

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

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I. COUNTRY REVIEWS

A. South Asia

Bangladesh

- **Foreign Minister Dipu Moni visits Kazakhstan, Lithuania and the United Kingdom; Indian Prime Minister's comment on Bangladesh sparks criticism; India to export rice to Bangladesh; 53 Indian nationals released from Satkhira Jail; TIP 2011 Report: Bangladesh blamed for non-compliance with the minimum standards to eliminate trafficking**

Reports noted that Bangladesh Foreign Minister Dipu Moni commenced a three-nation – Kazakhstan, Lithuania and the United Kingdom – tour on June 26 to attend various international events, including Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) meeting.¹

In another development, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's comments on Bangladesh during an interaction with editors of five newspapers, which was posted on the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and Press Information Bureau's (PIB) websites on June 29 have sparked criticism in Bangladesh. Meanwhile, the Indian High Commission in Dhaka clarified that the remarks were by no means intended to be judgmental and transcripts of PM's remarks on Bangladesh were removed from the websites of the Prime Minister's Office.²

According to reports, India has finally offered to export two lakh tonnes of parboiled rice to Bangladesh as part of its earlier commitment. The Indian government had committed to supply five lakh tonnes of rice under state-to-state arrangement last year, but the exports have been delayed due to price negotiations. Each tonne of rice has been priced at \$547.³

Reportedly, at least 53 Indian nationals, held from different districts on various charges, including smuggling and trespass were released from Satkhira Jail on June 30, immediately after court ruling.⁴

¹ "FM starts 3-nation tour", *The Daily Star*, June 27, 2011 at <http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=191686>.

² "Teesta Water Sharing: Manmohan for practical solution", *The Daily Star*, July 1, 2011 at <http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=192330>; "Manmohan's remarks spark resentment", *The Daily Star*, July 2, 2011 at <http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=192504>; "Manmohan's ISI remarks erased from govt website", *The Daily Star*, July 3, 2011 at <http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=192622>.

³ "India offers to export rice to Bangladesh", *The Daily Star*, July 1, 2011 at <http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=192341>.

⁴ "53 Indian nationals released from Satkhira Jail", *The Daily Star*, July 1, 2011 at <http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=192369>

In other developments, for the third consecutive year, Bangladesh was placed at Tier 2 Watch List in the US State Department's annual Human Trafficking in Persons (TIP) 2011 report, which blamed Bangladesh for non-compliance with the minimum standards to eliminate trafficking.⁵

Sri Lanka

- **India-Sri Lanka began their first Army to Army staff talks; International elements were trying to divide Sri Lanka in order to influence India: Sri Lankan PM; 23 Indian fishermen released; Indian PM requested to intervene in fulfilling the aspirations of Tamils of Indian Origin in Sri Lanka; Pakistan sponsors construction of the state-of-the-art school in Sri Lanka; CIDA to facilitate implementation of the national languages project in Sri Lanka**

Reports noted that India and Sri Lanka began their first Army-to-Army staff talks on June 29 to bolster bilateral military cooperation with joint exercises and training programmes.⁶ Meanwhile, Prime Minister D. M. Jayaratne said on June 27 that some international elements were trying to divide Sri Lanka in order to influence neighbouring India.⁷

In another development, the twenty three Indian fishermen arrested by the Sri Lankan Navy on June 20 were handed over to the Indian Coast Guard on June 30.⁸ Earlier, Sri Lankan Government MP Praba Ganesan who expressed fears that Tamils of Indian Origin would be marginalized in the process of finding a solution to the national issue, has requested Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to intervene in fulfilling their aspirations.⁹

According to reports, the Government of Pakistan has sponsored the construction of a 3 storied state-of-the-art school in the Gampaha district of Sri Lanka to support the education sector developmental drive of Sri Lanka. The total project cost for the construction of the school is estimated at Rs. 49.2 million, out of which the Government of Pakistan is providing a partial fund of Rs. 14 million as a grant through the Pakistan High Commission in Colombo.¹⁰

In other developments, an MoU was signed between Sri Lanka and Canada under which Canadian

⁵ "US State Department Report on Human Trafficking: Bangladesh again blamed for non-compliance", *The Daily Star*, July 1, 2011 at <http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=192277>.

⁶ "India, Lanka hold first Army-to-Army staff talks", *The Daily Mirror*, July 1, 2011 at <http://print.dailymirror.lk/news/news/48726.html>

⁷ "Int'l elements want to influence India-PM", *The Daily Mirror*, June 28, 2011 at <http://print.dailymirror.lk/news/front-page-news/48381.html>

⁸ "23 Indian fishermen to be released today", *The Daily Mirror*, June 30, 2011 at <http://print.dailymirror.lk/news/news/48620.html>

⁹ "Ganeshan asks Indian PM to speak for Indian Tamils", *The Daily Mirror*, June 28, 2011 at <http://print.dailymirror.lk/news/news/48354.html>

¹⁰ "Pakistan govt. sponsor art school in Gampaha", *The Daily Mirror*, July 2, 2011 at <http://print.dailymirror.lk/news/news/48820.html>

International Development Agency (CIDA) will facilitate the implementing of the National Languages Project (NLP) in Sri Lanka.¹¹

Maldives

- **Sri Lankan police in co-ordination with Maldivian Police commences investigations into a Sri Lanka-Maldives drug trafficking network; Maldives to observe election in Thailand**

According to reports, Sri Lankan police in co-ordination with Maldivian police has commenced investigations into a large scale drug trafficking network which is operated in Sri Lanka and Maldives.¹² In another development, a delegation of the Maldives Elections Commission went to Thailand to observe the election scheduled to be held in the country on July 3.¹³

B. Central Asia & Russia

Central Asia

- **Chinese second west-to-east gas pipeline begins pumping Turkmen gas; Russia's Itera to drill oil and gas in western Turkmenistan; CPC pipeline starts expansion work; Kazakhstan and Areva plan to ramp up uranium output; Kazakhstan, Russia, and Belarus abolish internal customs borders; Kazakh and Russian soldiers participate in joint military exercises against cruise missile attacks; Kazakhstan takes over chairmanship of the OIC; Kyrgyzstan presidential elections to be held on October 30, 2011; Sudanese president refused over-flight rights over Central Asia**

According to reports, China opened the trunk line of the world's longest natural gas pipeline that links supergiant reserves in Turkmenistan with customers across southern China. The 5,400-mile pipeline will transmit as much as 1 trillion cubic feet of Turkmen gas a year by June 2012. This is China's second west-to-east gas pipeline that sources Central Asia fuel.¹⁴ Meanwhile, Reports noted that Russian energy producer Itera has set its sights on drilling the first oil and gas wells in western Turkmenistan next year as part of a \$6 billion plan for the Central Asian republic. It has already finished the first phase of geochemical exploration at Block 21 of its Caspian shelf prospect.¹⁵

¹¹ "Canada to facilitate implement of NLP", *The Daily Mirror*, June 29, 2011 at <http://print.dailymirror.lk/news/news/48484.html>.

