

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

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I. COUNTRY REVIEWS

A. South Asia

Pakistan

- **Pakistan to request for fresh IMF programme; Accused Ghulam Nabi Fai working for ISI as an agent, released on bond; India-Pakistan hold foreign secretary level talks; Hillary Clinton assures vetoing of aid restrictions; Pakistan Foreign Minister says relations with India on a new start; UN adds Pakistan Taliban to sanctions list**

The economic managers of Pakistan are likely to request for fresh IMF programme for economic aid to the country. Pakistan has failed to meet its revenue target which has made it uncertain to get last leg of economic programme consisting of \$ 11.3 billion. This comes in the wake of resignation of Governor of State Bank of Pakistan who had said that he did not have anything to do with the programme. analysts point out that If the new programme is approved, it will come with stringent conditions. ¹

In another development, Dr Ghulam Nabi Fai charged for working for the ISI while trying to influence lawmakers in the US over Kashmir, has been released on a \$ 100, 000 bond. He was released from detention in the custody of his wife and put under house detention with restrictions on his movement including electronic monitoring.²

In a significant development, the Indian and Pakistani Foreign secretaries held talks in Delhi which focussed on confidence-building measures including cross-border trade and visa protocols. The talk comes before the Foreign Ministers of both the countries are due to meet. Indian and Pakistani officials have discussed a range of issues including terrorism threats, cooperation on the 2008 Mumbai attacks investigation and Kashmir since February this year, to improve bilateral relations as well as for stability in the region. ³

Reports noted that US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has said that she will urge President Barack Obama to veto a bill which seeks to restrict US assistance to several countries including Pakistan. The bill cuts about \$ 803 million multilateral assistance from fiscal 2011 and by nearly \$2.2 billion from President Obama's request for fiscal 2012.⁴

¹ "Pakistan likely to seek new IMF programme", *Dawn*, July 25, 2011 at <http://www.dawn.com/2011/07/25/pakistan-likely-to-seek-new-imf-programme.html>

² "Fai released on bond", *Dawn*, July 27, 2011 at <http://www.dawn.com/2011/07/27/fai-released-on-bond.html>

³ "India, Pakistan Foreign secretaries meet in New Delhi", *Dawn*, July 26, 2011 at <http://www.dawn.com/2011/07/26/india-pakistan-foreign-secretaries-meet-in-new-delhi.html>

⁴ "Hillary opposes aid restrictions", *Dawn*, July 28, 2011 at <http://www.dawn.com/2011/07/28/hillary-opposes-aid-restrictions.html>

Meanwhile, Pakistan's new Foreign Minister Ms Hina Rabbani Khar has said that relations between India and Pakistan will take a new direction. The statement has been made post talks with her Indian counterpart in New Delhi recently where both the countries discussed terrorism, Mumbai attacks and confidence building measures for Kashmir. The talks are being seen as a start to resolving issues between the two countries.⁵

In other developments, the UN Security Council has put the Pakistani Taliban in its international anti-terrorism sanctions list. The inclusion of Tehrik-I-Taliban in this list highlights the growing threats from this group and also a bid to ease pressure the Afghan Taliban to join the peace process in Afghanistan. Reportedly, the international community has welcomed this move.⁶

Bangladesh

- **Indian Home Minister P. Chidambaram visited Bangladesh; Indian National Congress President Sonia Gandhi visited Bangladesh to attend Conference on Autism; Bangladesh finally confers the "Bangladesh Freedom Honour" on Indira Gandhi posthumously; Bangladesh railway signed a deal with a Chinese firm on upgrading the Tongi-Bhairab Bazar single-line track to double lines; SAARC Summit invitation to Bangladesh PM; A four-member delegation team of Indian Military Academy visited Bangladesh**

Indian Home Minister P. Chidambaram visited Bangladesh on July 29 and held meeting with his Bangladesh counterpart Sahara Khatun, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Foreign Minister Dipu Moni. During the visit, both Bangladesh and India signed a border management agreement with a view to bringing down incidents of killing and crime along the border.⁷

While earlier, Indian National Congress President Mrs. Sonia Gandhi who on on a visit to Bangladesh, called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on the sidelines of a conference on Autism at Ruposhi Bangla Hotel and President Zillur Rahman at Bangabhaban in Dhaka.⁸

In a significant development, Bangladesh finally conferred the "Bangladesh Freedom Honour" on Former Indian Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi posthumously for her unparalleled support and contributions to Bangladesh's Liberation War in 1971. It would be worth noting that Mrs. Indira Gandhi is the first among the foreign friends of Bangladesh to be conferred the highest state honour. Mrs. Sonia Gandhi, the daughter in law of Mrs. Indira Gandhi received the honour.⁹

⁵ "Relations with India will take new directions: Khar", *Dawn*, July 28, 2011 at <http://www.dawn.com/2011/07/28/relations-with-india-will-take-new-direction-khar.html>

⁶ "Pakistan Taliban added to UN terrorist sanctions list", *Dawn*, July 29, 2011 at <http://www.dawn.com/2011/07/29/pakistan-taliban-added-to-un-terrorist-sanctions-list.html>

⁷ "Indian home minister due today: Border management deal tomorrow", *The Daily Star*, July 29, 2011 at <http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=196289>.

⁸ "Hasina, Sonia for regional move to root out militancy, terrorism", *The Daily Star*, July 26, 2011 at <http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=195784>.

