

# THE WEEK IN REVIEW

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## 1. COUNTRY REVIEW

### A. SOUTH ASIA

#### AFGHANISTAN

- **Obama orders probe into alleged massacre of Taliban at Dasht-i-Leili; Obama: Bringing stability to Afghanistan is a global responsibility; UNSC calls for free, fair and credible polls; Karzai in favour of negotiations with the Taliban; Maximum number of coalition casualties in July; Taliban releases video of captured US soldier**

US President Barack Obama ordered a probe into allegations of mass murder of Taliban fighters by US-backed forces in Afghanistan in November 2001. The issue was highlighted by Physicians for Human Rights (PHR), who welcomed Mr. Obama's decision. According to the PHR, as many as 2,000 surrendered Taliban fighters were reportedly suffocated in container trucks by Afghan forces operating jointly with the US in November 2001 and their bodies buried in mass graves in the Dasht-i-Leili desert near Shiberghan.<sup>1</sup>

After meeting with the Dutch Prime Minister on July 14, Obama stated that bringing stability to Afghanistan was the responsibility of the entire global fraternity and not of the United States alone.<sup>2</sup>

The UN Security Council on July 15 urged that the forthcoming poll in Afghanistan should be free, fair and credible. The UNSC statement was read by its current president, Ambassador Ruhakana Rugunda of Uganda.<sup>3</sup>

President Karzai meanwhile stated that the deployment of greater numbers of foreign troops was not an ideal solution to deal with the extremists. He called for the development of a new strategy for defeating the Taliban, including possible talks with its leader Mullah Omar.<sup>4</sup>

Casualty figures of coalition forces rose sharply in the month of July. Since July 1, at least 48 coalition troops, including 24 Americans, have been killed. 46 soldiers lost their lives in the previous month as well as in August 2008, the deadliest months for coalition forces till now.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> "Obama for probe into Taliban massacre," *Pajhwok Afghan News*, July 13, 2009, at <http://www.pajhwok.com/viewstory.asp?lng=eng&id=77762>

<sup>2</sup> "Stabilising Afghanistan is a global responsibility: Obama," July 14, 2009, at <http://www.pajhwok.com/viewstory.asp?lng=eng&id=77911>

<sup>3</sup> "UNSC calls for transparent polls," *Pajhwok Afghan News*, July 16, 2009, at <http://www.pajhwok.com/viewstory.asp?lng=eng&id=77990>

<sup>4</sup> "Karzai seeks negotiations with Taliban," *Indian Express*, July 19, 2009, at <http://www.indianexpress.com/news/Karzai-seeks-negotiations-with-Taliban/491338>

<sup>5</sup> "Deadliest Month Yet in Afghanistan Claims Lives of Three Area Marines," *The Washington Post*, July 18, 2009, at [http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/07/17/AR2009071703379\\_pf.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/07/17/AR2009071703379_pf.html)

In other developments, the Taliban released video of a captured US soldier. The soldier was reportedly captured on July 2, the first such instance of a US soldier being captured in Iraq or Afghanistan in more than 2 years.<sup>6</sup>

## PAKISTAN

- **PM Gilani: 1973 Constitution would be restored to its true spirit; 13 militants killed in fresh clashes in Swat; Clinton: Pakistan has emerged as home to a "syndicate of terrorism"; US sets conditions for talks with Taliban; Nawaz Sharif acquitted by Supreme Court of hijacking charges; UNHCR official shot dead in Pakistan**

Pakistan PM Yousuf Gilani, speaking at the convocation of the International Islamic University on July 12, stated his determination to change the present "hotch-potch" system of government, which according to him was neither presidential nor parliamentary. Asserting that the 1973 Constitution would be restored to its true spirit, he favoured a truly federal parliamentary system.<sup>7</sup>

Security forces on July 15 killed 13 militants in fresh clashes at Kabal town in Swat. The town is reportedly being seen as a likely hideout for Taliban leadership. The Pakistan Army on its part claimed that more than 1,700 militants have been killed in the two months offensive in the Swat region while about 160 security personnel lost their lives.<sup>8</sup>

In a major foreign policy speech at the Council on Foreign Relations in Washington on July 15, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton stated that the US was willing to engage those Taliban fighters who had given up violence. She also acknowledged Pakistan's key position in bringing peace to Afghanistan.<sup>9</sup>

