

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

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1. COUNTRY REVIEW

A. SOUTH ASIA

AFGHANISTAN

- **Panetta: Insurgency rising because of weak political institutions and failing economy; Gates rules out any reconciliation with the Taliban till US-led forces gain decisive edge; 12 militants killed in US air strike in Ghazni; Eikenberry promises change in tactics to prevent civilian casualties; Iran, Pakistan, Afghanistan sign the 'Tehran Statement'; US forces seize large amounts of drugs in Helmand province**

In an address to a think tank in Los Angeles during the week, CIA Director Leon Panetta stated that the insurgency in Afghanistan led by the Taliban was rising because of weak political institutions and a failing economy. Apart from the military surge, Panetta also called for building up the coalition's intelligence capabilities, an 'intelligence surge,' to help protect coalition forces as well as help establish a durable peace in the country.¹

US Defence Secretary Robert Gates meanwhile, in an interview with NBC, ruled out any reconciliation with the Taliban insurgents till the US-led international forces gained a decisive edge over them.² Gates's assertion was made even as *New York Times* suggested that representatives of some Taliban factions were negotiating through intermediaries with the Afghan government for some kind of a peace accord on the condition that US forces withdraw from the country.³

A dozen Taliban insurgents were killed and four others wounded during a night time air strike by the US-led coalition forces in the volatile southern Ghazni province on May 20.⁴ The new US ambassador to Afghanistan, Lt. Gen. Karl W. Eikenberry, interacting with the US air strike survivors of Farah province, promised that coalition forces would do their best and change tactics in order to prevent further civilian casualties in operations against insurgents.⁵

At the trilateral regional summit in Tehran on May 24, involving Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan, President's Karzai, Ahmadinejad, and Zardari signed the 'Tehran Statement' which committed the three nations to work together to

¹ "Insurgency on the rise: CIA chief," *Pajhwok Afghan News*, May 20, 2009, at <http://www.pajhwok.com/viewstory.asp?lng=eng&id=74739>

² "Gates rules out reconciliation with Taliban fighters," *Pajhwok Afghan News*, May 23, 2009, at <http://www.pajhwok.com/viewstory.asp?lng=eng&id=74887>

³ "U.S. Pullout a Condition in Afghan Peace Talks," *The New York Times*, May 20, 2009, at <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/05/21/world/asia/21kabul.html?scp=6&sq=AFGHANISTAN&st=cse>

⁴ "US airstrike kills 12 militants in Ghazni," *Pajhwok Afghan News*, May 21, 2009, at <http://www.pajhwok.com/viewstory.asp?lng=eng&id=74855>

⁵ "A Vow to Cut Afghan Civilian Deaths," *The New York Times*, May 19, 2009, at <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/05/20/world/asia/20afghan.html?ref=global-home>

fight Islamic extremism and stop drug smuggling across their borders. The declaration however did not outline any specific actions.⁶

US forces on their part also claimed that in operations in the Helmand province of Southern Afghanistan, large amounts of drugs were seized, including 17 tons of black tar opium, 74 tons of opium poppy seeds, 400lbs of hashish and 443lbs of heroin along with tons of bomb-making equipment and heroin-processing chemicals.⁷

In other developments, President Karzai's brother Ahmed Wali Karzai escaped an assassination bid on May 18 by the Taliban when militants ambushed his motorcade while he was traveling from the eastern city of Jalalabad to Kabul.

PAKISTAN

- **US pledges aid worth \$110 million for IDPs in Pakistan; UN urges international aid worth \$543 million; Zardari: Victory is the only option while dealing with Taliban; Gilani: US should review policy of Drone attacks**

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton stated at a press conference on May 19 that \$110 million was being granted to Pakistan as 'emergency aid' to provide amenities for the civilians affected by the army operations in Swat, Buner and Dir. Ms. Clinton added that the aid being provided was important as the rapid proliferation of extremism in Pakistan was also a threat to US security.⁸

The UN on its part pledged \$543 million for the two million refugees displaced due to security operations against the Taliban. UN Humanitarian Coordinator in Pakistan, Martin Mogwanja admitted that the scale of civilian displacement was "extraordinary in terms of size and speed and has caused incredible suffering."⁹ President Zardari also unveiled a package of \$8 billion for the internally displaced people (IDPs) and added that "victory is the only option."¹⁰