⁹ "Best friend honoured", *The Daily Star*, July 26, 2011 at <http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=195772>.

In another development, Bangladesh Railway signed a deal with a Chinese firm on upgrading the Tongi-Bhairab Bazar single-line track to double lines on July 27, almost five years after a project was initiated in this regard. The Tk 1,405 Crore project also includes improving the signalling system on Dhaka-Chittagong main line, which is expected to be completed by 2014.¹⁰

Reports noted that special envoy of the Maldives President Ibrahim Hussain Zaki, handed over a formal letter of invitation to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on July 30 for attending the 17th SAARC Summit scheduled to be held on November 10-11, 2011 in the Maldives. Bangladesh provided seven vehicles to the government of the Maldives, as courtesy support, for hosting the summit successfully.¹¹

In other developments,, a four-member delegation team of Indian Military Academy (IMA) went to Bangladesh for a seven-day official visit. The delegation led by Maj Niraj Mishra visited different training programmes of cadets at Bangladesh Military Academy (BMA), East Bengal Regimental Centre and Naval Academy in Chittagong.¹²

Sri Lanka

- **IRCON to construct Pallai and Kankesanthurai railway line; External Affairs Minister G.L. Peiris interacts with his counterparts from New Zealand, Canada and Australia on the sidelines of the ASEAN Regional Forum Meeting in Bali; Iranian External Affairs Deputy Minister visits Sri Lanka; Reports: 50 former militants from Niger Delta will be trained in Sri Lanka; Indian Coast Guard intercepted Sri Lankan vessels; Malaysia, Bangladesh, Myanmar and North Korea to share their respective economic zones for fishing activities with Sri Lanka; British High Commission in Colombo said its government did not exercise control over media contents; Sri Lankan Government condoles with Norway; A Tamil asylum seeker ordered to be deported by Canadian authorities over allegations of war crimes in Sri Lanka**

According to reports, reversing its earlier decision to construct the railway track between Pallai and Kankesanthurai, the Sri Lankan Government has now handed over 7000 tonnes of rails imported by it, to the Indian company IRCON which has been awarded the contract to implement the project.¹³

Reports noted that bilateral discussions were held on the sidelines of the ASEAN Regional Forum in Bali, Indonesia between External Affairs Minister G.L. Peiris and his counterparts from New

¹⁰ "Tongi-Bhairab Double Tracks:Railway signs deal with Chinese firm", *The Daily Star*, July 28, 2011 at <http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=196089>.

¹¹ "Saarc Summit:Maldives invites PM", *The Daily Star*, July 31, 2011 at <http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=196569>.

¹² "IMA team leaves Bangladesh", *The Daily Star*, July 31, 2011 at <http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=196600>.

¹³ "Govt. gives rails to Indian company", *The Daily Mirror*, July 28, 2011 at <http://print.dailymirror.lk/news/news/51407.html>.

Zealand, Canada and Australia.¹⁴ Meanwhile, the Islamic Republic of Iran External Affairs Deputy Minister Seyyed Amir Mansour Borghai arrived in Colombo on July 28 and met President Mahinda Rajapaksa, External Affairs Minister G. L. Peries, Economic Affairs Minister Basil Rajapaksa, and Muslim ministers during the visit. He inaugurated the housing project in Kattankudy for 2004 tsunami housing project funded by the Iranian Government.¹⁵

According to a report published in *allafrica.com*, a group of 50 former militants from Niger Delta will be in Sri Lanka for training in boat building, underwater operations, deep sea welding and underwater diving.¹⁶

In another development, the Indian coast guard personnel intercepted two more Sri Lankan vessels and took their eight crew members into custody on July 29. This is the second interception by the coast guard in the 72 hours. So far, five Sri Lankan vessels have been seized and 21 Sri Lankans have been taken into custody on charge of sea-route infiltration.¹⁷

According to reports, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Myanmar and North Korea had made the pledge at the recently concluded Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) Ministerial Meeting on Aquaculture for the Asia Pacific Region to share their respective economic zones for fishing activities with Sri Lanka.¹⁸

In response to a request by Defence Secretary Gotabaya Rajapaksa that the British Government should take action against Channel-4 for airing what he described as 'an irresponsible video film', the British High Commission in Colombo said its government did not exercise control over media contents.¹⁹

The Sri Lankan government condoles with the Norwegian government, the people of Norway, and the families of the victims of bombing and shooting spree that took place in Oslo and at the youth camp nearby.²⁰

¹⁴ "Prof. Peiris holds bilateral talks with NZ Foreign Minister", *The Daily Mirror*, July 28, 2011 at <http://print.dailymirror.lk/news/news/51379.html>.

¹⁵ "Iranian minister to inaugurate housing project", *The Daily Mirror*, July 28, 2011 at <http://print.dailymirror.lk/news/news/51400.html>.

¹⁶ "50 former Niger militants in SL for training", *The Daily Mirror*, July 26, 2011 at <http://print.dailymirror.lk/news/news/51170.html>.

¹⁷ "Indian coast guard intercepts two vessels", *The Daily Mirror*, July 30, 2011 at <http://print.dailymirror.lk/news/news/51616.html>.

