

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

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1. COUNTRY REVIEW

A. SOUTH ASIA

AFGHANISTAN

- **Pak Foreign Minister: Peace in Afghanistan, Pakistan interlinked; UK to send in 700 more troops; PM Brown: Pak-Afghan border “crucible of terrorism”; Gen. Petraeus: Safe haven in Pakistan, drug money and foreign donations have sustained Taliban resistance; Clinton expects “intense sessions” with Pak and Afghan presidents when they meet Obama in Washington; Karzai announces his candidacy for August 20 presidential elections**

Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi, talking to reporters in Kabul after attending a trilateral meeting with his Afghan and Iranian counterparts on April 27 reiterated that peace and stability of Pakistan and Afghanistan were inter-linked.¹

Even as US Defence Secretary Robert Gates stated that it will be difficult on the part of his country to send in more troops to Afghanistan, British Prime Minister Gordon Brown on April 29 confirmed that Britain would send an additional 700 troops to fight alongside American and NATO forces.² PM Brown also termed the border between Afghanistan and Pakistan as the “crucible of global terrorism.” US CENTCOM Commander Gen. David Petraeus on his part, speaking at Kansas University, pointed out that al-Qaeda and Taliban terrorists, because of their safe haven in Pakistan and funding they obtained from drug money and foreign donations, have demonstrated considerable resilience in opposing coalition forces.³

Meanwhile US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, ahead of the meeting in Washington in the coming week with the Afghan and Pakistani Presidents, stated that she expected “intense sessions” when the two leaders meet with President Obama to discuss steps to stabilise their respective countries.⁴

In other developments, President Karzai announced his candidacy for the presidential elections scheduled to be held on August 20, 2009.⁵ US Secretary of State Clinton on her part stated that the Obama administration will neither

¹ “Peace in Pakistan, Afghanistan interlinked,” *Pajwok Afghan News*, April 27, 2009, at <http://www.pajhwok.com/viewstory.asp?lng=eng&id=73439>

² “Tough to ask for more troops in Afghanistan: Gates,” *The News*, May 3, 2009, at http://www.thenews.com.pk/daily_detail.asp?id=175524; “Britain to Add 700 Troops to Afghan War,” *New York Times*, April 29, 2009, at http://www.nytimes.com/2009/04/30/world/europe/30britain.html?_r=1&scp=5&sq=afghanistan&st=cse

³ “Taliban, al-Qaeda have shown considerable resilience: Petraeus,” *Pajwok Afghan News*, April 28, 2009, at <http://www.pajhwok.com/viewstory.asp?lng=eng&id=73510>

⁴ “Clinton sees “intense” Afghanistan-Pakistan talks,” *Afghan Online Press*, May 1, 2009, at <http://www.aopnews.com/yest.html>

⁵ “Karzai declares his reelection bid,” *Pajwok Afghan News*, April 27, 2009, at <http://www.pajhwok.com/viewstory.asp?lng=eng&id=73458>

support nor oppose any candidate in the presidential elections.⁶ The head of the UN mission in Afghanistan, Kai Eide also urged the Taliban to participate in the August elections.⁷

PAKISTAN

- **Obama: Pakistan's civilian government "very fragile"; Pak Army takes on the Taliban in Buner and Dir; Sectarian violence flares up in Karachi as MQM activists killed by Pashtuns**

President Obama, addressing a press conference on completing 100 days in office, stated that Pakistan's civilian government "is very fragile." He added that the "obsession with India as the mortal threat to Pakistan has been misguided, and that their biggest threat right now comes internally."⁸ However, later in the week, Richard Holbrooke, US Special Envoy to Afghanistan and Pakistan, clarified that the US administration had full faith in Pakistan's civilian government and its ability to fight militancy effectively.⁹