PM Gilani meanwhile urged the US to change its policy on drone attacks inside Pakistan as they were 'subverting' the army's operation against the

⁶ "Iran Hosts Regional Summit Meeting," *The New York Times*, May 24, 2009, at http://www.nytimes.com/2009/05/25/world/middleeast/25iran.html?_r=1&scp=4&sq=AFGHANISTAN&st=cse

⁷ "Commandos make record drug seizure in Afghanistan," *The Telegraph*, May 24, 2009, at <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/asia/afghanistan/5378086/Commandos-make-record-drug-seizure-in-Afghanistan.html>

⁸ "US unveils \$110m in emergency aid for IDPs," *Daily Times*, May 20, 2009, at http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2009\05\20\story_20-5-2009_pg1_4

⁹ "UN seeks \$543 million for Pakistan's displaced," *Dawn*, May 22, 2009, at <http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/dawn-content-library/dawn/news/pakistan/14-un-seeks-543-million-for-pakistans-displaced-zj-01>

¹⁰ "Victory the only option: Zardari," *Daily Times*, May 21, 2009, at http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2009\05\21\story_21-5-2009_pg1_1

militants. He noted that there was unanimous consensus among all the political parties regarding the issue of the drone attacks.¹¹

In other developments, India's new External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna stated that India was ready to develop friendly ties with Pakistan provided it took tough action to raze the terror infrastructure within its territory.¹²

BHUTAN

- **Bangladesh and West Bengal express interest in tapping Bhutan's hydro power potential; UNHCR team visits Bhutanese refugee camps in eastern Nepal; 16th SAARC Summit to be held from April 28-29, 2010**

Reports noted that West Bengal has expressed an interest in building a 650 MW hydropower project in Bhutan and that it has approached the central government for the necessary clearances. Sunil Mitra, Additional Chief Secretary for the state told reporters that West Bengal had plans to add 2,470 MW of power to the 4,200 already installed by 2012.¹³ The West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Company Ltd (WESEDCL) was designated as the nodal agency for the proposed projects in Bhutan.

Bangladesh President Zillur Rahman also stated that Bhutan would be a potential supplier in overcoming the power needs of his country. Mr. Rehman noted that economic ties between the two countries were yet to reach a "satisfactory level" despite the excellent status of the bilateral relations.¹⁴

Reports noted that Bhutanese refugees in Denver, United States were being victimized. Some of them were attacked and robbed off their possessions.¹⁵

A team from the UNHCR along with some donor representatives visited refugee camps in Eastern Nepal. The refugees were assured that they were free to choose between repatriation and resettlement.¹⁶

In other developments, private radio stations in Thimphu have joined hands with a Swiss national to start a 24-hour live online station. The portal is intended to help spread Bhutanese culture and language.

The 16th SAARC summit would be held in Bhutan from April 28-29 2010. The Summit was initially supposed to be held in Maldives.

¹¹ "Drone attacks undermining Swat operation: Gilani," *The News*, May 24, 2009, at http://www.thenews.com.pk/arc_default.asp

¹² "New Indian govt. extends 'hand of friendship'," *The News*, May 24, 2009, at http://www.thenews.com.pk/arc_default.asp

¹³ "West Bengal plans hydro power project in Bhutan," *Reuters*, May 20, 2009, at <http://in.reuters.com/article/businessNews/idINIndia-39759320090520>

¹⁴ "Bhutan can export hydropower to Bangladesh: President," *The New Nation*, May 21, 2009, at <http://nation.ittefaq.com/issues/2009/05/21/news0827.htm>

¹⁵ "Resettled Bhutanese being attacked in Denver," *Bhutan News Service*, May 20, 2009, at <http://www.apfanews.com/stories/resettled-bhutanese-being-attacked-in-denver/>

¹⁶ "UNHCR, donors reps visit camps," *Bhutan News Service*, May 21, 2009, at <http://www.apfanews.com/stories/2396/>

SRI LANKA

- **Prabakaran reported killed in military operations; Defence Secretary Rajapaksa: Army operations were conducted against terrorists; Russia, China, Japan and Vietnam express interest in assisting in rehabilitation and resettlement efforts**