¹⁸ Gunawardane, Madushika, "Lanka to share foreign fishing zones", *The Daily Mirror*, July 30, 2011 at <http://print.dailymirror.lk/news/front-page-news/51628.html>.

¹⁹ Jayasiri, Sunil, "British Govt. respects freedom of Channel-4", *The Daily Mirror*, July 30, 2011 at <http://print.dailymirror.lk/news/front-page-news/51629.html>.

²⁰ "SL condemns acts of terror in Norway", *The Daily Mirror*, July 25, 2011 at <http://print.dailymirror.lk/news/front-page-news/51038.html>.

In other developments, a Tamil asylum seeker who arrived off Canada's West Coast aboard the MV Sun Sea has been ordered to be deported over allegations of war crimes in Sri Lanka.²¹

Maldives

- **India's External Affairs of India S.M. Krishna meets President Nasheed; Maldives agreed to support and lobby for India in the United Nations; Vice President Dr. Mohamed Waheed met with the Secretary General of World Customs Organisation; The Male' International Airport renamed as 'Ibrahim Nasir International Airport' on Maldivian Independence Day; Report: Maldives is the second easiest country to do business in South Asia; Sri Lankan Deputy Minister of External Affairs paid a courtesy call on Maldivian Vice President; Secretary-General of the Colombo Plan met Mohamed Nasheed; President met the UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Iran; President met with the Palestinian Ambassador; SAARC summit invitation extended to India, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka and Pakistan**

President Mohamed Nasheed met with the Indian Minister of External Affairs S.M. Krishna on July 28 at President's Office. During the meeting the discussions were mainly focused on strengthening bilateral relations through Public Private Partnerships (PPP) and promoting energy conservation and energy efficiency issues to achieve carbon neutrality. Following the meeting, a handover and exchange ceremony was carried out, where the Indian Minister of External Affairs handed over US \$ 5 Million to the Minister of Foreign Affairs Ahmed Naseem, as assistance for this year's SAARC Summit to be held in the Maldives. An exchange of agreements was also made for handing over the land for the Chancery and Embassy Residence of India to be established in Male'. This was then followed by the exchange of agreements for the establishment of a multi-disciplinary university, wellness centre and medical resort in the Maldives, to be constructed by Universal Empire Infrastructures Ltd. of India.²² Addressing journalists at Kurumba Maldives after officials talk between the two countries, Deputy Foreign Minister Haula Ahmed Didi said that the Maldives had agreed to support and lobby for India in the United Nations (UN).²³

In another development, Maldives Vice President Dr. Mohamed Waheed met with the Secretary General of World Customs Organisation Kunio Mikuriya on July 28. During the meeting, the Vice President highlighted on the issues relating to customs services in the country that are being tackled, and the emerging threats that need to be addressed. Vice President also discussed with the Secretary General about the areas that need further assistance from the organization.²⁴

²¹ "Tamil asylum seeker in Canada to be deported", *The Daily Mirror*, July 28, 2011 at <http://print.dailymirror.lk/news/front-page-news/51423.html>.

²² "Indian External Affairs Minister Calls on the President", *The Presidents Office, Republic of Maldives*, July 28, 2011 at <http://www.presidencymaldives.gov.mv/Index.aspx?lid=11&dcid=5730>.

²³ "Maldives to back India at UN", *Haveeru*, July 30, 2011 at <http://www.haveeru.com.mv/english/details/37474>.

²⁴ "Vice President Meets Secretary General of World Customs Organisation", *The President's Office, Republic of Maldives*, July 28, 2011 at <http://www.presidencymaldives.gov.mv/Index.aspx?lid=11&dcid=5729>.

Reports noted that the Male' International Airport was renamed 'Ibrahim Nasir International Airport' on Independence Day, July 26 in honour of the former President who secured independence from the British.²⁵

According to reports, Maldives is the second easiest country in which to do business in South Asia, and 85th worldwide according to the World Bank's 'Ease of Doing Business' index for 2011.²⁶

Sri Lankan Deputy Minister of External Affairs Neomal Perera paid a courtesy call on Maldivian Vice President Dr. Mohamed Waheed on July 31.²⁷ While, newly appointed Secretary-General of the Colombo Plan, Maizaan Adam Manik paid a courtesy call on President Mohamed Nasheed on July 31.²⁸

President Mohamed Nasheed met the UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Iran, Dr. Ahmed Shaheed on July 31, discussed on the Maldives' part in solving the human rights situation in the Middle East. Dr. Shaheed also highlighted on the importance of raising the issue of formulating a better human rights policy in the South Asian region, at the SAARC Summit to be held in Addu City this year.²⁹ Earlier, President Mohamed Nasheed had met with the Palestinian Ambassador Doctor Anwar H. Al-Agha on July 28.³⁰

In other developments, President Nasheed's Special Envoy has so far delivered invitations for the 17th South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Summit to be held in Addu from November 10-11, 2011 to the leaders of India, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka and Pakistan and will be soon traveling to Nepal and Bhutan.³¹

²⁵ "Airport renamed 'Ibrahim Nasir International Airport'", *Minivan News*, July 28, 2011 at <http://minivannews.com/category/news-in-brief>.

²⁶ "Maldives ranks second in South Asia in 'ease of business' index", *Minivan News*, July 27, 2011 at <http://minivannews.com/category/news-in-brief/page/2>.

