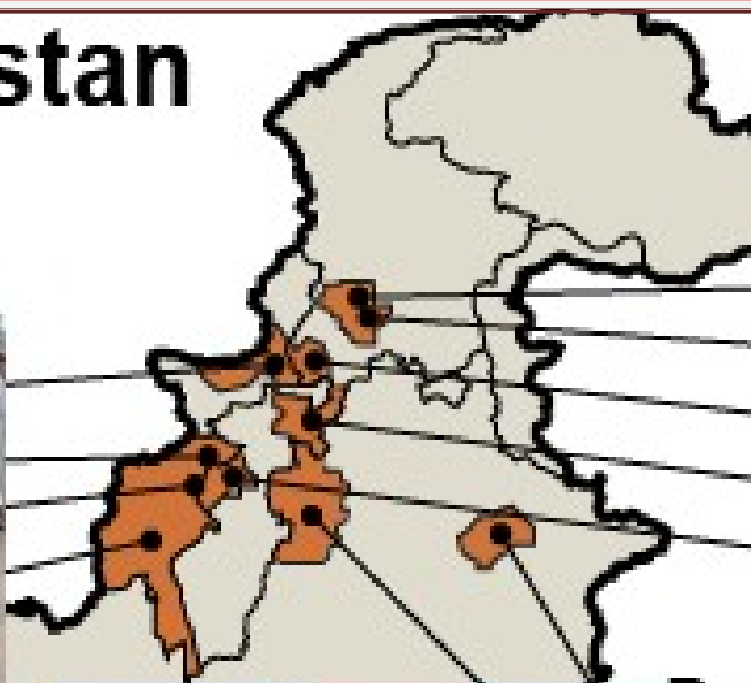


# PAKISTAN

## Between Devil and Disease

### Polio in Pakistan

*Infected districts*



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Pakistan

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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## **PAKISTAN: Between Devil and Disease**

In late November 2013, doctors working for the Kurdish Red Crescent in Syria traced a deadly strain of polio virus to Pakistan. The vectors of the virus are unknown, but the needle of suspicion is on the Jihadi elements who have travelled all the way to Syria from the tribal badlands of Pakistan where a government polio eradication campaign has been marred by Taliban zealots for the past many years.

Polio (Poliomyelitis), a deadly infectious disease better known for its paralyzing effect on children, has been resurfacing in countries like Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Nigeria where the civil administration and health apparatus are more or less defunct due to sub-national conflicts and due to stiff resistance from the religious conservatives against the vaccination programme.

According to a World Health Organization (WHO) estimate, at least 72 polio cases were recorded in Pakistan in 2013 as compared to 58 cases in 2012. The neighbouring Afghanistan, according to that estimate, only has nine cases until November this year. The most affected provinces of Pakistan are Punjab, Sindh and the Khyber- Pakhtunkhwa (KP, erstwhile North West Frontier Province).

Pakistan is one of few countries in the world where polio remains endemic, due to a host of human induced factors. Taliban militants in Pakistan have stepped up their armed campaign against the aid workers and security personnel involved in the vaccination programme on many occasions in the past. The month of November itself witnessed at least two major incidents targeted at the vaccination programme. On November 30, a security official was killed in Peshawar who was providing security cover for the health officials associated with the programme. A week before this incident, on November 21, the Taliban-affiliated Lashkar-e-Islam militants have abducted 11 schoolteachers from a private school in the Barah Sipah area of the Khyber Agency. The teachers were later freed a couple of days later, following intervention from a local tribal council. Earlier in October, militants attacked a police vehicle which was protecting a polio vaccination team in Peshawar.

The most gruesome of incidents took place in mid-December 2012, when Taliban militants have disrupted a three day national polio vaccination campaign killing at least 9 polio health workers including females in a string of attacks across Pakistan. Five people were killed in different incidents of targeted attack in Karachi while four health workers were killed in Peshawar, Charsadda and Nowsehera areas of KP province. All the victims were working with the UN-

backed programme to eradicate polio in the country. The Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and Jundallah claimed responsibilities for these attacks. .

