

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

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I. COUNTRY REVIEWS

A. South Asia

Afghanistan

- **Five people killed in a car bomb blast in Kandahar; Afghanistan-Pakistan agreed for joint probe on Rabbani killing; Trilateral Summit of Pakistan, Afghanistan and Turkey concluded in Istanbul**

According to reports, at least five people have been killed by a suicide car bomb explosion in the southern Afghan city of Kandahar. According to officials, an explosive-laden vehicle was driven into a checkpoint in a neighbourhood housing the United Nations refugee agency (UNHCR). The agency said that three of its staff were killed in the attack. An Afghan policeman was also killed. The area also houses the offices of US-based International Relief and Development (IRD).¹

In another development, Afghanistan and Pakistan have agreed to jointly investigate the murder of Afghan peace envoy Burhanuddin Rabbani. The two countries' Presidents announced the move after talks in Turkey - their first since Rabbani was killed by a suicide bomber in September. The murder was blamed on militants based in Pakistan and badly strained relations between Kabul and Islamabad. The meeting precedes a conference on Afghanistan's future to be attended by representatives from 27 countries. It is being seen by analysts as an attempt to defuse tensions between the sides before the two-day regional conference. Relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan have been undermined by allegations that Pakistan supports Afghan militants. However, Pakistan has vehemently denied such accusations.²

In a significant development, reports noted that the trilateral summit of Pakistan, Afghanistan and Turkey concluded in Istanbul on a positive note with the three countries signing agreements and memoranda of understanding for cooperation in different areas and expressing willingness to join hands to build a combined partnership to ensure peace and security in the region. The conference, hosted by Turkish President Abdullah Gul, was attended by President Asif Ali Zardari and President Hamid Karzai along with the military chiefs and foreign and interior ministers. According to Turkish President Gul, "One of the most important conclusions of this summit is the decision made by Pakistan and Afghanistan to establish a cooperation mechanism to illuminate the assassination of ex-Afghan President Rabbani".³

¹ "Deadly car bomb blast in Kandahar outside aid offices", *BBC*, October 31, 2011 at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-south-asia-15517034>

² "Afghanistan and Pakistan agree Rabbani murder probe", *BBC*, November, 1, 2011 at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-south-asia-15533736>

³ "Regional solution to Afghan issue sought", *Dawn*, November 2, 2011 at <http://www.dawn.com/2011/11/02/regional-solution-to-afghan-issue-sought.html>

Pakistan

- **Pakistan accused of spying on German officers; PM Gilani approves electricity import from India; Obama administration pledges robust assistance to Pakistan despite rocky relationship between the two sides**

According to reports, a German paper has accused Pakistan intelligence agency ISI of spying on German officers stationed in Afghanistan. The report reveals fear of vital information falling into hands of Taliban about these police officers who were training locals. Without citing its sources, mass-selling weekly Bild am Sonntag reported that Germany's BND foreign intelligence agency warned its interior ministry that Pakistan had spied on 180 German police officers deployed in Afghanistan to train locals.⁴

In another development, according to reports, Pakistan Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani has given a nod to import of electricity from India. Due to rise in the cost of 969MW Neelum-Jhelum Hydropower Project (NJHP), this decision has been made. India had offered to sell about 500MW of electricity. It may materialise within a year by laying a transmission line.⁵

In other developments, reports noted that despite its rocky relationship with Islamabad, the Obama administration is pledging robust assistance to Pakistan despite demands on US finances. This has been revealed in a status report on Afghanistan and Pakistan. According to the report US relationship with Islamabad is not easy, but it is vital to its national security and regional interests. The Obama administration insisted that it will continue to provide civilian aid to Pakistan, which has fallen from 1.5 billion dollars in the 2010 fiscal year to 1.1 billion dollars this year. The report noted that next year's levels are uncertain, but the administration reaffirms its "commitment to providing robust, multiyear civilian assistance to Pakistan." The administration is committed to provide robust, multiyear civilian assistance to Pakistan. The aid amount has fallen to 1.1 billion dollar from 1.5 billion this year.⁶

B. East Asia

Japan

- **Japan considering to relax the five principles for participating in the UN peacekeeping operations; Japan reaffirms its plan to build N-Plant in Vietnam**

According to reports, ahead of the dispatch of around 300 Ground Self Defense Force (GSDF) members to South Sudan for the UN peacekeeping operations in early next month, the ruling

⁴ "Pakistan spied on German officers in Afghanistan: paper", *Dawn*, October 30, 2011 at <http://www.dawn.com/2011/10/30/pakistan-spied-on-german-officers-in-afghanistan-paper.html>

⁵ "Gilani gives go ahead for electricity import from India", *Dawn*, November 2, 2011 at <http://www.dawn.com/2011/11/02/gilani-gives-go-ahead-for-electricity-import-from-india.html>

⁶ "US pledges financial aid for Pakistan", *Dawn*, November 4, 2011 at <http://www.dawn.com/2011/11/04/us-pledges-financial-aid-for-pakistan.html>