Sri Lankan government and LTTE sources indicated that LTTE leader Velupillai Prabhakaran was dead. LTTE spokesperson Selvarasa Pathmanathan stated that the organisation would now employ “non-violent methods to fight for Tamil cause.”¹⁷ Pathmanathan, who heads the LTTE's international relations wing, stated that though the Sri Lankan government has been successful in ousting the LTTE, it should realise that the victory of the Sri Lankan Army was a “hollow victory” and added that the government had lost the trust of Tamilians.¹⁸

Government sources meanwhile indicated that it could take as long as two years for the rehabilitation of displaced people inside the country.¹⁹ The government had earlier stated that most of the displaced civilians would be resettled by the end of the year.²⁰

Defence Secretary Gotabhaya Rajapaksa told reporters that the Sri Lankan army operations were against terrorists and that the LTTE had eliminated moderate Tamil political leadership and destroyed Tamilian culture since it came into existence. He also urged that Sri Lanka should aspire to be a country where people from all communities, religions and ethnicities could co-exist together.²¹

In other developments, countries like Russia, China, Japan and Vietnam have expressed their interest in assisting Colombo in its rehabilitation and resettlement efforts.

MALDIVES

- **Maldives and Pakistan discuss defence cooperation; Maldivian Special Envoy on a tour of European countries to gather support ahead of Copenhagen Summit; Nasheed congratulates Rajapakse on successfully fighting terrorism**

¹⁷ “LTTE admits leader is dead,” *Daily Mirror*, May 23, 2009, at http://www.dailymirror.lk/DM_BLOG/Sections/frmNewsDetailView.aspx?ARTID=49833

¹⁸ “Sri Lanka lost confidence of Tamils: Pathmanathan,” *Tamil Net*, May 18, 2009, at <http://www.tamilnet.com/art.html?catid=13&artid=29408>

¹⁹ “Quarter of a million Sri Lankans face two years in camps,” *The Guardian*, May 21, 2009, at <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2009/may/20/refugees-face-two-years-in-srilanka-camps>

²⁰ “In Sri Lanka the war is over but Tamil Tiger remnants suffer brutal revenge,” *The Guardian*, May 22, 2009, at <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2009/may/21/sri-lanka-tamil-tigers-ltte-tamil-refugees-in-camp>

²¹ “Regaining of dignity and pride is important,” *The Nation*, May 19, 2009, at <http://www.nation.lk/2009/05/19/news5.html>

Maldives Ambassador to Pakistan Dr. Aishath Sehenaz Adam and Defense Minister Amin Faisal discussed defence cooperation between the two countries at a meeting held in Male.²²

In an effort to gather support for the Copenhagen Summit on Climate Change to be held later in the year, Ibrahim Hussain Zaki, designated a special envoy of President Nasheed, was currently on a tour of Sweden, Norway, Denmark and the Netherlands.²³

President Nasheed meanwhile, in a telephonic conversation, congratulated President Rajapakse on successfully fighting terrorism. Mr. Nasheed stated that Maldives strongly supported Sri Lanka's "unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity" and re-affirmed his country's cooperation with Sri Lanka at bilateral, regional and international fora.²⁴

B. EAST AND SOUTHEAST ASIA

JAPAN

- **Putin and Aso sign energy and nuclear cooperation deals; Singapore urges Japan to play a more active role in Southeast Asia; Japanese Coast Guard: North Korea has ordered a ban on ships off its northeast coast; Reports: Factors weighing against sale of F-22 Raptors to Japan; Japan and Canada sign an agreement allowing Canadian military planes to refuel on humanitarian missions**

Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin met with his Japanese counterpart Taro Aso in Tokyo during the week. Both countries signed energy deals to jointly develop oil and gas fields in Siberia and pledged to resolve outstanding territorial disputes between them, especially over the islands known in Japan as the Northern Territories and in Russia as the Southern Kurils. They also signed an agreement to cooperate in civilian nuclear energy.²⁵

Singapore's President S.R. Nathan meanwhile urged Japan to play a more active role in Southeast Asia. During his meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Taro Aso, Nathan pointed out Japan's legacy in the region through out the 60s and 70s and urged Japan to play a more active role despite the difficult economic situation it was currently facing.²⁶

Japanese Coast Guard reported that North Korea had ordered a ban on ships from waters off its northeast coast, within a 130-kilometre radius from

²² "Ambassador to Pak calls on Defense minister," *Miadhu News*, May 25, 2009, at <http://miadhu.com.mv/news.php?id=10230>

