

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

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I. COUNTRY REVIEW

A. SOUTH ASIA

SRI LANKA

(NOVEMBER 22-28)

- **India's EAM Krishna visited Sri Lanka; Pakistan's President Zardari visited Sri Lanka; A MoU between Central Bank of Sri Lanka and Bangladesh signed; Japan provide assistance to Sri Lanka for the reconstruction of five bridges in the Eastern Province; One IDP Camp in Manik Farm is closed as all the IDPs there have been resettled; India's PM Manmohan Singh felicitates President Rajapaksa on his assumption of office for the second term ; Mobile consular services for Sri Lankan refugees in Chennai; Belgian delegation visit Sri Lanka; Sri Lankan assistance to Palestine National Authority to strengthen the primary education**

India's External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna reached Sri Lanka on November 25 on a three day visit. During his visit, he chaired and addressed the Seventh Session of the India - Sri Lanka Joint Commission with External Affairs Minister of Sri Lanka G.L. Peiris; inaugurated the Consulate General Offices of India in Jaffna and in Hambantota and also inaugurated the works for the reconstruction of Northern Railway Lines in Sri Lanka.¹

Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari visited Sri Lanka along with Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Minister of Finance/ Sindh Province Sayed Murad Ali Shah, High Commissioner of Pakistan to Sri Lanka Ms. Seema Baloch, Military Secretary to the President Brig. Syed Muhammad Adnan and other Pakistan government officials. During the visit, Sri Lanka and Pakistan signed four agreements which included visa abolition agreement for holders of diplomatic and official passports; Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on agricultural cooperation; agreement on cooperation and mutual administrative assistance in customs matters; and agreement on cooperation in the field of arts and creative studies between National College of Arts (NCA) of Pakistan and University of Visual and Performing Arts of Sri Lanka.²

¹ "Indian consulates in Hambantota & Jaffna", *News Line*, November 29, 2010 at http://www.priu.gov.lk/news_update/Current_Affairs/ca201011/20101129indian_consulates_hambantota_jaffna.htm ; "Northern Railway Reconstruction Commences", *News Line*, November 29, 2010 at http://www.priu.gov.lk/news_update/Current_Affairs/ca201011/20101129northern_railway_reconstruction_commences.htm

² "Sri Lanka - Pakistan Sign Four Agreements Increase Trade and Investment", *News Line*, November 28, 2010 at

In another development, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed between the Financial Intelligence Unit of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka and Anti - Money Laundering Department of Central Bank of Bangladesh to share financial information to facilitate investigation and prosecution of persons suspected of money laundering and terrorist financing.³ Meanwhile, a 1.2 billion Japanese Yen (approximately LKR 1.6 billion) grant agreement to reconstruct five bridges in the Eastern Province was signed between Japan and Sri Lanka on November 25.⁴

Dr. Manmohan Singh has felicitated President Mahinda Rajapaksa on his assumption of office for a second term.⁵ Mobile consular services have been initiated to provide assistance to Lankan refugees in Tamil Nadu by the Deputy High Commissioner of Sri Lanka in Chennai.⁶ A Belgian trade and investment delegation visited Sri Lanka from November 22 to 26 November.⁷ In other developments, Government of Sri Lanka has financed a sum of US\$ 40,000 to the Ministry of Education and Higher Education of Palestine National Authority to strengthen the Primary Education.⁸

In other developments, the Zone-2 welfare centre of the Menik Farm relief village in Vavuniya has been closed on November 22 as all the 855 IDPs sheltered there have been resettled. Now, there are only four zones remaining in Menik Farm sheltering IDPs.⁹

http://www.priu.gov.lk/news_update/Current_Affairs/ca201011/20101128sl_pakistan_sign_four_agreements.htm

³ "CB and Bangladesh sign MoU for Anti - Money Laundering", *News Line*, November 26, 2010 at http://www.priu.gov.lk/news_update/Current_Affairs/ca201011/20101126cb_bangladesh_sign_mou.htm

⁴ "Japan Assists Reconstruction of East Bridges", *News Line*, November 25, 2010 at http://www.priu.gov.lk/news_update/Current_Affairs/ca201011/20101125japan_assists_reconstruction_east_bridges.htm

⁵ "Indian PM felicitates President", *News Line*, November 23, 2010 at http://www.priu.gov.lk/news_update/Current_Affairs/ca201011/20101123indian_pm_felicitates_president.htm

⁶ "Mobile consular services for SL refugees in TN", *News Line*, November 23, 2010 at http://www.priu.gov.lk/news_update/Current_Affairs/ca201011/20101123mobile_consular_services_sl_refugees.htm

⁷ "Belgian Week 2010 Commences", *News Line*, November 22, 2010 at http://www.priu.gov.lk/news_update/Current_Affairs/ca201011/20101122belgian_week_2010_commences.htm

⁸ "Mahinda Reiterates Lanka's Commitment to Int'l Recognition for Palestine people", *The Island*, November 28, 2010 at http://www.island.lk/index.php?page_cat=article-details&page=article-details&code_title=12313

⁹ "Menik Farm Zone-2 Closed", *News Line*, November 23, 2010 at http://www.priu.gov.lk/news_update/Current_Affairs/ca201011/20101123menik_farm_zone2_closed.htm

(NOVEMBER 29- DECEMBER 5)

- **President Rajapaksa visited to United Kindom; Sri Lanka’s export earnings have gone up; Sri Lankan inflation rate rises; Sri Lanka to establish Exim Bank; Indian Cabinet approves ferry service between India and Sri Lanka; ADB provides \$90 Million to Northern Province to restore water supply; Pilot projects to expedite housing project**