DPJ in Japan is considering the possibility of revising the long-held five principles for Japan's participation in such operations. The principles traditionally deter SDF members from using weapons except for self-defence or emergency evacuations. They are also prohibited from backing up other countries' troops that come under attack. However, currently the DPJ is trying to revise the UN Peacekeeping Activities Cooperation Law in order to relax the use of arms by the SDF personnel during peacekeeping operations. By doing so, the government is reportedly trying to make Japan's rules on the use of weapons closer to international standards.⁷

In another development, reports noted that during his recent meeting with Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung, Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda has reiterated his country's plan to construct nuclear plant in Vietnam as well as to accelerate two countries' cooperation in jointly developing rare earths. The recent Japan-Vietnam Joint Statement also mentioned six tie-ups for economic cooperation worth 92.6 billion yen.⁸

South Korea

- **South Korea and Russia agree to work closely on pipeline project; South Korea conducts a joint exercise with the US to deal with nuclear threat from North Korea**

Reports noted that during the recently concluded sixth summit between South Korea and Russia at St. Petersburg, South Korean President Lee-Myung-bak and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev agreed to work together in making the gas pipeline project linking the two countries through North Korea a success. Both the countries are to draw up their plan for the pipeline by September 2013 which is proposed to begin to supply gas in January 2017. Although the two states are still at the negotiating level on the agreement, they are likely to speed up the project depending on progress in North Korea's denuclearization and the fees for the passage through the North.⁹

In the meantime, Seoul is reportedly planning to construct a natural gas power plant in North Korea in exchange of Pyongyang's agreement to allow the South Korea- Russia gas pipeline through the North.¹⁰

In another development, according to reports, South Korea recently participated for the first time in a tabletop exercise organized by the Extended Deterrence Policy Committee at the US Strategic Command in Omaha. The Command is the unit that manages nuclear weapons in the

⁷ "PKO rules, weapons use might be eased/ SDF may need arms in South Sudan", *Yomiuri Shimbun*, November 3, 2011, at <http://www.yomiuri.co.jp/dy/national/T111102004829.htm>

⁸ "Noda, Vietnam leader reaffirm N-plant plans", *Yomiuri Shimbun*, November 2, 2011, at <http://www.yomiuri.co.jp/dy/national/T111101005649.htm>

⁹ "Lee, Medvedev agree to start pipeline project in 2013", *Dong-a-Ilbo*, November 3, 2011, at <http://english.donga.com/srv/service.php3?biid=2011110399028>

¹⁰ "S. Korea to give NK natural gas plant for pipeline: source", *Dong-A-Ilbo*, November 4, 2011, at <http://english.donga.com/srv/service.php3?biid=2011110424128>

US. It is believed that the joint exercise was meant to politically and militarily cope with a crisis situation in which North Korea threatens the South with nuclear arms.¹¹

C. Central Asia & Russia

Central Asia

- **SCO meeting held in St. Petersburg: PM Putin confirms Russian investment in CASA-1000; French, Kazakh firms sign two energy deals; United States to train Kyrgyz special forces; Kyrzgystan's new President-elect Atambayev asks United States to quit its airbase in 2014; World Bank: Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan record highest increases in food prices in the world; TAPI partners are close to reaching agreement on pricing formula**

Reports noted that heads of government of the seven-member regional security body met in St. Petersburg on November 7, 2011 to discuss their vision for the SCO (*Shanghai Cooperation Organization*) and to formulate unified strategies against the threat of new global financial downturn. Premiers from Russia, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan released a statement praising the group's economies for their "stability" and "attractiveness for investment".¹²

In another development, Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin said that Russia will invest \$500 million in the CASA-1000 electricity transmission project, which envisions electricity generated in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan being transmitted to Afghanistan and Pakistan.¹³

According to reports, French energy conglomerate Areva will open a nuclear fuel plant and mine Kazakh uranium with Kazakh national uranium producer Kazatomprom after the two energy firms signed deals on November 4 in Astana. One of the signed agreements steps up preparation of a joint mining project named KATKO that is scheduled to produce 4,000 tons of uranium annually between 2012 and 2039.¹⁴

In the meanwhile, Kazakhstan aims to construct almost 500 miles of its portion of a major transnational highway corridor— Western Europe-Western China highway—linking Europe with China by the end of 2011. The 5,247-mile-long transit corridor highway will begin at the Russian city of St. Petersburg and end at the Chinese eastern seaport of Lianyungang.¹⁵

¹¹ "Joint SK-US drill to cope with N. Korean nuclear threat", *Dong-A-Ilbo*, November 5, 2011, at <http://english.donga.com/srv/service.php3?biid=2011110540198>

¹² "SCO PMs convene in St. Petersburg, vow cooperation", *Universal Newswires*, November 07, 2011 at <http://www.universalnewswires.com/centralasia/viewstory.aspx?id=10626>

