

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

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1. COUNTRY REVIEW

A. SOUTH ASIA

AFGHANISTAN

- **Nearly 50 per cent turnout in Afghan elections; 26 killed in election-related violence; Obama, NATO Secretary General among others congratulate the Afghan authorities and people; Opposition candidates charge that electoral malpractices have taken place; Obama: Afghan war is a “a war of necessity”**

Reports noted that 40-50 percent of the country's 15 million registered voters cast their votes in the Afghan presidential elections on August 20. The voter turnout was however far lower than the 70 percent registered during the 2004 elections. Despite concerns over security and other difficulties, over 95 per cent of the voting centres were open to the public. At least 26 people lost their lives in elections-related violence.¹

President Obama congratulated the Afghan authorities and voters for their active participation in the electoral process. Obama stated that the election was an "important step forward" for the Afghan people, after decades of violence and instability.² The UN Security Council, expressing satisfaction at the process, also criticized "the actions of those who sought to deny the voice of the Afghan people." NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen on his part acknowledged the role played by the Afghan security forces.³

Reports of fraud and irregularities in the electoral process also surfaced. Presidential candidate Dr. Abdullah Abdullah alleged “brazen” irregularities and warned that the “glaring violations” could affect the verdict.⁴ Candidates also warned of ballot-box stuffing, lack of impartiality among election workers and instances of voters casting ballots for others.⁵

Meanwhile, President Obama on August 17, addressing a gathering of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, defended the decision to increase American troop presence in Afghanistan. Stating the US was involved in “a war of necessity”, he warned that the al-Qaeda was still plotting to attack the US.⁶

¹ “Low turnout seen in Afghan election; 26 killed,” *Associated Press*, August 20, 2009, at <http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hvWEqwq3CrRvaQCmt21MfoYhjZJQD9A6SA280>

² “Obama: Afghan Election 'Important Step Forward',” *VOA News*, August 21, 2009, at <http://www.voanews.com/english/2009-08-21-voa50.cfm>

³ “UN, NATO: Afghan election successful,” *CCTV*, August 22, 2009, at <http://english.cctv.com/program/newshour/20090822/102569.shtml>

⁴ “Abdullah alleges massive rigging,” *Pajhwok Afghan News*, August 23, 2009, at <http://www.pajhwok.com/viewstory.asp?lng=eng&id=80384>

⁵ “Intimidation and Fraud Observed in Afghan Election,” *The New York Times*, August 22, 2009, at <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/08/23/world/asia/23afghan.html?scp=7&sq=afghanistan%20election&st=cse>

⁶ “Obama Defends Strategy in Afghanistan,” *The New York Times*, August 17, 2009, at <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/08/18/us/politics/18vets.html?scp=17&sq=afghanistan&st=cse>

PAKISTAN

- **Zardari to Xinhua: Pakistan would continue to fight militancy; Holbrooke: US-Pakistan to cooperate on energy crisis; Hakeemullah announced as the new leader of the TTP; 4 security personnel killed in a suicide bomb attack in North Waziristan; Gilani: Musharraf's trial for treason may not be easy**

Pakistan President, in an interview with the Chinese news agency Xinhua on August 21 asserted that security operations against militants would continue till law and order prevailed and the "writ of the government is fully established."⁷ Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi also, addressing a press conference in Islamabad on August 16 after meeting US special envoy Richard Holbrooke, reiterated Pakistan's commitment to "eliminate" terrorists from every corner of the country.⁸ Holbrooke on his part stated that the US would give Pakistan all possible assistance to Pakistan in its fight against extremism, as well as to overcome its difficult financial and energy situation. He added that the US would form a Pakistan Emergency Energy Task Force to channel this cooperation and that an expert team would visit Pakistan to gauge the extent of the crisis.⁹

Militant commander Faqir Mohammed announced in Khar on August 22 that Hakeemullah had reportedly taken over the leadership mantle of the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP).¹⁰ 4 security personnel were also killed in Miramshah on August 18 when an explosives-laden vehicle rammed onto a check post in North Waziristan.¹¹

The Pakistan PM Gilani meanwhile noted that it may not be easy to try former President Gen. Musharraf on charges of treason. This was on account of the fact that there was a tacit understanding between Musharraf, the army and the civilian government in August 2008 when he quit office.¹²

In other developments, the Pakistan government complimented the Afghan authorities for successfully holding the August 22 presidential elections. It noted that the elections would ensure the strengthening of democratic process in the war-ridden country.¹³

⁷ "Operation to go on till govt. writ restored: Zardari," *Daily Times*, August 22, 2009, at http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2009\08\22\story_22-8-2009_pg1_1.