The Pakistan army meanwhile along with the Frontier Corps launched a joint operation in Dir and Buner to stop the Taliban advance. At least 70 militants were killed in Dir whereas around 60 were reported killed in the Buner operation.¹⁰ Sufi Muhammed, the chief of TNSM, opposing the security operations in Dir, called off talks with the civilian government and demanded that the action be stopped with immediate effect.¹¹

Meanwhile, sectarian violence erupted in Karachi after 5 people including 2 MQM activists were reportedly killed by Pashtuns in the northern part of the city. The violence subsequently spread to central and eastern parts of the city leaving at least 34 dead and several injured.¹²

⁶ "US not backing any Afghan presidential wannabe," *Pajwok Afghan News*, May 1, 2009, at <http://www.pajhwok.com/viewstory.asp?lng=eng&id=73644>

⁷ "Afghanistan UN chief urges Taliban to contest presidential poll," *Guardian*, May 3, 2009, at <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2009/may/03/afghanistan-un-karzai-taliban>

⁸ "President Obama's 100th-Day Press Briefing," (Transcript) *New York Times*, April 29, 2009, at <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/04/29/us/politics/29text-obama.html>

⁹ "Civilian institutions, not civil govt weak," *Daily Times*, May 3, 2009, at http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2009\05\03\story_3-5-2009_pg1_1

¹⁰ Muhammad Anis, "70 militants dead as Dir operation ends," *The News*, April 29, 2009, at http://www.thenews.com.pk/arc_default.asp; "60 Taliban killed in Buner offensive," *Daily Times*, May 2, 2009, at http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2009\05\02\story_2-5-2009_pg1_1

¹¹ Usman Yousafzai, "TNSM suspends talks with govt," *The News*, April 28, 2009, at http://www.thenews.com.pk/arc_default.asp

¹² Tahir Siddiqui, "Death toll of Karachi violence climbs to 34," *Dawn*, April 30, 2009, at <http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/dawn-content-library/dawn/news/pakistan/metropolitan/11-violence-explodes-across-north-karachi--10>

BHUTAN

- **Melting glaciers could pose flood problems for the country; NTPC holds talks for setting up 600 MW power plant at Phochhu**

Reports noted geologists as indicating that melting glaciers in Bhutan could pose flood problems for the country in the near future. They cited the recent sudden rush of water from the 13-km long Tshojo glacier impacting Phochhu. Geologists suspect that the rush of water might have emanated from undetected underground lakes or ponds in Tshojo glacier.¹³

Meanwhile, reports noted that the NTPC was holding talks with the Bhutan government for setting up a 600MW hydro power plant at Amochu. The plant envisages an investment of over Rs. 3,600 crore.¹⁴

NEPAL

- **Nepal government sacks CoAS, precipitating crisis; PM Dahal resigns; Maoists blame India as being responsible for the crisis; EAM Mukherjee: Developments “internal to Nepal”; Ban Ki-moon urges political parties to resolve the crisis through “dialogue and consensus”**

Despite widespread protests from political parties, coalition partners, President Ram Baran Yadav and the international community, the government carried out its decision to sack the Chief of Army Staff (CoAS) Gen. Katawal on May 4. Earlier, four coalition partners, including CPN-UML, CPN (United) and Sadbhawana Party boycotted the cabinet meeting when the Maoist leaders presented the proposal for sacking him. The CPN-UML and the Sadbhawana Party also pulled out from the government in protest against the action.¹⁵

President Yadav on his part disapproved of the government's decision stating that it was taken without following “due procedures” and asked the CoAS to continue till further notice. Describing Dr. Yadav's move as unconstitutional, Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal charged that it had dealt a serious blow to democracy, peace process and the newly-established republican order and asked him to reconsider his decision. Resigning from his post, Mr. Dahal added that a constitutional President had no right to block the decisions of an elected government and accused him of acting under the provocation of some parties.¹⁶

Meanwhile, Lilamani Pokharel, a central secretariat member of Unified CPN (Maoist) claimed that President Yadav overruled the government's decision

