

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

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1. COUNTRY REVIEW

A. SOUTH ASIA

AFGHANISTAN

- **Afghanistan Interior Minister: Number of rebel attacks increased by 40 percent compared to previous week; CRS: War in Afghanistan costs the US \$223 billion; Gates: Peace deals by Pakistan Army with the Taliban resulted in more terrorist incidents in Afghanistan; Lt. Gen. McChrystal's appointment confirmed by US Senate; Ban Ki-moon urges US to probe alleged corruption case relating to Afghan aid by US official**

Afghanistan Interior Minister Mohammad Anif Atmar stated on June 14 that in renewed violence across Afghanistan, 48 civilians, 30 policemen and 176 rebels were killed during the past week. He noted that the number of rebel attacks had increased by about 40 percent as compared to the previous week.¹

A report of the Congressional Research Service (CRS) stated that the war on terrorism in Afghanistan has cost the US \$223 billion. It noted that costs were growing because of rising troop levels, increasing hostilities and for money required to upgrade the Afghan security forces.²

US Defence Secretary Robert Gates, testifying before the Senate Appropriations Committee on June 9, stated that peace deals concluded by the Pakistan army with elements of the Taliban resulted in "greater Taliban activity in Afghanistan" as such deals "freed the Taliban to come across the border as they felt no pressure from the Pakistan army." He however expressed satisfaction over the recent actions taken by the Pakistan army.³

Lt. Gen. Stanley McChrystal's appointment as the new US commander in Afghanistan was confirmed by the US Senate Armed Services Committee on June 10. Testifying before the Committee, Gen. McChrystal noted that in COIN operations, "the impact of civilian casualties, collateral damages, cultural insensitivity and the inherent complexities involved in separating insurgents from the population often determine success or failure."⁴

In other developments, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon urged the Obama administration to initiate a criminal probe into alleged corruption

¹ "Insurgents killed in Afghanistan: US military," *MSN News*, June 15, 2009, at <http://news.my.msn.com/regional/article.aspx?cp-documentid=3382055>

² "Afghan war costs US \$223b, says Congressional report", *Pajhwok Afghan News*, June 9, 2009, at <http://www.pajhwok.com/viewstory.asp?lng=eng&id=75789>

³ "Pak peace deals increased Taliban activities in Afghanistan: US defense official," *The Times of India*, June 10, 2009, at <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/World/Pak-peace-deals-increased-Taliban-activities-in-Afghanistan-US-defense-official/articleshow/4638415.cms>

⁴ Al Pessin, "New Afghanistan Commander Brings Skill, Controversy to Tough Mission," *VOA News*, June 10, 2009, at <http://www.voanews.com/english/2009-06-10-voa76.cfm>

charges against an ex-American official of the UN who was accused of stealing \$500,000 dollars of reconstruction aid meant for Afghanistan.⁵

PAKISTAN

- **Targeted killings against political activists kill 13 in Karachi; Suicide attack on Peshawar hotel claims 11; Anti-Taliban cleric killed in Lahore; Gen. Kayani visits Mingora; Defence budget increased to Rs. 343 billion; Gilani: India-Pakistan should resume dialogue to ensure regional peace**

A series of 'targeted killings' in Karachi on June 7 led to the death of 13 people, including at least 10 belonging to political parties like the MQM-H. These killings dramatically increased the number of political murders committed in June to 29.⁶

A five star hotel in Peshawar was the target of a suicide bomb on June 9, leading to the loss of 11 lives and injured more than 60 people. The explosives-laden vehicle reportedly rammed into the hotel premises after the occupants of the vehicle killed the guards at the gate of the hotel.⁷

In another incident, Mufti Naeemi, a noted anti -Taliban cleric was killed in a suicide attack in Lahore on June 12.⁸

Meanwhile, the Pakistan Army chief Gen. Kayani paid a visit to Mingora on June 8. Security operations against the Taliban were continuing here and in other places in the Swat valley. He was also accompanied by the Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Rao Qamar Suleman.⁹