⁸ "Pakistan to hunt down terrorists wherever they are: Qureshi," *Daily Times*, August 17, 2009, at http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2009\08\17\story_17-8-2009_pg1_1.

⁹ Tahir Hasan Khan, "US to help Pakistan overcome energy crisis, says Holbrooke," *The News*, August 20, 2009, at http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=23964.

¹⁰ Anwarullah Khan, "Hakeemullah Mehsud new chief, says Faqir," *Dawn*, August 23, 2009, at <http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/dawn-content-library/dawn/the-newspaper/front-page/hakeemullah-mehsud-new-chief%2C-says-faqir-389>.

¹¹ Pazir Gul, "4 troops killed in suicide attack," *Dawn*, August 19, 2009, at <http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/dawn-content-library/dawn/the-newspaper/front-page/4-troops-killed-in-suicide-attack-989>.

¹² Kamran Khan, "Why treason trial is not doable," *The News*, August 21, 2009, at http://www.thenews.com.pk/arc_default.asp.

¹³ "Islamabad congratulates Kabul on 'successful' vote," *Daily Times*, August 22, 2009, at http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2009\08\22\story_22-8-2009_pg1_7

BHUTAN

- **Chidambaram discusses issues relating to border security and activities of militants; KPMG lists 11 core areas of mutual cooperation between India and Bhutan; Assam CM: Northeast militants having linkages with Communist Party of Bhutan**

In his first visit abroad after taking over as Union Home Minister, Mr. P. Chidambaram visited Bhutan from August 21-24. During the course of the visit, he met King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, Prime Minister Jigmi Thinley, former king Jigme Singye Wangchuck, Minister for Home and Cultural Affairs Minjur Dorji, among others. Issues relating to border security and activities of northeast militants were discussed.¹⁴

A report by international consultants KPMG on behalf of the Bhutan Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the Confederation of Indian Industry and funded by the Indian Ministry of External Affairs identified eleven areas of mutual cooperation. These included environment management, tourism, agro processing, non-timber forestry, horticulture, ICT, education, medicinal plantations, pharmaceuticals, telecommunications and automobiles.¹⁵

Bhutan signed its maiden deal with a private sector company, Bhutan Pharmaceuticals Private Limited (BPPL), for collaboration on issues pertaining to preservation of bio-diversity.¹⁶

At the recently held Conference of Chief Ministers on Internal Security in New Delhi, Chief Minister of Assam Tarun Gogoi pointed out the security threat posed by militants having linkages with the Communist Party of Bhutan. Mr. Gogoi claimed that terrorist outfits like the ULFA and NDFB were on the look out for opportunities to regain bases lost in the aftermath of the previous crackdown. He also noted the growing influence of Communist Party of India (Maoist) in the Siliguri Corridor, which he stated was leading the anti-monarchist propaganda in the garb of Communist Party of Bhutan (CPB).¹⁷ Indian officials have also pointed out that militants often take shelter in the dense outgrowth in South Bhutan, which is a transit route to enter Arunachal Pradesh. Bhutan has however asserted that since 2003, no anti-India elements were operating from its soil.¹⁸

¹⁴ "Chidambaram on 3-day visit to Bhutan; Pillai in Manipur," *Press Trust of India*, August 21, 2009, at http://www.ptinews.com/news/241328_Chidambaram-on-3-day-visit-to-Bhutan--Pillai-in-Manipur

¹⁵ "11 investment areas identified," *The Kuensel*, August 20, 2009, at <http://www.kuenselonline.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=13245>

