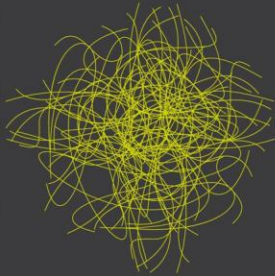


**Sources of
Tension in
Afghanistan
and Pakistan**

A Regional
Perspective



QUARTERLY MONITORING BRIEF

Report No. 4

October 1–December 20, 2013



Main regional powers back a security pact between Afghanistan and USA.

Afghanistan: Monitoring the Key Regional Powers

Malaiz Daud



The deadlock over Bilateral Security Agreement (BSA) between Afghanistan and USA is affecting Afghanistan's relations with its western allies.



There is clearly no progress on peace talks between Taliban and the Afghan government, taking a toll on latter's relations with Pakistan.



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**CIDOB Sources of Tension in Afghanistan & Pakistan: A Regional Perspective (STAP RP)
Quarterly Reports on “Monitoring the Key Regional Powers”**

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this series of quarterly monitoring reports (2013) is to monitor and track the actions, public statements of five key STAP RP regional actors (India, Iran, Russia, China, Saudi Arabia) on Afghanistan; the development of, and their participation in relevant international and regional discussion meetings, including the Istanbul Process, Heart of Asia, RECCA, SCO; the five key regional actors’ economic decisions and agreements, including, but not limited to, the energy and infrastructure sectors, which have implications for the identified sources of tension in Afghanistan with regional implications (see CIDOB STAP RP Mapping Document at www.cidobafpakproject.com).

The Sources of Tension (SoTs) identified in the Mapping Document are used as reference points to determine relevance and are specifically monitored in Section 1.

The content includes short summaries by topic and by country, on actions taken, public statements made, regional meetings held and how these develop as mechanisms for dialogue, and the participation of the key regional powers in relevant regional and international events, as well as in subgroups of international fora, such as the Heart of Asia. Economic activity and investments by the key regional powers in Afghanistan are also monitored, together with progress on, and shifting alliances in planned or actual economic projects. A short subsection on commentary from the media (in English) is included in each section.

Section 2 focuses on the key regional powers. Section 3 looks at regional dynamics and cross-cutting issues; and conclusions on the events of the past quarter are presented in Section 4. Section 5 presents publications by think tanks and research institutions in the region.

1. THE CONTEXT

Governance

- The Embassies of Canada, Denmark, Germany and the UK commit \$3.8 million to support Free and Fair Election Foundation of Afghanistan's (FEFA) plan to hire 10,000 observers for the upcoming [elections](#).
- The UN Security Council votes unanimously to extend the mandate of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) until the end of [2014](#).
- Seven districts are deprived of voter registration as there is no presence of Afghan security forces in most of these [districts](#).
- "Permanent Representative of Afghanistan Dr. Zahir Tanin is re-appointed as Chair of the Intergovernmental Negotiations on Security Council [reform](#)".
- Lower house of Afghan parliament endorses two strategic partnership agreements, namely with Denmark and [Indonesia](#).
- Afghanistan stands 139th among the 142 countries in the global Prosperity [Index](#).
- Afghanistan has a growing number of drug addicts. There are at least 1.6 million addicts according to US Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement [Affairs](#).
- Japan pledges \$16.7 million to Afghanistan's Independent Election Commission (IEC) for the upcoming presidential and provincial councils' [elections](#).

Peace and Reconciliation

- [Whereabouts](#) of former Taliban no. 2 remain unknown. He is thought to be still in Pakistani custody despite Kabul's demand for freeing him to help spur the Afghan peace [talks](#).

