

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

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I. COUNTRY REVIEWS

A. South Asia

Afghanistan

- **Head of provincial intelligent attacked in Faryab province in Afghanistan; US base attacked in Panjshir region**

Reports noted that a suicide bomber attacked the car carrying provincial head of an intelligence agency. The official was injured in the attack. However, a child was killed. The National Directorate of Security (NDS) official was travelling in Maymanah in Faryab province. Lal Mohammad, police spokesman for the northern region noted that "The chief of NDS was going to his office when the attacker, a person wearing a suicide vest, detonated near his car...one child is killed and six other people, including the provincial chief of NDS, are injured."¹

In another deadly attack, militants targeted a US base in the Rakha district of the Panjshir region in the eastern part of Afghanistan but failed to breach the outside gate. All four militants were killed in the attack, officials noted. The compound serves as the base for a provincial reconstruction team - a mix of military and civilian personnel.²

Pakistan

- **Pakistan criticizes US- Afghanistan led coalition forces for failing to reign in Taliban cleric Fazlullah; General Kayani says no objection over dialogue with Taliban; General Kayani warns US over unilateral military action in Pakistan; Secretary Clinton visits Pakistan, delivers tough message; Pakistan has been elected as a non permanent member in the UN Security Council**

Pakistan army spokesman Major General Athar Abbas has said that US- Afghanistan led coalition forces have failed to reign in Taliban cleric Fazlullah even after repeated requests from Pakistan. He blamed Fazlullah for a spate of cross border attacks that has killed over 100 members of Pakistan's security force. Fazlullah was the Pakistani Taliban leader in Swat Valley, also known as FM mullah for his fiery speeches over radio, before a 2009 army offensive forced him to flee. He is believed to have regrouped in Afghanistan. However, In Kabul, National Directorate of Security spokesman Lutfullah Mashal said "terrorist groups usually come from the other side of the border and do some attacks".

¹ "Afghan provincial intel chief targeted in bombing", *Dawn*, October 17, 2011 at <http://www.dawn.com/2011/10/17/afghan-provincial-intel-chief-targeted-in-bombing.html>

² "Afghanistan militants attack US base in Panjshir province", *BBC*, October 15, 2011 at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-south-asia-15319862>

“One thing for sure I can say that no one is regrouped or settled here in Afghanistan,” he added.³

In another development, the Chief of Pakistan Army General Pervez Kayani has said that the army has no objection over government holding talks with the Taliban. He also said that he had no intentions of sending in troops to North Waziristan prior to government orders. General Kayani made these remarks while briefing parliamentary defense committee at GHQ in Rawalpindi.⁴

In strong words, Pakistan army chief General Kayani has said that the US should think ten times before going forward with unilateral military action in North Waziristan. He also said that instead of taking actions within Pakistan it should try and stabilize Afghanistan. Reports noted that United States has for many years urged Islamabad to deal with militants in the area, especially the Haqqani network. This network has been blamed for a series of recent attacks in Afghanistan. “If someone convinced me that all problems will be solved by taking action in North Waziristan, I’d do it tomorrow,” a parliamentarian who attended a briefing given by Gen Kayani quoted him as saying. “If we need to take action, we will do it on our schedule and according to our capacity.” Gen Kayani told the closed-door parliamentary defence committee meeting in Rawalpindi that any withdrawal of American assistance would not affect Pakistan’s defence capabilities.⁵

In another development, according to reports, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton arrived in Pakistan with a dual mission of sending tough message to reign in Haqqani network and dismantle militant outfits within the country. She also said that US wished to maintain strategic relationship with Pakistan and support Afghan reconciliation process. Her meeting with PM Gilani was attended by Foreign Minister Hina Rabbani Khar, Finance Minister Dr Hafeez Shaikh, Foreign Secretary Salman Bashir, Army Chief Gen Ashfaq Parvez Kayani and ISI Chief Lt-Gen Ahmed Shuja Pasha. The visit is seen by many as the last chance for the two countries to salvage their crumbling relationship.⁶

In an important development, Pakistan has been elected as a non permanent member for two years term in the Security Council. It was contesting elections for five positions with two-year terms. Morocco, Guatemala and Togo have also been elected as new temporary members of the council. Meanwhile, political analysts have ruled out any big rivalry between the two South Asian neighbours as they do agree on many issues.⁷

Bangladesh

● India keen on importing more readymade garments from Bangladesh; Foreign Minister

³ “Pakistan wants Afghan action on Fazlullah”, *Dawn*, October 17, 2011 at <http://www.dawn.com/2011/10/17/pakistan-wants-afghan-action-on-taliban-cleric.html>

⁴ “No objection on dialogue with Taliban:Kayani”, *Dawn*, October 18, 2011 at <http://www.dawn.com/2011/10/18/no-objection-on-dialogues-with-taliban-kayani.html>