¹⁶ "Memorandum of Agreement on a collaborative venture in the field of Insect Fungi," *Ministry of Agriculture*, August 20, 2009, at http://www.moa.gov.bt/moa/news/news_detail.php?id=811

¹⁷ "Assam complains against neighbouring countries," *The Morung Express*, August 17, 2009, at <http://www.morungexpress.com/regional/31196.html>

¹⁸ "Bhutan denies Assam rebel camps on soil," *The Telegraph*, August 24, 2009, at http://www.telegraphindia.com/1090825/jsp/northeast/story_11403316.jsp

B. EAST AND SOUTHEAST ASIA

CHINA

- **Chinese jet trainer participates in Russian air show: US Army Chief, Brazilian Army Chief visit China: China urges the US to respect its 'core interests': China sends its ninth batch of peacekeepers to Liberia: PLA Navy carries out a large-scale re-fueling exercise in the South China Sea**

The advanced jet trainer, Falcon L-15, indigenously developed by China's Jiangxi Hongdu Aviation Industry Group, debuted at the Russia International Air Show on August 18. The show attracted over 700 aeronautic and astronautic enterprises from 34 countries. The L-15 is claimed to be a multi-purpose jet trainer exhibiting the flight performance of a combat aircraft at a low cost, with maneuverability similar to the new generation of fighters.¹⁹

The US Army Chief Gen. George Casey visited China during the week and met with Chen Bingde, member of the Central Military Commission and Chief of General Staff of the PLA on August 20. Chen reiterated the consensus reached by President Hu and Obama on April to build a positive, cooperative and comprehensive China-US relationship.²⁰ Ge Zhenfeng, deputy chief of the General Staff of the PLA on his part urged the US to remove obstacles in the way of beneficial mutual military ties between the two countries. Ge also urged the US to respect "China's core interests" so that favourable and conducive conditions for further military cooperation can be reached.²¹

In a related development, the visiting commander of land operations of Brazilian Armed Forces, Raymundo Cerqueira also met with Chen Bingde on August 17.

The visiting Serbian President Boris Tadic met with Hu Jintao on August 20. Both countries issued a joint communiqué pledging to forge a strategic partnership to enhance mutual ties.²²

The ninth batch of a PLA contingent of 275 soldiers left Beijing for Liberia on August 17 to join the peace-keeping mission in that country. The contingent will stay in the country for eighth months. Under the terms of a UNSC resolution, China has been sending its soldiers to Liberia since 2003. A total of 4,464 soldiers in eight peacekeeping teams on a rotational basis have been sent so far.²³

In other developments, the PLA Navy (PLAN) carried out a large scale refueling and training mission in the air space above the South China Sea. The

¹⁹ "Chinese Advanced Jet Trainer Falcon Debuts in Russian Air Show," *PLA Daily*, August 21, 2009, at http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/news-channels/china-military-news/2009-08/21/content_4026413.htm

²⁰ "Chen Bingde Meets U.S. Army Chief of Staff," *PLA Daily*, August 21, 2009, at http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/news-channels/china-military-news/2009-08/21/content_4026386.htm

²¹ "China Urges US to Remove Obstacles to Military Ties," *PLA Daily*, August 21, 2009, at http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/news-channels/2009-08/21/content_4025949.htm

²² "China and Serbia Forge Closer Ties," *PLA Daily*, August 21, 2009, at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2009-08/21/content_8599254.htm

²³ "Chinese Soldiers Leave for UN Peace Mission in Liberia," *PLA Daily*, August 18, 2009, at http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/news-channels/china-military-news/2009-08/18/content_4023808.htm

exercise is meant to improve the open-sea combat capabilities of the aviation troops of the PLAN.²⁴

JAPAN

- **New US Ambassador to Japan: US and Japan have formed "one of the most successful alliances in the history of the world"; China rejects request by the Japanese Navy to make a port call in Hong Kong; DPJ may win two-thirds majority in August 30 polls**