¹² "Lankan authorities to crackdown on Sri Lanka-Maldives drug network", *Haveeru*, June 30, 2011 at <http://www.haveeru.com.mv/english/details/37071>

¹³ "Maldivian officials to observe Thai polls", *Haveeru*, June 30, 2011 at <http://www.haveeru.com.mv/english/>

¹⁴ "Chinese pipeline begins pumping Turkmen gas", *Central Asia Newswire*, July 01, 2011 at <http://centralasianewswire.com/Energy/Chinese-pipeline-begins-pumping-Turkmen-gas/viewstory.aspx?id=4360>

¹⁵ "Russia's Itera to drill in Turkmenistan as part of \$6B investment", *Central Asia Newswire*, June 30, 2011 at <http://centralasianewswire.com/Energy/Russiarsquo-Itera-to-drill-in-Turkmenistan-as-part-of-6B-investment/viewstory.aspx?id=4356>

In another development, the Caspian Pipeline Consortium (CPC) has started the expansion works that will double the export potential of the 10-year-old pipeline. Consortium partners held a symbolic pipe-welding ceremony at the Chevron-led Tengiz oil field in Western Kazakhstan to launch the project.¹⁶ While, KATCO, a venture between Kazakh state-owned nuclear holding company Kazatomprom and French nuclear group Areva, aims to finish an expansion program next year that will allow it to boost capacity from planned output of 3,500 tons in 2011 to 4,000 tons in 2012. KATCO has spent \$550 million so far in developing the Muyunkum and Tortkuduk mines.¹⁷

Reports noted that Kazakhstan, Russia, and Belarus abolished their internal customs borders on 1st July, moving their Customs Union closer to full economic integration. With this the trilateral group has transferred all customs procedures to their outer borders, except for control over migration. The next integration measure would be creating a common economic space that will provide for the free movement of goods, services, labor, and capital.¹⁸

According to reports, more than 3,000 Kazakh and Russian soldiers are participating in joint military exercises in Kazakhstan wherein for the first time the focus will be on repelling a cruise missile attack. The war games “Shygys-2011” (East-2011) being held in eastern Kazakhstan until the end of June is using around 1,500 air and land military items. The defense strategy uses a layered system of interception composed of three waves of aircraft deployed from different airbases around the vast country to intercept the cruise missiles.¹⁹

In another development in the region, meeting of Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) was held on June 28 in Kazakh capital Astana, wherein discussions were held on current events in regions related to the global Muslim grouping including new name and emblem among other matters. Participants at the 37th session reviewed progress report on initiatives taken within the policy decided at the Islamic Summit of leaders.²⁰ Kazakhstan’s assumed the rotating one-year chairmanship of the OIC in this meet. In his speech to OIC delegates President Nursultan Nazarbayev called upon the 57-member state grouping to unite and take action on aid and

¹⁶ “Tengiz oil group marks start of export pipeline expansion”, *Central Asia Newswire*, July 01, 2011 at <http://centralasianewswire.com/Energy/Tengiz-oil-group-marks-start-of-export-pipeline-expansion/viewstory.aspx?id=4359>

¹⁷ “Kazakh-French venture to boost uranium output”, *Central Asia Newswire*, June 28, 2011 at <http://centralasianewswire.com/Energy/Kazakh-French-venture-to-boost-uranium-output/viewstory.aspx?id=4340>

¹⁸ “Customs Union opens internal borders”, *Central Asia Newswire*, July 01, 2011 at <http://centralasianewswire.com/Kazakhstan/Customs-Union-opens-internal-borders/viewstory.aspx?id=4357>

¹⁹ “Kazakhs, Russians in war games against cruise missile attacks”, *Central Asia Newswire*, June 27, 2011 at <http://centralasianewswire.com/Kazakhstan/Kazakhs-Russians-in-war-games-against-cruise-missile-attacks/viewstory.aspx?id=4335>

²⁰ “OIC meeting kicks-off Tuesday with plans to discuss new name, emblem”, *Central Asia Newswire*, June 28, 2011 at <http://centralasianewswire.com/Kazakhstan/OIC-meeting-kicks-off-Tuesday-with-plans-to-discuss-new-name-emblem/viewstory.aspx?id=4343>

development. He also called upon the member states to make the OIC the United Nations of the Muslim world and generate new ideas. He stressed the fact that the Islamic community desperately needed peace, modernization, scientific and technological development, and education.²¹

Reports noted that Kyrgyz parliamentary deputies voted on 30th June to hold presidential elections on October 30. The elections will complete constitutional reforms begun in 2010 toward creating Central Asia's first parliamentary democracy. President Roza Otunbayeva has led the volatile republic since April 2010 when President Kurmanbek Bakiev was ousted in a bloody coup.²²

In other developments, Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir arrived in Beijing in the last week of June after being forced to reschedule meetings with top Chinese officials when his aircraft was turned back by Central Asian authorities. Tajikistan refused on the grounds that military war games taking place in the same airspace would put the Sudanese president at risk. Turkmenistan warned that weather turbulence over its territory risked the safety of the airplane. The refusal by these two Central Asian countries was blamed on US pressure by the Sudanese government. Bashir is wanted by the International Criminal Court (ICC) for allegedly authorizing genocide and war crimes in the Darfur region in western Sudan.²³

Russia

- **President Medvedev calls for state assets sell off; Russia-NATO council meet to focus on Libya; Russia to build nuclear aircraft carrier by 2023; Bank of Moscow gets a US\$14billion bailout; France introduces five year visas with Russia; Russia resumes electricity supply to Belarus after payment of dues; Ukraine hopes for a revision of gas deal with Russia in July; Russia to showcase new stealth corvette; Russian oil output falls to 10.2 million barrels a day in June 2011; Russian stocks reach a two month high as Medvedev lifts trade limits; Gazprom seeks gas sales in Asia to diversify from Europe; Russia eyes nuclear power exports to Germany; Algeria may pay US\$ 700 million for Russian warships**

According to reports, Russia's President Dmitry Medvedev has ordered his cabinet to prepare a schedule to sell its controlling stakes in some key state companies. Medvedev made the call in a budgetary address, saying the sell-off of state assets must be one of the government's priorities in the coming years. The role of the state in managing economic assets should be significantly lowered," he said. "The government should determine a schedule for privatization of big stakes in the state-controlled companies. The state should diminish its share to below the controlling

²¹ 'Nazarbayev calls on OIC to become Muslim UN', *Central Asia Newswire*, June 29, 2011 at <http://centralasianewswire.com/Kazakhstan/Nazarbayev-calls-on-OIC-to-become-Muslim-UN/viewstory.aspx?id=4349>