⁵ “Pakistan warns US over unilateral military action,” *BBC*, October 19, 2011 at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-south-asia-15364956>

⁶ “Clinton arrives with tough message”, *Dawn*, October 21, 2011 at <http://www.dawn.com/2011/10/21/clinton-arrives-with-tough-message.html>

Dipu Moni on five nation tour; Tin Bigha continues to be part of India; PM Sheikh Hasina visits Germany to attend the World Health Summit-2011

Reports noted that India is keen on importing more readymade garments from Bangladesh. This was noted by outgoing Indian High Commissioner Rajeet Mitter on October 18, urging Bangladeshi businessmen to seize this opportunity to reduce the widening trade gap between the two neighbours.⁸

Meanwhile Foreign Minister Dipu Moni left Dhaka on October 20, for a five-nation tour of the UK, Germany, Australia, Saudi Arabia and the Maldives for nearly a month to attend various programmes.⁹

According to an Indian embassy press release in Bangladesh, Tin Bigha area, the corridor connecting Dahagram and Angarpota enclaves with mainland Bangladesh, will continue to be part of India and manned by Indian Border Security Force (BSF).¹⁰

In other developments, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina left for Germany on October 22, 2011 on a four-day official visit to attend the World Health Summit-2011.¹¹

Sri Lanka

- **A delegation of Trade and Investment Promotional Mission visits Republic of Korea; Diplomatic relations established between Sri Lanka and Rawanda; The Geneva-based International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) urges UN to call on Sri Lankan authorities to amend the Convention against Torture Act; China hopes to establish Confucius Centres and a TV channel in Sri Lanka; Dutch court convicts Tamil men for raising funds for the banned Tamil Tiger rebels**

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs Neomal Perera undertook a three-day Trade and Investment Promotional Mission to the Republic of Korea with a 15-member business delegation from Sri Lanka-Korea Economic Co-operation Committee of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, from 16th to 20th October 2011. During the visit, Perera met with his counterpart in Seoul, and other Korean business associations and organizations, in order to promote investments to Sri Lanka.¹²

⁷ "Pakistan wins UN Security Council seat alongside India", *BBC*, October 21, 2011 at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-south-asia-15412662>

⁸ "India keen to import more RMGs to reduce trade gap: Says outgoing high commissioner", *The Daily Star*, October 19, 2011 at <http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=207077>.

⁹ "Dipu off to 5 countries for a month", *The Daily Star*, October 20, 2011 at <http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=207288>

¹⁰ "India retains Tin Bigha", *The Daily Star*, October 20, 2011 at <http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=207301>.

¹¹ "Health Summit: PM flies to Berlin today", *The Daily Star*, October 22, 2011 at <http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=207528>.

¹² "External Affairs Deputy Minister concludes a Trade and Investment Promotional Mission to South Korea", *Ministry of External Affairs*, October 20, 2011 at <http://www.mea.gov.lk/index.php/en/media/3078-external-affairs-deputy-minister-concludes-a-trade-and-investment-promotional-mission-to-south-korea>.

In another development, the Government of Sri Lanka and the Government of Rwanda has decided to establish Diplomatic Relations between the two countries with effect from 20th April. While the High Commissioner of Rwanda based in New Delhi would be concurrently accredited to Sri Lanka, the High Commissioner of Sri Lanka based in Nairobi would be concurrently accredited to Rwanda.¹³

Reportedly, the Geneva-based International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) has urged the UN Committee against Torture to call on Sri Lankan authorities to amend the Convention against Torture Act to bring it in line with the definitions and obligations under the international Convention against Torture (CAT).¹⁴

According to an Education Ministry spokesman, China is hoping to establish Confucius Centres and a TV channel in Sri Lanka to popularise the Chinese language and telecast educational programmes, train teachers and school principals, according to an Education Ministry spokesman.¹⁵

In other developments, a Dutch court has convicted five Dutch ethnic Tamil men for raising funds for the banned Tamil Tiger rebels.¹⁶

Maldives

- **Maldivian Vice President Waheed paid an official visit to China; Former Foreign Secretary of India Ambassador Shyam Saran paid a courtesy call on President Mohamed Nasheed; 11th Standing Committee of CPPCC meets President Nasheed; Vice Minister of Internal Affairs and Communication of Japan meets President Nasheed**

Reports noted that Vice President of Maldives, Dr Mohamed Waheed paid an official visit to China from October, 18 to 24, 2011 on an invitation from the Sichuan province to deliver a lecture at the Sichuan University. During his visit, Dr Waheed met with Chinese investors and briefed them on the investment opportunities in the Maldives. Vice President Dr. Waheed also inaugurated the 12th Western China International Fair.¹⁷

In another development, the Chairman of Research and Information System (RIS), and the Former Foreign Secretary of India, Ambassador Shyam Saran paid a courtesy call on President Mohamed

¹³ "Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Sri Lanka and Rwanda" *Ministry of External Affairs*, 17th October 2011, <http://www.mea.gov.lk/index.php/en/media/3072-establishment-of-diplomatic-relations-between-sri-lanka-and-rwanda>

¹⁴ "Amend Convention Against Torture: ICJ", *The Daily Mirror*, October 23, 2011 at <http://www.dailymirror.lk/news/14283-amend-convention-against-torture-icj.html>.