The new US ambassador to Japan, John Roos, arrived in Tokyo during the week and praised the strong ties between the two largest economies in the world. Roos a Silicon Valley internet and bio-technology lawyer, told reporters on arrival at Narita airport that the US and Japan "have formed one of the most successful alliances in the history of the world." He also noted that the two countries in 2010 would be celebrating the 50th anniversary of their post-war cooperation and security treaty.²⁵

China rejected a request to make a port call in Hong Kong by vessels of the Japanese Navy. "Sensitive issues" and "technical details" were cited as the reasons blocking the visit. Among other reasons cited were the visits to Japan by the Dalai Lama as well as the Uighur activist Rebiya Kadeer, both of whom are considered separatists by Beijing.²⁶

Reports noted that Tokyo was not very much concerned about South Korea's first rocket launch, set for August 26. The rocket will fly over Japanese territory.²⁷

Meanwhile, survey results revealed that the main opposition Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) may win a two-thirds majority of 320 or more seats in the House of Representatives election scheduled for August 30. The ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) could fall short by as much as 100 seats. With a two-thirds majority in the 480-seat lower house, the DPJ could pass bills through the Diet without any support from other parties even if the bills are rejected in the House of Councillors, the upper house.²⁸

SOUTHEAST ASIA

- **Yudhoyono declared as President of Indonesia; Indonesia says Myanmar has every right to develop nuclear power for peaceful**

²⁴ "Naval Aviation Troops Conduct Large-scale Fuel Refilling and Receiving Training," *PLA Daily*, August 17, 2009, at http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/news-channels/china-military-news/2009-08/17/content_4023695.htm

²⁵ "Obama's new Tokyo ambassador praises US-Japan ties," *Associate Foreign Press*, August 19, 2009, at <http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hvTuqEM4e2QWMinvUFQquOuo6YPg>

²⁶ "China 'rejects' Japan navy visit," *BBC News*, August 19, 2009, at <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/8208726.stm>

²⁷ "Japan unconcerned about S. Korea's 1st space rocket launch," *Associated Press*, August 19, 2009, at http://www.breitbart.com/article.php?id=D9A5NJ8G0&show_article=1

²⁸ "DPJ may win two-thirds majority in lower house election: poll," *Associated Press*, August 21, 2009, at http://www.breitbart.com/article.php?id=D9A7L87G0&show_article=1

purposes, as a member of the NPT; ASEAN to appeal to Myanmar to release Suu Kyi; Arunachal CM urges sealing of Indo-Myanmar border; Vietnamese fishing boats seized by Indonesia, triggering fresh tensions in the South China Sea; Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines to enhance cooperation to fight piracy

Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, having won the 2009 presidential elections, was formally declared as the President of Indonesia for the next five years.²⁹

Indonesia's Foreign Ministry spokesperson stated that Myanmar had every right to peacefully develop nuclear power as it was a signatory to the NPT. Australia among other countries has warned that Myanmar could make use of its expertise developed while building power reactors for weapons purposes.³⁰

Reports noted that ASEAN states have decided to appeal to the military authorities in Myanmar to allow pro-democracy leader and opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi to participate in the national elections scheduled to be held in 2010. Members of the international community have warned that without the participation of Suu Kyi and other political dissidents currently detained by the junta, elections will not be considered as fair and credible.³¹

At the CM's Conference on Internal Security, CM's of Northeast states urged the central government to deal more effectively with the growing insurgency along borders with Myanmar and Bangladesh.³² Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Dorjee Khandu on his part urged PM Manmohan Singh to quicken efforts to seal the Indo-Myanmar border.³³

Four Vietnamese fishing boats were detained by an Indonesian naval vessel, triggering fresh round of tensions in the South China Sea. Vietnam's state-run newspaper Thanh Nien alleged that the Indonesian coast guard vessels had confiscated all materials on the four boats and set them adrift, leaving the 48 crew members of the four ships to return home on a fifth Vietnamese fishing boat seized by the Indonesians earlier.³⁴

²⁹ "Susilo, Boediono officially declared President, Vice President-elect," *Bernamea.com*, August 18, 2009, at http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v5/news_lite.php?id=433990

³⁰ "RI supports Myanmar in its development of nuclear technology," *The Jakarta Post*, August 21, 2009, at <http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2009/08/21/ri-supports-myanmar-its-development-nuclear-technology.html>