President Mahinda Rajapaksa visited United Kingdom. During his visit, he held successful bilateral discussions with the Secretary General of Commonwealth, Kamallesh Sharma, British Defence Minister Liam Fox, UK and EU Parliamentarians and the Foreign Affairs Committee of the British Parliament. President Rajapaksa also met with Sri Lankan expatriates in the UK at the Sri Lankan High Commission in London. However, the organisers had to cancel President Rajapaksa’s address at Oxford Union due to protests.¹⁰

Reports noted that Sri Lanka’s export earnings have gone up by 16.7% year on year to earn US\$ 663 million during the month of September. Agricultural and Industrial exports have been the major contributory factor for this growth. Imports during September have also gone up by 35.9% to incur a bill of US\$ 1.09 billion owing to an increase in all the major categories of imports.¹¹ Tea exports for the month of October 2010 had totaled 29.4 m/kgs vis-a-vis 25.09 m/kgs of October 2009, showing a gain of 4.3 m/kgs.¹² Another report noted that inflation in Sri Lanka increased to 7.0 per cent in November 2010, on a year-on-year basis, from 6.6 per cent in October.¹³ Meanwhile, Sri Lanka will establish Export Import Bank (Exim Bank) next year to finance exporters and contractors, and to promote trade.¹⁴

India’s Union Cabinet has cleared the proposal for a passenger ferry service between India and Sri Lanka.¹⁵ However, the Asian Development Bank (ADB)

¹⁰ “President Arrives from UK”, *News Line*, December 3, 2010 at http://www.priu.gov.lk/news_update/Current_Affairs/ca201012/20101203president_arrives.htm

¹¹ “Export Earnings up”, *News Line*, December 2, 2010 at http://www.priu.gov.lk/news_update/Current_Affairs/ca201012/20101202export_earnings_up.htm

¹² “Tea Exports Soar in October”, *Daily Mirror*, December 4, 2010 at <http://print.dailymirror.lk/business/127-local/29005.html>

¹³ “Inflation Increases in November”, *Daily Mirror*, December 4, 2010 at <http://print.dailymirror.lk/business/127-local/29006.html>

¹⁴ “SL to Establish Exim Bank”, December 3, 2010 at http://www.priu.gov.lk/news_update/Current_Affairs/ca201012/20101203sl_to_establish_exim_bank.htm

¹⁵ “Indian Cabinet Approves Indo-Lanka Ferry Service”, December 3, 2010 at http://www.priu.gov.lk/news_update/Current_Affairs/ca201012/20101203indian_cabinet_approves_indo_lanka_ferry_service.htm

has approved the loan of \$90 million to help Sri Lanka restore water supply and sanitation infrastructure to the Northern Province.¹⁶

In other developments, Government of Sri Lanka with the support of Grama Niladhari has commenced a pilot project to identify actual owners of lands in the Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu Districts in order to expedite the 50,000 houses programme by the Indian government.¹⁷

MALDIVES

(NOVEMBER 22-28)

- **Canadian High Commissioner met with President Nasheed; The Maldivian government and the British High Commission jointly organize a Counter Terrorism Workshop; Maldives releases 'Carbon Audit' report; Discussion on EU assistance for the Maldives' climate adaptation projects held; Maldives Child Protection Database (MCPD) launched; President Nasheed figures among 100 top global thinkers**

The High Commissioner of Canada to the Maldives Mr Bruce paid a courtesy visit on President Mohamed Nasheed at the President's Office on November 22. He discussed developmental cooperation between the Maldives and Canada.¹⁸

The Maldivian government and the British High Commission jointly organized a Counter Terrorism Workshop at Aarah on November 22 to develop a counter terrorism strategy for the Maldives and share experiences in the area between the Maldives and the United Kingdom. Maldivian Vice President Dr Mohamed Waheed inaugurated the workshop.¹⁹

The Maldives has published 'Carbon Audit' report which includes detailed analysis of the country's greenhouse gas emissions for 2009, projected emissions for 2020 under a 'business as usual' scenario and key areas where the Maldives can slash its greenhouse gas emissions. It has expected to publish a Carbon Neutral Master Plan next year which will precisely detail how the country intends to reach carbon neutrality.²⁰ In another development, President

¹⁶ "\$90 m ADB Project to Boost Water, Sanitation Issues in North", *Daily Mirror*, December 4, 2010 at <http://print.dailymirror.lk/business/127-local/29007.html>

¹⁷ "Deeds to be Handled over to Real Owners in Kilinochchi", *Daily Mirror*, December 4, 2010 at <http://print.dailymirror.lk/news/news/29019.html>

¹⁸ "Canadian High Commissioner Pays a Courtesy Call on the President", *The President's Office, Republic of Maldives*, November 22, 2010 at <http://www.presidencymaldives.gov.mv/4/?ref=1,5,5753>

¹⁹ "Nothing more important than a peaceful environment for the people – says the Vice President", *The President's Office, Republic of Maldives*, November 22, 2010 at <http://www.presidencymaldives.gov.mv/4/?ref=1,5,5760>

²⁰ "Maldives Releases Audit of Carbon Emissions", *The President's Office, Republic of Maldives*, November 24, 2010 at <http://www.presidencymaldives.gov.mv/4/?ref=1,5,5777>

Mohamed Nasheed met with European Commission's Director for Asia and Central Asia Dirk Meganck to discuss EU assistance for the Maldives' climate adaptation projects. Vice President Dr Mohamed Waheed along with the Climate Advisory Council also attended the meeting.²¹

