

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

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1. COUNTRY REVIEW

A. SOUTH ASIA

AFGHANISTAN

- **Karzai attends Zardari's swearing-in-ceremony; Afghan Provincial Governor killed in roadside bomb; Attack against WHO officials; Civilian casualties result due to NATO raid**

In a gesture indicating the improved relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan in the aftermath of the resignation of Gen, Musharraf, Afghan President Hamid Karzai attended the swearing-in-ceremony of Asif Ali Zardari as the President of Pakistan. Karzai was the only foreign leader who attended the ceremony.¹ Addressing the press later, both the leaders promised to tackle the threat of terrorism jointly.²

The governor of Logar province, Abdullah Wardak was killed by a roadside bomb near Kabul. Mr Wardak was a former minister in President Karzai's cabinet. He is the second Afghan provincial governor killed by the Taliban. The province, at the south of Kabul, is a major centre of Taliban insurgency.³

In other continuing attacks, a suicide bomber rammed a car into a UN convoy on September 14 in southern Afghanistan, killing a driver and two local doctors and wounding 16 people. The doctors were working for the World Health Organization on a polio vaccination campaign in the region. In another incident, 6 children were killed and 12 wounded due to a roadside bomb in Ghazni Province, south of Kabul. A British soldier was also killed on September 13 in an explosion in Helmand province in southern Afghanistan. The incident raised the number of British troops killed in Afghanistan to 120 since 2001.⁴

NATO air raids meanwhile continued to result in collateral damages when a bomb missed its target in eastern Afghanistan on September 9 and struck a house, killing two civilians and wounding 10. Coalition officials on their part stated that the weapon was aimed at an insurgent rocket position in the eastern province of Khost, but that it had malfunctioned and landed more than a mile and a half from the target.⁵

¹ "Widower of Bhutto Takes Office in Pakistan," *The New York Times*, September 9, 2008, at <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/09/10/world/asia/10pstan.html?scp=1&sq=Karzai%20+%20Asif%20Zardari%20+%20swearing%20in&st=cse>

² "Karzai, Zardari Vow Joint Front Against Terror," *Pajhwok Afghan News*, September 9, 2008, at <http://www.pajhwok.com/viewstory.asp?lng=eng&id=61741>

³ "Afghan Provincial Governor Killed," *BBC News*, September 13, 2008, at http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/7613888.stm

⁴ "9 Afghans are Killed by Bombs," *The New York Times*, September 14, 2008, at <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/09/15/world/asia/15nations.html>

⁵ "Afghanistan: Errant NATO Bomb Kills 2 Civilians," *The New York Times*, September 9, 2008, at http://www.nytimes.com/2008/09/10/world/asia/10briefs-ERRANTNATOBOMB_BRF.html?ref=worldspecial

PAKISTAN

- **US air strikes continue to target militants within Pakistan; Zardari sworn in as the new President; PML-N not to join the cabinet; Gilani: 1973 constitution to be restored**

The New York Times in a report published on September 11 revealed that US President George Bush had approved the use of Special Forces personnel inside Pakistani territory, without the prior approval of Islamabad.⁶ The Pakistani establishment reacted strongly to the report with Chief of Army Staff Gen. Pervez Kayani asserting that “no external force would be allowed to conduct operations inside Pakistan.”⁷ However, reports noted that air strikes by the United States within Pakistani territory continued. A US missile strike in North Waziristan on September 12 for instance killed at least 12 people and injured 14 others.⁸

Mr. Asif Ali Zardari was sworn in as the new President on September 9. Shortly after the oath-taking ceremony, Zardari stated that the President will be “subservient” to the authority of the Parliament.⁹ Earlier, the PML-N decided not to be part of the coalition government despite Mr. Zardari’s offer to them on September 8.¹⁰

Prime Minister Gilani meanwhile reasserted his conviction to restore the 1973 constitution. He was addressing a delegation of members of the US Congress in Islamabad on September 7.¹¹

In other developments, at least 60 militants were killed during security operation in Bajaur Agency on September 13.¹² Also, security forces reportedly killed 8 militants in Swat on September 11.¹³

⁶ Eric Schmitt and Mark Mazzeti, “Bush said to give orders Allowing Raids in Pakistan,” *The New York Times*, September 11, 2008, at <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/09/11/washington/11policy.html?adxnnl=1&ref=todayspaper&adxnnlx=1221505306-mRZvHF2haXQAZ5wVlqrbdw>

