

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

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I. COUNTRY REVIEWS

A. South Asia

Pakistan

- **Pakistan's Ambassador to United States Husain Haqqani steps down; Former minister Sherry Rahman appointed new Pakistan's Ambassador to the US; 28 Pakistan troops killed in a air strike launched by NATO; Pakistan stops NATO supplies to Afghanistan after the attacks on its troops; NATO expresses apology for the incident**

In a significant development, reports noted that Pakistan Ambassador to the United States Husain Haqqani has stepped down after controversy over a memo began. Prime Minister Gilani had asked Haqqani to step down and also ordered a probe into the memorandum controversy. A statement from the Pakistan Prime Minister's office on Tuesday said, "The prime minister has directed to conduct a detailed investigation at an appropriate level and in the meanwhile he asked Pakistan Ambassador to the USA Mr Husain Haqqani to submit his resignation so that the investigation can be carried out properly,"¹

Meanwhile, reports noted that moving quickly to fill a post left vacant after Husain Haqqani's resignation, Pakistan appointed former minister and human rights activist Sherry Rahman as its new ambassador to the United States. Rehman is veteran member of President Asif Ali Zardari's Pakistan People's Party and a staunch proponent of civilian rule. It would be worth noting that Rehman, a former journalist, was information minister for Zardari. She resigned in March 2009 over a crisis in which the government was refusing to reinstate judges sacked under the military regime of President Pervez Musharraf.²

In another major development, according to reports, 28 Pakistani troops have been killed in a NATO helicopter attack at a military checkpoint in northwest Pakistan on November 26. According to Pakistan military officials, up to 28 troops had been killed and 11 wounded in the attack on the Salala checkpoint, which is about 2.5 kilometres away from the Afghan border. The attack took place around 2 a.m. in the Baizai area of Mohmand, where Pakistani troops are fighting Taliban militants. The Pakistan's Foreign Office has strongly condemned the attack. Taking further action, Pakistan has closed vital supply routes for NATO troops fighting in Afghanistan. It would be worth noting that the incident occurred a day after US General John Allen met Pakistani Army Chief of Army Staff General Ashfaq Pervez Kayani to discuss border control and enhanced cooperation. This raid is the largest and most serious incident of its kind. A similar incident on September 30, 2010, which killed two Pakistani troops, led to the closure of one of Nato's supply routes through Pakistan for 10 days. However, NATO apologised for

¹ "Haqqani bows out", *Dawn*, November 23, 2011 at <http://www.dawn.com/2011/11/23/haqqani-bows-out.html>

² "Sherry Rahman appointed Pakistan's ambassador to US", *Dawn*, November 23, 2011 at <http://www.dawn.com/2011/11/23/sherry-rehman-appointed-pakistans-ambassador-to-us.html>

that incident, which it said happened when NATO gunships mistook warning shots by the Pakistani forces for a militant attack.³

Bangladesh

- **Resentment reported in Bangladesh over Tipaimukh project; Indian Home Secretary: India to track down two fugitive killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and extradite them to Bangladesh; Bangladesh Foreign Minister seeks a formal apology from Pakistan**

According to reports, Bangladesh showed widespread resentment on India's signing of an agreement on the setting up of a hydroelectric project on the Barak River at Tipaimukh in Manipur state.⁴ Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) Chairperson Khaleda Zia demanded from India immediately discontinuation the construction of Tipaimukh dam in Manipur. She called for discussions between Dhaka and New Delhi on the controversial project and offered support to the government if it would lodge a protest with India against the unilateral move.⁵

Meanwhile, Bangladesh has sent a formal proposal to India regarding its intention to dispatch a high-level delegation to Delhi to discuss with the Indian side all issues pertaining to the Tipaimukh project on the Barak River in Manipur.⁶

According to reports, India is doing its best to track down two fugitive killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and extradite them to Bangladesh. Indian Home Secretary RK Singh said on November 21, 2011 after two days of talks in New Delhi with his Bangladesh counterpart.⁷

In other developments, according to reports, Foreign Minister Dipu Moni has sought a formal apology from Pakistan for the genocide and atrocities committed by the Pakistani military in Bangladesh in 1971.⁸

Sri Lanka

- **India's regional party DMK opposes the Coastguard's proposal to declare a portion in the Indo-Sri Lanka Maritime border as a no fishing zone; Japan's special peace envoy to Sri Lanka attends inauguration of Southern Expressway; Ten Sri Lankan fishermen arrested; Minister of Foreign Trade of UAE visits Sri Lanka; India's Intelligence Bureau warns of possible presence of sleeper cells and militants of the LTTE in and around Mumbai; Sri Lankan government presents its budget in the parliament; Sri Lanka's exports to the EU**

³ Pakistan stops NATO supplies after raid kills 28 troops", *Dawn*, November 26, 2011 at <http://www.dawn.com/2011/11/26/eight-pakistani-soldiers-reportedly-killed-in-nato-attack.html>

⁴ "Tipaimukh Project: No harm for Bangladesh, Says Delhi", *The Daily Star*, November 23, 2011 at <http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=211297>

⁵ "Stop Tipai project", *The Daily Star*, November 23, 2011 at <http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=211296>

⁶ "India informed of sending team on Tipai", *The Daily Star*, November 25, 2011 at <http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=211555>

⁷ Bhattacharya, Pallab, "2 Killers of Bangabandhu: India to track them down", *The Daily Star*, November 22, 2011 at <http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=211133>.

⁸ "Dipu Moni seeks formal Pak apology", *The Daily Star*, November 21, 2011 at <http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=211045>

grew by 25.5 Percent in the first nine months of 2011; Sri Lanka donated over US\$ 50,000 worth of aid to Thailand; Sri Lanka to declare 2012 as the year for a 'Trilingual Sri Lanka';

Reports noted that India's regional party in Tamil Nadu Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) has opposed Coast Guard's proposal to declare a portion in the Indo-Sri Lanka Maritime border as a no fishing zone.⁹ On the other hand,

terming the Coast Guard stand in the High Court on the fishermen issue as "outrageous", Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Jayalalithaa on November 26, sought Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's intervention to rectify it before any "irredeemable damage" is done. Ms. Jayalalithaa's sharp response came in a letter to Dr. Singh following an affidavit filed by Coast Guard in the Madras High Court, stating local fishermen cross the International Maritime Boundary Line and fish in Sri Lankan waters.¹⁰

Reports noted that Japan's Special Peace Envoy to Sri Lanka Yasushi Akashi came to Sri Lanka on November 26, for the opening of the Southern Expressway. He will leave the country on November 30.¹¹

In another development, ten Sri Lankan fishermen, arrested on charges of violating sea perimeters by Coast Guard officials, were handed over on November 24, to the Kasimedu fishing harbor police. The fishermen in two boats carrying 600 kg of fish had been nabbed during surveillance along the eastern seaboard by coast guard ship Sarang on November 22.¹²

Reports noted that Sheikha Lubna bint Khalid bin Sultan Al Qasimi, the most powerful Arab woman in the world, according to Arab Business and Forbes magazines, who is also the Minister of Foreign Trade of United Arab Emirates, came to Sri Lanka on November 23, on a three-day official visit amidst renewed bilateral trade efforts between Sri Lanka and the UAE. She is visiting Sri Lanka, based on a special invitation extended to her by Rishad Bathiudeen, Minister-Industry and Commerce.¹³

According to reports, the Maharashtra and Mumbai police have received an alarming alert from the Intelligence Bureau (IB) warning them of possible presence of sleeper cells and militants of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in and around Mumbai, especially in the Navi Mumbai area. The warning is part of a confidential report which states that the Pakistan-based terror outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) is using LTTE cadres and Sikh militants to infiltrate into India to carry out terror activities.¹⁴

⁹ "DMK opposes Coast Guard proposal for No Fishing Zone", *The Daily Mirror*, November 26, 2011 at <http://www.dailymirror.lk/news/15041-dmk-opposes-coast-guard-proposal-for-no-fishing-zone.html>

¹⁰ "Coast Guard stand on TN fishermen 'outrageous': Jayalalithaa", *The Daily Mirror*, November 26, 2011 at <http://www.dailymirror.lk/news/15042-coast-guard-stand-on-tn-fishermen-outrageous-jayalalithaa.html>.

¹¹ "Akashi here tomorrow", *The Daily Mirror*, November 25, 2011 at <http://www.dailymirror.lk/news/15007-akashi-here-tomorrow.html>

¹² "10 Lankan fishermen arrested", *The Daily Mirror*, November 25, 2011 at <http://www.dailymirror.lk/news/15005-10-lankan-fishermen-arrested.html>.

¹³ "Most powerful Arab woman in Colombo", *The Daily Mirror*, November 23, 2011 AT <http://www.dailymirror.lk/news/14971-most-powerful-arab-woman-in-colombo.html>.

¹⁴ "LeT sending LTTE and BKi militants to do its dirty work", *The Daily Mirror*, November 21, 2011 at <http://www.dailymirror.lk/news/14894-let-sending-ltte-and-bki-militants-to-do-its-dirty-work.html>.