¹⁵ "China to set up Confucius Centres, TV channel here", *The Daily Mirror*, October 21, 2011 at <http://www.dailymirror.lk/news/14252-china-to-set-up-confucius-centres-tv-channel-here.html>

¹⁶ "Dutch court convicts five for Tamil Tiger fundraising", *The Daily Mirror*, October 21, 2011 at <http://www.dailymirror.lk/news/14273-court-convicts-5-tamils-of-fundraising-for-tigers.html>

¹⁷ "Vice President Departs to China", *The President's Office, Republic of Maldives*, October 18, 2011 at <http://presidencymaldives.gov.mv/Index.aspx?lid=11&dcid=6122>; "Vice President Inaugurates 12th Western China International Fair", *The President's Office, Republic of Maldives*, October 20, 2011 at <http://presidencymaldives.gov.mv/Index.aspx?lid=11&dcid=6157>

Nasheed on October 18. At the meeting held at the President's Office, discussions were held on the establishment of a shipping line between the Maldives and other Indian Ocean Island Nations, and the preparations for the upcoming SAARC Summit. The Ambassador discussed the areas in which India could offer assistance in the development of different industrial sectors in the Maldives.¹⁸

According to reports, member of the 11th Standing Committee of Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) and Director of Jintai Museum Yuan Xikun met President Mohamed Nasheed on October 19.¹⁹

In other developments, Vice Minister of Internal Affairs and Communication of Japan, Takashi Morita paid a courtesy call on President Mohamed Nasheed on October 19. At the meeting held at the President's Office, the Vice Minister expressed his gratitude for post tsunami aid provided to Japan from the Maldives'. He also noted the necessity to develop solar energy power systems, and briefed the President on a number of works being undertaken in the development of such systems, in Japan. President Nasheed conveyed his appreciation to the Japanese government for their contribution in the different areas of development in the Maldives. Further, the President noted that the Japanese would be an observer at the 17th SAARC Summit, and expressed his gratitude for Japan's many contributions to the South Asian Development Funds.²⁰

B. East Asia

China

- **Chinese Communist Party (CPC) turns to culture to sustain nation's rise; Economic co-op takes lead in Sino-Russian ties; China 'always respects Libyan people's choice'; China to expand imports from ASEAN: Wen; Mainland, Taiwan sign nuclear safety agreement; China backs Pakistan to seek seat on UN Security Council; China opposes arms race in outer space: envoy**

On the domestic front, reports noted that the Chinese Communist Party's chiefs completed their annual policy meeting this week. It was decided that China seeks to maintain its culture amid globalization and also enhance its soft power.²¹

¹⁸ "Chairman of Research and Information System of India, pays Courtesy Call on the President", *The President's Office, Republic of Maldives*, October 18, 2011 at <http://presidencymaldives.gov.mv/Index.aspx?lid=11&dcid=6119>

¹⁹ "Member of the 11th Standing Committee of Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) Meets with President Nasheed", *The President's Office, Republic of Maldives*, October 19, 2011 at <http://presidencymaldives.gov.mv/Index.aspx?lid=11&dcid=6138>

²⁰ "Japanese Vice Minister of Internal Affairs and Communication pays Courtesy Call on the President", *The President's Office, Republic of Maldives*, October 19, 2011 at <http://presidencymaldives.gov.mv/Index.aspx?lid=11&dcid=6139>.

²¹ "CPC turns to culture to sustain nation's rise" *China Daily*, October 22, 2011 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2011-10/22/content_13955981.htm

On the bilateral front, Russian Prime Minister visited China recently and it is expected that this will help in the booming economic ties between the countries. A number of agreements were signed during this visit.²²

On the other hand, according to reports, China has stated that it respects the Libyan people's choice and it will continue to develop its relationship with the country.²³

Meanwhile Beijing has also asserted that it will continue to expand its imports from Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and enhance the economic and trade cooperation.²⁴

In a significant development, China and Taiwan have agreed to boost their nuclear safety in the wake of the Japanese crisis.²⁵