⁷ “US not allowed to conduct Ops inside Pakistan: Kayani,” *Daily Times*, September 11, 2008, at http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2008\09\11\story_11-9-2008_pg1_1

⁸ “New US attack mocks talk of sovereignty: Missile kills 12 in North Waziristan,” *Dawn*, September 13, 2008, at <http://www.dawn.com/2008/09/13/top1.htm>

⁹ Sajjad Malik, “Zardari takes oath as President: ‘President will be subservient to parliament’,” *Daily Times*, September 10, 2008, at http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2008\09\10\story_10-9-2008_pg1_1

¹⁰ Amir Wasim, “PML-N declines to rejoin coalition,” *Dawn*, September 9, 2008, at <http://www.dawn.com/2008/09/09/top2.htm>

¹¹ “PM vows to restore 1973 Constitution,” *Daily Times*, September 8, 2008, at http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2008\09\08\story_8-9-2008_pg1_1

¹² Mushtaq Yusufzai, “60 die in fierce Bajaur fighting,” *The News*, September 14, 2008, at http://thenews.jang.com.pk/arc_default.asp

¹³ Hameedullah Khan, “New attacks on Swat militants; 8 killed,” *Dawn*, September 12, 2008 at <http://www.dawn.com/2008/09/12/top5.htm>

BANGLADESH

- **AL to go for tougher programmes to force government to lift emergency; Zia to join the dialogue with govt. and take part in elections; EC incorporating changes in electoral provisions to smoothen political parties registration**

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed asserted that the caretaker government was moving ahead towards holding a free, fair and credible general election even as the Awami League (AL) stated that it would go for tougher programmes, including street agitations, to force the government to withdraw all charges against its leader Sheikh Hasina and lift the state of emergency.¹⁴ The AL also demanded that the government hold the parliamentary polls in November.¹⁵

The BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia meanwhile, who was freed from her year long detention, announced that she would join the dialogue with the government and take part in the upcoming elections. She also called on the caretaker government to hold the parliamentary elections first and withdraw the state of emergency.¹⁶ Zia also agreed to meet with Sheikh Hasina to discuss ways to promote fair competition in politics and do away with the culture of mudslinging.¹⁷

Commerce Adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman stated that the government on its part had taken steps to bring both the political arch to the negotiating table to help pull the country out of the prevailing political crisis.¹⁸ In order to make it easier for the political parties to meet the criteria for registration, the EC also announced that it was working to incorporate changes in the new electoral provisions.¹⁹

In a related development, the European Union (EU) stated that it may not send a full election observation mission to Bangladesh if the government did not restore people's 'basic freedoms' at least six weeks before the national polls scheduled for December.²⁰

In other developments, the political parties on their part have welcomed the move by the caretaker government to formulate the right to information

¹⁴ "AL mulls agitation to force govt to drop all charges against Hasina" *The Daily Star*, September 1, 2008 at <http://www.thedailystar.net/story.php?nid=52793>

¹⁵ "AL demands JS election in November," *The Daily Star*, September 2, 2008, at <http://www.thedailystar.net/story.php?nid=52951>

¹⁶ "Freed Khaleda to join talks, contest polls: Asks govt to hold JS polls first, lift emergency," *The Daily Star*, September 12, 2008, at <http://www.thedailystar.net/story.php?nid=54429>

¹⁷ "Dialogue With Four Advisers: Khaleda agrees to drop bad elements from party, sit with Hasina, Talks with Chief Adviser over telephone," *The Daily Star*, September 13, 2008, at <http://www.thedailystar.net/story.php?nid=54614>

¹⁸ "Move on to get two leaders into talks," *The Daily Star*, September 12, 2008, at <http://www.thedailystar.net/story.php?nid=54433>

¹⁹ "EC to relax rules for registration," *The Daily Star*, September 12, 2008, at <http://www.thedailystar.net/story.php?nid=54434>

²⁰ "EU may not send full mission if basic rights not restored," *The Daily Star*, September 6, 2008, at <http://www.thedailystar.net/story.php?nid=53543>

(RTI) law, and have promised to include in their election manifesto pledges to implement it.²¹

B. SOUTHEAST AND EAST ASIA

MYANMAR

- **UN: No political progress in Myanmar; UNA: Gambari should push for tripartite dialogue; Myanmarese dissident groups establish permanent mission at the UN**