¹³ *ibid*

¹⁴ "France, Kazakhstan forge deal to build nuclear plant", *Universal Newswires*, November 07, 2011 at <http://www.universalnewswires.com/centralasia/viewstory.aspx?id=10615>

¹⁵ "Kazakhstan to lay nearly 500 miles of Europe-China highway", *Universal Newswires*, November 08, 2011 at <http://www.universalnewswires.com/centralasia/viewstory.aspx?id=10633>

Reports noted that military instructors from the United States arrived in Kyrgyzstan this month to train Kyrgyz Special Forces in developing skills in conducting combat in urban areas, in releasing hostages, and also in learning to operate in small groups and in larger units. The U.S. has significant military interests in Kyrgyzstan.¹⁶

Meanwhile, Almazbek Atambayev, Kyrgyzstan's new President-elect, in virtually his first act since being elected, has told the US it will have to give up its airbase in Kyrgyzstan in 2014. The news will heighten concern in the West that Almazbek Atambayev's election victory means Kyrgyzstan will drift further under the Kremlin's patronage, however the president cited the reason being to avoid the risk of a revenge attack by one of the US's enemies.¹⁷

According to reports, partners in the TAPI pipeline project are very close to reaching an agreement on a pricing formula, a top Turkmen energy official said. "Preparations are under way for the imminent signing of an agreement on the sale and purchase of natural gas," the Reuters news agency reported Turkmen Oil and Gas Minister Bayramgeldy Nediroy as telling an international investment forum.¹⁸

In other developments, reports noted that Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan have recorded two of the highest increases in food prices in the world, the World Bank said on 3rd November. The World Bank's quarterly report Food Price Watch reported that prices of Kyrgyz wheat spiked by a hefty 69 % and Tajik wheat prices increased by 50 % in the period from June 2010 to February 2011. The prices of Kyrgyz wheat climbed an additional four % between February and August 2011, as Tajik wheat prices rose by five % in the same reporting period.¹⁹

Russia

- **Russia and Georgia reach to an agreement paving way for Russia's entry in WTO; Russia and China prefer India and Pakistan as SCO members; Russia and Morocco agree to cooperate more closely at the UN; Russia hope that the US will reconsider its plan to stop funding UNESCO projects; Unemployment in Russia hovering around 1 million mark; President Medvedev calls upon international aid mechanism to Greece to be prudent and transparent in their approach; Russia welcomes League of Arab states initiative on Syrian settlement; President Medvedev describes Russia's relationship with China as being at an 'excellent level'; Russia and Belarus to discuss broader integration in the CIS; Russia urges Israel to stop settlement construction; Russia and South Korea to invest US\$ 1 billion in the North**

¹⁶ "US instructors train Kyrgyz Special Forces", *Universal Newswires*, November 08, 2011 at <http://www.universalnewswires.com/centralasia/viewstory.aspx?id=10638>

¹⁷ "Kyrgyzstan says US has to quit vital Nato airbase in 2014", *The Telegraph*, November 01, 2011 at <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/asia/kyrgyzstan/8862590/Kyrgyzstan-says-US-has-to-quit-vital-Nato-airbase-in-2014.html>

¹⁸ "TAPI pricing deal 'imminent,' Turkmen minister says", *Universal Newswires*, November 07, 2011 at <http://www.universalnewswires.com/centralasia/viewstory.aspx?id=10613>

¹⁹ "Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan top globe for highest food price increases", *Universal Newswires*, November 03, 2011 at <http://www.universalnewswires.com/centralasia/kyrgyzstan/viewstory.aspx?id=10600>

Caucasus tourism sector; Russia inducts new AWACS plane into its service; Russia's crude oil production hits a record level; Gazprom aims to develop a gas field in Sri Lanka

Reports noted that Russia has reached an agreement with Georgia on bilateral deal that paves the way for its much-anticipated entry into the World Trade Organization. For close to 18 years Russia has tried to negotiate its entry into the WTO and it is now the only major economy which is not a member of the trade organization.²⁰

According to reports, Russia and China would prefer the Shanghai Cooperation Organization to expand and enlarge by admitting new members including India and Pakistan. The diplomats of Russia and China coordinated their positions on further improvement of the Organisation's activities in the light of preparations for a meeting of the Council of Heads of Government in St. Petersburg on November 7 and the SCO summit in China in the summer of 2012.²¹

Meanwhile, Russia and Morocco have agreed to cooperate very closely as members of the UN Security Council on various issues of international concern, including the situation around peace settlement in the Middle East, the pressing problems of the African continent, and the situation in Libya.²²

Reports noted that Russia hopes that the United States will reconsider its decision to stop financing UNESCO projects ever since the organization had approved Palestine's application for membership.²³

According to the statistics of Russia's Health and Social Development, the total number of officially registered unemployed persons in Russia is estimated at 1.2 million which amounts to 1.7% of the able bodied population.²⁴