³¹ "ASEAN to appeal for Suu Kyi's participation in elections," *The Jakarta Post*, August 21, 2009, at <http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2009/08/21/asean-appeal-suu-kyi%E2%80%99s-participation-elections.html>

³² "Northeast Chief Ministers want border security tightened," *Indo-Burma News*, August 18, 2009, at <http://www.indoburmanews.net/archives-1/2009/august-2009/northeast-chief-ministers-want-border-security-tightened>

³³ "Seal Arunachal-Myanmar border: CM tells Manmohan," *Indo-Burma News*, August 19, 2009, at <http://www.indoburmanews.net/archives-1/2009/august-2009/seal-arunachal-myanmar-border-cm-tells-manmohan>

³⁴ "Vietnamese fishing boats reported seized by Indonesia," *Earth Times*, August 19, 2009, at <http://www.earthtimes.org/articles/show/281932,vietnamese-fishing-boats-reported-seized-by-indonesia.html>

Vietnam meanwhile denounced China's claim to sovereignty over the South China Sea as "an unacceptable demand" with no foundation in international law. China had recently detained the crew of several Vietnamese fishing boats near the disputed Paracel Islands.³⁵

The Director-General of Malaysia Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA), Adm. Amdan Kurish stated that Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines will develop systematic and organized surveillance in the maritime zone and in air space of the region in order to curb smuggling and piracy. He also expressed concerns over the lack of coordination among these three countries so far.³⁶

C. WEST ASIA

IRAN

- **Iran ready to hold talks on nuclear issue "without preconditions"; Ahmadinejad appoints 3 women ministers in his 21-member cabinet; Tehran Governor announces compensation for victims of post-election violence; Merkel warns of tougher energy sanctions**

Iran's envoy to the IAEA Ali Asghar Soltanieh stated that Tehran was ready to hold talks with the West on its nuclear energy programme "without preconditions." US President Obama has given Iran until September to take up the six-power offer of talks on trade benefits if it freezes its uranium enrichment programme or face harsher sanctions. Prospects of a solution have been hampered by the political turmoil regarding Ahmadinejad's re-election victory in June.³⁷

President Ahmadinejad meanwhile appointed 14 new ministers, including three women members, in his 21-member cabinet. These include former parliamentarians Marzieh Vahid-Dastjerdi as Minister of Health, Fatemeh Ajorlou as Social Welfare Minister, and Susan Keshavarz as minister of education. Former commerce minister Massoud Mir-Kazemi will now be country's oil minister.³⁸

Reports noted that President Ahmadinejad might face a difficult battle to win parliamentary approval for his choice of some cabinet ministers after some deputies signaled that they were likely to reject several nominees. Parliament

³⁵ "Vietnam Media attacks Chinese maritime territory claims," *Earth Times*, August 18, 2009, at <http://www.earthtimes.org/articles/show/281802,vietnam-media-attacks-chinese-maritime-territory-claims.html>

³⁶ "Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines to Enhance Maritime cooperation," *Bernamea.com*, August 17, 2009, at http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v5/news_lite.php?id=433566

³⁷ "Iran 'ready for unconditional nuclear talks'," *Khaleej Times*, August 18, 2009, at http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle08.asp?xfile=data/middleeast/2009/August/middleeast_August429.xml§ion=middleeast

³⁸ "Ahmadinejad names 14 ministers; 3 women," *Khaleej Times*, August 20, 2009, at http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle08.asp?xfile=data/middleeast/2009/August/middleeast_August490.xml§ion=middleeast

speaker Ali Larijani on his part stated that “those nominated by the president for government posts must have sufficient expertise and experience, otherwise a great deal of the country’s energy would be wasted.” Vice speaker Mohammad Reza Bahonar stated that up to five members of the 21-strong cabinet might be voted down by parliament.³⁹

Tehran Governor Hossein Tala announced that the government was willing to compensate those individuals who sustained losses and injuries during the post-election unrest. Tala reiterated that the announcement followed an order by the Supreme Leader Khamenei. He however stated that compensations will only be offered to those who did not participate in the violence.⁴⁰