Reports noted that Sri Lanka's 65th budget was presented to Parliament on November 21. It is the third budget of the seventh Parliament and was presented by President Mahinda Rajapaksa in his capacity as the Minister of Finance and Planning.¹⁵

According to reports, latest statistics from the Central Bank of Sri Lanka reveal that Sri Lanka's exports to the EU grew by 25.5 percent in the first nine months of 2011 (2635 Million \$), compared to the corresponding period of 2010 (2100 Million \$) Sri Lanka's ambassador to Belgium, Luxembourg and the EU Ravinatha Ariyasinha, said.¹⁶

In other developments, Sri Lanka donated over US\$ 50,000 worth of aid to Thailand on November 22, as relief to its flood-affected people.¹⁷ Meanwhile, the Sri Lankan Government has decided to declare the year 2012 as the Year for a 'Trilingual Sri Lanka'.¹⁸

Maldives

● Protests in Maldives against UN High Commissioner for Human Rights; The Saudi Fund for Development grants US\$12.5 million to Maldives

According to reports, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Navanethem Pillay has paid a courtesy call on President Mohamed Nasheed on November 23. The commissioner praised the President for the Maldives' role in the international arena, on the advancement of human rights, during the meeting.¹⁹

However, protestors took to the streets of capital Male against UN human rights chief's comments against flogging and the constitutional provision that requires every Maldivian to be a Muslim.²⁰

In another development, according to reports, the Saudi Fund for Development has given US\$12.5 million to Maldives to develop Hithadhoo Regional Hospital in Addu. Maldivian Finance Minister Ahmed Inaz and Saudi Fund's Vice Chairman and Managing Director Yousef Ibrahim Al-Bassam signed the agreement on November 22, 2011. The loan carries a one percent interest rate and a five year grace period. It is expected to be repaid within 20 years.²¹

¹⁵ "2012 budget to be presented today", *The Daily Mirror*, November 21, 2011 at <http://www.dailymirror.lk/news/14893-2012-budget-to-be-presented-today.html>.

¹⁶ "Exports to EU grow in first nine months - Ambassador Ariyasinha", November 28, 2011 at http://www.priu.gov.lk/news_update/Current_Affairs/ca201111/20111128exports_eu_grow.htm.

¹⁷ "Sri Lanka donates US\$ 50,000 worth of flood relief to Thailand", November 22, 2011 at http://www.priu.gov.lk/news_update/Current_Affairs/ca201111/20111122sl_donates_flood_relief_thailand.htm.

¹⁸ "2012 - the Year for Trilingual Sri Lanka", *The Daily Mirror*, November 25, 2011 at http://www.priu.gov.lk/news_update/Current_Affairs/ca201111/20111125year_for_trilingual_sl.htm.

¹⁹ "UN High Commissioner for Human Rights pays Courtesy Call on the President", *The President's Office, Republic of Maldives*, November 23, 2011 at <http://www.presidencymaldives.gov.mv/Index.aspx?lid=11&dcid=6308>.

²⁰ Nafiz, Ali, "Protests continue against UN rights chief's comments on flogging", *Haveeru Online*, November 27, 2011 at <http://www.haveeru.com.mv/maldives/38906>

²¹ "Saudi Fund gives US\$12.5 million to Hithadhoo hospital", *Minivan News*, November 23, 2011 at <http://minivannews.com/category/news-in-brief/page/2>.

B. East Asia

China

(November 14-27, 2011)

- **Chinese Premier Wen expresses confidence about the future of Sino-India cooperation; China says extending the Kyoto Protocol's first commitment period should be the top priority; Chinese FM meets Nepal's FM; China, Turkmenistan sign key gas agreement; China urges Japan to join hands to boost the development of East Asian Region; China calls for resumption of six-party talks; China opposes unilateral, expanded sanctions against Iran; China issues white paper on climate change; White paper on rural poverty reduction**

According to reports, Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao said that he was confident about China and India cooperation in the future. Wen made the remarks while meeting his Indian counterpart Manmohan Singh on the sidelines of the ongoing series of meetings for East Asian leaders. He said there is enough space in the world for China-India cooperation, and the two countries have enough fields in which they can cooperate.²²

In another development, according to reports, Beijing announced that the Kyoto Protocol's first commitment should be extending the period and this should be the top priority at the upcoming global climate talks.²³

Reports noted that Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi met his Nepalese counter part and Deputy Prime Minister. Both Yang and Shrestha spoke positively about the momentum of the development of bilateral ties between the two countries.²⁴ On the other hand Turkmenistan has agreed to increase its natural gas deliveries to China by two-thirds according to an agreement signed between the two countries.²⁵

On the regional front, China has called on Japan to work together in order to boost the development of the East Asian region.²⁶

Reports noted that China has urged that the relevant parties should strengthen dialogue to create favourable condition for the resumption of Six-Party talks.²⁷

²² "Wen airs confidence in Sino-India cooperation" *China Daily*, November 18, 2011 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2011-11/18/content_14121133.htm

²³ "China: 'Extend Kyoto Protocol'" *China Daily*, November 26, 2011 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2011-11/26/content_14166263.htm

²⁴ "Chinese FM meets Nepal's FM" *China Daily*, November 25, 2011 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2011-11/25/content_14165580.htm

²⁵ "China, Turkmenistan sign key gas agreement" *China Daily*, November 24, 2011 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2011-11/24/content_14150679.htm

²⁶ "China urges Japan to join hands to boost E Asian development" *China Daily*, November 23, 2011 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2011-11/23/content_14150379.htm

²⁷ "China calls for resumption of six-party talks" *China Daily*, November 18, 2011 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2011-11/18/content_14114772.htm

On the domestic front, reports noted that the Chinese government issued a white paper on its policies and sanctions addressing the Climate Change.²⁸ Beijing has also issued a white paper on its poverty reduction efforts in the past decade.²⁹

In other developments, according to reports, Beijing has opposed the unilateral sanctions against Iran.³⁰

Japan

- **Japan and China agree to create a 'crisis management mechanism' to avoid potential disputes in the East China Sea; China to ease restrictions on Japanese food imports; Japan to provide around 67 billion Yen to help Iraq's reconstruction efforts**

According to reports, during Japanese Foreign Minister Koichiro Gamba's recent one-day visit to China, both the states agreed to jointly create a 'crisis management body' to avoid potential bilateral maritime disputes in the East China Sea region. Such a body is proposed to involve the foreign ministers, coast guards and other relevant organizations from both the countries. During his interaction with Gamba, Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi reportedly reiterated China's commitment to maintain communication with Japan to resume the bilateral negotiations towards signing a treaty on a joint gas development project in the East China Sea.³¹

In the meantime, China has decided to partially ease restrictions on the Japanese food imports that were imposed after the Fukushima nuclear accident in March this year. China is to resume imports of Japanese farm and food products and livestock feed (except perishable products such as vegetables, fruits, dairy and fishery products) from 37 of Japan's 47 prefectures. However, the Japanese government has been asked to attach documents noting the place of origin of the products before exporting them to China.³²

During Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri-al-Maliki's recent four-day visit to Japan, Prime Minister announced that Tokyo would provide loans of around 67 billion yen for Iraq's reconstruction efforts. The amount is to be basically used to improve two oil refineries and for two new projects related to communications and health. Both the leaders also struck a deal on an investment accord which is proposed to come into force as early as possible.³³

²⁸ "China issues white paper on climate change" *China Daily*, November 22, 2011 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2011-11/22/content_14141083.htm

²⁹ "White paper on rural poverty reduction" *China Daily*, November 16, 2011 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2011-11/16/content_14104874.htm

³⁰ "China opposes unilateral, expanded sanctions against Iran" *China Daily*, November 23, 2011 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2011-11/23/content_14149893.htm

³¹ "Japan, China to cooperate over maritime crisis management system", *Mainichi Daily*, November 24, 2011, at <http://mdn.mainichi.jp/mdnnews/news/20111124p2g00m0dm012000c.html>

³² "China eases restrictions on Japanese food imports", *Mainichi Daily*, November 24, 2011, at <http://mdn.mainichi.jp/mdnnews/news/20111124p2g00m0dm127000c.html>

³³ "Japan to provide 67 bil. Yen for Iraqi development", *Mainichi Daily*, November 23, 2011, at <http://mdn.mainichi.jp/mdnnews/national/archive/news/2011/11/23/20111123p2g00m0dm010000c.html>

South Korea

- **South Korean government holds memorial ceremony to mark first anniversary of Yeonpyeong attack; South Korea to provide economic aid worth \$500 million to Philippines within the next two years**

Reports noted that South Korean government recently held a memorial ceremony to mark the first anniversary of Yeonpyeong attack. The ceremony was attended by 3000 people, including Prime Minister Kim Hwang-sik and Defense Minister Kim Kwan-jin. During his phone conversation with Marines deployed to Yeonpyeong, President Lee Myung-bak reportedly stated that North Korea had been provocative whenever they perceive the South to be in weaker position. Lee further stated that although Pyongyang was yet to offer an official apology for Yeonpyeong attack, it was expected that the latter would make its official position clear on that issue at some point in the interest of national reconciliation.³⁴

In another development, during a recent meeting between South Korean President Lee Myung-bak and his Philippines counterpart Benigno Aquino III at Manila, South Korea signed an agreement to provide the Philippines with economic aid worth \$500 million over the next two years. Both the leaders also signed five cooperation accords, including one on free aid to develop the agricultural sector in the Philippines.³⁵

C. Central Asia & Russia

Central Asia

- **Turkmenistan, China sign 14 bilateral agreements for cooperation in various sectors; Kyrgyz and Indian forces to hold joint anti-terror exercises next month; Customs Union members consider single currency; Kazakhstan Temir Zholy (KTZ) and ArcelorMittal sign Memorandum of Understanding; Saudi Arabia and Kazakhstan signed an agreement on cooperation in space exploration**

Reports noted that Turkmen President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, on a three-day official visit to China from November 22-24, met his counterpart Hu Jintao, business leaders and other high-ranking government officials. A major natural gas supply deal was forged on November 23 in Beijing that will ramp up exports by two-thirds which means an increase in the supply of Turkmen gas by 25 billion cubic meters (bcm) to a total of 65 bcm.³⁶ Apart from this, he signed 13 more bilateral agreements with Hu Jintao on securing loans for oil and gas equipment, collaborating on internal affairs, police training, anti-terrorism etc. and participated in the ceremonial opening of a massive Chinese-built natural gas pipeline that in June began pumping

³⁴ "Pres. Lee marks 1st anniversary of Yeonpyeong attack", *Dong-a-Ilbo*, November 24, 2011, at <http://english.donga.com/srv/service.php3?biid=2011112452328>

³⁵ "S. Korea to give \$500 mln in aid to Philippines over 2 years", *Dong-a-Ilbo*, November 21, 2011, at <http://english.donga.com/srv/service.php3?biid=2011112215118>

³⁶ "Turkmen leader forges major gas deal with China", *Universal Newswires*, November 23, 2011 at <http://www.universalnewswires.com/centralasia/turkmenistan/viewstory.aspx?id=10777>

Turkmen gas to customers to the South China Sea coast province.³⁷ Both leaders wound up a summit meeting in the Chinese with a joint statement vowing their determination to promote development and prosperity in Central Asia.³⁸

In a significant development, reports noted that Kyrgyz and Indian forces will hold joint anti-terror exercises – Khanjar (Danger) 2011 – in December this year involving special armed forces from both countries to improve cooperation and exchange experience against terrorism in mountainous environments. The exercises will be held at the Indian Special Forces School in Nahan wherein expenses and resources for the Kyrgyz forces will be paid for by the Indian side.³⁹

Also, the Indian government has decided to open a military or a field hospital in Tajikistan before winter sets in. An army team has already completed reconnaissance in Tajikistan and has identified a location outside Dushanbe, identified personnel from its medical corps to set up a 20-bed field hospital who are ready to leave on a short notice.⁴⁰ New Delhi had earlier closed down its hospital at the Farkhor Airbase.