²² 'Kyrgyzstan sets presidential elections for Oct 30', *Central Asia Newswire*, July 01, 2011 at <http://centralasianewswire.com/Kyrgyzstan/Kyrgyzstan-sets-presidential-elections-for-Oct-30/viewstory.aspx?id=4362>

²³ 'Tajikistan, Turkmenistan refuse Sudanese president overflight rights', *Central Asia Newswire*, June 30, 2011 at <http://centralasianewswire.com/Tajikistan/Tajikistan-Turkmenistan-refuse-Sudanese-president-overflight-rights/viewstory.aspx?id=4355>

stake level or should give up all such shareholding, if necessary.” Medvedev said the privatization of state assets would attract more foreign investment and encourage competition.²⁴

Meanwhile, reports noted that the Libya crisis will be top of the agenda at the Russia-NATO Council meeting on July 4. NATO chief Anders Fogh Rasmussen will meet with Russian President Dmitry Medvedev as part of the council meeting in Russia’s Black Sea resort of Sochi. “The sole possibility of stabilizing the situation in Libya is an immediate ceasefire and the start of talks between the internal Libyan participants in the conflict with the support of, but not interference, from outside,” the Kremlin said. “Special responsibility in the search for a political-diplomatic solution to the crisis lies with regional organizations, above all the African Union, and the UN secretary general’s special envoy.” Russia will also discuss with the alliance the agreements made during the NATO-Russia Council summit in Lisbon in November 2010 on the European missile shield cooperation. The NATO-Russia Council was established in 2002. It provides bilateral cooperation and consultations on current security problems, including the fight against terrorism, Afghanistan cooperation, missile defense, and non-proliferation of weapons.²⁵

According to reports, the head of Russia’s United Shipbuilding Corporation has said that Russia will complete construction of its first nuclear powered aircraft carrier by 2023. “We will start designing the Russian aircraft carrier in 2016, so that by 2018 we can start construction,” company head Roman Trotsenko said. He also said that as the construction period was likely to be five years, the carrier would be put into service in 2023.²⁶

In the largest bailout in modern Russian history, Bank of Moscow, the country’s fifth-largest bank, will receive up to \$14 billion in state-backed loans after the discovery that almost a third of the bank’s assets are “problematic,” the Central Bank said. Revelations about the extent of the crisis at Bank of Moscow were released after a review by the Central Bank, a little more than two months after its president Andrei Borodin was ousted during a hostile takeover by state-backed lender VTB and fled to London in the face of criminal proceedings. Bank of Moscow, which serves some 100,000 corporate clients and 9 million private customers through 381 offices, said in a statement that the bailout money would be invested in “reliable financial instruments, including Russian state securities.”²⁷

According to reports, France and Russia have announced that they would introduce five-year multiple-entry visas by the end of this year. After a meeting with Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, visiting French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe confirmed France’s decision to cancel short-term

²⁴ “Russian President urges state assets sell-off”, Radio Free Europe, June 29, 2011, http://www.rferl.org/content/russia_state_assets_sell-off_medvedev/24250709.html

²⁵ “Russia-NATO Council meeting to focus on Libya”, RIA Novosti, July 3, 2011, <http://en.rian.ru/world/20110703/164997586.html>

²⁶ “Russia to build nuclear aircraft carrier by 2023”, RIA Novosti, June 30, 2011, http://en.rian.ru/military_news/20110630/164924604.html

²⁷ “Bank of Moscow gets record \$14Bln bailout”, The Moscow Times, July 4, 2011, <http://www.themoscowtimes.com/business/article/bank-of-moscow-gets-record-14bln-bailout/439955.html>

visas between the two countries as soon as possible. The visa allows entry into countries of Europe's Schengen zone, which consists of 25 members and includes Italy, Spain, Switzerland and others. In early June, Russia signed an agreement with the European Union about the five-year visas, which would be given to Russians who previously visited EU countries on short-term visas. The United States announced last month that an agreement for five-year visas would be signed with Russia in July. France is among the top five countries whose citizens visit Russia, according to the Association of Tour Operators of Russia. In the first quarter of 2011, about 10,300 French tourists visited Russia.²⁸

In another development, Inter RAO has resumed electricity supplies to Belarus ending nearly four days of power cuts over unpaid bills. The Kremlin said President Dmitry Medvedev gave the order to resume power supplies after Belarus paid about 1.2 billion rubles (\$42.48 million) in overdue bills for April and May. The suspension of supplies starting on June 29 showed the depth of the financial crisis in the Belarus.²⁹

According to reports, Ukrainian Prime Minister Mykola Azarov has said that he hopes the details of the current deal with Moscow on the Russian natural gas deliveries will be revised and finalized in July. Russia's natural gas price for Ukraine currently equals \$295.6 per 1,000 cu m and is expected to rise to \$350 in the third quarter and to \$400 and more in the fourth quarter of 2011. Kiev is not satisfied with the prices and insists that the deal should be revised.³⁰

Reports noted that Russia will exhibit for the first time its newest Steregushchy class (Project 20380) corvette, the Soobrazitelny, at a biennial naval show on June 29-July 3 in St. Petersburg. More than 300 companies, including 30 foreign firms from 25 countries will take part in the 5th International Maritime Defense Show, IMDS-2011. The demonstration part of the show will involve 15 combat ships of the Russian Navy and three foreign warships: German frigate FGS Hamburg, Dutch frigate HMS Van Amstel and U.S. Navy frigate USS Carr.³¹

Reports noted that crude output in Russia, the world's largest oil producer, fell last month for the first time since March. Production fell to 10.2 million barrels a day in June, according to preliminary data from the Energy Ministry's CDU-TEK unit. That compares with output of 10.26 million barrels a day in May and 10.15 million barrels a day in June 2010.³²

²⁸ "France unveils 5-year visas with Russia", The Moscow Times, July 4, 2011, <http://www.themoscowtimes.com/news/article/france-unveils-5-year-visas-with-russia/439928.html>

²⁹ "Power exports resume after Belarus pays bill", The Moscow Times, July 4, 2011, <http://www.themoscowtimes.com/business/article/power-exports-resume-after-belarus-pays-bill/439935.html>

³⁰ "Kiev hopes details of gas deal with Russia to be revised in July", RIA Novosti, June 28, 2011, <http://en.rian.ru/world/20110628/164878721.html>

³¹ "Russia to showcase new stealth corvette at IMDS-2011", RIA Novosti, June 29, 2011, http://en.rian.ru/military_news/20110629/164900748.html

³² "Russian oil output falls to 10.2 million barrels a day in June", Bloomberg, July 2, 2011, <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-07-02/russian-oil-output-falls-to-10-2-million-barrels-a-day-in-june.html>

