

South Asia Conflict Monitor

monthly newsletter on terrorism, violence and armed conflict



RESURGENCE OF TEHREEK-E-TALIBAN PAKISTAN AND SECURITY IMPLICATIONS

ANIMESH ROUL & NIHAR NAYAK

At least 12 people, including nine Chinese citizens, were killed after a bus carrying construction workers plunged into a ravine following an explosion on July 14, 2021, when the workers were heading to the Dasu hydropower project located in the Upper Kohistan region situated between Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Gilgit Baltistan (GB). No one has claimed responsibility for the incident, though the nail of suspicion is on Pakistani Taliban formation infamous as Tehreek-e-Taliban (TTP). Initially, Pakistan said that the incident was due to mechanical failure resulting in leakage of gas leading to the explosion. But since nine Chinese citizens died in the incident, China insisted on sending an investigation team to dig out the exact reason for the incident. It was then that Pakistan changed its earlier position and admitted terrorist angle in the incident. Two days after the incident, Pakistan's Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry said that some traces of explosives had been found in the vehicle. Thus terrorism could not be ruled out completely.

Pakistan tried to hide the facts probably because it did not want to be labelled a terrorist hub, affecting the inflow of development assistance and foreign investments, especially from China. Although the Chinese have categorically rejected that the Dasu

project is part of the CPEC, it has committed to invest \$60 billion under the BRI programme in other parts of Pakistan. These projects are already in the implementation phase, and many Chinese technicians are engaged in those projects. Another factor is that Pakistan did not want to show KP as a terrorist affected area other than Baluchistan, where Chinese investments are being resisted strongly by the Baloch rebels. The Baloch rebels have, in fact, attacked Chinese projects beyond the Baluchistan region. They allegedly attacked the Karachi stock exchange in June 2020.

The incident occurred when the Afghan Taliban has claimed control over 80 per cent of Afghanistan's territory after the US is withdrawing its forces from many parts of that country as per the USA-Taliban peace deal of February 2020. Moreover, various militants opposed to the Pakistani government have in the past attacked Chinese projects and citizens. But despite this, the Chinese invested heavily in Pakistan after getting assurance of full protection in the project sites. Also, Chinese projects were safe as long as the American forces were present in Afghanistan. China has reaped maximum benefit

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News Roundup
[JUNE 2021]

from the mining sector in Afghanistan without spending a single penny for security purposes.

Restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

The KP region of Pakistan has been restive since the formation of Tehreek-e-Taliban (TTP) in 2007. The region has been a stronghold area of the TTP, which has been opposing development projects and state presence in that region. The objective of the TTP is to overthrow the elected government of Pakistan in order to establish an Emirate based on its interpretation of Islamic law.[1] More than 3,500 people have taken to militancy, some 490 soldiers have been killed, and more than a million people have been displaced due to the ongoing conflict between the TTP and the Pakistani Army.

The July 14 attack was not an isolated case as many Chinese analysts have interpreted. Although the overall security situation in Pakistan has improved and the number of violent attacks has, in fact, decreased since 2015, there has been an increase in the number of attacks against Chinese targets in the past two years. Various militant organisations active in the KP, Baluchistan and Sindh province of Pakistan have made several attempts on Chinese citizens and projects. Some examples are listed below:

April 21, 2021: TTP attacked the Serena Hotel in Quetta, leaving five dead and 12 critically injured. During the attack, the Chinese ambassador to Pakistan was staying in that Hotel.

June 29, 2020: Four gunmen attacked the Pakistani stock exchange (PSX) in Karachi. In 2016, 40 per cent of strategic shares in the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) were sold to a Chinese consortium.

June 23, 2013: TTP shooters killed 10 people, including two Chinese tourists, at the base camp of Nanga Parbat in Gilgit-Baltistan.

March 01, 2012: TTP militants shot dead a Chinese woman along with a Pakistani man in Peshawar.

July 08, 2007: Three Chinese workers were killed, and four others were injured in an attack by unknown attackers in Khazana near Peshawar. The attackers had shouted religious slogans during the attack.