Secretary Clinton, currently on a five-day visit to India stated that the US was keeping a close watch on the actions being taken by Pakistan against terrorists. She added that Pakistan had emerged as home to a "syndicate of terrorism" involving the al-Qaeda, Taliban and many other terror organisations "... connected in a way that is deeply troubling to us, and I know to India." Clinton also expressed the hope that the perpetrators of Mumbai attacks would meet their "day of reckoning" soon.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> "Taliban release video of captured US soldier," *The Telegraph*, July 19, 2009, at <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/northamerica/usa/5861163/Taliban-release-video-of-captured-US-soldier.html>

<sup>7</sup> "Parliamentary system to be restored: Gilani," *Dawn*, July 13, 2009, at <http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/dawn-content-library/dawn/the-newspaper/front-page/parliamentary-system-to-be-restored-gilani-379>

<sup>8</sup> "13 militants die in fresh Swat clashes," *Dawn*, July 16, 2009, at <http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/dawn-content-library/dawn/the-newspaper/front-page/13-militants-die-in-fresh-swat-clashes-679>

<sup>9</sup> "US sets terms for talks with Taliban," *Dawn*, July 16, 2009, at <http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/dawn-content-library/dawn/the-newspaper/front-page/us-sets-terms-for-talks-with-taliban-679>

<sup>10</sup> "Pak home to syndicate of terror: Hillary," *The Times of India*, July 20, 2009, at <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/NEWS-India-Pak-home-to-syndicate-of-terror-Hillary/articleshow/4796642.cms>

In domestic developments, the Pakistan Supreme Court on July 17 acquitted former PM Nawaz Sharif of hijacking charges, effectively removing the last legal hurdle for him to run for public office. Sharif was earlier convicted of hijacking charges in 2000 and went into exile in Saudi Arabia.<sup>11</sup>

In other developments, UN chief Ban Ki-moon condemned the killing of a UNHCR official and his bodyguard in the northwestern city of Peshawar on July 16.<sup>12</sup>

## BHUTAN

- **Draft Economic Development Policy released; Micro-finance organizations being strengthened in order to help in alleviation of poverty; Senior BJP MP Jaswant Singh calls for establishment of separate state of Gorkhaland**

Bhutan released its draft Economic Development Policy (EDP) which provides for exemptions on excise duty, sales tax, customs duty and money borrowed from outside sources. The policy identifies services, agriculture, energy, cultural industry, construction, transportation and manufacture as growth areas which require urgent priority. Other thrust areas identified include giving impetus to the private sector and encouraging public-private sector partnerships.<sup>13</sup>

The policy is expected to be operational by August 2009. The Royal Monetary Authority on its part has expressed its disagreement with certain aspects of the draft policy. It told the Ministry of Economic Affairs (MoEA) that raising funds from outside the country could jeopardize the domestic economy in the long run.<sup>14</sup>

Reports noted that the country was also resorting to micro-finance organizations like the Bhutan Development Financial Corporation (BDFC) in order to alleviate poverty in its most backward districts. The BDFC is acting as a supervisory and monitoring body to oversee the proper utilization of loans.<sup>15</sup>

In other developments, Darjeeling MP and senior BJP leader Jaswant Singh has called for the creation of a separate state of Gorkhaland. He added that the demand of the people of the region should be realized, given the strategic

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<sup>11</sup> "Court Acquits Ex-Premier Before Vote in Pakistan," *The New York Times*, July 17, 2009, at <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/07/18/world/asia/18pstan.html?scp=6&sq=pakistan&st=cse>

<sup>12</sup> "Ban Ki-moon condemns killing of UN staffer in Pakistan," *The Times of India*, July 17, 2009, at <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/NEWS-World-US-Ban-Ki-moon-condemns-killing-of-UN-staffer-in-Pakistan/articleshow/4787885.cms>

<sup>13</sup> "Draft Economic Policy," *The Kuensel*, July 15, 2009, at <http://www.kuenselonline.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=12979>

<sup>14</sup> "Borrowing from abroad," *The Kuensel*, July 17, 2009, at <http://www.kuenselonline.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=13000>

<sup>15</sup> "Micro-financing to alleviate poverty," *The Kuensel*, July 16, 2009, at <http://www.kuenselonline.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=12984>

importance of the region which shares international boundaries with Bangladesh, Bhutan, Tibet and Nepal.<sup>16</sup>