Mullah Fazllulah, the pro-Taliban leader of the Tehreek Nifaz-e-Shariat-e-Muhammadi (TNSM) had initiated an armed campaign against the government's anti- polio drive in 2006 and 2007 in Swat and Malakand regions. The situation has been alarming since the Pakistani Taliban issued proscription orders on polio vaccinations. Fazllulah, the present leader of Taliban umbrella group TTP, along with his armed followers carried out a virulent campaign against the polio vaccination programme in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa through his regular Radio sermons. Pro-Taliban Islamic clerics and militant leaders have cited many religious reasons to prove it anti-Islamic and termed the vaccination programme as Western conspiracy to render Muslims infertile and impotent. It was alleged that the whole polio eradication campaign was part of Western espionage against the Muslim Ummah. Some clerics even declared jihad against the polio vaccination workers in Pakistan. The situation became grim following the hepatitis vaccination programme that was believed to have helped in tracking down and killing of Osama bin Laden at his hideout in Abbottabad, Pakistan.

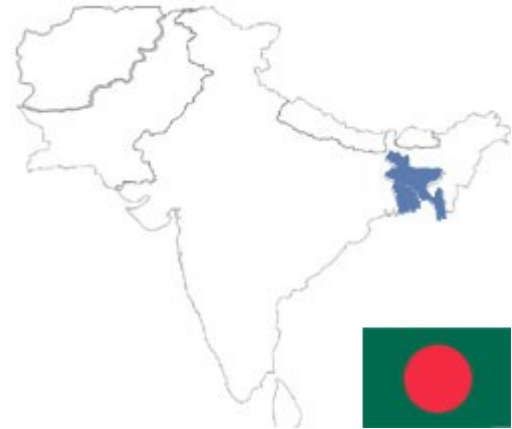
Because of the TTP's fierce opposition to the polio vaccination programme and intermittent attacks on the health workers, there is a genuine concern that this highly infectious disease could spread further mostly to the neighbouring countries, where polio has been eradicated, mostly in the Middle East and South Asia. Fearing a possible resurgence of polio, India meanwhile has initiated steps to prevent a spillover from Pakistan and put in place travel restrictions. The Indian High Commission in Pakistan cautioned that persons (adults and children) 'travelling to India from Pakistan after January 30, 2014 are required to obtain oral polio vaccination at least six weeks prior to their departure to India.' This is the least a country can do to prevent the recurrence of the disease within its political boundaries. However, the onus is on Pakistan and its conservative religious leaders to join hands together to quell the targeted violence against its health workers and humanitarian agencies and simultaneously fight the deadly virus which could cripple a whole generation of Pakistan.



## COUNTRY ROUND UP

### BANGLADESH

The country witnessed frequent hartals called by the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) led 18 opposition parties. Most of the protests were carried out by the local units of the BNP and its allies. More than 300 people were killed in inter-party violence in November 2013. The opposition parties continued demanding a non-party caretaker government. There were also allegations from the BNP that the ruling Awami League (AL) has been trying to split the rival political parties presently in the opposition. In this regard, some opposition leaders indicated that they were offered cabinet positions in the caretaker cabinet by the AL. Moreover; the frequency of the hartals was increased with the Court verdicts on Jamaat leaders. The country's transportation system and economy was badly affected by these protest rallies and strikes.



Since both the parties are adamant on their respective position over the nature of the caretaker government, the fate of the parliamentary elections looks uncertain. The opposition alliance has already enforced 204 hours of hartal and more are to follow in the coming months. .

#### Major Events

**November 01:** At least eight Islami Chhatra Shibir operatives were injured in a clash with Police in Sitakunda area of Chittagong district when Shibir cadres, (the student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami) staged a demonstration (Daily Star, November 1).

**November 02:** Nearly 20 people were injured in a clash between Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) activists and the police in Ashulia area of the Capital Dhaka (Daily Star, November 2).