Reports noted that Beijing has asserted that it attaches a lot of importance to Pakistan's request for a seat at the UN Security Council. This was stated by Jiang Yu Foreign Ministry spokesperson.²⁶

In other developments, China has noted that it is firm towards opposing weaponization of outer space and also against arms race in outer space.²⁷

Japan

● Japanese Prime Minister visits South Korea, promises to step up efforts to negotiate a bilateral FTA

During Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda's recent visit to South Korea, both Noda and his counterpart Lee-Myung-bak agreed to step their efforts towards the resumption of talks for a bilateral FTA. The leaders, while insisting on the necessity to join hands in dealing with North Korean nuclear programme, also agreed to expand currency swap lines to help stabilizing financial markets.²⁸

²² "Economic co-op takes lead in Sino-Russian ties" *China Daily*, October 22, 2011 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2011-10/22/content_13954409.htm

²³ "China 'always respects Libyan people's choice'" *China Daily*, October 21, 2011 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2011-10/21/content_13952889.htm

²⁴ "China to expand imports from ASEAN: Wen" *China Daily*, October 21, 2011 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2011-10/21/content_13950632.htm

²⁵ "Mainland, Taiwan sign nuclear safety agreement" *China Daily*, October 21, 2011 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2011-10/21/content_13944802.htm

²⁶ "China backs Pakistan to seek seat on UN Security Council" *China Daily*, October 19, 2011 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2011-10/19/content_13936189.htm

²⁷ "China opposes arms race in outer space: envoy" *China Daily*, October 18, 2011 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2011-10/18/content_13922675.htm

²⁸ "Noda, Lee push trade talks/leaders agree to step up efforts to negotiate bilateral pact", *Yomiuri Shimbun*, October 20, 2011 at <http://www.yomiuri.co.jp/dy/national/T111019005576.htm>

South Korea

- **South Korean President Lee Myung-bak: US-South Korea alliance is “evolving into a global alliance”**

Reports noted that after returning from his recent state visit to the US, South Korean President Lee Myung-bak stated that the alliance between the two countries is “evolving into a global alliance” under which both have been working closely in dealing with issues relating to the Korean Peninsula and beyond. During Lee’s visit to the US recently, the US Congress approved a FTA between the two countries which is expected to bring the two alliance partners more closer. The deal is also expected to increase South Korea’s GDP by 5.7% within ten years after implementation and create around 350,000 jobs.²⁹

North Korea

- **North Korea and the US to hold talks on resuming the Six Party Talks**

Reports noted that North Korea and the US are to hold a second round of bilateral talk around October 26 in Geneva³⁰, after the first round recently held in New York in July, to discuss the resumption of the Six Party Talks on North Korea’s denuclearization. Last month, Chief nuclear envoys from both the Koreas met for the second time to discuss the terms and conditions for the restarting the talks. So far, while both the US and South Korea have pressurized North Korea to put a stop to its nuclear programme before holding the multilateral talks, North Korea is pushing for unconditional resumption of it.³¹

C. Central Asia & Russia

Russia

- **Reports: There have been no headway in US-Russia missile defence talks; Gazprom insists that gas should be supplied to China via the ‘western corridor’; International space forum to be held in Moscow; Russia aims to diversify its gas supplies on account of the new hydrocarbon policy of the European Union; Russia develops a new long range mobile radar; PM Putin: Russia does not perceive China as a threat; Russia and North Korea mark anniversary of diplomatic ties; Russian scientists want to join Europe’s ExoMars mission; Medvedev to meet Dutch Prime Minister; Putin to allow Medvedev to implement his ideas when Medvedev becomes the Prime Minister next year; Russia will rent pilot training**

²⁹ “Lee says alliance with US ‘evolving into global alliance’”, *Korea Herald*, October 17, 2011, at <http://www.koreaherald.com/national/Detail.jsp?newsMLId=20111017000383>

³⁰ “North Korea, US to hold second round of talks in Geneva October 26”, *Dong-a-Ilbo*, October 18, 2011, at <http://english.donga.com/srv/service.php3?biid=2011101823758>

³¹ “North Korea, US to hold more nuclear talks in Geneva”, *Korea Herald*, October 17, 2011, at <http://www.koreaherald.com/national/Detail.jsp?newsMLId=20111017000782>

facilities in the Ukraine; Russia offeres help in fighting sea piracy in the Gulf of Guinea; Russia and Jordan have discussed Middle East situation and also bilateral relationship; Belarus to get gas at a lower price next year; Putin denies that Russia wants to revive the Soviet Union

According to reports, Russia's envoy to NATO Dmitry Rogozin has said that Russia will not make concessions at the expense of its own security even though missile defence talks between Russia and the United States are deadlocked. This comes amidst the backdrop of United States being ready to offer Russia written assurances that the NATO-backed Euro missile defence shield being built is not directed against Russia. But the major sticking point has been the refusal of the US to provide any legally binding commitments as demanded by Moscow.³²