According to reports, Russian President Dmitry Medvedev has said that aid to Greece should be targeted, clear and transparent. He also stressed that the BRICS countries (Russia, India, Brazil, China, South Africa) are interested in the preservation of one of the key reserve currencies - the euro, but the support should be provided sensibly.²⁵

In another development, Russia has hailed the initiative of the League of Arab States on Syria and hopes that the League's plan will help stop the bloodshed in that country.²⁶

²⁰ Medetsky, A "Russia and Georgia strike WTO deal", *The Moscow Times*, November 3, 2011, <http://www.themoscowtimes.com/business/article/russia-and-georgia-strike-wto-deal/447105.html>

²¹ "Russia, China want India, Pakistan to become SCO members shortly", *ITAR-TASS*, October 31, 2011, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/260797.html>

²² "Russia, Morocco agree on close cooperation at the UN", *ITAR-TASS*, November 1, 2011, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/260871.html>

²³ "Russia hopes that the United States will consider its decision to stop the financing of UNESCO", *ITAR-TASS*, November 1, 2011, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/261457.html>

²⁴ "Total number of officially registered jobless Russians tops 1 mln", *ITAR-TASS*, November 1, 2011, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/261685.html>

²⁵ "Medvedev believes aid to Greece should be targeted, transparent", *ITAR-TASS*, November 4, 2011, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/263914.html>

²⁶ "Moscow hails initiatives of League of Arab States on Syrian settlement", *ITAR-TASS*, November 3, 2011, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/263716.html>

Meanwhile, Russian President Dmitry Medvedev has stated that Russian-Chinese relations are at an “excellent level.” His comments came in the backdrop of his meeting with China’s President Hu Jinta on the sidelines of the BRICS meeting at Cannes.²⁷

According to reports, Russian and Belarusian Foreign Ministers will meet to discuss broader integration process in the CIS states and bilateral cooperation including cooperation in the military and the energy sectors.²⁸

Russia has urged Israel to refrain from carrying out further construction activity in the occupied West Bank pending a final agreement on the status of the Palestinian territories. This comes in the backdrop of the recently concluded vote of Palestine in the UN and Israel’s decision to build 1400 new homes in Occupied Jerusalem which the Palestinians claim as the capital of their future state.²⁹

Reports noted that Russia and South Korea have agreed to set up a joint venture to supply electric power and heating to the North Caucasus tourism cluster. The joint venture will build five new environmentally advanced power stations, a complex of solar and wind generators, and carbon purification and sequestration systems. South Korea’s investments into the first stage of the project will total 300 million dollars.³⁰

In another development, Russia has inducted a new modernized A-50U airborne warning and control system (AWACS) aircraft into its Air Force. The Beriev A-50, based on the Ilyushin Il-76 transport, first flew in 1978. It entered service in 1984, with about 40 produced by 1992. The A-50 can track up to 10 fighter aircraft for either air-to-air intercept or air-to-ground attack missions.³¹

In other developments, Russia’s crude oil production has reached a new record level of 10.34 million barrels per day in October. It also implies that Russia is now the world’s leading crude producer ahead of Saudi Arabia which produced 9.4 million barrels per day during the same period.³² Meanwhile, reports noted that Russia’s energy giant Gazprom aims to develop the first gas field in Sri Lanka and will soon send technical experts to the country. A gas deposit has been found in the Gulf of Mannar at 4,300 metres lower sea level.³³

²⁷ “Russia-Chinese relations at “excellent level” – Medvedev”, *ITAR-TASS*, November 3, 2011, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/263451.html>

²⁸ “Russia, Belarus FMs to discuss broader integration in CIS, ties”, *ITAR-TASS*, October 31, 2011, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/259925.html>

²⁹ “Russia urges Israel to halt settlement construction”, *RIA Novosti*, November 2, 2011, <http://en.rian.ru/russia/20111102/168365668.html>

³⁰ “Russia, S Korea to invest \$1bln into North Caucasus tourism cluster”, *ITAR-TASS*, November 2, 2011, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/262393.html>

³¹ “Russia’s new AWACS plane enters service”, *RIA Novosti*, October 31, 2011, http://en.rian.ru/military_news/20111031/168297656.html

³² “Russian crude production hits another record level”, *The Moscow Times*, November 3, 2011, <http://www.themoscowtimes.com/business/article/russian-crude-production-hits-another-record-level/447062.html>

³³ “Gazprom seeks to develop first gas deposit in Sri Lanka”, *ITAR-TASS*, November 3, 2011, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/263551.html>

D. West Asia

Iran

- **French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe: Military intervention in Iran would destabilise Middle East region; Ahmadinejad: Major powers undermining the security of the Middle East, shows their ill intent; Thousands of Iranians shouted anti-US slogans while marking the anniversary of the 1979 seizure of the US embassy**