In another development, Russian stocks climbed to a two-month high after President Dmitry Medvedev lifted curbs on domestic- share trading in Moscow and abroad. The 30-stock Micex Index (INDEXCF) rose 1.9 percent to 1,698.10 by the 6:45 p.m. close in Moscow, the highest level since April 29.³³

Reports noted that Gazprom, Russia's natural-gas export company, is seeking sales agreements with India, China and South Korea to diversify from the European export market and ensure stable cash flow. Gazprom, the world's biggest gas producer has signed preliminary agreements with three Indian companies for liquefied natural gas this month, while failing to reach an agreement on pipeline supplies with China National Petroleum Corp. before Chinese President Hu Jintao's visit to Russia. The company, which has sent tankers of LNG to India, China and South Korea from its Sakhalin-2 project, aims to supply 14 percent of the global market for the liquid fuel by 2030.³⁴

According to reports, Russia may look to export energy to Germany from a new generation of nuclear plants, the country's atomic energy agency told a German newspaper a day after Berlin confirmed plans to stop using atomic power by 2022. Russia which plans to build at least 28 new nuclear plants by 2030, could sell capacity from reactors in Kaliningrad on to the European Union. Part of Germany until 1945, Kaliningrad is a western Russian enclave separated from the rest of the country. Construction of a first 1,082-megawatt unit in Kaliningrad is scheduled to finish in 2016 and a second should come on stream two years later.³⁵

In other developments, Algeria is negotiating with Russia's state-owned arms-trader OAO Rosoboronexport to buy new warships for \$700 million.³⁶

C. West Asia

Iran

● IRGC test-fired 14 missiles; Ahmadinejad denounces arrest of his several allies

Reports noted that Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards fired 14 missiles in an exercise, one of them a medium-range weapon capable of striking Israel or US targets in the Gulf. The Guards' aerospace commander, Brigadier General Amir Ali Hajizadeh, insisted that Iran's missile programme posed

³³ "Russia stocks reach 2-month high as Medvedev lifts trade limits", Bloomberg, July 1, 2011, <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-07-01/russia-stocks-reach-2-month-high-as-medvedev-lifts-trade-limits.html>

³⁴ "Gazprom seeks gas sales in Asia to diversify from Europe", Bloomberg, Jul 1, 2011, <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-06-30/gazprom-first-half-exports-advance-26-on-year-ceo-miller-says.html>

³⁵ "Russia eyes nuclear power exports to Germany", Reuters, July 1, 2011, <http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/07/01/germany-russia-nuclear-idUSLDE7600CF20110701>

³⁶ "Algeria may pay \$700 Mln for Russian warships, Vedomosti says", Bloomberg, June 30, 2011, <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-06-30/algeria-may-pay-700-mln-for-russian-warships-vedomosti-says.html>

no threat to European nations but was merely intended to provide defence against Israel and US forces in the Gulf. Hajizadeh also mentioned that IRGC fired Zelzals (Quake), Shahabs (Meteors) 1 and 2, and the Ghadr (Power), a medium-range missile which is a modified version of the Shahab-3. According to report of IRNA, Iran's missiles have a maximum range of 2,000 kilometres (1,250 miles). He added, "we have the technology to build missiles with a longer range but we do not need them and we are not seeking to build such missiles."³⁷

In another development, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad denounced the arrests of several allies, as a months-long power struggle within Iran's ruling system flared between the president and rival hard-liners. Authorities arrested four senior government officials in the past week on corruption charges in a clear challenge to the president and his chief of staff, Esfandiar Rahim Mashaei. However, all of them deny the corruption allegations. Critics of Ahmadinejad accuse him of trying to set up the controversial Mashaei or another loyalist to succeed him in elections in 2013. Mashaei, who is despised by hard-line clerics and others who believe he is seeking to undermine the ruling system. Clerics describe Mashaei as the head of a "deviant current" that seeks to elevate the values of pre-Islamic Persia and promote nationalism at the cost of clerical rule. Ahmadinejad said "these moves (arrests) are politically motivated. It's clear to us that it is aimed at pressuring the government."³⁸

Iraq

● Reports: June worst month in three years for American troops in Iraq

According to reports, official figures showed that June was the bloodiest month in three years for US troops in Iraq. It was also the deadliest month so far this year for Iraqis killed in violence. A data compiled by the health, interior and defence ministries showed that a total of 271 Iraqis including 155 civilians, 77 policemen and 39 soldiers died in attacks last month. June's toll for Iraqis was 34 percent higher than May, when 177 people were killed which was the lowest number this year. The majority were killed or wounded by car bombs, improvised explosives or shootings. June's figures showed 25 insurgents were killed and 102 arrested. The overall number of US soldiers killed in Iraq since the March 2003 invasion is 4,469, according to an AFP count based on the independent website (www.icasualties.org). Nearly 50,000 American troops are still in Iraq, down from a peak of more than 170,000 after the invasion. All US forces are scheduled to depart by the end of this year according to a 2008 agreement.³⁹

³⁷ "Iran fires medium-range missile in war game," *Khaleej Times*, June 28, 2011, at http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle09.aspx?xfile=data/middleeast/2011/June/middleeast_June731.xml§ion=middleeast

³⁸ "Iran's president denounces arrests of his allies," *Khaleej Times*, June 29, 2011, at http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle08.aspx?xfile=data/middleeast/2011/June/middleeast_June762.xml§ion=middleeast

³⁹ "June deadly for Iraqis and US troops," *Khaleej Times*, July 1, 2011, at http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle08.aspx?xfile=data/middleeast/2011/July/middleeast_July14.xml§ion=middleeast

Syria

- **NATO declines to interfere in Syria; Russia reiterates its support to reform initiatives in Syria; Syria and China explore possibilities of cooperation in solid waste management; Syria and Iraq discussed agricultural cooperation**

Reports noted that during a meeting with the Austrian Foreign Minister, Michael Spindelegger, in Vienna, NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen expressed that NATO has no plans to interfere in Syria. He also added that the NATO interference in Libya was authorized by the UN mandate and that the situation in Syria is different from that in Libya.⁴⁰

In another development, Russian Ambassador to Lebanon Alexander Zasytkin reiterated his country's stance of supporting the reform steps announced by the Syrian leadership in the political, economic and social fields. Zasytkin said that his country would encourage all steps towards reform as it supports the Syrian leadership's call for national dialogue aimed at reaching an agreement on various reform steps and measures in Syria.⁴¹

According to reports, Assistant Local Administration Minister of Syria, Sadeq Abu Watfa, discussed with the Director General of the Chinese NORINCO Group the possibility of cooperation in solid waste management and utilizing solid waste to generate energy. Later, the two sides agreed on carrying out waste management projects in a number of Syrian provinces, particularly Lattakia.⁴²