#### SRI LANKA

- **Fonseka promoted as CDS; Rajapakse calls for the establishment of an Emergency Financing Facility; PM Singh and Rajapakse discuss issues of mutual interest at NAM Summit; Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) of Sri Lanka signs MoU with FIUs of Philippines and Nepal**

Gen. Sarath Fonseka was promoted as the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) and Admiral Karannagoda appointed as the National Security Advisor, in recognition of their services in the fight against terrorism.<sup>17</sup>

At the NAM Summit in Egypt, Foreign Minister Rohitha Bogollagama urged participating countries to help reform international financial institutions and called for policies that focus on the needs of developing countries. He also stated that the issue of Palestinians should be dealt with "flexibility and maturity."<sup>18</sup>

The Malaysian Foreign Minister also assured Mr. Bogollagama in a meeting at the sidelines of the summit that his country would take steps to prevent LTTE elements from operating in the region.<sup>19</sup>

President Rajapakse at the summit proposed that NAM should provide a leadership role in establishing an Emergency Financing Facility which could be accessed in times of emergency.<sup>20</sup> He also met with PM Dr. Singh on the sidelines of the summit. Reports noted that PM Singh expressed his confidence in the abilities of the Rajapakse government to deal with the post-conflict environment in the country. The two leaders discussed issues of mutual interest, including the status of the IDP's in the North, proposals for devolution of power and a political solution in Sri Lanka, the issue of fishermen in the waters north of Sri Lanka, the current developments in the North and the East, and aspects relating to continued cooperation between the two countries.<sup>21</sup>

In other developments, the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) of Sri Lanka signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with the FIUs of Philippines and Nepal during the Annual Meeting of the Asia Pacific Group on Money Laundering, held during the week. The agreement focuses on sharing financial

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<sup>16</sup> "Form Gorkhaland to give rights to locals: Jaswant," *Press Trust of India*, July 16, 2009, at [http://www.ptinews.com/news/177017\\_Form-Gorkhaland-to-give-rights-to-locals--Jaswant](http://www.ptinews.com/news/177017_Form-Gorkhaland-to-give-rights-to-locals--Jaswant)

<sup>17</sup> "General Sarath Fonseka - Chief of Defence Staff," *Daily News*, July 20, 2009, at [http://www.dailynews.lk/2009/07/20/main\\_News.asp](http://www.dailynews.lk/2009/07/20/main_News.asp)

<sup>18</sup> "Reform of IFIs necessary," *Daily News*, July 14, 2009, at <http://www.dailynews.lk/2009/07/14/news03.asp>

<sup>19</sup> "Malaysia to tackle LTTE remnants," *Daily News*, July 20, 2009, at [http://www.dailynews.lk/2009/07/20/main\\_News.asp](http://www.dailynews.lk/2009/07/20/main_News.asp)

<sup>20</sup> "Sri Lanka looks to future with hope and enthusiasm," *Daily News*, July 16, 2009, at <http://www.dailynews.lk/2009/07/16/pol01.asp>

<sup>21</sup> "President can win peace - Indian PM," *Daily News*, July 18, 2009, at <http://www.dailynews.lk/2009/07/18/news01.asp>

information to facilitate the investigation and prosecution of persons suspected of engaging in activities like money laundering and terrorist financing.<sup>22</sup>

## MALDIVES

- **President Nasheed: Judiciary will remain an independent institution; Vice-President Waheed expresses support for policies of Rajapakse government in rooting out terrorism**

President Nasheed stated that the judiciary will remain an independent institution and that no interference in its activities would be tolerated. He added that the police could not investigate judges for reasons of violation of ethical standards but that the Judicial Service Commission would be responsible for holding the judges accountable.<sup>23</sup>

Vice President Dr. Mohamed Waheed meanwhile expressed gratitude towards Sri Lankan nationals working in the country. He also supported the efforts of the Rajapakse government in rooting out terrorism.<sup>24</sup>

## B. EAST AND SOUTHEAST ASIA

### CHINA

- **China and Russia conduct joint military exercises 'Peace Mission 2009'; China sends its third flotilla to the Gulf of Eden; Pak Defence Minister visits Beijing; China and Japan vow to enhance mutual defence cooperation; PLAAF recruitment finishes**