Moreover, sources indicate that there has been a steady and gradual increase in the TTP movement

in the KP area since 2019 after regrouping the splinter groups under TTP's new chief, Mufti Noor Wali Mehsud. According to the 27th report of the UN Analytical and Monitoring Team published in January 2021, the TTP attempted reunification of splinter groups in Afghanistan and was moderated by Al-Qaeda. This is expected to increase the threat levels in Afghanistan, Pakistan and the region as a whole. Five splinter groups, including Jamaat-ul-Ahrar, Hizb-ul-Ahrar and Lashkar-e-Jhangvi factions led by Amjad Farooqi, Shehryar Mehsud, and Usman Saifullah, pledged alliance to TTP in August 2020. This increased the strength of TTP and resulted in a sharp increase in attacks in the region too. The TTP was responsible for more than 100 cross-border attacks between July and October 2020.[2] Since the beginning of this year, the TTP has targeted social workers, police personnel and some tribal leaders in the KP region.

There are also reports about linkages between Afghan-Taliban and the TTP. Although the exact nature of the linkages between Afghan-Taliban and the TTP is not yet clear, media reports indicated that a large number of TTP cadres took shelter in Taliban controlled territory in Afghanistan. At the same time, Pakistan undertook military operation 'Zarb-e-Azb' in June 2014.

There have been previous attacks on Chinese nationals in Pakistan, including a recent suicide blast at the luxury Serena hotel in Quetta, Balochistan, for which the Pakistani Taliban (TTP) claimed responsibility.

Why are Chinese projects being targeted?

Given the TTP's domination in the KP area and its involvement in the previous attacks on Chinese citizens and projects in Pakistan, some analysts suspect the role of TTP in this latest bus incident as well. However, as stated above, no group or organisation has claimed responsibility for the incident so far. This delay in claiming responsibility can be linked with Pakistan's initial position in the incident. It might have used its contacts with the local militant groups to persuade them not to own responsibility for the incident in order to justify its initial position.

Since the TTP wants to establish an Islamic Emirate following Sharia law, it has been opposing both internal and external entities working with Islamabad for the development and smooth functioning of the government. Since China is the

largest investor in Pakistan, the TTP has been opposing its Chinese presence.

The TTP and other militant groups in Pakistan have also been opposing Chinese projects in the country because they feel that these projects have failed to generate employment for the local people since the Chinese companies get technicians from China and use machines to avoid hiring local people. They also feel that in the name of development, China wants to exploit natural resources.

Conclusion

In the absence of US security forces, the volatile security situation in Afghanistan will embolden the TTP to reassert its presence in the KP and other parts of Pakistan. In that case, foreign tourists and development projects would become soft targets of the TTP in the future. The consolidation of the Taliban in Afghanistan will give free access to the TTP to take shelter if the Pakistani Army takes military action against the TTP after the July incident. The formation of Mujahideen Gilgit-Baltistan and Kohistan in the KP and Gilgit-Baltistan region will further aggravate the security situation in Pakistan.

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NOTES

[1] Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan (TTP), UNSC, June 27, 2018, https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/sanctions/1267/aq_sanctions_list/summaries/entity/tehrick-e-taliban-pakistan-%28ttp%29

[2]“Twenty-seventh report of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team submitted pursuant to resolution 2368 (2017) concerning ISIL (Da’esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities”, UNSC, February 03, 2021, <https://undocs.org/pdf?symbol=en/S/2021/68>

BANGLADESH: RESTRUCTURING OF HEFAZAT-E-ISLAM



Image: Dhaka Tribune/AEP

After facing a huge leadership crisis due to the arrests of its top leaders in March 2021, mainly due to violent protests and media allegations about its radical activities, the HeI attempted to rebuild its image by restructuring the organisation. The new Secretary-General of Hefazat-e-Islam, Nurul Islam Jihadi, announced a new central committee (CC) formation at a press briefing at Al Jamiatul Islamia Makhzanul Uloom Madrasa in Khilgaon, Dhaka on June 7. The new CC has 33 members, with Junaid Babunagari as its chief (Ameer). The HeI has, in fact, dropped all controversial leaders from the CC, including Mamunul Haque, who has been in jail for inciting violence during the visit of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Bangladesh in March.