According to reports, the presidents of Kazakhstan, Russia, and Belarus considered adopting a common currency for its newly formed Eurasian Economic Union (EEU), the Belarusian leader Alexander Lukashenko said last week wherein the three leaders discussed modeling the currency on the lines of the predecessor of the European Union euro, the European Currency Unit (ECU). The subject was mooted in Moscow on Friday, the day they signed a pact to create an EU-style Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) by 2015. The three will establish a commission in January 2012 to manage economic integration and oversee currencies as a preliminary step toward that vision.⁴¹

Reports noted that the railway company Kazakhstan Temir Zholy (KTZ) and ArcelorMittal, the world's largest steelmaker signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) during a working visit by the Kazakh leader Nursultan Nazarbayev to the industrial city of Karaganda to produce rails and long products for export. The venture, if realized, plans to produce around 440,000 tons of rails and long products annually, and will begin operating at the end of 2013.⁴²

In another development, Saudi Arabia and Kazakhstan signed an agreement last week to work on programs and projects in space exploration and its potential uses for peaceful purposes wherein the bilateral cooperation agreement was forged in Riyadh at the end of talks between a visiting delegation of Kazakh space agency KazCosmos and Saudi's science and technology

³⁷ "Turkmen leader forges major gas deal with China", *Universal Newswires*, November 23, 2011 at <http://www.universalnewswires.com/centralasia/turkmenistan/viewstory.aspx?id=10777>

³⁸ "Turkmen leader wraps up state visit to China", *Universal Newswires*, November 25, 2011 at <http://www.universalnewswires.com/centralasia/viewstory.aspx?id=10794>

³⁹ "Kyrgyzstan, India to hold joint terror exercise", *Universal Newswires*, November 28, 2011 at <http://www.universalnewswires.com/centralasia/viewstory.aspx?id=10812>

⁴⁰ "India to open military hospital in Tajikistan", *Times of India*, November 21, 2011 at <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/India-to-open-military-hospital-in-Tajikistan/articleshow/10810702.cms>

⁴¹ "CIS leaders considering single currency, Lukashenko says", *Universal Newswires*, November 22, 2011 at <http://www.universalnewswires.com/centralasia/kazakhstan/viewstory.aspx?id=10765>

⁴² "Kazakh Railways, ArcelorMittal may join forces in export venture", *Universal Newswires*, November 23, 2011 at <http://www.universalnewswires.com/centralasia/kazakhstan/viewstory.aspx?id=10778>

representatives.⁴³ In a related development, the Kazakh and Ukrainian governments signed a raft of bilateral deals during the state visit of Ukrainian premier Nikolai Azarov to the Kazakh capital Astana last week wherein among the deals is an agreement to jointly produce Antonov-140 planes.⁴⁴ In the meanwhile, South Korean state energy explorer Korea National Oil Corp (KNOC) has located a further 11 million barrels of oil at its Ada project in Kazakhstan bringing the estimated crude reserve at Ada oil as high as 42 million barrels.⁴⁵

In other developments, reports noted that Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev's eldest daughter Dariga will run in the January 15 parliamentary election from ruling Nur-Otan party, marking her return to the political sphere after a prolonged absence. Analysts emphasize that her inclusion does not point to a succession to Nazarbayev but to appease some sections of society particularly the ruling elite.⁴⁶

Russia

- **Russia is ready to increase delivery the delivery of natural gas to India; Russia to quit START if the US goes ahead with Europe's missile defence plan; Russian Air Force to get 90 new aircrafts in 2012; In the backdrop of a spate of space failures, President Medvedev has warned space officials to mend their ways; PM Putin warns the West against interfering in Russia's votes; Russia wants the US to explain the reported plans on developing and deploying military bases in Afghanistan post 2014 onwards; President Medvedev praises Russia's effort in the Caucasus in 2008 to prevent further NATO expansion in the region; Russia to give up-to 10 billion loan to Belarus for building a new nuclear power plant; Russia's budget surplus to reach 300 billion roubles in 2011; Kaliningrad radar station is ready for missile warning system deployment; US stops arms treaty cooperation with Russia; Russia criticizes any attempt to forcefully interfere into the current Syrian crisis; Russia believes that its possible WTO membership will have no negative repercussion on the Customs Union; Russia to give a US\$ 2 billion discount in gas prices to Belarus**

According to Gazprom's CEO Alexei Miller Russia is ready to increase gas supply to India within the framework of the Eastern Gas Programme. Gazprom has exported to India 650,000 tonnes of natural gas since 2009.⁴⁷

According to reports, Russian President Dmitry Medvedev has said that Russia will take a step back in the field of disarmament and arms control and may even quit START if the US goes ahead with the European missile defence plan.⁴⁸

⁴³ "Saudis agree to explore space with Kazakhstan", *Universal Newswires*, November 22, 2011 at <http://www.universalnewswires.com/centralasia/kazakhstan/viewstory.aspx?id=10761>

⁴⁴ "Kazakhstan, Ukraine to expand cooperation in aircraft, industrial production", *Universal Newswires*, November 24, 2011 at <http://www.universalnewswires.com/centralasia/kazakhstan/viewstory.aspx?id=10787>

⁴⁵ "S. Korean oil firm ups volume of Kazakh crude find", *Universal Newswires*, November 28, 2011 at <http://www.universalnewswires.com/centralasia/viewstory.aspx?id=10807>

⁴⁶ "Nazarbayev daughter re-enters politics, will run in election", *Universal Newswires*, November 25, 2011 at <http://www.universalnewswires.com/centralasia/viewstory.aspx?id=10800>

⁴⁷ "RF ready to increase deliveries of natural gas to India- Gazprom's CEO", ITAR TASS, November 23, 2011, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/279581.html>

⁴⁸ "Russia to quit START if US build on Europe missile defense", ITAR-TASS, November 23, 2011, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/279672.html>

Reports noted that the Russian Air Force will take delivery of about 90 new or modernized fixed and rotary wing aircraft in 2012. These include the Su-34 Fullback fighter-bombers, Su-25SM Frogfoot attack fighters, Mi-28N Night Hunter and the Ka-52 Alligator attack helicopters, Mi-26T heavy lift helicopters and Su-35S Flanker-E multirole fighters.⁴⁹

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev has threatened to punish (in the form of heavy fines, disciplinary or even criminal penalties) officials responsible for recent high profile failures in the space sector.⁵⁰

Meanwhile, Russia's Prime Minister, Vladimir Putin, has warned Western powers against meddling in Russia's forthcoming elections after agreeing to stand for president in March 2012. Such defiant rhetoric has come to dominate Russian political discourse since liberal revolutions in neighbouring Ukraine and Georgia in the early 2000s forced pro-Kremlin leaders from power there.⁵¹

In another development, Russia's Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov has said that Russia would seek US explanation on its plans to deploy military bases in Afghanistan after the withdrawal of troops in 2014. In the past Lavrov has voiced concern over the U.S. plans to create counter-terrorism bases in Afghanistan and expand its presence in Central Asia.⁵²

President Dmitry Medvedev has lavished praise on Russia's effort in the Caucasus in 2008 which prevent further NATO expansion in the region.⁵³

Prime Minister Putin has said that Russia will grant a loan of up to \$10 billion 'with the ten-year takedown period and the 15-year repayment period' to Belarus for building a nuclear power plant.⁵⁴

Russia's budget surplus may reach 0.3-0.4 percent (comprise 300 billion roubles) of the GDP in 2011. Acting Finance Minister Mr. Anton Siluanov has said that the money will be utilized to reduce borrowings in the domestic market.⁵⁵

According to reports, the United States has announced that it will not allow Russian inspections of U.S. bases or share data with Russia on its nonnuclear weapons stores in Europe after years of

⁴⁹ "Russian aircraft to get 90 aircraft in 2012", RIA Novosti, November 22, 2011, http://en.rian.ru/military_news/20111122/168934211.html

⁵⁰ "Russian President warns space officials over failures", RIA Novosti, November 27, 2011, <http://en.rian.ru/russia/20111127/169063818.html>

⁵¹ "Putin warns West against interfering in Russia's votes", RIA Novosti, November 27, 2011, <http://en.rian.ru/russia/20111127/169086652.html>

⁵² "RF wants US to explain plans on deploying bases in Afghanistan", ITAR-TASS, November 21, 2011, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/277440.html>

⁵³ "Medvedev praises Russia's efforts in 2008 to prevent NATO expansion", November 21, 2011, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/277446.html>

