

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

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I. COUNTRY REVIEWS

A. South Asia

Afghanistan

- **Three Afghan policemen were killed and three US troops injured in a suicide attack in Khost province of eastern Afghanistan**

According to reports, three Afghan policemen were killed and three US troops injured on November 10 when a team of Taliban suicide attackers stormed a government office in Khost province of eastern Afghanistan. It is thought the attack targeted a meeting between the governor of Chamkani district in Paktia province and local elders who were due to attend a government-organised loya jirga or traditional meeting in Kabul next week. The NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) said it helped end the attack by destroying a mosque where gunmen had hidden, launching a Hellfire missile and rockets from an Apache helicopter.¹

Pakistan

- **Pakistan's Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani and his Indian counterpart Dr. Manmohan Singh hold bilateral talks on the sidelines of SAARC Summit in Maldives; Pakistan's Foreign Minister assures that Pakistan would not backtrack on granting MFN status to India; Renewed ties between India and Pakistan; Russia supports SCO membership for Pakistan**

In a significant development during the SAARC Summit in Maldives, Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani and his Indian counterpart Dr. Manmohan Singh met for about an hour, prior to the opening of the 17th summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). According to a federal minister who attended the meeting, the Indian side categorically told the Pakistani that it wasn't possible to move forward until there were some on-ground actions against the two groups. Later, during a brief appearance before the media, the two prime ministers vowed to open a new chapter in bilateral relationship and predicted more constructive and result-oriented talks in the near future. Prime Minister Gilani stated, "The next round of talks will be more positive, more constructive and will open a new chapter in the history of both countries...". While, on a personal note, India's Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh stated, "I have always regarded Prime Minister Gilani as a man of peace. Every time we have met over the past three years, my belief has further strengthened." He also add that the destiny of the two countries was interlinked, hence they had no choice but to move forward together.²

Meanwhile, at the SAARC Summit in Maldives, Pakistan's Foreign Minister Hina Rabbani Khar assured that Pakistan would not backtrack on its decision regarding granting the most favoured

¹ "Three Afghan police dead,US troops hurt in Afghan attack", *Dawn*, November 11, 2011 at <http://www.dawn.com/2011/11/10/three-afghan-police-dead-us-troops-hurt-in-afghan-attack.html>

² "Pakistan, India sees new era in ties", *Dawn*, November, 11, 2011 at <http://www.dawn.com/2011/11/11/pakistan-india-see-new-era-in-ties.html>

nation (MFN) status to India. “Let me categorically say that I don’t see a lot of room for confusion,” the Press Trust of India quoted her as saying, rejecting speculation on the Nov 2 decision to grant the status to India. “We will not backtrack on a cabinet decision,” she told the news agency ahead of a summit of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc) which opens on Thursday in the Maldives. Talking to reporters in the Maldives, Khar said the environment had improved considerably ahead of the talks between Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani and Indian leader Manmohan Singh, scheduled on the sidelines of the summit for Thursday.³

In another development, according to reports, Russia, for the first time, publicly endorsed Pakistan’s bid to get full membership of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin made this announcement in response to Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani’s address at the 10th Heads of Government meeting of SCO, at the Constantine Palace. The Russian Premier also supported Prime Minister Gilani’s proposals for implementing trade and energy projects. He announced financing 0.5 billion US dollars for the CASA- 1000 that would ensure power transmission from Turkmenistan Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan to Pakistan and Afghanistan.⁴

B. East Asia

Japan

- **Japanese Foreign Minister reassures the United States on Futenma relocation**

According to reports, during his recent meeting with US Secretary of State Hilary Clinton on the sidelines of the APEC summit at Honolulu, Japanese Foreign Minister Koichiro Gamba reiterated Japanese government’s intention to submit within this year an environmental impact assessment report to the Okinawa prefecture regarding Futenma base relocation from Ginowan to the Henoko district, both in Okinawa. Gamba however asked the US to make further efforts to ease the burden of hosting US bases on Okinawa residents.⁵

C. Central Asia & Russia

Central Asia

- **Chinese migrants to be monitored by new Tajik state agency; Foreign investors to participate in Kazakh ‘People’s IPO’; Early parliamentary elections in Kazakhstan; Public funding of parties debated by Kyrgyz parliamentarians; Hungarian President holds bilateral talks**

³ “No going back on MFN, India told”, *Dawn*, November 10, 2011 at <http://www.dawn.com/2011/11/10/no-going-back-on-mfn-india-told.html>

⁴ “Russia endorses full SCO membership for Pakistan”, *Dawn*, November 7, 2011 at <http://www.dawn.com/2011/11/07/russia-endorses-full-sco-membership-for-pakistan.html>

⁵ “Gamba, Clinton in tune on Futenma relocation”, *Yomiuri Shimbun*, November 12, 2011, at <http://www.yomiuri.co.jp/dy/national/T111111005701.htm>

with his Uzbek, Turkmen counterparts; EBRD and GGFR extend aid to Central Asia to reduce gas flaring

According to reports, Tajik state agency has established a new state-run agency to monitor thousands of Chinese citizens residing in Tajikistan who according to the government statistics estimate only 1,500 while international groups – such as the International Organization for Migration (IOM) – put their estimates at 80,000.⁶

In another development, the deputy head of Kazakh sovereign wealth fund Kuandyk Bishimbayev confirmed that Kazakhstan may allow foreign investors to participate at a later stage in its 'People's IPO' investment program to privatize many state industries.⁷ However, Kazakh Central Bank Governor Grigory Marchenko expressed his skepticism on privatizing at the earliest its major banks or major lending institutions like BTA, Temirbank and Alliance owing to the financial downturn in Europe. He said investors in China, Singapore and Malaysia continue to express strong interest, but "[they] know our country much less than European or American investors."⁸

Meanwhile, Kazakh state nuclear operator *Kazatomprom* confirmed that it has raised its uranium output by 11 percent to 14,385 tons this year to end-September, compared with the same period in 2010.⁹ Kazakhstan became world's biggest producer of the metal overtaking Canada in 2009 and has more than 15% of world's global uranium reserves, placing it second after Australia.