Hefazat has also announced its 16-member advisory committee with Babunagari as its chief. It also announced a nine-member Central Khas Committee, considered to be the Hathazari-based group's "Majlish e-Sura." Following are the other leaders who are given responsibilities in the new CC:

- Maulana Ataullah Hafezi, nayeb-e-ameer.
- Maulana Sajedur Rahman, joint secretary-general.
- Maulana Mir Idris, organising secretary.
- Maulana Muhiuddin Rabbani, publicity secretary.

After assuming charge, Junaid Babunagari had a meeting with Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan. Although the details of the meeting have not been disclosed, it is assumed that Babunagari might have discussed ways of preventing further arrests of the party members and release of the arrested leaders along with the withdrawal of the cases against them. Earlier, Nurul, who has also been prosecuted in some of the cases, met the home minister of Bangladesh twice formally since April 19) and placed a set of demands. The HeI leaders have met the home minister thrice since the March incident.

On April 25, 2021, Junaid Babunagari had dissolved the CC following the advice of senior Hefazat leaders, considering the overall situation in Bangladesh in the post-March period. At least 77 cases were filed against Hefazat leaders and activists across the country over the clashes and vandalism. More than 69,000 people were accused in the cases. Two cases were also filed against Babunagari in connection with his alleged involvement in the violence in Hathazari. The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) also launched an investigation against more than 50 leaders of Hefazat, including Babunagari and Mamunul, on charges of embezzlement and corruption.

Moreover, after the March incident, many HeI leaders have left the organisation. For example, HeI Brahmanbaria District unit Joint Secretary Mufti Abdur Rahim Qasemi resigned from the organisation and sought justice over the mayhem carried out by the leaders and activists in the district during the days of hartal. In addition, the highest policy-making body of the country's Qawmi madrasas, Al-Hayatul Ulaya

Lil Jamiatil Qawmia Bangladesh, on April 25, slapped a ban on student and teacher politics across the country.

Implications

First, the restructuring of the HeI is a message to its critics that the organisation does not encourage violence, and it rejects the leaders who have indulged in violent protests earlier. Second, the restructuring also allowed Babunagari to keep his rivals at bay and assign key roles to his relatives and loyal ones. Third, the organisation could prevent further government action against the senior party leaders and cadres by appointing new members.

However, despite the changes in the HeI, some major challenges like preventing Babunagari from police arrest, moderating its views on minorities and Sharia law, snapping linkages with Pakistan, and operating madrasas within the government guidelines would continue.

Brief-2:

INDIA: NSCN-IM'S RESISTANCE TO PEACE ATTEMPTS IN ASSAM

With no sight of an end to the ongoing peace talks between the NSCN-IM and the Union government over finding a permanent solution to one of the oldest insurgencies in India, the BJP-led Assam government's proposal to declare Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC) has complicated the negotiation process further. In May 2021, the government decided to upgrade the KAAC and the North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council (NCHAC) to 'territorial councils' like the Bodoland Territorial Council. Both the KAAC and the NCHAC share boundary with Nagaland.



Image: Nagaland Express

The Naga peace process did not progress substantially recently due to two major issues -NSCN-IM's position on sovereignty and Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh's opposition to the merger of Naga inhabited areas with Nagaland to create a greater Nagalim. Not only Manipur, inhabitants of bordering Arunachal Pradesh and Assam, are also against the NSCN-IM's territorial claim of territories belonging to these provinces. On the contrary, the NSCN-IM made its position clear with the government negotiating team that under no circumstances would it compromise on the demerger of all Naga inhabited parts of the Northeast, which includes parts of Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Assam.

Therefore, on June 7, 2021, the NSCN-IM stated the formation and appointment of Chief Executive Member (CEM) of the Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC) by the Union and the Assam government. The group stated that "no authority should go far enough to override the interests of the Rengma Nagas 'who are the legitimate owners of the land [a part of Assam]'".