⁵⁴ "Russia to grant up to \$10 bln loan to Belarus for NPP project - Putin", ITAR-TASS, November 25, 2011, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/281708.html>

⁵⁵ "Russia's budget surplus to reach 300 bln roubles in 2011", ITAR-TASS, November 22, 2011, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/278664.html>

failed efforts to revitalize the Cold War-era arms treaty - Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) treaty. The major bone of contention has been NATO expansion and Russia's troop presence in Georgia.⁵⁶

Russia has termed force interference into Syria's domestic affairs as inadmissible and human rights pretexts must not be used as an excuse for such interference.⁵⁷

According to reports, the executive secretary of the Customs Union Sergei Glaziev has said that Russia's accession to the World Trade organization (WTO) will not affect the activity and viability of the Customs Union since the Union was being developed in compliance with the WTO rules.⁵⁸

Reports noted that Gazprom has agreed to slash its gas price for Belarus as the two neighbours prepare to move their economies closer next year. The gas behemoth will charge Belarus \$165.60 per 1,000 cubic meters of gas next year, down from \$244 this quarter. The average price for Gazprom's other European customers will amount to \$400 throughout next year. The pricing agreement will come into force simultaneously with the Single Economic Space, an economic integration effort of Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan.⁵⁹

In other developments, according to reports, a new radar station in Kaliningrad is ready for integration in a missile attack warning system.⁶⁰

D. West Asia

Iran

- **Turkish President Abdullah Gul: Dialogue between Iran and the West must resume; Iran Foreign Minister: Iran ready to cooperate with the IAEA if it readjusts its attitude toward Tehran; Ahmadinejad media advisor released on the same day**

According to reports, Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi has said that Iran is ready to increase cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) if it readjusts its attitude toward Tehran. Salehi, also dismissed recent report as "ineffective" that IAEA Director General Yukiya Amano released on November 8, in which he said that Iran appears to have worked on designing an atomic bomb. He said according to the regulations, the IAEA is not allowed "to release documents against a country," and such a thing is unprecedented in the

⁵⁶ "US halts army treaty cooperation with Russia", Radio Free Europe, November 28, 2011, http://www.rferl.org/content/us_stops_providing_russia_data_on_europe_forces/24399024.html

⁵⁷ "Russia thinks force interference into Syrian affairs inadmissible", ITAR-TASS, November 25, 2011, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/281483.html>

⁵⁸ "Russia's WTO membership will not affect Customs Union - Glaziev", ITAR-TASS, November 23, 2011, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/279543.html>

⁵⁹ "Putin presents Minsk with \$2 bln discount", The Moscow Times, November 27, 2011, <http://www.themoscowtimes.com/business/article/putin-presents-minsk-with-2bln-discount/448679.html>

⁶⁰ "Kaliningrad radar station is ready for missile warning system", ITAR-TASS, November 25, 2011, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/281313.html>

history of the agency. Salehi also added that “In future, we will see that the agency will modify its approach toward Iran, and it will have no other option. And we are ready to cooperate with the agency more than before on condition that the agency readjusts its attitude and acts according to the statute and safeguards agreement. In this case, we are ready to continue our cooperation as before or even increase our cooperation.”⁶¹

Meanwhile, Turkish President Abdullah Gul has urged for dialogue between Iran and world powers that stalled last January. Gul in an interview stated, “for the sake of peace it is very important that the dialogue between Iran and the West progresses in a more frank and transparent way.”⁶²

In other developments, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad’s media adviser and the caretaker manager of the daily Iran Ali Akbar Javanfekr, who had been arrested recently for disrespecting Islamic and moral principles, was released on the same day after consultations between administration officials and the Judiciary. However, the execution of Javanfekr’s arrest warrant has temporarily been put on hold. Earlier, Khabar Online had reported that a Tehran court has sentenced Javanfekr to one year in prison and banned him from engaging in media activities for three years for publishing articles and pictures in the August 13 special edition of the newspaper. Javanfekr is also the manager of the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA).⁶³

Iraq

- **19 killed and dozens injured in bomb blasts in Basra; The US spends more than 6 billion in 2012: James Jeffrey**

According to reports, three bombs exploded in the southern port city of Basra, killing 19 people and wounding at least 65. A roadside bomb and a motorcycle bomb exploded simultaneously in a market in central Basra. Following a common pattern in Iraq, a third roadside bomb went off as people gathered at the scene, according to the official. Violence has declined nationwide since its peak in 2006 and 2007, but attacks remain common. According to official figures, a total of 258 people were killed in October this year.⁶⁴

Meanwhile, US ambassador in Iraq James Jeffrey has said the United States is to spend more than \$6 billion in Iraq in 2012 even though its forces are to withdraw from the country by the end of this year. US President Barack Obama announced on October 21 that the last troops would leave by year’s end, but Baghdad will still host the largest American embassy in the world, with up to 16,000 people at the full mission. Jeffrey also mentioned that “we are standing up an embassy to carry out a \$6.5 billion programme, when you throw in the refugee programmes

⁶¹ “Iran ready to increase cooperation if IAEA readjusts attitude: Salehi,” *Mehr News*, November 21, 2011, at <http://www.mehrnews.com/en/newsdetail.aspx?NewsID=1465882>

⁶² “Turkish president calls for resumption of Iran-West talks,” *Mehr News*, November 22, 2011, at <http://www.mehrnews.com/en/newsdetail.aspx?NewsID=1467008>

⁶³ “Ahmadinejad advisor released shortly after detention,” *Mehr News*, November 21, 2011, at <http://www.mehrnews.com/en/newsdetail.aspx?NewsID=1465472>

⁶⁴ “19 killed in south Iraq bombings,” *Khaleej Times*, November 25, 2011, at http://www.khaleejtimes.com/displayarticle.asp?xfile=data/middleeast/2011/November/middleeast_November648.xml§ion=middleeast&col=

as well as the actual State Department budget for 2012, of assistance in support for Iraq on a very broad variety of security and non-security issues." US-led forces toppled Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein in 2003 and faced a subsequent insurgency. The Iraq war has left thousands of American soldiers and tens of thousands of Iraqis dead and cost hundreds of billions of dollars.⁶⁵

GCC

- **Defence Ministers of the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) decide to strengthen the Council's joint defence systems in face of new threats**

Reports noted that Defence Ministers of the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) held a meeting in Abu Dhabi on November 22, and decided to strengthen the Council's joint defence systems in the face of increasing threats to its member countries. In the meeting, the Ministers discussed the challenges being faced by navigation in the Arabian Gulf, Oman Sea and Red Sea and the measures to ensure marine security. They decided to set up a GCC marine security coordination centre in Manama, Bahrain. According to an official statement, "They emphasized the need to build a joint defence system by integrating and developing defence systems of GCC armed forces. This is the realistic option before the GCC to protect its security, stability, sovereignty and resources." According to the Ministers, the Council will continue their discussions on establishing a joint naval force and are also thinking of acquiring joint early warning systems to confront ballistic missiles. The Ministers expressed their satisfaction over the performance of Peninsula Shield Force, a joint force of GCC, in protecting some of the vital installations in Bahrain and reiterated their solidarity with Manama to defend its independence and sovereignty.⁶⁶

Yemen

- **President Saleh resigns; Mohammed Basindwa appointed as interim Prime Minister**

Reports noted that Yemen's President, Ali Abdullah Saleh, signed a GCC-brokered peace deal in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on November 23, to surrender power in return for immunity from prosecution in a bid to end a bloody anti-government uprising that has pushed the country close to civil war. After pulling out of the deal three times Saleh finally signed the accord giving power to his deputy in the presence of Saudi King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and Crown Prince Nayef bin Abdulaziz Al Saud. The deal calls for early presidential elections within 90 days and gives Saleh immunity from prosecution. However, the protesters were dissatisfied over the deal condemning the immunity clause calling for prosecution of Saleh.⁶⁷

In the meantime, Yemen named an opposition leader and a foreign minister Mohammed Basindwa as the interim Prime Minister on November 27. However, unrest continues in several

⁶⁵ "US to spend over \$6 bn in Iraq next year," *Khaleej Times*, November 27, 2011, at http://www.khaleejtimes.com/displayarticle.asp?xfile=data/middleeast/2011/November/middleeast_November714.xml§ion=middleeast&col=

⁶⁶ "GCC to boost defense in face of new threats", *Arab News*, November 23, 2011, at <http://arabnews.com/saudi-arabia/article537501.ece>

⁶⁷ "Saleh resigns to protests in Sanaa", *The National*, November 24, 2011, at <http://www.thenational.ae/news/worldwide/middle-east/saleh-resigns-to-protests-in-sanaa>

parts of the country. At least 25 people were killed in sectarian clashes between Shias and Sunnis in northern part of the country on November 26-27.⁶⁸

Syria

- **Turkey builds up pressure on Syria; UN human rights committee condemns Syrian crackdown; France backs humanitarian corridor in Syria; Arab League imposes sweeping sanctions on Syria**

According to reports, Turkey increased its pressure on Syria following the latest violence when two people were reported wounded when buses carrying Turkish pilgrims on their way home from Mecca came under gunfire near the city of Homs in central Syria. Separately, activists said at least 12 people were killed in raids by Syrian security forces in the provinces of Homs and Hama. Further, in a signal of support for groups seeking to remove Assad, British Foreign Secretary William Hague met representatives of Syria's opposition for the first time, although he said it was too early for London to formally recognise them. However, Russia accused the West of provocative behaviour in the Syrian crisis, saying Western countries were telling the opposition to forget dialogue with the president.⁶⁹

In another development, the UN General Assembly's human rights committee condemned the Syrian government's crackdown on protests, stepping up international pressure on President Bashar Assad. Jordan was among the nations that co-sponsored the resolution, which included Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Morocco and Qatar, calling on the Syrian government to halt the violence. The resolution was passed by 122 votes to 13 with 41 abstentions. Later, Syria's UN envoy accused the European backers of the resolution - Britain, France and Germany - of "inciting civil war".⁷⁰