**November 03:** The International Crimes Tribunal-2 (ICT-2) awarded death penalty to the absconding Al-Badr leaders, Mohammad Ashrafuzzaman Khan (a.k.a Nayeb Ali) and Chowdhury Mueenuddin for killing 18 intellectuals in 1971. They received death penalty for abduction and killing of nine Dhaka University teachers, six eminent journalists and three physicians in December 1971. The tribunal also said JeI approved the killing squad formed by Al-Badr men, who in fact belonged to then JeI student wing Islami Chhatra Sangha. The convicts who were tried in absentia presently residing in London (Mueenuddin) and New York (Ashrafuzzaman).(New Age, November 4).

**November 07:** At least 30 people were injured as members of local Awami League and BNP clashed over the meeting venue in Haziganj town. Police subsequently has filed a lawsuit against at least 250 leaders and activists of the opposition BNP for attacking police personnel during the clashes (Banglanews24.com, November 09, 2013).

**November 10:** One person was killed in violence, blasts, arson and clashes between police and political activists that marked the first day of the 84-hour nationwide shutdown enforced by the Bangladesh Nationalist Party-led alliance in Chittagong, Comilla, Brahmanbaria and Jhenaidah. Hundreds of protesters were injured as police opened fire on them. Incidents of bomb blasts, arson and armed clashes were reported from different districts. (New Age Bangladesh, November 11, 2013).

**November 14:** A former activist of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), the student wing of the ruling Awami League (AL) of Rajshahi University was killed allegedly by the Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) operatives in Sadullapur area of Gaibandha district. (Daily Star, November 15).

**November 14:** Jamaat e Islami and Shibir operatives were involved in vandalism and violence in Dhaka. At least 50 crude bombs were used in the rampage. (New Age, November 15)

**November 18:** More than 25 people have been injured in clashes between Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP)-Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI) operative and security personnel during the 'black-flag procession' across the country mostly in Mirpur and Rajshahi. The protest rallies were held by the BNP-JeI against the holding of a cabinet meeting by the ministers who had earlier resigned. (The Independent, November 19).

**November 22:** BNP's Pabna district unit declared a dawn-to-dusk hartal there on November 23, demanding release of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's Special Assistant Shamsur Rahman Shimul Biswas. Law enforcers picked up Biswas and Khaleda's Adviser Abdul Awal Mintoo on November 8, and accused them in two cases over "attempted murder of cops and involvement in violence in Dhaka" (Daily Star, November 23, 2013).

**November 25:** The BNP's Chittagong district unit called for a 12-hour hartal on November 26 to protest the Swandip incident where the son of a BNP member of parliament was shot. On November 24, Awami League and the BNP were engaged in day-long clashes on an island in Swandip. The house of Chittagong-13 MP Mostafa Kamal Pasha was attacked and burnt (Dhaka Tribune, November 25, 2013).

**November 28:** Around 15 persons were killed across Bangladesh in protests since November 25 following the government's announcement that general elections would be held on January 5, 2014. The opposition rejected the date and called for a transport blockade (BBC News, November 28, 2013).

**November 29:** The BNP's Chittagong district unit called for a day-long hartal on December 1, protesting against the arrest of two party leaders. BNP Vice-Chairman Abdullah Al Noman made the announcement (Dhaka Tribune, November 29, 2013).

## INDIA

After remaining relatively calm for quite some time, the Northeastern region of India witnessed a sudden escalation of violence with the formation of some new militant separatists groups. Another factor could be political unrest in Bangladesh and failure of Myanmar to take strong action against the Indian rebel groups residing in the neighboring territories. Militant separatists groups operating in different states carried out attacks both on security forces and civilians. Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya experienced some of these violent acts perpetrated by the militant separatists. Further, around 17 ethnic militant group leaders held talks with the representatives of the Myanmar government at Myitgyina, the capital of Kachin state. Interestingly, the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN)-Khaplang faction did not participate in the peace talks which have strong presence in the Myanmar.



The other two conflict theatres of India—Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) and the Maoist-affected areas of Central and Eastern India have witnessed moderate level of violence. In Bihar, the Maoists have killed three persons in Gaya district. Security forces successfully foiled many attack attempts of the Maoists during Assembly elections in Chhattisgarh.