¹³ “Moraine dam threat looms large,” *Kuensel Online*, May 4, 2009, at <http://www.kuenselonline.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=12402>

¹⁴ “NTPC likely to set up 600 MW hydel project in Bhutan,” *The Hindu*, May 3, 2009, at <http://www.hindu.com/thehindu/holnus/006200905031321.htm>

¹⁵ “Katawal sacked, Khadka acting CoAS,” *The Himalayan Times*, May 3, 2009, at <http://www.thehimalayantimes.com/fullNews.php?headline=Katawal+sacked%2C+Khadka+acting+CoAS&id=MzI1Mw==&catid=Ng==>

¹⁶ “Prime Minister Dahal resigns,” *nepalnew*, May 4, 2009, at <http://www.nepalnews.com/archive/2009/may/may04/news05.php>

due to pressure from India.¹⁷ However, EAM Pranab Mukherjee, in a statement noted that developments in Nepal were “internal to Nepal. We wish Nepal well in its transition to a fully democratic polity and would hope that the present crisis is resolved in a manner which contributes to the early conclusion of the peace process. We would hope that the broadest possible political consensus would make it possible for Nepal to concentrate on the agreed tasks of Constitution making and of democratic transition.”¹⁸

The political crisis led to law and order-related problems as fighting broke out between youth organizations affiliated to different political parties. Maoist spokesman Krishna Bahadur Mahara on his part charged that his party will “fight against” the President’s move as it had “violated constitutional norms [and]... put the peace process in peril.”¹⁹

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon urged all political parties to resolve the crisis through “dialogue and consensus” and expressed serious concern over the political crisis following the sacking of the army chief.²⁰

SRI LANKA

- **Colombo rejects US call to hand over LTTE cadres to third party countries; Rajapakse brushes aside calls for ceasefire; Sri Lanka denies request of Swedish Foreign Minister to visit the country; India announces a grant of Rs. 1 billion for relief and rehabilitation; UPFA emerges as a victor in western provincial council elections**

The Sri Lankan government rejected the request of the United States to hand over LTTE cadres to a third party, made by State Department spokesman, Robert Wood.²¹ Calls for ceasefire with the LTTE were also brushed aside by President Mahinda Rajapakse, who asserted that “there was no time and need for it at this stage.”²² Mr. Rajapakse also called upon the LTTE to lay down arms and surrender to the military forces.²³

International concern over the plight of the displaced civilians mounted with the British and French Foreign ministers visiting refugee camps during the week. Colombo however rejected the request of the Swedish Foreign Minister

¹⁷ “India encouraged Prez to take ‘unconstitutional move,’” *nepalnews*, May 4, 2009, at <http://www.nepalnews.com/archive/2009/may/may04/news14.php>

¹⁸ “Statement by External Affairs Minister on Nepal,” May 4, 2009, at <http://meaindia.nic.in/secframe.php?sec=ss>

¹⁹ “Peace process in peril: Maoists,” *The Himalayan Times*, May 4, 2009, at <http://www.thehimalayantimes.com/fullNews.php?headline=Peace+process+in+peril%3A+Maoists&id=MzM5Mg==&catid=Ng==>

²⁰ “UNSG calls for dialogue,” *The Himalayan Times*, May 4, 2009, at <http://www.thehimalayantimes.com/fullNews.php?headline=UNSG+calls+for+dialogue&id=MzM5NA==&catid=Ng==>

²¹ “No surrender to third party - Defence Secretary,” *Sunday Observer*, April 26, 2009, at <http://www.sundayobserver.lk/2009/04/26/sec01.asp>

²² “No question of ceasefire,” *Daily News*, May 4, 2009, at <http://www.dailynews.lk/2009/05/01/pol01.asp>

²³ “Lay down arms and surrender, Sri Lanka President tells LTTE,” *Colombo Page*, April 30, 2009, at http://www.colombopage.com/archive_09/April30141222RA.html