Security

- President Karzai [reneges](#) on his promise to sign the Bilateral Security Agreement (BSA) with USA despite [agreeing](#) earlier to do so once the Loya Jirga endorses it.
- Governor of Logar province is assassinated in a bomb attack on the first day of the [Eid](#).
- "The Afghan Air Force becomes the 70th country to own and operate C-130 aircraft, during an arrival ceremony October 9 at Kabul International Airport [Afghanistan](#)".
- More than 150 Georgian soldiers return to their [country](#) from Afghanistan.
- Romania has agreed to provide logistical support to ISAF in [Afghanistan](#).
- UK-funded Afghan National Army Officers Academy (ANAOA) is formally [opened](#).
- All Australian combat troops are set to leave Afghanistan in a swifter fashion – until the end of [2013](#).
- "Taliban sexually abuse suicide bombers during [training](#), Afghan spy agency claims".

Development

- Islamic Development Bank will fund construction of an Islamic University in [Afghanistan](#).
- Head of Afghanistan Investment Support Agency (AISA) claims there has been a 20% increase in investment in Afghanistan in [2013](#).
- "Afghanistan has become more business-friendly through reforms efforts launched in 2012-2013, according to a new joint report from the World Bank and the International Finance [Corporation](#) (IFC)".
- Afghan publishers make Frankfurt Book Fair [debut](#).
- An 11-building campus catering for 5000 students is built for Kandahar University with the help from the US [government](#).
- Denmark will provide \$100 million in assistance annually to Afghanistan after 2014 for five [years](#).

Afghanistan-Pakistan Tensions

- Reports in Pakistan indicate an insurgent cell tied to the Afghan intelligence agency was dismantled by the security forces of the [former](#).
- To protest drone strikes, Khyber-Pukhtunkhwa (KP) government blocks NATO supplies in [KP](#) en route to Afghanistan.
- Pakistani Taliban leader is killed in a drone strike in his expansive farmhouse, only a kilometer away from the Pakistani army's headquarter in North [Waziristan](#). His deputy is arrested in Afghanistan by American [troops](#).

2. REGIONAL POWERS



1. INDIA	Who	The Source
1.1. Actions		
<p>- October 21, 2013 Indian Prime Minister discusses terrorism, peace and reconciliation and production of illicit drugs in Afghanistan with the Russian President.</p>		IBN Live
<p>- October 24, 2013 Indian Ambassador to Afghanistan briefs President Karzai on the progress of construction of the new building of Afghan parliament. \$150 million for the project is provided by the Indian government.</p>	Afghan President's Office	Official Youtube Channel
<p>- October 26, 2013 Director of Delhi Policy Group (DPG) meets President Karzai and briefs him on the work of DPG.</p>		Bakhtar News
<p>- October 29, 2013 Indian Finance Ministry refuses to help finance the Hajigak iron ore deal of Steel Authority of India and its consortium, prompting the latter to ask for a new contract.</p>	Jessica Donati	Reuters
<p>- November 10, 2013 Indian Foreign Minister hosts 12th formal trilateral foreign ministers' meeting which includes his Russian and Chinese counterparts, discussions include Afghanistan.</p>		Royal United Services Institute (RUSI)
<p>- November 18, 2013 Salman Khurshid, Indian Minister of External Affairs, inaugurates "Doing Business with Afghanistan" International Conference in New Delhi as part of Istanbul Process.</p>		Afghan Ministry of Foreign Affairs
<p>- November 19, 2013 Indian Ambassador to Kabul meets Afghan Minister of Foreign Affairs, discusses issues of mutual interest.</p>	Afghan Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Official Facebook Page
<p>- December 14, 2013 India rebukes President Karzai's request for arms yet again. The request was renewed during President Karzai's last visit to India.</p>	Sharif Amiry	Tolonews
1.2. Agreements (Negotiated/Signed)		
<p>- December 1, 2013 Iran, India and Afghanistan are working on a trade agreement which would enable Afghan traders to use Chabahar port of Iran for transportation of their goods.</p>	Jawed Hamim Kakar	Pajhwok Afghan News
1.3. Public Statements		
<p>- November 10, 2013 Afghanistan features prominently in the joint communiqué of the 12th Meeting of Foreign Ministers of Russia-India-China.</p>		Indian Ministry of External Affairs
<p>- November 18, 2013</p>		Indian