In another development, reports noted that more than 50 Parliamentarians in Kazakhstan on November 10th signed a petition that called for President Nursultan Nazarbayev to dissolve parliament or *Mazhilis* and hold early elections in mid-January which will exclude Communist Party from contesting due to the October sentence imposed by a court in Almaty.¹⁰ As per the sentence the Communist Party is suspended for six months for trying to build a partnership with the banned Alga political party. In the meanwhile, Kyrgyz parliamentary deputies in the second week of November debated a new bill that would require political parties to be publicly financed along with political parties requiring to specify the sources of funding, funding principles and the proper use of funds.¹¹

According to reports, Hungarian President Pal Schmitt as part of a regional tour visited Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan. He held negotiations with his Uzbek counterpart

⁶ "Tajikistan to monitor Chinese migrants with new agency", *Universal Newswires*, November 10, 2011 at <http://www.universalnewswires.com/centralasia/viewstory.aspx?id=10659>

⁷ "Kazakh 'People's IPO' may be open to foreign investors, official says", *Universal Newswires*, November 10, 2011 at <http://www.universalnewswires.com/centralasia/viewstory.aspx?id=10662>

⁸ "EU crisis may delay privatization of Kazakh banks", *Universal Newswires*, November 11, 2011 at <http://www.universalnewswires.com/centralasia/viewstory.aspx?id=10666>

⁹ "Kazakh uranium output increases 11 percent", *Universal Newswires*, November 10, 2011 at <http://www.universalnewswires.com/centralasia/viewstory.aspx?id=10657>

¹⁰ "Kazakhstan heads towards early parliamentary election", *The Telegraph*, November 10, 2011 at <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/asia/kazakhstan/8881213/Kazakhstan-heads-towards-early-parliamentary-election.html>

¹¹ "Kyrgyz parliament debates public funding of parties", *Universal Newswires*, November 09, 2011 at <http://www.universalnewswires.com/centralasia/kyrgyzstan/viewstory.aspx?id=10650>

Islam Karimov in Tashkent on November 7, 2011. Presidents of the two states signed a joint statement and bilateral documents in areas – economic, oil and gas sector, standardization and certification, metrology, etc.¹² In the meanwhile Schmitt urged his Turkmen counterpart Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov to delegate an ambassador to Hungary and both executives inked a joint statement on 9 November, while the sizeable business delegation accompanying Schmitt held negotiations with their Turkmen colleagues.¹³

In other developments, reports noted that the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), partnering with the World Bank's Global Gas Flaring Reduction partnership (GGFR), will support a drive to reduce gas flaring in Central Asia, the World Bank said in a statement on November 8, 2011.¹⁴

Russia

- **Russia will support the idea of creating an SCO energy club; President Medvedev to meet Obama on the sidelines of the APEC summit in Honolulu; Russia not to link support for Euro zone aid with energy issues; US invites Russia to take part in antimissile flight test; Russia, NATO to sign agreement on new level of technology cooperation; Russia tests launch Topol ICBM; Russian air force to receive 65 Yak 130 jet trainers by 2017; Polish gas firm locked in a legal battle with Gazprom over gas price cuts; Visa free regime on agenda of Russia-European Commission talks; Russia and US sign a memorandum for cooperating over sea man-made disaster clean up; Russia's oil company Rosneft to discuss Black Sea offshore oil deposit project cooperation with Total; Russia launches a robotic spacecraft to probe Mars moon**

According to reports, Russian Prime Minister Putin has said that Russia will support the idea of creating an energy club within the framework of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. He mentioned that a principal decision has already been taken and at present, it is necessary to pass through an organizing stage and finalize a plan of action.¹⁵

In another development, according to reports, Russian President Dmitry Medvedev will meet with his U.S. counterpart Barack Obama on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in Honolulu scheduled for November 12-13. The agenda of the summit will see a discussion on regional conflicts, regional threats, global threats, developments in North Africa and Middle East as well as issues related to defence systems and in particular to missile defence.¹⁶

¹² "Islam Karimov, Pal Schmitt discuss Bilateral Relations", *UZINFOINVEST*, November 08, 2011 at http://www.uzinfoinvest.uz/eng/news/islam_karimov_pal_schmitt_discuss_bilateral_relations.mgr

¹³ "Hungary, Turkmenistan talk energy as president continues Asian tour", *Universal Newswires*, November 10, 2011 at <http://www.universalnewswires.com/centralasia/viewstory.aspx?id=10658>

¹⁴ "World lenders to help reduce gas flaring in Central Asia", *Universal Newswires*, November 09, 2011 at <http://www.universalnewswires.com/centralasia/turkmenistan/viewstory.aspx?id=10643>

¹⁵ "Russia supports idea of creating SCO energy club- Putin", *ITAR-TASS*, November 7, 2011, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/265635.html>

¹⁶ "Medvedev to meet Obama at APEC summit", *RIA Novosti*, November 9, 2011, <http://en.rian.ru/world/20111109/168540713.html>

Meanwhile, according to reports, Russia will not link aid for the Euro zone within the framework of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to energy issues. At the just-concluded G20 summit in Cannes, President Dmitry Medvedev had said that as an IMF member Russia could take part in the joint financial assistance to the Euro zone.¹⁷

In another development, the United States has invited Russia to take part in flight tests for antimissiles to be deployed in Eastern Europe. The move comes amidst strong Russian opposition to the Romanian government's approval of a draft law allowing the deployment of U.S. missile defence elements in the country. The document has been sent to the parliament and will enter into force after ratification.¹⁸

Reports noted that Russia and NATO will sign an agreement on an official transition to the second tier of engagement in the NATO Codification System in what concerns the exports and imports of defence-related technologies. Transition to Tier 2 of participation in NATO's codification system will empower Russia to enter the information on exported defence produce in NATO catalogues independently and also have an opportunity to enter the national classification numbers and the real suppliers.¹⁹

According to reports, the Russian Space Forces have test launched a Topol RS-12M intercontinental ballistic missile. The missile was built in 1987 and was on alert duty until July 2007 after which it was placed in storage. It is a single-warhead intercontinental ballistic missile with a maximum range of 10,000 km (6,125 miles) and can carry a nuclear warhead with a yield of up to 550 kilotons.²⁰

Meanwhile, according to reports, the Russian Defense Ministry will sign a contract with aircraft construction company Irkut on the delivery of 65 Yakovlev Yak-130 advanced jet trainers within the next two weeks, with the jets expected to be delivered by 2017. The Yak-130, with a maximum combat load of 3 tons, is able to replicate the characteristics of several 4+ generation fighters and in the past Russia has signed contracts for the sale of these trainers to Libya and Algeria.²¹

Reports noted that Poland's gas monopoly PGNiG has turned to an arbitration tribunal in Sweden following no headway in talks with Russian energy giant Gazprom on gas price cuts. PGNiG's decision follows similar moves by other European gas consumers such as Italy's Edison and Germany's RWE and E.On, which have appealed to the Stockholm Arbitration Tribunal for a ruling on gas price discounts and a switch to gas spot prices. So far, only Edison has been successful, obtaining a 200 million euro discount from Gazprom.²²