According to reports, French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe has warned that any military strike on Iran's nuclear sites could create a "totally destabilizing" situation in the Middle East. However, he also added that "We have imposed sanctions that continue to expand; we can toughen them to put pressure on Iran." Iran has come under strong pressure for its nuclear program. Israel and some of its Western allies, including the United States, claim that Iran is developing nuclear weapons. As a signatory to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, Iran is legally authorized to do nuclear activities for peaceful purposes.³⁴

In another development, according to reports, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad told Indian Parliament Speaker Meira Kumar during a meeting in Tehran that through the use of new slogans and by taking advantage of NATO forces, the former colonialist states are trying to dominate the world. Noting that increased cooperation between Iran and India on regional issues can help the efforts to increase peace and stability in the region, the Iranian President stated that undoubtedly, the fact that the major powers are undermining the security of the Middle East shows their ill intent because they fear any form of development by Iran and India. Ahmadinejad also pointed out that the wars currently underway and the extreme class divisions prevailing nowadays are the direct consequences of the immoral and hegemonistic culture dominating the world. He emphasized the need to increase bilateral scientific and technological cooperation between Iran and India and welcomed the participation of Indian companies in road construction, port, and energy projects in Iran. The Lok Sabha speaker also praised Iran for its great economic achievements, despite the international sanctions.³⁵

In other developments, according to reports, thousands of Iranians shouting slogan "Death to America" marked the anniversary of the 1979 seizure of the US embassy amid references to recent US allegations of an Iranian assassination plot. The annual celebration in front of what Iranians call "the den of spies" was also used this year as a platform to hail the Arab Spring – termed the "Islamic awakening" and to denounce Israel. It would be worth noting that on November 4, 1979, months after the Islamic revolution that overthrew the US-backed shah, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, students stormed the embassy and took 52 US diplomats hostage in a crisis that lasted 444 days. The hostage-taking resulted in the breaking of diplomatic relations between Iran and the US and has left the two countries implacable foes for the past 32 years.³⁶

³⁴ "France warns any attack on Iran will destabilize Mideast," *Mehr News Agency*, November 6, 2011, at <http://www.mehrnews.com/en/newsdetail.aspx?NewsID=1454107>

³⁵ "Iran, India play strategic role in regional stability: Ahmadinejad," *Mehr News Agency*, November 6, 2011, at <http://www.mehrnews.com/en/newsdetail.aspx?NewsID=1453294>

³⁶ "Iran celebrates 1979 US embassy seizure," *Khaleej Times*, November 4, 2011, at http://www.khaleejtimes.com/displayarticle.asp?xfile=data/middleeast/2011/November/middleeast_November110.xml§ion=middleeast&col=

Iraq

- **Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari: Iraq committed to protecting the security of Iran-Iraq border and preventing any action from being taken against Iran; Bomb blasts killed 10 people in Baghdad**

Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari has stated that Baghdad's principled policy is to prevent any action from being taken against the Islamic Republic. Zebari made the remarks during a meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi in Baghdad. He added that his country is committed to protecting the security of Iran-Iraq border and preventing any action from being taken against the Islamic Republic. Zebari also praised Tehran for its attempts to help improve peace and stability in Iraq and said that his country is keen to increase cooperation with Iran. Salehi also stated that Iran and Iraq have many affinities and called for an acceleration of efforts to implement the agreements signed between the two countries. In a separate meeting with Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, Salehi said that the obstacles in the ways of expansion of ties should be removed. Al-Maliki also stated that efforts should be made to increase bilateral cooperation.³⁷

However, according to Baghdad police sources, at least 10 people were killed when three bomb blasts rocked a busy market in Iraq's capital where people were shopping for the Muslim festival of Eid Al Adha. The blasts occurred in Shurja, an important commercial district in central Baghdad where shop owners and vendors sell clothes, electronics, textiles, food and other goods.³⁸

II. DEFENCE REVIEW

National

- **Fire at naval dockyard prompts extensive fire safety review; Armed forces against permanent commission for women across the board**

Reports noted that the Indian Navy will undertake an extensive fire safety review of heritage buildings that are under its purview to ensure that there is no repeat of the fire incident last week. A fire broke out in an administrative building in the naval dockyard around 4.30pm on Thursday. The fire gutted the top two floors of the 204-year-old structure located near the Lion Gate in Colaba. The Navy has also set up a board of inquiry to ascertain the exact cause of the fire. The board will also ascertain the extent of damage, and give its recommendations on action to be taken to protect other heritage structures.³⁹

³⁷ "Baghdad committed to preventing any action against Iran: Iraqi FM," *Mehr News Agency*, October 31, 2011, at <http://www.mehrnews.com/en/newsdetail.aspx?NewsID=1448972>

³⁸ "Triple blasts in Iraq capital, at least 10 dead," *Khaleej Times*, November 6, 2011, at http://www.khaleejtimes.com/displayarticle.asp?xfile=data/middleeast/2011/November/middleeast_November155.xml§ion=middleeast&col=

³⁹ "Navy orders probe into fire at naval dockyard," *Hindustan Times*, November 05, 2011, at <http://www.hindustantimes.com/India-news/Mumbai/Navy-orders-probe-into-fire-at-naval-dockyard/Article1-765030.aspx>.