Carl Bildt to visit the camps, leading to a diplomatic row between the two countries. Sri Lanka on its part stated that it will not be able to handle many high level delegations at one time, a reason noted by Mr. Bildt as being a “very odd one.”²⁴ India meanwhile announced a grant of Rs. 1 billion for relief and rehabilitation for displaced Tamil civilians.²⁵

In other developments, in the recently held Western Provincial Council elections, UPFA emerged as a clear victor, winning two thirds (68 out of 102) of the seats. While the UPFA polled 64.73 percent of the vote, the UNP secured 29.5 percent, JVP 2.42 percent, SLMC 2.12 percent and the Democratic Unity Alliance 0.51 percent of the votes.²⁶ President Rajapakse, reacting to these developments, stated that election results were indicative of the will of the people to root out terrorism.²⁷

B. EAST AND SOUTHEAST ASIA

CHINA

- **China, Japan, South Korea reach an agreement on distribution ratio of \$120 billion regional foreign exchange reserve pool; Defence Minister Laing meets President Medvedev; PLAN establishes virtual workstation for training navy personnel**

Finance Ministers from China, Japan and South Korea met in Bali, Indonesia during the week and reached an agreement on the distribution ratio of a \$120 billion regional foreign exchange reserve pool, which was established on the basis of the Chiang Mai initiative, a bilateral currency swap arrangement introduced in May 2007. The scheme is intended to tackle likely shortages of foreign exchange capital flows.²⁸ In February 2009, China, Japan and South Korea along with members of ASEAN had decided to increase the volume of the reserve pool to \$120 billion from \$80 billion.²⁹

On the sidelines of the defence ministers meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), Chinese Defence Minister Liang Guanglie met with Russian President Dmitry Medvedev and expressed satisfaction at the

²⁴ “Sweden FM denied Sri Lanka entry,” *BBC News*, April 28, 2009, at http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/8022190.stm

²⁵ “India provides Rs. 1 billion relief,” *Daily News*, April 28, 2009, at <http://www.dailynews.lk/2009/04/28/news11.asp>

²⁶ “It’s President’s triumph: Minister Anura Yapa,” *Daily News*, April 27, 2009, at <http://www.dailynews.lk/2009/04/27/pol01.asp>

²⁷ “A clear message to int’l community: President Mahinda Rajapaksa,” *Daily News*, April 27, 2009, at <http://www.dailynews.lk/2009/04/27/pol02.asp>

²⁸ “China, Japan, S Korea reach agreement on distribution ratio of regional reserve pool,” *Xinhua*, May 3, 2009, at <http://english.chinamil.com.cn/>

²⁹ “China, Japan, S Korea reach agreement on distribution ratio of regional reserve pool,” *Xinhua*, May 4, 2009, at <http://english.chinamil.com.cn/>

'steady advancement' of the bilateral relationship. 2009 marks the 60th anniversary of Russia-China bilateral ties.³⁰

In other developments, reports noted that the Navy Command College of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) has established a virtual experimental work station for network-centric operations and simulated training for its navy personnel. The station, capable of training 500 cadets, is meant to enhance the military capability of the PLA.³¹

TAIWAN

- **Visa-free travel for Taiwanese citizens visiting European countries within 12 months**

Reports noted that the initiative enabling Taiwanese citizens to travel to European Union countries without visas was progressing. The Taiwan representative to the EU Shen Lyushun stated that it would take about a year to put the mechanism in place. Britain became the first EU nation to have granted visa-free status to the Taiwanese people on March 3, 2009.³²

JAPAN

- **PM Aso pays a two-day visit to Beijing; Japan says it has no problems with Seoul's launch of a satellite; Tokyo unveils a 11-point nuclear disarmament proposal; Loans to Iraq for infrastructure-related projects approved**