Separately, after a meeting with Syrian National Council (SNC) Chairman Burhan Ghalioun, French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said that France backs a possible humanitarian corridor in Syria and considers the opposition SNC a legitimate partner with which it wants to work. Juppe ruled out military intervention to create a "buffer zone" in northern Syria but suggested that a "securitised zone" might be feasible to protect civilians and carry in humanitarian aid.⁷¹

In other developments, Arab foreign ministers and Turkey have agreed to a list of sweeping sanctions designed to weaken the regime of Syrian President Bashar Assad who defied pressure to halt crackdown on protests. As another 23 civilians were reported dead in Syria, the 22-member Arab League announced an immediate ban on transactions with the Syrian government and central bank and a freeze on Syrian government assets in Arab countries. Further measures,

⁶⁸ "Yemen names interim prime minister; 25 die in sectarian fighting", Arab News, November 27, 2011, at <http://arabnews.com/middleeast/article539604.ece>

⁶⁹ "Turkey ups heat on Damascus; Syria activists say 12 dead", *The Jordan Times*, November 22, 2011, at <http://www.jordantimes.com/index.php?news=43547>

⁷⁰ "UN assembly condemns Syria crackdown", *The Jordan Times*, November 23, 2011, at <http://www.jordantimes.com/index.php?news=43570>

⁷¹ "France backs humanitarian corridor in Syria, rules out military action", *The Jordan Times*, November 24, 2011, at <http://www.jordantimes.com/index.php?news=43622>

including a ban on Syrian officials visiting any Arab country and the suspension of flights, are to be implemented at a later date.⁷²

Jordan

- **China grants financial and technical aid to Jordan; PM Awn Khasawneh presents his government's policy statement in Parliament; S&P lowers Jordan credit rating**

Reports note that Jordan and China signed two economic cooperation agreements, under which Beijing promised to offer \$10.7 million worth financial and technical assistance to the Kingdom. These agreements were signed by Planning and International Cooperation Minister Jafar Hassan, China's Commerce Vice Minister Zhong Shan and Chinese Ambassador in Amman Yue Xiaoyong. Under the agreements, Beijing would provide \$7.9 million (50 million yuan) grant to finance development projects in Jordan in addition to delivering \$2.8 million worth firefighting and first aid equipment to the Civil Defence Department in Amman.⁷³

On domestic front, presenting his government's policy statement in Parliament, Prime Minister Awn Khasawneh announced that his government would refer the political parties, constitutional court and elections laws to the Lower House in January, February and March respectively of 2012. Khasawneh also clarified that his government was forced to cancel all decisions on municipalities taken by the former government which were "incompatible with the Municipalities Law" and assured that the government would work on drafting a law amending the Municipalities Law and would refer it to the House before the end of 2011.⁷⁴

In other developments, expressing concern about the country's economy and political situation, Standard & Poor's lowered Jordan's long-term local-currency sovereign credit rating to "BB" from "BB+". The ratings agency also maintained its "BB/B" long- and short-term foreign-currency sovereign credit ratings on the Kingdom as well as the short-term local-currency rating at "B".⁷⁵

Israel

- **Israel arrests a Jordanian citizen in West Bank; Israel warns to cut off power and water to Gaza**

According to Fadi Farah, spokesperson of the National Committee for Prisoners in Israel, Israel arrested Mahmoud Shanaa, a Jordanian citizen in September 2011 near the Qalandia checkpoint between Jerusalem and Ramallah while he was visiting relatives in the West Bank. Shanaa, who was mistaken for one of the protesters and arrested, was supposed to be tried at an Israeli court on November 15 but the trial was postponed until November 29.⁷⁶

⁷² "Arab League agrees to sweeping sanctions on Syrian regime", *The Jordan Times*, November 28, 2011, at <http://www.jordantimes.com/index.php?news=43737>

⁷³ "China grants Jordan \$10.7m in financial, technical aid", *The Jordan Times*, November 22, 2011, at <http://www.jordantimes.com/index.php?news=43509>

⁷⁴ "Political reform laws 'to be ready early 2012' - PM", *The Jordan Times*, November 24, 2011, at <http://www.jordantimes.com/index.php?news=43609>

⁷⁵ "S&P downgrades Jordan credit rating", *The Jordan Times*, November 24, 2011, at <http://www.jordantimes.com/index.php?news=43610>

⁷⁶ "Israel arrests Jordanian visiting relatives in West Bank", *The Jordan Times*, November 23, 2011, at <http://www.jordantimes.com/index.php?news=43582>

In another development, Israel warned that it would disconnect the supply of water and electricity to the Gaza Strip if rival Palestinian movements Fateh and Hamas form a unity government. Deputy Foreign Minister Danny Ayalon told that his ministry was examining the possibility of Israel pulling out of the Gaza Strip in terms of infrastructure. Further, he said a unity government deal “would transform the Palestinian Authority into a terrorist authority and would put an end to any hope for a peace agreement” with Israel.⁷⁷

Palestine

- **Jordan reiterates support for the unity of Palestinian people; Palestine seek UN intervention to free Israel tax freeze; Islamist movement call for million-man march near Israeli border; Palestinian rivals hail new era of partnership**

Reports noted that during his talks with the Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in Ramallah, Jordan King Abdullah reiterated his country’s full support for the unity of the Palestinian people and efforts to realise their aspirations in liberty and creating an independent state on the Palestinian national soil with East Jerusalem as its capital. King Abdullah said Jordan would continue to support the PA’s efforts in the international arena to obtain independence and create a sovereign state through negotiations and in line with international legitimacy resolutions.⁷⁸

In another development, the Palestinian foreign minister Riyad Malki noted that the Palestinians have called on UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and asked for UN intervention to free up funds frozen by Israel after they gained membership of UNESCO.⁷⁹

Meanwhile, according to reports, the Islamist movement called on citizens across the country to gather at the Jordanian-Israeli border to urge for the “liberation of Jerusalem”. The million-man march was part of a series of events held across the Arab world in solidarity with Jerusalem. Kathem Ayesh, who handles the Palestinian case at the Muslim Brotherhood, said the event aimed to commemorate the partition of historical Palestine in 1947.⁸⁰

In other developments, according to reports, Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas and Hamas chief Khaled Mishaal hailed a new era of partnership between their rival movements at talks in Cairo aimed at cementing a stalled unity deal. However, there was little indication of any concrete progress in resolving the disputes which have blocked implementation of a reconciliation agreement. Nevertheless, the two leaders said they had managed to iron out their differences and turn a new page in their strained relationship.⁸¹

⁷⁷ “Israel threatens to cut off power, water to Gaza”, *The Jordan Times*, November 27, 2011, at <http://www.jordantimes.com/index.php?news=43675>

⁷⁸ “PA welcomes Jordan reconciliation role”, *The Jordan Times*, November 22, 2011, at <http://www.jordantimes.com/index.php?news=43541>

⁷⁹ “Palestinians seek UN help on Israel tax freeze”, *The Jordan Times*, November 22, 2011, at <http://www.jordantimes.com/index.php?news=43532>

⁸⁰ “Islamists call for million-man march near Israeli border”, *The Jordan Times*, November 23, 2011, at <http://www.jordantimes.com/index.php?news=43568>

⁸¹ “Palestinian rivals hail new era of ‘partnership’”, *The Jordan Times*, November 25, 2011, at <http://www.jordantimes.com/index.php?news=43639>

E. Africa

Egypt

- **Many dead in Cairo anti-military protests; National Council for Human Rights (NCHR) forms fact-finding commission to investigate Tahrir clashes; Kamal Ganzouri appointed new PM; UN renews call to ensure peaceful transition**

According to reports, in the worst violence since the uprising that removed President Hosni Mubarak, Cairo police clashed with protesters demanding an end to army rule, resulting in death toll rising to at least 33. Later, the Cabinet spokesperson Mohammed Hegazy said Prime Minister Essam Sharaf's entire Cabinet had tendered its resignation and the ruling military council had accepted the government's resignation.⁸²

In another development, in an attempt to placate protesters and defuse a political crisis that has jolted plans for the country's first free election in decades, Egypt's ruling generals offered to transfer power to a civilian president by July 2012. The military council also agreed to accept the resignation of Prime Minister Essam Sharaf's Cabinet and to replace it with a national salvation government within days to steer Egypt to civilian rule.⁸³

Meanwhile, the National Council for Human Rights (NCHR) announced the formation of a fact-finding commission, headed by Mohamed Fayege, to investigate the clashes in Tahrir Square. According to Nasser Amin, the commission was made up of a number of the council's board members and a number of researchers.⁸⁴

Reports noted that former Egyptian prime minister Kamal Ganzouri accepted a request from the ruling generals to form a new government on Thursday, state newspaper Al Ahram said on its website. Ganzouri, who served as premier between 1996 and 1999, confirmed he had agreed in principle to lead a national salvation government after meeting with the head of the ruling army council. Meanwhile, the ruling army council again promised that parliamentary elections would start on time next week. It said earlier it would speed up the timetable for a handover from military to civilian presidential rule.⁸⁵

In other developments, after his talks with the head of Egypt's Supreme Council of the Armed Forces, the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon renewed calls for Egypt's military rulers to ensure an "inclusive, orderly and peaceful transition" that meets the legitimate aspirations of the Egyptian people through transparent and credible elections leading to the establishment of

⁸² "33 dead, over 1,000 injured in three days of Cairo anti-military protests", *The Jordan Times*, November 22, 2011, at <http://www.jordantimes.com/index.php?news=43546>

⁸³ "Protests draw concessions from Egypt army rulers", *The Jordan Times*, November 23, 2011, at <http://www.jordantimes.com/index.php?news=43571>

