

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

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	IN THIS ISSUE	PAGE
	A. SOUTH ASIA	3-4
COUNTRY REVIEWS	B. EAST ASIA	4-5
	C. WEST ASIA	5-6

1. COUNTRY REVIEW

A. SOUTH ASIA

PAKISTAN

- **US NSA and CIA Director urge Pakistan to “do more” in the war on terror; 22 people killed in targeted killings in Karachi; Zardari, Gilani, and Kayani: North Waziristan operation the “prerogative and discretion” of Pakistan; 32 Taliban militants killed in aerial strikes in Orakzai; Pak budget deficit for 2010-11 worth Rs. 703 billion**

The visiting US National Security Adviser James Jones met with Pakistan President Asif Zardari in Islamabad on May 19 and pledged cooperation in the fight against militancy. CIA Director Leon Panetta, US Ambassador to Pakistan Anne Patterson were also present at the meeting.¹ The status of the progress on security cooperation and the impact of the failed bombing attempt at New York’s Times Square were among issues discussed. Reports also noted that Jones and Panetta were in Pakistan to convey President Obama’s message to Pakistan to “do more” in the war on terror by shedding its obsession with India.”²

22 people, mainly activists belonging to political groups such as the Muhajir Qaumi Movement-Pakistan, the Awami National Party (ANP), the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM), and the Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) were killed in Karachi on May 19.³

Over 30 Taliban militants were killed and 18 injured in aerial strikes in Orakzai on May 16. 10 militant hideouts were reportedly destroyed in the strikes. On the other side, in Dabori 10 militant were reported killed and several injured by helicopter gunship.⁴ President Zardari, PM Gilani and Army Chief Qayani affirmed that there would be no external power interference in the ongoing operations in North Waziristan and the “prerogative and discretion” rests entirely with Pakistan.⁵

In other developments, after a meeting of the Economic Advisory Council (EAC) and Revenue Advisory Council (RAC) on May 23 chaired by the Advisor (finance and revenue) to PM Gilani, it was reported that Pakistan’s budget deficit

¹ ‘Pakistan, US vow to step up efforts against terrorism’, *Daily Times*, May 20, 2010 at http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2010\05\20\story_20-5-2010_pg1_1

² Saeed Minhas, ‘Top Obama aides arrive to push Pakistan over NY plot’, *Daily Times*, May 19, 2010 at http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2010\05\19\story_19-5-2010_pg1_2

³ ‘22 die in Karachi target killings’, *The News*, May 20, 2010 at http://www.thenews.com.pk/arc_default.asp?arc_date=5/20/2010

⁴ Syed Hassan Mahmood, ‘32 Taliban killed in Orakzai air strike, clashes’, *Dawn*, May 17, 2010 at <http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/dawn-content-library/dawn/the-newspaper/front-page/32-taliban-killed-in-orakzai-air-strike%2C-clashes-750>

⁵ ‘Operation in NWA to be decided only by Pakistan: troika’, *The News*, May 22, 2010 at http://www.thenews.com.pk/arc_default.asp?arc_date=5/22/2010

for the fiscal year 2010-11 worth Rs. 703 billion would be covered by internal and external loans.⁶

B. EAST ASIA

SOUTHEAST ASIA

- **Thai PM emphasizes the need to implement the five-point reconciliation plan; Seven Red Shirt leaders surrender on May 19; Malaysia and Indonesia resolve to further strengthen bilateral relationship; Malaysia and Thailand conclude joint exercises 'Seaex Thamal'**

Thai Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva during his first televised address to the country after the April 19 turmoil on May 21 emphasized the need to implement the five-point roadmap of reconciliation.⁷ Fresh wave of violence broke out in Bangkok immediately after the surrender of 7 UDD leaders' on May 19. UDD protesters set fire to a shopping mall and a number of government offices in the area.⁸

Meanwhile, ousted premier Thaksin Shinawatra urged the UN to intervene in the ongoing crisis so that a sincere and genuine dialogue between the government and Red Shirts could be possible.⁹ He urged both the parties to refrain from indulging in further bloodshed and resolve their political disputes through talks.¹⁰ The Thai government on its part made it clear that any negotiations with the Red Shirts would be possible only if the latter stopped instigating violence and surrendered to the authorities.¹¹

Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak and Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono met in Putrajaya in Malaysia and pledged to strengthen their security cooperation to deal with trans-border crimes and terrorism. The need to create new mechanisms to strengthen intelligence sharing, particularly in the financial sector, was stressed. They also renewed their commitment to resolve outstanding maritime border issues.¹² Among the