<p>In a warm speech in the “Doing Business with Afghanistan” Conference, India’s External Affairs Minister opines India will stand by Afghanistan its good and bad times.</p> <p>- November 20, 2013 India’s envoy to UNGA says his country does not have “an exit strategy” from Afghanistan. Thus, it will remain engaged there.</p>		<p>Ministry of External Affairs</p> <p>UN General Assembly</p>
1.4. Track II Diplomacy		
<p>- October 20, 2013 Indian musicians participate in the Shana ba Shana (shoulder by shoulder) peace concert in Kabul.</p> <p>- October 28, 2013 25 Afghan traders and officials of Ministry of Commerce and Industries receive training in New Delhi ahead of WTO meeting in Bali to conclude Afghanistan’s accession to the organization.</p> <p>- November 17, 2013 Indian experts sign off a joint declaration: an output of the regional track II project, “Envisioning Secure and Independent Afghanistan Post 2014: Perspectives and Strategies for Constructive Conflict Resolution from the Neighborhood”.</p> <p>- November 18, 2013 Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) organizes a series of events under the title of “Doing Business with Afghanistan” to attract business.</p>		<p>British and Irish Agencies Afghanistan Group UN-ESCAP</p> <p>Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Afghanistan</p> <p>Doing Business with Afghanistan 2013</p>
1.5. Media Commentary		
<p>- November 1, 2013 Diwali fires up Afghans</p>	<p>Priyanka Kachhava</p>	<p>The Times of India</p>



2. IRAN	Who	The Source
2.1. Actions		
<p>- October 20, 2013 The new Iranian president meets with the country's ambassador to Afghanistan to discuss the Bilateral Security Agreement (BSA) between Afghanistan and USA.</p>	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan	Official Facebook Page
<p>- November 3, 2013 Iran's new ambassador to Kabul presents his credentials to President Karzai.</p>	Afghan President's Office	Official Facebook Page
<p>- November 3, 2013 A "special economic group" from Iran will soon visit Afghanistan, President Karzai is informed.</p>	Afghan President's Office	Official Facebook Page
<p>- November 14, 2013 Deputy Foreign Minister of Iran meets President Karzai. Strengthening of relations, expansion of economic activities and Afghan refugees in Iran are discussed.</p>	Afghan President's Office	Official Youtube Channel
<p>- November 17, 2013 Deputy Foreign Minister of Iran meets Afghan Minister of Foreign Affairs.</p>	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan	Official Facebook Page
<p>- November 18, 2013 Iranian representatives attend the "Doing Business with Afghanistan" International Conference in New Delhi as part of the Istanbul Process.</p>		Doing Business with Afghanistan 2013
<p>- November 20, 2013 Iran has ordered three hundred thousand Afghan refugees to leave the country, according to Human Rights Watch.</p>		BBC English
<p>- December 9, 2013 Presidents of Iran and Afghanistan meet in Tehran and discuss bilateral issues and matters of mutual interest.</p>	Afghan President's Office	Official Facebook Page
2.2. Agreements (Negotiated/Signed)		
<p>- December 1, 2013 Iran, India and Afghanistan are working on a trade agreement which would enable Afghan traders to use Chabahar port of Iran for transportation of their goods.</p>	Jawed Hamim Kakar	Pajhwok Afghan News
<p>- December 9, 2013 Presidents of Iran and Afghanistan agree to commit to a comprehensive friendship pact on cooperation so that the interests of both sides remain intact.</p>	Afghan President's Office	Official Facebook Page
2.3. Public Statements		
<p>- October 20, 2013 Iran's President sees the need for affirming Afghanistan's sovereignty, pointing out foreign meddling "does no good to the country".</p>	Ahmad Ramin	Tolonews
<p>- November 3, 2013 Iran's ambassador to Kabul tells President Karzai his government is working on extending the stay of Afghan refugees in Iran.</p>	Afghan President's Office	Official Facebook Page