⁸⁴ "Human rights council forms fact-finding commission to investigate Tahrir clashes", *The Daily News Egypt*, November 24, 2011, at <http://www.thedailynewsegypt.com/human-a-civil-rights/human-rights-council-forms-fact-finding-commission-to-investigate-tahrir-clashes.html>

⁸⁵ "Kamal Ganzouri appointed new Egyptian PM", *The Jordan Times*, November 25, 2011, at <http://www.jordantimes.com/index.php?news=43651>

civilian rule. The US and other governments have also called for a quick transition to civilian rule in Egypt.⁸⁶

Libya

- **Former rebels given key posts in new government; Deputy PM invites people to join hands in rebuilding the nation**

Reports noted that former rebels who helped in overthrowing Libya's former leader Muammar Gaddafi's government and a human rights lawyer whose arrest sparked the uprising, were given key posts in the new government of interim Prime Minister Abdurrahim Al Kib. However, the delay in its unveiling was apparently caused by the arrest of Seif Al Islam Gaddafi, the prominent son and onetime heir-apparent of the former dictator. Separately, the National Transitional Council (NTC) gave the new government its vote of confidence.⁸⁷

Meanwhile, reports noted that the Deputy Prime Minister of Libya, Mustafa Abushagur called upon its people to join hands and come together to build the nation. As deputy PM, Abushagur would prepare the groundwork for a democratic government in Libya, with free elections occurring in 2012.⁸⁸

Nigeria

- **Four policemen killed in a strike by Boko Haram sect in Yobe state of Nigeria; Nigerian Export Promotion Council (NEPC) discloses non-oil export earnings in Nigeria**

Reports noted that according to police, churches, homes and the police headquarters in Geidam, Yobe State were set on fire in a wave of gun and bomb attacks by Boko Haram sect. In the incident, four policemen were killed, 20 wounded, eight churches and 20 market stalls as well as Geidam council secretariat were completely destroyed.⁸⁹

In another development, the Nigerian Export Promotion Council (NEPC) has disclosed that Nigeria's non-oil export earnings between the month of January and June 2011 was \$1.5 billion (N240 billion). The earnings were from the exportation of cocoa; sheep and goat skins leather; sesame seeds and oil; rubber; plastics; cotton yarns and woven fabrics; aluminium; cashew nuts and edible fruits; gum arabics; tobacco products; prawns; shrimps; fish and crustaceans and others. The Managing Director and Chief Executive of the council, David Adulugba, said that the various products' sectors have contributed significantly to the country's non-oil export earnings.⁹⁰

⁸⁶ "UN Sec. Gen. Calls on Egypt's Military Rulers to Ensure Peaceful Transition", *The Tripoli Post*, November 26, 2011, at <http://www.tripolipost.com/articledetail.asp?c=1&i=7372>

⁸⁷ "Libya ex-rebels get key posts in Cabinet lineup", *The Jordan Times*, November 23, 2011, at <http://www.jordantimes.com/index.php?news=43559>

⁸⁸ "Deputy PM Says Libya Calling Upon its People to Join hands, Come Together", *The Tripoli Post*, November 25, 2011, at <http://www.tripolipost.com/articledetail.asp?c=1&i=7360>

⁸⁹ "Attack on Police Station, Bank, Churches Kill 4, Injure Many in Yobe", *AllAfrica.com*, November 27, 2011, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201111270177.html>

⁹⁰ "Nigeria earns N240b from non-oil exports in six months", *Nigerian Guardian*, November 28, 2011, at http://www.nguardiannews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=68946:-nigeria-earns-n240b-from-non-oil-exports-in-six-months&catid=31:business&Itemid=562

Sudan

- **Sudan agrees to resume talks on post-secession issue; US pledged to support peace implementation in Darfur; Libya pledges to develop bilateral ties with Sudan; Uganda and Tanzania rejected Sudan's bid to join EAC**

According to reports, former South African president and chairman of the African Union High Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP), Thabo Mbeki, handed over a set of proposals to Sudanese president Omer al-Bashir to break the negotiation deadlock on post-secession issues between Khartoum and Juba. A new round of negotiations scheduled earlier in Ethiopia between the two countries was called off by Khartoum as the latter said it had “fundamental reservations” on Mbeki’s proposals to bridge the gap in positions. The ownership of Abyei, demarcation of joint border, Sudan’s national debt and fees of oil transportation, were among the issues still negotiated between the two countries.⁹¹

In another development, Head of Darfur Regional Authority (DRA) and leader of the former rebel Liberation and Justice Movement (LJM) Tijani el-Sissi said that Washington had promised to support politically and economically the implementation of Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD). LJM leader told that Washington reiterated its support to the peace deal and the American officials promised to support the DRA to ensure the full implementation of the peace document and back the resettlement of displaced people and refugees and development.⁹²

Meanwhile, reiterating his gratitude to the support received from Khartoum, the head of Libyan National Transitional Council (NTC) pledged to develop political and economic relations with Sudan. The NTC leader Mustafa Abdel-Jalil was in Khartoum to attend the convention of National Congress Party headed by President Omer al-Bashir. The head of the Libyan regime further said that bilateral relations, based on shared values of Islam and Arabism, would witness more developments in different fields. He unveiled the intention of his government to construct roads connecting the two countries and to improve telecommunications with Khartoum.⁹³

In other developments, reports noted that the Sudanese government faced a diplomatic setback after Uganda and Tanzania rejected its application to join the East African Community (EAC) citing concerns over Khartoum’s democratic practices and its treatment of women. It would be worth noting that EAC is the regional intergovernmental organisation comprised of Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi with its headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania. Article 3 (3) of the EAC charter stipulates that membership is contingent upon adherence to universally acceptable principles of good governance, democracy, the rule of law, observance of human rights and social justice. Furthermore, sharing joint borders is a requirement for the EAC membership which Sudan does not satisfy.⁹⁴

⁹¹ “Sudan’s president agrees to resume north-south talks on post-secession issue”, *Sudan Tribune*, November 21, 2011, at <http://www.sudantribune.com/Sudan-s-president-agrees-to-resume,40795>

⁹² “Washington pledges to support peace implementation in Darfur, Sissi”, *Sudan Tribune*, November 24, 2011, at <http://www.sudantribune.com/Washington-pledges-to-support,40819>

⁹³ “Libya vows to boost bilateral ties with Sudan”, *Sudan Tribune*, November 26, 2011, at <http://www.sudantribune.com/Libya-vows-to-boost-bilateral-ties,40832>

⁹⁴ “Sudan’s bid to join EAC quashed by Uganda & Tanzania”, *Sudan Tribune*, November 27, 2011, at <http://www.sudantribune.com/Sudan-s-bid-to-join-EAC-quashed-by,40840>

South Sudan

- **United States warns South Sudan on support to Sudan People Liberation Movement- North (SPLM-N); Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) admits South Sudan as a member state; South Sudan imports huge quantities of items through Mombasa port**

According to reports, during a visit by the White House Deputy National Security Adviser Denis McDonough to Juba and Khartoum, the United States warned that South Sudan must cease any support it provides to Sudan People Liberation Movement North (SPLM-N) that is currently engaged in fighting with Khartoum in the border states of Blue Nile and South Kordofan. Both states border South Sudan and their population largely fought alongside the south during Sudan's north-south second civil war during the period of 1983 to 2005.⁹⁵

Meanwhile, reports note that the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) officially admitted South Sudan as a member state. Following the IGAD Extraordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, the IGAD executive secretary Mahboub Maalim informed that the Republic of South Sudan has taken a pro-active measure for membership to IGAD, and their membership was approved by the summit. South Sudan embassy in Addis Ababa welcomed their admission and pledged the new nation would contribute positively to the east African region.⁹⁶

In another development, as South Sudan's Vice-President Riek Machar visited Mombasa Port, Kenya to acquaint with the facilities and operations of Kenya's Ports Authority, the authorities have revealed that South Sudan imported more than six million tons of items through the port of Mombasa. KPA revealed that South Sudan was third largest user of the port with the overall shipment amounted to 19.1 million tons. Further, KPA officials assured Machar that South Sudan shall continue to use Port Mombasa until the project of constructing a new port at Lamu in south-western Kenya is completed.⁹⁷

South Africa

- **South African National Assembly passes Protection of Information Bill; South African national kidnapped in Mali**

Reports noted that the South African National Assembly adopted the Protection of Information Bill by majority vote of 229 favouring it, two abstentions and 107 votes against it. All opposition parties present in the House voted against the measure, while hundreds of black-clad activists protested against it outside the gates of Parliament. The Bill was meant to replace a piece of apartheid-era legislation that governed the classification of state secrets. Kasrils sought to create legislation that would protect state secrets but also uphold the constitutional principal of transparent governance. It included a provision that would allow whistleblowers to leak information that was in the public interest without fear of reprisal.⁹⁸

⁹⁵ "US warns South Sudan on support to SPLM-N", *Sudan Tribune*, November 21, 2011, at <http://www.sudantribune.com/US-warns-South-Sudan-on-support-to,40796>

⁹⁶ "S. Sudan admitted to IGAD regional bloc", *Sudan Tribune*, November 25, 2011, at <http://www.sudantribune.com/S-Sudan-admitted-to-IGAD-regional,40827>

⁹⁷ "South Sudan imports 6.4 million tons of items through Kenya's port", *Sudan Tribune*, November 27, 2011, at <http://www.sudantribune.com/South-Sudan-imports-6-4-million,40838>

⁹⁸ "Black Tuesday: Secrecy Bill passed in Parliament", *Mail and Guardian*, November 22, 2011, at <http://mg.co.za/article/2011-11-22-black-tuesday-secrecy-bill-passed-by-parliament>

In other developments, South Africa's international relations department confirmed that a South African man had been abducted in Timbuktu, Mali. The department announced that it would render consular assistance for the man's family as well as investigate who was responsible.⁹⁹