²³ "Special Envoy Zaki departs to European countries," *Miadhu News*, May 24, 2009, at <http://miadhu.com.mv/news.php?id=10211>

²⁴ "Maldives congratulates Sri Lanka on defeating terrorism," Ministry of Defence, May 25, 2009, at http://www.defence.lk/new.asp?fname=20090521_14

²⁵ "Russia, Japan strike energy pacts, vow to end islands row" *Associate Foreign Press*, May 12, 2009 at http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20090512/wl_asia_afp/japanrussiadiplomacyenergy_20090512213204

²⁶ "Singapore urges Japan to play more active role in SE Asia" *Channel News Asia*, May 13, 2009 at <http://www.channelnewsasia.com/stories/singaporelocalnews/view/428977/1/.html>

Kimchaek in its northeastern region, till the end of this month. This has led to speculation about a possible military drill or activity by Pyongyang.²⁷

As North Korea continues its saber-rattling, reports indicated that Washington has so far been reluctant to allow Tokyo to purchase America's most advanced fighter aircraft, the F-22 Raptor.²⁸ Other factors weighing against the purchase included the high cost of the aircraft which if bought could push Japanese defence expenditure above the 1 per cent of the GDP mark, US Congress regulations which prevent the sale of this aircraft to even allies, among other factors.

In other developments, Japan and Canada have signed an agreement which permits Canadian military planes to stop at a Japanese Air Self-Defense Force base in Hokkaido for refueling and other activities before heading to disaster-hit areas in other Asian countries for relief operations.²⁹

C. WEST ASIA

IRAN

- **Iran test-fires Sejil-2 surface-to-surface missile; Obama: US “not going to have talks forever”; Guardian Council approves four candidates for June 12 presidential elections; Reformists hope for high turnout**

President Ahmadinejad announced that Iran had test-fired an upgraded surface-to-surface missile, the Sejil-2, with a range of about 1,200 miles which made it capable of striking Israel and American bases in the Persian Gulf. He was speaking during a visit to Semnan Province in northern Iran. Reports noted that the announcement was likely to reinforce Israeli concerns about Iran's regional intentions.

US President Barack Obama meanwhile, after talks with the visiting Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu stated that the US expected to know by the end of the year whether Iran was making “a good-faith effort to resolve differences” in talks aimed at ending its nuclear program. Adding that the US was “not going to have talks forever,” Obama noted that he did not intend to foreclose “a range of steps” if Iran did not cooperate.³⁰

Defence Minister Mohammad Mostafa Najjar also stated that Iran had begun producing a 40-millimetre naval cannon, *Fath* (victory), which was capable

²⁷ “NKorea bans ships off northeast coast: Japan” *Associate Foreign Press*, May 23, 2009 at <http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5h9hrMohoU0grT4Q7w0k4ZbpCAmXg>

²⁸ “Hurdles to a Japanese F-22,” *Japan Times*, May 16, 2009, at <http://search.japantimes.co.jp/cgi-bin/eo20090516a1.html>

²⁹ “Japan to allow Canada to use ASDF base for relief operations+” *Associated Press*, May 14, 2009 at http://www.breitbart.com/article.php?id=D985VOIG0&show_article=1

³⁰ Nazila Fathi and Alan Cowell, “Iran Says it Test-Fired New Long-Range Missile,” *New York Times*, May 21, 2009, at http://www.nytimes.com/2009/05/21/world/middleeast/21iran.html?_r=1&hp

of shooting about 300 projectiles per minute. The minister noted that the missile could be used against cruise missiles, aircrafts and on warships.³¹

Four candidates, including Mr. Ahmadinejad were cleared by the 12-member Guardian Council to stand in the June 12 presidential elections. The other three candidates are former prime minister Mir Hossein Mousavi, ex-parliament speaker Mehdi Karroubi and the former head of the Revolutionary Guards, Mohsen Rezai. A total of 475 Iranians, including 42 women, had registered as prospective candidates for the elections. Mousavi, a reformist, is being seen as the main opponent to Ahmadinejad. While Karroubi has promised to follow 'moderate' economic reforms, Rezai has promised to tackle poverty, high prices and unemployment. In the 2005 elections, only eight candidates out of the 1,014 who had registered were approved by the council, and only seven of them eventually fought the elections.³²

IRAQ

- **Suicide bombs kill 21 and wound 34 in Shiite neighbourhood of Baghdad**

Three suicide bombings, in the largely Shiite neighborhood of Shula on May 23 killed at least 21 people and wounded more than 50 others. US soldiers, Iraqi police officers, and members of the US-allied Awakening Councils were targeted. The attacks followed a car bombing near a popular restaurant in the western part of Baghdad that killed up to 40 people.