Chinese and Russian armed forces conducted joint military exercises 'Peace Mission 2009' involving 1,300 soldiers each. The exercise was intended to strengthen military cooperation as well as Sino-Russian strategic partnership. Over thirty fighter jets and one hundred tanks and armoured vehicles took part in the exercise.<sup>25</sup> Reports meanwhile stated that a PLA fighter bomber had crashed during the course of the exercises on July 19. The fate of two pilots was not known.<sup>26</sup>

Reports noted that China sent its third flotilla to the Gulf of Aden and waters off the Somali coast to escort merchant vessels and provide them security

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<sup>22</sup> "FIU of Sri Lanka sign MoUs with Philippines and Nepal," *Daily News*, July 18, 2009, at <http://www.dailynews.lk/2009/07/18/news02.asp>

<sup>23</sup> "Government will always take measures towards achieving an independent judiciary as stipulated in Constitution, says President Nasheed," *The President's Office*, July 16, 2009, at <http://www.presidencymaldives.gov.mv/4/?ref=1,5,1426>

<sup>24</sup> "Vice President thanks the Sri Lankan employees in the Maldives for their productive contribution to the Maldivian economy," *The President's Office*, July 17, 2009, at <http://www.presidencymaldives.gov.mv/4/?ref=1,5,1430>

<sup>25</sup> "China and Russia Conduct Joint Military Exercises," *China Daily*, July 20, 2009, at [http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/peacemission2009/2009-07/20/content\\_8449401.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/peacemission2009/2009-07/20/content_8449401.htm)

<sup>26</sup> "China's Fighter Bomber Crashes during China-Russia Joint Military Drill," *People's Daily*, July 20, 2009, at <http://english.people.com.cn/90001/90776/90786/6704486.html>

from the pirates operating in these waters. These included two frigates and a supply ship with East China Sea Fleet (ECSF) of the PLAN.<sup>27</sup>

Pakistan Defense Minister Chaudhary Ahmed Mukhtar visited Beijing during the week and met with Chinese Defense Minister Liang Guanglie. Liang appreciated Pakistan's firm support on issues like Taiwan, Tibet and human rights. Mukhtar on his part acknowledged that Pakistan was grateful for China's assistance in a variety of fields.<sup>28</sup>

The Chinese Defense Minister Liang Guanglie met with the visiting Chief of Staff of Maritime Self-Defense Force (MSDF) of Japan Keiji Akahoshi. Both sides vowed to enhance bilateral defense cooperation. Liang on his part, pointing out the 'effective mutual cooperation in fighting financial crisis,' maintained that both the countries were enjoying mutually beneficial strategic relations.<sup>29</sup>

In other developments, the process of recruitment to the PLAAF was completed on July 12 with 1,166 college and high school students from 30 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities recruited as flight cadets.<sup>30</sup> Other reports also noted that the PLA will impart intensive training to more than 10,000 National Defence Students (NDS) in the current year to "prepare the foundation for their all-round development."<sup>31</sup> The PLA was also planning to introduce significant reforms in the process of recruiting non-commissioned officers (NCOs).<sup>32</sup>

## SOUTHEAST ASIA

- **Jakarta rocked by two bomb blasts; Bomb blast in southern Thailand kills 2 soldiers; UN Secretary General urges ASEAN states to play a significant role in the democratization process of Myanmar; US Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defence Robert Scher states that his country's military activity in the South China Sea was "routine and in accordance with customary international law"**

Jakarta was rocked by at least two bomb explosions at the luxurious Ritz Carlton and the JW Marriot hotels on July 17.<sup>33</sup> Reports noted that nine people were killed and more than fifty people were wounded. Indonesian police on July 19

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<sup>27</sup> "China Sends Third Naval Flotilla for Escort Mission in Waters off Somali," *PLA Daily*, July 17, 2009, at [http://english.chinamil.com.cn/site2/news-channels/2009-07/17/content\\_1839381.htm](http://english.chinamil.com.cn/site2/news-channels/2009-07/17/content_1839381.htm)

<sup>28</sup> "China, Pakistan Eye Closer Military Ties," *PLA Daily*, July 17, 2009, at [http://english.pladaily.com.cn/site2/news-channels/2009-07/17/content\\_1839379.htm](http://english.pladaily.com.cn/site2/news-channels/2009-07/17/content_1839379.htm)

<sup>29</sup> "Chinese Defense Minister Meets Japanese MSDF Chief," *PLA Daily*, July 15, 2009, at [http://english.pladaily.com.cn/site2/news-channels/2009-07/15/content\\_1836933.htm](http://english.pladaily.com.cn/site2/news-channels/2009-07/15/content_1836933.htm)