In J&K, the security forces foiled some major attacks by the Pakistan based Islamic militants. In one incident, two paramilitary force personnel were killed in a militant attack on the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway in Avantipora. Pakistan's decision to extend all possible support to the separatist movement in J&K will undoubtedly encourage the militants to carry out major attacks in the state, especially targeting government infrastructures.

### Major Events

**November 04:** The National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN), led by S.S. Khaplang did not take part of the ongoing peace process between the Myanmar government and the ethnic rebel groups. Seventeen ethnic rebel groups are holding talks with the representatives of the Myanmar government in the two-day meeting at Myitgyina, the capital of Kachin state (Telegraph India, November 05, 2013).

**November 05:** The Garo Hills Police suffered one of its biggest casualties with five security personnel were killed in an ambush laid by the Garo National Liberation Army (GNLA) militants near Kolapara village in Baghmara of South Garo Hills. This was one of the major attacks against the security forces since the formation of the GNLA in 2009 (Shillong Times,



November 06, 2013).

**November 06:** One migrant worker was killed and six others were injured in a twin bomb blast at Pallel Lamkhai in Thoubal district of Manipur. A similar attack took place two months ago in which nine migrant workers were killed and eleven others were injured (The Hindu, November 07, 2013).

**November 06:** A Mumbai court extended the police custody of Indian Mujahideen operative Afzal Usmani and his nephew Javed Khan till November 11. Usmani was re-captured from outside a railway station in Uttar Pradesh while he was preparing to cross-over to Nepal on October 27, over a month after he escaped from a Mumbai Court (Economic Times, November 06, 2013).

**November 06:** Karbi Peoples Liberation Tigers (KPLT) militants killed an employee of Public Works Division (PWD) at Merabhati of Bokajan in Karbi Anglong (Assam). KPLT has stepped up violence against government employees recently (Nagaland Post, November 07, 2013).

**November 07:** Two Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel were killed in a militant attack on the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway in the South Kashmir township of Avantipora (Daily Excelsior, November 08, 2013).

**November 08:** Two villagers, including a former home guard, of Velamjuvvi under Balapam gram panchayat in Chintapalli revenue division were allegedly shot dead by the Maoists near Johar village in Vizag district (The Hindu, November 09, 2013).

**November 12:** Two Border Security Force (BSF) personnel and a civilian were killed in a landmine explosion triggered by Maoists in Sukma district a day after the first phase of polling in Chhattisgarh (Hindustan Times, November 12, 2013).

**November 12:** A group of heavily armed Maoists gunned down a former Maoist named Sanjay Yadav of Amkola village under Mohanpur police station area of Gaya district. Two of Yadav's private bodyguards were also shot dead by the Maoists. Three of Yadav's companions were also injured and an SUV belonging to him was torched by the Maoists (The Times of India, November 12, 2013).

**November 13:** The Union Ministry of Home Affairs has declared Coordination Committee (CorCom: a conglomerate of six valley-based outfits) as 'Unlawful Associations' under Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967. This was stated by the Union Minister of Home Affairs Sushil Kumar Shinde in early December 2013. (Sangai Express, December 10, 2013).

**November 14:** Rajouri police thwarted a major terror attack by seizing a large quantity of explosive devices, arms and ammunition from the Morian forests in Ghambir Mugalan in Rajouri district. The consignment included 12 grenades of HE-36, one AK-47 rifle with 11 magazines and 51 rounds, seven rockets of Rocket Projectile Gun (RPG), four plastic caps of rocket, one country made gun, two barrels of Light Machine Gun, one sniper magazine and one Kenwood wireless set. Police suspect the consignment belonged to Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) (Daily Excelsior, November 15, 2013).

**November 16:** Five soldiers were injured when suspected militants ambushed an Army convoy at Drugmulla on the Kupwara-Srinagar Road. Hizbul Mujahideen and 'Al-Shuhada Brigade' claimed responsibility for the attack (The Hindu, November 16, 2013).