¹⁷ "Russia not to link aid for Euro zone to energy issues- Putin", ITAR-TASS, November 7, 2011, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/265785.html>

¹⁸ "US invites Russia to take part in anti missile flight test", ITAR-TASS, November 7, 2011, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/265849.html>

¹⁹ "Russia, NATO to sign agreement on new level of technology cooperation", ITAR-TASS, November 8, 2011, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/266069.html>

²⁰ "Russia test launches TOPOL ICBN", RIA Novosti, November 3, 2011, http://en.rian.ru/military_news/20111103/168385053.html

²¹ "Russian air force to receive 65 Yak-130 jet trainers by 2017", RIA Novosti, November 8, 2011, http://en.rian.ru/military_news/20111108/168504804.html

²² "Polish gas firm goes to arbitration over Gazprom contract", RIA Novosti, November 8, 2011, <http://en.rian.ru/business/20111108/168508262.html>

Russia's Foreign Minister Lavrov has said that Russia will be doing everything to speed up the process of transferring to visa-free travel between Russia and the European Union.²³

Meanwhile, according to reports, Russia and the US have concluded a memorandum of mutual understanding that expands the spheres of bilateral cooperation in the cleanup of sea man-made disasters, including oil spills and the preparations for such emergency situations.²⁴

In other developments, according to reports, Russia's largest state-run oil company Rosneft and French energy giant Total will discuss a joint project to develop the Shatsky Ridge oil deposit off Russia's Black Sea coast. The Shatsky Ridge covers an area of 8,600 square kilometers and is located in the eastern part of the Black Sea. The field's expected resources amount to 860 million metric tons of oil by international classification.²⁵ Meanwhile, Russia has launched a robotic spacecraft to the Mars moon Phobos in the nation's first attempt to carry out a first interplanetary mission in 15 years. The ambitious Phobos-Grunt mission is aimed at bringing back soil samples from Phobos in 2014 to pave the way for the exploration of the Red Planet.²⁶

D. West Asia

Iran

- **The Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Director Fereydoun Abbasi: Iran in the process of decision-making and exploring ways to become more self-sufficient and export nuclear equipment; Iran discarded the IAEA report on nuclear programme; UN sanctions against Iran can not solve nuclear issue; Hong Lei; Khamenei warned that enemy must be ready to receive a strong response if any country attacks Iran**

According to reports, the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Director Fereydoun Abbasi wrote in an article, published on dolat.ir website where he stated that "we are in the process of decision-making and exploring ways to become more self-sufficient and export nuclear equipment." He also added that "in recent years, significant advances in many areas of technology, including nuclear technology, have been made in the country, and the Bushehr nuclear power plant is one of them."²⁷

Meanwhile, reports noted that Iran has discarded the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) report about the country's nuclear program for being politically motivated. Iran's envoy to the

²³ "Visa-free regime on the agenda of Russia-EC ties", ITAR-TASS, November 7, 2011, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/265423.html>

²⁴ "US, RF sign memo for broader ties in sea man-made disaster cleanup", ITAR-TASS, November 7, 2011, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/265138.html>

²⁵ "Rosneft, Total mull Black Sea offshore oil deposit project", RIA Novosti, November 9, 2011, <http://en.rian.ru/business/20111109/168543101.html>

²⁶ "Russia launches probe to Mars moon", RIA Novosti, November 9, 2011, <http://en.rian.ru/science/20111109/168527324.html>

²⁷ "Exporting nuclear technology on agenda: nuclear chief," *Mehr News*, November 7, 2011, at <http://www.mehrnews.com/en/newsdetail.aspx?NewsID=1454619>

IAEA, Ali Asghar Soltanieh told that “the report of the IAEA is unbalanced, unprofessional and politically motivated.” He stated that the IAEA has taken an unprofessional approach, adding that neither the agency nor its director has the right to disseminate false information about any member state. Soltanieh added that the report repeats old charges that the Islamic Republic proved were fabricated in a comprehensive 117-page response presented to the IAEA four years ago.²⁸

In another development, according to reports, China’s foreign ministry spokesman Hong Lei said “sanctions cannot fundamentally solve the issue of Iran’s nuclear programme.” Statement came after the UN atomic watchdog said it had broadly “credible” intelligence suggesting the country had done work towards building nuclear warheads.²⁹

In other developments, reports noted that Iran’s Supreme Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei warned that if any country attacks Iran it must ready itself to “receive a strong slap and iron fist” by the Iranian armed forces. He said the enemy must ready to receive a strong reaction by the Army, Sepah (IRGC), and Basij, and in one word by the great Iranian nation.” The United States has repeatedly said all options including military attack are open to stop Iran’s nuclear program. Israel has also threatened to launch attacks on Iranian nuclear sites.³⁰

Iraq

- **20 people including 13 Iranian pilgrims in Iraq injured in bomb attack; US to transfers forces from Iraq to Kuwait as reserve forces**

According to an interior ministry official in Iraq, twenty people, including 13 Iranian pilgrims, were wounded in bomb attacks in north Baghdad. A roadside bomb targeting a bus carrying pilgrims wounded 15 people in the Kadhmiyah area of north Baghdad. Meanwhile, the US military said that four Katyusha rockets were targeted at its Forward Operating Base in oil-rich province of Kirkuk in northern Iraq. It would be worth mentioning that all of the roughly 27,000 US soldiers remaining in Iraq are to depart by this year’s end. Ten American bases have yet to be handed over.³¹

Meanwhile, according to reports, roughly 4,000-soldier US army Brigade Combat Team will deploy from Iraq to Kuwait as a reserve force until well after US forces depart Iraq, leaders of the unit said on its Facebook page. The posts come after a US defence official said the Pentagon was considering shifting some of the US soldiers due to depart Iraq by year’s end to Kuwait, amid concerns about Iraq’s stability and Iran’s role in the region. According to posts from the

²⁸ “Iran rejects IAEA report as ‘politically motivated,” *Tehran Times*, November 9, 2011, at <http://tehrantimes.com/index.php/politics/4358-iran-rejects-iaea-report-as-politically-motivated>

²⁹ “China says sanctions ‘cannot solve’ Iran issue,” *Khaleej Times*, November 10, 2011 at http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle08.asp?xfile=data/middleeast/2011/November/middleeast_November244.xml§ion=middleeast

³⁰ “Iran will respond to any attack with ‘iron fist’: Leader,” *Tehran Times*, November 11, 2011, at <http://www.tehrantimes.com/index.php/politics/4415-iran-will-respond-to-any-attack-with-iron-fist-leader>