Prime Minister Taro Aso arrived in China for a two-day visit on April 29, his first visit to the country. Reports noted that the visit was aimed at laying stronger foundations for cooperation between the historic Asian rivals, amidst the global economic and health crises.³³ Both sides agreed to work together to promote macroeconomic policies based on domestic demand, take steps to deter protectionism and assist other Asian nations in their recovery efforts from the global financial crisis by promoting their respective domestic demand.³⁴

Japan stated that it had no problems with South Korea's plans to launch a rocket carrying its first satellite which may fly over Japanese territory.³⁵

³⁰ "Russian president meets with Chinese defense minister on ties, cooperation," *Xinhua*, April 30, 2009, at <http://english.chinamil.com.cn/>

³¹ Han Chaoxiang and Qin Ruoyan, "Naval operation simulated training centre established," *PLA Daily*, May 4, 2009, at <http://english.chinamil.com.cn/>

³² "Visa-free status for Taiwanese visiting EU on track: envoy," *Central News Agency*, March 3, 2009, at <http://english.cna.com.tw/ReadNews/Detail.aspx?pSearchDate=&pNewsID=200905030015&pType1=P&pType0=xPDCS&pTypeSel=0>

³³ "Japan PM arrives in China amid global crises," *Associate Foreign Press*, April 29, 2009, at http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20090429/wl_afp/chinajapandiplomacy_20090429072020

³⁴ "China, Japan agree to lead Asia through financial crisis," *Manila Bulletin Publishing Corporation*, May 2, 2009, at <http://mb.com.ph/articles/204551/china-japan-agree-lead-asia-through-financial-crisis>

³⁵ "Japan sees no problem in S. Korea rocket launch: govt," *Space Daily*, April 22, 2009, at http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/Japan_sees_no_problem_in_SKorea_rocket_launch_govt_999.html

Tokyo also unveiled an 11-point initiative to achieve a nuclear-free world, including a call for the imposition of "effective global restrictions" on North Korea's ballistic missile development and a plan to hold an international conference in Japan early next year on global nuclear disarmament.³⁶

In other developments, Japan agreed in principle to extend around ¥80 billion in fresh loans to Iraq for three infrastructure-related projects.³⁷

SOUTHEAST ASIA

- **Indian security forces under attack by Manipuri militants camping in Myanmar; EU extends its sanctions on Burma for another year; In Thailand, UDD threatens to adopt new strategies, including violence, to topple the present government; Gumen kill nine people in southern Thailand; PM Razak on a two-day visit to Brunei; Land and maritime border demarcation between Malaysia and Brunei to be finalized soon; Beijing criticizes Vietnam's appointment of a governor to the disputed Xisha (Paracel) Islands; US and Philippines sailors conduct joint search and seizure operations as part of Balikatan exercises**

Reports noted that Indian security forces in Manipur have been attacked by militants camping in Indo-Myanmar border areas. The inaction of the Myanmar army against these militants was cited as the primary reason behind the insurgents' success in attacking Indian army positions.³⁸

Meanwhile, sanctions on Myanmar were extended for another year by the EU foreign ministers meeting in Luxemburg. Citing its human rights record, the EU since 1996 has restricted visits to Burma by its high-level officials, imposed economic sanctions, an arms embargo, and has enforced a visa ban on Burmese military officials and their families as well.³⁹

In Bangkok, representatives of the Thai government, opposition and the senate agreed to set up a committee to look into the recent crackdown on anti-government demonstrators of the UDD group by troops and police on April 13. The joint agreement also has provisions for setting up of another committee to evaluate the possibility of political reforms and changes to the 2007 constitution.⁴⁰ Despite these agreements however, the UDD has threatened to

³⁶ "Japan unveils 11-point initiative for nuke-free world," *Associated Press*, April 27, 2009, at http://www.breitbart.com/article.php?id=D97QNCRO1&show_article=1