²⁷ "Sri Lankan Deputy Minister of External Affairs Pays a Courtesy Call on the Vice President", *The President's Office, Republic of Maldives*, July 31, 2011 at <http://www.presidencymaldives.gov.mv/Index.aspx?lid=11&dcid=5741>.

²⁸ "Secretary General of the Colombo Plan Calls on the President", *The President's Office, Republic of Maldives*, July 31, 2011 at <http://www.presidencymaldives.gov.mv/Index.aspx?lid=11&dcid=5739>.

²⁹ "President Nasheed Meets UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Iran", *The President's Office, Republic of Maldives*, July 31, 2011 at <http://www.presidencymaldives.gov.mv/Index.aspx?lid=11&dcid=5738>.

³⁰ "Palestinian Ambassador Calls on President Nasheed", *The President's Office, Republic of Maldives*, July 28, 2011 at <http://www.presidencymaldives.gov.mv/Index.aspx?lid=11&dcid=5721>.

³¹ "SAARC Summit invitation conferred to Bangladeshi Prime Minister", *Haveeru*, July 31, 2011 at <http://www.haveeru.com.mv/english/details/37486>.

B. East Asia

China

- **China refutes Philippine's air threat allegation, Chinese Foreign Minister to visit four nations; United States urged not to sell arms to Taiwan; China stresses that the gains from cross-strait exchanges should be utilized to benefit more people from Taiwan; PLA Daily: Aircraft carrier won't change defensive military policy**

On the bilateral front, the Chinese Ministry of National Defence denied that a Chinese fighter plane was responsible for scaring away Filipino fishermen in the Nansha Islands area in the South China Sea.³²

In another development, the Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi has announced that he will be paying official visit to countries like Albania, Poland, South Sudan from August 2 to 9, 2011.³³

According to reports, Beijing has publicly asked Washington to partake "the appropriate course of action" regarding the arms deal between Taiwan and the United States.³⁴ Beijing has also stressed that the gains from cross-strait exchanges should be utilized to benefit more people from Taiwan.³⁵

In other developments, the PLA daily news paper which voices the views and perceptions of the PLA, has noted that China's efforts to develop and build an aircraft carrier programme will not change the defensive nature of the Chinese defence policy.³⁶

Japan

- **Japan wants to have talks with North Korea over the abduction issue ahead of Six-Party Talks**

Japanese government reportedly is keen to start talks with North Korea to resolve the abduction issue ahead of the resumption of the Six Party Talks. Although in the bilateral dialogue held in August 2008, the North Korea agreed to reinvestigate the issue promptly, so far it has avoided to do so while offering excuses such as Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda's resignation, change of administration from the LDP to DPJ in Japan, etc. Since 2009, bilateral dialogue on the issue has

³² "China refutes Philippine's air threat allegation" *China Daily*, July 28, 2011 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2011-07/28/content_12997333.htm

³³ "Chinese FM to visit 4 European, African nations" *China Daily*, July 26, 2011 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2011-07/26/content_12984943.htm

³⁴ "US urged not to sell arms to Taiwan" *China Daily*, July 29, 2011 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2011-07/29/content_13006072.htm

³⁵ "Mainland hopes to benefit more in Taiwan" *China Daily*, July 31, 2011 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2011-07/31/content_13017295.htm

³⁶ "Carrier won't change defensive military policy" *China Daily*, July 29, 2011 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2011-07/29/content_13012315.htm

remained suspended. However, in a ministerial meeting held among Japan, South Korea and the US, Japanese Foreign Minister Takeaki Matsumoto indicated Tokyo's willingness in restarting bilateral dialogue with Pyongyang.³⁷

South Korea

- **South Korea and India signs a civil nuclear agreement; South Korea and China to hold defence talks**

In a very significant development, South Korea has signed a civil nuclear cooperation agreement with India during Indian President Pratibha Patil's recent visit to Seoul. The nuclear deal will provide the South Korean companies a framework to participate in the India's ongoing nuclear expansion programme. To India, the ROK would serve as a cheaper nuclear supplier and provide an alternative chain for nuclear reactors and components. The agreement of 25 July will also reinforce India's demand to ratify the Convention for Supplementary Compensation.³⁸

In another development, reports noted that the defence ministries of South Korea and China are to inaugurate their first strategic defence dialogue in Seoul this week. Ma Xiaotian, deputy chief of the general staff of the Chinese PLA is to lead the Chinese delegation. It is expected that the strategic talks would raise the bilateral defence relations that befits the strategic cooperative partnership between the two countries. The dialogue could also help in strengthening the relations that has been chilled following the staging of the large-scale military exercise by South Korean and the US military in a show of force against North Korea despite China's opposition.³⁹

C. Central Asia & Russia

Central Asia

- **Kazakhstan to increase taxes on exports of oil products; China interested in trans-national railway linking Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan to China; Kyrgyz PM proposes creation of fuel reserve facility within the country; Chinese businessmen in Tajikistan for new investment opportunities; Kyrgyz CEC bans election coverage by online media; Kyrgyz province of Osh under threat from external groups; Tajikistan to choose company for developing Konimansuri Kalon silver deposit; Turkmenistan to develop a national policy on climate change; Indonesian delegation in Turkmenistan to discuss trade and commerce; Cyber attack on Uzbek government web sites**

Reports noted that due to the demand for oil, the Kazakh government announced towards the