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon expressed frustration over Myanmar's political deadlock, and urged for the beginning of a genuine political process in the country. Mr. ki-Moon's comments followed the briefing given by UN special envoy Ibrahim Gambari to the UN Security Council. The Secretary General told reporters on September 12 that Myanmar had not experienced as much political progress as he had anticipated and called on the authorities to take real measures towards setting up a more inclusive political process that promoted human rights. Stating that he would not characterize Gambari's Burma visit in August as a failure, Mr. Ban announced that he was planning to convene an ambassador-level meeting of the "Group of Friends on Myanmar" on September 12.²²

Meanwhile, the United Nationalities Alliance (UNA) - a Rangoon-based coalition of 12 ethnic political parties, argued that instead of holding dialogue with the military government about elections in 2010, the UN envoy, Ibrahim Gambari, should instead urge the regime to initiate a tripartite dialogue aimed at reaching national reconciliation. This was stated by the UNA in an open letter addressed to UN Secretary-General on September 8. It urged the UN to exert "appropriate pressure" on the junta to engage in a tripartite dialogue. The ethnic political alliance also alluded to the junta's "seven-step road map" toward democracy and charged that the national convention, the state constitution and the referendum were "sham processes" conducted "without the real will of the people in Burma." The UNA had won 67 seats in the 1990 general elections.²³

Meanwhile, two Myanmarese dissident groups in exile - the National Council of the Union of Burma (NCUB) and the Members of Parliament Union-Burma (MPU), filed a formal challenge at the UN against the regime's credentials for a UN seat. These groups noted that the country's legitimate government was elected in 1990 in a free and fair election, and that the military junta had illegally and ruthlessly disregarded the will of the people. The NCGUB and MPU also announced the establishment of their permanent mission to the UN with Thein Oo, secretary of the MPU, being named as the permanent representative of the

²¹ "Politicians welcome proposed RTI: Pledge to include it in poll manifestos," *The Daily Star*, September 1, 2008, at <http://www.thedailystar.net/story.php?nid=52796>

²² "No Political Progress in Burma: UN," *Irrawaddy*, September 13, 2008, at http://irrawaddy.org/article1.php?art_id=14247

²³ "Gambari Should Push for Tripartite Dialogue: UNA," *Irrawaddy*, September 10, 2008, at http://irrawaddy.org/article.php?art_id=14210

groups in New York. The MPU was formed in exile by elected representatives of the National League for Democracy, and various ethnic parties.²⁴

CHINA

- **China urges Japan to safeguard the rights of its workers; Vice Foreign Minister Wu holds meetings with Six-Party Ambassadors; Chinese military delegation in Japan; Taiwan to make efforts to enter WHO**

The Chinese government urged the Japanese government to safeguard the legitimate rights of its workers following the protest by six Chinese women in Japan regarding poor pay and rough treatment by their Japanese employer. The issue had aroused attention in both the countries.²⁵

On the Six-Party talks, the Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman urged the relevant parties to work together to ensure that future talks on the issue would be a success. Even as Chinese Vice-Foreign Minister Wu Dawei held a series of meetings with Ambassadors from the United States, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and Russia on the denuclearization issue.²⁶

A Chinese military delegation reached Tokyo on September 10 to hold bilateral talks with the Japanese Ministry of Defense officials. The delegation also visited the Yokosuka Naval Base of the Japanese Maritime Self-Defence Force as well as the National Defence University. China and Japan had decided to strengthen military to military ties during the visit of President Hu Jintao in May.²⁷

Serbian President Boris Tadic visited China during the week and met Chen Bingde, the Chief of the General Staff of the PLA. The visiting Serbian President expressed his gratitude to China for its support and stressed that his country would always adhere to the One-China principle.²⁸ A high level Russian delegation led by Vladislav Surkov, First Deputy Chief of Staff of the Presidential Executive Office also met with Wang Jiarui, the head of the International Department of the CPC Central Committee in Beijing to discuss various issues relating to Sino-Russian ties.²⁹

Taiwan's Foreign Minister Francisco H.L. Ou meanwhile stated that his government would make focused efforts to ensure its entry in the World Health

²⁴ "Burmese Dissidents in Exile Challenge Junta's UN Seat," *Irrawaddy*, September 11, 2008, at http://irrawaddy.org/article3.php?art_id=14223

²⁵ "China urges Japan to safeguard rights of its workers," *People's Daily*, September 11, 2008, at <http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90776/90883/6498037.html>