In another development, Gazprom has insisted that Russian gas be initially supplied to China via the "western corridor" while China believes that gas should be initially supplied by the eastern route, which is believes will reduce the cost of Russian gas supplies. At this point, the cost of Russian gas deliveries, including transportation, is close to China's offer of 250 U.S. dollars per 1,000 cubic meters. The "western corridor" is the Altai gas transportation system that will supply gas from Gazprom's gas fields. The "eastern corridor" can deliver gas from fields in Eastern Siberia and Sakhalin.³³

Reports noted that the 2011 Space Forum was organized near Moscow. It is devoted to the 50th anniversary of Yuri Gagarin's pioneer flight to outer space. A conference titled "Manned Space Flights" was held at the Cosmonauts Training Centre where experts discussed urgent issues of manned cosmonautics.³⁴

According to reports, Russia is aiming to diversify gas supplies and to re-orient part of them to countries in Asia and the Pacific, as there has been no reply to its proposals from the European Commission and in view of the introduction of the "third energy package" in Europe. Diversification will also envisage an increase in the amounts of liquefied natural gas, which would increase the flexibility of export.³⁵

Reports noted that Russian scientists have developed and tested a new mobile radar (named 55Zh6ME) which is capable of detecting targets at the distance of up to 1,800 kilometers and an altitude of up to 1,200 km and will soon become part of the country's aerospace defenses. Russia is planning to set up a unified strategic aerospace defense command that would integrate existing air defense and missile defense networks, early warning systems and aerospace monitoring systems.³⁶

³² "US-Russia missile defense talks deadlocked", *RIA Novosti*, October 19, 2011, <http://en.rian.ru/world/20111019/167871608.html>

³³ "Gazprom insists that gas be supplied to China via 'western corridor'", *ITAR-TASS*, October 17, 2011, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/249332.html>

³⁴ "An International Space Forum to be held in Moscow", *ITAR-TASS*, October 18, 2011, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/249668.html>

³⁵ "Russia to diversify gas supplies in view of controversies with EU- Yanovsky", *ITAR-TASS*, October 18, 2011, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/250452.html>

³⁶ "Russia develops new long-range mobile radar", *RIA Novosti*, October 17, 2011, http://en.rian.ru/military_news/20111017/167774318.html

Meanwhile, Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin has said that China is a reliable partner and not a threat to Russia. He has also said that Russia “has no plans to compete with China” for global leadership.³⁷

In another development, Russian and North Korean officials have marked the 63rd anniversary of the establishment of bilateral diplomatic ties in an event at the North Korean embassy in Moscow. A rail link between Russia and North Korea has been recently opened and the two countries have plans for a pipeline to carry Russian gas through North Korean territory to the South.³⁸

Reports noted that Russian scientists want to join European Space Agency’s ExoMars (Exobiology on Mars) mission to study the Red Planet. The ExoMars program to send a satellite to Mars in 2016 and a robot rover two years later was run jointly by NASA and ESA. NASA later said it would cut its participation in the project and will not provide its Atlas carrier for the launch. Meanwhile, the European Space Agency council has decided to start talks with Russia on the possible use of Russia’s Proton spacecraft for the launch.³⁹

As part of the summit talks between President Medvedev and Dutch Prime Minister in Moscow, Russia and the Netherlands will build a logistical hub for oil and have cross-years of Russia in the Netherlands and of the Netherlands in Russia in 2013. The talks will focus on the main areas of bilateral cooperation – politics, economy, education, science, and culture. Trade turnover between the two countries in 2010 was 58.4 billion U.S. dollars.⁴⁰

According to reports, Prime Minister Putin has said that Medvedev will be able to implement his ideas announced during his presidency when he becomes head of government in 2012. Putin stressed that during his term of office, President Dmitry Medvedev has transferred the solution of critical national development issues from office discussions to practical steps. These fundamental things are stated in the national development programme up to 2020 and include development of democratic institutions, diversification, and economic modernisation.⁴¹

Russia has expressed its desire to rent facilities on Ukraine’s Crimean Peninsula for naval pilot training. In line with a 1997 bilateral agreement, Russia occasionally uses the Nitka Naval Pilot Training Center in Ukraine as the only training facility for its naval pilots. According to Russian estimates, the rent of the Nitka Center would cost Russia about \$700,000 annually and the Defence Ministry is willing to upgrade the facility and use it jointly with Ukraine.⁴²

³⁷ “Putin says China no threat to Russia”, *RIA Novosti*, October 17, 2011, <http://en.rian.ru/russia/20111017/167781908.html>