Maldives Child Protection Database (MCPD) has been established with the assistance of UNICEF, UN Children's Fund, in collaboration with Maldives Police Service, Ministry of Health and Family, Ministry of Education and Juvenile Justice Unit aimed at capturing details of reporting and follow up of cases of Child Abuse, Juvenile Delinquency and Gender Based Violence. It was launched by Vice President Dr Mohamed Waheed on November 25.²²

In other developments, Foreign Policy Magazine has listed Maldivian President Mohamed Nasheed as one of the top hundred Global Thinkers on the back of a number of high-profile environmentally-themed speeches and commitments such as a national pledge to be carbon neutral by 2020. He has been ranked at 39th position in magazine's list of top 100 Global Thinkers.²³

(NOVEMBER 29- DECEMBER 5)

- **President Nasheed visited United Kingdom; US Secretary of State Clinton welcomes cooperation between US and the Maldives on human rights; Vice President met Bangladeshi High Commissioner; ADB's Technical Assistance to the Maldives; Policy at the World Technology Awards 2010 to President Mohamed Nasheed**

President Mohamed Nasheed left for Britain on December 1 to address the Oxford Union. During his visit, he met the Prince of Wales, Prince Charles at Clarence House, the official residence of the Prince. He also held talks with senior members of the British government, including Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs William Hague, and Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change Chris Huhne.²⁴ During the visit, President Nasheed appointed Mike

²¹ "President Meets with European Commission Director for Asia and Central Asia", *The President's Office, Republic of Maldives*,

November 28, 2010 at <http://www.presidencymaldives.gov.mv/4/?ref=1,5,5816>

²² "Vice President Unveils Maldives Child Protection Database", *The President's Office, Republic of Maldives*, November 25, 2010 at <http://www.presidencymaldives.gov.mv/4/?ref=1,5,5793>

²³ "Nasheed listed in magazine's annual top 100 'thinkers'", *Minivan News*, November 28, 2010 at <http://minivannews.com/environment/nasheed-listed-in-magazine%E2%80%99s-annual-top-100-%E2%80%9Cthinkers%E2%80%9D-13822>

²⁴ "President Departs for UK", *The President's Office, Republic of Maldives*, December 1, 2010 at <http://www.presidencymaldives.gov.mv/4/?ref=1,5,5847>; "President Meets with British Cabinet Ministers", *The President's Office, Republic of Maldives*, December 2, 2010 at <http://www.presidencymaldives.gov.mv/4/?ref=1,5,5856>; "The Prince of Wales receives President

Mason as his advisor on energy, at a ceremony held at Oxford University.²⁵ President Mohamed Nasheed released the Climate Vulnerable Monitor 2010 which is a major new global report on the state of the climate crisis by DARA, a Madrid based leading humanitarian organisation, and the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF), a group of committed most vulnerable countries.²⁶

In another development, US Secretary of State, Hillary Rodham Clinton has welcomed the excellent cooperation between the United States and the Maldives on human rights promotion and protection around the world.²⁷ Meanwhile, Vice President Dr Mohamed Waheed met with Bangladeshi High Commissioner to the Maldives Rear Admiral Abu Saeed Mohamed Abdul Awal.²⁸

In other developments, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has reportedly announced new cooperation with the Maldives to provide technical assistance in setting up investment plans to help the country to become carbon neutral by 2020.²⁹ In other developments, President Mohamed Nasheed has received the award for Policy at the World Technology Awards 2010 convened by the World Technology Network in New York City.³⁰

B. EAST ASIA

CHINA

(NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 5)

- **Ma Xiaotian visits three South Asian countries; Military leaders from Britain, Surinam, Uzbekistan, Sierra Leone visit China; Commander of the Royal Netherlands pays visit to China; Vietnamese army receives the PLAN's guided-missile frigate Xiangfan; "Peace Angel 2010"**

Nasheed at Clarence House", *The President's Office, Republic of Maldives*, December 2, 2010 at <http://www.presidencymaldives.gov.mv/4/?ref=1,5,5860>

²⁵ "President Appoints Mike Mason as Energy Advisor", *The President's Office, Republic of Maldives*, December 5, 2010 at <http://www.presidencymaldives.gov.mv/4/?ref=1,5,5884>

²⁶ "President Nasheed Launches a Major New Global Report on the Climate Crisis", *The President's Office, Republic of Maldives*, December 3, 2010 at <http://www.presidencymaldives.gov.mv/4/?ref=1,5,5875>

²⁷ "Clinton Welcomes US-Maldives Cooperation on Human Rights", *Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Maldives*, November 30, 2010 at <http://www.foreign.gov.mv/v3/?p=news&view=sep&nid=3295>

²⁸ "Vice President Meets Bangladeshi High Commissioner", December 2, 2010 at <http://www.presidencymaldives.gov.mv/4/?ref=1,5,5853>

²⁹ "ADB to Assist Maldives with its Green Goals", *Minivan News*, December 2, 2010 at <http://minivannews.com/category/news-in-brief>

³⁰ "President Nasheed receives the World Technology Award for Policy", *The President's Office, Republic of Maldives*, December 3, 2010 at <http://www.presidencymaldives.gov.mv/4/?ref=1,5,5868>.

concluded; PLA's Conference on military logistics concluded; The Work Conference on the PLA history held; The PLA organizes a national seminar on defense education; The 12th Chinese peacekeeping contingent reaches Congo; The Peace Ark concludes an 88-day overseas humanitarian mission