³¹ “Iraq attacks wound 20, including Iran pilgrims,” *Khaleej Times*, November 13, 2011, at http://www.khaleejtimes.com/displayarticle.asp?xfile=data/middleeast/2011/November/middleeast_November317.xml§ion=middleeast&col=

commander and command sergeant major of the 1st Cavalry Division's 1st Brigade Combat Team, the unit will complete its 12-month tour, which began in Iraq in mid-July 2011, in Kuwait.³²

Syria

- **Security forces kill civilians in fresh violence; Arab League suspends Syria; Syria and Russia stress upon their historical ties**

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reported that Syrian security forces killed 12 civilians, five of whom were attending a funeral in Damascus neighbourhood of Barzeh. On the other hand, the continued killing has increased international anger at Syria which signed an Arab League peace plan that called for an end to violence. Separately, the opposition Syrian National Council urged the Arab League to take strong and effective measures against the Syrian regime. Meanwhile, UN human rights Chief Navi Pillay said that increasing number of Syrian soldiers were defecting to the opposition, raising the risk of a Libyan-style civil war in Syria.³³

Meanwhile, the Arab League has suspended Syria and called on its army to stop killing civilians. Qatar's Prime Minister Sheikh Hamad Ben Jassim Al Thani declared that the league would impose economic and political sanctions on Syria's government and appeal to member states to withdraw their ambassadors. It would also call a meeting of Syrian opposition parties. Reacting to the decision, Syria's Arab League representative, Youssef Ahmed, said that suspending Damascus violated the League's charter as it could only be done by consensus at a summit of Arab leaders.³⁴

In another development, Syrian President Bashar al-Assad held meetings with Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia, who said his visit came to stress the solid relations between the Russian and Syrian peoples and in light of the great position Syria enjoys historically and religiously. He applauded the diversity in Syria marked by amity, fraternity and cooperation, saying that Syria constitutes a model of Christian-Islamic fraternity for the entire world. On his part, President al-Assad expressed appreciation to Russia for its standing by the Syrian people, underlining the importance of the historical relationship between the two friendly countries.³⁵

Jordan

- **Jordan and Britain discuss bilateral and regional issues**

According to reports, Jordan King Abdullah met with British Foreign Secretary William Hague and examined the latest developments on the Arab scene, efforts to achieve Middle East peace

³² "US shifts soldiers from Iraq to Kuwait," *Khaleej Times*, November 11, 2011, at http://www.khaleejtimes.com/displayarticle.asp?xfile=data/middleeast/2011/November/middleeast_November257.xml§ion=middleeast&col

³³ "Syria's forces kill 12 civilians - rights group", *The Jordan Times*, November 10, 2011, at <http://www.jordantimes.com/index.php?news=43129>

³⁴ "Arab League suspends Syria, demands end to killing", *The Jordan Times*, November 13, 2011, at <http://www.jordantimes.com/index.php?news=43200>

³⁵ "President al-Assad Meets Patriarch Kirill, Stresses Historical Relations between Syria and Russia", *Syrian Arab News Agency*, November 13, 2011, at <http://www.sana.sy/eng/21/2011/11/13/381318.htm>

and means to boost bilateral relations. Their discussions focused on the political transformations in the Middle East and its impact on the future of the region and its people. Both leaders also discussed the UK's role in supporting peace efforts to lead to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on the basis of the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital, living peacefully with a secure Israel. On bilateral relations, King Abdullah stressed strong Jordanian-British ties and the importance of building on them to enhance political and economic relations, in the best interest of the two countries and their people.³⁶

Israel

- **UN renews demand Israel comply with UNSC Resolution 497**

According to reports, the United Nations renewed its demand that Israel comply with international legitimacy resolutions, particularly the Security Council Resolution 497 which provided that "the Israeli decision to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration in the occupied Syrian Golan Heights is null and void and without international legal effect". The UN's renewed demand came during the adoption of a draft resolution entitled 'the Occupied Syrian Golan' by the UN General Assembly's 'Fourth Committee', the Special Political and Decolonisation Committee. 159 countries voted in favour of the resolution, while only Israel voted against it however, the United States, Canada and nine other countries abstained.³⁷

Palestine

- **Britain to abstain in UN vote on Palestinian state; Palestine pursue UN bid despite Security Council failure**

According to reports, British Foreign Secretary William Hague said that UK would abstain in a vote in the UN Security Council on Palestinian membership of the United Nations in line with France and in consultation with other European partners. However, Hague said, Britain would continue to be one of the principal supporters of Palestinian state-building efforts, assisting them to tackle poverty, build institutions and boost their economy.³⁸

In another development, reports noted that the UN Security Council deadlock over the Palestinian bid for full UN membership left the Palestinian leadership facing an uphill struggle in their quest for the ultimate membership of the world body. Nevertheless, the Palestinian envoy to the UN Riyad Mansour insisted after the Security Council membership adopted a report which confirmed its failure to agree on the Palestinian bid that there would be no letup in the campaign.³⁹

³⁶ "King, British FM discuss ties, region's future", *The Jordan Times*, November 13, 2011, at <http://www.jordantimes.com/index.php?news=43197>

³⁷ "The UN Renews Demand that Israel Rescind Its Decision to Annex Occupied Golan, Comply with UNSC Resolution 497", *Syrian Arab News Agency*, November 12, 2011, at <http://www.sana.sy/eng/22/2011/11/12/380985.htm>

³⁸ "Britain to abstain in UN vote on Palestinian state - Hague", *The Jordan Times*, November 10, 2011, at <http://www.jordantimes.com/index.php?news=43130>

³⁹ "Palestinians pursue UN bid despite Security Council failure", *The Jordan Times*, November 13, 2011, at <http://www.jordantimes.com/index.php?news=43215>

Yemen

- **17 people killed in clashes in Taiz**

According to reports, at least 17 people were killed in Yemen due to heavy clashes between protesters and the security forces in the city of Taiz on November 11, 2011. According to witnesses and medical sources around 30 others were also injured in the incident. Shells fired by the security forces landed on houses across the city, thus killing people. It has also been alleged that government forces later shelled al-Rawda Hospital, where victims of earlier fighting had been taken, killing one patient and wounding five. Witnesses said patients were moved to the basement after the shells partially damaged the hospital. According to the local residents, the clashes began on November 10 after gunmen shot and critically wounded a soldier stationed at a government building. This was followed by the killing of a pro-Saleh tribal leader and the wounding of one of his bodyguards.⁴⁰