Taking cognisance of this historical status, the Rengma issue in Assam constitutes one of the important agendas of Indo-Naga peace talks pending final decision.

Despite NSCN-IM's statement, the Assam government on May 19 appointed Tuliram Ronghang as the Chief Executive Member (CEM) of Karbi Anglong Autonomous Territorial Council (KAATC). The Assam government has also assured KAATC to raise Special Police Commando Battalions on the line of the National Security Guards. These commando battalions will be deployed to protect the vulnerable interstate borders of Assam.

While the Assam government is making efforts in the path of development and it has been trying to bring long term peace and stability in the state by negotiating with the insurgent groups, including the ULFA (I), the NSCN-IM's claim over other state's territories for a greater Nagalim would seriously affect the peace and development of the region. It seems the NSCN-IM has also been pushing forward agendas of some external forces, which is designed at fishing in the troubled ethnic tensions in the North-Eastern region of India.

NEWS ROUNDUP: JUNE 2021



AFGHANISTAN

MAJOR EVENTS:

June 03: Afghan military targeted terrorist hideouts in Nawa district of Helmand Province of Afghanistan, killing several terrorists including six Al-Qaeda members of Pakistani origin. The deceased militants were mostly residents of Punjab and Waziristan of Pakistan. ([Bakhtar News](#))

June 03: Mawlavi Mohammad Kababyani, a prominent cleric in Herat was killed by armed assailants in front of his house in Anjel District. Kababyani had raised his voice against killings and violence in Afghanistan. "We have lost six scholars since last year in Herat. There is no justification for killing scholars and civilians from an Islamic perspective," said Abdul Khaliq Haqqani, the head of the



Herat religious affairs department. On May 26, scholar Mawlavi Abdul Karim Hanafi was killed in Herat. ([Tolo News](#))

June 04: Around 20 Taliban militants were killed and eight others wounded in airstrikes in southern Helmand province. Military sources said the Afghan army conducted ground and air operations on the Taliban gathering in the Nahr-e-Siraj district of the province on Friday morning. ([Bakhtar News](#))

June 05: UN Monitoring Team report claimed that the Taliban in Afghanistan and transnational jihadist group Al-Qaeda remain closely aligned and show no indication of breaking ties. As per the report, Al Qaeda is

resident in at least 15 Afghan provinces, primarily in the east, south and south-eastern regions, and are led by Al-Qaeda's Jabhat-al-Nasr wing under the direction of Sheikh Mahmood. ([ANI News](#))

June 08: Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat (DABS), informed that 23 electricity pylons have been destroyed or damaged by explosions in a month's time, raising concerns over the stability of the imported power as many areas now face power outages. Three power pylons were damaged by explosions over the last day--two in Salang district, Parwan province, and one in Herat province, disrupting the imported power supply from Uzbekistan and Iran in the two provinces. Other pylons have been either damaged or destroyed in Kalakan, Shakardara and Qara Bagh districts of Kabul. Islamic State (Daesh) group claimed responsibility for destroying the towers. ([Tolo News](#))

June 11: Taliban militants abducted and killed Mawlavi Samiullah Rashid, an Islamic cleric at Baboos area in Pul-e-Alam city of Logar Province. ([Khaama](#))

June 15: Five polio vaccinators were killed and four others were injured in targeted attacks in the eastern province of Nangarhar. Ataulah Khogyani, spokesman for Nangarhar's governor conformed the attacks were carried out by unidentified assailants in the districts of Sorkh Rod and Khogyani, and the provincial capital Jalalabad. in late March this year three women working for the polio vaccination campaign were killed in two separate attacks in the city of Jalalabad in the province. ([Tolo News](#))

June 17: Jeanne Shaheen, a senator from New Hampshire, US expressed concern about the Afghanistan withdrawal could end like in Vietnam in the 1970s, when the US retreat preceded sparked a refugee crisis. ([Bakhtar News](#))

June 17: US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin forewarned the US Congress, that Al Qaeda or IS could regenerate in Afghanistan and pose a threat to America within two years of US troop withdrawal. (Along with Austin, General Mark Milley, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, also testified at a at a Senate Appropriations Committee hearing. Milley said that the US is working to prevent an outcome where the Afghan government collapses but cautioned "there are no guarantees in any of this.") ([Bakhtar News](#))