**November 18:** Chhattisgarh State Police have arrested seven Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI) operatives in connection with the Patna and Bodh Gaya bomb blasts. They were arrested from different places from the capital Raipur and identified as Umer Siddiqui, Azizullah, Abdul Wahid, Mohammad Ajiz, Roshan, Raju Garage and Habibullah (Indian Express November 18, 2013).

**November 20:** According to India's Intelligence Bureau (IB), Pakistan's intelligence agency has been seeking underworld don Dawood Ibrahim and Rasool Party's help to kill a top leader of Bharatiya Janat Party (BJP). IB report indicated that Rasool "Party" is planning to carry out the assassination using a rocket launcher or by ramming an explosive-laden vehicle into Modi's convoy (The Hindu, November 20).

**November 21:** Media reports indicated that the Central Government and Naga militant group, National Socialist Council of Nagland-Isak-Muviah (NSCN-IM) began a fresh round of negotiations for a political settlement to the vexed Naga conflict. The NSCN-IM delegaton is represented by its chairman Isak Chishi Swu and general secretary Thuingaleng Muivah. (The Hindu, November 22)

**November 24:** A senior Meghalaya official, abducted by the tribal Rabha rebel outfit, the Rabha National Liberation Front (RNLF) was rescued while security forces killed four RNLF workers in Assam's Goalpara district. Police recovered one carbine, one pistol and two hand grenades from them (Business Standard, November 24, 2013).

**November 25:** The Garo National Liberation Army (GNLA) general secretary, Dalbin N. Marak was arrested in Meghalaya. The police also seized three Bangladeshi passports and several incriminating documents (Zee News, November 25, 2013).

**November 28:** Three workers of the United A'chik Liberation Army (UALA) were killed during a raid by security forces on their hideout in western Meghalaya. One injured worker was captured, while UALA chief, Singbirth Marak alias Norrok X Momin, managed to escape. One pistol and grenades, besides some incriminating documents, were recovered from the hideout (Nagaland Post, November 28, 2013).

**November 29:** Both the Union Government and the Assam State government signed an agreement for suspension of operations with the Ranjan Daimary faction of the National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB-RD) at Kahilipara, Guwahati (The Telegraph, November 30).

## MALDIVES

The country has its new President after the cancellation of the September 7 presidential elections. The Progressive Party of Maldives (PPM) chief, Abdulla Yaameen won the run-off round by polling about three per cent votes higher than his rival, Maldivian Democratic Party's Mohammed Nasheed. Yaameen, who stood second in the September presidential elections with close to 30 per cent votes, got support from the Maldives Development Alliance, the Adaalat Party, the Jumhooree Party, the Gaumee Itthihaad Party and the Islamic Democratic Party in the November election. These political parties supported Yaameen to prevent Nasheed, who is basically considered by these groups as pro-West and held mainly responsible for the erosion of Islamic values in Maldives. The alliance was mostly targeted to prevent Nasheed to come to power.



Since Yaameen has won the election with the support of the conservative Islamist parties, his government would give emphasis on Islamic teachings. Maldives will witness sharp divisions in the society over strict adherence of Islam laws and upholding of liberal democratic values by the powerful opposition MDP. It would be challenging for the new government to maintain a balance between tourism, economic development and implementation of Islamic laws.

### Major Events

**November 24:** President Abdulla Yameen has indicated that his administration will not interfere in the judicial process and called authorities to expedite both the investigation and prosecution of pending cases (Minivan News, November 25, 2013).

**November 24:** At least four passengers who were to board a flight operated by local airline operator Flyme have been detained by the Aviation Security Command (AVC) for allegedly threatening to hijack the plane. According to local media reports, the incident occurred on November 22 at Ibrahim Nasir International Airport (INIA) while passengers were boarding Flyme's scheduled flight from INIA to Laamu Atoll Kadhdhoo domestic airport. Police could not divulge details on the event (Minivan News, November 24, 2013).