In other developments, head of the Syrian Peasants Union Hammad al-Saud discussed with Head of the Iraqi Federation of Peasants Associations Hassan al-Tamimi the means of agricultural cooperation and exchanging expertise between the two sides. Saud underlined that Iraq is a strategic dimension to Syria, and pointed out the importance of cooperation and exchange of expertise to enhance agricultural projects in both countries. For his part, the Iraqi delegation underlined the necessity of benefiting from the Syrian experts in the field of agricultural technology.⁴³

Libya

- **ICC issues arrest warrant against Gadhafi; Russia accused France of violating UNSC resolution on Libya; US and Spain announce that Gadhafi threats will not deter NATO mission; Libyan rebels planning to advance towards Tripoli**

According to reports, the International Criminal Court's (ICC) chief prosecutor urged Muammar

⁴⁰ "NATO Secretary General: No Plans to Interfere in Syria", *Syrian Arab News Agency*, June 30, 2011, available at <http://www.sana.sy/eng/22/2011/06/30/355766.htm>

⁴¹ "Russian Ambassador in Beirut Reiterates Russia's Support to Reform Steps in Syria", *Syrian Arab News Agency*, July 2, 2011, available at <http://www.sana.sy/eng/22/2011/07/02/356068.htm>

⁴² "Syria, China to Cooperate in Solid Waste Management", *Syrian Arab News Agency*, June 30, 2011, available at <http://www.sana.sy/eng/21/2011/06/30/355691.htm>

⁴³ "Syrian-Iraqi Agricultural Cooperation Discussed", *Syrian Arab News Agency*, June 30, 2011, available at <http://www.sana.sy/eng/21/2011/06/30/355660.htm>

Gadhafi's aides to help arrest him, as the Libyan leader lashed out at an ICC warrant against him for crimes against humanity. Meanwhile, human rights bodies and the West hailed the ICC's move against Gadhafi that came on the 100th day of NATO bombing campaign. Separately, rebel fighters captured an arms depot from Gadhafi forces from the hilltown of Zintan near their mountain enclave southwest of Tripoli.⁴⁴

However, Russia accused France of committing a "crude violation" of a UN weapons embargo by arming Libyan rebels, a stance which could also cause unease within the Western alliance bombing to remove Muammar Gadhafi. Earlier, France confirmed that it had air-dropped arms to rebels in Libya's Western Mountains, becoming the first NATO country to openly acknowledge arming the insurgency against Gadhafi's rule.⁴⁵

Meanwhile, the US and Spain said they would not let Muammar Gadhafi's threat of retaliatory attacks in Europe deter their mission to protect Libyan civilians and force him to leave power after four decades of violent rule. US Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton commented that instead of issuing threats, he should be putting the well-being and interests of his own people first and step down from power.⁴⁶

In other developments, encouraged by French arms drop and intensified NATO air strikes on the Libyan regime's frontline armour, Libya's rebel army said it is planning for an offensive that could put it within striking distance of Tripoli. Rebel spokesman Colonel Ahmed Omar Bani said that rebel fighters are readying an advance out of their hilltop enclave in the Nafusa Mountains, southwest of Tripoli, in a bid to recapture territory in the plains on the road to the capital. Separately, the rebel National Transitional Council (NTC) received a boost when Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu said Ankara recognised the NTC as the legitimate representative of the Libyan people.⁴⁷

Egypt

- **World Bank to finance wastewater infrastructure in Egypt; Muslim Brotherhood outlines plan of action for coming period; OPIC approves funding for small business lending in Egypt and Jordan; Egypt and the United States partner on petrochemical project**

According to reports, World Bank announced that it will provide a \$1 billion loan to Egypt, through the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), a member of the World Bank Group, in

⁴⁴ "ICC courts Qadhafi aides, Libya gov't blasts warrant", *The Jordan Times*, June 29, 2011, at <http://www.jordantimes.com/index.php?news=38940>

⁴⁵ "Arming Libya rebels is 'crude violation' - Russia", *The Jordan Times*, July 1, 2011, at <http://www.jordantimes.com/index.php?news=39021>

⁴⁶ "Qadhafi threats will not deter NATO mission - Clinton", *The Jordan Times*, July 3, 2011, at <http://www.jordantimes.com/index.php?news=39061>

⁴⁷ "Libya rebels poised for push towards Tripoli", *The Jordan Times*, July 4, 2011, at <http://www.jordantimes.com/?news=39086>

order to help bring back foreign direct investment (FDI) to Egypt. The \$ 1 billion loan will be supporting insurance capacity for the Middle East and North Africa in order to “retain and encourage” foreign direct investment in the region. The Bank has also approved \$200 million loan to support the country’s second Integrated Sanitation and Sewerage Infrastructure (ISSIP 2). The ISSIP 2 initiative will be taking place in four governorates, two in the Delta region and two in Upper Egypt.⁴⁸

In another development, during the first general Muslim Sisterhood conference in 60 years, leaders of Muslim Brotherhood (MB) said that the group’s main priority in the coming period would be to establish a government that “refers to Islam in all its affairs” and forming coalitions to rebuild the country. The leaders also urged that it is the responsibility of all Egyptians across the political spectrum to contribute towards Egypt’s renaissance. The MB further said there would be a bigger role for women inside the group and that they have the biggest representation of women among all political groups.⁴⁹

Reports noted that the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), the US government’s development finance institution, allocated \$500 million to support lending to small businesses in Egypt and Jordan. The project is a cooperation between OPIC and the US Agency for International Development (USAID), which will provide grant funding and technical assistance to the initiative.⁵⁰

In other developments, Basil El-Baz, founder and CEO of Egypt Basic Industries Corporation (EBIC), as well as Chairman and CEO of Carbon Holdings, signed the first of a series of agreements for the development of a \$3.5 billion naphtha cracker and olefins complex project that will be jointly developed with US companies. Financed by the Export-Import Bank of the United States, the mega project is expected to create some 3,000 jobs.⁵¹

Israel

● Efforts are on to settle Mavi Marmara incident between Turkey and Israel; OIC Foreign Ministers’ Astana Declaration condemn Israeli policies

According to reports, a Turkish diplomat announced that Turkey and Israel have shown “firm willingness” to settle things in the diplomatic row over Israeli troops storming a Gaza-bound ship, the Mavi Marmara, and killing nine Turks on board in May 2010. “There is a firm willingness

⁴⁸ Abdellatif, Reem (2011), “World Bank to insure FDI, support wastewater infrastructure in Egypt”, *The Daily News Egypt*, July 3, 2011, at <http://www.thedailynewsegypt.com/infrastructure/world-bank-to-insures-fdi-support-wastewater-infrastructure-in-egypt.html>