<sup>30</sup> "1,166 Students Become Flight Cadets," *PLA Daily*, July 13, 2009, at [http://english.pladaily.com.cn/site2/news-channels/2009-07/13/content\\_1834698.htm](http://english.pladaily.com.cn/site2/news-channels/2009-07/13/content_1834698.htm)

<sup>31</sup> "10,000 NDS to Receive Intensive Training during Summer Vacation," *PLA Daily*, July 14, 2009, at [http://english.pladaily.com.cn/site2/news-channels/2009-07/14/content\\_1836358.htm](http://english.pladaily.com.cn/site2/news-channels/2009-07/14/content_1836358.htm)

<sup>32</sup> "China Reveals Plan to Restructure PLA's Non-commissioned Ranks," *PLA Daily*, July 15, 2009, at [http://english.pladaily.com.cn/site2/news-channels/2009-07/15/content\\_1836932.htm](http://english.pladaily.com.cn/site2/news-channels/2009-07/15/content_1836932.htm)

<sup>33</sup> "Explosions at luxury Jakarta Hotles," *Bangkok Post*, July 17, 2009, at <http://www.bangkokpost.com/breakingnews/149232/explosions-near-jakarta-hotels-indonesian-radio>

confirmed that the regional terrorist outfit Jemmah Islamiyah (JI) was responsible for carrying out the attacks.<sup>34</sup>

In Yala province of Thailand, a bomb explosion near Yaha police station on July 17 killed two soldiers and wounded four others. Southern insurgents were alleged to have been involved in the incident.<sup>35</sup>

During a meeting on the sidelines of the 15<sup>th</sup> NAM Summit in Egypt, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon urged Malaysia and other ASEAN states to play a significant role in the democratization process of Myanmar.<sup>36</sup> Malaysian PM Najib Razak meanwhile proposed a series of steps in order to deal with NAM's growing ineffectiveness.<sup>37</sup>

Reports noted that Saudi Arabia was interested in increasing its participation in the Islamic banking sector of Malaysia and in the development of other manufacturing sectors on account of Malaysia's recent economic liberalization measures.<sup>38</sup>

Malaysian Defence Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, on a visit to Lebanon, stated that the sale of military assets to Lebanon would not pose any threat to any country as these were non-offensive in nature.<sup>39</sup>

In other developments, US Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defence Robert Scher stated that his country's military activity in the South China Sea was "routine and in accordance with customary international law." He added that the US interest was to "preserve security and stability throughout the western Pacific."<sup>40</sup>

## C. WEST ASIA

### IRAN

- **Iran airliner crashes, 168 dead; Atomic chief Aghazadeh resigns; Rafsanjani: Iran in Crisis; Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Ahani: Regional approaches essential to solve regional problems**

An Iranian passenger plane crashed on July 15 in northwestern Iran, about 20 kms from the city of Qazvin, 15 minutes after takeoff from Tehran's Imam Khomeini Airport. All the 15 crew members and 153 passengers lost their lives in

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<sup>34</sup> Police blame JI for Jakarta attacks," *Bangkok Post*, July 19, 2009, at <http://www.bangkokpost.com/breakingnews/149467/jemaah-islamiyah-behind-jakarta-blasts-police>

<sup>35</sup> "Two soldiers killed by Yala bomb," *Bangkok Post*, July 17, 2009, at <http://www.bangkokpost.com/breakingnews/149270/two-soldiers-killed-in-yala-bomb>

<sup>36</sup> "UN asks Malaysia to play role in Myanmar's Democratization," *Bernama.com*, July 16, 2009, at [http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v5/news\\_lite.php?id=425838](http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v5/news_lite.php?id=425838)

<sup>37</sup> "Najib speaks of his hopes for NAM," *Bernama.com*, July 15, 2009, at [http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v5/news\\_lite.php?id=425579](http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v5/news_lite.php?id=425579)

<sup>38</sup> "Saudi Arabia to step up Economic Cooperation with Malaysia: Najib," *Bernama.com*, July 19, 2009, at [http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v5/news\\_lite.php?id=426468](http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v5/news_lite.php?id=426468)

<sup>39</sup> "Lebanon ready to buy Military equipments from Malaysia," *Bernama.com*, July 17, 2009, at [http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v5/news\\_lite.php?id=426309](http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v5/news_lite.php?id=426309)