Somalia

- **Explosion occurs outside al-Shabaab base in Afgoye; East African leaders urge Ethiopian support to fight al Shabaab; Deputy PM-led Turkish delegation arrives in Somalia; UN downgrades famine alert in three regions of Somalia; Fresh fighting starts in central Somalia**

According to reports, people have fled the Somali town of Afgoye after an explosion, which al-Shabaab insurgents said, was caused by a missile strike on one of its bases. Somali military officials said they were trying to find out what caused the blast. Regional news agencies reported that senior al-Shabaab commanders had been killed in the explosion, although it was not confirmed.¹⁰⁰

In another development, in a meeting by Ethiopian, Kenyan, Djiboutian and Somali leaders in Addis Ababa, East African leaders have urged Ethiopia to support Kenyan, African Union and Somali troops fighting Islamist al Shabaab rebels. Earlier, Ethiopian troops were reported to have crossed into neighbouring Somalia. However, Addis Ababa denied having deployed soldiers. Nevertheless, Ethiopia's Foreign Affairs spokesman Dina Mufti said his country's support could be "military, political, diplomatic or otherwise."¹⁰¹

Reports noted that a high level delegation from Turkey heading by the deputy Turkish Prime Minister Bekir Bozdog arrived in Mogadishu for talks with senior officials. The delegation was received in Mogadishu by the prime minister of Somalia Transitional federal government Abdiweli Mohamed Ali and members his cabinet ministers. Turkey has been in the forefront in the international effort to assist Somalia following the drought and the resultant famine that struck the south of the war-ravaged country.¹⁰²

According to reports, the United Nations Food Security Nutrition Analysis Unit lifted its "famine" designation for three regions of Bakool, Bay and Lower Shabelle in Somalia however, the humanitarian situation remains dire. Meanwhile, South Africa began airlifting 264 tons of Southern African Development Community (SADC) member states' food assistance to Mogadishu via Nairobi. In a statement released by South Africa's Department of International Relations and Cooperation, spokesman Clayson Monyela said, "Out of concern about the current situation in Somalia, SADC Member States, at the 31st Ordinary SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government in August 2011, passed the 'Declaration in Solidarity with the People and Government of Somalia on the Famine Situation Affecting the Country'."¹⁰³

⁹⁹ "South African and Swede kidnapped in Mali", *Mail and Guardian*, November 26, 2011, at <http://mg.co.za/article/2011-11-26-south-african-and-swede-kidnapped-in-mali/>

¹⁰⁰ "Scores flee al-Shabaab attack site", *Mail and Guardian*, November 21, 2011, at <http://mg.co.za/article/2011-11-21-scores-flee-alshabaab-attack-site/>

¹⁰¹ "Ethiopia Urged to Support Fight Against Shebab", *AllAfrica.com*, November 25, 2011, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201111251408.html>

¹⁰² "Turkish Deputy PM Arrives Somali Capital, Meets With TFG Officials", *AllAfrica.com*, November 26, 2011, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201111270105.html>

¹⁰³ "As Famine Begins to Abate, SADC Sends Food Aid to Mogadishu", *AllAfrica.com*, November 25, 2011, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201111250504.html>

In other developments, according to reports, heavy fighting with mortar shells between fighters loyal to Ahlu Sunna Waljama and Al-shabaab militants started in the town of Dhusa Mareb of Galgadud region in central Somalia. The battle began after Al-shabaab militants launched an ambush attack on Ahlu sunna Waljama base in Dhusa Mareb town, causing unspecified casualties on both warring sides and civilians in the area of the combat.¹⁰⁴

Cote D'Ivoire

- **European Union assures aid to Cote d'Ivoire despite economic crisis; UN envoy warns on sexual violence ahead of legislative elections**

The European Union president Herman Van Rompuy assured the visiting Ivorian President Alassane Ouattara that the EU would maintain aid to Cote d'Ivoire despite the current economic crisis. Trouble began in the country after former president Laurent Gbagbo refused to step down after an election defeat in November 2010, and ended with Ouattara's UN-backed victory in April 2011. Earlier, the EU committed 125 million euros to five projects to help re-launch the economy and reconcile the divided country.¹⁰⁵

In another development, after her meeting with top Government ministers, senior police officials, the chairman of the national truth and reconciliation commission and many survivors of sexual violence, Margot Wallstrom, the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict urged the Government and all political leaders in Cote d'Ivoire to speak out against the scourge and ensure it is not used to intimidate people ahead of critical legislative elections scheduled to take place in December 2011. She stressed that "much more" was needed to assist survivors of sexual violence in Cote d'Ivoire, particularly in ensuring they have access to justice and helping them reintegrating into society.¹⁰⁶

II. DEFENCE REVIEW

National

- **Navy to send pilots to Russia for training in operations of MiG-29K; Army successfully tests UAV' in the ongoing exercise 'Sudharshan Shakti'**

According to reports, the Indian Navy will be sending a team of 10 pilots to Russia for training in operations of MiG-29K fighter planes from the warship, ahead of the proposed induction of Admiral Gorshkov aircraft carrier by end of next year. India had signed a deal with Russia in 2004 for purchasing the carrier along with 16 MiG 29K's. As per the understanding between the two countries, a team of 10 pilots will be in Russia for around three months before the scheduled induction of Admiral Gorshkov in December next year. In India, such training will take place

¹⁰⁴ "Fresh Fighting Starts in Central Region", *AllAfrica.com*, November 25, 2011, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201111260067.html>

¹⁰⁵ "EU Vows Crisis Will Not Derail Aid for the Country", *AllAfrica.com*, November 23, 2011, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201111240090.html>

¹⁰⁶ "Ahead of Ivorian Legislative Polls, UN Envoy Warns On Sexual Violence", *AllAfrica.com*, November 26, 2011, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201111270031.html>

later at the naval air base, Hansa, in Goa. Naval pilots are already flying the MiG 29K's, several of which have already been commissioned at its base in Goa. The aircraft are carrying out shore-based operations and will continue to do so till the arrival of the carrier. India has also signed a contract with Russia for providing another 29 MiG 29K planes for its future requirements. All these aircraft would be deployed on the Russian-made warship.¹⁰⁷

Meanwhile, in a significant development, reports noted that the Indian Army has successfully used its military satellites and UAV's in the ongoing exercise 'Sudharshan Shakti' in the deserts of Rajasthan. A real-time picture and information of the war zone was provided to battlefield commanders with the use of India's hi-tech military & space assets. The aim of these high intensity war games is to validate and integrate the use of all available assets, including satellites and UAV's to assist commanders in taking dynamic and proactive operational action in a fluid battlefield situation. An important facet being validated is the real-time links between sensor and shooter which enables commanders to take instant decisions even as information is being shared among platforms and personnel to order the weapons to be deployed. Further, aerial assets provided by Indian Air Force (IAF) like Sukhoi-30 MKI fighter aircraft and AWACS have also been used to provide a real-time data of the war zones. A total of 60,000 troops and 300 tanks are participating in the massive desert exercise which has brought together all elements, including air power on one single platform. Apart from 120 artillery guns and an array of missiles and rockets, the exercise involves operation by aircraft such as Su-30 MKI, Jaguars, MiG-27 and MiG-21, AWACS and helicopters.¹⁰⁸

International

- **German company to build a major Army training center in Russia; Iraqi President Jalal Talabani; Iraq needs US troops for training**

Reports noted that the Düsseldorf-based German company Rheinmetall Group has signed a contract with the Russian Defense Department to build a major Army training center in Mulino by 2014. Upon completion, the facility in the Volga region will be able to train 30,000 troops a year, the company announced this on November 24. The company entered into a strategic partnership with Russian company JSCo Oboronservis, which will be the general contractor for the deal and subsequently operate the facility on behalf of the Russian armed forces. Rheinmetall Group expects the deal to generate revenue of more than 100 million euros (\$133.6 million), including further options.¹⁰⁹

In another development, Iraq President Jalal Talabani has said that Iraqi forces need an American troop presence. He said this in a statement on the Iraqi presidency's website according to a November 26. He stated, regarding "internal security, I believe that the police and army forces are capable of maintaining security as it is now...But there is a big problem in air and naval

¹⁰⁷ "Indian Navy Pilots To Go To Russia For Carrier-Based Training", *Defence News*, November 28, 2011, at <http://www.defencenews.in/defence-news-internal.asp?get=new&id=875>

¹⁰⁸ "UAV's Successfully Used In Army Exercise," *Defence News*, November 26, 2011, at <http://www.defencenews.in/defence-news-internal.asp?get=new&id=871>

¹⁰⁹ "Rheinmetall to Sell Training Facility to Russia", *Defence News*, November 25, 2011, at <http://www.defensenews.com/story.php?i=8366062&&s=TOP>

defense, and in using new weapons... I have read, as the president of the republic, reports from officers responsible for... the air force and the navy and armor and infantry... And all these reports found that Iraq needs an American presence or at least the presence of American trainers, because they say we are not capable now of defending our skies and our waters, nor to use the weapons we will buy or obtain from the Americans." Talabani said in an interview with Iraqiya television, according to the statement. It would be worth noting that U.S. President Barack Obama announced on October 21 that all U.S. troops would depart Iraq by the end of the year, bringing to a close an almost nine-year war that has left thousands of U.S. soldiers and tens of thousands of Iraqis dead, and cost hundreds of billions of dollars.¹¹⁰

III. INTERNAL SECURITY REVIEW

Jammu & Kashmir

- **Police claim decline in militancy in Jammu and Kashmir; President arrived in valley for three days visit; Clashes in city amid shutdown; Two injured in an explosion in Pattan in North Kashmir; A National Conference man and a territorial army personnel shot at**