³⁷ "Japan eyes N. Korea dialogue/Govt also wants to restart abduction issue before 6-nation talks", *Yomiuri Shimbun*, July 27, 2011, at <http://www.yomiuri.co.jp/dy/national/T110726005565.htm>

³⁸ "India signs nuclear deal with South Korea", *Times of India*, July 26, 2011, at <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/india-signs-nuclear-deal-with-South-Korea/articleshow/9365446.cms>

³⁹ "Korea, China to commence defense talks", *Korea Herald*, July 25, 2011, at <http://www.koreaherald.com/national/Detail.jsp?newsMLId=20110725000597>

end of July that it will raise the level of taxes on the exports of oil products by 16.2 percent. Kazakhstan first imposed an oil export tariff in August 2008 and removed them during the global crisis. However, duties were re-established in August 2010 when demand picked up again.⁴⁰

According to reports, Chen Fenjian, the Deputy President of state-owned China Communications Construction Company (CCCC) has said his company is ready to participate in a major railway project that will link Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan to China during his visit to the Kyrgyz capital. He met with Kyrgyzstan's First Deputy Prime Minister Omurbek Babanov and Minister of Transport and Communications Erkin Isakov.⁴¹ Kyrgyz prime minister has proposed setting up a fuel bank in the country. This suggestion comes after reserves of petroleum products ran dry by mid-July after Gazprom Neft Asia, an oil- and gas-producing subsidiary of Gazprom, halted fuel exports to all countries outside the customs union of Russia, Kazakhstan and Belarus.⁴²

Meanwhile, another report noted that the Chinese have shown great interest in the Central Asian neighborhood in terms of infrastructural development, transport and communication and energy resources. Now entrepreneurs from China are trying to accelerate private investment within this region. End of July about one hundred Chinese business leaders wrapped up a five-day visit to Tajikistan to investigate investment opportunities in the northern Sughd province.⁴³ Sughd is a Free Economic Zone (FEZ).

Kyrgyz Central Election Commission (CEC) on July 21 ruled to bar local news agencies from giving space to presidential candidates to voice their political views. This decision affects those news web sites wherein the Kyrgyz law does not recognize online news ventures as mass media. International media watchdog Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) urged the commission to reverse its decision.⁴⁴ The presidential election is slated for October 30 in the meanwhile, Southern Kyrgyzstan, province of Osh, is under increasing pressure from militant groups from other countries, namely Tajikistan and further south, Afghanistan, the chief of the Internal Affairs Department reported.⁴⁵

⁴⁰ "Kazakhstan raises levy on oil exports by 16 percent", *Central Asia Newswire*, July 28, 2011 at <http://centralasianewswire.com/Kazakhstan/Kazakhstan-raises-levy-on-oil-exports-by-16-percent/viewstory.aspx?id=4531>

⁴¹ "Babanov meets with Chinese company to discuss transnational railway", *Central Asia Newswire*, July 26, 2011 at <http://centralasianewswire.com/Kyrgyzstan/Babanov-meets-with-Chinese-company-to-discuss-transnational-railway/viewstory.aspx?id=4512>

⁴² "Gazprom Neft Asia should create fuel reserve in Kyrgyzstan, premier says", *Central Asia Newswire*, July 28, 2011 at <http://centralasianewswire.com/Kyrgyzstan/Gazprom-Neft-Asia-should-create-fuel-reserve-in-Kyrgyzstan-premier-says/viewstory.aspx?id=4532>

⁴³ "100 Chinese entrepreneurs wrap up Tajik visit", *Central Asia Newswire*, July 29, 2011 at <http://centralasianewswire.com/Tajikistan/100-Chinese-entrepreneurs-wrap-up-Tajik-visit/viewstory.aspx?id=4546>

⁴⁴ "Kyrgyzstan under pressure to allow election coverage by online media", *Central Asia Newswire*, July 29, 2011 at <http://centralasianewswire.com/Kyrgyzstan/Kyrgyzstan-under-pressure-to-allow-election-coverage-by-online-media/viewstory.aspx?id=4540>

⁴⁵ "200 Kyrgyz citizens may have trained in Al-Qaeda camps, official says", *Central Asia Newswire*, July 26, 2011 at <http://centralasianewswire.com/Kyrgyzstan/200-Kyrgyz-citizens-may-have-trained-in-Al-Qaeda-camps-official-says/viewstory.aspx?id=4518>

In another development, Tajik government officials finalized a list of companies to develop the Konimansuri Kalon silver deposit and will choose a company shortly. The deposit is estimated to hold 70,000 tons and will cost \$2 billion in development. The government narrowed the list of contenders to a shortlist it revealed in March 2010.⁴⁶

Reports noted that the government of Turkmenistan recently hosted the third inter-ministerial dialogue event to prepare its priorities and interests ahead of the UN convention on climate change in South Africa in late 2011 and the Earth Summit in Brazil next June. This meeting aimed to develop a national policy on climate change and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Hence the representatives of various related ministries and agencies joined with international UNDP experts to draft the Strategy on Climate Change, which will become a road map to fulfilling its obligations under the UN Framework Convention of Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol.⁴⁷