<sup>40</sup> "US reaffirms its rights to operate in South China Sea," *Voice of America News*, July 16, 2009, at <http://www.voanews.com/english/2009-07-16-voa4.cfm>

the accident. The Russian-made Tupolev Caspian Airlines Flight 7908 was en route to Yerevan, the Armenian capital.<sup>41</sup>

Gholam Reza Aghazadeh resigned as head of Iran's atomic energy agency. No reason was however given for the decision. It was reported that Mr. Aghazadeh was considered close to opposition leader Mir Hossein Mousavi, who has till now not recognized the election results. His resignation came ahead of changes expected to be made in Ahmadinejad's next government.<sup>42</sup>

Former president and senior cleric Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani stated that the country was in a crisis after the disputed June 12 election results, even as thousands of protesters demonstrated on the occasion of the Friday prayers. Reports pointed out that no other senior figure has described the post-election scenario in such terms. Security forces used tear gas and force to disperse supporters of defeated candidate Mousavi. Rafsanjani's remarks meanwhile elicited criticism from some other senior clerics who accused him of backing the "law-breakers" and of creating rifts in the Islamic Republic.<sup>43</sup>

In other developments, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Ahani, after a meeting with Indian analysts in Tehran described the countries as two emerging powers which enjoy age-old relations. He added that regional approaches were essential to solve problems facing the region and that earlier unilateral approaches have failed. The Iranian official also urged New Delhi and Tehran to work towards creating regional security structures to prevent outside powers from interfering in the region.<sup>44</sup>

## IRAQ

- **Six killed in car bombing attack in Ramadi; Three US soldiers killed in insurgent attack**

Six people, including two traffic policemen, were killed in a car bombing targeting a police checkpoint in the western Iraqi city of Ramadi. Ramadi, the capital of the western province of Anbar, has earlier witnessed a raging Sunni insurgency which reduced sharply after local tribes allied with US-led forces. Violence has however increased after the US military started pulling out of urban

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<sup>41</sup> "168 die in Iran plane crash," *Tehran Times*, July 16, 2009, at [http://www.tehrantimes.com/index\\_View.asp?code=198944](http://www.tehrantimes.com/index_View.asp?code=198944)

<sup>42</sup> "Iran atomic chief Aghazadeh resigns," *Khaleej Times*, July 17, 2009, at [http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle08.asp?xfile=data/middleeast/2009/July/middleeast\\_July360.xml&section=middleeast](http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle08.asp?xfile=data/middleeast/2009/July/middleeast_July360.xml&section=middleeast)

<sup>43</sup> "Iran in crisis after election: Rafsanjani," *Khaleej Times*, July 17, 2009, at [http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle08.asp?xfile=data/middleeast/2009/July/middleeast\\_July378.xml&section=middleeast](http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle08.asp?xfile=data/middleeast/2009/July/middleeast_July378.xml&section=middleeast)

<sup>44</sup> "Deputy FM: Iran, India Able to Establish Useful Regional Structure," *Ministry of Foreign Affairs*, July 12, 2009, at <http://www.mfa.gov.ir/cms/cms/Tehran/en/NEW/224885.html>

areas. 437 Iraqis for instance were killed in June, the highest death toll in nearly a year.<sup>45</sup>

In other developments, three American soldiers were also killed after insurgents fired mortar rounds into a US military base in southern Iraq, in an area that was largely free of the violence.<sup>46</sup>

## II. MISSILES, SPACE, DEFENCE, AND NUCLEAR REVIEW

### MISSILES AND SPACE

#### ▪ **Critical sensor on board India's moon craft fails**

ISRO Chief G. Madhavan Nair told reporters that a vital sensor on board India's first unmanned moon mission, Chandrayaan-I, had failed. He however added that the mission had collected the required data and that it was not completely disabled.<sup>47</sup> The Chandrayaan mission was originally designed to last two years, but due to the failure of the 'star' sensor, it is expected to terminate before that time period.

### DEFENCE

#### NATIONAL

#### ▪ **CAG questions Indian Army's ammunition deal**

The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India in a report tabled in the parliament on July 10 criticised some of the procurements programmes of the Ministry of Defence. The CAG pointed out that the contract to acquire laser-guided 155 mm Krasnopol-M rounds worth INR 3.75 million (\$77 million) from Russia was done without necessary evaluation.