Pakistan's Minister of State for Finance Hina Rabbani Khar announced in the National Assembly on June 13 that the country's defence budget for 2009-10 was increased to Rs.343 billion due to the ongoing security operations inside Pakistan as well as on account of the country's 'frontline' role in the war on terror.¹⁰

In other developments, Prime Minister Gilani, addressing the Command and Staff College in Quetta on June 10, called for resuming the stalled composite bilateral dialogue with India to ensure peace in the region.¹¹

⁵ "Ban wants US to probe alleged Afghan aid misuse," *Pajhwok Afghan News*, June 11, 2009, at <http://www.pajhwok.com/viewstory.asp?lng=eng&id=75936>

⁶ "13 die in Karachi target killings," *Daily Times*, June 8, 2009, at http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2009\06\08\story_8-6-2009_pg1_1

⁷ "11 killed in Peshawar PC blast," *Daily Times*, June 10, 2009, at http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2009\06\10\story_10-6-2009_pg1_1

⁸ "Suicide bomber assassinates Mufti Naeemi: Taliban turn against religious scholars," *Daily Times*, June 13, 2009, at http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2009\06\13\story_13-6-2009_pg1_1

⁹ "Army, air chiefs visit Mingora," *The News*, June 09, 2009, at http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=22625

¹⁰ Iftikhar A. Khan, "Defence spending raised to Rs343bn," *Dawn*, June 14, 2009, at <http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/dawn-content-library/dawn/the-newspaper/front-page/defence-spending-raised-to-rs343bn-469>

¹¹ Saleem Shahid, "PM urges India to resume talks," *Dawn*, June 11, 2009, at <http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/dawn-content-library/dawn/the-newspaper/front-page/pm-urges-india-to-resume-talks-169>

B. EAST AND SOUTHEAST ASIA

JAPAN

- **Proposal to reorganize Ministry of Defence being considered; LDP calls for acquisition of the capacity to strike enemy missile sites; The Diet endorses the signing of an international treaty to ban the use and stockpiling of cluster bombs; Japanese Coast Guard issues alert to its ships as Pyongyang bans passage of ships up to 100 kms from its shore**

Reports noted that a proposal to reorganize the Japanese Ministry of Defence, giving greater authority to military officers, was being considered. The proposal was put forth in the aftermath of a scandal that led to the conviction in November 2008 of former Vice Defense Minister Takemasa Moriya for accepting bribes.¹² Reports also note that the Liberal Democratic Party has called for the acquisition of the capacity to strike enemy missile sites as part of the country's defensive capabilities. The party's suggestions were made in the context of the formulation of the new National Defense Program Guidelines.¹³

In other developments, the Japanese Parliament (Diet) endorsed the signing of an international treaty to ban the use and stockpiling of cluster bombs, thus paving the way for Tokyo to ratify the treaty.¹⁴

Meanwhile, the Japanese Coast Guard issued an alert to its ships even as North Korea banned the passage of vessels through the Sea of Japan. Reports suggested that the move was to counter possible launch of short-range missiles by Pyongyang. The North Korean ban covered 260 kilometers of the coastline northeast of Wonsan and up to 100 km of the sea from the shore.¹⁵

SOUTH KOREA

- **President Lee: Seoul not to make any compromises in the face of heightened threats from Pyongyang; US PACAF pledge to provide F-22's if required; Biden calls for strict enforcement of UN sanctions against Pyongyang**

South Korean Defense Ministry spokesman Won Tae-jae told reporters that his country was preparing for a possible third nuclear test by North Korea, despite looming UN sanctions for its previous test in May.¹⁶ President Lee Myung-bak on his part asserted that his government will not make any compromises in the

¹² "Military officers may gain power," *Asahi Shimbun*, June 8, 2009, at <http://www.asahi.com/english/Herald-asahi/TKY200906080024.html>

¹³ "LDP defense panels pitch ability to strike enemy missile sites," *Kyodo News*, June 10, 2009, at <http://search.japantimes.co.jp/cgi-bin/nn20090610a7.html>