E. Africa

Libya

- **Niger decides to grant asylum to Muammar Gaddafi's son Saadi Gaddafi on humanitarian grounds; North Atlantic Council discuss possibility of reviewing Libya operation; NTC chairman assures that no place for extremist Islam in Libya; Local armed groups clash near Tripoli**

According to reports, Niger President Mahamadou Issoufou said that his country has decided to grant Muammar Gaddafi's son Saadi Gaddafi asylum on humanitarian reasons, adding that his brother Seif al-Islam was not in the country. Saadi fled Libya across its southern frontier to Niger in August 2011 during the fall of Tripoli. However, Libya's new leadership wants Saadi Gaddafi to stand trial for crimes allegedly committed while heading the country's football federation.⁴¹

In another development, reports noted that members of NATO's governing body are discussing informally whether to direct alliance staff members to perform an internal legal review of its Libya operations to assist any outside investigation into civilian casualties, diplomats accredited to the organisation have said. Two ambassadors accredited to NATO reportedly said that the North Atlantic Council, the alliance's top governing body, has not yet formally taken up the issue. But they said that they and other members of the council have been informally discussing with one another the possibility of launching an internal review of all incidents in which NATO airstrikes caused civilian casualties. The council comprised of the ambassadors from 28 countries

⁴⁰ "Fighting kills 17 in Yemen, UN envoy pushes for peace", *Reuters*, November 12, 2011, at <http://in.reuters.com/article/2011/11/11/idINIndia-60470620111111>

⁴¹ "Gaddafi son in Niger on humanitarian asylum", *Mail and Guardian*, November 11, 2011, at <http://mg.co.za/article/2011-11-11-gaddafi-son-in-niger-on-humanitarian-asylum/>

that are members of NATO. Meanwhile, NATO spokesperson Oana Lungescu said NATO was confident that its forces carried out the campaign “in full compliance with international law”.⁴²

Meanwhile, Mustafa Abdul-Jalil, Chairman of the National Transitional Council (NTC), assured the European Union foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton that Libya would not turn into an extremist Islamic country. Earlier, Abdul-Jalil caused a stir in the West when he said Islamic Shariah law would be the main source of legislation in the new Libya and that tenets violating it would be nullified. Other NTC members have said Abdul-Jalil had expressed his personal views on the role of Shariah law.⁴³

In other developments, reports noted that heavy fighting between local armed groups killed several people on the outskirts of Tripoli, as interim government officials struggled to calm tensions amid talk of tribal feuds and support for Muammar Gaddafi. In the clashes near a military camp lying among farms and villages between the capital and the port of Zawiyah, some 50km to the west, anti-Gaddafi fighters from Zawiyah pounded targets with heavy machineguns, anti-aircraft cannon, rocket-propelled grenades and Grad rockets. Intense and prolonged exchanges of gunfire mixed with explosions continued around a military base at Imaia, an area inhabited by people from the Wershifanna tribe, a big clan in the Tripoli region.⁴⁴

EGYPT

- **Egypt gas pipeline to Israel and Jordan attacked; EFSA relaxes regulations to promote Nilex trading; Military court acquits 12 protesters, adjourns hearing of Maikel Nabil’s case**

Egypt’s security services and the official news agency reported that an Egyptian pipeline sending gas to Israel and Jordan was hit by two explosions 40km west of the town of al-Arish in the north of the Sinai peninsula. The pipeline, which carries gas through the Sinai and on to Jordan and Israel, had already been attacked six times since February 2011, casting doubts over the security of the Kingdom’s main energy source.⁴⁵ Later, Egyptian police arrested Mohamed Al-Teehi, a leading member of an armed Islamist group Al-Takfir Wa Al-Hijra (Excommunication and Exodus) suspected of involvement in pipeline bombings.⁴⁶

In another development, reports noted that the Egyptian Financial Supervisory Authority (EFSA), Egypt’s market regulator, relaxed the rules and regulations for small and mid-cap investments on the Nile Stock Exchange (Nilex), the region’s first stock exchange for small and medium enterprises. After the move, companies who wish to be part of the new Nilex trading system for

⁴² “NATO Ambassadors Discuss Possibility of Reviewing Libya Operation”, *The Tripoli Post*, November 12, 2011, at <http://www.tripolipost.com/articleDetail.asp?c=1&i=7286>

⁴³ “No place for extremist Islam - Libya interim leader”, *The Jordan Times*, November 13, 2011, at <http://www.jordantimes.com/index.php?news=43211>

⁴⁴ “Fighters clash near Tripoli; several dead”, *The Jordan Times*, November 13, 2011, at <http://www.jordantimes.com/index.php?news=43202>

⁴⁵ “Egypt gas pipeline to Israel, Jordan attacked”, *Mail and Guardian*, November 10, 2011, at <http://mg.co.za/article/2011-11-10-egypt-gas-pipeline-to-israel-jordan-attacked/>

⁴⁶ Fayed, Shaimaa (2011), “Egypt arrests Islamist linked to pipeline attacks”, *The Daily News Egypt*, November 13, 2011, at <http://www.thedailynewsegypt.com/egypt/egypt-arrests-islamist-linked-to-pipeline-attacks.html>

SMEs will not need a minimum capital requirement, with the maximum ceiling set at LE 50 million. The EFSA also assigned an independent judge to oversee the finances of the market to ensure that all companies were abiding by trading rules.⁴⁷

In other developments, reports noted that twelve protesters arrested in September this year near the Ministry of Defense were acquitted by military court, and blogger Maikel Nabil's trial was adjourned to November 27. However, activist Alaa Abdel-Fattah was remanded in custody for 15 more days pending investigations into accusations of inciting violence on October 9, vandalizing military property and stealing military weapons.⁴⁸

Somalia

- **Tensions rose in Southern Somalia; Funding gap prevents deployments in Somalia**

According to reports from parts of Jubba region of Southern Somalia indicated that mounting tensions of fighting rose between the Somalia government forces backed by their Kenyan allied troops and Al-shabab fighters. As per the reports, forces approached the port of Kismayo which might result in fighting between the groups.⁴⁹

In another development, according to reports, senior commanders complained that African Union troops fighting al-Qaeda-linked Islamists in Somalia have a \$10-million funding gap and that has delayed the deployment of reinforcements and lifesaving equipment. The shortfall came as AU troops have taken control of the Somali capital from the Islamist al-Shabaab militia for the first time since their mission began in 2007. Nevertheless, countries have been slow to deploy, partly because of concerns over funding. The AU mission had a budget of \$472-million in 2011, but most of the money was taken up by wages, transport and operational costs.⁵⁰