**November 25:** The Maldives National Defense Forces (MNDF) has dismissed six soldiers including former head of military intelligence Brigadier General Ahmed Nilam for violating MNDF duties and disciplinary norms, for revealing secret information and sowing discord in the military. Nilam was earlier suspended in January after he told the People's Majlis Government Oversight Committee that he believed the transfer of power in February 2012 had all the academic characteristics of a coup d'état (Minivan News, November 26, 2013).

**NEPAL**

Amidst strong opposition from 33 agitating parties' including the ultra-Maoist faction, the county successfully conducted its second Constituent Assembly elections on November 19. Before the elections, the CPN-Maoist declared a bandh (shutdown) in an effort to make the elections unsuccessful. During the ten-day bandh, more than hundred people were injured and many public vehicles were torched. Despite this, people came out



in large numbers to cast their votes (78 per cent voters' turnout). The high voter turnout indicated public frustration over frequent strikes imposed by the Maoists and failure of the UCPN-Maoist and its allies to frame the Constitution on time. The elaborate security arrangement and the introduction of voters' IDs also encouraged a high turnout. The anti-incumbency wave had put the Maoists in number three position with the CPN-UML and the NC in number two and number one respectively. Interestingly, pro-royalist parties, who had promised to set up a Hindu Rastra, managed to win 25 seats in the proportional representation (PR) system. The UCPN-Maoist which initially hailed the elections as free and fair, later changed its position and blamed external forces for its defeat. The party also threatened to boycott the elections.

Despite the Constituent Assembly elections, non-cooperation from the two Maoist parties, may delay the formation of a new government and timely completion of the Constitution framing process.

**Major Events**

**November 01:** Unidentified miscreants have torched two vehicles belonged to UCPN (Maoist) candidates for election campaigns in separate places in the eastern part of Nepal. UCPN-M (Sunsari) accused the Mohan Baidya-led Communist Party Nepal-Maoist (CPN-Maoist-Baidya) of the arson incident. (Nepal News, November 1, 2013).

**November 02:** At least six Policemen injured in clash with Young Communist League (YCL) cadres in Dolpa district. YCL is the youth wing of Unified Communist Party Nepal-Maoist (UCPN-M). (The Republica, November 2, 2013).

**November 12:** Suspected members of a party opposing the Constituent Assembly polls hurled a petrol bomb on a minibus ferrying passengers which was damaged in Kumaripati town of Lalitpur district. The attack was part of the transportation strike called by the 33-party poll opposing alliance (Nepal News, November 12, 2013).

**November 15:** Around 29 people were injured and 11 were reported missing in separate poll-related violent clashes across the country. Sixteen people were injured when suspected Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist (CPN-Maoist) cadres hurled a petrol bomb into a Kathmandu-bound bus carrying 40 passengers at Makawanpur in southern Nepal on November 15. In a separate incident, at least six CPN-UML workers were injured and 11 were reported missing when UCPN-Maoist activists attacked an election campaign team in Baitadi district of western Nepal on November 14 (Business Standard, November 15, 2013).

**November 27:** Young Communist League (YCL), the youth wing of Unified Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist (UCPN-M) cadre who was injured in a November 17 clash with activists of Communist Party of Nepal-Unified Marxists Leninist (CPN-UML) died during the course of treatment. (The Himalayan Times, November 27, 2013).

**November 27:** A transport worker injured in a petrol bomb attack during November 14 shut down enforced by 33-party alliance to boycott the Constituent Assembly (CA) poll succumbed to his injuries on November 27.

## PAKISTAN

Karachi continued to bleed despite strong commitments from Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif over continuing search and sweep operations in the city. Although security forces had arrested many top criminals and militants, violent incidents were reported in new areas of the city. In most of the attacks, Ahl-e-Sunnat Wal Jama'at (ASWJ) and MQM cadres were targeted this month. The Orangi and Lyari areas had witnessed maximum violence. NATO vehicles were also targeted frequently.



Apart from Karachi, sectarian violence was witnessed in Rawalpindi and other regions of Pakistan. Around 10 people, including some students of a Sunni seminary, were killed and over 80 others injured in sectarian violence in Rawalpindi that erupted after a clash during a Muharram procession. Shia minorities were also attacked in different parts of the country.