³⁷ "¥80 billion in loans OK'd for Iraq" *Japan Times*, May 3, 2009 at <http://search.japantimes.co.jp/cgi-bin/nn20090503a7.html>

³⁸ "Manipur rebels attack from Myanmar camps," *Indo-Burma News*, April 29, 2009, at <http://www.indoburmanews.net/archives-1/2009/april-2009/manipur-rebels-attack-from-myanmar-camps>

³⁹ "EU extends sanctions on Burma for another year," *Burma News online*, April 28, 2009, at <http://www.bnionline.net/news/mizzima/6174-eu-extends-sanctions-on-burma-for-another-year.html>

⁴⁰ "Accord on riot, charter panels," *The Bangkok Post*, April 27, 2009, at <http://www.bangkokpost.com/breakingnews/141676/udd-political-reform-panels-formed>

adopt new strategies, including violence, if necessary, to topple the government led by PM Abhisit Vejjajiva.⁴¹

In other developments, violence hit five districts of Narathiwat province on April 27 as southern separatist groups indulged in various acts of terror.⁴² Gunmen also killed nine people and injured two others in five separate attacks in the southern part of the country on April 28, a day which commemorates the anniversary of the security forces operations against rebels who had occupied the Krue Sae mosque in 2004. Thirty two separatists lost their lives in confrontation with the security forces in that operation.⁴³

Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak was on a two-day visit to Brunei, starting from April 29.⁴⁴ Najib expressed optimism over the possibility of finalizing the land and maritime border demarcation agreements between the two states, although no definite time frame was mentioned.⁴⁵

The Chinese government meanwhile protested the appointment of a governor to the disputed Xisha (Paracel) islands by Vietnam, as "illegal and invalid." Beijing reiterated its claims over the islands in the South China Sea and asserted that it had "indisputable sovereignty over the Xisha islands and their adjacent waters."⁴⁶ In a related development, despite China's strong protest against President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's recent signing of the baseline bill claiming Philippines sovereignty over some disputed islands in the South China Sea, Manila has not expressed much concern over those issues and hoped that China "will observe the agreed Code of Conduct on the South China Sea."⁴⁷

In other developments, the US and Philippine sailors conducted a joint search and seizure operations as part of the annual Balikatan training exercises.⁴⁸

⁴¹ "UDD threatens to use violence," *The Bangkok Post*, April 28, 2009, at <http://www.bangkokpost.com/breakingnews/141724/udd-threaten-to-use-violent-tactics>

⁴² "11 militant strikes in Narathiwat," *The Bangkok Post*, April 27, 2009 at <http://www.bangkokpost.com/breakingnews/141646/unrest-in-five-districts-of-narathiwat>

⁴³ "Nine killed in restive South," *The Bangkok Post*, April 28, 2009, at <http://www.bangkokpost.com/breakingnews/141746/nine-killed-in-restive-south-police>

⁴⁴ "Najib Arrives in Brunei for a Two-day visit," *Bernama.com*, April 29, 2009, at http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v5/news_lite.php?id=407751

⁴⁵ "Najib: Malaysia-Brunei Border Demarcation can be finalized," *Bernama.com*, April 29, 2009, at http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v5/news_lite.php?id=407933

⁴⁶ "China protests Vietnam's 'illegal' governor of disputed islands," *Earth Times*, April 28, 2009, at <http://www.earthtimes.org/articles/show/266287.china-protests-vietnams-illegal-governor-of-disputed-islands.html>

⁴⁷ "Philippines: Nothing to worry about China's rising military power, says Remonde," *Isria*, April 27, 2009, at http://www.isria.info/en/27_April_2009_70.htm

⁴⁸ "US, Philippine sailors conduct training in search-and-seizure," *Stars and Stripes*, April 28, 2009, at <http://www.stripes.com/article.asp?section=104&article=62324>

II. MISSILES, SPACE, DEFENCE AND NUCLEAR REVIEW

MISSILES AND SPACE

- **Pentagon not to order 'one-size-fits-all' satellites any more**

Reports noted that in order to bring down costs, the US Defence Department will not order costly 'one size fits all' satellites. The Pentagon's objective is to move towards less complex satellite systems with a lower shelf-life.⁴⁹ This would help reduce cost, increase the number of orders for industry and the Pentagon could also exploit emerging technologies. The move is also meant to counter 'static' defence budgets as the Pentagon seeks an improvement over the existing systems.