South Africa

- **Trade and Industry minister concern over volatility in exchange rate;**

According to reports, South Africa's Trade and Industry Minister Rob Davies noted that volatility in South Africa's exchange rate due to the eurozone debt crisis was hurting the country's competitiveness and might limit economic growth in the coming year. Davies said the rand was still overvalued despite its slide against the dollar in August and September 2011. However,

⁴⁷ Abdellatif, Reem (2011), "Egypt eases regulations to promote Nilex trading", *The Daily News Egypt*, November 13, 2011, <http://www.thedailynewsegypt.com/stock-market/egypt-eases-regulations-to-promote-nilex-trading.html>

⁴⁸ Hesham, Heba (2011), "Military court acquits 12 protesters, adjourns Maikel Nabil's case; prosecution renews Abdel-Fattah's detention", *The Daily News Egypt*, November 13, 2011, at <http://www.thedailynewsegypt.com/human-a-civil-rights/military-court-acquits-12-protesters-adjourns-maikel-nabils-case-prosecution-renews-abdel-fattahs-detention-dp1.html>

⁴⁹ "Tensions Rose in Southern Region", *AllAfrica.com*, November 12, 2011, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201111130096.html>

⁵⁰ "AU troops in Somalia face funding shortfall", *Mail and Guardian*, November 13, 2011, at <http://mg.co.za/article/2011-11-13-au-troops-in-somalia-face-funding-shortfall/>

Davies declined to specify what exchange rate would be appropriate for the rand but said that beyond its absolute level, its wide swings were hurting business sentiment.⁵¹

Sudan

- **Sudan rejects US proposal on South Kordofan; Sudan accuses Juba of supporting the Sudan Revolutionary Front**

According to reports, the ruling National Congress Party (NCP) in Sudan has rejected a US proposal aimed at resolving the conflict in the country's oil-rich state of South Kordofan, saying that Khartoum would never accept to cede any part of it. Earlier, Washington proposed splitting South Kordofan into two as a means to accommodate the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Movement North (SPLM-N) which has been fighting government forces.⁵²

In another development, reports noted that the Sudanese intelligence service accused South Sudan of sponsoring the meetings of a new rebel alliance the Sudan Revolutionary Front (SRF), saying this support represents "a clear declaration of hostility", against Khartoum. The alliance of the rebel groups active in Darfur, Blue Nile and South Kordofan aims to overthrow the government of the National Congress Party by political and military means. They also warned they would hit the regime everywhere.⁵³

South Sudan

- **European Union pledges •200m for development support in South Sudan; South Sudan becomes member of International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO); South accuses north Sudan of cross border attacks**

Reports noted that the EU commissioner for development Andris Piebalgs announced that the European Union (EU) Commission pledged •200m to the Republic of South Sudan, as part of their commitment to strengthen development support in Africa's newest nation. The funds would mainly address key sectors like health, education, rule of law and infrastructural development, focusing on feeder roads construction. At the same time, Piebalgs urged South Sudan to focus on diversifying its economy, saying over-reliance on oil revenue could sometimes be disastrous.⁵⁴

In another development, the Republic of South Sudan has formally joined the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) to become its 191st member. The ICAO expressed that South

⁵¹ "SA volatility hurting the rand", *Mail and Guardian*, November 13, 2011, at <http://mg.co.za/article/2011-11-13-sa-volatility-hurting-the-rand>

⁵² "Sudan rebuffs US proposal on South Kordofan", *The Sudan Tribune*, November 8, 2011, at <http://www.sudantribune.com/Sudan-rebuffs-US-proposal-on-South,40669>

⁵³ "Khartoum accuses Juba of supporting new Sudan's rebels alliance", *The Sudan Tribune*, November 12, 2011, at <http://www.sudantribune.com/Khartoum-accuses-Juba-of,40712>

⁵⁴ Uma, Julius N. (2011), "EU earmarks •200m for health, infrastructure in S. Sudan", *The Sudan Tribune*, November 11, 2011, at <http://www.sudantribune.com/EU-earmarks-EUR200m-for-health,40701>

Sudan's membership would facilitate plans currently underway by the Organisation's Technical Co-operation Bureau (TCB) to provide technical assistance to the State.⁵⁵

In other developments, according to reports, South Sudan's army said that at least five soldiers were killed by southern "mercenaries" recruited to fight alongside north Sudan's army to destabilise the country. On the other hand, 13 rebels were killed when Kuek military base in the north east of Upper Nile state was attacked. Following the attacks, aid and development organisation Oxfam had announced that it was pulling out of Upper Nile.⁵⁶

Nigeria

- **Protests in Abuja over a government proposal to remove fuel subsidies prevented by police; Nigeria reactivates Border Patrol Posts across its neighbours**

Reports noted that armed policemen prevented a planned protest in Abuja by the National Youth Council of Nigeria over a government proposal to remove fuel subsidies, which would result in higher pump prices. Many Nigerians, most of whom earn less than \$2 per day, view these subsidies as the only benefit they receive from their country's oil wealth, much of which has been wasted through corruption and mismanagement. On the other hand, government officials and many economists argue that the billions of dollars being spent on the subsidy each year go to a corrupt few, and that money saved could be used for infrastructure development or other important programmes.⁵⁷

In another development, reports noted that in a move to curtail the excesses of the Boko Haram, the Federal Government has ordered the immediate re-activation of 22 border security posts across its four contiguous neighbours of Chad, Niger, Benin and Cameroun while Mali was also being watched closely. The directive followed the outcome of a security meeting of top spies from the affected five countries in Abuja, where participants pledged their commitment to fight terrorism and endorsed the measures being put in place by Nigeria to curb the menace.⁵⁸

Cote D'Ivoire

- **IMF approves three-year loan agreement to Ivory Coast; France resumes security cooperation with Cote d'Ivoire; Court releases eight allies of Gbagbo**

Reports noted that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has approved a \$615.9 million, three-year loan agreement for Ivory Coast, releasing about \$128.3 million immediately to help the country recover from a decade of crisis and civil war. The loan agreement was made under

⁵⁵ "South Sudan becomes 191st member of ICAO", *The Sudan Tribune*, November 12, 2011, at <http://www.sudantribune.com/South-Sudan-becomes-191st-member,40710>

⁵⁶ "South accuses north Sudan of cross border attacks", *The Sudan Tribune*, November 13, 2011, at <http://www.sudantribune.com/South-accuses-north-Sudan-of-cross,40709>

⁵⁷ "Nigerian activist claims fuel protests scuppered by police", *Mail and Guardian*, November 12, 2011, at <http://mg.co.za/article/2011-11-12-nigerian-activist-claims-fuel-protests-scuppered-by-police/>

