

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

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I. COUNTRY REVIEWS

A. South Asia

Afghanistan

- **Report: Karzai plans to stay in power even after 2014; Four Afghan children killed in bomb attack**

According to a report by the German daily Bild, Afghan President Hamid Karzai plans to try to stay in power after 2014, the end of his second and final mandate under the constitution. As a major international conference got under way in Bonn on the future of Afghanistan after NATO-led combat troops withdraw in 2014, Bild noted that Karzai was working on a “new organisation of the Afghan central government”, according to a special report by Germany’s BND foreign intelligence service.¹

In other developments, according to reports, four Afghan children and a woman were killed in a roadside bomb attack. This incident happened in Uruzgan province near Kandahar. It is suspected that Taliban had planted the bomb to fight NATO led international troops.²

Pakistan

- **Munter informs vacating of Shamsi airbase; US lawmaker Senator John McCain: Aid to Pakistan should be conditional to security cooperation; US still believes Pakistan has important role to play in Afghanistan; Twenty NATO trucks torched in Quetta**

In a significant development, according to reports, US ambassador to Pakistan Cameron Munter has said on December 5, that the United States is vacating an air base in Pakistan used by American drones, complying with a key demand made by Islamabad in retaliation for the NATO airstrikes that killed 24 Pakistani soldiers. Washington’s decision to leave the base shows how the NATO attacks on November 26 have plunged the already strained US-Pakistan relationship to an all-time low.³

In another development, according to reports, leading Republican Senator John McCain has said that any aid to Pakistan should be tied to its cooperation on matters relating to security. He also said that Pakistani intelligence continues to support a militant group that kills Americans. Hence, all kinds of aid given to Pakistan should be evaluated against degree of cooperation from Pakistan.⁴

¹ “Karzai will try to hold on to power beyond 2014: Report”, *Dawn*, December 5, 2011 at <http://www.dawn.com/2011/12/05/karzai-will-try-to-hold-on-to-power-beyond-2014-report.html>

² “Four Afghan children killed by roadside bomb: Police”, *Dawn*, December 5, 2011 at <http://www.dawn.com/2011/12/05/four-afghan-children-killed-by-roadside-bomb-police.html>

³ “US vacating Shamsi airbase, says Cameron Munter”, *Dawn*, December 5, 2011 at <http://www.dawn.com/2011/12/05/us-vacating-shamsi-air-base-says-cameron-munter.html>

⁴ “US lawmaker urges tying Pakistan aid to cooperation”, *Dawn*, December 4, 2011 at <http://www.dawn.com/2011/12/04/us-lawmaker-urges-tying-pakistan-aid-to-cooperation.html>

According to reports, even though Pakistan decided to boycott the Bonn Conference, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has said that Pakistan has a crucial role to play in stability in the region. The Pakistani authority had decided to pull out of the conference after the deadly attack on its troops weeks ago. Though, Pakistani Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani has assured cooperation and fight against terror in the region.⁵

In other developments, reports noted that in a rocket attack in Quetta, up to 20 trucks were torched in NATO trucking terminal. These trucks were carrying supplies to troops in Afghanistan. An official reported that unknown gunmen fired bullets and rockets into the parked oil tankers which blazed other vehicles nearby. Numbers of casualties are unknown. No group has claimed responsibility as of now.⁶

Bangladesh

- **Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina visits Myanmar and Indonesia; Canada will not extradite convicted killers of Bangabandhu**

Reports noted that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina visited Myanmar on December 5, 2011 on a three-day official visit. After that she went to Indonesia on December 7 to attend the fourth annual meeting of the Bali Democracy Forum and returned back to the country on December 9, 2011.⁷

In another development, according to reports, Canada will not extradite Nur Chowdhury, one of the convicted killers of Bangabandhu, as a Canadian policy does not approve sending back a person where there is provision of death sentence. This was reportedly conveyed by Canadian High Commissioner in Dhaka Heather Cruden to Foreign Minister Dipu Moni at a meeting in the foreign ministry on December 4, 2011.⁸

Sri Lanka

- **President Rajapaksa attends Democracy Forum at Bali; Qatari shows interest in participating in Sri Lanka's ongoing development activities; Indian cabinet approves reconstruction and repair of 49,000 houses for IDPs**

According to reports, President Rajapaksa visited Bali, Indonesia on December 7, 2011 to attend the Head of States' Democracy Forum organised by the Indonesian government.⁹ On the sidelines

⁵ "Pakistan still has crucial role to play: Clinton", *Dawn*, December 5, 2011 at <http://www.dawn.com/2011/12/05/pakistan-still-has-crucial-role-to-play-clinton.html>

⁶ "Twenty trucks torched in attack at NATO terminal in Quetta," *Dawn*, December 8, 2011 at <http://www.dawn.com/2011/12/08/twenty-trucks-torched-in-attack-at-nato-terminal-in-quetta.html>

⁷ "PM goes to Myanmar today: Rohingya issue to top agenda", *The Daily Star*, December 5, 2011 at <http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=212966>. "Hasina returns home", *The Daily Star*, December 10, 2011 at <http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=213513>. "Hasina leaves Bali for home", *The Daily Star*, December 9, 2011 at http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/latest_news.php?nid=34274.

⁸ "Canada won't extradite Nur: Envoy tells press after meeting FM", *The Daily Star*, December 5, 2011 at <http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=212967>.

of the Forum, Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono met President Mahinda Rajapaksa. The two leaders discussed ways to expand the already strong bilateral ties between the two countries in all sectors. President Rajapaksa appreciated the support Indonesia has given during at UNHRC and the United Nations and recalled with gratitude the assistance given by Indonesia to Sri Lanka's humanitarian Operation to defeat terrorism.¹⁰

In another development, according to reports, Qatar investors have shown keen interest in participating in Sri Lanka's on going development activities. This was indicated by Qatar Prime Minister Sheikh Hamad Bin Jassim Bin Jaber Al-Thani during a bilateral meeting with President Mahinda Rajapaksa on the sidelines to the Democracy Forum IV in Bali on December 8, 2011.¹¹

In other developments, reports noted that Indian cabinet has approved reconstruction and repair of 49,000 houses for internally displaced persons (IDPs) and for Indian-origin Tamils in Sri Lanka. According to an official press release, the decision will result in an expenditure of Sri Lankan Rs13.19bn.¹²

Maldives

- **Maldives Joins International Organisation for Migration (IOM); Maldives calls on the international community to “scale up” its efforts to protect civilians in Syria; Maritime Academy inaugurated in Maldives; President Nasheed: SAARC is important for harmonious life in South Asia; President Nasheed conveys sympathy message to Indian President on Kolkata fire**

According to reports, Maldives was admitted to the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) on December 5, 2011 which is considered as a significant step towards improving the welfare and lifestyle of migrant workers. The Maldives joined the IOM with thirteen other states during the 2011 IOM Council in Geneva, raising total membership to 146 nations from all global regions.¹³

In another development, the Maldives called on the international community to “scale up” its efforts to protect civilians in Syria. The Maldives Ambassador to UN offices in Geneva Iruthisham Adam made the statement at the UN emergency meeting convened by the Maldives, European Union, United States, and Arab League to discuss the human rights situation in Syria.¹⁴

⁹ “MR leaves to Bali”, *The Daily Mirror*, December 7, 2011 at <http://www.dailymirror.lk/news/15296-mr-leaves-to-bali.html>

¹⁰ “Indonesia’s fullest support to safeguard sovereignty of Sri Lanka- President Yudhoyono”, December 8, 2011 at http://www.priu.gov.lk/news_update/Current_Affairs/ca201112/20111208indonesia_s_fullest_support_to_safeguard_sovereignty.htm

¹¹ “Qatar keen to invest in SL”, *The Daily Mirror*, December 9, 2011 AT <http://www.dailymirror.lk/news/15343-qatar-keen-to-invest-in-sl.html>.