²⁶ "China calls on six-party talks to proceed 'on right track'," *People's Daily*, September 9, 2008, at <http://english.people.com.cn/90001/90776/90883/6496335.html>

²⁷ Liu Zan and Zhang Hua, "PLA young military officer delegation visits Japan," *PLA Daily*, September 12, 2008, at www.english.chinamil.com.cn

²⁸ "Serbian president meets China's PLA General Staff chief," *People's Daily*, September 13, 2008, at <http://english.people.com.cn/90001/90776/90883/6498935.html>

²⁹ "Senior Russian, Chinese officials meet on bilateral ties," *People's Daily*, September 14, 2008, at <http://english.people.com.cn/90001/90776/90883/6499142.html>

Organization (WHO). The Foreign Minister added that in order to remove the ultimate cause of Taiwan's diplomatic predicament, the best way was "to improve cross-Taiwan Strait relations." He however admitted Taiwan's difficulty in participating in international organizations at present.³⁰

JAPAN

- **PM Fukuda resigns; Former Foreign Minister Taro Aso frontrunner for the job; Foreign Minister Komura announces that Japan would end its Iraq mission by the end of the year**

Japanese Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda announced his resignation on September 1. The decision was likely to further delay decisions on market reforms, even as there was a danger of an impending recession with the Japanese economy posting its sharpest contraction in nearly seven years in the previous quarter.³¹ Former foreign minister Taro Aso announced that he would run for the post vacated by Mr. Fukuda.³² Reports also noted that Mr. Aso would offer rival Yuriko Koike a cabinet position if he was elected Japan's new prime minister.³³ Meanwhile, Makoto Koga, a senior lawmaker in charge of election strategies for the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) suggested that snap polls could be held in November.³⁴

In other developments, Tokyo announced that it would end an air mission in Iraq, wrapping up a military deployment which was a historic first for the country. Foreign Minister Masahiko Komura stated that Japan planned to bring back by the end of the year men and material that were dispatched in support of the US-led coalition.³⁵

C. US ELECTION REVIEW

- **Sarah Palin re-energizes McCain campaign; Obama camp sensing the challenge, fall on Hillary Clinton; McCain gets ahead of Obama in poll; McCain seeks support from conservatives**

Since the Republican Convention held earlier in the month, John McCain and Sarah Palin made their first public appearance together in North Virginia on September 10. The Republican candidates attracted a huge crowd of 15,000,

³⁰ "Foreign Ministry to focus on entering WHO: foreign minister," *Central News Agency*, September 11, 2008, at

<http://www.cna.com.tw/cnaeng/EnglishTopNews/TopNewsDetail.aspx?TopNewsSerialnum=2185&strTopNewsDate=20080911&strTopNewsID=200809110029>

³¹ "Japan economy contracts," *The Daily Star*, September 14, 2008, at <http://www.thedailystar.net/story.php?nid=54661>

³² "Aso announces bid to lead Japan's ruling party," *The Daily Star*, September 6, 2008, at <http://www.thedailystar.net/story.php?nid=53470>

³³ "Japan PM hopeful Aso to offer rivals key posts: report," *The Associated Foreign Press*, September 14, 2008, at <http://afp.google.com/article/ALeqM5jWxK4ROx8xpdR9R8bSszHMA3JCAA>

³⁴ "Japan snap polls in Nov likely," *The Daily Star*, September 8, 2008, at <http://www.thedailystar.net/story.php?nid=53864>

³⁵ "Japan to end Iraq mission," *The Associated Foreign Press*, September 11, 2008, at http://afp.google.com/article/ALeqM5i6wrblEkh0daJ_G_X8855HIKe2tQ

reported to be the largest in McCain's presidential campaign so far. Reports noted that Palin's candidature has given a boost to the Republican campaign.³⁶ Her candidature was also likely to please the conservatives due to her 'pro-life' stance and opposition to abortion rights, among other issues..³⁷

The Democrats on their part were depending on Sen. Hillary Clinton to counter the challenge from Palin. As part of the strategy of positioning 'female surrogates in the battleground states,' Clinton went to Florida on September 8 to make her first campaign speech since the Democratic convention. Apart from Clinton, the Democrats were also placing their hopes on other female Governors belonging to the Party to curb the 'Palin surge.'³⁸

President Bush earlier, addressing the Republican Convention via satellite on September 2, praised McCain an "independent man who thinks for himself" and who was "ready to lead."³⁹