⁵⁸ "Nigeria: Boko Haram - FG Re-Activates 22 Border Patrol Posts", *AllAfrica.com*, November 14, 2011, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201111140032.html>

Extended Credit Facility (ECF), the fund's main tool to provide medium-term financial support to low-income countries. The IMF Executive Board also approved about \$8 million in interim assistance, pending permanent debt relief under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries initiative.⁵⁹

Meanwhile, in a major development, France resumed security cooperation with Ivory Coast after a seven-year gap with the delivery of police vehicles in Abidjan. A ceremony, attended by French Interior Minister Claude Gueant, was held in the Ivorian economic capital as the country took delivery of around 30 French vehicles for security purposes, as well as computer equipment.⁶⁰

In other developments, reports noted that a court in Côte d'Ivoire granted provisional release to eight allies of former president Laurent Gbagbo arrested following a deadly post-election crisis. The eight, including four former Cabinet ministers, had been charged with threatening state security or "economic crimes", defence lawyer Herve Gouamene said. A ninth person's request for release was turned down by the appeals court in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire's economic capital.⁶¹

II. DEFENCE REVIEW

National

- **Indian Navy thwarts pirate attack off the Gulf of Aden; Indigenously designed and developed UAV, RUSTOM-1 completes its fifth successful flight.**

According to reports, the Indian Navy's warship INS Sukanya thwarted a Somali pirate attack off the Gulf of Aden on November 10. The navy thwarted a multi-boat attack by sea brigands on merchant vessels, apprehending 26 Somali pirates and confiscating arms and ammunition, in the fifth successful anti-piracy operation since September. INS Sukanya successfully intercepted three boats, while two of them managed to escape. INS Sukanya, currently deployed on anti-piracy patrols in the Gulf of Aden under the operational control of the Western Naval Command, was escorting a group of five merchant vessels through the Internationally Recognised Transit Corridor when the incident happened. The timely operation by INS Sukanya resulted, once again, in foiling the pirates' attempt to attack merchant vessels transiting the busy sea lane through which over nearly \$100 billion worth India's external trade passes each year, Chief Public Relations Officer, Defence Captain Manohar Nambiar said. In their five operations so far, the personnel on board the warship have confiscated 14 AK-47 Rifles, 31 magazines and 923 rounds of ammunition, the Captain said. Indian Navy is part of the international effort to ensure the safety and freedom of seaborne trade in this high-risk stronghold of modern-day piracy.⁶²

⁵⁹ "IMF Grants U.S.\$615.9 Million to Ivory Coast", *AllAfrica.com*, November 7, 2011, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201111071114.html>

⁶⁰ "France Resumes Security Cooperation with Country", *AllAfrica.com*, November 8, 2011, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201111080587.html>

⁶¹ "Eight Gbagbo allies released by Côte d'Ivoire court", *Mail and Guardian*, November 10, 2011, at <http://mg.co.za/article/2011-11-10-eight-gbagbo-allies-released-by-cte-divoire-court/>

⁶² "Navy foils Somali pirate attack off Gulf of Aden," *The Hindu*, November 11, 2011, at <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/article2618961.ece>

In another development, reports noted that RUSTOM-1, the indigenously designed and developed UAV completed its fifth successful flight on Friday morning. It flew at an altitude of 2,300 feet and at a speed of 100 knots during its 25-minute flight near Hosur. It can attain a maximum speed of 150 knots, 22,000 ft of altitude and it has an endurance of 12-15 hours, with an operating range of 250 km when fully developed. The fifth flight took place after a layoff of about five months. During this period, the lift-off and flying characteristics were improved. PS Krishnan director, Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE) – a DRDO lab that has developed the medium-altitude, long-endurance, unmanned aerial vehicle (Male UAV) – said the flight was successful as all the modifications worked well. He said all parameters were achieved by the aeroplane, which weighs 661kg, and the total performance was satisfactory. The Indian Army has shown interest in this programme owing to the fact that this UAV has the potential for military missions like reconnaissance and surveillance, target acquisition, target designation, communications relay, battle damage assessment and signal intelligence.⁶³

International

● UAE to boost her military power; UK MoD denies troop cut claims in leaked memo

According to reports, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) plans to build an integrated air operations center next year as part of a layered ballistic missile defense system. The air operations center would control air defense and missile assets, as part of preparations for an “emerging missile threat,” Maj. Gen. Ibrahim Naser Al Alawi told an air chiefs conference. Lockheed Martin and Thales Raytheon Systems are competing to win a contract for new air operations center, reported to be worth \$1 billion, for delivering the integrated air and missile defense system, which is seen as a defense against Iranian threats. Al Alawi’s remarks appeared to confirm a move by the UAE toward a greater layered approach in its air and missile defense system.⁶⁴

In another development, Britain’s Ministry of Defence on November 12 denied claims made in a leaked memo that up to 16,500 service members faced the axe of budget cuts. The internal memo seen by the Daily Telegraph also reportedly showed that 2,500 wounded troops, including 350 who have lost limbs, would not be spared in an ongoing string of defense cuts. However, an MoD spokesman stated, “The information in this leaked army memo from a junior officer is incorrect. Beyond those already announced, there are no further army reductions planned. There is absolutely no plan to change our treatment of service personnel who are wounded, injured or sick.”⁶⁵

⁶³ “RUSTOM-1’s flight successful,” DNA, November 12, 2011, at http://www.dnaindia.com/bangalore/report_rustom-1s-flight-successful_1611393

⁶⁴ “UAE to Build Integrated Air Ops Center in 2012,” November 12, 2011, at <http://www.defensenews.com/story.php?i=8230804&&s=TOP>

⁶⁵ “Britain Denies Troop Cut Claims in Leaked Memo,” AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, November 12, 2011, at <http://www.defensenews.com/story.php?i=8233270&&s=TOP>

III. INTERNAL SECURITY REVIEW

Jammu & Kashmir

- **Defence Minister A.K. Antony says the final decision on AFSPA to be taken by UHQ; Militant failed to shoot cop**

According to reports, amid controversy over the issue of revocation of Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) from parts of Jammu and Kashmir, Defence Minister AK Antony said the final decision on it would be taken by the Unified Headquarters in the state. The Unified Headquarters with representatives from Army, paramilitary forces, police and central and state intelligence agencies as its members, is headed by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah.⁶⁶

In other developments, according to police sources, an unidentified militant made an abortive bid to shoot a policeman in south Kashmir's Islamabad (Anantnag) town. However, the constable on duty got hold of him and tried to overpower him. Due to huge crowds in the market, the militant couldn't fire and managed to escape.⁶⁷