According to reports, Turkmen and Indonesian delegations met in Ashgabat to discuss the establishment of joint business forums as one way to step up trade, construction and tourism between the two countries. The government of Indonesia attempted to invest into the Turkmen republic in the mid-1990s, when the Indonesia Petroleum (INPEX) purchased shares in a natural gas pipeline project, today known as TAPI that would transport Turkmen natural gas to South Asian countries. The initiative, which was shelved for a time owing to political instability in Afghanistan, was recently revived.⁴⁸

In other developments, according to reports, the Uzbek foreign ministry website was attacked along with the Jahon Information Agency web site, as well as the site belonging to the ministry of foreign economic relations, investments and trade. The attackers replaced the main pages of the three Russian-language web sites with the inscription: "By xTerror xTerrorxx@hotmail.com SAGeeks".⁴⁹

Russia

- **Russia-US-Canada to hold their second air force anti-terror exercise; Chinese warships participate in Russian Navy Day celebrations; International Space Station to be de-orbited**

⁴⁶ "Tajikistan to soon name company to develop huge silver deposit", *Central Asia Newswire*, July 26, 2011 at <http://centralasianewswire.com/Tajikistan/Tajikistan-to-soon-name-company-to-develop-huge-silver-deposit/viewstory.aspx?id=4517>

⁴⁷ "Turkmenistan drafts climate change national strategy", *Central Asia Newswire*, July 26, 2011 at <http://centralasianewswire.com/Turkmenistan/Turkmenistan-drafts-climate-change-national-strategy/viewstory.aspx?id=4516>

⁴⁸ "Turkmenistan, Indonesia negotiating joint business forums", *Central Asia Newswire*, July 27, 2011 at <http://centralasianewswire.com/Turkmenistan/Turkmenistan-Indonesia-negotiating-joint-business-forums/viewstory.aspx?id=4525>

⁴⁹ "Hackers break into Uzbek government web sites", *Central Asia Newswire*, July 29, 2011 at <http://centralasianewswire.com/Uzbekistan/Hackers-break-into-Uzbek-government-web-sites/viewstory.aspx?id=4545>

and sunk in Pacific in 2020; EU has proposed simplifying travel from Kaliningrad; Russia-US reset faces biggest challenge; Russia-Azerbaijan renegotiate radar station lease; Russian military has cut back on fuel over prices; Russian airborne forces to get state of the art artillery guns in 2013; Russian manufacturing industry shrinks in July for the first time in 19 months; Russian stocks surge most in three weeks on oil, US debt cap deal

The Russian Air Force and NORAD, the U.S. and Canadian joint air defense command will hold a second round of anti-terrorism exercises on August 8-11, 2011. The main aim of the drills is to improve the Russian Air Force's and NORAD's capabilities for fighting terrorism in the air. The exercises will include AWACS (airborne early warning and control) and refueling aircraft, as well as combat aircraft. The first Russian-NORAD joint anti-terrorism drills, dubbed Vigilant Eagle, took place in 2010, and involved Russian, Canadian and U.S. air force personnel operating from command centers at Elmendorf airbase in Alaska and Khabarovsk, in the Russian Far East.⁵⁰

In another development, reports noted that two Chinese navy ships have taken part in the festivities dedicated to the celebration of the Russian Navy Day in the Far Eastern port of Vladivostok. Chinese warships last visited Vladivostok in 2008.⁵¹

According to reports, Russian Space Agency (Roscosmos) has said that the International Space Station (ISS) will be de-orbited and sunk in the Pacific Ocean after 2020 like its Russian predecessor Mir. The ISS has been functioning for 13 years now after receiving numerous international space expeditions. The decision was taken with a view to avoid space waste. The agreement to construct the ISS was signed January 29, 1998 in Washington by representatives from Canada, members of the European Space Agency (ESA), Japan, Russia and the United States.⁵²

Reports noted that the European Commission has proposed making it easier for Kaliningrad residents to visit relatives and do business in the EU border region. Kaliningrad, which has a population of nearly 1 million, became the only such exclave within the EU when a 2004 EU enlargement brought in both Poland and Lithuania. The European Commission has proposed allowing the states bordering Kaliningrad to negotiate bilateral agreements to make border crossings easier for people living within 30 to 50 kilometers of the EU frontier. This would involve issuing special permits for regular crossings instead of visas, for which fees could be waived.⁵³

Reports noted that the White House touts its "reset" policy toward Russia as one of its key diplomatic successes. But the Russian authorities were caught off-guard when Washington quietly barred some of their officials from traveling to the United States this week, a move that threatens

⁵⁰ "Russia, US, Canada to hold second air force anti-terror exercise", *RIA Novosti*, August 1, 2011 at http://en.rian.ru/military_news/20110801/165496066.html

⁵¹ "Chinese warships participate in Russian navy day celebrations", *RIA Novosti*, July 31, 2011, at <http://en.rian.ru/russia/20110731/165478059.html>

⁵² "ISS to be de-orbited and sunk in Pacific after 2020- Roscosmos", *RIA Novosti*, July 27, 2011, at <http://en.rian.ru/science/20110727/165412055.html>