³⁸ “Russia, North Korea mark anniversary of diplomatic ties”, *RIA Novosti*, October 19, 2011, <http://en.rian.ru/world/20111019/167848785.html>

³⁹ “Russian scientists want to join Europe’s ExoMars Mission”, *RIA Novosti*, October 16, 2011, <http://en.rian.ru/science/20111016/167736662.html>

⁴⁰ “Medvedev to meet Dutch PM”, *ITAR-TASS*, October 20, 2011, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/251752.html>

⁴¹ “Medvedev can implement his presidential ideas as prime minister in 2012 – Putin”, *ITAR-TASS*, October 16, 2011, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/249514.html>

⁴² “Russia confirms plan to rent pilot training facilities in the Ukraine”, *RIA Novosti*, October 20, 2011, <http://en.rian.ru/world/20111020/167880196.html>

Russia is ready to join international efforts to curb sea piracy in the Gulf of Guinea where about 30 attacks on commercial ships have been registered since the beginning of 2011. Russia has been successfully fighting sea piracy off the Somali coast since 2008. Task forces from the Russian Navy, usually led by Udaloy class destroyers, operate in the area on a rotating basis.⁴³

According to reports, King of Jordan Abdullah II and Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Bogdanov have discussed the situation in the Middle East and future of the Russia-Jordan relations. Their meeting was on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum's Special Meeting on Economic Growth and Job Creation in the Arab World, which is organised at the Dead Sea.⁴⁴

In other developments, Prime Minister Putin has said that from next year onwards Belarus will be getting Russian gas at lower prices.⁴⁵ While, Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin has denied that Russia wants to politically re-integrate the former Soviet Union states.⁴⁶

II. DEFENCE REVIEW

National

- **ITBP Chief assures the nation that the India-China border was “extremely peaceful” and there were no new threats to its security; Indian army against the removal of AFSPA in J&K**

The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) on Saturday said that the India-China border was “extremely peaceful” and there were no new threats to its security, rejecting recent reports of incursion attempts being made by China. Ranjit Sinha, Director-general of ITBP, said: “There are disputes in certain sectors because of the Line of Actual Control at the Sino-India border. But it is extremely peaceful. There is nothing which requires any measures from the Indian side to further guard the border.” Asked about recent reports of air and land space violation by the Chinese side, the DG stated, “First you should know the boundary. If you do not exactly know your home's boundary then how would you say there has been incursion. It is a matter on which talks are still underway.” Noting that border dispute between the two countries dates back to 1962, the DG said: “Both the parties (India and China leaders) have talked (about) it. There are many committees which meet on regular intervals. The border is very peaceful and government is taking action on the controversial matters.” Significantly, the ITBP DG also rejected

⁴³ “Russia offers help in fighting sea piracy in Gulf of Guinea”, *RIA Novosti*, October 20, 2011, <http://en.rian.ru/russia/20111020/167879240.html>

⁴⁴ “Jordan, Russia discuss Middle East situation, bilateral relations”, *ITAR-TASS*, October 23, 2011, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/254057.html>

⁴⁵ “Belarus to get gas at lower price next year: Putin”, *ITAR-TASS*, October 19, 2011, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/251562.html>

⁴⁶ “Putin denies Russia wants to revive Soviet Union”, *RIA Novosti*, October 17, 2011, <http://en.rian.ru/russia/20111018/167783983.html>

reports of Chinese bunkers on the Indian side saying, "I am not aware of any such (thing)...Our border is very peaceful as of date. And there has not been any major activity (related to incursion)."⁴⁷

Meanwhile, the Indian Army has resented the proposal aiming at removal of the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) in Kashmir, saying that there is no let-up in infiltration bids. Just a few days earlier, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said that the Armed Forces Special Powers Act and Disturbed Areas Act will be removed from some areas in Jammu and Kashmir within the next few days. Lt Gen Syed Ata Hasnain said, "Deliberations on this subject are still going on. We will decide in our meeting. The issue has not come for discussion even once." Army's objections to the scrapping of AFSPA are not new but it will be interesting to see that whether they are opposed to even a partial repeal of the Act.⁴⁸

International

● US Drone used in Gaddafi killing; U.S. Defense Secretary on Asia tour

According to reports, a U.S. defense official said on October 20 that a U.S. Predator drone along with a French fighter jet had attacked a convoy of vehicles in Libya that Paris believed was carrying Moammar Gaddafi, the slain Libyan leader. Moammar Gaddafi was killed by NTC forces last week. The U.S. defense official said the unmanned Predator aircraft had struck "the same convoy" but could not confirm that Gadhafi was in one of the vehicles. French Defense Minister Gerard Longuet told reporters in Paris that the convoy "was stopped from progressing as it sought to flee Sirte but was not destroyed by the French intervention." Libyan fighters then intervened, destroying the vehicles, from which "they took out Colonel Gaddafi," he added. The French warplane was sent to the area after news emerged of a large convoy of up to 80 vehicles trying to flee Sirte, he said. The NATO-led air campaign was launched in March under a U.N. mandate to protect civilians from Gadhafi's forces trying to crush popular protests.⁴⁹