The TTP carried out successful planned attacks on security forces and state infrastructures. In the first week of this month, railway tracks were blown up in twin explosions in Hyderabad and Khairpur districts. The present TTP leadership does not trust the offer of peace talks made by the government recently. The TTP may carry out attacks on soft targets like Railways and other state infrastructures. It may also take advantage of growing sectarian violence across the country.

### Major Events

**November 01:** At least eight persons including six Hazara Shias were killed in Mach town of Bolan district of Balochistan. Waheed Shah, Deputy Commissioner in Kach, said that the victims were Hazara laborers and Shia Muslims; the incidents were clearly a targeted sectarian killing (Dawn, November 02, 2013).

**November 01:** Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) chief Hakimullah Mehsud was killed in a US drone strike in Dandy Darpakhel area, in Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA). According to Intelligence officials Hakimullah was leaving a meeting place when the drone targeted his vehicle. Five militants, including key Taliban commanders killed in that incident were identified as Abdullah Bahar Mehsud and Tariq Mehsud (Dawn, November 2, 2013).

**November 08:** About three terrorists and one Frontier Corps (FC) personnel were killed in a clash in Kech district of Balochistan. Two FC personnel were injured in the attack (Dawn, November 08, 2013).

**November 08:** The Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) announced they would orchestrate a wave of revenge attacks against the government after naming hardline commander Mullah Fazlullah as their new leader. The outfit declared that the Taliban's main target included the army, the police, political leaders and government installations in Punjab province (Dawn, November 08, 2013).

**November 09:** At least three Shia worshippers were killed when gunmen opened fire at two different Imambargahs in Gujranwala, sparking protests from mourners and enraged members of the Shia community. Police believe the attacks appeared to be sectarian in nature (Dawn, November 09, 2013).

**November 11:** Police foiled a potential terror attack with the arrest of three suspected militants. Explosives and firearms were seized in the incident. The arrested suspects were linked to Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, a banned outfit that has carried out several attacks on Shia minorities in different parts of Pakistan (Daily Times, November 11, 2013).

**November 11:** Ten people, including a police constable, were injured when Baloch militants hurled a hand grenade at the assistant commissioner's office in Pasni, Gwadar. The banned Balochistan Liberation Front (BLF) has claimed responsibility for the attack (Tribune Pakistan, November 12, 2013).

**November 12:** According to an intelligence report, the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) transported 'blue bombs' in different cities of Punjab to conduct terrorist activities. The TTP plans to begin a new wave of terrorist activities to take revenge for the killing of its erstwhile chief Hakimullah Mehsud (Daily Times, November 12, 2013).

**November 14:** Six militants of the banned Lashkar-e-Jhangvi were killed during an encounter with police in Karachi (Firstpost.com, November 14, 2013).

**November 14:** Three militants were killed during an armed encounter with the police within the limits of the Huwaid Police Station in Bannu (thenews.com.pk, November 14, 2013).

**November 16:** Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province witnessed multiple bomb explosions killing at least two and injuring at least a dozen people. No outfit has claimed responsibility for the attacks (Dawn, November 16, 2013).

**November 16:** Around 10 people, including some students of a Sunni seminary, were killed and over 80 others injured in sectarian violence in Rawalpindi on November 15 that erupted after a clash during a Muharram procession. The curfew was imposed in the city (Times of India, November 16, 2013).(Repetition)

**November 17:** Unidentified gunmen in Balochistan killed the driver of truck carrying NATO equipment out of Afghanistan before setting the vehicle on fire, police said (Tribune Pakistan, November 18, 2013).

**November 19:** The sectarian violence in Rawalpindi had spread to Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa where two persons, including a policeman, were killed when fire reported outside an imambargah in Kohat District (Daily Times, November 19, 2013).

**November 20:** Pakistan Prime Minister's (PM) adviser on foreign affairs Sartaj Aziz indicated that the United States (US) has promised not to carry out drone strikes in Pakistan during any peace talks with the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan's (TTP) militants in the future (Daily Times, November 21, 2013).