⁴⁹ Elyan, Tamim (2011), “Muslim Sisterhood holds first conference in 60 years”, *The Daily News Egypt*, July 3, 2011, at <http://www.thedailynewsegypt.com/egypt/muslim-sisterhood-holds-first-conference-in-60-years.html>

⁵⁰ “OPIC approves \$500 mln for small business lending in Egypt, Jordan”, *The Daily News Egypt*, July 3, 2011, at <http://www.thedailynewsegypt.com/banking-a-finance/opic-approves-500-mln-for-small-business-lending-in-egypt-jordan.html>

⁵¹ “Egypt, US companies partner on \$3.5 bln petrochemical project”, *The Daily News Egypt*, June 30, 2011, at <http://www.thedailynewsegypt.com/industry/egypt-us-companies-partner-on-35-blb-petrochemical-project.html>

to find a solution between the two countries in order to put the affair behind them,” said Ozdem Sanberk, the Turkish representative on the UN committee looking into the Gaza flotilla incident.⁵²

In another development, during their 38th session, the Foreign Ministers’ Council of Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) rejected the US unilateral sanctions against Syria and the so-called Syria Accountability Act which is considered as a violation of the principles of international law, UN resolutions and charter of OIC. At their meeting, the OIC Foreign Ministers also approved Astana Declaration which condemned Israel’s continuous occupation of the Syrian Golan and other Arab territories and demanded the implementation of Security Council resolutions on the Arab-Israeli conflict. Further, the foreign ministers condemned Israeli policies and illegal actions aimed at changing the Arab and Islamic character of the occupied Jerusalem and changing its demographic composition.⁵³

Jordan

- **Jordan king visits Saudi Arabia to discuss bilateral ties; Qatar’s firm QEWC to invest in power generation in Jordan**

Visiting Jordanian King Abdullah and Saudi King Abdullah Ben Abdul Aziz held discussion in Jeddah on bilateral ties, the latest developments in the Middle East as well as several issues of mutual concern. During their meeting, the two leaders emphasized on keenness to continue coordination among officials in both countries and enhance cooperation in political and economic fields. The two leaders also expressed satisfaction over the current level of bilateral relations.⁵⁴

According to Fahd Hamad Al Mohannadi, QEWC general manager, Qatar Electricity and Water Company (QEWC) is in consultations to finalise a deal to purchase a stake in one of Jordan’s electricity generation plants based in Amman. This acquisition will be the company’s first investment in the Kingdom. Mohannadi indicated that QEWC is also considering implementing power generation projects with Jordanian partners.⁵⁵

Yemen

- **Yemen: Forty-eight people were killed in a clash between terrorists and security forces; Yemen: Al Qaeda takes over Zinjubar, the capital city of Abyan province**

Reports noted that forty-eight people were killed during fierce fighting between the army and

⁵² “Turkey, Israel bid to turn page on Mavi Marmara killings”, *The Jordan Times*, June 29, 2011, at <http://www.jordantimes.com/index.php?news=38945>

⁵³ “OIC Foreign Ministers Demand Israel to Implement Security Council Resolutions on Arab-Israeli Conflict”, *Syrian Arab News Agency*, June 30, 2011, at <http://www.sana.sy/eng/22/2011/06/30/355779.htm>

⁵⁴ “S. Arabia renews support for Jordan”, *The Jordan Times*, July 4, 2011, at <http://www.jordantimes.com/?news=39110>

⁵⁵ Obeidat, Omar (2011), “Qatari firm to invest in power generation plant”, *The Jordan Times*, July 4, 2011, at <http://www.jordantimes.com/?news=39113>

Qaeda terrorists in south Yemen on June 29. According to the military sources, a total of 30 soldiers, and 14 al Qaeda militants and four civilians were killed in the confrontation. Twelve other civilians were wounded in the incident. The battles raged around Al-Wahda stadium on the outskirts of Zinjibar, most of which were taken over by the al Qaeda a month ago. The violence erupted when dozens of terrorists attacked the stadium where troops were deployed. The terrorists took control of the stadium, prompting the air force to go into action to attack the Islamists.⁵⁶

In another development, Al Qaeda took over Zinjubar, the capital city of Abyan province on July 1, 2011. Al-Qaeda armed men took over all key government headquarters in the capital. A security officer has been quoted saying that "Al-Qaeda took over the province, the security, the Rescue police, and other key headquarters." He also stated that al-Qaeda fighters have taken over all districts in the province except for few. The governor, whose residence lies few kilometres away from the capital Zinjubar, was reportedly trapped inside.⁵⁷

Bahrain

● Bahrain King orders 'fact-finding' committee to probe protests

Reports noted that Bahraini King Hamid bin Isa al-Khalifa has ordered that an independent fact-finding team be formed to investigate the protests that took place in the country earlier this year. The announcement from King comes as the country is moving ahead for a national dialogue process, which the government says is a chance for reforms to be tabled and reconciliation between political and sectarian forces. The King told the Cabinet that, "We still need to look at what happened to know all the details of February and March and evaluate those events as they really were." The King said that the decision had been taken after consultations with the UN High Commissioner of Human Rights, and that the committee would "be formed from internationally reputable figures well-versed in international human rights law". He also added that no member of the Bahraini government or anyone who was part of the "domestic political arena" would be a part of the committee. The committee will carry out its tasks and responsibilities, as defined after consultation with the members themselves in absolute independence without any intervention of any form, to present its report to me to take the actions necessary."⁵⁸

Saudi Arabia

● Prince Turki al-Faisal of Saudi Arabia warns of building nuclear weapons if Iran gets them

According to reports, Prince Turki al-Faisal, a former Saudi intelligence chief and ambassador to Washington, has stated that if Iran came close to developing nuclear weapons, Riyadh would not

⁵⁶ "South Yemen battles between army, Islamists, 48 killed", *The Kuwait Times*, June 30, 2011, at http://www.kuwaittimes.net/read_news.php?newsid=NjA3NjQ5MDM5Nw==

⁵⁷ "Al-Qaeda in Yemen takes over Abyan province, governor trapped" *The Yemen Observer*, May 28, 2011, at <http://www.yobserver.com/local-news/10021226.html>

⁵⁸ "Bahrain king orders 'fact-finding' committee", *Al Jazeera*, June 29, 2011, at <http://english.aljazeera.net/news/middleeast/2011/06/2011629152020114612.html>

stand idly, thus warning the prospect of a nuclear conflict in the Gulf region. Prince Turki al-Faisal, warned senior NATO military officials that the existence of such a device “would compel Saudi Arabia to pursue policies which could lead to untold and possibly dramatic consequences”. He was speaking at an unpublicized meeting at RAF Molesworth, the airbase in Cambridgeshire used by NATO as a centre for gathering and collating intelligence on the Middle East and the Mediterranean. He has been quoted as saying that, “We cannot live in a situation where Iran has nuclear weapons and we don’t. It’s as simple as that,” “If Iran develops a nuclear weapon, that will be unacceptable to us and we will have to follow suit.”⁵⁹