<p>- November 20, 2013 Recognizing Afghanistan's right to sign a security agreement with America, Iranian Ambassador to Kabul considers presence of American troops problematic.</p> <p>- November 20, 2013 Iranian envoy to UNGA recounts Iran's assistance to Afghan refugees, riles loss of life of his country's security forces along the Afghan border and emphasizes strengthening Afghan security forces to combat multiple threats.</p>	Karim Amini	Tolonews UN General Assembly
2.4. Track II Diplomacy		
<p>- November 2, 2013 Afghanistan's national rugby team lose to Iran in the West Asian Rugby tournament.</p> <p>- November 5, 2013 "IPIS and FES organized a joint roundtable: Iran's Perceptions on Afghanistan and its Involvement in Regional Processes in Tehran".</p> <p>- November 17, 2013 Iranian experts sign off a joint declaration: an output of the regional track II project, "Envisioning Secure and Independent Afghanistan Post 2014: Perspectives and Strategies for Constructive Conflict Resolution from the Neighborhood".</p>	Friedrich Ebert Stiftung	BBC Persian Official Facebook Page Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Afghanistan

3. CHINA

Who

The Source

3.1. Actions

- **October 20, 2013**

Chinese President was briefed by President Karzai about the impending US-Afghan Bilateral Security Agreement (BSA) during the latter's last trip to [China](#).

Afghan
Ministry of
Foreign
Affairs

Official
Facebook
Page

- **November 10, 2013**

Chinese Foreign Minister attends 12th formal trilateral foreign ministers' meeting along with his Russian and Indian counterparts, discussions include [Afghanistan](#).

Royal United
Services
Institute
(RUSI)

Daily Times

- **December 12, 2013**

China, Pakistan and Afghanistan hold a trilateral summit in Kabul. China and Pakistan commit to work for peace in [Afghanistan](#).

3.2. Public Statements

- **November 10, 2013**

Chinese Foreign Minister views smooth general election, Afghan-led and owned reconciliation process and UN-led international effort important for Afghanistan after [2014](#).

Simran
Sodhi

The
Statesman

- **November 10, 2013**

Afghanistan features prominently in the joint [communiqué](#) of the 12th Meeting of Foreign Ministers of Russia-India-China.

Indian
Ministry of
External
Affairs

- **November 20, 2013**

China's envoy to UNGA urges the international community to ensure an "Afghanistan run by [Afghans](#)".

UN General
Assembly

- **December 6, 2013**

Chinese Ambassador to Kabul says: "China and Afghanistan are more than neighbours. The interests and fates of the two countries are closely [interlinked](#)".

Chinese
Embassy in
Kabul

- **December 17, 2013**

Chinese Ambassador to Kabul signifies Afghanistan's importance to China by stipulating his country has provided \$200 million in assistance to Afghanistan so [far](#).

Chinese
Ministry of
Foreign
Affairs

3.3. Track II Diplomacy

- **November 17, 2013**

Chinese experts sign off a joint declaration: an output of the regional track II project, "Envisioning Secure and Independent Afghanistan Post 2014: Perspectives and Strategies for Constructive Conflict Resolution from the [Neighborhood](#)".

Friedrich
Ebert Stiftung
Afghanistan

3.4. Media Commentary

- **December 16, 2013**

China's policy on [Afghanistan](#)