In other developments, German Chancellor Angela Merkel threatened energy sanctions against Iran if it failed to step up cooperation with the international community on its nuclear programme. She noted that the six powers attempting to convince Iran to abandon its nuclear weapon ambitions - Britain, China, France, Germany, Russia and the United States – would gather in September to discuss how to deal with the situation. Merkel also dismissed the complaints of some German businesses that they were bearing an inappropriate share of the burden as a result of the current economic sanctions against Iran.⁴¹

IRAQ

▪ **Nearly 100 killed in powerful bomb blasts in Baghdad; Shias and Sunnis blame each other for the incident**

In escalating violence, a powerful truck bomb killed at least 95 people and wounded nearly 600 at the Foreign and Finance Ministries buildings in central Baghdad. The bombings, which were the worst since American forces handed over security responsibilities for cities to Iraqi forces at the end of June, dealt a severe blow to the Iraqi government’s claims that it was ready and able to provide security. Prime Minister al-Maliki termed the attacks a “vengeful response” to his recent, optimistic order to remove blast walls from the streets of Baghdad and called for a reassessment of security measures.⁴²

Shia politicians and Sunni insurgent groups meanwhile accused each other of being responsible for the massive truck bombings. The Supreme Iraqi Islamic Council, a powerful Shia party that forms part of Maliki’s governing coalition, stated that the country was facing a “comprehensive war” and blamed

³⁹ “Iran parliament to reject Ahmadinejad ministers,” *Khaleej Times*, August 21, 2009, at http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle08.aspx?xfile=data/middleeast/2009/August/middleeast_August512.xml§ion=middleeast

⁴⁰ “Tehran to Compensate Victims of Post-Election Frenzy,” *Fars News Agency*, August 19, 2009, at <http://english.farsnews.net/newstext.php?nn=8805280865>

⁴¹ “Merkel threatens energy sanctions against Iran,” *Khaleej Times*, August 21, 2009, at http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle08.aspx?xfile=data/middleeast/2009/August/middleeast_August525.xml§ion=middleeast

⁴² Sam Dagher, “2 Blasts Expose Security Flaws in Heart of Iraq,” *New York Times*, August 20, 2009, at http://www.nytimes.com/2009/08/20/world/middleeast/20iraq.html?_r=1&hp=&pagewanted=print

the Sunni Arab minority for the attacks. In a statement, it charged that the “remains of the former Saddam regime who are accusing Shias of being unbelievers are continuing their crimes against innocent Iraqis, revealing their criminal plans against people’s freedom and dignity.”⁴³

II. MISSILES, SPACE, DEFENCE AND NUCLEAR REVIEW

MISSILES AND SPACE

- **Chandrayaan-I tracks the presence of ice on the Moon’s North Pole along with NASA’s Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter**

Chandrayaan-I, in a joint experiment with the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO) of NASA tracked the presence of ice in the dark crater of the moon’s North Pole. ISRO stated that the "unique bi-static experiment was carried out jointly when Chandrayaan and Orbiter came closer while orbiting over the lunar North Pole where the permanently shadowed crater is located."⁴⁴

The craft used the on-board miniature synthetic frequency device along with instruments aboard the NASA orbiter to ascertain the presence of water ice. Data from the Orbiter was first downloaded by the Johns Hopkins University's Applied Physics Laboratory (APL), whose ground stations were tracking the trajectory of craft. ISRO’s Deep Space Network (DSN) located in Bylalu 40 kms from Bangalore picked up the same data later.