¹² “India approves repair of IDP houses in Lanka”, *The Daily Mirror*, December 5, 2011 at <http://www.dailymirror.lk/news/15243-india-approves-repair-of-idp-houses-in-lanka.html>.

¹³ Johnstone, Eleanor , “International Organisation for Migration admits Maldives in bid to improve worker welfare”, *Minivan News*, December 6, 2011 at <http://minivannews.com/politics/international-organisation-for-migration-admits-maldives-in-bid-to-improve-worker-welfare-29123>.

¹⁴ Nafiz, Ali, “Maldives calls for increased efforts to protect Syrian people”, *Haveeru Online*, December 5, 2011 at <http://www.haveeru.com.mv/news/39058>.

Reports noted that President Mohamed Nasheed inaugurated the Maritime Academy of Maldives, at the old Haa Dhaalu State House building in Kulhudhuffushi on December 6, 2011.¹⁵

According to reports, speaking at the ceremony held on the occasion of the 26th Charter Day of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, President Mohamed Nasheed has said that a harmonious life in the South Asian region would be difficult without SAARC.¹⁶

In other developments, President Mohamed Nasheed has sent a message of sympathy to President Pratibha Patil of India, following the loss of lives caused by the fire outbreak at AMRI hospital of Kolkata.¹⁷

B. East Asia

South East Asia

- **India's army chief visits Laos; Indonesia ratifies global ban on nuclear tests; Cambodia-US conduct joint military exercise; China starts joint Mekong river patrol; Cambodia inaugurates Kamchay hydropower project;**

According to reports, India's Chief of Army staff Gen. V.K. Singh on 7 December 2011 started his three-day visit to Laos. Gen Singh's visit is aimed at enhancing bilateral military cooperation between the two nations.¹⁸

In another development, reports noted that, Indonesia ratified the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, a global treaty banning nuclear test explosions on December 6, 2011. The move is welcomed by the United States. With the endorsement by Indonesia's parliament, the treaty is now only awaiting ratification from the United States, China, Egypt, India, Iran, Israel, North Korea and Pakistan.¹⁹

To further enhance bilateral defence relations, the royal Cambodian armed forces and the US marines begun another humanitarian assistance and disaster relief exercise on 12 December. The joint military exercise is being held in Phnom Penh and Sihanoukville. It will be completed by 18 December.²⁰

¹⁵ "President opens Maritime Academy of Maldives", *President's Office, Republic of Maldives*, December 6, 2011 at <http://www.presidencymaldives.gov.mv/Index.aspx?lid=11&dcid=6367>.

¹⁶ "President Nasheed: "It would be Difficult for South Asia to live in Harmony, without SAARC", *President's Office, Republic of Maldives*, December 8, 2011 at <http://www.presidencymaldives.gov.mv/Index.aspx?lid=11&dcid=6378>.

¹⁷ "President Sends Sympathy to the Indian President", *President's Office, Republic of Maldives*, December 11, 2011 at <http://www.presidencymaldives.gov.mv/Index.aspx?lid=11&dcid=6383>

¹⁸ Army Chief on three-day visit to Laos, *Zeen News*, 7 December 2011, http://zeenews.india.com/news/nation/army-chief-on-three-day-visit-to-laos_745872.html

¹⁹ Indonesia ratifies global ban on nuclear tests, *Yahoo News*, 7 December 2011, <http://ph.news.yahoo.com/indonesia-ratifies-global-ban-nuclear-tests-070911630.html>

²⁰ Cambodia, US start another joint exercise to boost military ties, *Bernama*, 12 December 2011, <http://www.bernama.com.my/bernama/v5/newsworld.php?id=633492>

In response to the rising security apprehensions for people, China along with Laos, Myanmar and Thailand has launched a joint police patrol along the Mekong river. According to reports, in recent years, extortion, robbery, drug smuggling and human trafficking have brought bloom to Mekong region. In that regard, the joint patrol is considered a big step by the habitants. The command office of the joint patrol police is based in Yunnan province.²¹

In other developments, in a significant step towards energy sufficiency, Cambodia's 193.2 MW Kamchay dam was officially put into operation on December 7, 2011. The Kamchay hydroelectric facility is one of five in a 915-MW, \$1.6 billion makeover that is being funded primarily by China.²²

China

- **China to launch satellite for Turkmenistan; China to issue first white paper on foreign trade**

According to reports, Beijing has announced that it will launch communication satellite for Turkmenistan with its Long March 3B carrier rocket in 2014.²³ Meanwhile on the domestic front, China has announced that it will issue a white paper on foreign trade to introduce its efforts to promote economic and trade cooperation with countries in the last three decades.²⁴

Japan

- **Costa Rica to work with Japan on renewable energy; Japanese Parliament approves nuclear pacts with four countries; Japan imposes fresh sanctions on Iran; Japan asks South Korean government to restrain the setting up of monument symbolizing 'comfort women'**

According to reports, during her recent five-day official visit to Tokyo, Costa Rican President Laura Chinchilla expressed eagerness to work with Japan on the development of renewable energy. While stating that Fukushima nuclear crisis has made Japan realize the necessity of diversifying its energy sources, Chinchilla claimed that Costa Rica which is currently able to generate 95% of its energy requirement from renewable energy (e.g., geothermal power) would be able to generate all its electricity from renewable energy sources by 2015.²⁵

²¹ China launches joint Mekong river patrol, *Xinhua*, 12 December 2011, http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/video/2011-12/11/c_131299963.htm

²² Cambodia's largest hydroelectric dam begins operation, *Siam Daily*, 9 December 2011, <http://www.siamdailynews.com/world-news/asia-news/2011/12/09/cambodias-largest-hydroelectric-dam-begins-operation/>

²³ "China to launch satellite for Turkmenistan" *China Daily*, December 6, 2011 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2011-12/06/content_14222631.htm

²⁴ "China to issue first white paper on foreign trade" *China Daily*, December 6, 2011 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2011-12/06/content_14222486.htm

²⁵ "Costa Rican president eager to work with Japan on renewable energy", *Mainichi Shimbun*, December 10, 2011, at <http://mdn.mainichi.jp/mdnnews/national/archive/news/2011/12/10/20111209p2g00m0dm160000c.html>