Awakening Council members, Sunni insurgents who have been allied with the US, had in recent times become a primary target of insurgent groups operating in Iraq. These attacks were the first major attack since a series of explosions in the last week of April left more than 160 dead. Most of these attacks took place in predominately Shiite areas, raising fears that insurgents were trying to incite sectarian violence. Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki had blamed loyalists from the government of Saddam Hussein for the April attacks.³³

In other development, a suicide car bomb struck a US military patrol in Iraq's northern city of Mosul on May 21 wounding at least 34 bystanders.

³¹ "Iran producing anti-cruise missile cannons," *Khaleej Times*, May 24, 2009, at http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle08.asp?xfile=data/middleeast/2009/May/middleeast_May473.xml§ion=middleeast

³² "Four candidates approved for Iran presidential vote," *Khaleej Times*, May 20, 2009, at http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle08.asp?xfile=data/middleeast/2009/May/middleeast_May375.xml§ion=middleeast

³³ "Suicide car bomber wounds 34 in Iraq's Mosul," *Khaleej Times*, May 24, 2009, at http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle08.asp?xfile=data/middleeast/2009/May/middleeast_May478.xml§ion=middleeast

UAE

- **Obama approves civilian nuclear energy deal with UAE**

US President Barack Obama on May 21 approved a civilian nuclear cooperation agreement with the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The deal, the '123 Agreement' was initially negotiated by the Bush administration and was later amended slightly by the new government. The bill has now been sent to the US Congress for approval.

Foreign Minister of UAE, Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed stated that under the terms of the agreement, the UAE "will gain access to significant capabilities and experience in the peaceful use of nuclear energy. This will allow the UAE to develop its civilian nuclear programme to the highest standards of safety, security and non proliferation. The agreement will also open opportunities for US firms to be active participants in the UAE nuclear energy programme."³⁴

On its part, the UAE has assured that it does not intend to develop its own enrichment and reprocessing capability and has pledged to work closely with the IAEA and to follow its recommendations. The US State Department, in a statement noted that the Agreement "serves as a model for states in the region in developing nuclear energy for peaceful purposes with the full confidence of the international community. This approach stands in direct contrast to Iran's nuclear program, which remains a matter of grave concern to the international community."³⁵

II. MISSILES, SPACE, DEFENCE AND NUCLEAR REVIEW

MISSILES AND SPACE

- **Agni-II successfully tested**

The Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) successfully test-fired the 3,000 km range Agni-II ballistic missile from a mobile launcher from the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur, off the Orissa coast.³⁶ The Agni-II can carry a 1,000 kilogram conventional or non-conventional payload.

Reports noted that the user trial was carried out under the supervision of the Army. After three successful user-trial tests, the missile was now ready for production. The state-owned Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) is the principal agency responsible for the production of the Agni series of missiles.

³⁴ Erika Niedowski, "Obama approves nuclear energy deal with UAE," *The National*, May 21, 2009, at <http://www.thenational.ae/article/20090522/NATIONAL/705219998/1133>

³⁵ US Department of State press release, "Agreement for Cooperation Between the Government of the United States and Government of the United Arab Emirates Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy," May 21, 2009, at <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2009/05/123748.htm>

³⁶ "India-Test fires N-Capable Agni-II Missile", *Indian Express*, May 19, 2009, <http://www.indianexpress.com/news/india-testfires-n-capable-agniii-missile/462371/>

DEFENCE ISSUES

NATIONAL

- **Rafale back under contention for the MRCA Bid**

Repos noted that the Ministry of Defence (MoD) has allowed the French fighter aircraft Rafale, of Dassault Aviation to take part in the Indian Air Force's (IAF) \$10 billion multi-role combat aircraft (MRCA) bid along with Boeing's F/A-18, Lockheed Martin's F-16, Saab's Gripen, the MIG-35 and Eurofighter Typhoon. MoD spokesperson indicated that, in its fresh bid, Rafale had provided the technical inputs in tune with the parameters set out for the technical evaluation committee of the IAF.³⁷