In another development, Indian Army has reiterated to the defence ministry that permanent commission (PC) to women officers should be “restricted” to only the legal (judge advocate general) and education (Army Education Corps) wings as of now. This came after Defence Minister A. K. Antony earlier this year asked Army, Navy and IAF Chiefs to re-examine granting permanent commission to women officers in other non-combat streams as well. The response of the “IAF and Navy’s are somewhat similar. Induction of women officers into the overwhelmingly male-dominated environs of the armed forces has also remained largely stagnant. If Army and IAF had 1,072 and 957 women officers respectively in 2008, the numbers have actually dipped to 1,055 and 936 this year. Since the early-1990s, women have been serving in wings like legal, education, engineering, ordnance, intelligence, signals, air traffic control and the like but only as short-service commission (SSC) officers for a maximum of 14 years. Women have been getting permanent commission only in the medical stream as doctors, dentists and nurses. The military top brass for long has contended that granting permanent commission to women officers across the board is unfeasible due to “operational, practical and cultural problems” at this stage. “Legal and education wings do not involve command of men or battalions. If permanent commission is granted to women in other streams, then they will have to be given command at some stage, for which they are not currently trained. The decision has to be based on military needs and organizational requirements,” said a senior officer.⁴⁰

International

- **US Intelligence Report accuses China of economic espionage; Reports: Pakistan nukes in unsafe condition**

A new U.S. intelligence report declares China as the most active and persistent perpetrator of economic espionage. The report which has been released by the U.S. Office of the National Counterintelligence Executive (ONCIX), draws on the inputs and reporting from more than a dozen U.S. law enforcement and intelligence collection bodies, including the CIA, FBI, DIA and NSA. China views economic espionage as an “essential tool in achieving national security and economic prosperity,” the report said. U.S. corporations and cyber security specialists have reported an “onslaught” of computer network intrusions originating from China. “Some of these reports have alleged a Chinese corporate or government sponsor of the activity,” but the U.S. intelligence community has not been able to confirm these reports. The report states that China is driven by its longstanding policy of “catching up fast and surpassing” the Western powers. The U.S. is not the only victim of Chinese cyber espionage, according to the report. South Korea claims that in 2008 the country lost \$82 billion in proprietary information from Chinese and other hackers. Japan’s Ministry of Economic, Trade and Industry (METI) conducted a survey of 625 manufacturing firms in 2007 and found that more than 35 percent reported some form of technology loss and more than 60 percent of those leaks involved China. Similarly, UK France and Germany have also blamed China for economic espionage practices. However, China

⁴⁰ “Military dead against permanent commission for women across the board,” *TNN*, November 7, 2011, at <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Military-dead-against-permanent-commission-for-women-across-the-board/articleshow/10635729.cms>

has always denies reports of being involved in cyber espionage and often responds with counteraccusations.⁴¹

In another development, Pakistan on November 6 rejected a report that it had been moving its nuclear weapons in unsafe conditions, saying that nobody should underestimate its capability to defend itself. Earlier, two U.S. magazines on November 4 had reports that Pakistan has begun moving its nuclear weapons in low-security vans on congested roads to hide them from U.S. spy agencies, making the weapons more vulnerable to theft by Islamist militants. The Atlantic and the National Journal, in a joint report citing unnamed sources, wrote that the U.S. raid that killed al-Qaida chief Osama bin Laden on May 2 at his Pakistani compound reinforced Islamabad's longstanding fears that Washington could try to dismantle the country's nuclear arsenal. But in a statement, Pakistan's foreign ministry said the report was "pure fiction, baseless and motivated. It is part of a deliberate propaganda campaign meant to mislead opinion." Pakistan has consistently rejected concerns over the safety of its nuclear arsenal and alluded to a smear campaign. The foreign ministry statement stated, "No one should underestimate Pakistan's will and capability to defend its sovereignty, territorial integrity and national interests." The report, based on dozens of interviews, said the U.S. military has long had a contingency plan in place to disable Pakistan's nuclear weapons in the event of a coup or other worst-case scenario.⁴²

III. INTERNAL SECURITY REVIEW

Jammu & Kashmir

- **Home Ministry is examining interlocutors' recommendations; Two persons injured in blast in Kupwara,; President Pratibha Patil to visit Jammu and Kashmir on November 25**

The report submitted by the Centre's Interlocutors on Jammu and Kashmir is being examined by the Union Home Ministry and a decision on its recommendations would be taken in consultation with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. Union Home Minister P Chidambaram said that the Interlocutors' report had been received on October 12. The interlocutors on Jammu and Kashmir comprising journalist Dilip Padgaonkar, Radha Kumar and M M Ansari, had submitted their report to Chidambaram which touched on a variety of issues including the controversial Armed Forces Special Powers Act confronting the state.⁴³