At the invitation of the armed forces of Singapore and the defense ministries of Vietnam and Thailand, Ma Xiaotian, Deputy Chief of General Staff of the Chinese People's Liberation Army, went on three-nation visit to Singapore, Vietnam and Thailand.³¹ During this tour, General Ma Xiaotian, attended the closing ceremony of the 2nd security joint training of the Chinese and Singaporean armies, codenamed "Cooperation 2010" met with Teo Chee Hean, Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister of Singapore, on 24 November. During the meeting, the two leaders discussed the issues of common concern.³²

During his Thailand visit, Ma Xiaotian made the pledge at the 9th Defence and Security Consultations between the Chinese and Thai Defence ministries that the Chinese military would adopt a more open and cooperative attitude when developing friendly ties with Thailand's armed forces. He, on behalf of the Chinese military, donated 20 transport speedboats to Thailand to support its fight against the current floods.³³ Chinese and Vietnamese defense ministries organized their fourth defense and security consultation in Hanoi on 25 November. General Ma Xiaotian and Vietnamese Deputy Defense Minister Nguyen Tri Vinh chaired the consultation. The two sides exchanged views on regional security, bilateral relations and bilateral military ties, and other issues of mutual concern.³⁴

Chinese Defense Minister Liang Guanglie reiterated that China would like to work with Britain in stepping up military cooperation. Meeting with the visiting British Chief of the General Staff Peter Wall in Beijing on 26 November, Liang said that bilateral cooperation in fields such as trade, technology, culture and education between the two countries had been fruitful.³⁵ The visiting Surinam's Defense Minister Lamure Latour also met with Liang Guanglie in Beijing on December 2nd. During the discussion, Latour said that the Surinamese

³¹ "Chinese military delegation to visit three Asian countries", *PLA Daily* (Online), 24 November 2010, http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/news-channels/china-military-news/2010-11/24/content_4340891.htm

³² "Ma Xiaotian meets Singaporean deputy prime minister and defense minister", *PLA Daily* (Online), 25 November 2010, http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/news-channels/china-military-news/2010-11/25/content_4341859.htm

³³ "China vows to further military ties with Thailand", *PLA Daily* (Online), 30 November 2010, http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/news-channels/china-military-news/2010-11/30/content_4344345.htm

³⁴ "China, Vietnam hold defense, security consultation", *PLA Daily* (Online), 28 November 2010, http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/news-channels/china-military-news/2010-11/28/content_4343109.htm

³⁵ "China willing to step up military cooperation with UK", *PLA Daily* (Online), 27 November 2010, http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/news-channels/china-military-news/2010-11/27/content_4342713.htm

government attaches great importance to developing relations with China. He reiterated that Surinam would firmly adhere to the one-China policy. He further said that Surinam would continue to expand bilateral cooperation with China in defense and military affairs.³⁶ The Chinese Defense Minister also received Uzbek Deputy Defense Minister Rustam Niyazov in Beijing on November 30. He reiterated that China hoped to work with Uzbekistan to promote bilateral relations and inter-military ties.³⁷ During the period under review, General Liang Guanglie also held talks with the visiting Defense Minister of Sierra Leone Alfred Palo Conteh in Beijing on November 26.³⁸

Chinese Defense Minister Liang Guanglie met with the visiting Commander of the Royal Netherlands Navy Matthieu Borsboom on November 22. The two leaders pledged to strengthen the ties between the two navies. It was reported during Borsboom's visit that he was the first commander of the Royal Netherlands Navy to visit China over the past 20 years. He was also the highest-ranking Dutch military official to visit Beijing in 10 years.³⁹

The Vietnamese army organized a welcome ceremony for the guided-missile frigate Xiangfan of the PLA Navy which arrived in Vietnam's central Danang city on December 3 for a friendly visit after conducting a China-Vietnam joint naval patrol.⁴⁰

The "Peace Angel 2010" which is a Sino-Peruvian joint humanitarian medical rescue operation has been concluded on November 30. This joint exercise was held on the exercise ground of the 1st Special Operation Brigade of the Peruvian Army. Under this drill, the medical teams of the two countries carried out in-depth academic exchanges, organized trainings on equipment and medical treatment for the backbones of the Peruvian medical team, and staged a joint medical rescue exercise with the Peruvian side that went on for 10 days.⁴¹

The PLA organized the 2010 Annual Conference of the Military Material and Economy Research Center & the 4th Academic Forum of Military Logistics. The

³⁶ "Chinese defense minister meets Surinamese military delegation", *PLA Daily* (Online), 3 December 2010, http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/news-channels/china-military-news/2010-12/03/content_4346740.htm.

³⁷ "China pledges to promote bilateral ties with Uzbekistan", *PLA Daily* (Online), 1 December 2010, http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/news-channels/china-military-news/2010-12/01/content_4345361.htm.

³⁸ "Liang Guanglie meets Sierra Leone counterpart", *PLA Daily* (Online), 29 November 2010, http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/news-channels/china-military-news/2010-11/29/content_4344076.htm.

³⁹ "Chinese, Dutch navies seek stronger ties", *PLA Daily* (Online), 23 November 2010, http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/news-channels/china-military-news/2010-11/23/content_4340005.htm.

⁴⁰ "Chinese frigate Xiangfan arrives in Vietnam for friendly visit", *PLA Daily* (Online), 4 December 2010, http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/news-channels/china-military-news/2010-12/04/content_4347318.htm.

