 others were injured in an explosion by a bomb fitted on a cycle in Quetta, Balochistan. Police said unknown militants had planted explosive materials weighing around seven kilograms (Dawn, October 30, 2013).

**SRI LANKA**

Although Sri Lanka did not witness any major acts of political violence, Buddhist radical groups criticised the government for engaging the TNA in politics. The Bodu Bala Sena (BBS) threatened to mobilise people against the decision. Interestingly, the statement came while defence secretary, Gotabhaya Rajapaksa, stated that the chief minister of Northern Province has no power to issue orders to the police. Some reports earlier had indicated that the BBS enjoys Gotabhaya Rajapaksa's sympathy. The BBS also said it would re-commence the agitation against the issuing of halal certificates in the country. Another Buddhist radical group Sihala Ravaya protested against Muslims for opening business establishments in Kurundugahahethekma.



Sri Lanka may experience fresh communal unrest and tensions because of growing radical Buddhism.

**Major Events**

**October 05:** At least seven people were injured during a clash between two groups of United National Party (UNP) supporters in Matara. The incident took place when a group of UNP supporters staged a protest march against UNP Leader Ranil Wickremesinghe and clashed with another group (Daily Mirror, October 05, 2013).

**October 06:** Bodu Bala Sena monk Galagodaaththe Gnanasara Thero, the leader of the militant movement, said today that a crusade would be launched in Sri Lanka. He blamed the government for allowing the Tamil National Alliance (TNA) to engage in politics (Colombo Page, October 06, 2013).

**October 12:** Minister of Resettlement, Gunaratne Weerakon, ordered the controversial association, Sihala Ravaya, out from Kurundugahahethekma, after a group led by a controversial monk protested against a Muslim businessman opening a business establishment in the town (Ceylon Today, October 14, 2013).

**October 15:** Bodu Bala Sena (BBS), Ven. Vitharandeniya Nanda Thero said it would re-commence the agitation campaign against the issuing of halal certificates in the country. Thero said the BBS organization was deceived by the authorities who had said that they would resolve the issue. The anti-halal campaign was temporarily halted in the last few months will re-commence on October 22 (Colombo Page, October 15, 2013).

**October 22:** The Bodu Bala Sena believes its anti-halal agitation is far more important than reacting to the government's move to create casino zones in the capital Colombo. The BBS began its anti-halal agitation campaign by saying that the authorities had cheated them out of a solution to the controversial Islamic labelling in March this year (Colombo Telegraph, October

22, 2013).

**October 23:** Defence Secretary, Gotabhaya Rajapaksa, stated that maintaining law and order in the Northern Province is the responsibility of the chief minister, C.V. Wigneswaran, but added that the chief minister has no power to issue orders to the police (Ceylon Today, October 25, 2013).

## ***PROFILE- II***

### **Chasi Mulia Adivasi Sangh (CMAS), India**

The Chasi Mulia Adivasi Sangh (CMAS) is an association of farmers, bonded labours and tribals, formed when Andhra Pradesh based Maoist leaders were taking shelter in Odisha due to security forces pursuing them in that state in 2006. Prior to that, available documents indicate that the CMAS was heavily influenced by Andhra Pradesh based Maoist peasants' front organization, the Rythu Coolie Sangham (RCS). As part of the 'united front' programme, the CPI (Maoist) supported the tribal movement against illegal occupation of tribal land by non-tribals in the then undivided Koraput district. There were occasions when the CPI (Maoist) leaders had demanded release of arrested CMAS leaders. As a result, the CMAS is suspected to be a front organization of the CPI-Maoist outfit, which is responsible for 98 per cent of violence in eastern and central Indian states. Despite that, the CMAS is not yet declared illegal by Odisha or the Central government. It has a geographical spread of over three districts – Koraput, Malkanagiri and parts of Rayagada districts of Odisha.

The motto of the CMAS is "Jameen Mukti, Madha Mukti, Goti Mukti (Struggle for land, emancipation from alcoholism and bonded labour)". Its leaders claim that the CMAS aims to create awareness among Adivasis about their rights.

Nachika Linga is president of the CMAS, presently underground. Other prominent leaders of the CMAS are Arjun Kendruka, Nachika Chamara, Wadeka Singana and Gananath Patra. The CMAS witnessed a vertical split in 2008. Kondagiri Paidama, then leader of the CMAS, was sidelined by Arjun Kendruka and Nachika Linga. Later, differences also arose between Arjun Kendruka and Nachika Linga over fundraising and prioritizing local issues. While Kendruka was interested in collecting money from big land owners by using terror tactics, Linga emphasized on land and forest issues. Subsequently, other top leaders of the party were divided according to these two factions. The intra-organization factionalism led to the death of some senior leaders.