Dr.
Mohammad
Khan

Pakistan
Observer



4. RUSSIA	Who	The Source
4.1. Actions		
<p>- October 23, 2013 20 Afghan counternarcotics police officers receive counternarcotics training from Federal Drug Control Service of Russia, sponsored by NATO-Russia Council.</p>	NATO	Official Youtube Channel
<p>- October 21, 2013 Russian President discusses with the Indian Prime Minister terrorism, peace and reconciliation and production of illicit drugs in Afghanistan.</p>		IBN Live
<p>- November 10, 2013 Russian Foreign Minister attends 12th formal trilateral foreign ministers' meeting along with his Chinese and Indian counterparts, discussions include Afghanistan.</p>		Royal United Services Institute (RUSI)
<p>- November 13, 2013 Russian Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, Zamir Kabulov, meets President Karzai to discuss bilateral cooperation and regional issues.</p>	Afghan President's Office	Official Youtube Channel
<p>- November 17, 2013 Russian Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, Zamir Kabulov, meets Afghan Minister of Foreign Affairs.</p>	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan	Official Facebook Page
<p>- November 18, 2013 Russian representatives attend the "Doing Business with Afghanistan" International Conference in New Delhi as part of the Istanbul Process.</p>		Doing Business with Afghanistan 2013
4.2. Agreements (Negotiated/Signed)		
<p>- November 14, 2013 Russian state arms trader, Rosoboronexport, will not have its expected \$345 million contract extended for provision of 15 Mi-17 helicopters to Afghan army, Pentagon contends.</p>	Tony Capaccio	Bloomberg
4.3. Public Statements		
<p>- November 10, 2013 Afghanistan features prominently in the joint communiqué of the 12th Meeting of Foreign Ministers of Russia-India-China.</p>		Indian Ministry of External Affairs
<p>- November 12, 2013 Russian Foreign Minister urges "additional measures" by the international community to prevent escalation of violence in Afghanistan, stresses Russia's resolve to a peaceful, prosperous and stable Afghanistan.</p>	Rajeev Sharma	Firstpost
<p>- November 13, 2013 Russian Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, Zamir Kabulov, tells President Karzai Russia supports Afghanistan's pacts with other countries.</p>	Afghan President's Office	Official Youtube Channel
<p>- November 20, 2013 Russia's envoy to UNGA calls for strengthening of Afghan security forces to</p>		UN General Assembly

counteract terrorists and [criminals](#)".

- **December 0, 2013**

Russia's Ambassador to Tajikistan says "prospects for a smooth transition in Afghanistan are [grim](#)".

Joshua
Kucera

Euroasianet

4.4. Track II Diplomacy

- **October 31, 2013**

Russian movie, If Only Everyone, receives the best full-length film award at the 2nd Afghanistan Human Rights Film Festival, organized by the Afghanistan Cinema [Club](#).

- **November 17, 2013**

Russian experts sign off a joint declaration: an output of the regional track II project, "Envisioning Secure and Independent Afghanistan Post 2014: Perspectives and Strategies for Constructive Conflict Resolution from the [Neighborhood](#)".

British and
Irish
Agencies
Afghanistan
Group
Friedrich
Ebert
Stiftung
Afghanistan

5. SAUDI ARABIA

Who

The Source

5.1. Actions

- **November 1, 2013**

Thousands of Afghans face eviction and imprisonment as Saudi Arabia's crack down against illegal immigrants [continues](#).

Nadim Al-Hamid and Ghazanfar Ali Khan

Arab News

- **November 1, 2013**

Saudi Arabia delivers \$30 million to the World Health Organization (WHO) to fight polio in Afghanistan and the Horn of [Africa](#).

Senate Chairman's Office

Global Polio Eradication Initiative Official Facebook Page

- **November 19, 2013**

Saudi Arabia's new ambassador to Afghanistan pays an introductory visit to the Afghan upper house of parliament, meeting its [chairman](#).

- **November 19, 2013**

Construction work around the Bait-ul-Haram in Makkah results in reduction by 20% of Afghan pilgrims to Saudi Arabia this [year](#).

BBC Pashto

5.2. Public Statements

- **November 19, 2013**

Musfir Bin Abdul Rahman Al Ghasib, Saudi Ambassador to Kabul, says his government is committed to peace in Afghanistan and will continue its assistance in different [spheres](#).