⁵³ "EU proposes simplifying travel from Kaliningrad", *The Moscow Times*, August 1, 2011, at <http://www.themoscowtimes.com/news/article/eu-proposes-simplifying-travel-from-kaliningrad/441357.html>

to undo some of the gains Washington has made boosting ties with Moscow. The State Department blacklist targets those connected to a scandal that's drawn widespread international condemnation: the death of Sergei Magnitsky, a Russian lawyer jailed in 2009 after accusing police of bilking the government of more than \$200 million. A report commissioned by President Dmitry Medvedev himself concluded Magnitsky was denied medical care and probably severely beaten before he died. Other signs of fraying ties emerged this week. Senator Jon Kyl (Republican, Arizona) has called for more investigation into a recent bomb blast outside the U.S. Embassy in Georgia that U.S. intelligence officials say may have been linked to a Russian agent. In Brussels on July 28, the Russian ambassador to NATO dredged up old complaints about plans for a U.S. missile-defense shield in Europe.⁵⁴

According to reports, Russian officials are in Baku to discuss the renewal of Moscow's lease for Azerbaijan's Qabala radar station. Moscow has prepared proposals for modernizing the Qabala facility. Qabala was built in 1985 and can monitor missile launches in the Middle East and Southeast Asia. The current 10-year lease, under which Russia pays \$10 million annually, expires in August 2012.⁵⁵

Reports noted that the Russian Armed Forces have to reduce the consumption of fuel and lubricants due to rising prices. Diesel fuel prices increased 50% and gasoline prices were up 30% since the fall of 2010. The military has procured enough fuel and lubricants for 2011 but because spending was higher than planned, the ministry will impose consumption quotas and conserve fuel and lubricants "wherever possible. In particular, the number of standalone heating plants will be reduced, including by outsourcing them to commercial defense service contractors. The savings will be used to compensate for rising fuel and lubricant prices.⁵⁶ In another development, Russian airborne forces will accept for service new state-of-the-art self-propelled artillery guns in 2013. Under the new state-backed arms program to 2020, the Russian government will channel almost 20 trillion rubles into the rearmament. Under this program the share of new modern arms and equipment will be raised to at least 70 percent.⁵⁷

In other developments, Russian manufacturing contracted in July for the first time since December 2009 as slowing growth in China and the euro area damped demand for the country's exports. The Purchasing Managers' Index fell to a seasonally adjusted 49.8 from 50.6 in June.⁵⁸ However,

⁵⁴ "US-Russia 'Reset' faces biggest challenge", *Radio Free Europe*, July 29, 2011, at http://www.rferl.org/content/us-russia_reset_faces_biggest_challenge/24280956.html

⁵⁵ "Russia, Azerbaijan renegotiate radar station lease", *Radio Free Europe*, July 26, 2011, http://www.rferl.org/content/russia_azerbaijan_renegotiate_radar_lease/24277770.html

⁵⁶ "Russian military cuts back on fuel over prices", *RIA Novosti*, August 1, 2011, at http://en.rian.ru/military_news/20110801/165499281.html

⁵⁷ "Russian airborne forces to get state-of-the-art artillery guns in '13", *RIA Novosti*, July 30, 2011, at <http://en.rian.ru/russia/20110730/165468290.html>

⁵⁸ "Russian manufacturing industry shrinks in July for first time in 19 months", *Bloomberg*, August 1, 2011, at <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-08-01/russian-manufacturing-pmi-index-drops-below-50-hsbc-reports.html>

Russian stocks rose the most in more than three weeks as oil and commodities rallied after President Barack Obama said U.S. lawmakers have reached agreement on raising the nation's debt limit to avoid a default.⁵⁹

D. West Asia

Iran

- **Iran's Revolutionary Guards killed 50 PJAK (the Party for a Free Life in Kurdistan) terrorists; Mohammad-Nabi Habibi: Reformists to pose serious challenge to principalists in the March parliamentary elections: David S. Cohen: Iran entered into a secret deal with al-Qaida**

According to an Islamic Revolution Guards Corps commander, IRGC forces have killed about 50 terrorists of the counter-revolutionary group PJAK (the Party for a Free Life in Kurdistan) in northwest Iran over the past few weeks. The IRGC commander said operations against PJAK will continue until Iraqi forces deal with PJAK. He also added that the Iraqi government should accept responsibility for maintaining security on the border. The PJAK group was formed in 2003. Its camps and bases are mostly located in Iraq, near the border with Iran. On July 11, a high-ranking Iranian military official criticized Iraq's Kurdistan Regional Government for failing to halt the PJAK terrorists' activities in Iraq and said that Iran reserves the right to attack and destroy PJAK's terrorist camps and bases inside Iraq.⁶⁰

In another development, the Secretary General of Islamic Coalition Party, Mohammad-Nabi Habibi has said it is a wrong analysis to think that the reformists have been eliminated from the country's political scene and the principlists will not have any major rival for the March parliamentary elections. He stated that seditionists no longer take to streets does not mean that principlists are the only active political force in the country. He also added that the reformists will certainly take part in the elections and will have a serious competition with principlists.⁶¹

In other developments, the United States has reportedly accused Iran of entering into a "secret deal" with an al-Qaida offshoot that provides money and recruits for attacks in Afghanistan and Pakistan. The Treasury Department designated six members of the unit as terrorists subject to US sanctions. The US intelligence community has in the past disagreed about the extent of direct links between the Iranian government and al-Qaida. David S. Cohen, Treasury's point man for terrorism and financial intelligence, said Iran entered a "secret deal with al-Qaida allowing it to funnel funds and operatives through its territory." He didn't provide any details