June 25: Around 130 Taliban militants led by Maulwi Haji Mardan Noorzai (Mullah Hebatullah faction) joined the peace process in Herat Province and declared their support for the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. They assured to fight alongside the Government to ensure the security of the people and national interests. ([Bakhtar News](#))

BANGLADESH

MAJOR EVENTS:



June 03: Three militants associated with Al Qaeda linked Ansar al-Islam (formerly Ansarullah Bangla Team (ABT) from Khilgaon and Shimultola Bazar areas of Dhaka city. Police claimed that one of the arrested militants Abdullah used to upload ABT chief Mufti Jasimuddin Rahmani's lectures and books on social media and an encrypted application. ([Daily Star](#))

June 06: Bangladesh police said that Hefajate Islam (HeI)'s former joint secretary general Mamunul Haque has link with local and external militant organizations. Narayanganj Superintendent of Police Zayedul Alam informed media during a presser in the Chanmari area of the city about the

interrogation of Mamunul Haque during his 18-day remand in six cases filed in connection with violence in March 2021. ([Daily Star](#))



June 16: The Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) police arrested Ansar-al-Islam militant Shamimur Rahman from Chittagong. He was arrested on the basis of information shared by another arrested Ansar militant Shakhawat Hossain who returned to Bangladesh from Indonesia couple of months ago and engaged in jihadist activities. Police informed that Shakhawat Hossain visited Syria and undergone training there while fighting along side Hayat Tahrir Al-Shams (HTS) in 2017. ([Daily Star](#); [Daily Star](#))

June 28: The CTTC unit of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police said Ansar-al-Islam remain active in the Rohingya refugee camps propagating militant ideology. The information about the possible activity in Rohingya camps gathered during the interrogation of three arrested members of the Ansar-al-Islam group from Rampura area of Dhaka. The militants were identified as Maruf Chowdhury Mohamad Foyzul Morsalin and Sayed Taimia Ibrahim. Interrogation report suggested that they were working to strengthen Ansar Al Islam's organizational base by recruiting new members through online and offline campaigns, and raising funds. ([Daily Star](#))

June 29: The Director General of Bangladesh Rapid Action Battalion Chowdhury Abdullah Al Mamun said that militants in the country are not capable of carrying any major subversive attack. Since the Holey Artisan Bakery attack on July 1, 2016, the RAB has arrested around 1,500 militants so far. ([Dhaka Tribune](#))

INDIA

MAJOR EVENTS:



June 02: Armed militants in Kashmir shot dead Rakesh Pandita, a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and Councillor of Tral town and critically injured Asifa Mushtaq, daughter of Mushtaq Ahmad of Tral. ([India Today](#))

June 06: CPI-Maoist leader and Dandakaranya Special Zonal Committee (DKSZC) communications head Gaddam Madhukar died at Osmania General Hospital (OGH) in Hyderabad District of Telangana while undergoing treatment for Covid-19. He was arrested on June 01. ([Frontline](#))

June 12: Kashmir based pro Al Qaeda Ansar Ghazwat-ul-Hind (AGH) has released propaganda video eulogising slain militants. The video titled "We the travellers of

hereafter" was produced by the group's media arm 'Al-Hurr' and shared online by AGH's official online distributor, the Global Islamic Media Front (GIMF). In April, AGH's current leader Ghazi Khalid Ibrahim lauded seven members of the group who had been killed in the same month. (RocketChat)

June 22: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) said that Kashmir separatist leader Shabbir Shah was involved in money laundering activities to create unrest in Jammu & Kashmir. According to the ED, Shah amassed huge wealth in the form of immovable and movable properties and was also involved in terror-financing activities. He was in regular touch with LeT/JuD chief Hafiz Saeed, in Pakistan. ([Economic Times](#))

June 24: Delhi Police and Intelligence Bureau (IB) team had arrested four persons from Kargil district of Ladakh in connection with the blast outside the Israel Embassy in New Delhi in late January this year. All four are students, identified as Nazir Hussain, Zulfikar Ali Wazir, Aiaz Hussain and Muzammil Hussain. ([India Today](#))