The report also criticized the decision to induct 40 advanced light helicopters (ALH) worth INR17.47 billion into the Army Aviation Corps.<sup>48</sup>

#### INTERNATIONAL

#### ▪ **US defence companies to double their market share in Europe**

Reports noted that US-owned companies are taking steps to double their share of European arms market, by the sale of items like airborne radars, radio-frequency electronic warfare (RFEW) and electro-optic infrared (EOIR) equipment. Currently, the share of US companies in European market was about 20 per cent and by 2016, it is expected to increase to nearly 40 per cent. The market for

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<sup>45</sup> "Six killed in Iraq car bombing," *Khaleej Times*, July 15, 2009, at [http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle08.asp?xfile=data/middleeast/2009/July/middleeast\\_July324.xml&section=middleeast](http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle08.asp?xfile=data/middleeast/2009/July/middleeast_July324.xml&section=middleeast)

<sup>46</sup> Timothy Williams, "3 U.S. Soldiers Killed in Southern Iraq," *New York Times*, July 18, 2009, at [http://www.nytimes.com/2009/07/18/world/middleeast/18iraq.html?\\_r=1&hp=&pagewanted=print](http://www.nytimes.com/2009/07/18/world/middleeast/18iraq.html?_r=1&hp=&pagewanted=print)

<sup>47</sup> "Snag in Chandrayaan-I, mission may end prematurely," *Express India*, July 17, 2009, at <http://www.expressindia.com/latest-news/Snag-in-ChandrayaanI-mission-may-end-prematurely/490638/>

<sup>48</sup> "Report castigates major Indian procurement programmes," July 15, 2009, at [http://www.janes.com/news/defence/jdw/jdw090715\\_1\\_n.shtml](http://www.janes.com/news/defence/jdw/jdw090715_1_n.shtml)

equipment like the airborne radar, RFEW and EOIR, currently worth \$3.5 billion per annum, was expected to increase to \$3.8 billion by 2016.<sup>49</sup>

- **F-35 Lightning II programme by 2009-2010**

Under the F-35 Lightning II programme, advance versions of the F-35 aircraft are expected to be produced for the US Air Force (the F-35A conventional version); for US Marines and the British Navy (the F-35B Short Take-Off, Vertical Landing version); and for the US Navy (the F-35C conventional carrier-launched version). The programme is named after Lockheed's World War II - era P-38 Lightning aircraft.

Countries which have expressed an interest in partnering the programme include Britain (Tier 1 country), Italy and the Netherlands (Tier 2), and Australia, Canada, Denmark, Norway and Turkey (Tier 3 countries). Countries like Singapore and Israel will also be a part of the programme under the category of 'Security Cooperation Partners.' The cost of the F-35 programme is estimated to be around \$300 billion.<sup>50</sup>

## NUCLEAR REVIEW

- **North Korea to receive new denuclearization offer**

Reports noted that Washington and its allies were finalizing a 'comprehensive' set of incentives that North Korea could receive for making 'irreversible' moves on dismantling its nuclear program. The new offer was confirmed by Kurt Campbell, Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs at the US Embassy in Seoul. Campbell stated that the US was following a "two-track strategy" while dealing with Pyongyang. He added that the US was prepared to sit down with North Korea, "under the right circumstances" and provided it would abandon its nuclear ambitions.<sup>51</sup>

- **US equipping Pakistani ports with radiation sensors**

Reports noted that the US was equipping Pakistani ports with radiation sensors to prevent nuclear and radiological-weapon material from being transported into or out of the country. Observers have expressed concern in recent months over the security of Pakistan's nuclear arsenal in light of increased extremist activity in the country.<sup>52</sup>

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<sup>49</sup> "Industry Briefing: US to double share of European mission-systems market," July 17, 2009, at [http://www.janes.com/news/defence/jdi/jdi090717\\_1\\_n.shtml](http://www.janes.com/news/defence/jdi/jdi090717_1_n.shtml)

<sup>50</sup> "F-35 Joint Strike Fighter: 2009-2010," July 16, 2009 at <http://www.defenseindustrydaily.com/F-35-Joint-Strike-Fighter-Events-Contracts-2009-2010-updated-05126>

<sup>51</sup> "North Korea to Receive New Denuclearization Offer," July 20, 2009, at [http://gsn.nti.org/gsn/nw\\_20090720\\_6597.php](http://gsn.nti.org/gsn/nw_20090720_6597.php)