DEFENCE

NATIONAL

- **Rafael bags a \$1 billion deal to supply 18 SPYDER air defence systems**

RAFAEL Advanced Defense System of Israel bagged a contract worth \$1 billion to supply SPYDER air defense system to the IAF. The company will supply 18 SPYDER systems between 2011 and 2012. The system uses Python-5 and Derby air to-air –missiles and advanced radars and is capable of intercepting airborne threats within a 25-mile radius. ELTA, a subsidiary of Israel Aerospace Industries is to work as a sub-contractor to the deal.⁴⁵

- **Russia to deliver India new RD-33 engines**

HAL and Rosoboronexport signed a contract at the Russian Air Show MAK 2009 under the terms of which 26 RD-33 series-3 engines will be delivered to India. The engines are an upgraded version of the RD-33 turbofan engines and are

⁴³ “Shias and Sunnis accuse each other of bombings,” *Khaleej Times*, August 21, 2009, at http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle08.asp?xfile=data/middleeast/2009/August/middleeast_August527.xml§ion=middleeast

⁴⁴ “India’s lunar craft hunts for ice on moon with NASA orbiter,” *Hindustan Times*, August 22, 2009, at <http://www.hindustantimes.com/Chandrayaan-1-nbsp-hunts-for-ice-on-moon-with-NASA-orbiter/H1-Article1-445659.aspx>

⁴⁵ “RAFAEL strikes \$1B deal with India,” August 21, 2009, at <http://www.bharat-rakshak.com/NEWS/newsrfr.php?newsid=11197>

expected to be more long-lasting. The engines can also be equipped with a thrust vectoring nozzle (TVN).⁴⁶

- **India to supply radar and surveillance helicopters to Maldives**

Defence Minister A.K. Antony on his visit to Maldives agreed to provide assistance to the country to build a maritime surveillance system. India will install radar on island nation which will be linked to the Indian Navy and Coast Guard headquarters. India is also likely to supply two helicopters to facilitate the surveillance activities. These steps were considered crucial to counter the increasing influence of China in the Indian Ocean region. Analysts also noted that since the island chain was only 400 nautical miles from the Indian coast, it will be important as a logistics and intelligence base.⁴⁷

- **Flight trials begin for \$10 billion MMRCA contract**

The flight trials for the \$10 billion Medium Range Multirole Combat Aircraft (MMRCA) program began in Bangalore. Five companies participated in the trials, including Boeing (F/A-18 Super Hornet), Lockheed Martin (F-16), Dassault (Rafale), RAC MiG (MiG-35), Saab (Gripen) and EADS (Eurofighter). The field trail will consist of flight trials, ground tests and technology transfer assessments.⁴⁸

NUCLEAR ISSUES

- **Pakistan under pressure over blocking disarmament talks**

Reports noted that Pakistan was facing pressure from major nuclear powers to end its blockage of international disarmament talks at the 65-member Conference on Disarmament (CD), citing 'national security threats'. Among other issues scheduled to be discussed included an international ban on the production of new fissile material, discussions on full nuclear disarmament, curbing arms race in outer space, and security assurances for non-nuclear states. US representative Garold Larson criticised Pakistan's tactics as "procedural fault finding" and added that national security concerns can be dealt with once the talks get underway. Russia, China, and Japan also expressed concerns and urged a quick start to the talks.⁴⁹

⁴⁶ "MAKS 2009: Russia to deliver 26 RD-33 series-3 engines to India," August 22, 2009, at http://www.domain-b.com/defence/def_prod/20090822_rd-33_series-3_engines.html

⁴⁷ "India To Install Radars in Maldives," August 21, 2009, at <http://www.defensenews.com/story.php?i=4245842&c=ASI&s=SEA>

⁴⁸ "Flight Trials Begin for India's \$10B Combat Aircraft Program," August 21, 2009, at <http://www.defensenews.com/story.php?i=4245545&c=ASI&s=AIR>

⁴⁹ "Pakistan feels heat from nuclear powers over talks block," August 20, 2009, at http://www.spacewar.com/reports/Pakistan_feels_heat_from_nuclear_powers_over_talks_block_999.html

III. INTERNAL SECURITY REVIEW

JAMMU AND KASHMIR

- **Separatists criticize Dr. Manmohan Singh's remarks on Independence Day**

Kashmiri separatists on August 16 described PM Manmohan Singh's Independence Day remarks that the recent elections in the state showed that the separatist ideology had no support base, as "unrealistic and ridiculous." A spokesman of the hard line faction of the Hurriyat Conference, headed by the detained leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani stated that Dr. Singh's remarks were in line with the "traditional rigid Indian policy" towards the Kashmir problem. He also added that "Manmohanji has abused Kashmiris by labeling them as separatists and this approach is totally unrealistic."