- **Tejas (LAC) to be inducted in IAF by 2010-11**

During his farewell visit to the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADE), Air Chief Marshall Fali Homi Major stated that the induction of the first squadron of the Tejas LAC (Light Combat Aircraft) could take place by the end of 2010 or the beginning of 2011. ACM Major acknowledged the help of organizations such as DRDO, ADA, HAL and other partners for giving a transformational edge to the IAF.³⁸

- **16 MBT Arjun's inducted in the Indian Army**

The DRDO (Defence Research and Development Organisation) plans to hand over 16 Arjun MBT (Main Battle Tank) to the Indian Army on May 25. The Combat Vehicles Research and Development Establishment (CVRDE), a laboratory of the DRDO, had already delivered 29 MBTs in two installments till March 2009. The CVRDE had obtained orders for the production of 124 Arjun tanks worth of Rs. 1,760 crore in March 2000.³⁹

INTERNATIONAL

- **Boeing bags \$38 million contract to develop counter-electronics HPM aerial demonstrator**

Boeing bagged a \$38 million contract to develop and test a non-lethal, high power microwave (HPM) airborne demonstrator for the US Air Force Research laboratory's (AFRL) Counter-Electronics High Power Microwave Advanced Missile Project (CHAMP). The CHAMP Joint Capability Technology Demonstration (JCDT) programme will be the first to demonstrate a counter-electronic HPM aerial demonstrator. The three-year programme includes ground

³⁷ "Rafale set for return to MRCA contention," May 22, 2009, at http://www.janes.com/news/defence/jdi/jdi090522_1_n.shtml

³⁸ "Indian Air Force to Induct HAL Tejas Light Combat Fighter Jets by 2010-11," May 18, 2009, at <http://www.india-defence.com/reports/4389>

³⁹ "Sixteen Arjun MBTs Set to Roll Into Indian Army - DRDO Sources," May 22, 2009 at <http://www.india-defence.com/reports-4400>

and fight demonstrations that will focus on technology integration and military utility.⁴⁰

- **\$601 million contract to BAE Systems for refurbishing Bradley fighting vehicles**

BAE Systems bagged a \$601 million contract from the US Army to renovate some of its heavy infantry vehicles, including the Bradley Fighting Vehicles. As part of the contract, BAE Systems will 'reset' 346 Bradley A3 vehicles, 141 A2 ODS vehicles, and 119 A2 ODS SA vehicles. The refurbished vehicles will be delivered by March 2010. The Bradley is used as a infantry fighting vehicle, cavalry fighting vehicle, fire support vehicle, battle command vehicle as well as engineer squad vehicle.⁴¹

- **Boeing awarded Distributed Targeting (DT) system contract for US Navy's Hornets**

Reports noted that the US Navy has awarded Boeing \$48.9 million contract for development and testing of a Distributed Targeting (DT) system for the F/A-18E/F Super Hornet strike fighter. The Distributed Targeting is a powerful new tool for the fighter aircraft which will help increase its multi-role capabilities further.⁴²

- **UUV-based sonar developed for safe and sound operation**

Reports noted that the UK Royal Navy has succeeded in launching over-the-horizon military capability of unmanned, autonomous platforms. The device known as autonomous underwater vehicles (AUVs) or unmanned underwater vehicles (UUVs) would enable the navy personnel to carry search operation without involving human operators. These vehicles are supposed to fulfill wide range of maritime defence requirements such as surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR), intelligence, mine countermeasures (MCM), and even weapons delivery.⁴³

⁴⁰ "Boeing Awarded USD 38 Million Contract To Develop Counter-Electronics HPM Aerial Demonstrator," May 19, 2009, at <http://www.india-defence.com/reports/4390>

⁴¹ "BAE Systems Awarded USD 601 Million Contract for Bradley Fighting Vehicles," May 19, 2009, at <http://www.india-defence.com/reports/4393>

⁴² Boeing to Develop Distributed Targeting (DT) system for US Navy's Super Hornets," May 22, 2009, at <http://www.india-defence.com/reports-4399>

⁴³ "Safe and sound: UUV-based sonar gets closer to mines," May 22, 2009, at http://www.janes.com/news/defence/jni/jni090522_1_n.shtml

III. INTERNAL SECURITY REVIEW

JAMMU AND KASHMIR

- **Infiltration bid foiled along LoC in Kupwara district; PoK truck drivers smuggling SIM cards into Kashmir**