Senate Chairman's Office

Official Facebook Page

5.3. Track II Diplomacy

- **November 29, 2013**

Afghanistan's High Peace Council to attend a conference of Islamic scholars in Saudi Arabia, in which participants from many Muslim countries are expected to take [part](#).

Ahmad Ramin

Tolonews

5.4. Media Commentary

- **October 14, 2013**

Keeping an eye on Afghanistan's corrupt [politicians](#)

Camelia Entekhabi-Fard

Al Arabiya News

- **November 28, 2013**

Riyadh's annus [horribilis](#)

Rodger Shanahan

The Interpreter

- **November 28, 2013**

Afghanistan: A Battleground for Iranian and Saudi [Interests](#)

Pakistan Defence

3. REGIONAL DYNAMICS AND CROSSCUTTING ISSUES

October 21, 2013: Afghanistan and Tajikistan ink three agreements in the areas of demining, development of insurance services and border management ([Link](#)).

October 21, 2013: Turkish government freezes accounts and confiscates assets of 400 individuals and groups with presumed links to Al-Qaeda and Taliban ([Link](#)).

October 22, 2013: Twenty eight Ministers of Defense of NATO member countries meet in a summit to discuss Afghanistan and cyber security ([Link](#)).

October 23, 2013: Pakistan bans the East Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM), Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU) and Islamic Jihad Union (IJU) “on orders from China” ([Link](#)).

October 25, 2013: Caucasus and Central Asia see robust growth, but risks remain, according to a new report by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) ([Link](#)).

October 29, 2013: Trilateral talks between British Prime Minister, David Cameron, Afghan President, Hamed Karzai and Pakistani Prime Minister, Nawaz Sharif take place in London ([Link](#)).

November 6, 2013: Second meeting of Afghanistan-UK Joint Commission is held in Kabul ([Link](#)).

November 20, 2013: The United Nations General Assembly unanimously adopts a resolution, “reaffirming commitment to Afghanistan’s peaceful, prosperous future” ([Link](#)).

December 8, 2013: Participants from India, Pakistan and Afghanistan attend a track 2 dialogue in Kabul to discuss political issues between the three countries ([Link](#)).

December 10, 2013: The Afghan Institute for Strategic Studies (AISS) hosts the ambassadors of Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan. The meeting was organized to exchange views on the forthcoming AISS-organized “Afghanistan-Central Asia Dialogue-I” ([Link](#)).

December 17, 2013: Pakistan-Afghanistan Parliamentarians Dialogue-XI was held in Kabul from December 17-18 of this year ([Link](#)).

December 19, 2013: Afghanistan Institute for Strategic Studies (AISS) convenes the first Afghanistan – Central Asia Dialogue (ACAD), with 135 participants from 20 countries ([Link](#)).

4. SUMMARY OF TRENDS FOR THE QUARTER

Deadlock Over US-Afghanistan Security Pact

As Afghanistan is preparing to assume a greater role in the wake of planned NATO pull out at the end of 2014, the region is pondering future scenarios in Afghanistan and how to respond to them. The protracted negotiations or the assumed [brinkmanship](#) by President Karzai has not only kept everyone in Afghanistan wondering about the future of the country and the wider region, it has had a stalling affect on the plans of both US allies and the countries in the region after the withdrawal is completed. Even the insurgents chipped in by [urging](#) Karzai not to sign the deal.

Regional Response to the Deadlock

The episode has also drawn mixed reaction from the region. While India has steadfastly supported [long-term engagement](#) of the international community in Afghanistan, China and Russia, as evident in their statements in the last quarter of this year, are visibly concerned at Afghanistan's descent into chaos once the international engagement draws to a close. Also aware of their inability to provide the level of support the Afghan state is receiving from its western allies, they are supportive of a sustained engagement of the Americans and NATO but are at the same time pushing for a lead UN role. India has reiterated its position that it has [no exit strategy](#) unless the Afghan side decides otherwise. There is also a greater emphasis from China and Russia – China in particular – on a greater role for the regional vehicles such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and the Heart of Asia mechanism.