Meanwhile, developments in Iraq continued to occupy central stage for John McCain. McCain had supported the troop surge which has led to considerable stability in the country, especially in the Anbar province.⁴⁰

In other developments, McCain was placed ahead of Obama by 3 points in a poll conducted by Zogby International soon after the announcement of Palin's candidature.⁴¹ Another poll conducted by the BBC on September 10 gave the advantage to Obama. The poll however took into account the views of the 'rest of the world' - comprising of people in 22 countries across South America, Africa and Europe including, India and Australia.⁴²

³⁶ Elisabeth Bumiller, "With Palin at His Side, McCain Finds Energized Crowds," *The New York Times*, September 11, 2008, at <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/09/11/us/politics/11mccain.html?nl=pol&emc=pola1&pagewanted=print>

³⁷ David D. Kirkpatrick, "McCain's Effort to Woo Conservatives Is Paying Off," *The New York Times*, September 3, 2008, <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/09/03/us/politics/03conservatives.html?nl=pol&emc=pola2&pagewanted=print>

³⁸ Patrick Healy and Jeff Zeleny, "Obama Camp Turns to Clinton to Counter Palin," *The New York Times*, September 5, 2008, at <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/09/05/us/politics/05dems.html?nl=pol&emc=pola1&pagewanted=print>

³⁹ Sheryl Gay Stolberg, "From a Distance, Bush Praises McCain," *The New York Times*, September 3, 2008, at <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/09/03/us/politics/03repubday.html?nl=pol&emc=pola1&pagewanted=print>

⁴⁰ David E. Sanger, "Events in Iraq Likely to Be Key Theme for McCain," *The New York Times*, September 3, 2008, at <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/09/03/us/politics/03policy.html?nl=pol&emc=pola2&pagewanted=print>

⁴¹ "John McCain moves ahead of Barack Obama in US presidential election polls," at <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newsttopics/uselection2008/johnmccain/2706901/John-McCain-moves-ahead-of-Barack-Obama-in-US-presidential-election-polls.html>

⁴² Kate Kelland, "Rest of world wants Obama as U.S. president - poll," September 9, 2008, at <http://africa.reuters.com/wire/news/usnL9435890.html>

II. INTERNAL SECURITY REVIEW

SERIAL BLASTS ROCK DELHI

- **30 killed, 90 sustain injuries as serial blasts rock Delhi**

Five bombs ripped through busy shopping areas of Delhi within minutes of each other on September 13, killing 30 people. Over 90 others sustained injuries. Two blasts occurred in Connaught Place, another two at the upscale Greater Kailash M-Block market, and another at the crowded Ghaffar Market in Karol Bagh. The later proved to be the most destructive. Three more bombs were defused, one of them at the Children's Park in India Gate. All of the blasts were of low intensity, and the defused bombs suggested they terrorists had used a cocktail of ammonium nitrate, gun powder, ball bearings and nails, with timer devices. Reports noted that these were the same kind of bombs used in Jaipur, Bangalore and Ahmedabad.⁴³

The Indian Mujahideen, suspected to be a front of the Lashkar-Huji terror machine, claimed responsibility. The same outfit had also owned up the recent blasts in Ahmedabad, Jaipur and Bangalore. Media organisations received an e-mail (from al_arbi_delhi@yahoo.com) stating: "Indian Mujahideen strikes back once more...Within five minutes from now...This time with the message of death, dreadfully terrorising you for your sins. And thus our promise will be fulfilled. Inshallah ... Do whatever you want and stop us if you can."⁴⁴ Reports pointed out that the e-mail was sent using the wi-fi Internet connection of a company in Mumbai. The same technique was used to send a similar e-mail owning up the recent Ahmedabad blasts.

JAMMU AND KASHMIR

- **PM, Army chief review J&K situation; Ali Khan elected CEC, LAHDC, Kargil**

Army chief Gen. Deepak Kapoor briefed Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh in New Delhi on September 12 on the situation in J&K, in view of elections expected to take place in the coming months.⁴⁵

Independent Councillor Kachoo Ahmad Ali Khan was on September 9 elected as new Chief Executive Councillor (CEC) of Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), Kargil. The LAHDC Kargil has the total strength of 30 Councillors, of whom 26 are elected and four are nominated. Six Councillors, who won the elections on NC tickets and, two others from the Ladakh Union Territory Front (LUTF) - who support granting Union Territory Status to Ladakh, supported the candidature of Ali Khan. Elections to LAHDC