⁴¹ "Sino-Peruvian joint humanitarian medical rescue operation concludes", *PLA Daily* (Online), 2 December 2010, http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/news-channels/china-military-news/2010-12/02/content_4346495.htm

theme of this conference was “building modern military logistics system and pushing forward the reform on military procurement system”. In this conference, more than 150 experts and scholars from ministries and commissions, leading bodies of the general headquarters/departments of the Chinese People’s Liberation Army (PLA), various major organizations of the PLA, military academies and scientific research institutions participated. They discussed as to how to build modern military logistics and advance military procurement reform, offer theoretic basis and technical support to the reform and development of China’s military logistics. The conference was concluded on November 21.⁴²

The Work Conference of the Chinese People’s Liberation Army (PLA) on the Party History and the PLA History was organized in Beijing on November 29. It had the approval of President Hu Jintao and the Central Military Commission (CMC).⁴³ Meanwhile, the PLA organized a national defense education seminar attended by leaders at county and division level and above in Tianjin on November 24-25. This seminar which was approved by the State Council and the Central Military Commission (CMC), concentrated as to how to strengthen the national defense education among leaders and further promote the all-people national defense education.⁴⁴

The 12th Chinese peacekeeping contingent, comprising 218 officers, to Congo (K) has reached the Bukavu area of the South Kivu Province in the east part of Congo (K) on December 1. It will stay there for 8 months as part of the UN Peacekeeping mission.⁴⁵

In other developments, the Peace Ark, a Chinese naval hospital ship, finally returned on November 26 to China, concluding an 88-day overseas humanitarian mission. It had gone on a trip, known as “Mission Harmony-2010”. It toured the Gulf of Aden to offer medical services to the Chinese naval escort flotilla. It stopped in five countries – Djibouti, Kenya, Tanzania, Seychelles, and Bangladesh – to provide medical treatment to the poor patients. This was the first of its kind hospital ship sent by China to provide humanitarian medical services overseas. The hospital ship offered health checks to 2,127 people, received 12,806 outpatients, visited 1,858 patients and carried out 97 successful operations. The Peace Ark had set sail from Zhejiang Province on 31 August 2010 to start the

⁴² “4th military logistics academic forum held”, *PLA Daily* (Online), 25 November 2010, http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/news-channels/china-military-news/2010-11/25/content_4341863.htm

⁴³ “Work conference on Party history and PLA history held in Beijing”, *PLA Daily* (Online), 30 November 2010, http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/news-channels/china-military-news/2010-11/30/content_4345057.htm

⁴⁴ “National defense education seminar held”, *PLA Daily* (Online), 26 November 2010, http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/news-channels/china-military-news/2010-11/26/content_4342515.htm

⁴⁵ “12th Chinese peacekeeping contingent to Congo (K) arrives in destination”, *PLA Daily*, 2 December 2010, http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/news-channels/china-military-news/2010-12/02/content_4346494.htm

mission. In fact, this is the first Chinese hospital ship that has a 10,000-tonnage capacity. It has 300 beds for patients and eight operating rooms.⁴⁶

SOUTHEAST ASIA

(NOVEMBER 22-28)

- **UN officials meet with Aung San Suu Kyi; Suu Kyi's son granted visa to enter Burma; Economic growth slows down in Thailand and Malaysia; Vietnam, Russia to boost cooperation in scientific research; Indonesian Foreign Minister: ASEAN, ARF will stay away from Korean Conflict; ASEAN for peaceful end to Korean dispute; 7th ASEAN Ministerial meeting on social welfare and development being held in Brunei Darussalam**

Aung San Suu Kyi met on November 27 with United Nations official. Later, during interaction with the media, Aung San Suu Kyi praised the talks with Vijay Nambiar, chief of staff for U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. The Nobel peace prize laureate has been vocal about pursuing democratic reforms since her release on November 13. However, she has also been careful not to verbally challenge Burma's ruling Generals.⁴⁷

Aung San Suu Kyi's youngest son is meeting her mother for the first time in 10 years after he was granted a visa to enter Burma. Kim Aris, 33, travelled from his home in London to Bangkok this month when possibilities emerged of his mother's impending release, however, his application for a Burmese visa was initially denied.⁴⁸

According to the recent reports, the economies of Thailand and Malaysia have grown the least in the past three quarters. In Thailand, it happened due to the fact that exports eased and agricultural output slowed down. Malaysia's GDP rose 5.3 per cent in the three months through September from the corresponding period a year earlier, after expanding 8.9 per cent in the second quarter, Bank Negara Malaysia noted in a statement. From the previous quarter, the Malaysian economy grew by 2.4 per cent.⁴⁹

⁴⁶ "Chinese navy hospital ship concludes 88-day overseas humanitarian mission", *PLA Daily*, 27 November 2010, http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/news-channels/china-military-news/2010-11/27/content_4342705.htm.