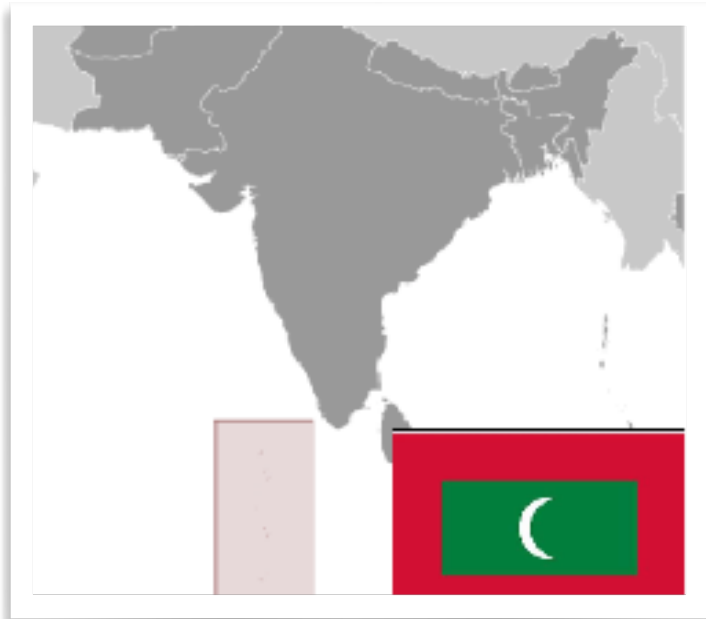
June 28: Outgoing Director General of Police, Kerala, Loknath Behera said that radicalisation is a matter of concern and Police department is engaged in de-radicalisation and counter-radicalisation programmes. DGP Behera further added that the recruitment of people to the Islamic State (IS) posed concern, but it has come down recently. ([New Indian Express](#))

June 28: The preliminary investigation suggested that Pakistan based Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) was behind killing of Police Officer Fayaz Ahmad, and two of his family members (wife and daughter) in Hariparigam village of Tral in Pulwama district. ([Scroll](#))

June 30: Mizoram Chief Minister (CM) Zoramthanga said on the eve of 35 years of signing of the Mizo Peace Accord, that due to the success of peace accord and proper abundance of it, Mizoram is one of the peaceful states in the northeast of India. The Mizo Peace Accord which was signed on June 30, 1986 between the Government of India (GoI), the Mizoram Government and then militant outfit, MNF (Mizo National Front) led to Mizoram becoming the 23rd state of India on February 20, 1987. ([Sentinel Assam](#)/ [NeoNews](#))

MALDIVES

MAJOR EVENTS:



June 06: Maldives police arrested fifth suspect in connection with the May 6 attack on Speaker Mohamed Nasheed. Police officials in press conference said new and significant evidence have been collected from various CCTV cameras all over Male. So far, Police has only revealed the names of four people Adhuham Ahmed Rasheed, Mujaaz Ahmed, Thahumeen Ahmed, and Ahmed Fathih. ([Edition](#))

June 12: Maldives police said that at least three prison inmates were injured in the joint operation by Security Forces (SFs) in Male and Maafushi prisons. The operation was conducted in the prisons in connection to the May 6, 2021, Improvised Explosive Device

(IED) attack on Parliament Speaker, Mohamed Nasheed. ([Rajje News](#))

June 19: Maldives parliament speaker Mohamed Nasheed has called on to support a petition criminalising hate crimes and labelling people. He reportedly tweeted asking all citizens to sign the petition which proposes to stop calling each other infidel, “Kafir” or anti-Muslim “Laadheenee” indicating that they are not Muslims. ([Times of Addu](#))

June 29: President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih said the Police are investigating eight suspects in relation to the bombing in Male on May 6, 2021. He further disclosed that the investigations into four of these suspects have concluded and will be forwarded for prosecution. ([Rashu](#))

PAKISTAN

MAJOR EVENTS



June 01: Pakistan’s Chief of the Army Staff (CoAS), General Qamar Javed Bajwa said the Army would take all possible steps to achieve an enduring peace in Balochistan. He also added that efforts should be made to assist the Balochistan government in ensuring law and order in the province.