⁴¹ "Chinese Cyber-Espionage Growing: U.S. Report," *Defence News*, November 6, 2011, at <http://www.defensenews.com/story.php?i=8160472&&s=TOP>

⁴² "Pakistan Rebutts Report on Movement of Nukes," *AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE*, November 6 2011, at <http://www.defensenews.com/story.php?i=8160484&&s=TOP>

⁴³ "Home Ministry examining Interlocutors' recommendations", *Greater Kashmir*, October 31, 2011 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2011/Nov/1/-home-ministry-examining-interlocutors-recommendations-75.asp>

Reports noted that President Pratibha Patil will be on a three-day visit to this winter capital of Jammu and Kashmir later this month. She is scheduled to arrive here November 25 to address convocation of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, sources in Raj Bhavan said.⁴⁴

In other developments, according to reports, two civilians were injured at Kupwara in North Kashmir when unidentified persons lobbed a grenade at an Army post. Police officials said that suspected militants aimed a grenade on 41 RR camp. However, they said the grenade missed the intended target, exploding on the roadside.⁴⁵

North East India

- **Manipur blockade partially lifted; Meghalaya Government's view sought before declaring Garo National Liberation Army (GNLA) an outlawed outfit; Anti-talk ULFA faction getting new weapons; NSCN ultras open fire along Nagaland border; Four cops and a civilian killed in GNLA ambush; Total blockade in parts of Manipur; NLFT ultras surrender; Naga bandh turns violent**

According to reports, the economic blockade in Manipur was called off after 92 days following a written assurance by the State government to create a new hill district. The agreement between the Sadar Hills District Demand Committee (SHDDC) and the State government was signed in capital Imphal with leaders of the Committee and senior officials present at the meeting.⁴⁶

In another development, the Central government has sought the views of the Meghalaya government before declaring the Garo National Liberation Army (GNLA) an outlawed rebel outfit. The GNLA, which is headed by police officer-turned outlaw Champion R. Sangma, has unleashed a reign of terror in the three impoverished districts of Garo Hills in the western part of Meghalaya. Over 20 people, including security personnel, have been killed in the Garo Hills in the last one year by GNLA rebels. Meghalaya home department official said the state government would submit its views as early as possible.⁴⁷

According to reports, the Paresh Baruah faction of ULFA may be down but not out, with the militant outfit recently acquiring a deadly arsenal and getting battle-ready. The issue of insurgency figured in the recent Governor's Conference with the regrouping by Paresh Baruah faction and the outfit forging links with Maoists figuring in the discussions. According to some sources, Paresh Baruah has set up his camp at a place called Tagugumsa on China-Myanmar Border in Yunan Province. It is reported that they have acquired a large number of sophisticated

⁴⁴ "President to visit JK on November 25", *Greater Kashmir*, November 5, 2011 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2011/Nov/6/president-to-visit-jk-on-november-25-39.asp>

⁴⁵ "2 injured in Kupwara grenade blast", *Greater Kashmir*, November 1, 2011 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2011/Nov/2/2-injured-in-kupwara-grenade-blast-52.asp>

⁴⁶ "Manipur blockade lifted, pact signed with one group", *The Assam Tribune*, November 1, 2011 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=nov0111/at04>

⁴⁷ "Meghalaya's views sought to declare GNLA outlawed", *The Assam Tribune*, November 1, 2011 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=nov0111/at042>

weapons like T-81, Heckler and Kolts, Chinese bottle grenades, RCIED, adding a new dimension to the security scenario of the State.⁴⁸

Meanwhile, reports noted that tension prevailed along the Assam-Nagaland border area at Sonari in Sivasagar district following opening of fire by Naga miscreants. According to sources, a group of around 30-40 suspected NSCN cadres opened fire in night towards Janaki Pathar area from Nagaland side and later escaped. Receiving the information, a team of high officials, including security personnel, of the subdivision reached the spot. According to sources, at least 15-20 families of the village in the border area fled from that area after the firing incident. The NSCN reportedly opened fire with a view to threatening the villagers so that they could carry out their extortion drive in the border areas.⁴⁹

In another incident, Garo National Liberation Army (GNLA) militants laid a daring ambush on East Garo Hills police team at Nengpatchi village, 4 kms from Dobu killing four policemen and their civilian driver before decamping with their weapons. The armed GNLA militants laid in wait for the police team traveling in a vehicle. The militants opened indiscriminate fire on the police leading to the death of four police men and their civilian driver.⁵⁰

Reports noted that total blockade called by Naga leaders began in parts of Manipur despite an appeal by Union Home Minister P. Chidambaram and Chief Minister Okram Ibobi Singh to Naga groups to suspend their agitation. The blockade has badly affected life. According to Naga leaders, this is to protest the Manipur government's agreement with leaders of the Sadar Hills Districthood Demand Committee (SHDDC). Meanwhile, Union Home Minister P. Chidambaram, accompanied by the chief minister, during his two-day trip visited different parts of Manipur. He appealed to Naga groups to call-off their agitation and sit with the government to resolve their demands.⁵¹