⁴⁷ UN Envoy Meets Aung San Suu Kyi in Burma, 27 November, 2010, VOA News, <http://www.voanews.com/english/news/UN-Envoy-Meets-Aung-Suu-Kyi-in-Burma-110903934.html>

⁴⁸ Aung San Suu Kyi's Son Granted Burma Visa, *The Guardian*, 22 November 2010, <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2010/nov/22/aung-san-suu-kyi-son-visa>

⁴⁹ Growth Slows in Thailand, M'sia, 23 November, 2010, <http://www.todayonline.com/Business/EDC101123-0000073/Growth-slows-in-Thailand,-Msia>

On November 26, the 23rd meeting of the Joint Committee for the Vietnam-Russia Tropical Centre (VRTC) began in Moscow. Participants at the meeting listened to a report on the results of activities in 2010 and discussed a scientific technology plan for 21 projects in 2011. There was also an agreement on developing exploration projects and co-operating with other Russian and Vietnamese organizations.⁵⁰

Explaining the ASEAN's position on the current situation in Korean Peninsula, the Indonesian Foreign Affairs Minister Marty Natalegawa said that the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) is not advanced enough to interfere with the current situation. He added that "ASEAN ARF is already several years old, but the forum is not advanced enough to deal with these types of situations," adding that this security and political forum serves more for discussion of conflict prevention and conflict resolution.⁵¹

The Chair of ASEAN, Pham Gia Khiem has called on the parties concerned in the artillery shelling exchange on the Korean Peninsula to exercise restraint and resolve disputes by peacefully. He said that ASEAN is concerned over the artillery shelling exchange that occurred on November 23, 2010 on the Korean Peninsula and regrets the loss of innocent lives and damage to property. He also said that ASEAN was opposed to the use or threat of force in international relations.⁵²

The 7th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Social Welfare and Development is being held in Brunei Darussalam. This year's meeting which has been themed as 'Strengthening the Family Institution: Caring for the Elderly', discussed several issues related to strengthening the family institution which focused on issues pertaining to the elderly in the ASEAN countries. The meeting adopted a joint declaration known as 'The Brunei Declaration on strengthening family Institution: Care for the Elderly'.⁵³

(NOVEMBER 29- DECEMBER 5)

Wikileaks reveals that Myanmar might be spying for Beijing; Indonesian, Malaysian police pledge to fight terrorism together; Indonesian terrorist

⁵⁰ Vietnam, Russian Boost Joint Scientific Research, 27 November, 2010, *VOV NEWS*, <http://english.vovnews.vn/Home/Vietnam-Russian-boost-joint-scientific-research/201011/121787.vov>

⁵¹ ASEAN, ARF will stay away from Korean Peninsula Conflict, 27 November, 2010, Jakarta Updates, <http://www.jakartaupdates.com/2010/11/asean-arf-will-stay-away-from-korean-peninsula-conflict>

⁵² ASEAN Calls for Peaceful End to Korean Dispute, 27 November, 2010, VOV News, <http://english.vovnews.vn/Home/ASEAN-calls-for-peaceful-end-to-Korean-dispute/201011/121793.vov>

⁵³ 7th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Social Welfare and Development, 25 November, 2010, RTB News, http://www.rtbnews.rtb.gov.bn/?c=newsDetail&news_id=15329

suspect captured in Malaysia; Malaysia tops the list of importers from Pakistan in ASEAN region

According to a US cable posted on the Wikileaks website, Myanmar along with Laos and Cambodia might be spying for China within the ASEAN.⁵⁴ Indonesian and Malaysian Police have signed an agreement on December 3 to fight against terrorism. The agreement was signed in Malaysian police headquarters by Malaysian Inspector General of Police Ismail Omar and his counterpart Timur Pradopo.⁵⁵

Malaysian Police announced on December 3 that it arrested an Indonesian terror suspect, Fadli Sadma. According to the officials, they had been trying to catch him for a long time, though the arrest was not a sign of a new terror cell.⁵⁶

In other developments, for the second consecutive year, Malaysia has emerged as the top importer from Pakistan among the ASEAN countries, which is comprised of eleven members. In the financial year 2009-10, it has imported goods worth US \$ 194.72 million. Philippines and Vietnam stood at the second and third places respectively.⁵⁷

C. CENTRAL ASIA

(NOVEMBER 29- DECEMBER 5)

- **TAPI (Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India) gas pipeline to be revived; Kazakhstan hosts OSCE Summit; Kazakhstan official calls summit an opportunity for Kazakhstan to contribute to the global security; OSCE Summit concludes with the “Astana Commemorative Declaration: Towards a Security Community”**

The Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline, which was stalled nearly a decade due to security and unstable conditions, will be revived

⁵⁴ Wikileaks; Burma Passes ASEAN News to Beijing, *The Temasek Review*, 5 December, 2010, <http://www.temasekreview.com/2010/12/05/wikileaks-says-burma-passes-asean-news-to-beijing/>

⁵⁵ Malaysia, Indonesia sign pact on terrorism fighting, *People's Daily Online*, 4 December, 2010, <http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90777/90851/7220816.html>

⁵⁶ Indonesian terrorist suspect captured in Malaysia, *The Associate Press*, 3 December, 2010.

⁵⁷ Malaysia top importer from Pak in Asean region in '09-10, *The Nation*, 4 December, 2010, <http://www.nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/Business/04-Dec-2010/Malaysia-top-importer-from-Pak-in-Asean-region-in-0910>

finally when the leaders of the four countries would come together at a summit in Turkmenistan on December 10-11, 2010. India will be represented by Petroleum Minister Murlu Deora and the other three states will be represented by their respective Presidents. The 1,680 kilometers pipeline route runs through Daulatabad-Heart-Kandahar-Quetta-Multan and finally terminates at the Indian town of Fazilka. It would be worth noting that Asian Development Bank (ADB) has been keenly involved in the project. India has already agreed in principle to the pipeline project. As the proposed route passes the south-west of Afghanistan, where Taliban is active, Indian consent will depend on satisfactory arrangements on the security and pricing front.⁵⁸ Once this is settled, discussions on the mechanics of construction, a global tender and a business model will follow⁵⁹.