⁴³ "Serial blasts rock Delhi; 30 dead, 90 injured," *Times of India*, September 14, 2008, at http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/Terror_strikes_Delhi_30_killed_in_5_blasts/articleshow/3479914.cms

⁴⁴ "Indian Mujahideen claims responsibility," *The Hindu*, September 14, 2008, at <http://www.hindu.com/2008/09/14/stories/2008091456690100.htm>

⁴⁵ "PM, Army chief review J&K situation," *Daily Excelsior*, September 14, 2008, at <http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/web1/08sep14/news1.htm#3>

were announced on August 1 while polling was held on August 30. As many as 72 candidates were in the fray. 19 Independents made it to the Council along with six candidates of NC and one from the Congress. The elections recorded the highest ever voter turn out of 80 per cent.⁴⁶

After three days of complete normalcy, the Kashmir Valley witnessed a recurrence of violent clashes between protestors and security forces on September 12, as Hurriyat Coordination Committee (HCC) urged the Kashmiris to stage peaceful demonstrations after performing Friday afternoon prayers. As a result, two persons were killed and 50 others, including 20 security forces personnel, were wounded in four separate incidents of violence during the anti-India and pro-Azadi demonstrations. The demonstrators demanded the release of separatist leaders and condemned the police crackdown in the aftermath of the rallies by the Hurriyat Conference in August.

Meanwhile, Hurriyat Chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq warned that all pro-India political leaders would be "thrown out of Kashmir" if they participated in the forthcoming Assembly elections.⁴⁷ Earlier on September 8, nearly 60 people were wounded in clashes between protesters and security forces across the Kashmir Valley. The clashes erupted following a bandh called by separatists to protest against the Election Commission's meetings with mainstream parties to decide the poll schedule.⁴⁸ While the NC and PDP were against the conduct of polls, the BJP and Left Parties wanted early election. The tenure of the Assembly was to expire on November 20 but the state was placed under Governor's rule, which ends January 10.⁴⁹

In other developments, security forces on September 12 gunned down three militants of the Harkat-ul-Jehad Islami (HUJI) in an encounter at Bonda, Chatru in Kishtwar district.⁵⁰

MAOIST INSURGENCY

- **Intelligence report: Left-wing extremists present in 22 states**

Reports quoting an intelligence assessment stated that left-wing extremists were spreading their presence in at least 22 states as well as developing links with outfits like the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA), mainly for procuring arms. The report listed 39 left-wing extremists groups operating in the country with underground sympathisers and

⁴⁶ "Kachoo elected CEC LAHDC Kargil," *Daily Excelsior*, September 10, 2008, at <http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/web1/08sep10/news.htm#4>

⁴⁷ "2 killed, 50 injured in violent clashes; curfew clamped on Baramulla, Shopian," *Daily Excelsior*, September 13, 2008, at <http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/web1/08sep13/news.htm#1>

⁴⁸ "60 injured in fierce clashes during anti-election strike," *Daily Excelsior*, September 8, 2008, at <http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/web1/08sep08/news.htm#12>

⁴⁹ "Adequate Central Forces available for J&K polls: MHA," *Daily Excelsior*, September 8, 2008, at <http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/web1/08sep08/news.htm#12>

⁵⁰ "Akber Chechi among 3 top HUJI ultras shot dead," *Daily Excelsior*, September 13, 2008, at <http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/web1/08sep13/news.htm#1>

armed cadre active in 15 states, while over-ground supporters existed in seven states. It further added that there were over 20,000 underground extremists active in the country and that nearly 50,000 over-ground members and more than 100,000 sympathisers and supporters were working in various frontal organisations of these outfits.⁵¹

NORTHEAST INSURGENCY

- **Five insurgents gunned down in Manipur**

Security forces busted a militant camp consisting of two huts near Loktak Lake, Manipur on September 9. Five insurgents of the Peoples Revolutionary Party of Kangleipak (PREPAK) were gunned down. The troops recovered a large quantity of arms and ammunitions, including four AK-56 rifles, one M-79 grenade launcher and an M-16.⁵²

OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

- **Countrywide hi-tech network to track down terrorists**

Reports noted that with the increasing inter-state ramifications of crimes and terror networks, the Union Home Ministry was putting in place the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and System (CCTNS) - a hi-tech system covering almost all of the 14,000 police stations. The network aims at providing the Investigating Officers (IO) with technology, tools, and information to facilitate investigation of crime as well as facilitate in the detection of criminals. The Planning Commission had also given in-principle approval for the major e-governance initiative during the XIth Five Year Plan with an outlay of Rs. 2,000 crores.