In another development on December 9, Japanese Parliament approved Japan's bilateral nuclear accord with four countries—Russia, South Korea, Vietnam and Jordan. As the four countries have already approved their pacts with Japan, these pacts will take effect as early as January 2012. These pacts are expected to help Japan to promote exports of civilian nuclear technology and to revive its domestic economy.²⁶ In the meantime, Japanese companies are hoping to export nuclear power plants to Jordan and Vietnam and reactor parts to South Korea. From Russia, Japan could acquire stable supply of nuclear reactor fuel.²⁷

Reports noted that with a view to pressurizing Iran further to give up its nuclear ambition, Japan has imposed a fresh set of sanctions on Iran. The Noda government has now directed to freeze assets of 106 institutions, one individual and three banks linked to Iran. With the latest sanctions, Japan will freeze the assets of total of 267 institutions, 66 individuals and 20 banks which could contribute to Iran's development of nuclear weapons. This is a significant development considering that only recently the US imposed additional sanctions on Iran and urged its allies to reduce their crude oil imports from Iran. However, Japan has not yet imposed any import restrictions on crude oil from the Islamic country.²⁸

According to reports, Japan has recently urged South Korean government to block a civic group's plan to erect a monument in front of the Japanese Embassy in Seoul to symbolize Korean 'Comfort women' who were forced to become sex slaves by Japanese military during Japanese colonial rule in Korea from 1910 to 1945. The Japanese government is of the view that such an action could cause negative impact on Japan-South Korea bilateral relationship.²⁹

In other developments, South Korea has welcomed Japan's step to hand over more than 1,200 volumes of ancient Korean archives that were seized and taken to Japan during the colonial period. While Japanese Foreign Minister Koichiro Gamba hoped that such a step could improve public sentiment in both the countries, South Korean ambassador to Japan Shin Kak Soo said that Japan's action marked an 'expression of repentance' for its colonial rule.³⁰

²⁶ "Japan's nuclear pact with 4 countries to take effect in January", Mainichi Shimbun, December 9, 2010, at <http://mdn.mainichi.jp/mdnnews/national/archive/news/2011/12/09/20111209p2a00m0na010000c.html>

²⁷ "Japan's parliament oks nuclear accords with four countries", Mainichi Shimbun, December 9, 2011, at <http://mdn.mainichi.jp/mdnnews/national/archive/news/2011/12/09/20111209p2g00m0dm154000c.html>

²⁸ "Japan slaps fresh sanctions on Iran over nuclear ambitions", Mainichi Shimbun, December 9, 2011, at <http://mdn.mainichi.jp/mdnnews/national/archive/news/2011/12/09/20111209p2g00m0dm029000c.html>

²⁹ "Japan asks South Korea to block monument plan by former wartime sex slaves", Mainichi Shimbun, December 9, 2011, at <http://mdn.mainichi.jp/mdnnews/national/archive/news/2011/12/09/20111209p2g00m0dm019000c.html>

³⁰ "S. Korea welcomes Japan's return of archives", Mainichi Shimbun, December 7, 2011, at <http://mdn.mainichi.jp/mdnnews/national/archive/news/2011/12/09/20111207p2g00m0dm029000c.html>

C. Central Asia & Russia

Central Asia

- **World Bank Report: Gender gap remains large in Central Asia; Estonian FM moots the idea of mission exchanges with Dushanbe; India to help Tajikistan modernize Varzob hydropower plant; IMF and WB release funds to Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan respectively**

According to reports, the World Bank recently released its report on “Opportunities for Men and Women: Emerging Europe and Central Asia” pointing that Central Asian region will advance more rapidly if women were given equal rights. The wage gap remains large in the region, with Tajikistan among the widest with 65 % calculated gender gap.³¹

In another development, according to reports, Estonia’s Foreign Minister Urmas Paet proposed establishing diplomatic missions with Tajikistan during talks with his Tajik counterpart Khamrokhon Zarifi. Talks between the two leaders were held on the sidelines of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Ministerial Council meeting in Vilnius, the Tajik foreign ministry said in a statement.³²

In the meanwhile, Britain opened its new embassy on December 8, 2011 in Kyrgyzstan, while the new ambassador Judith Farnworth is to take over the office in February 2012.³³ Also, the European Union will formally open its representative office in Tashkent this month wherein Norbert Josten, a Belgian, was appointed by EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton, to lead the body’s diplomatic mission to Uzbekistan.³⁴

In a related development, the Malaysian premier Najib Razak announced that his country will open its diplomatic mission in Ashgabat during Turkmen President Berdimuhamedov’s visit to Kuala Lumpur. They held talks on range of issues and President Berdimuhamedov agreed to consider possibility of Malaysian state-owned energy firm Petronas to construct new gas platforms in the Caspian Sea.³⁵

According to reports, India will help Tajikistan modernize the Varzob hydropower plant throughout 2012, after the Tajik parliament approved an agreement between the states last week. The agreement was originally inked in 2006 by both the sides.³⁶

³¹ “Gender equality key to rapid Central Asian growth, World Bank says”, *Universal Newswires*, December 08, 2011 at <http://www.universalnewswires.com/centralasia/viewstory.aspx?id=10887>

³² “Estonia proposes mission exchanges with Tajikistan”, *Universal Newswires*, December 09, 2011 at <http://www.universalnewswires.com/centralasia/viewstory.aspx?id=10900>

³³ “Britain opens new embassy in Kyrgyzstan”, *The Telegraph*, December 08, 2011 at <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/asia/kyrgyzstan/8943390/Britain-opens-new-embassy-in-Kyrgyzstan.html>

³⁴ “EU readies formal opening of Tashkent office”, *Universal Newswires*, December 09, 2011 at <http://www.universalnewswires.com/centralasia/viewstory.aspx?id=10898>

³⁵ “Malaysia to open diplomatic mission in Ashgabat”, *Universal Newswires*, December 07, 2011 at <http://www.universalnewswires.com/centralasia/turkmenistan/viewstory.aspx?id=10880>

³⁶ “India to aid Tajikistan in modernizing Varzob HPP”, *Universal Newswires*, December 07, 2011 at <http://www.universalnewswires.com/centralasia/tajikistan/viewstory.aspx?id=10881>

In another developmnet, according to reports, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) last week confirmed that it will release \$29.58 million to rebuild economy after the Kyrgyzstan's first performance review under an Extended Credit Facility arrangement established in June wherein it is slated to receive \$106 million to rebuild its economy as part of the arrangement.³⁷

In the meanwhile the Kyrgyz experts presented the economic regulation ministry with a strategy plan i. e., Concept of Industrial Development for 2012-2015 on ways to develop the country's industrial base over the coming four years.³⁸

Reports noted that Uzbekistan will get \$1.3 billion in World Bank (WB) funding to help raise it into a middle-income status economy wherein a four-year package of low-cost loans and credits will spur reforms aimed at encouraging competition and diversifying the economy, as part of WB's Country Partnership Strategy (CPS) between 2012 and 2015.³⁹