¹⁴ "Diet votes to support cluster bomb treaty," *Japan Times*, June 11, 2009, at <http://search.japantimes.co.jp/cgi-bin/nn20090611a9.html>

¹⁵ "3RD LD: N. Korea bans navigation of ships in Sea of Japan areas," *Associated Press*, June 8, 2009, at http://www.breitbart.com/article.php?id=D98MAT380&show_article=1

¹⁶ "S. Korea braces for 3rd nuclear test by North Korea," *Associated Press*, June 12, 2009, at <http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5iURO8fOyWVOA0ytFlaAGuC9F7R9wD98P0IE80>

face of Pyongyang's heightened threats following its second nuclear test.¹⁷ The country's defence forces also reinforced their strength along the western sea border on account of the North threatening an armed provocation.¹⁸ The US Pacific Air Forces (PACAF) also pledged that they will provide South Korea with the "extended reach" of its F-22 stealth aircraft if required.¹⁹

In other developments, US Vice President Joe Biden has called for the enforcing of new UN penalties against North Korea while noting that "God only knows" what North Korean leader Kim Jong Il wanted from the latest showdown.²⁰

SOUTHEAST ASIA

- **Thai Prime Minister visits Malaysia and Cambodia; Suu Kyi's trial postponed by the military junta; MP's urge PM Singh to make efforts in securing the release of Suu Kyi; Dispute over South China Sea waters continues between China and Vietnam**

Thai Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva along with army commander-in-chief Anupong Paojinda visited Malaysia on June 8 and discussed wide range of topics with his Malaysian counterpart Najib Razak, including the need to tackle insurgency.²¹ Abhisit also went to Cambodia on June 12, his first visit to the country. During his meeting with his Cambodian counterpart Hun Sen, both leaders agreed to resolve their ongoing border dispute through peaceful means.²²

In Myanmar, the appeal hearing involving pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kwei was postponed by the authorities. Her main trial was due to be held on June 17. Suu Kyi is being tried for her alleged involvement in breaking the rules of house arrest when an American man was caught swimming to her lake side home in May.²³

Demands within India have also been growing for pressuring the Myanmar authorities to release Suu Kyi. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh for

¹⁷ "Lee says no compromise against North's threats," *Korea Herald*, June 6, 2009, at http://www.koreaherald.co.kr/NEWKHSITE/data/html_dir/2009/06/06/200906060055.asp

¹⁸ "S. Korea reinforces marines on islands near tense border with N. Korea" *Korea Herald*, June 12, 2009, at http://www.koreaherald.co.kr/NEWKHSITE/data/html_dir/2009/06/12/200906120085.asp

¹⁹ "U.S. pledges extend support for S. Korea with F-22s" *Korea Herald*, June 11, 2009, at http://www.koreaherald.co.kr/NEWKHSITE/data/html_dir/2009/06/11/200906110092.asp

²⁰ "Biden: Important to enforce N. Korean sanctions," *Associated Press*, June 14, 2009, at <http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5iwlhL35A2ztIHM3Sxt-k0qKVfuMgD98QH6680>

²¹ "Thai-Malaysia Cooperation Tightened," *Bangkok Post*, June 8, 2009, at <http://www.bangkokpost.com/breakingnews/145507/thai-malaysian-cooperation-tightened>

²² "Thailand, Cambodia leaders meet," *Bangkok Post*, June 12, 2009, at <http://www.bangkokpost.com/breakingnews/145955/thailand-cambodia-to-adhere-to-peaceful-means>

²³ "More Stalling in Suu Kyi trial," *Bangkok Post*, June 12, 2009, at <http://www.bangkokpost.com/breakingnews/145954/new-delays-in-burma-trial-of-aung-san-suu-kyi>

instance was asked by more than hundred Members of Parliament (MPs) to take up the issue with the military junta and restore democracy within the country.²⁴

In other developments, Vietnam has asked China not to prevent Vietnamese fishermen from fishing in waters of the South China Sea.²⁵ Beijing has however stated that it had 'indisputable' sovereignty over the South China Sea islands of Xisha and Nansha and that it was trying to protect maritime resources within its territorial waters.²⁶