The system was intended to improve the functioning of police forces in maintaining law and order, traffic management, prevention of crime, besides keeping track of the progress of cases. It also aims at making the functioning of police more transparent and citizen friendly. Electronic data exchange with other computerized systems in courts, jails, passport and transport sector was expected to help reduce manual records keeping and ensure savings on stationery, postage and traveling expenses. Initially conceived as Common Integrated Police Application (CIPA) for automation of work flow at police stations, a similar scheme was launched in 2004-05.⁵³

⁵¹ "LTTE, ULFA source of arms for Naxals: Report," *Times of India*, September 10, 2008, at http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/India/LTTE_ULFA_source_of_arms_for_Naxals_Report/articleshow/3461942.cms

⁵² "Five rebels gunned down on Loktak," *Telegraph*, September 10, 2008, at http://telegraphindia.com/1080910/jsp/northeast/story_9810443.jsp

⁵³ "Countrywide hi-tech network to track down terrorists," *Daily Excelsior*, September 8, 2008, at <http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/web1/08sep08/news.htm#2>

III. ENERGY SECURITY REVIEW

EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION

- **Peruvian Oil Blocks for Indian companies**

Reliance Industries Ltd., China National Petroleum Corporation, Jindal Steel & Power Ltd., and Vietnam Oil & Gas Group were among companies awarded Peruvian oil and natural gas exploration blocks during the Andean nation's largest exploration bidding round. These were part of the 17 blocks located in the Amazon jungle, along the northern coast and in the southern highlands.⁵⁴

- **Russia wins onshore blocks in Myanmar**

Nobel Oil of Russia entered into an agreement to explore for oil and gas at two onshore blocks at Hukaung and U-Ru in the northern Kachin State, near the Chinese border. The company thus became the fourth Russian energy firm to invest in the Southeast Asian country.

Energy exports account for Myanmar's biggest source of foreign exchange, with official data indicating that the country earned \$2.5 billion during April 2007 - March 2008 from the sale of natural gas. Most of these exports were to Thailand.⁵⁵

- **Norwegian Researchers Technique for Boosting Oil Extraction**

Researchers in Norway reported that injecting a special type of seawater - termed 'smart water' into certain low-yield oil wells may help boost oil extraction by as much as 60 percent. Scientists suggested that the study could help meet rising energy demands and provide consumers with some financial relief at the gas pump in the future. The study noted that more than 50 percent of the world's oil reserves were trapped in oil reservoirs composed of calcium carbonate. Injecting seawater into these chalk-based wells could potentially boost oil extraction, but researchers were however not sure if the method would work for oil wells composed of limestone, another tough material known for its low oil-recovery rates.⁵⁶

- **General electric wins China pipeline**

General Electric (GE) Oil and Gas won a Chinese pipeline contract worth over \$100 million on September 9 to supply pipeline compression equipment for the country's second West-to-East natural gas pipeline. Construction of the new pipeline, which consists of a main line and eight sub-lines, began earlier in the year. The pipeline was expected to be operational by the end of 2009. GE was

⁵⁴ "Reliance, CNPC, win Peru oil, gas exploration blocks," *Bloomberg*, September 10, 2008, at http://asianenergy.blogspot.com/2008_09_07_archive.html

⁵⁵ "Nobel oil signs Myanmar deal," *Reuters*, September 11, 2008, at <http://asianenergy.blogspot.com/2008/09/nobel-oil-signs-myanmar-deal.html>

⁵⁶ "Smart water may help boost production from oil wells by 60 percent," *Science Daily*, September 10, 2008, at http://asianenergy.blogspot.com/2008_09_07_archive.html

also an equipment supplier for the expansion of China's first West-to-East pipeline in 2005.⁵⁷

GEOPOLITICS

- **EU attempts to diversify its energy import sources**

EU Energy Commissioner Andris Piebalgs told *Reuters* on September 9 that a 4,300 km Trans-Saharan Gas Pipeline from Nigeria through Niger and Algeria en route to the Mediterranean could help the EU diversify its energy sources. The EU, which relies on Russia for about 40 percent of its gas and a third of its oil, has been seeking to reduce that heavy dependency since disputes between Russia and transit states like Ukraine highlighted the frailty of its energy supply. Friction over Russia's invasion of Georgia in the previous month pushed energy security further towards the top of the bloc's agenda.