II. DEFENCE REVIEW

National

- **US to sell advanced lightweight torpedo Mk-54 to India; Indian Navy to get nuclear submarine from Russia soon**

According to reports, India will get lightweight anti-submarines torpedoes MK-54 to arm the eight P-8I maritime patrol aircraft, it is buying from the US, with the Obama administration notifying the potential sale to the US Congress on Tuesday. The Pentagon has “officially notified” the potential sale of Mk-54 lightweight torpedoes to the Indian Navy. The Mk-54 is the most advanced lightweight torpedo in the US Navy inventory and is intended to be employed with the P-8I maritime patrol aircraft, eight of which are currently under construction for India by US aerospace major Boeing. “This sale reflects the mutual benefits of the U.S.-India security partnership. For India, the combined sale of the P-8I aircraft with the Mk-54 torpedoes will add to India’s anti-submarine capability, as it expands its ability to protect India and the critical sea lanes of the Indian Ocean,” the US embassy said. “The offer highlights the US commitment to share cutting-edge technology with India and to ensure that both nations enjoy the benefits of a secure and stable South Asia,” it added. In addition to the US Navy, the Mk-54 torpedo is also in service with the Royal Australian Navy⁶⁰.

Meanwhile, Russian Navy will hand over its newly built nuclear submarine to India on a 10-year lease by end of this year and the Indian crew was “absolutely prepared” to take its charge, the Russian Naval Chief Admiral Vladimir Vysotsky on Friday said. “We will hand this submarine to the client by the year end,” Naval Chief was quoted as saying by RIA Novosti. “The Indian crew is absolutely prepared for operating the submarine,” he said.

⁵⁹ “Riyadh will build nuclear weapons if Iran gets them”, *The Guardian*, June 29, 2011, at <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2011/jun/29/saudi-build-nuclear-weapons-iran>

⁶⁰ “India to get anti-submarine torpedoes from US”, *the Economic Times*, Jun 28, 2011, at: <http://www.bharat-rakshak.com/NEWS/newsrfr.php?newsid=14966>

Under the lease contract, estimated to be between USD 650-900 million, India had funded the completion of the Nerpa nuclear submarine at Amur Shipyard before the Soviet collapse. The Nerpa was to be inducted into the Indian Navy like INS Chakra by mid-2008 but on November 8, 2008, shortly after the sea trials commenced, 20 sailors and technical workers were killed onboard, while they were asleep, due to the release of toxic Freon gas following a technical problem in the automatic fire suppression system in the vessel.⁶¹

International

● Iran claims UN's sanctions would not inhibit country's defence programmes; Saudi Arabia to get German Tanks after long interval

According to reports, Iran's defence minister Gen Ahmad Vahidi has said that the country's missile development shows the ineffectiveness of the UN sanctions and the sanctions won't hinder defence programmes. He said that Iran's missile programme was "indigenous" and had no reliance on foreign countries. The comments come amid 10 days of war games in Iran's latest show of military might. Vahidi's statement was posted on the official website of the Revolutionary Guard, Iran's most powerful military force.

Last week, Iran unveiled underground missile silos for the first time during the missile drill. Iran is under four sets of UN sanctions over its refusal to halt uranium enrichment. The US and its allies accuse Iran of seeking to build a nuclear weapon, a claim Iran refutes.⁶²

In a significant development, Germany has allowed the sale of 200 Leopard tanks to Saudi Arabia after decades of blocking heavy weapons sales to the kingdom, the *Der Spiegel* has reported. The Saudis want to buy 200 Leopard 2A7+ tanks in an order potentially worth billions of euros to companies Kraus-Maffei and Rheinmetall, *Der Spiegel* reported. Since the 1980's, Germany has blocked the sale of Leopard 2 tanks to Saudi Arabia, fearing the equipment would be used against Israel. The Saudis are also in talks with US companies for 60 billion dollars worth of defence equipment that would become the largest US contract ever. The order is to include 84 new F-15 fighter jets and 178 combat helicopters.⁶³

⁶¹ "India to get nuclear submarine from Russia by year end", July 01, 2011, at: <http://www.brahmand.com/news/India-to-get-nuclear-submarine-from-Russia-by-year-end/7418/1/14.html>

⁶² "Iran: Sanctions can't slow missile advancements", July 03, 2011, at: <http://www.brahmand.com/news/Iran-Sanctions-cant-slow-missile-advancements/7421/1/14.html>

⁶³ "Germany to sell tanks to Saudi Arabia: report", July 03, 2011, at: <http://www.brahmand.com/news/Germany-to-sell-tanks-to-Saudi-Arabia-report/7420/1/14.html>

III. INTERNAL SECURITY REVIEW

Jammu & Kashmir

- **Shutdown in Sopore; Two militants killed in Tral area of South Kashmir**

Reports noted that the north Kashmir town of Sopore observed a shutdown to mourn the killing of a militant. All shops and business establishments remained closed. However, there was thin movement of traffic on the roads in a few parts of the town. Police and paramilitary CRPF were deployed in strength in Arampora and Main Chowk to prevent the people from staging protests. However, deployment was lifted in few hours. Police had claimed that a militant identified as Tamir Ahmed Khuroo shot himself dead inside a Masjid when he was chased by CRPF. However, locals had said that militant was killed by the CRPF men inside the Masjid.⁶⁴

In another development, two militants of Hizbul Mujahideen were killed and an equal number of Army personnel, including a Captain, injured in an encounter in Tral area of South Kashmir. Police officials said that a joint team of Army's 42 RR, CRPF and Special Operations Group of Police laid a siege around Rathsuna, Shikargah village of Tral on a tip off. Both the slain militants were locals.⁶⁵

North East India

- **Cops fall victim to encounter gaffe; UNC tripartite talk held; Tribal villagers kidnapped; Garo rebels attacked a police outpost in East Garo Hills district ; 35 militants surrender in Manipur**

Reports noted that relentless counter insurgency operations in the three districts of Garo Hills to flush out well entrenched Garo militants headed by a rogue Deputy Superintendent of Police took its toll on the Meghalaya police with the latest victims of militancy happening to be policemen themselves leading to the death of two of their own men. The tragic case occurred when one of the special police commando units mistakenly entered a trap laid for Garo National Liberation Army (GNLA) militants deep inside the jungles of East Garo Hills leading to a firefight in which two police men died. The botched operation took place in the densely forested area of the Durama Hills range, at Dorengchigre, 12 kms from Williamnagar town on the southern banks of the Simsang river.⁶⁶