Jamait Ahlihadees chief Maulana Showkat Ahmad Shah stated that the Kashmiris "have demonstrated what they want when they hit the roads last year." He called for serious and sincere efforts on the part of the Union government to resolve the Kashmir issue.

Abdul Gani Bhat, the acting chairman of the moderate faction of the Hurriyat stated that "the Prime Minister is probably under some democratic compulsions to make these observations as not many weeks ago, he has invited them (separatists) for talks."⁵⁰

MAOIST INSURGENCY

- **Centre to tackle Left Wing Extremism with development and police action**

Union Home Minister P. Chidambaram, addressing the Chief Ministers' Conference on Internal Security on August 17, recalling PM Dr. Singh's statement that Left Wing Extremism posed the "single biggest internal security challenge," stated that the centre's two-pronged policy was clear – development and police action. He charged that the naxalites were "anti-development" and that they had targeted the very instruments of development, like school buildings, roads, telephone towers "as they know that development will wean the masses away, especially the poor tribals, from the grip of naxalites."

Mr. Chidambaram stated that the government's response would focus on police action to wrest control of the territory dominated by naxalites, restoration of civil administration and undertaking of development activities.

NORTHEAST DEVELOPMENTS

- **Chidambaram urges Northeast CM's to make use of "constitutional powers" to ensure people's welfare; 2 Army men and a NDFB ultra killed in encounter**

⁵⁰ "Separatists slam PM's remarks," *Daily Excelsior*, August 17, 2009, at <http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/web1/09aug17/news2.htm#1>

Union Home Minister P. Chidambaram, at the Chief Ministers' Conference on Internal Security, stated that some state governments in the Northeast region allowed themselves to be dictated by insurgent groups, thus making the fight against insurgency more difficult. He urged the CM's of these states make use of the "constitutional power" vested in them to ensure people's welfare. He also urged better coordination between the union and state governments.⁵¹

Two army personnel and a NDFB cadre were killed in an encounter at Garugaon in Assam's Sonitpur district on August 16. The Army personnel were conducting a search operation in the area when it was attacked by a four-member group of NDFB cadres of the Ranjan Daimary faction.⁵²

OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

- **Dr. Singh: Pakistani terrorist groups planning more attacks, calls for "balanced and nuanced strategy" to deal with LWE, calls for "removing the causes which lead to alienation of people and problems like naxalism"**

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, at the Chief Ministers' Conference on Internal Security in New Delhi, pointing out that cross-border terrorism remained a most pervasive threat, stated that there was "credible information of ongoing plans of terrorist groups in Pakistan to carry out fresh attacks." He added that the area of operation of these terrorists "extends far beyond the confines of Jammu and Kashmir and covers all parts of our country." Dr. Singh urged better preparation, more sophisticated technologies and enhanced capabilities to deal with the terrorist challenge. He also emphasised the need for guarding the sea frontier as vigilantly as the land border. Though the situation in Jammu and Kashmir had seen a substantial improvement during the last few years, Dr. Singh warned of an increased level of infiltration from across the border as well as a revival of militant activities in the state.

Dr. Singh expressing concern over the growing intensity of Left Wing Extremism and called for a "balanced and nuanced strategy" to deal with the problem. He also urged the states to discharge their responsibilities and obligations and re-establish the rule of law in areas dominated by the naxalites. At the same time, Dr. Singh called for "removing the causes which lead to alienation of people and problems like naxalism."⁵³

⁵¹ "Centre to tackle naxalism with development, police action," *Hindu*, August 18, 2009, at <http://www.hindu.com/2009/08/18/stories/2009081859941000.htm>

⁵² "2 Army jawans, NDFB ultra killed in encounter," *Assam Tribune*, August 17, 2009, at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/details.asp?id=aug1709/at012>

⁵³ "Pakistani terrorist groups planning more attacks: Manmohan," *Hindu*, August 18, 2009, at <http://www.hindu.com/2009/08/18/stories/2009081856770100.htm>