In other developmets, according to reports, Kyrgyz President Almazbek Atambaev has tasked the Social Democratic Party, his former party not to form a coalition in the parliament. He said that any new government should "first of all take into account the nation's interests...It will never do to organize some intrigues after signing any sort of agreements for just gaining powers, as it used to be before," Atambaev said in a presumed reference to the nepotism and personality-driven jockeying that followed the country's 2005 Tulip Revolution.⁴⁰

D. West Asia

Syria

- **Syria conditionally accepts observers; Syria's key role in joint Arab work stressed; France believes Syria was behind UNIFIL attack**

According to reports, Syria announced that it had conditionally accepted observers as part of an Arab plan. The Arab League, which has threatened to impose new sanctions on Damascus if it fails to comply with the plan for monitors, said it was considering the Syrian offer to allow them into the troubled country. Meanwhile, French oil company Total said it was suspending its operations in Syria in line with EU sanctions.⁴¹

³⁷ "IMF releases \$29M to Kyrgyzstan following positive review", *Universal Newswires*, December 08, 2011 at <http://www.universalnewswires.com/centralasia/viewstory.aspx?id=10892>

³⁸ "Kyrgyz experts draft industrial development plan", *Universal Newswires*, December 08, 2011 at <http://www.universalnewswires.com/centralasia/viewstory.aspx?id=10886>

³⁹ "World Bank gives \$1.3B to Uzbekistan to diversify economy", *Universal Newswires*, December 07, 2011 at <http://www.universalnewswires.com/centralasia/uzbekistan/viewstory.aspx?id=10879>

⁴⁰ "Kyrgyz President Tasks Former Party With Forming Coalition", *Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL)*, December 08, 2011 at http://www.rferl.org/content/kyrgyz_president_atambaev_tasks_former_party_with_forming_coalition/24415637.html

⁴¹ "Syria 'accepts' observers as 34 bodies dumped", *The Jordan Times*, December 6, 2011, at <http://www.jordantimes.com/index.php?news=44020>

On the other hand, Secretary-General of the Arab Economic Unity Council, Ambassador Mohammad al-Rabi stressed that Syria was a pioneer country in the domain of the joint Arab work and its absence would affect the system of this work. He also expressed the hope that security and stability would prevail in Syria. Further, he stressed the importance of drawing an economic map to achieve a qualitative leap that would upgrade the level of the Arab nation among other nations of the world.⁴²

In other developments, according to reports, in the third attack this year on United Nations forces deployed near the frontier with Israel, a roadside bomb wounded five French peacekeepers in southern Lebanon. France's Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said Paris believes Syria was behind attacks on its troops in Lebanon. Separately, France - with Britain, Germany and the United States - has been pushing for the UN Human Rights Council to take up the issue of Syria again. Paris is now pushing for the creation of humanitarian corridors to provide aid to the population.⁴³

Jordan

- **Jordan requests exclusion from Syria sanctions regime; Japanese-French reactor bid clears international legal hurdle; Riots erupt in Qatraneh area of southern district**

According to reports, during Arab League's meeting in Doha, Jordan has officially requested the Arab League's technical committee to exclude it from implementing Arab League sanctions on Syria to avoid possible damage to the Kingdom's interests. The committee also decided to decrease the number of flights to Syria by 50 per cent instead of halting them completely. Further, the committee was tasked to report to the Arab foreign ministers to discuss the recommendations of the committee.⁴⁴

Separately, a Japanese-French bid to build Jordan's first reactor cleared an international legal hurdle as nuclear officials agree on their selection of a nuclear technology vendor. The Japanese parliament approved a cooperation accord with the Kingdom, paving the way for the export of nuclear technology to Jordan, a major legal hurdle to a bid by a joint consortium comprising Japanese firm Mitsubishi Heavy Industries and French firm AREVA. In addition to the Japanese-French consortium, the atomic energy commission is currently weighing bids from Canada's AECL and Russia's AtomStory Export to construct a Generation III 1,100-megawatt reactor by the end of the decade.⁴⁵

In other developments, according to reports, protesting against what they claim as their lands allegedly sold to investors by authorities, the Hajaya tribesmen blocked the Desert Highway, prompting the intervention of the security forces, which clashed with the demonstrators and reopened the vital road after hours of closure. According to Public Security Department

⁴² "Secretary-General of the Arab Economic Unity Council: Syria Key Country in Joint Arab Work", *Syrian Arab News Agency*, December 8, 2011, at <http://www.sana.sy/eng/22/2011/12/08/386967.htm>

⁴³ "Syria behind UNIFIL attack - France", *The Jordan Times*, December 12, 2011, at <http://www.jordantimes.com/index.php?news=44193>

⁴⁴ "Jordan requests exclusion from Syria sanctions regime", *The Jordan Times*, December 6, 2011, at <http://www.jordantimes.com/index.php?news=44016>

⁴⁵ "Japanese-French reactor bid clears legal hurdle", *The Jordan Times*, December 7, 2011, at <http://www.jordantimes.com/index.php?news=44041>

Spokesman Lt. Colonel Mohammad Khatib, the demonstration by members of the Hajaya tribe living in the Qatraneh area, 90km south of Amman, demanded their lands allegedly sold to investors.⁴⁶

Israel

- **Israel approves new Jewish enclave in East Jerusalem; UN renews demand that Israel comply with international legitimacy resolutions on occupied Golan; Israel approves border fencing to block migrants from Africa**

According to reports, Israel approved construction of a new Jewish enclave in the heart of a Palestinian neighbourhood of annexed East Jerusalem. The 14-home project, to be named Maale David, was approved by the Jerusalem city council's planning committee and was likely to spark fresh international condemnation of Israel's settlements policy. It is to be sited in the Arab neighbourhood of Ras Al Amud, near an existing Jewish settlement of 1,000 people.⁴⁷

In another development, reports noted that during the adoption of a draft resolution entitled 'the Occupied Syrian Golan' by the UN General Assembly, the UN renewed its demand that the Israeli authorities comply with the international legitimacy resolutions, particularly the Security Council Resolution No. 497 for 1981 which considers Israel's decision to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the occupied Syrian Golan as null and void and without international legal effect. Israel also demanded to stop imposing the Israeli nationality and the Israeli ID cards on the Syrian citizens in the occupied Golan and to halt its suppressive measures taken against the Syrian people in the Golan. 163 countries voted in favour of the resolution, while only Israel voted against it and the US, Canada and nine other countries abstained.⁴⁸

In other developments, according to the office of Israel's Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, the Cabinet approved a \$160-million programme designed to block the flow of illegal African migrants into Israel. The plan called for speeding up construction to complete a border fence with Egypt within next year. The programme also involved the construction and expansion of detention facilities to hold the illegal migrants.⁴⁹

Palestine

- **Palestine vows to continue UN membership bid; Jordan and Palestine renewed commitment on peace process; Arab League's silence over Israeli crimes against Palestinians criticized**

According to reports, during a meeting with US envoy Jeffrey Feltman in Ramallah, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas vowed that the Palestinian initiative for full membership at the

⁴⁶ "Riots continue in southern district, mediating MP injured", *The Jordan Times*, December 11, 2011, at <http://www.jordantimes.com/index.php?news=44171>

⁴⁷ "Israel OKs settler homes in Jerusalem Arab area - TV", *The Jordan Times*, December 9, 2011, at <http://www.jordantimes.com/index.php?news=44126>