⁶⁴ "Sopore observes shutdown", *Greater Kashmir*, June 30, 2011 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2011/Jul/1/sopore-observes-shutdown-41.asp>

⁶⁵ "2 militants killed in Tral", *Greater Kashmir*, June 27, 2011 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2011/Jun/28/2-militants-killed-in-tral-76.asp>

⁶⁶ "Cops fall victim to encounter gaffe", *The Assam Tribune*, July 3, 2011 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=jul0411/oth06>

According to reports, the Manipur Government delegation's stand that the territorial integrity of Manipur was not negotiable was reiterated during the third round of tripartite talks with the United Naga Council (UNC) and the Centre held at Senapati district headquarter, 60 km north of the State capital, aimed at to break the deadlock over the prevailing situation in Manipur. The talks mainly focused on the UNC's memorandum to the Prime Minister on September last year demanding an 'alternative arrangement' for the Nagas in the State. Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) Secretary (Internal Security) UK Bansal led a three member Central Government delegation at the talks.⁶⁷

In another development, the outlawed National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT) kidnapped six tribal villagers from a border village in South Tripura district. A group of armed militants entered into the house of Kulendra Reang at Ujanbari, 14 km from Nutun Bazar police station and kidnapped five villagers including the house owner. The incident took place when five labourers who were engaged in making a room in the house of Kulendra were having food. While returning, the militants also took away another villager and retreated toward the Indo-Bangla border, according to villagers.⁶⁸

Reports noted that rebels of the Garo National Liberation Army (GNLA) attacked a police outpost in Meghalaya's East Garo Hills district, prompting a security alert in the region. Armed men of the GNLA, which is headed by police officer-turned-rebel Champion R Sangma, fired indiscriminately at a police outpost in Dobu area. A high security was sounded in the region after the attack.⁶⁹

In other developments, 33 militants laid down their weapons and surrendered to Army authorities. The surrendered militants have handed over 13 AK-47 Rifles along with magazines, 11 pistols and ammunition to the General Officer Commanding of 57 Mountain Division Major General DS Hooda and DGP Manipur Y Joykumar during a home coming ceremony here at the army headquarter, 25 km north of the State capital. PRO Assam Rifles said two People's Revolutionary Party of Kangleipak cadres also surrendered along with two 9 mm pistols to Assam Rifles on June 25.⁷⁰

⁶⁷ "UNC tripartite talk held in Manipur", *The Assam Tribune*, July 1, 2011 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=jul0211/oth06>

⁶⁸ "6 tribal villagers kidnapped", *The Assam Tribune*, July 1, 2011 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=jul0211/oth07>

⁶⁹ "Garo rebels attack police outpost", *The Assam Tribune*, June 29, 2011 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=jun2911/at046>

⁷⁰ "35 militants surrender in Manipur", *The Assam Tribune*, June 27, 2011 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=jun2811/oth06>

IV. UNITED NATIONS (UN) REVIEW

- **India calls for combined efforts to tackle piracy, drafts anti-piracy law; UAE reiterates support for India's permanent membership at UNSC; UN Security Council extends mandate of UNDOF and MONUSCO; Terms of ICTY judges extended; Peacekeeping force around Abyei established; Security Council welcomes Iraq government's autonomy**

Reports noted that India's Defence Minister A.K. Antony called for a greater international effort under the UN to put an end to piracy. He further added that along with other major powers, India too is present in the Gulf of Aden but it would not be possible to defeat the scourge of piracy without a combined effort.⁷¹ In this regard, the Indian government is also ready with a draft anti-piracy law which will take action against pirates and prosecute them once it comes into effect.⁷² Meanwhile, in a recent visit to India, UAE's Foreign Minister reiterated his country's full support for India's candidature for a permanent seat in the UN Security Council.⁷³

In another development, the UN Security Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) monitoring the ceasefire in Golan Heights between Israel and Syria for another six months through December 31, 2011. The resolution adopted by the Council called on both sides to exercise maximum restraint and prevent any breaches of the ceasefire or the area of separation.⁷⁴ It also extended the mandate of the UN peacekeeping mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) for a year till June 30, 2012. The Council resolution stressed that any future reconfiguration of MONUSCO must be determined by the situation on the ground. It also called on the Government and other parties to ensure that elections scheduled for November are free, fair, credible and transparent.⁷⁵

Meanwhile, the Security Council extended the terms of eight permanent judges serving on the International Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) till December 31, 2012 or until the completion of cases assigned to them. The terms of nine *ad litem* judges were also extended. The Council also called on the states that emerged from the collapse of the former Yugoslavia to intensify cooperation with and to render all necessary assistance to ICTY.⁷⁶

⁷¹ "Combined effort needed to defeat piracy: Defense Minister", *The Hindu*, June 28, 2011 at <http://www.hindu.com/2011/06/28/stories/2011062858490900.htm>

⁷² "India readies anti-piracy law with more teeth", *The Times of India*, June 29, 2011 at http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2011-06-29/india/29717029_1_anti-piracy-law-somali-pirates-aden

⁷³ "UAE reiterates its full support for India's candidature for permanent UNSC seat", *DailyIndia.com*, June 28, 2011 at <http://www.dailyindia.com/show/448007.php>

⁷⁴ "Security Council extends mandate of UN force in Golan Heights by six months", UN News Centre, June 30, 2011 at <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=38897&Cr=golan&Cr1=>

⁷⁵ "Security Council extends mandate of UN mission in DR Congo", *UN News Centre*, June 28, 2011 at <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=38874&Cr=MONUSCO&Cr1=>

⁷⁶ "Security Council extends terms of judges at UN tribunal for former Yugoslavia", *UN News Centre*, June 29, 2011 at <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=38887&Cr=icty&Cr1=>

According to reports, the Security Council established, for an initial period of six months a UN peacekeeping force for the area around the Abyei, which is contested by North and South Sudan. Sudanese troops will be replaced by the UN Interim Security Force. The Council also called on the Governments of Sudan and Southern Sudan to immediately fill their commitments under the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement.⁷⁷

In other developments, the Security Council welcomed the Iraqi Government's assumption of full autonomy which came into effect on July 1, 2011. The Council also reiterated its appreciation of the ongoing efforts and commitment of the Iraqi Government to ensure that oil revenues are used in the interest of the country's people and to endure that the arrangements of transition are consistent with the constitution and with international best practices.⁷⁸

⁷⁷ "Security Council sets up UN security force for disputed Sudanese town of Abyei", *UN News Centre*, June 27, 2011 at <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=38858&Cr=abyei&Cr1=>

⁷⁸ "Security Council welcomes Iraq's assumption of oversight over development fund", *UN News Centre*, June 30, 2011 at <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=38907&Cr=iraq&Cr1=>