⁶ 'Budget deficit estimated at Rs 703bn for 2010-11', *Daily Times*, May 23, 2010 at http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2010\05\23\story_23-5-2010_pg1_5

⁷ 'PM vows reconciliation, rehabilitation', *Bangkok Post*, May 21, 2010 at <http://www.bangkokpost.com/breakingnews/178703/pm-pledges-to-push-for-reconciliation-and-rehabilitation>

⁸ 'Bangkok burns after Thai protest leaders arrested', *The Jakarta Post*, May 19, 2010 at <http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2010/05/19/bangkok-burns-after-thai-protest-leaders-arrested.html>

⁹ 'Thaksin calls on UN intervention', *Bangkok Post*, May 17, 2010 at <http://www.bangkokpost.com/breakingnews/178170/thaksin-calls-for-un-intervention>

¹⁰ 'Thaksin calls on govt, red shirts to start talks', *Bangkok Post*, May 17, 2010 at <http://www.bangkokpost.com/breakingnews/178220/thaksin-calls-on-govt-reds-to-start-talks>

¹¹ 'Talks will happen if leaders end rally', *Bangkok Post*, May 17, 2010 at <http://www.bangkokpost.com/breakingnews/178225/talks-will-happen-if-leaders-end-rally>

¹² 'Najib-Susilo Inaugural meeting opens up new chapter in bilateral ties', *Bernama.com*, May 19, 2010 at <http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v5/newsindex.php?id=499601>

significant strategic goals included in the joint statement included the protection of rights of Malaysian employers and Indonesian domestic workers; increase in air connectivity; conclusion of a MoU on fisheries cooperation; the facilitation of cross border education; and renewal of the MoU on tourism cooperation.¹³

Thailand and Malaysia concluded the 'Seaex Thamal' joint exercises designed to improve security patrols in their respective territorial waters. The exercise involved 263 personnel and eight vessels from the Royal Malaysian Navy, the Malaysian Marine Operations Force, the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency, and the Thai Navy.¹⁴

C. WEST ASIA

IRAN

- **New draft sanctions resolution on Iran submitted by P5**

The US submitted a draft resolution intending to expand UN sanctions against Iran for refusing to halt its nuclear enrichment programme. The new resolution has provisions that can hurt Iran's banking industry among others. The 10-page draft was agreed upon by the UN Security Council permanent members after months of negotiations. The draft of the new resolution was circulated to the 15-member UNSC in the immediate aftermath of the deal brokered by Brazil and Turkey on May 17, 2010 in which Iran agreed to send some enriched uranium abroad in return for fuel rods for a medical research reactor.¹⁵

IRAQ

- **Plans to build three new airport terminals in Kerbala, Najaf and Hilla announced; Car bomb kills 30 in Diyala province**

Iraqi Civil Aviation Authority (ICAA) Director General Adnin Blebil announced that the government was planning to add three new terminals, each capable of handling 2.5 million passengers per year. These would be built in the three provinces of Kerbala, Najaf and Hilla, which are home to some of Shi'ite Islam's holiest shrines. After years of sanctions and war, Iraq plans to spend billions of dollars of investment to rebuild and expand infrastructure and facilitate economic growth.¹⁶

A car bomb in the town of Khalis in Diyala province killed over 30 people. Earlier in May, multiple attacks killed more than 100 people. The situation in the

¹³ 'Malaysia-Indonesia to intensify efforts to realize strategic Goals', *Bernama.com*, May 18, 2010 at <http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v5/newsindex.php?id=499215>

¹⁴ 'Malaysia, Thailand hold Joint Sea Exercise', *Bernama.com*, May 18, 2010 at <http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v5/newsindex.php?id=499134>

¹⁵ 'Big powers agree on Iran sanctions draft', *Khaleej Times*, May 19, 2010 at http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle09.asp?xfile=data/middleeast/2010/May/middleeast_May318.xml§ion=middleeast

¹⁶ 'Iraq plans to double Baghdad airport capacity', *Khaleej Times*, May 19, 2010 at http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle08.asp?xfile=data/middleeast/2010/May/middleeast_May316.xml§ion=middleeast

country remained tense in the aftermath of parliamentary elections in March, with no bloc having been able to secure a majority.¹⁷

¹⁷ 'Iraqi car bomb toll in Diyala rises to 30', *BBC News*, May 22, 2010 at http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/world/middle_east/10141868.stm