The intra-organizational rift led to large-scale surrender of cadres in the recent past. More than 2000 members of the CMAS (all of them from different villages of Narayanpatna Block of Koraput district) surrendered by the end of October 2013. In one such event on August 14, 2013, around 87 members of Chasi Mulia Adivasi Sangh (CMAS) of Bargir village under Narayanapatna police station surrendered before the local police. Further, on October 23, at least 50 tribal belonging to the CMAS in Koraput district of Odisha surrendered.

The first ever rally under the CMAS banner was organised on October 10, 2006 demanding registration of land in the names of the tribals and release of 'their members' (some of the tribal

and local individuals) arrested by the police. There had been reports that the CMAS activists were engaging in violent activities since then. The CMAS activists were said to be also indulging in forceful land grabbing and issuing threats to non-tribal land owners. According to two Maoists who surrendered in early October 2013, they were members of the CMAS and later became cadres of the Srikakulam-Koraput joint divisional committee of the CPI (Maoist). They also disclosed that the CMAS cadres were involved in killing of anti-CMAS tribal leaders.

The CMAS gets support and sympathy from local tribals, who have lost their land due to illegal occupation by non-tribals, CPI-Maoists, CPI (Marxist-Leninist) intellectuals, trade unions and other tribal organizations.

### ***SACM BRIEF :***

## **Islami Jamiat-e-Talaba: Campus Radicals of Pakistan**

Islami Jamiat- e- Talaba (IJT), an Islamic student group in Pakistan is in the news recently for all the wrong reasons. On September 11, 2013, Lahore police had arrested one Al Qaeda suspect from the Punjab University campus who was allegedly the mastermind of the suicide attack at the Denmark Embassy in Islamabad in June 2008.

The Punjab University officials indicated subsequently, that political parties and leaders of Punjab have patronized IJT's activities and allowed the IJT to flourish inside educational institutions. The Al Qaeda member was sheltered by Ahmad Sajjad Rathore of Okara, a senior IJT office bearer, in his hostel room as a guest. Subsequent interrogation and search operations inside the campus resulted in 17 more arrests. All these arrestees are affiliated with IJT and who have links with the Al Qaeda network. The documents recovered from the custody of the arrested Al Qaeda operative also include a list of all the key members of IJT who have links with Punjab University.

In July 2010, journalist Seyed Salim Sehezad wrote in one of his articles for Asia Times ('Pakistani students prefer guns to books', July 27, 2010) that hundreds of students affiliated in Karachi have left the Islami Jamiat-e-Talaba (IJT) and have joined Al Qaeda training camps in the North Waziristan. At that time perhaps the Pakistani authorities did not pay much attention to this piece of vital information. However, investigations confirmed that observation and revealed that Al Qaeda has already made inroads into one of the largest student bodies of Pakistan.

IJT (<http://jamiat.org.pk/>) was established on December 23, 1947, as a student group loosely affiliated with the Jamaat- e- Islami Pakistan and owes its allegiance to JI's ideologue Syed Abul-Ala Maududi. The headquarters of Islami Jamiat –e-Talaba is located in the city of Lahore (Punjab), Pakistan. Since its inception, IJT has been active in the different university campuses and educational institutions across Pakistan. Its main stated goal is "To seek the pleasure of Allah (SWT) by ordering human life in accordance with the teachings laid down by Allah and his Messenger Muhammad". Basically, the Islamic group aims to preach Islam to students of modern educational institutions throughout Pakistan.

There are number of incidents in the past that connect IJT with extremist Islamic groups (e.g. Jundallah ) in Pakistan. The June 2004 attack on the motorcade of the Karachi Corps Commander Lt Gen Ahsan Saleem Hayat was masterminded by Jundallah member, Attaur Rehman, a former IJT member. Extremists including Attaur Rehman, his deputy Shahzad Ahmed Bajwa and others were caught from the homes of prominent Jamaat-e Islami local leaders Dr. Akmal Waheed and Dr. Arshad Waheed. The Waheed brothers were arrested in July 2004 in that case (attempt on the life of Saleem Hayat) and sentenced in March 2005 to seven years of imprisonment for their crime.

The recent news of IJT members joining transnational terror groups such as Al Qaeda in hordes is more alarming for Pakistan's internal security and for the region at large where JI and IJT have enormous ideological influence over other like-minded Islamic student groups in neighboring India and Bangladesh.