Iran Opposes the Pact

Iran is the only country in the region which has openly opposed any security pact or presence of American/NATO troops beyond 2014 in Afghanistan. Iranians assert that the presence of the foreign troops is the main instigator of violence in Afghanistan and the wider region. And that violent opposition to the Afghan government will recede considerably once the international troops are sent packing. This argument may or may not be true or may partially hold water. Iran considers it is in its strategic interest to have a complete withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan. The announcement of an Afghan-Iranian comprehensive deal seems to be in direct response to the pact between Afghanistan and the US. The former [has attracted the ire](#) of some lawmakers in America. The impact of agreement of Iran's nuclear program over US-Iran relations in Afghanistan is hard to assess yet as it is too early in the process.

Dipping US-Saudi Relations

Saudi Arabia's engagement in Afghanistan was very limited in this quarter compared to the first three quarters of the year. Clearly incensed by American overtures to Iran and its failure to strike Syrian government, Saudi Arabia seems to be going it alone in its response to Iranian encroachments in the region. Disclosure of a secret Saudi-Pakistani deal over provision of Pakistani nuclear warheads and funding and training by Saudis of Syrian insurgents are clearly in retaliation to America's presumed "tepidness" towards curbing or countering Iran's influence. What the impact of this low in the Saudi-US relations on the former's views towards Afghanistan would be remains to be seen.

5. PUBLICATIONS FROM THE REGION

October 8, 2013: Mehdi, Tahir. *Why Taliban won't succeed in Afghanistan now*, Dawn. Available [here](#).

October 15, 2013: Jafar, Ghani. *Of Bangladesh and Balochistan*, Pakistan Today. Available [here](#).

October 18, 2013: Tharoor, Shashi. *The Terrorist Next Door*, Project Syndicate. Available [here](#).

October 23, 2013: Sawhney, R K and Sareen, Sushant. *Afghanistan Is Far From Being Lost: A Situation Report From The Ground*, Vivekananda International Foundation. Available [here](#).

October 28, 2013: *Provincial Reconstruction Teams: useful concept, flawed execution?*, afghanhindsight. Available [here](#).

October 31, 2013: Arni, Anand and Tondon, Abhimanyu. *Afghanistan beyond 2014: What should India do?*, Firstpost. Available [here](#).

November 1, 2013: Subramanian, Nirupama. *A great game that all sides can win*, The Hindu. Available [here](#).

November 4, 2013: Ali, Obaid. "As Easy As Growing Potatoes": How formerly 'poppy-free' Ghor is at risk of becoming an important player in Afghanistan's opium business, Afghanistan Analyst Network. Available [here](#).

November 7, 2013: Glaser, Bonnie and Pal, Deep. *China's Periphery Diplomacy Initiative: Implications for China Neighbors and the United States*, China-US Focus. Available [here](#).

November 7, 2013: Bukhari, Shujaat. *India-Pakistan: Afghan End-Game*, Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies. Available [here](#).

November 11, 2013: Osman, Borhan. *The Counter-Jirga: 3000 participants condemn the US, the Afghan government and the BSA*, Afghanistan Analyst Network. Available [here](#).

November 11, 2013: Butt, M. Saleem. *Has the military lost control*, New Pakistan. Available [here](#).

November 20, 2013: Archiwal, Ahmadullah. *Teaching Nonviolence in Afghan Classrooms*, Discourse Afghanistan. Available [here](#).

November 24, 2013: Azami, Davood. *What future does security pact give Afghanistan?*, Afghan Institute of Strategic Studies. Available [here](#).

December 2013: Thomas, Vincent, Azizi, Mujib Ahmad and Ghafoori, Ihsanullah. *Water rights and conflict resolution processes in Afghanistan: The case of the Sar-i-Pul sub-basin*, Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit. Available [here](#).