The effort is also geared towards streamlining the acquisition process and to look for alternatives to large and complex satellite systems. Defence Secretary Robert Gates has for instance also recommended that the multi-billion dollar Transformational Satellite Program be scrapped. A larger pool of smaller satellites is also expected to be better protected than lesser numbers of large and sophisticated satellites.

DEFENCE ISSUES

NATIONAL

- **Defence Secretary visits Russia to resolve Gorshkov's pricing issue**

Defence Secretary Vijay Singh visited Russia to resolve the disputes resulting from the increase in price of the aircraft-carrier Gorshkov. Moscow had unilaterally increased the price of the carrier from \$974 million in 2004 to \$2.1 billion in 2007 and to a staggering \$2.9 billion in February 2009. Besides the increase in price, the company repairing the carrier, Sevmash Shipyard, has also demanded advance payments and has slowed down the repairing process without them. It is expected that the carrier would possibly be inducted only by 2012 if the price deadlock is resolved.⁵⁰

- **BEL and Thales to produce radar systems**

Reports indicated that Bharat Electronics Ltd. (BEL) and Thales from France have worked out a proposal to jointly produce radars. The final agreement is likely to be signed in one or two years. BEL has been exploring avenues of partnerships with overseas companies to develop capabilities in areas such as missile electronics, guidance systems, microwave super components, electro-optics and airborne electronic warfare systems. Towards this end, BEL has signed agreements with a private-sector company Astra Microwave Products, Hyderabad, for microwave components; with Boeing, Chicago, for joint development of an analysis and experimentation center in India; with Israel

⁴⁹ "DoD: No More One-Size-Fits-All Satellites," April 30, 2009, at <http://www.defensenews.com/story.php?i=4066772&c=AME&s=TOP>

⁵⁰ "Indian Defence Secretary Visits Russia to Overcome Gorshkov's Pricing Issue," May 1, 2009, at <http://www.india-defence.com/reports/4356>

Aerospace Industries and Elisra, Israeli firms, to jointly develop UAVs and airborne electronic warfare systems, among other equipment.⁵¹

INTERNATIONAL

- **Vietnam orders six Kilo-class Russian submarines**

Reports noted that Russia's state arms exporter Rosoboronexport Company will sign a \$1.8 billion deal with Vietnam to build and deliver six Kilo-class diesel-electric submarines within a year. Admiralty Shipyards will be assigned to fulfill this task. The Kilo-class submarines have earned the nickname 'Black Hole' for their ability to avoid detection and are designed for anti-submarine warfare, anti-surface-ship warfare as well as for general reconnaissance and patrol missions. The quietest diesel engine-driven submarine has a displacement of 2,300 tons, can reach a maximum depth of 350 meters (1,200 feet), and has a range of 6,000 miles. It is also equipped with six 533-mm torpedo tubes. It is believed that Russia has exported 29 submarines of the same class to China, Poland, Algeria, India and Romania.⁵²

- **UK report urges government to revamp reserve forces**

The UK's Ministry of Defence has released its first review report *The Strategic Review of Reserve*, on the performances of the Royal Naval Reserve (RNR), Royal Marines Reserve (RMR), Royal Auxiliary Air Force (RAAF) and Territorial Army (TA). The report has seven recommendations relating to existing and future commitments, expeditionary operations, revamping of the institutional structures, training and organisation of the reserve forces, developing of concise and flexible command and control (C2) capability as well as improved terms of service.⁵³