⁴⁸ "UN Renews Demand that Israel Comply with Resolutions Related to Occupied Golan", *Syrian Arab News Agency*, December 11, 2011, at <http://www.sana.sy/eng/22/2011/12/11/387286.htm>

⁴⁹ "Israel-Egypt border fence to block migrants and militants", *Mail & Guardian Online*, December 11, 2011, at <http://mg.co.za/article/2011-12-11-israeleypt-border-fence-to-block-migrants-and-militants/>

United Nations would continue. On the other hand, the United States and Israel insist that only an Israeli-Palestinian accord can lead to the creation of a Palestinian state. However, Abbas reiterated that in order to resume negotiations with Israel, it must “stop settlement activity and ensure the acceptance of the principle of two states” based on 1967 borders.⁵⁰

Separately, Jordan King Abdullah and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas renewed their commitment to continued coordination over regional developments and issues of mutual concern, particularly the peace process. During their meeting, the Jordan King reiterated Jordan’s support for the Palestinian Authority and the Palestinian people to regain their legitimate rights in liberation and an independent state on the Palestinian soil within the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital. On his part, Abbas appreciated the King for his “endless support” for the Palestinians who aspire to end the occupation, in addition to his efforts to free tax revenues belonging to the Palestinian Authority that were withheld by Israel.⁵¹

In other developments, reports noted that the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine - General Command denounced the silence of the Arab League over the Israeli crimes committed against the Palestinian people, while the League punishes the Syrian people. The Front said that the lack of official political will to confront the Israeli aggression against Palestinians in the Arab League was a blatant expression of the League’s complete subservience to Israeli-US dictations.⁵²

E. Africa

Egypt

- **Amnesty International calls for effective arms trade treaty; Egypt’s new prime minister Kamal Al Ganzouri: Egypt’s army to give new PM extra powers; Egypt rights groups decides to fight police, military violations; President and members of Advisory Council elected**

According to reports, in light of Egyptian security forces’ use of foreign-made teargas and other ammunition, Amnesty International called for enforcing an effective global Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). The United States’ supply of ammunition to Egypt’s security forces prompted Amnesty’s call for munitions use to be included among the conventional arms regulated by the treaty.⁵³

⁵⁰ “Palestinian UN membership bid continues – Abbas”, *The Jordan Times*, December 6, 2011, at <http://www.jordantimes.com/index.php?news=44021>

⁵¹ “King, Abbas coordinate positions on peace process”, *The Jordan Times*, December 9, 2011, at <http://www.jordantimes.com/index.php?news=44119>

⁵² “Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine - General Command: Arab League Remains Silent Over Israeli Crimes against Palestinians Yet It Punishes Syrian People”, *Syrian Arab News Agency*, December 11, 2011, at <http://www.sana.sy/eng/22/2011/12/11/387629.htm>

⁵³ “Amnesty calls for arms trade treaty in wake of Egypt’s use of US-made teargas”, *The Daily News Egypt*, December 7, 2011, at <http://www.thedailynewsegypt.com/human-a-civil-rights/amnesty-calls-for-arms-trade-treaty-in-wake-of-egypts-use-of-us-made-teargas-dp2.html>

In another development, according to reports, after critics have accused the military of failing to give the last Cabinet enough clout, Egypt's new prime minister Kamal Al Ganzouri said that the ruling army would grant him presidential powers except those concerning the judiciary and armed forces.⁵⁴

According to reports, five Egyptian human rights organisations decided to withdraw from a global campaign for women's rights, instead directing their efforts into fighting violations by the police and military forces in light of clashes that took place in November 2011. Nazra for Feminist Studies, the Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights, the New Woman Foundation, El-Nadeem Center for Rehabilitation of Victims of Violence and the Women and Memory Forum have planned 16-day activities under the theme "Militarism and Ending Violence against Women."⁵⁵

In other developments, according to reports, former Minister of Information Mansour Hassan was elected President of the Advisory Council formed by Egypt's military council. Sameh Ashour, head of the Lawyers' Syndicate, and Abul Ela Mady, head of Al-Wasat Party, were chosen as his deputies. The council was established based on a decree issued by the military ruler to assist the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces (SCAF) in governing the country until a new president is elected by the end of June 2012. Its role is completely consultative, while final decisions would be left to SCAF.⁵⁶

Libya

- **Libya rejects US claim on Iran supplying weapons to Gaddafi regime; Libya prepares to disarm former militias; Libya sets deadline for armed groups to hand in their weapons**

According to reports, Chairman of Libya's National Transitional Council, Mustafa Abdul-Jalil denied allegations by US officials that Iran had supplied the Gaddafi regime with weapons. Jalil was also reported to have said that Washington has so far failed to back up the claim that Iran had provided the former regime with hundreds of special artillery shells for chemical weapons, with concrete evidence or genuine documents. Meanwhile, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of Iran's Armed Forces, Major General Hassan Firouzabadi has also rejected the claim.⁵⁷

Separately, following talks with visiting Australian Foreign Minister Kevin Rudd, Prime Minister Abdel Rahim Al-Kib accepted that the issue of disarming former rebels who fought Gaddafi forces was "more complex" than it appears. However, he hoped these militias would be

⁵⁴ "Egypt's army to give new PM extra powers – agency", *The Jordan Times*, December 7, 2011, at <http://www.jordantimes.com/index.php?news=44053>

⁵⁵ "Egypt rights groups withdraw from global campaign to fight police, military violations", *The Daily News Egypt*, December 8, 2011, at <http://www.thedailynewsegypt.com/human-a-civil-rights/egypt-rights-groups-withdraw-from-global-campaign-fight-police-military-violations.html>

⁵⁶ "Mansour Hassan president of Advisory Council, Ashour and Mady deputies", *The Daily News Egypt*, December 11, 2011, at <http://www.thedailynewsegypt.com/egypt/mansour-hassan-president-of-advisory-council-ashour-and-mady-deputies.html>

⁵⁷ "Libya Rejects US Claim Iran Supplied Weapons to Former Regime", *The Tripoli Post*, December 7, 2011, at <http://www.tripolipost.com/articleDetail.asp?c=1&i=7446>

demilitarized soon. Al-Kib said his government was holding talks with militias with a view to disarm them and has “solid and detailed programs” to rehabilitate these former rebels.⁵⁸

In other developments, according to reports, in a first step towards making the Libyan capital a safe place for its residents and visitors, the interim rulers gave the armed militias a deadline, saying that the armed residents must hand in their weapons to the authorities before year’s end. The order was made by Abdel-Rafik Bu Hajar, the head of the Tripoli local council, who further demanded that all non-Tripoli brigades in the city must leave by December 20 and that the Tripoli brigade itself would dissolve at the end of the month.⁵⁹

Nigeria

- **Scores die in explosion in Kaduna; Ex-militants seek implementation of amnesty deal; Police and robbers clash in Kogi state; Europe and U.S. may ban Nigerian cargoes over new screening rule**