Meanwhile, U.S. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta embarked on October 23 on a tour of Asia to take stock of the situation and to engage in rare direct talks with North Korea over its nuclear program. In his first trip to the region since taking the helm at the Pentagon in July this year, Panetta will begin his tour with a stop in Indonesia before heading to Japan on October 24 and South Korea on October 26. The trip coincides with sensitive direct talks between the United States and North Korea in Geneva next week to try to lay the ground for reviving long-stalled nuclear disarmament negotiations. Before any broader discussions, the United States and South Korea are insisting the North take concrete steps to demonstrate it is sincere about resuming the full six-party nuclear dialogue with Japan, Russia and China. Apart from diplomacy focused on

⁴⁷ "All quiet on China front, no new threat: ITBP chief," *TNN* October 23, 2011, at http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2011-10-23/india/30312830_1_india-china-border-sino-india-border-border-dispute

⁴⁸ "Army opposes AFSPA removal from J&K", *CNN-IBN*, October 23, 2011, at <http://ibnlive.in.com/news/army-opposes-afspa-removal-from-jk/195764-3.html>

⁴⁹ "U.S. Drone, French Jet Stopped Gadhafi Convoy," *Agence France-Presse*, 20 October, 2011, at <http://www.defensenews.com/story.php?i=8014319&&s=TOP>

North Korea, Panetta's talks in Tokyo are expected to cover missile defense plans, potential U.S. arms sales and the controversial future of the U.S. Futenma air base on the island of Okinawa. The Pentagon chief will also hold talks with defense ministers from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) on the sidelines of the bloc's meeting in Bali, the Indonesian island fixture of his current visit. Disputes between ASEAN members and China over the resource-rich South China Sea will likely to feature high on the agenda, as Washington has called for a regional code of conduct and insisted on "freedom of navigation" through the crucial global shipping route despite Beijing's territorial claims.⁵⁰

III. INTERNAL SECURITY REVIEW

Jammu & Kashmir

- **Defence Ministry opposes move to revoke AFSPA in J&K; Anti-AFSPA caravan attacked in Delhi; NIA seizes three mobile phones in J&K in links with Delhi HC Blast; Militant killed in Pulwama District**

Reports noted that the Defence Ministry is not in agreement with J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah after the latter announced the revocation of the controversial Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) from some areas in Jammu and Kashmir. While addressing a gathering yesterday, Abdullah had said that AFSPA alongwith the Disturbed Areas Act (DAA) would be lifted from some areas in the state within the next few days.

Caught off-guard by Abdullah's statement, high-level sources have said that the Defence Ministry - on the advice of the Army - is opposed to revocation of AFSPA even from selected areas. It, though, is agreeable to a reduction in the visibility and presence of the Army.⁵¹

In another development, the caravan for mobilizing support for revocation of Armed Forces Special powers Act (AFSPA) was attacked by rightwing activists in New Delhi. Pertinently, the journey as part of "Save (Irom) Sharmila Solidarity Campaign" started from Srinagar on October 16 and will culminate on 27th of this month at Jawahar Lal Nehru hospital at Imphal, where Irom Sharmila is admitted.⁵²

According to reports, making some headway in its probe in the Delhi High Court blast case, National Investigation Agency has recovered three mobile phones from Jammu and Kishtwar residence of a Kashmiri medical student who is the main suspect in the case. A team of NIA

⁵⁰ "Panetta Heads to Asia with Focus on North Korea," *Agence France-Presse*, 21 October 2011, at <http://www.defensenews.com/story.php?i=8022548&&s=TOP>

⁵¹ "Defence Ministry opposed to AFSPA revocation", *Greater Kashmir*, October 22, 2011 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2011/Oct/23/defence-ministry-opposed-to-afspa-revocation-25.asp>

⁵² "Anti-AFSPA Caravan attacked in Delhi", *Greater Kashmir*, October 19, 2011 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2011/Oct/20/anti-afspa-caravan-attacked-in-delhi-79.asp>

officials flew in a special aircraft to Jammu and seized two mobile phones from the house of Wasim Ahmed, a student of Unani medicine in Bangladesh, who has been arrested by the agency in connection with the blast. The team then left for Kishtwar in a helicopter and recovered another phone and some documents.⁵³