June 04: Pakistan’s Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) of the Sindh Police released the ninth edition of the ‘Red Book’ containing the names and details of most wanted people in Pakistan, after a gap of four years. The Red Book has names of 93 new terrorists mostly from banned outfits, such as the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan, Lashkar-e-

Jhangvi, Sipah-e-Mohammad, IS, Al-Qaeda, Sindh Revolution Army and Baloch Liberation Army. (Geo TV)

June 14: Four Pakistani Frontier Corps soldiers were killed in an improvised explosive device explosion on the Margat-Quetta road in Balochistan. The dead FC soldiers were identified as Subedar Sardar All Khan and sepoy Musaddaf Hussain, Muhammad Anwar and Awais Khan. In May 2021, three FC soldiers were killed in an attack near Margat coal mine area in Bolan district. (Dawn, Dawn)

June 23: Three people were killed and more than 20 injured in a bomb explosion at Allah Hu boulevard residential area of Johar Town, Lahore. The explosion reportedly took place near the residence of proscribed Jamaat-ud-Dawa (JuD) and Lashkar-e-Taiba leader Hafiz Saeed. No organisation has claimed responsibility for the attack. Three houses and three cars were completely damaged due to the high intensity of the blast. (Dawn)



June 25: Imran Khan, Pakistan's Prime Minister said that Pakistan will not take military action against the Taliban if the group takes over Afghanistan by force. He assured to do everything except use military action against the Taliban in his statement. (Tolo News)

June 28: Around 218 people, including 69 members of the banned Tehreek-i-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP), have been placed on the fourth schedule of the Anti-Terrorism Act 1997 in the Rawalpindi division by the Punjab home department. (Dawn)

SRI LANKA

MAJOR EVENTS



June 01: Nagalingam Pradeepan, a former Liberation Tiger of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) cadre was arrested from Batticaloa under the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA). He was arrested in Porathivu of Batticaloa for allegedly reorganizing the LTTE. (Tamil Guardian)

June 11: Two suspected Islamists including an Assistant Post Master have been arrested by Terrorism Investigation Division (TID) for providing shelter to Easter Sunday suicide attack mastermind Zahran Hashim and his group in 2018. They were arrested in the Kahatagasdigiliya and Kattankudi areas. (Daily Mirror)

June 15: The European Parliament adopted a resolution (titled "The Situation in Sri Lanka, in particular the arrests under the Prevention of Terrorism Act") on June 10 calling on Sri Lanka to repeal the controversial Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) which gives police powers to search and arrest, without a warrant, people

suspected of unspecified "unlawful activities". PTA permits detention of suspects without charge for up to 18 months. Sri Lanka's Ministry of Foreign Relations regretted the adoption of the EU resolution and said it contains factual inaccuracies, and does not take cognizance of the multifaceted progress made by Sri Lanka in reconciliation and development. ([Island](#), [Europeane Parliament](#))

June 20: The Criminal Investigations Department and the Terrorism Investigation Division of Sri Lanka are investigating 17 incidents related to the Easter Sunday attack. According to the Police, the

Attorney General (AG) has already filed nine cases in the Kegalle, Kandy, Kurunegala, Puttalam and Colombo High Courts on 32 suspects in connection with the investigations.



festival celebrated by Sri Lanka's Buddhist majority to mark the arrival of Buddhism in the country. ([The Hindu](#))

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.

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The Society for the Study of Peace and Conflict (SSPC) is an independent, non-profit, non-partisan research organization based in New Delhi, dedicated to conduct rigorous and comprehensive research, and work towards disseminating information through commentaries and analyses on a broad spectrum of issues relating to peace, conflict and human development. SSPC has been registered under the Societies Registration Act (XXI) of 1860. The SSPC came into being as a platform to exchange ideas, to undertake quality research, and to ensure a fruitful dialogue.

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