NUCLEAR ISSUES

- **Pakistan nuclear assets raise US fears; Obama: US can make sure Pakistan nukes are safe**

Reports noted that Pakistan is continuing to expand its nuclear bomb-making facilities despite growing international concern that advancing Islamist extremists could overrun one or more of its atomic weapons plants or seize sufficient radioactive material to make a dirty bomb.⁵⁴

⁵¹ "Thales, India's BEL To Co-Produce Radar Systems," at <http://www.defensenews.com/story.php?i=4068599&c=ASI&s=TOP>

⁵² "Vietnam Orders Six Kilo Class Russian Submarines," *Defence News*, April 27, 2009, at <http://www.india-defence.com/reports/4343>

⁵³ "UK MoD unveils hit-list to overhaul reserve forces," *Janes News*, April 30, 2009, at http://www.janes.com/news/defence/jdw/jdw090430_2_n.shtml

⁵⁴ Simon Tisdall, "US can make sure Pak nukes are secure: Obama," May 3, 2009, at <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2009/may/03/pakistan-nuclear-security>

President Obama meanwhile on April 29 stated that Washington "can make sure that Pakistan's nuclear arsenal is secure," even as he expressed grave concern over the deteriorating situation in the militancy-stricken country. He expressed optimism about US control over Pakistan's nuclear weapons, perhaps through military-to-military cooperation.⁵⁵

III. INTERNAL SECURITY REVIEW

JAMMU AND KASHMIR

- **Army Chief: Substantial rise in infiltration; Terrorists using Pakistani mobile networks to communicate with their bosses across the LoC**

The Chief of the Army Staff Gen. Deepak Kapoor told reporters in New Delhi on April 28 that the infiltration of terrorists into J and K had risen substantially, with March recording the highest influx as compared to the corresponding month in the last seven years. He stated that the increase was indicative of an attempt to "disrupt the electoral process in the state." He also pointed out that the militants were bringing in sophisticated amount of equipment.⁵⁶

Meanwhile, reports noted that the commanders of various terrorist outfits operating close to the Line of Control (LoC) and the Pir Panjal range were now relying more on Pakistani mobile telephones to communicate with their mentors in Pakistan and PoK instead of using high frequency wireless sets for the fear of interception. One such mobile telephone with SIM card of Pakistan mobile company, U- Fone, was recently seized by the police from an associate of Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) commander, Abu Ali.

Sources indicated that telecom companies operating from Pakistan, including U-Fone, PK-2 and Pak Airtel have been forced to raise powerful towers close to the LoC in PoK, especially in the areas bordering the twin districts of Poonch and Rajouri, by the Pakistan Army and the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) to facilitate easy communication between terrorist commanders on both sides of the LoC.⁵⁷

NORTH EAST DEVELOPMENTS

- **10 persons killed in Assam**

The violence between the Zeliangrong community and Cacharis in Assam's NC Hills District continued for the second day with 10 people getting killed on April 29. The clashes erupted after suspected Black Widow insurgents killed nine persons of the Zeliangrong community on April 28. Later, suspected Zeliangrong insurgents retaliated and attacked a Dimasa village killing 10 Dimasas.⁵⁸

⁵⁵ Chidanand Rajghatta, "US can make sure Pak nukes are secure: Obama," *Times of India*, April 30, 2009

⁵⁶ "Substantial rise in infiltration: Army chief," *Daily Excelsior*, April 29, 2009, at <http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/web1/09apr29/news.htm#1>

⁵⁷ "Militant comdrs now use Pak companies' mobiles," *Daily Excelsior*, April 29, 2009, at <http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/web1/09apr29/news.htm#1>

⁵⁸ "10 persons killed and 16 others injured as violence continues in Assam," SATP, April 30, 2009, at http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/detailed_news3.asp?date3=2009%2F4%2F30#4