In other developments, a militant was killed in an encounter with forces in Yachgoose village of Pulwama district. According to reports, soldiers of 53 Rashtriya Rifles and SOG men laid cordon of Gujarnar Basti near Yachgoose, 20 kilometers from district headquarters, during which a group of militants hiding in a residential house tried to escape. During the ensuing encounter, district commander of Hizbul Mujahideen militant outfit namely Javaid Ahmad Deedad son of Mir Muhammad of Pahlipora Keller Pulwama was killed. The encounter was going on till reports last came in.⁵⁴

North East India

- **Union Home Ministry: Linkages between Northeast terrorist continue; Arms recovered at Guwahati; NSCN (IM) involved in Dima Hasao clashes; Grenade hurled at Manipur Minister's residence; Prices soar in blockade hit Manipur; 72-hr bandh in Manipur's Naga areas begin**

According to a Union Home Ministry notification, terrorist outfits in the northeast continue to have close linkages between themselves to carry out subversive activities. The National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT), All Tripura Tiger Force (ATTF), United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA), National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB) and Meitei extremist outfits of Manipur have been maintaining a close association to undertake subversive and violent activities in northeast India. The notification comes after recent sporadic abductions by separatist outfits in Tripura.⁵⁵

Meanwhile, following a joint operation by CRPF and City Police, a cache of sophisticated arms and ammunition were recovered near Sonapur area, Assam. The weapons included a German-made HK 33 Heckler and Kotch Rifle with magazine and 43 rounds of ammunition. A Czechoslovakia-made Luger pistol was also recovered with two magazines. The arms were recovered from a Tata Sumo bearing registration number AS-19-C-1717 which was coming from Karbi Anglong towards Guwahati. Security forces also arrested three persons boarding the vehicle including a hardcore NDFB cadre, Kumtha Basumatry.⁵⁶

Reports noted that members of the National Socialist Council of Nagalim (I-M) are directly involved in the recent clashes in Dima Hasao (North Cachar Hills district) despite the fact that

⁵³ "NIA seizes 3 mobiles from JK", *Greater Kashmir*, October 19, 2011 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2011/Oct/20/nia-seizes-3-mobiles-from-jk-88.asp>

⁵⁴ "Militant killed in Pulwama encounter", *Greater Kashmir*, October 17, 2011 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2011/Oct/18/militant-killed-in-pulwama-encounter-7.asp>

⁵⁵ "Linkages between North-east terrorists continue: Centre", *The Assam Tribune*, October 20, 2011 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=oct2011/at014>

⁵⁶ "Sophisticated arms recovered", *The Assam Tribune*, October 19, 2011 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=oct2011/at098>

the outfit has been under cease-fire agreement with the Government of India since 1997. Meanwhile, tension is brewing in the hill district at a time when the Government of India is preparing to sign peace accords with both factions of the Dima Haram Daogah (DHD). The NSCN helped the formation of newly created militant outfit Hill Tiger Force and members of the NSCN even provided weapons and training to the cadres of the new outfit.⁵⁷

In another development, unidentified militants exploded a powerful grenade at the private residence of a Manipur minister in Bishenpur district. However, there was no report of any casualty. On previous day also, the ultras had hurled grenade at the residence of Social Welfare minister N Loken at Nambol Leimapokpam and it exploded near its gate. Police are investigating whether the attack was connected with monetary demand from the minister or some other matter. No individual or group so far has claimed the responsibility for the attack.⁵⁸

According to reports, the economic blockade in Manipur demanding a separate district entered the 84th day, even as it has led to sky rocketing prices of various commodities. The blockade which began on August 1, on two arterial national highways (NH) in northern Manipur, has led to an unrivalled crisis of essentials commodities. Prices have shot up three to four times, according to officials.⁵⁹

In other developments, while the entire population of the State is facing the impact of the almost three month economic blockade, Naga students began its 72 hours total bandh in Naga inhabited areas in Manipur. All Naga Students' Association Manipur(ANSAM) decriing the alleged failure of the Centre to intervene over the demand for 'Alternative Arrangement' for the Nagas in Manipur raised by United Naga Council, announced the bandh. With the beginning of the bandh in the Naga inhabited, normal life has been affected in Ukhrul, Senapati, Chandel and Tamenglong district headquarters as most of the shops remained closed. The passengers as well as goods carrying vehicles have suspended their normal services.⁶⁰

⁵⁷ "NSCN (IM) involved in Dima Hasao clashes", *The Assam Tribune*, October 20, 2011 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=oct2111/at07>

⁵⁸ "Grenade hurled at minister's residence", *The Assam Tribune*, October 20, 2011 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=oct2111/oth05>

⁵⁹ "Prices soar in blockade-hit Manipur", *The Assam Tribune*, October 23, 2011 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=oct2311/at042>

⁶⁰ "72-hr bandh in Manipur's Naga areas begins", *The Assam Tribune*, October 22, 2011 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=oct2311/oth05>