Reports noted that ten insurgents of banned National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT), including a woman cadre, surrendered before the Assam Rifles in North Tripura district. The ultras surrendered to the Assam Rifles at their camp at Anandabazar and deposited two grenades and two detonators and some documents. During interrogation, they stated that factionalism in the insurgent outfit, non-payment and scarcity of food led them to take the step.⁵²

In other developments, reports noted that the United Naga Council (UNC) sponsored three-day bandh turned violent on the first day. At least 10 persons, mostly women bandh supporters

⁴⁸ "Anti-talk ULFA getting new weapons", *The Assam Tribune*, October 31, 2011 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=nov0111/at08>

⁴⁹ "NSCN ultras open fire along Nagaland border", *The Assam Tribune*, October 31, 2011 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=nov0111/state07>

⁵⁰ "4 cops, civilian driver killed in GNLA ambush", *The Assam Tribune*, October 31, 2011 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=nov0111/oth07>

⁵¹ "Total blockade in parts of Manipur, life badly affected", *The Assam Tribune*, November 4, 2011 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=nov0411/at015>

⁵² "10 NLFT ultras surrender", *The Assam Tribune*, November 3, 2011 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=nov0411/oth07>

were wounded while engaging in a scuffle with security forces at Noney along National Highway 37 in Tamenglong district of Manipur after three vehicles were set on fire by the agitators. The incident took place when volunteers of UNC and All Naga Students' Association, Manipur (ANSAM), enforced a 72-hour total bandh in Naga areas in Manipur protesting against a MoU signed between the State Government and Sadar Hills District Demand Committee (SHDDC).⁵³

IV. UNITED NATIONS (UN) REVIEW

- **UN Security Council urges Sudan and South Sudan to withdraw troops from Abyei; UNSC condemns terrorist attacks in Nigeria; UNSC calls for peaceful elections in Liberia; Council encourages developing a strategy to combat piracy in Gulf of Guinea; UN Security Council calls for prevention of arms proliferation in Libya; Palestine becomes the 195th member of UNESCO**

Reports noted that the UN Security Council deplored the failure of the governments of Sudan and South Sudan to withdraw their troops from the Abyei area and urged the two countries to do so immediately without any preconditions. The Council also urged the UN Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) to increase its patrols and enhance its air mobility.⁵⁴

In another development, the Security Council and the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon strongly condemned terrorist attacks in Nigeria which caused numerous deaths and injuries. The Council stressed on the need to bring the perpetrators, organizers, financiers and sponsors of the attacks to justice.⁵⁵

Meanwhile, the Security Council called on all actors in Liberia to work together in ensuring the completion of the electoral process. The Council voiced its concerns following statements that urged boycott of the presidential elections. The 15-member body expressed support for the efforts of the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) in assisting the Liberian authorities.⁵⁶

According to reports, the Council condemned all acts of maritime piracy and armed robbery in West Africa's Gulf of Guinea. The Council also encouraged the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and the Gulf of Guinea Commission (GGC) to develop a strategy against maritime piracy. The

⁵³ "Naga bandh turns violent", *The Assam Tribune*, November 4, 2011 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=nov0511/oth07>

⁵⁴ "Security Council deplores failure by Sudan and South Sudan to withdraw forces from Abyei", *UN News Centre*, November 04, 2011 at <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=40317&Cr=abyei&Cr1=>

⁵⁵ "Ban and Security Council strongly condemn terrorist attacks in Nigeria", *UN News Centre*, November 05, 2011 at <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=40319&Cr=terrorist&Cr1=>

⁵⁶ "Security Council calls on all Liberians to take part in upcoming poll", *UN News Centre*, November 06, 2011 at <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=40322&Cr=Liberia&Cr1=>

body also encouraged the international community to assist the countries in the region in strengthening their efforts to counter piracy and armed robbery in the Gulf.⁵⁷

Reports noted that, the Security Council called on the interim authorities in Libya to take action to prevent the proliferation of arms, missiles and related material. The body also authorized its committee on Libyan sanctions to draw up proposals on stockpiling arms and other material and prevent them from falling into the hands of terrorist groups.⁵⁸

In other developments, it was reported that Palestine was admitted as a full member into the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). This move brought the total number of UNESCO members to 195.⁵⁹

⁵⁷ "Security Council welcomes planned regional anti-piracy strategy in Gulf of Guinea", *UN News Centre*, October 31, 2011 at <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=40261&Cr=piracy&Cr1=>

⁵⁸ "Security Council calls on Libyan authorities to stem proliferation of arms", *UN News Centre*, November 01, 2011 at <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=40268&Cr=Libya&Cr1=>

⁵⁹ "UNESCO votes to admit Palestine as full member", *UN News Centre*, October 31, 2011 at <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=40253&Cr=Palestin&Cr1=member>