Nigeria already supplies about 20 percent of the EU's oil and 80 percent of the country's gas is also shipped to Europe as liquefied LNG. The pipeline is seen improving security and also the prospects of transit regions in Africa, thereby reducing the flood of migrants to Europe.

Nigeria has the world's seventh-largest proven gas reserves, but has been unable to develop its gas industry to its full potential because of lack of funds and regulation.⁵⁸

MARKET

- **Russia offers 'extensive cooperation' with OPEC**

Russian Vice Premier Igor Sechin proposed "extensive cooperation" with the OPEC oil cartel, hours before the group's 13 ministers decided to scale back production by around 520,000 barrels a day (BPD) (less than 1 per cent of world oil supply), over the next 40 days in the face of falling prices and slowing demand growth. While OPEC officials described the cuts as necessary to avoid a buildup of excess supply, reports noted that the decision could face criticism when prices were still above \$100 a barrel. The cuts would put OPEC's output, currently at around 32.7 million BPD - back to where it was during the first three months of the year. OPEC's decision followed US benchmark crude falling by over \$3 on September 9 to its lowest level in five months, settling at \$103.26 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The OPEC supplies around 40 per cent of the world's oil, while Russian output makes up another 11 per cent.⁵⁹

⁵⁷ "GE oil and gas unit gets China pipeline contract," *AP*, September 9, 2008, at http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/080909/general_electric_contract.html.v=1

⁵⁸ "EU sees security in Sahara gas pipeline-piebalgs," *Reuters*, September 9, 2008, at <http://asianenergy.blogspot.com/2008/09/eu-sees-security-in-sahara-gas-pipeline.html>

⁵⁹ "Russia's bid to strengthen OPEC ties may sow unease," *Asia Energy*, September 10, 2008, at http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122098635628015775.html?mod=googlenews_wsj

IV. SPACE AND MISSILE REVIEW

INDIA

- **US to sell Harpoon missiles to India**

In a boost to Indo-US Defence relations, the US announced the sale of two dozen Harpoon II anti-ship missiles to India. The deal, worth over \$170 million, was made public as Defence Minister A.K. Antony began a high-level visit to the US. This would be the first sale of American missiles to India. The Pentagon has also notified Congress of the possible sale, which would arm squadrons of the maritime-role version of Jaguar warplanes of the IAF.⁶⁰

- **Govt. Approves Modern Navigation Project GAGAN**

Reports noted that the Indian government approved the implementation of a Rs. 774-crore Global Positioning System (GPS) project. The GPS-aided Geo-Augmented Navigation (GAGAN) project would place India in a select group of nations to possess a system that would guide aircraft over its airspace, and provide them straight-line fuel-efficient routes and precision approach landings.⁶¹

MISSILES

- **US Navy Conducts Second Test of Raytheon's Standard Missile-6**

The US Navy conducted the second test of Raytheon Company's Standard Missile-6 extended range anti-air warfare missile on September 5. The SM-6 provides advanced anti-air warfare and over-the-horizon capabilities against aircraft, unmanned aerial vehicles and cruise missiles.⁶²

SPACE

- **European satellite launch is delayed**

The European Space Agency (ESA) announced that the launch of a satellite to monitor the Earth's gravitational field, scheduled for launch in northern Russia, was postponed to October 5 because of technical problems. The one-tonne satellite is the Gravity field and state-steady Ocean Circulation Explorer (GOCE).⁶³

⁶⁰ "U.S. to sell Harpoon missiles to India," *The Hindu*, September 11, 2008, at <http://www.hindu.com/2008/09/11/stories/2008091161041400.htm>

⁶¹ "Govt Approves Modern Navigation Project GAGAN," September 12, 2008, at http://www.gpsdaily.com/reports/Govt_Approves_Modern_Navigation_Project_GAGAN_999.html

⁶² "US Navy Conducts Second Test of Raytheon's Standard Missile-6," September 5, 2008, at <http://www.reuters.com/article/pressRelease/idUS155812+05-Sep-2008+PRN20080905>

⁶³ "European satellite launch is delayed," September 8, 2008, at <http://afp.google.com/article/ALeqM5hoTzLOu4X69C0lghOv8Fe67TY1qg>