C. WEST ASIA

IRAN

- **Landslide victory for Ahmadinejad but opposition alleges rigging and fraud; Iran-India sign consular agreements**

Incumbent President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad was declared the victor in the just-concluded Iranian presidential elections, securing over 62 per cent of the vote. The opposition parties however alleged fraud and irregularities in the electoral process. Supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei urged the nation to unite behind Ahmadinejad, calling the result a "divine assessment." Ahmadinejad's main challenger, Mir Hossein Mousavi, who secured over 33 per cent of the vote, however rejected the results as rigged and urged his supporters to resist a government of "lies and dictatorship." Over 85 percent of Iran's 46.2 million eligible voters exercised tier franchise.

The powerful Revolutionary Guards meanwhile stated that it would not tolerate any challenge by Mousavi's "green" movement.

Israeli deputy foreign minister Danny Ayalon stated that the re-election of Ahmadinejad demonstrated "the increasing Iranian threat." Former US President Jimmy Carter on his part stated that he expected no major change in Iran's policies.²⁷

In other developments, at the end of the fifth joint consular meeting between Iran and India, the two countries signed documents on enhancing bilateral consular cooperation and agreed on promote cultural ties.²⁸

²⁴ "Indian PM urged to secure Suu Ktyi's release," *Burma News International*, June 10, 2009, at <http://www.bnionline.net/news/mizzima/6452-indian-pm-urged-to-secure-suu-kyis-release.html>

²⁵ "Vietnam asks China not to hinder fishermen," *Nanyang 100.com*, June 8, 2009, at http://www.nanyang100.com/asia_pacific/6787.html

²⁶ "South China sea fishing ban 'indisputable': Foreign Ministry Spokesman," *Xinhuanet*, June 9, 2009, at http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-06/09/content_11513280.htm

²⁷ "Iran declares win for Ahmadinejad in disputed vote," *Khaleej Times*, June 13, 2009, at http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle08.asp?xfile=data/middleeast/2009/June/middleeast_June355.xml§ion=middleeast

²⁸ "India sign important consular document, Iran," *IRNA*, June 12, 2009, at <http://www.irna.ir/En/View/FullStory/?NewsId=540536&idLanguage=3>

II. DEFENCE REVIEW

NATIONAL

- **Indian Army to induct field network centric artillery weapons system**

Reports noted that under Project Sakhti, the Indian Army is set to acquire and induct network-centric warfare capabilities. Project Sakhti involves incorporation of three main electronic devices. These included an enhanced tactical computer, gun display unit and hand held computer. It is expected that network-centric warfare capabilities will give the Indian Army better coordination at multiple levels, ranging from corps level down to the battery or guns level and therefore, greater maneuverability in operation and command. The system is produced by the defence PSU Bharat Electronics Limited.²⁹

- **Russian to lease K-152 Nerpa nuclear submarine for ten years**

Reports noted that Russia would lease its Akula-class nuclear-powered attack submarine 'Nerpa' to the Indian Navy in the later part of 2009, for a period of 10 years. The submarine would be inducted under the name 'INS Chakra.' Financial problems had earlier forced a halt in the construction of the submarine which was resumed when India made advance payments under Gorshkov package recently. The total construction charges are expected to be around \$650 million and the annual lease charge of \$50 million would be paid to the Russian Navy.³⁰

INTERNATIONAL

- **IAI to showcase new products and systems at International Paris Air Show, June 2009**

Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) and its various divisions and subsidiaries, including ELTA Systems Ltd, TecSAR, MALAT Division, MBT Missiles Division, would display their advanced systems and products during the forthcoming International Paris Air Show on June 15-21 at Le Bourget, France. For the first time, the IAI would publicly display MBT Division's Harpo Loitering Munitions System. It will also display GRIFFIN-3 Next Generation Laser Guided Bomb (NGLGB) kit, LAHAT, a Network Centric Laser Guided Missile, the Barak-8 Air and Missile Defense (ADM) system.