Kazakhstan, who has been chairing the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) hosted a summit in its capital, Astana on December 1-2. "This summit and the chairmanship are the opportunity for Kazakhstan to contribute to global security," said Roman Vassilenko, an official in Kazakh Foreign Ministry⁶⁰. Heads of state, heads of governments and foreign ministers of 56 member states participated in the summit. The Astana Summit brought together other top officials from 12 Partners for Co-operation, as well as from other international and regional organizations. This has been the first summit in the current decade after the last one held in Istanbul in 1999.

Kazakhstan's head of state Nursultan Nazarbayev in his opening address said, "Initially, the Helsinki process had been developed on the concept of a common European home 'stretching from the Atlantic to the Urals'. With the establishment of the OSCE, the principles of European security were entrenched in the space 'from Vancouver to Vladivostok'. Now begins the third stage."⁶¹ The Summit concluded with the leaders at the Summit adopting the "Astana Commemorative Declaration: Towards a Security Community"⁶² that reaffirmed their commitment to OSCE principles.

⁵⁸ "India set to sign TAPI pipeline pact", *Indian Express*, December 3, 2010 at <http://www.indianexpress.com/news/india-set-to-sign-tapi-pipeline-pact/719805/>

⁵⁹ "Interest in TAPI pipeline project revives", *The Hindu*, November 20, 2010 at <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/article898904.ece>

⁶⁰ "Kazakhstan seeks image boost from OSCE summit", *BBC*, December 1, 2010 at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-pacific-11880257>

⁶¹ "OSCE Summit in Astana begins with call to Heads of State to advance Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security", *OSCE Summit 2010 Astana*, December, 1-2, 2010 at http://summit2010.osce.org/en/press_release/node/409

⁶² "Astana declaration adopted at OSCE Summit charts way forward", *OSCE Summit 2010 Astana*, December, 1-2, 2010 at http://summit2010.osce.org/en/press_release/node/491

D. RUSSIA

(NOVEMBER 29- DECEMBER 5)

- **President Dmitry Medvedev delivered his third annual national address; Medvedev outlined Russia's position and strategy for economic, political and social development; Medvedev calls for an agreement between Russia and the West on missile defence; Medvedev also calls for enhanced cooperation with the US and EU in the process of modernizing Russia's economy; Russia to host Football World Cup in 2018; Stock markets responded very positively to the news of Russia hosting the event as MICEX index reaches its highest level since July 2008**

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev delivered his third annual national address on November 30. In his speech, the President outlined Russia's position and strategy for economic, political and social development and highlighted the key security and military reforms that Russia intended to focus on.⁶³ One of the principal areas of focus was on modernizing the economy to improve the competitive environment of the country. The President tried to rev up the mood of the domestic audience by predicting a domestic growth rate of four percent in spite of the massive economic problems compounded by rising food inflation and other challenges facing the nation.⁶⁴ He promised to his electorate that the government would continue to fulfil all its social obligations. The state employees were promised a wage revision in the next year. Elimination of corruption and military and political reforms were some of the other stated objectives mentioned by the President.

Medvedev also announced a state plan to improve the health of children, cut down on infant mortality and also proposed giving free land and monetary support to families with three or more children. This was in response to the demographic plunge which Russia has been forced to weather for quite some time now. ⁶⁵ Meanwhile, the President highlighted some of the key progress Russia has made in the last few years. This includes building new energy efficient reactors, up-gradation of GLONASS satellite systems and the presence of 11 Russian super computers are in the world's top 500 list.⁶⁶

⁶³ "Message from the President of the Federal Assembly", *Kremlin.ru*, November 30, 2010 at <http://www.kremlin.ru/news/9637>

⁶⁴ Ibid

⁶⁵ Ibid

⁶⁶ Ibid

On the international front, Medvedev called for an agreement between Russia and the West on missile defence stating that failure to do so would result in a new arms race which the world could ill afford to have. Medvedev stressed that Russia and "other interested countries" should cooperate to strengthen "the mechanisms to counter the proliferation of missile technology." The Russian president also called for enhanced cooperation with the United States and the European Union to advance his agenda of modernizing Russia's economy. "The mechanisms of Russian-American partnership must be used to establish full-scale economic cooperation, improve the investment climate, and to cooperate in the high-technology sphere," Medvedev said.⁶⁷

However, in a dramatic decision, football's premier governing body FIFA voted to award the 2018 FIFA world cup to Russia.⁶⁸ This was a huge victory for Russia which till the polling started, was appearing to be lagging behind England. Russia also overcame stiff challenges from the combined bids of Portugal- Spain on one hand and Belgium and Netherlands on the other. The victory is remarkable for the fact that it will be the first time that the World Cup will be held in eastern part of Europe. It also brings to fruition the massive efforts of the Russian government to put the country on the centre stage of world sports. The football world cup ranks next only to the Summer Olympics in terms of prestige and attention.⁶⁹

It would be worth noting that Russia has already won the bid to host the 2014 winter Olympics in Sochi and the showpiece annual formula one event will also be held from the same year onwards. With the country hosting three major world sporting events in the next eight years, there is going to be a massive infusion of capital to boost the country's crumbling infrastructure and upgrade the transport and tourism sectors which seen as a legacy development.⁷⁰ Expectedly, the stock markets responded on a very positive note with the MICEX index reaching its highest level since July 2008.⁷¹

⁶⁷ Ibid

⁶⁸ "Russia to host FIFA World Cup in 2018, Qatar in 2022"; *Pravda*, December 02, 2010 <http://english.pravda.ru/news/sports/02-12-2010/116031-fifa-0/>