**November 21:** Around five people including three senior Afghan militants were killed in a suspected US drone strike in Hangu district in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province in northwest Pakistan (NDTV, November 21, 2013).

**November 23:** Taliban militants' affiliated with Lashkar e Islam (Mangal Bagh) have abducted 11 teachers, involved in a polio vaccination campaign for schoolchildren in the Bara area of the Khyber Agency. They were later released by the militants. ( Daily Times, November 24, 2013)

**November 27:** Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) threatened to target Government installations and public places in Nowshera district and Khyber Agency of FATA to avenge the killing of its chief Hakimullah Mehsud. Intelligence sources indicated that little known Tariq Geedar group in collaboration with Tauheed-ul-Jihad would try to carry out terrorist acts against unidentified targets in Nowshera and Bara area of Khyber Agency to avenge the killing of Mehsud (Dawn, November 26, 2013).

**November 29:** Three Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) activists were arrested for their alleged involvement in manhandling truck drivers carrying NATO supplies to Afghanistan near Hayatabad Toll Plaza in Peshawar (Dawn, November 30, 2013).



**SRI LANKA**

Although Sri Lanka did not witness any major violent incidents this month, there has been growing suspicion between the Sinhalese and the people living in the northeastern provinces. Sinhalese suspect that a Tamil victory in the northern provincial elections may embolden the remnants of Tamil separatists, who have been living in the Western province. Apart from that the Rajapakse government has had a tough time respecting international human rights norms. In this



regard, the government has ordered a survey on casualties that took place during the campaign against the LTTE. The government ordered this survey immediately after the Commonwealth Summit. However, human rights groups have expressed concern over credibility of the survey since the Rajapakse government has been saying that no civilians died during final operations against the LTTE. While international support for the Rajapakse government over human rights issues has been shrinking with China advising for improving its human rights record, Rajapaksa may focus more on the domestic constituency to counter that.

**Major Events**

**November 06:** Sri Lankan police recovered 13 kilos of C-4 explosives suspected to be used in a subversive act from Vavuniya. The explosive was found hidden in a lorry which had been abandoned near a vehicle check point in Vavuniya (Colombo Page, November 07, 2013).

**November 06:** Sri Lankan Police recovered a cache of explosives from Vavuniya district in Northern Province. 13 kilos of C-4 explosives was found hidden in a truck (Colombo Page, November 06, 2013).

**November 10:** President Mahinda Rajapaksa addressing the Ninth Commonwealth Youth Forum in Hambantota said terrorism that plagued Sri Lanka for nearly three decades deprived the youth of many valuable opportunities (Daily News, November 11, 2013).

**November 14:** Main opposition United National Party (UNP) decided to boycott the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) following attacks on the party's headquarters. Supporters belonging to an extremist Buddhist organization Buddhist Power Force blockaded the headquarters and stormed the headquarters alleging that the UNP was harboring "extremist elements" within the building. The UNP accused the Government of harassing the party (Xinhua, November 14, 2013).

**November 14:** Visiting UK Foreign Secretary William Hague held talks with members of the Tamil National Alliance (TNA) on the devolution and reconciliation in Sri Lanka at the British High Commission in Colombo (Daily Mirror, November 15, 2013).



**November 18:** Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa said he needed time to address post-war challenges, including allegations of human rights violations. (The Hindu, November 18, 2013).

**November 18:** Opposition United National Party (UNP) opposed the British Prime Minister's call for an international inquiry into alleged war crimes committed by the Sri Lankan Army (Daily Mirror, November 19).

**November 28:** The Department of Census and Statistics started a nationwide exercise to assess the loss of human lives and damage to property in the final stages of the civil war against Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) militants. The census would cover the period from 1982 to (May) 2009 when the Civil War was actually ended, would involve 16,000 officials. According to the U.N. estimates nearly 40,000 civilians died during the final phase of the war. However, the Sri Lanka government has denied the figure (The Hindu, November 29).