According to reports, soon after northern leaders ended their two-day discussions in Kaduna on how to ensure that peace reigns in the north, an explosion in the city killed at least eight persons including a pregnant woman and her two children and injured several others. The police authorities said the explosion had resulted from a gas cylinder, but eyewitnesses categorically stated that the explosion occurred when two men threw a bomb into the area. No one has claimed responsibility for it.⁶⁰

Separately, the North-South highway connected by the River-Niger-Murtala Muhammed Bridge along Lokoja-Abuja Road was blocked by suspected former Niger Delta militants, causing a major disturbance to vehicular traffic. The former militants were intercepted by the police on their way to Abuja to protest alleged non-implementation of the agreement reached between them and the Federal Government as part of the amnesty deal. Consequently, they have issued a four-day ultimatum to the government to implement the amnesty agreement or risk their going back to violence.⁶¹

Reports noted that in a renewed onslaught, armed robbers killed four policemen in Okene area of Kogi State and flew away with their AK 47 rifles. But in a reprisal attack, the Okene Police Command raided the bandits’ hide out and razed it, killing a civilian in the process. The State’s Police Public Relations Officer Ajayi Okasomi confirmed the incident and said steps had been taken to track down the robbers. He explained that the 10 AK 47 recovered was a major breakthrough in the effort of the Police to ensure security in the state.⁶²

⁵⁸ “Disarming Libya militias a ‘complex issue’, says PM”, *The Daily News Egypt*, December 8, 2011, at <http://www.thedailynewsegypt.com/region/disarming-libya-militias-a-complex-issue-says-pm.html>

⁵⁹ “Libyan Authorities Set Deadline for Armed Groups to Hand in their Weapons”, *The Tripoli Post*, December 8, 2011, at <http://www.tripolipost.com/articledetail.asp?c=1&i=7452>

⁶⁰ “Eight Die As Explosion Rocks Kaduna”, *AllAfrica.com*, December 8, 2011, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201112081164.html>

⁶¹ “Ex-militants seize Abuja-Lokoja road, seek part in amnesty deal”, *The Guardian*, December 9, 2011, at http://www.ngrguardiannews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=70232:ex-militants-seize-abuja-lokoja-road-seek-part-in-amnesty-deal-&catid=1:national&Itemid=559

⁶² “Five feared killed as police, robbers clash in Kogi”, *The Guardian*, December 9, 2011, at http://www.ngrguardiannews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=70199:five-feared-killed-as-police-robbers-clash-in-kogi&catid=1:national&Itemid=559

In other developments, according to reports, Nigeria risks the rejection of cargoes from the country to Europe and the United States as there were indications that it is yet to comply with the European Civil Aviation Commission deadline to shift from single view screening machines to the dual view devices. From 2012, all airports in the United Kingdom will insist on cargo being screened from more than one view.⁶³

South Sudan

- **South Sudan petitions UNSC over Sudan's military aggression; UN warns of war between Sudan and South Sudan; Tony Blair assures South Sudan of UK support; Rebels threaten to capture Jonglei's capital**

According to reports, the government of South Sudan launched an official petition to the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), demanding immediate withdrawal of Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) from parts of the south. In the complaint, the call for immediate release of southern soldiers was also addressed which have been allegedly taken as prisoners. An appeal for Khartoum to cease all forms of aggression likely to trigger a return to war was also made in the petition.⁶⁴

Reports noted that Hervé Ladsous, Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, warned that Sudan and South Sudan could go to war over the disputes related to the secession of the south and military conflicts on the border region. Though South Sudan seceded from Sudan officially, a number of contentious post-secession issues have yet to be agreed on particularly Abyei, border demarcation, oil and splitting national debt.⁶⁵

In another development, according to reports, former British Prime Minister Tony Blair pledged his country's commitment towards addressing South Sudan's post-independence challenges, and assured the latter of full support of the international community. Blair held meetings with Nhial Deng Nhial, the country's foreign minister, and South Sudan's president Salva Kiir and said his mission was to extend the spirit of the Blair Commission for Africa; a charity organisation established by the British government to examine and provide impetus for development in Africa.⁶⁶

In other developments, reports noted that George Athor Deng, leader of a South Sudanese rebel group, threatened to capture Bor, the capital of Jonglei state if an agreement is not reached with the Sudan People Liberation Movement (SPLM) before the end of 2011. Athor had already vowed

⁶³ "Europe, U.S. may ban Nigerian cargoes over new rule", *The Guardian*, December 12, 2011, at http://www.nguardiannews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=70563:europe-us-may-ban-nigerianncargoes-over-new-rulenn&catid=1:national&Itemid=559

⁶⁴ "S. Sudan petitions Security Council over Sudan's military aggression", *Sudan Tribune*, December 07, 2011, at <http://www.sudantribune.com/S-Sudan-petitions-Security-Council,40923>

⁶⁵ "UN warns of war between Sudan and South Sudan", *Sudan Tribune*, December 8, 2011, at <http://www.sudantribune.com/UN-warns-of-war-between-Sudan-and,40943>

⁶⁶ "Ex-British premier assures S. Sudan of UK support", *Sudan Tribune*, December 10, 2011, at <http://www.sudantribune.com/Ex-British-premier-assures-S-Sudan,40960>

more violence after the failure of secret talks with the South Sudan government in Nairobi last November, saying Juba was not willing to reach peace.⁶⁷

South Africa

- **South Africa calls for practical adaptation actions; Campaign to save police lease into high gear; Al-Qaeda claims responsibility for Mali kidnappings; Zuma criticizes NATO's campaign in Libya**

According to reports, at the opening of the high level segment of the 17th Conference of the Parties (COP17) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, South African President Jacob Zuma said the world needs to move away from analysing and studying climate change to identifying practical adaptation actions. Listing issues that needed to be addressed, Zuma said the world had to start implementing actions on the ground. He also told delegates that there was a need for countries to rise above their national interests, no matter how difficult.⁶⁸

In another development, according to reports, the campaign to save Roux Shabangu's controversial R614-million Pretoria police headquarters lease moved into high gear. However, aspects of the government-backed effort to validate the lease call into question procurement practices at the department of public works.⁶⁹

According to reports, North Africa's local branch of al-Qaeda denied it has kidnapped three foreign aid workers in Algeria, but confirmed it was behind the kidnappings of a Dutch, Swedish and South African national in Mali. The group said it was focusing its efforts against French and Malian interests and had nothing to do with the October kidnapping of Spanish and Italian aid workers in southern Algeria. The kidnappings were carried out in revenge for Malian attacks against members of al-Qaeda, as well as France's aggression in the Sahel region.⁷⁰

In other developments, according to reports, South African President Jacob Zuma complained that NATO's campaign in Libya left a scar on the continent that would take time to heal. Zuma was part of a high-level African Union (AU) panel that failed to mediate a ceasefire in Libya. He criticized that developed countries with their own national agendas hijacked a genuine democratic protest by the people of Libya, to further their regime change agendas.⁷¹

Somalia

- **Al Shabaab discusses a host of issues in Baidoa meeting; Kenyan troops join AU Mission**