Reports noted that there has been nearly 50 percent fall in militancy-related incidents this year in Jammu and Kashmir with no such activities taking place in three districts and thirteen others registering just single digit militancy cases. According to a senior police official, there was fall in militancy-related incidents from 336 in 2010 to 179 this year up to November 15. It shows nearly 50 percent dip. Of the 179 cases, Jammu witnessed 27 incidents and Kashmir 152. Attacks directed against security forces too saw a dip from 69 cases in 2010 to 36 up to November this year.¹¹¹

In another development, President Pratibha Devisingh Patil arrived on three-day visit to Jammu and Kashmir. Governor NN Vohra, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Director General of Police (DGP) Kuldeep Khoda, Divisional Commissioner Jammu Pawan Kotwal, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Jammu Dilbagh Singh and senior army officials accorded warm reception to the President at the Technical Airport Jammu.¹¹²

According to reports, a shutdown was observed in the valley on the call given by Hurriyat Conference (G) against the alleged detention of minors and political activists. Clashes erupted between protesting youth and security personnel in the old city after the former tried to take out a protest march. Police said it arrested 43 youth during and after the clashes.¹¹³

In other developments, reports noted that two persons were wounded in a grenade explosion at

¹¹⁰ "Iraq President Says U.S. Troops Needed for Training," AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, November 26, 2011, at <http://www.defensenews.com/story.php?i=8374024&&s=TOP>

¹¹¹ "50% decline in militancy: Police", Greater Kashmir, November 22, 2011 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2011/Nov/23/50-decline-in-militancy-police-44.asp>

¹¹² "President arrives on 3-day visit", Greater Kashmir, November 24, 2011 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2011/Nov/25/president-arrives-on-3-day-visit-59.asp>

¹¹³ "Clashes in city amidst shutdown", Greater Kashmir, November 25, 2011 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2011/Nov/26/clashes-in-city-amid-shutdown-65.asp>

Pattan in north Kashmir. Unknown persons hurled a grenade towards a cement store injuring two persons.¹¹⁴ While in another incident, four persons including a National Conference block president and a Territorial Army personnel were shot at and injured by unidentified gunmen.

North East India

- **Meghalaya launches operation to rescue abducted official, traders; Assam CM announces peace pact with the Karbi-Anglong based United People's Democratic Solidarity (UPDS); Centre confirms presence of North East ultra camps in Myanmar; Anti-talk ULFA faction announces a new 16 member committee; Three GNLA ultras held in Shillong; UPDS peace accord signed; PM likely to visit Manipur; Terror outfit busted by police in North Lakhimpur, Assam**

According to reports, security forces have launched an operation in western Meghalaya to rescue a state government official and two Assam-based traders abducted by Garo rebels. Heavily armed GNLA rebels had abducted the Block Development Officer (BDO) posted at Dadenggre and two traders from two areas of Meghalaya's West Garo Hills district. Combat Battalion for Resolute Action (COBRA) and Meghalaya's Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) commandos have been pressed in to service to rescue the hostages.¹¹⁵

Meanwhile, reports noted that Assam Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi said that the Karbi Anglong-based UPDS would sign a peace pact with the Centre on November 25. Gogoi pointed out that it is a good sign even though the other Karbi Anglong-based outfit, KLNLF, has not yet come forward.¹¹⁶

Reports noted that the Centre has formally confirmed that several separatists' outfits of North-East including outlawed ULFA, NDFB, and both factions of NSCN have camps in Sagaing Province, Chin and Kachin State of Myanmar. The use of Myanmar's territory by Indian insurgent groups for carrying out violence in North Eastern States has regularly been taken up at various levels.¹¹⁷

In another development, the hard line faction of the United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) announced its new 16 member central committee headed by Dr Abhijit Barman, who will be the acting chairman, while, the commander in chief Paresh Baruah will also be the acting vice chairman of the outfit. The hard line faction, in a release issued to the media announced the list of new central committee members but it refrained from divulging the identity of the new acting chairman. Paresh Baruah has got the additional responsibility and his rank in the outfit

¹¹⁴ "2 injured in Pattan explosion", *Greater Kashmir*, November 23, 2011 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2011/Nov/24/2-injured-in-pattan-explosion-59.asp>

¹¹⁵ "Meghalaya launches operation to rescue abducted official, traders", *The Assam Tribune*, November 22, 2011 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=nov2211/at014>

¹¹⁶ "Peace pact with UPDS on Nov 25: CM", *The Assam Tribune*, November 21, 2011 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=nov2211/at094>

¹¹⁷ "NE ultras have camps in Myanmar: Centre", *The Assam Tribune*, November 22, 2011 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=nov2311/at094>

has been upgraded from “colonel” to “Major General”. The outfit also revealed that the new committee was formed in the mobile military headquarter.¹¹⁸

However, according to reports, the Garo National Liberation Army (GNLA) received a setback after the police swooped down on three of its cadres, who were trying to strike an arms deal here for the outfit. Among those arrested were Jackuish A Sangma, a top aide of GNLA’s self-styled Commander-in-Chief Sohan D Shira, and two others – Bappun A Sangma and Harding M Marak. After interrogation, the police learnt that all the three were in the city to strike an arms deal with dealers from Nagaland. Based on the information, police managed to arrest three arms dealers.¹¹⁹

Reports noted that Karbi militant outfit United People’s Democratic Solidarity (UPDS) sealed an accord with the Centre and Assam Government, paving the way for restoration of peace in the troubled hill district. The Centre declared a package worth over Rs 2000 crore, while the new set-up would be rechristened as ‘Karbi Anglong Autonomous Territorial Council’. The outfit had flown in representatives of at least 50 organisations from Karbi Anglong. The tripartite Memorandum of Settlement (MoS) was signed in presence of Union Home Minister P Chidambaram and Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi. UPDS chairman Longsodar Senar, general secretary Haren Singh Bey and two joint secretaries, Kanjan Terang and Surya Rongphar, and self-styled C-in-C Anil Teron signed the accord, while State Home Secretary Jishnu Barua and Joint Secretary (NE) Shambhu Singh signed it on behalf of the State Government and the Centre respectively.¹²⁰

According to reports, Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh is likely to visit the blockade-hit Manipur on December 3. Dr Manmohan’s visit to Manipur for the third time after he became the Prime Minister comes close on the heels of Union Home Minister P Chidambaram’s fire-fighting mission to Manipur on November 2. The official reason of PM’s visit to the trouble-torn north-eastern border State is to inaugurate a City Convention Centre, Inter State Bus Terminus, the Assembly complex, a High Court building as part of the Capitol Project and National Institute of Technology followed by a public rally at Kangla fort complex in the afternoon of December 3.¹²¹

In other developments, Lakhimpur police busted a terror outfit at its nascent stage with several arrests and haul of arms and ammunition. The budding terror module named Assam Tribal Commando was busted in Chawul Dhowa Ghat area of eastern Lakhimpur district following intelligence report in a joint operation by Chawul Dhowa Ghat Police out Post and Bogenadi Police Station. The yet-to-be-surfaced Assam Tribal Commando planned to strengthen its organizational base by extortion from different districts of the State. The arrested persons of the outfit admitted buying weapons from arms market in Dimapur.¹²²

¹¹⁸ “Anti-talk ULFA names 16-member committee”, *The Assam Tribune*, November 23, 2011 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=nov2411/at06>

¹¹⁹ “3 GNLA ultras held in Shillong”, *The Assam Tribune*, November 24, 2011 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=nov2511/oth06>

¹²⁰ “UPDS peace accord signed”, *The Assam Tribune*, November 25, 2011 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=nov2611/at05>

¹²¹ “PM likely to visit Manipur on Dec 3”, *The Assam Tribune*, November 25, 2011 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=nov2611/oth05>

¹²² “Terror ‘outfit’ busted by police in North Lakhimpur”, *The Assam Tribune*, November 27, 2011 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=nov2811/state06>

IV. UNITED NATIONS (UN) REVIEW

- **India wins a seat in the Joint Inspection Unit of the UN; UN Security Council calls for a comprehensive international response to fight piracy; UN General Assembly calls for increased efforts in Afghanistan; Ukraine supports India's bid permanent membership in UNSC**

In a significant development, in the election to the United Nation's only external oversight body, the Joint Inspection Unit, India defeated China by a margin of 29 votes. India secured the five-year term post after a gap of 35 years. The significance of the vote, according to Indian diplomats is that for the first time, India challenged a post considered a pocket borough by a P-5 member and won.¹²³

Meanwhile, the Security Council condemned maritime piracy and armed robbery at sea off the Somali coast and called for a comprehensive international response to address the menace. The Council also recognized the need to investigate and prosecute the suspects arrested at sea as well as those who facilitate piracy. The Council also urged the member states to assist Somalia in strengthening its capacity to bring to justice those using the country to plan, facilitate or engage in acts of piracy and armed robbery at sea.¹²⁴

According to reports, in a resolution unanimously adopted, the UN General Assembly called for increased efforts in Afghanistan in the areas of security, justice and governance, social and economic development, reconciliation and integration, regional cooperation and strategic partnerships.¹²⁵

In other developments, Ukraine declared its support for India's bid for a permanent seat in the UN Security Council.¹²⁶

¹²³ "India pips China to key UN post", *The Times of India*, November 24, 2011 at http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2011-11-24/india/30437408_1_india-pips-china-key-un-post-indian-diplomats

¹²⁴ "Somalia: Security Council urges comprehensive global response to maritime piracy", *UN News Centre*, November 22, 2011 at <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=40478&Cr=somali&Cr1=>

¹²⁵ "Afghanistan: General Assembly calls for global support during transition period", *UN News Centre*, November 21, 2011 at <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=40472&Cr=afghanistan&Cr1=>

¹²⁶ "Ukraine backs India for UN permanent seat", *The Economic Times*, November 25, 2011 at http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2011-11-25/news/30441027_1_permanent-seat-permanent-membership-visa-pact