Security forces foiled an infiltration bid along the Line of Control (LoC) in Kupwara district on May 21 by killing three terrorists attempting to sneak into the Valley. A defence spokesman told local media that troops guarding the LoC in Tangdhar area of Kupwara district observed movement of some terrorists and immediately laid multiple ambushes. As soon as the heavily-armed infiltrators crossed into the Indian side, they were challenged by the troops resulting in a fierce gun battle.⁴⁴

Meanwhile, for the first time since the launch of cross-LoC trade on October 2008, two truck drivers from Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir (PoK) were quizzed on May 21 for their suspected militant links after the recovery of four SIM cards of two different telecom companies of Pakistan from their possession. Reports noted that the recovery of SIM cards from PoK drivers has been a cause of concern among the security agencies.⁴⁵

MAOIST INSURGENCY

- **Maoists kill sixteen police personnel in Maharashtra**

Maoist guerrillas ambushed a police team on May 16 after luring them into the jungles of Gadchiroli district in Maharashtra, killing 16 of them. The police party had gone to the hills to clear the Dhanora-Murumgaon road, which was blocked by the Maoists by felling trees. As the police team reached the spot and started clearing the roads, the guerrillas hiding in the forest opened indiscriminate fire. Police personnel returned the fire and in the ensuing gun battle, 16 police personnel lost their lives.⁴⁶

NORTH EAST DEVELOPMENTS

- **Six NDFB militants killed in Assam; NSCN(IM) expanding its territorial influence in Assam and Arunachal Pradesh; Joint Monitoring Group set up for peace talks with KCP(MC) Lallumba group in Manipur**

Security forces gunned down six NDFB militants in Assam's Karbi Anglong district on May 19. Police sources stated that the militants who took shelter inside the thick jungle opened fire as the security forces advanced towards the rebel camp. The exchange of fire continued for more than three hours in which six

⁴⁴ "Infiltration bid foiled, 3 killed," *Daily Excelsior*, May 23, 2009, at <http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/web1/09may23/news.htm#2>

⁴⁵ "PoK truck drivers smuggle SIM cards," *Daily Excelsior*, May 23, 2009, at <http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/web1/09may23/news1.htm#1>

⁴⁶ "16 cops killed in Maharashtra Naxal ambush," *Times of India*, May 22, 2009, at <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/India/16-cops-killed-in-Maharashtra-Naxal-ambush/articleshow/4561463.cms>

militants were killed. Earlier on May 18, two NDFB militants were killed in Chirang district.⁴⁷

In Assam's NC Hills district, four Dimasas were gunned down by unidentified gunmen on May 19. Police sources indicated that the killings could be the fallout of ethnic clashes between the Dimasas and the Zeme Nagas.⁴⁸

Reports meanwhile noted that the NSNC-IM had launched a recruitment drive in Assam in a bid to expand its territorial influence. The NSCN-IM's plan came to light after security forces busted its temporary camp in Assam's Dhemaji district on May 17 and apprehended two of its cadres from Nagaland. Sources also indicated that many youths from West Siang district in Arunachal Pradesh and the bordering areas of Assam had joined the NSCN-IM recently and were being trained at Camp Hebron, the NSCN general headquarters located in Dimapur. Government sources in Arunachal Pradesh cautioned that if the activities of the outfit were not checked, the state could turn into a haven for the militant outfit.⁴⁹

In Manipur meanwhile, in order to facilitate tripartite talks between the Centre, the State Government and the KCP(MC) Lallumba group, a Joint Monitoring Group was set up on May 20.⁵⁰

⁴⁷ "6 NDFB men gunned down," *Telegraph*, May 20, 2009, at http://telegraphindia.com/1090520/jsp/northeast/story_10990742.jsp

⁴⁸ "Violence flares up in hill districts," *Telegraph*, May 20, 2009, at http://telegraphindia.com/1090520/jsp/northeast/story_10993238.jsp

⁴⁹ "NSCN-IM bid to recruit Assam youths," *Telegraph*, May 19, 2009, at http://telegraphindia.com/1090519/jsp/northeast/story_10985645.jsp

⁵⁰ "Peace talk with Lallumba group," *Sangai Express*, May 21, 2009, at http://thesangaiaexpress.com/News_pages/Local_page-05.html