<sup>52</sup> "U.S. Equipping Pakistani Ports with Radiation Sensors," July 20, 2009, at [http://gsn.nti.org/gsn/nw\\_20090720\\_4981.php](http://gsn.nti.org/gsn/nw_20090720_4981.php)

### III. INTERNAL SECURITY REVIEW

#### JAMMU AND KASHMIR

- **BSF: Pak raising bunkers close to IB**

Special DG of BSF, U.K. Bansal told reporters at Udhampur on July 14 that Pakistan was constructing a large number of bunkers and observations posts closer to the International Border (IB) in the aftermath of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks "taking advantage of the cease-fire agreement and the situation prevailing along the borders." He added that there has been a decline in infiltration along the IB in Jammu sector due to fencing and increased vigil on the part of the security forces. Mr. Bansal however pointed out that the terror infrastructure and training camps were still intact on the other side of the border.<sup>53</sup>

#### MAOIST INSURGENCY

- **Chidambaram: Two-pronged approach to tackle Naxalite problem**

Union Home Minister P. Chidambaram told the Rajya Sabha during Question Hour on July 15 that the services of a military adviser had been enlisted to draw up a joint action plan (by States) to deal with the naxalite problem. He told the members that the government would pursue a two-pronged approach to deal with the menace: police action to secure the ground followed by developmental work. He also admitted that the Ministry had underestimated the problem of left-wing extremism and that the naxalites had extended their area of influence.<sup>54</sup>

#### NORTHEAST DEVELOPMENTS

- **Army colonel killed in Assam; BSF Chief: List of terror training camps and suspects handed over to BDR; PULF (Azad) militants arrested**

An Army colonel and his driver were killed when suspected Bodo militants blew up the vehicle in which they were traveling in Assam's Sonitpur district on July 13. The site of the blast was about 55 kms away from Tezpur, the headquarters of the Army's 4 Corps. The vehicles were on their way to Tenga, the headquarters of 5 Mountain Division in Arunachal Pradesh.<sup>55</sup> The incident occurred even as there was renewed apprehension of strikes by the National Democratic Front of Boroland (NDFB) to avenge the recent killings of its cadres.

The Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) on its part has admitted to the presence of training camps of several anti-India terror outfits on its territory. This was revealed by BSF DG M.L. Kumawat after the conclusion of BSF-BDR talks in Dhaka. The BSF DG told reporters that he had handed over to the BDR "a list of 97 such camps functioning currently in Bangladesh. It has assured us a

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<sup>53</sup> "Pak raises bunkers close to IB: DG BSF", *Daily Excelsior*, July 15, 2009, at <http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/web1/09july15/news.htm#3>

<sup>54</sup> "Two-pronged approach to tackle naxalism", *Hindu*, July 16, 2009, at <http://www.hindu.com/2009/07/16/stories/2009071658140100.htm>

<sup>55</sup> "Blast by Bodo rebels kills colonel", *Telegraph*, July 14, 2009, at [http://telegraphindia.com/1090714/jsp/frontpage/story\\_11233556.jsp](http://telegraphindia.com/1090714/jsp/frontpage/story_11233556.jsp)

crackdown on these camps whenever information will be available with them.” Apart from these 97 locations, a list of 77 persons wanted by India for anti-national terror activities was also handed over. These included Paresh Baruah and Anup Chetia of the ULFA, and Jibon Singh of the Kamtapur Liberation Organisation (KLO).<sup>56</sup>

In other developments, anti-terror personnel of the Mobile Task Force apprehended seven Manipur-based Peoples United Liberation Front (PULF-Azad) militants, including the outfit’s chief Asikur alias Abdur Rahaman, from Nagerjala in Agartala on July 17. The police stated that the militants admitted during interrogation that they had gone to Bangladesh in March 2009 and had crossed over to Tripura en route to Manipur.<sup>57</sup>

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<sup>56</sup> “List of terror camps given to BDR: BSF chief”, *Hindu*, July 15, 2009, at <http://www.hindu.com/2009/07/15/stories/2009071553461100.htm>

<sup>57</sup> “Manipur outfit chief in net”, *Telegraph*, July 19, 2009, at [http://telegraphindia.com/1090719/jsp/northeast/story\\_11253328.jsp](http://telegraphindia.com/1090719/jsp/northeast/story_11253328.jsp)