⁶⁹ Ibid

⁷⁰ Olga Razumovskaya, "Government Allocates \$10Bln for World Cup"; *The Moscow Times*, December 03, 2010 <http://www.themoscowtimes.com/news/article/government-allocates-10bln-for-world-cup/425710.html>

⁷¹ "FIFA hands Russia 2018 World Cup"; *The Moscow Times*, December 03, 2010 <http://www.themoscowtimes.com/news/article/fifa-hands-russia-2018-world-cup/425565.html>

E. WEST ASIA

(NOVEMBER 22-28)

IRAN

- **Iran's law makers signed a petition to call Ahmadinejadn for question**

Dozens of Iranian lawmakers have signed a petition seeking summoning of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad for questioning. He is the first president of the Islamic Republic to be called for questioning since the Islamic Revolution 32 years ago. However, the petition seemed unlikely to succeed because the numbers fall short of the constitutional requirement that at least one-fourth of the 290 parliament members must sign before the president can be questioned. Iranian lawmakers, including conservatives, have complained in the past about being sidelined in key decisions by Ahmadinejad over issues such as foreign policy and strategic economic planning.⁷²

IRAQ

- **Iraqi PM Al-Maliki: US troops to leave Iraq by the end of 2011**

Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri Al Maliki stated that an agreement requiring US troops to leave by the end of 2011 will stand as Iraqi forces are capable of taking care of the country's security. He commented on this issue for the first time on since being tasked with forming a new government after nearly nine months of political deadlock. Under an agreement between Iraq and the US, all American troops are to leave the country by the end of 2011. The US currently has a little less than 50,000 troops in Iraq, down from a one-time high of 170,000. American officials have said they will abide by the agreement although they would consider any request by the new Iraqi government to stay longer. Earlier this month, US Defense Secretary Robert Gates indicated that the US government is open to discussing changes to the agreement. However, he had noted that the 'initiative clearly needs to come from the Iraqis.'⁷³

⁷² "Iranian lawmakers seek to challenge president," *Khaleej Times*, November 24, 2010, at http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle08.asp?xfile=data/middleeast/2010/November/middleeast_November466.xml§ion=middleeast

⁷³ "No need for US troops after 2011: Iraqi premier," *Khaleej Times*, November 27, 2010, at http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle08.asp?xfile=data/middleeast/2010/November/middleeast_November509.xml§ion=middleeast

F. USA

(NOVEMBER 29- DECEMBER 5)

- **Secretary of State Clinton spoke about the virtues of an open society; WikiLeaks reveal that most of the 200 US tactical nuclear weapons based in Europe, are located in Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany and Turkey; United States condemns WikiLeaks revelations**

On the visit to Kazakhstan, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton spoke about the virtues of an open society. This was her first overseas trip since the release of thousands of confidential diplomatic cables containing blunt appraisals of foreign countries and leaders.⁷⁴ Meanwhile, reports noted that secret US diplomatic cables published by the WikiLeaks website reveal that most of the 200 US tactical nuclear weapons based in Europe are located in Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany and Turkey.⁷⁵ The United States has condemned the WikiLeaks which released more than a quarter-million sensitive US diplomatic cables.

II. Energy Review

(NOVEMBER 29- DECEMBER 5)

- **Government of India to decide on granting approval to Cairn-Vedanta deal by the end of February; Coal India's talks in advanced stage to buy 10 per cent stake with US-based Peabody Energy Corp's asset in Australia**

Oil Secretary of the Government of India, S Sundareshan has said that the government will decide on granting approval to the \$9.6 billion Cairn-Vedanta deal by the end of February. He stated, "I had earlier given a timeline of December-end (for deciding on giving approval to Vedanta Resources, buying majority stake in Cairn India) on the presumption that it will take 2-3 months to process (the case) from the date we get all applications. But given that we have

⁷⁴ "In Kazakhstan, Clinton Defends Openness, but Condemns Diplomatic Cable Leaks." *The New York Times*, November 30, 2010 at <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/12/01/world/asia/01diplo.html?ref=politics>

⁷⁵ "WikiLeaks Files Reveal Location of US Tactical Nukes in Europe.", *VOA News*, 30th November 2010 at <http://www.voanews.com/english/news/usa/WikiLeaks--Files-Reveal-Location-of-US-Tactical-Nukes-in-Europe-111060394.html>

got the application (seeking approval) only last week, we will certainly be able to decide on the case by February-end".⁷⁶

In another development, India's largest coal producer, Coal India's talks are in advanced stage to buy 10 per cent stake in the US-based Peabody Energy Corp's asset in Australia. The Chairman of Coal India Limited Partha Bhattacharya said, "They (Peabody) have offered us 10 per cent in one of their coal producing mines in Australia,". The Coal India which is a Navratna company had last month put the deal cost at less than \$200 million and has been scouting for coal mines abroad, has earmarked Rs 6,000crore for this purpose in the current fiscal. The company is also negotiating with US firm Massey Energy and Indonesian Novem/Sinarma, for a possible partnership for their respective mines in the United States and Indonesia.⁷⁷

⁷⁶ "Govt to decide on Cairn-Vedanta deal by Feb end", *NDTV Profit*, November 29, 2010 at <http://profit.ndtv.com/news/show/govt-to-decide-on-cairn-vedanta-deal-by-feb-end-125129>

⁷⁷ "CIL in talks for 10% Peabody stake", *The Hindustan Times*, December 1, 2010 at <http://www.hindustantimes.com/CIL-in-talks-for-10-Peabody-stake/Article1-633240.aspx>