North East India

- **A tragedy averted as a railway official found 10 crude bombs along with blasting devices from a railway bridge on the Lumding-Badarpur hill section in Southern Assam; Manipur facing acute fuel crisis; Army against force to break blockade in Manipur; ULFA Anti-talk faction leader Paresh Baruah's presence in China confirmed**

According to reports, a railway official averted a possible tragedy when he found 10 crude bombs along with blasting devices from a railway bridge on the Lumding-Badarpur hill section in southern Assam. The 10 powerful bombs along with blasting devices were found at a railway bridge between Mahur and Phiding stations on Lumding-Badarpur hill section under the Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR). The bombs were removed and defused by the security personnel. The security forces have begun a search operation to nab the culprits.⁶⁸

Reports noted that Manipur is facing the worst-ever fuel crisis as the fuel outlets have stopped sale of petroleum products since the following the on-going blockade and subsequent collapse of a bridge. Manipur is facing the supplies crisis as the State continues to reel under blockade imposed by United Naga Council on NH 39 and 53 since August 21 this year, though the Sadar Hills District Demand Committee sponsored blockade was suspended on October 31 following an understanding with the government over the creation of Sadar Hills district. Sudden closing of all fuel outlets forced Imphalites to buy petrol at Rs 180-220 per litre, diesel at Rs 80-100 and

⁶⁶ "UHQ to decide on AFSPA: Antony", *Greater Kashmir*, November 11, 2011 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2011/Nov/12/uhq-to-decide-on-afspa-antony-13.asp>

⁶⁷ "Militant makes abortive bid to shoot cop", *Greater Kashmir*, November 7, 2011 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2011/Nov/8/militant-makes-abortive-bid-to-shoot-cop-police-3.asp>

⁶⁸ "10 bombs found on Assam railway bridge", *The Assam Tribune*, November 9, 2011 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=nov0911/at04>

cooking gas cylinder at Rs 2000. The State provides fuel allocations to the important fuel outlets out of the 40 outlets in the State.⁶⁹

However, according to reports, security forces deployed in Manipur have asserted that a political solution is the only way out of the ongoing blockade in that State and any use of force would only aggravate the situation. Manipur Chief Minister Okram Ibobi Singh has warned of stern action against the agitators if the blockade is not called off on the two National Highways – Imphal-Dimapur-Guwahati (NH 39) and Imphal-Jiribam-Silchar (NH 53) connecting the State capital. It has been over 100 days that the blockade has been in place cutting off the State capital from the rest of the world leading to soaring prices and shortage of medicines and other emergency medical equipments.⁷⁰

In another development, according to reports, after months of search for his location, the Government of India has finally received “concrete evidence” of presence of Paresh Baruah, the commander in chief of the United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) in the Yunan Province of China. Highly-placed sources in the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) told that Baruah has been staying in China for the last two and half months along with a few of his close aides. Sources said that the total number of cadres with the ULFA leader in China would not be more than five to seven.⁷¹

IV. UNITED NATIONS (UN) REVIEW

- **India presents a proposal for Committee in Internet-Related Policies (CIRP); India stresses on continuing talks on UNSC reforms; India at UNSC: Protection of civilians, a national responsibility; No consensus among UN Security Council members on Palestinian membership; UN Security Council calls for punishment for those who attack peacekeepers; Four judges elected to the International Court of Justice (ICJ)**

India making the next move in its push for a new global Internet governance mechanism presented to the UN a proposal for the establishment of a Committee for Internet-Related Policies (CIRP) which will help to frame international public policies on issues relating to Internet governance. This follows an initiative made under the aegis of IBSA to establish a body to deal with Internet governance issues.⁷²

In another development, India called for the continuation of the ongoing intergovernmental

⁶⁹ “Manipur facing acute fuel crisis”, *The Assam Tribune*, November 9, 2011 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=nov1011/oth05>

⁷⁰ “Army against force to break blockade in Manipur”, *The Assam Tribune*, November 11, 2011 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=nov1211/oth07>

⁷¹ “Paresh Baruah is in China: Centre”, *The Assam Tribune*, November 12, 2011 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=nov1311/at06>

⁷² “India presses for new global Internet governance mechanism”, *The Hindu*, November 07, 2011 at <http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/internet/article2604526.ece>

negotiations on the expansion of the UN Security Council in the permanent and non-permanent categories and improvement of working methods.⁷³

Meanwhile, in the Security Council's open debate on 'Protection of civilians', India said that the protection of civilians was a national responsibility and that the international community should facilitate talks between warring groups in a conflict situation instead of using 'threats of sanctions and regime change'. India also emphasized that any international decision to intervene in a country in conflict should be based on protecting civilians and not be distracted by political motives. Force should be used as a last resort when all diplomatic and political efforts fail.⁷⁴

In the interim, a draft report circulated within the Security Council said that there is no consensus among the 15 members in the Palestinian application for UN membership. Nine 'yes' votes are required for the Council to adopt a resolution and so far, the Palestinians have eight votes on their side. While US has already announced its decision to veto the resolution, India, China, Russia, Brazil, South Africa and Lebanon have announced their support for Palestinian membership.⁷⁵

Reports noted that the Security Council stressed the need to end impunity for those who attack peacekeepers. This followed after a UNAMID (African Union/ UN Hybrid Operation in Darfur) patrol was attacked in Darfur.⁷⁶

In other developments, according to reports, four judges were elected by the UN General Assembly and the Security Council to serve on the International Court of Justice.⁷⁷

⁷³ "India seeks convergence on UNSC expansion", *The Economic Times*, November 09, 2011 at http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2011-11-09/news/30377856_1_intergovernmental-negotiations-uns-security-council

⁷⁴ "Talks between warring groups should be facilitated: India", *Hindustan Times*, November 10, 2011 at <http://www.hindustantimes.com/News-Feed/World/Talks-between-warring-groups-should-be-facilitated-India/Article1-767133.aspx>

⁷⁵ "Council report concludes there is no consensus on Palestinian bid for UN membership", *The Washington Post*, November 08, 2011 at http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/diplomats-council-report-concludes-there-is-no-consensus-on-palestinian-bid-for-un-membership/2011/11/08/gIQATT4N1M_story.html

⁷⁶ "Security Council stresses need to end impunity after latest attack on peacekeepers", *UN News Centre*, November 07, 2011 at <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=40325&Cr=Darfur&Cr1=>

⁷⁷ "UN Member states elect judges to serve on International Court of Justice", *UN News Centre*, November 10, 2011 at <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=40356&Cr=icj&Cr1=>