⁶⁷ "Athor's S. Sudan rebels threaten to capture Jonglei's capital", *Sudan Tribune*, December 11, 2011, at <http://www.sudantribune.com/Athor-s-S-Sudan-rebels-threaten-to,40965>

⁶⁸ "Zuma calls for decisive climate action", *Mail & Guardian Online*, December 6, 2011, at <http://mg.co.za/article/2011-12-06-zuma-calls-for-decisive-climate-action/>

⁶⁹ "Concerted campaign to keep police lease", *Mail & Guardian Online*, December 9, 2011, at <http://mg.co.za/article/2011-12-09-concerted-campaign-to-keep-police-lease>

⁷⁰ "Al-Qaeda claims responsibility for Mali kidnappings", *Mail & Guardian Online*, December 9, 2011, at <http://mg.co.za/article/2011-12-09-alqaeda-responsible-for-mali-kidnappings/>

⁷¹ "Zuma blasts Nato's campaign in Libya for 'lasting scar'", *Mail & Guardian Online*, December 10, 2011, at <http://mg.co.za/article/2011-12-10-zuma-blasts-natos-campaign-in-libya-for-lasting-scar/>

in Somalia; Heavy fighting broke out in Mogadishu; Sixty Al-shabab militants killed in fighter jet bombing in the Gedo region

According to reports, Al Shabaab members meeting was held in Baidoa city of southern Somalia where many prominent members of the outfit including Sheik Hassan Dahir Aweys met with other members to discuss changing the group's name. They also discussed the banning of alcohol, cigarettes and drugs in the provinces controlled by Al Shabaab. Members also discussed increasing the fight against Transitional Federal Government (TFG) troops, AMISOM peacekeepers, Kenyan troops, and even forces of Puntland State of Somalia.⁷²

In another development, reports noted that following the unanimous vote in Parliament authorising the Kenya Defence Forces currently fighting Al-Shabaab militants in Somalia to serve under the African Union Mission in Somalia, Kenyan soldiers have become part of the United Nations-sponsored African Mission in Somalia. Kenya joined the force at the invitation of the African Union.⁷³ At the same time, Kenya's military operation in Somalia has received crucial backing from the United Nations with the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon saying the war against Al-Shabaab militia was necessary to restore peace and stability in the war-torn country and the region.⁷⁴

Meanwhile, reports noted that heavy fighting between Somalia's interim federal government backed by African union peace keeping troops and Al-shabab militants broke out in parts of capital Mogadishu. The fighting erupted in Mogadishu's Karan and Hilwa districts and neighbouring outskirts between Islamist insurgents and pro-government forces, causing unidentified damages and casualties.⁷⁵

In other developments, reports noted that an unidentified fighter jet bombed the district of Bardhere in the Gedo region, an Islamist militant controlled region in southern Somalia, killing at least two civilians.⁷⁶ Later, the military officials for the Somali interim federal government said that at least sixty Al-shabab militants were killed in the raid. Lieutenant colonel Adan Hirse Mohamed Rufle, one of Somali government troop officials in Gedo region, noted that a number of military vehicles belonging to Al-shabab were destroyed during the air raid. However, Al-shabab has not yet made any comments about the Somali government claims, but tensions of fighting run high in Bardhere town, which borders Kenya.⁷⁷

⁷² "Somalia - Al Shabaab Wants a New Name", *AllAfrica.com*, December 7, 2011, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201112081183.html>

⁷³ "Kenyan Troops Join AU Mission", *AllAfrica.com*, December 7, 2011, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201112080118.html>

⁷⁴ "Operation in Somalia Gets UN Nod", *AllAfrica.com*, December 8, 2011, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201112090067.html>

⁷⁵ "Heavy Fighting Flares Up in Somali Capital", *AllAfrica.com*, December 8, 2011, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201112090013.html>

⁷⁶ "Fighter Jet Bombs an Islamist Militant Held Town in Southern Somalia", *AllAfrica.com*, December 8, 2011, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201112090015.html>

⁷⁷ "60 Al-Shabab Killed in Air Strike By Fighter Jet - Officials", *AllAfrica.com*, December 9, 2011, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201112090211.html>

Cote D'Ivoire

- **Parliamentary elections held in Cote d'Ivoire; ECOWAS announced deployment of election observers to Cote d'Ivoire; Bert Koenders expressed concern over pre-election violence**

According to reports, Côte d'Ivoire awaited results from its first parliamentary election for a decade, with officials saying a boycott by the opposition had done little to disrupt voting in the country recovering from a crippling civil war. The election was boycotted by the party of former president Laurent Gbagbo, who is in The Hague facing war crimes charges, over allegations of unfair treatment of his supporters. Despite some incidents, voting proceeded normally. Election officials expect most of the results would be known by December 13.⁷⁸

In another development, according to reports, the President of the ECOWAS Commission, Ambassador James Victor Gbeho, had earlier announced that the commission would deploy 60 election observers to Cote d'Ivoire to oversee the legislative election of December 11. The observers, led by the President of the High Court of Justice of the Republic of Benin Theodore Holo, are being sent on the request of the government of Cote d'Ivoire and in pursuance of the provisions of the ECOWAS Supplementary Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance (2001).⁷⁹

In a related development, days before Ivorians go to the polls to vote in crucial parliamentary elections, Bert Koenders, the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Côte d'Ivoire, had expressed concern over a series of violent incidents provoked by armed men surrounding some of the candidates. Further, Koenders called on the country's political parties and wider population to ensure that the election is held in a peaceful environment.⁸⁰

II. DEFENCE REVIEW

National

- **Ceasefire violation by Pakistan along the LoC in Kashmir Valley; DRDO achieves yet another milestone**

According to reports, Pakistani troops fired at Indian posts in Karnah area of Kupwara district, violating the ceasefire along the Line of Control. The Pakistani troops opened fire at on December 4, towards Indian posts located close to civilian areas in Karnah area. The Indian Army retaliated the firing with small weapons and the exchange lasted several minutes. This is the first ceasefire violation by Pakistani troops along the LoC in Kashmir Valley in the past three months. Pakistani

⁷⁸ "Ivorians tally votes after peaceful parliamentary elections", *Mail & Guardian Online*, December 12, 2011, at <http://mg.co.za/article/2011-12-12-ivorians-tally-votes-after-peaceful-parliamentary-elections>

⁷⁹ "ECOWAS to Deploy 60 Election Observers", *AllAfrica.com*, December 6, 2011, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201112060255.html>

⁸⁰ "UN Envoy Voices Concern about Violent Pre-Election Incidents", *AllAfrica.com*, December 8, 2011, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201112090702.html>

troops had violated ceasefire several times during August and September, resulting in the death of an Indian Junior Commissioned Officer and three Pakistani soldiers.⁸¹

In another development, the first flight of indigenously developed AEW&C took place at Sao Jose dos Campos in Brazil with about 1000 mission system components provided by Bangalore-based DRDO lab, The Centre for Airborne Systems (CABS). V K Saraswat, the DRDO chief, in his message after the successful first test-flight of the AEW&C, said, "The flight is a major milestone towards realising the dream of indigenous Airborne Early Warning and Control system, which will put India into a select club of countries." The delivery of these aircraft with fully integrated mission control system is expected to take place by the end of 2013. The systems developed by DRDO are being integrated on specially designed Embraer aircraft with capability of tracking airborne objects in all directions.⁸²