ELTA System Ltd. would showcase Conformal Airborne Early Warning & Control System (CAEW) aircraft which features integrated radar, has ability to identify friend or foe (IFF), and has electronic Support Measures (EMS) and Integrated Self-Protection System (SPS).

IAI's MALAT Division will display the Heron, Naval Rotary UAV (NRUAV), Bird Eye 400 and Bird Eye 600 Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS). The MBT Space Division and by ELTA will present TecSAR (an advanced imaging

²⁹ "Indian Army to Field Network Centric Artillery Weapons System," June 9, 2009, at <http://www.india-defence.com/reports-4425>

³⁰ "India to Lease K-152 Nerpa Nuclear Submarine from Russia Later in 2009," June 10, 2009, at <http://www.india-defence.com/reports-4428>

satellite comprised of the OPSAT 2000 and the OPSAT 3000 high resolution observation satellites); and the TAMAM Division will present the Plug-In Optronic Payload (POP) family. These include POP300LR Observer, POP 300D Designator, Mini-POP, and Micro-POP, Multi-Mission Optronic Stabilized Payload- MOSP3000, and Navigation & Inertial Measuring Units (NIMU) for both land and aerial missions.³¹

- **DRS bags \$22 million US Army heavy ammunition trailers award**

DRS Technologies Inc. obtained an order worth \$22 million to produce 300 M989A1 Heavy Expanded Mobility Ammunition Trailers (HEMATs) for the US Army. The main function of the HEMAT is to transport Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRs) pods, conventional ammunition and other equipment on melted, secondary or cross-country roads. The system is known for its reliability, durability and versatility under extremely harsh military conditions.³²

- **BAE Systems bags the US armoured vehicles upgrade contract**

BAE systems bagged a contract worth \$19 million to upgrade Caiman Mine resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles from the US Marine Corps Systems Command. The upgraded version of the Caiman MRAP is expected to enhance the functionality and dependability of the Caiman's systems plus individual items. The work is expected to be completed by 2010 at Kuwait Refurbishment Facility.³³

- **SBAC Chief: UK aerospace industry in danger**

The chief executive of the Society of British Aerospace Companies (SBAC) has warned that if the A400M military transport aircraft programme is cancelled, it would seriously affect the aerospace sector of the UK.³⁴

III. ENERGY SECURITY REVIEW

- **ONGC Chairman: Company may have had losses amounting to Rs. 30 billion (\$630 million) during the last fiscal year**

ONGC Chairman R.S. Sharma stated that the company may have had losses amounting to Rs. 30 billion (\$630 million) during the last fiscal year. He added

³¹ "IAI Features New Products at the 2009 International Paris Air Show," June 10, 2009, at <http://www.india-defence.com/reports/4426>

³² "DRS Technologies Awarded USD 22 Million Contract For U.S. Army Heavy Ammunition Trailers," June 13, 2009, at <http://www.india-defence.com/reports/4429>

³³ "BAE Systems Wins USD 19 million Contract for United States Armoured Vehicles Upgrade," June 10, 2009, at <http://www.india-defence.com/reports-4427>

³⁴ "A400M cancellation would damage UK aerospace industry, warns SBAC chief," June 11, 2009, at http://www.janes.com/news/defence/jdi/jdi090611_1_n.shtml

that the company intended to borrow Rs. 270 billion in the next three to four years for projects like a chemical plant in Gujarat and a power plant in Tripura.³⁵

- **Myanmar firm keen to export 500MW power to Bangladesh**

Bangladesh Foreign Minister Dipu Moni stated that a Myanmar company, Shwe Taung Development Co. was interested in setting up a 500-mw hydroelectric plant in Rakhine state and export electricity to Bangladesh. Experts from the Bangladesh Ministry of Energy are expected to visit the Myanmar province to make a feasibility study on the prospects of electricity import. During her visit to Myanmar, ways to increase bilateral trade and commerce, including increased tourist links, were discussed. Currently, neither Bangladesh Biman nor any airline from Myanmar operates flights between Dhaka and Yangon.³⁶