International

● Pakistan's PM warns US and its NATO allies over future cross border attack; Lockheed Martin signs F-35 Joint Strike Fighters contract with the US military

According to reports, Pakistan's Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani warned the U.S. and its NATO allies that any future cross-border attack would meet with a "detrimental response". Gilani made these comments while meeting army chief of staff Gen. Ashfaq Kayani, the Prime Minister's secretariat said in a statement. According to the statement, Gilani stated, "The democratic government would not allow similar attack on the country's sovereignty and any attempt in future will definitely meet the detrimental response,". Meanwhile, Pakistani security officials earlier said they had upgraded the air defense system on the Afghan border to make it capable of shooting down aircraft. "The government and the people of Pakistan were ready to provide the armed forces all the necessary resources to bolster its defense and professional capabilities," Gilani said. The government also ordered the United States to leave the Shamsi air base in the southwest, widely reported to be a hub in the covert CIA drone war against the Taliban and al-Qaida in Pakistan's border area with Afghanistan. U.S.-Pakistani relations plunged to a new low last month after a cross-border NATO air strike which killed 24 Pakistani soldiers.⁸³

Meanwhile, Lockheed Martin has signed an undefinitized contract that establishes a price ceiling for the fifth low rate production lot for the F-35 Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter. The Pentagon awarded Lockheed Martin an undefinitized contract to produce 30 more F-35 Joint Strike Fighters for the U.S. Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps. "Lockheed Martin has signed an undefinitized contract that establishes the funding for Lot 5 up to the level announced by the DoD today," said Lockheed Martin spokeswoman Laurie Quincy in an email. "The final Lot 5 contract amount will not be known until we have a definitized contract sometime in 201," she said in a statement.

⁸¹ "Pakistan violates ceasefire, fires at Indian posts in Karnah," PTI, December 5, 2011, at http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2011-12-05/india/30477407_1_indian-posts-first-ceasefire-violation-pakistani-troops

⁸² "DRDO successfully conducts maiden flight of AEW&C," the Economic Times, December 07, 2011, at <http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/articleshow/11018915.cms>

⁸³ "Pakistan Warns of 'Detrimental Response' to Attacks," AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, December 09, 2011, at <http://www.defensenews.com/story.php?i=8524669&&s=TOP>

Broken down by service, two-thirds of the value of the contract - \$2.65 billion - is for the Air Force; \$937 million, or 23 percent, for the Navy; and \$426 million, or nearly 11 percent, for the Marine Corps. The contract also provides for “associated ancillary mission equipment and flight test instrumentation” for the planes, and flight test instrumentation for the United Kingdom.⁸⁴

III. UNITED NATIONS (UN) REVIEW

- **UN Secretary-General welcomes the Durban Platform; India’s CAG elected to UN panel of external auditors; UNSC condemns terrorist attacks in Kabul; UN Security Council places additional sanctions on Eritrea; India calls for ‘growth promoting’ policies; Proposal for UN Parliamentary Assembly; Australia supports India’s permanent seat bid to UNSC; Security Council condemns attacks against UNIFIL peacekeepers**

Reports noted that UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon welcomed the set of decisions reached by countries at this year’s UN Climate Change Conference in Durban and said that this agreement will define how the international community will address climate change in the coming years. 194 parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) agreed on a package of decisions called the Durban Platform which includes the launch of a legal instrument that would apply to all members, a second commitment period for the Kyoto Protocol and the launch of the Green Climate Fund.⁸⁵

In another development, the Comptroller and Auditor-General (CAG) of India, Vinod Rai has been elected the chairman of the panel of external auditors of the United Nations. The CAG Director-General, Jagbans Singh has also been elected as chairman of the technical group of the panel.⁸⁶

According to reports, the UN Security Council strongly condemned terrorist attacks in Kabul and Mazar-i-Sharif that led to numerous deaths and injuries among Afghan civilians. The Council also reaffirmed that any acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable.⁸⁷

Meanwhile, the UNSC placed additional sanctions on Eritrea for continuing its support for the armed groups that seek to destabilize Somalia and other parts of the Horn of Africa. China and Russia abstained from voting on the resolution.⁸⁸

⁸⁴ “Lockheed: Pentagon Order for F-35s Undefined,” December 09, 2011, at <http://www.defensenews.com/story.php?i=8526289&&s=TOP>

⁸⁵ “Secretary-General welcomes climate change deal reached at UN conference in Durban”, *UN News Centre*, December 11, 2011 at <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=40695&Cr=climate+change&Cr1=>

⁸⁶ “CAG Vinod Rai elected U.N. external audit panel chief”, *The Hindu*, December 08, 2011 at <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/article2698994.ece>

⁸⁷ “Security Council condemns ‘heinous’ attacks on Afghan civilians”, *UN News Centre*, December 07, 2011 at <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=40655&Cr=afghan&Cr1=>

⁸⁸ “Security Council expands sanctions on Eritrea over support for armed groups”, *UN News Centre*, December 05, 2011 at <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=40628&Cr=eritrea&Cr1=>

According to reports, at the UN General Assembly session on Financing for Development, India's representative to the UN, Hardeep S Puri said that countries should pursue 'growth promoting' policies to strengthen global economic recovery. In this regard, countries should work not only towards financial inclusion and progressive tax policies but also strengthen and democratize international tax cooperation and policy making.⁸⁹

In the interim, 40 Indian parliamentarians have backed a proposal for a UN Parliamentary Assembly that will comprise member nations' legislators which will eventually lead to direct election of the UN parliament members by citizens worldwide. Though the idea of a global parliament has a long history, it gained momentum in the last four years with the launch of the Campaign for the Establishment of a United Nations Parliamentary Assembly in 2007. Over 600 members of parliament from over 90 countries have backed the proposal.⁹⁰

In other developments, Australia is among one of the latest countries to have extended support to India's claim for a permanent seat in an expanded UN Security Council.⁹¹

According to reports, the Security Council condemned attacks against five UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) peacekeepers and called on all parties to abide scrupulously by their obligation to respect the safety of UNIFIL and other UN personnel.⁹²

⁸⁹ "India advocates growth promoting policies for economic recovery", *The Economic Times*, December 10, 2011 at http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2011-12-10/news/30502166_1_sustainable-development-economic-recovery-growth-targets

⁹⁰ "MPs back idea for UN parliament", *The Economic Times*, December 10, 2011 at http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2011-12-10/news/30502207_1_ela-bhatt-world-parliament-proposal

⁹¹ "Australia supports India's claim for permanent seat in UNSC", *Hindustan Times*, December 13, 2011 at <http://www.hindustantimes.com/India-news/NewDelhi/Australia-supports-India-s-claim-for-permanent-seat-in-UNSC/Article1-779481.aspx>

⁹² "In Lebanon, UN deplors targeted explosion that injures five peacekeepers", *UN News Centre*, December 09, 2011 at <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=40676&Cr=Lebanon&Cr1=>