- **Iran, Pakistan sign gas pipeline**

Pakistan and Iran have signed an agreement to activate a bilateral gas pipeline project, without India's participation, after 14 years of negotiations over what was initially framed as the Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) gas pipeline project. New Delhi withdrew from the talks last year over repeated disputes on prices, transit fees and security issues. Pakistan's Interstate Gas Company (PIGC) and the Iranian National Oil Company (INOC) signed the agreement on June 12 in Turkey, so that the agreement would be governed through a third country law. Under the gas sale purchase agreement, Iran would provide 750 million cubic feet of gas per day to Pakistan for the next 25 years, which would help generate 4000MW of electricity. The pipeline project, to begin from Gwadar, would be completed by 2013.³⁷

IV. INTERNAL SECURITY REVIEW

JAMMU AND KASHMIR

- **Omar Abdullah favours pre-1989 era troop levels in J&K; P Chidambaram: Talks with separatists at appropriate time; No Taliban in Kashmir**

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, in an interview to the London-based *Financial Times* stated that he favoured troop levels in the state to be reduced to numbers that existed prior to 1989. He however added that the

³⁵ "India's ONGC falls after forecasting gas losses of 30 billion," *Asia Energy*, June 12, 2009, at <http://asianenergy.blogspot.com/2009/06/indias-ongc-falls-after-forecasting-gas.html>

³⁶ "Myanmar firm keen to export 500 MW to Bangladesh," *Asia Energy*, June 11, 2009, at <http://asianenergy.blogspot.com/2009/06/myanmar-firm-keen-to-export-500mw-power.html>

³⁷ "Pakistan, Iran sign gas pipeline agreement," *Asia Energy*, June 14, 2009, at http://asianenergy.blogspot.com/2009_06_07_archive.html

central government cannot reduce troop levels due to the upswing in infiltration attempts.³⁸

Union Home Minister P. Chidambaram told reporters in Srinagar on June 12 that the central government would start a process of dialogue with stakeholders in the state at “an appropriate time.” On the issue of infiltration from across the LoC and IB, Mr. Chidambaram noted that militants were continuously trying to sneak in but the Army has been able to neutralize most of them over the past couple of months. On the possibility of revoking the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA), he stated that the issue will be looked into after discussions with the PM and the Defence Minister.³⁹ The Home Minister ruled out the presence of any Taliban militants in the state.⁴⁰

Earlier on June 11, the Home Minister stated that the central government would like the J and K Police to play the primary role in maintaining law and order in the state and that he would prefer to see paramilitary forces like CRPF play a secondary role.⁴¹

MAOIST INSURGENCY

- **20 policemen killed in Jharkhand in three days**

Two days after 10 policemen were killed in a landmine blast in West Singhbhum district, the CPI-Maoist cadres on June 12 launched two synchronised attacks in Jharkhand, killing 10 more policemen using landmines and bombs near Bokaro. In a separate attack, an anti-landmine vehicle carrying district police and special auxiliary police personnel from Nawadih police station was blown up by a powerful blast at Sarubera.⁴²

³⁸ “Omar Abdullah favours pre-1989 era troop levels in J&K,” *Daily Excelsior*, June 9, 2009, at <http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/web1/09june09/newsupdate.htm#1>

³⁹ “Talks with separatists at appropriate time: PC,” *Daily Excelsior*, June 13, 2009, at <http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/web1/09june13/news.htm#1>

⁴⁰ “No Taliban in Kashmir, infiltration from PoK going on; Chidambaram,” *Daily Excelsior*, June 12, 2009, at <http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/web1/09june12/newsupdate.htm#3>

⁴¹ “Police to get primary role in law and order: PC,” *Daily Excelsior*, June 12, 2009, at <http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/web1/09june12/news.htm#1>

⁴² “Jharkhand: Naxal attacks kill 20 policemen in three days,” *Indian Express*, June 13, 2009, at <http://www.indianexpress.com/news/jharkhand-naxal-attacks-kill-20-policemen-in-three-days/475555/>