⁵⁹ "Russian stocks surge most in 3 weeks on oil, Obama debt-cap deal", *Bloomberg*, August 1, 2011, at <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-08-01/russian-stocks-surge-most-in-3-weeks-on-oil-obama-debt-cap-deal.html>

⁶⁰ "IRGC has killed 50 PJAK terrorists on border with Iraq," *Tehran Times*, July 28, 2011, at http://www.tehrantimes.com/index_View.asp?code=245052

⁶¹ "Principlists, reformists will seriously compete in next election," *Tehran Times*, July 28, 2011, at http://www.tehrantimes.com/Index_view.asp?code=245065

of that agreement, but said the sanctions seek to disrupt al-Qaida's work in Iraq and deny the terrorist group's leadership much-needed support. Cohen also said "Iran is the leading state sponsor of terrorism in the world today." Cohen noted that the exposure of the clandestine agreement would disrupt al-Qaida operations by shedding light on Iran's role as a "critical transit point" for money and extremists reaching Pakistan and Afghanistan. He also pointed out that a branch headed by Ezedin Abdel Aziz Khalil was operating in Iran with the Tehran government's blessing, funneling funds collected from across the Arab world to al-Qaida's senior leaders in Pakistan.⁶²

Iraq

- **Iraqi Prime Minister meets MPs and pushes for government downsizing; Iran, Iraq and Turkey signed MoU to invest \$200 million to establish a joint bank**

Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki made a rare appearance at Iraq's parliament to push for slashing the size of a national unity government that critics charge with inaction. His questioning by MPs comes with the key issue of whether or not a US military contingent will remain in Iraq beyond a year-end deadline for their withdrawal. Maliki arrived at the Council of Representatives in the afternoon and was meeting with MPs. Maliki's 46-member cabinet, which he hopes to slash to 30 ministers, is the biggest in Iraq's history, and was only approved in December after protracted horse-trading that followed March 2010 elections in which no party gained a clear majority. The premier had sent a letter to MPs outlining his proposals on July 13, noting the government's size had become "a burden" on work and Iraq's budget as it seeks to rebuild from three decades of war and sanctions. Maliki's plans require dramatically cutting the number of ministers of state and firing three cabinet ministers. Iraq's government has been criticised for inaction on key issues to do with rebuilding the country, with nationwide protests since February railing against official corruption and ineptitude.⁶³

In another development, Iran, Turkey, and Iraq have signed a memorandum of understanding to invest \$200 million to establish a joint bank. The agreement is meant to facilitate capital flows in economic transactions between the three nations. The central branch of the bank will be located in Tehran, but Turkey and Iraq will also be allowed to open branches. On the sidelines of Confair 2011, the Turkish ambassador to Tehran Umit Yardim said the value of trade between Iran and Turkey has surpassed \$11 billion over the past year. He added that the two neighboring states are trying to increase the volume of their trade to \$15 billion annually by the end of 2011. Iranian First Vice President Mohammad Reza Rahimi previously said that Iran and Iraq have agreed to make efforts to increase the volume of their bilateral trade to \$20 billion in the near future.⁶⁴

⁶² "US accuses Iran of 'secret deal' with Al Qaida," *Khaleej Times*, July 29, 2011, at http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle08.asp?xfile=data/middleeast/2011/July/middleeast_July594.xml§ion=middleeast

⁶³ "Iraq PM pushes government downsizing to MPs," *Khaleej Times*, July 30, 2011, at http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticleNew.asp?section=middleeast&xfile=data/middleeast/2011/july/middleeast_july620.xml

⁶⁴ "Iran, Turkey, Iraq ink \$200m deal to establish joint bank," *Tehran Times*, July 30, 2011, at http://www.tehrantimes.com/index_View.asp?code=245128

Syria

- **Syrian tanks attack Hama city, 17 civilians killed; Syria and India to enhance cooperation in oil and gas; Syria and Iraq to cooperate on health and transport**

After besieging the city of Hama for nearly a month in response to some of the biggest demonstrations against President Bashar al-Assad's rule, Syrian tanks attacked the city and killed at least 17 civilians. Further, electricity and water supplies to the main neighbourhood had also been disconnected.⁶⁵

Separately, stressing on India's desire to broaden cooperation with Syria, the Minister of Oil and Gas, Jaipal Reddy, discussed with the Syrian Ambassador to India Dr. Riyad Abbas the prospects of enhancing bilateral relations and benefiting from investment opportunities in Syria, particularly in the field of oil and gas. In response, the Syrian ambassador said that President Bashar al-Assad's policy to move eastward provides great opportunities for India to have access to the Syrian markets and carry out investments, especially in oil exploration.⁶⁶

In another development, the Syrian-Iraqi Ministerial Committee concluded its meeting by signing a number of agreements in the fields of transport, health and the facilitation of movement of goods and individuals, and also a programme on technical cooperation. Head of the Syrian side, Ahmad al-Shehabi added that Syria is ready to enhance the Syrian-Iraqi cooperation in the interest of the two countries.⁶⁷

Libya

- **Rebels attack Gaddafi stronghold in Western mountains; Chief of opposition forces killed in Libya; United Kingdom recognises National Transitional Council (NTC), expels Gadhafi envoys**

According to reports, Rebel commander Nasir al Hamdi told that rebels have encircled and attacked Tiji, Muammar Gaddafi's last stronghold in Libya's Western Mountains region where an estimated 500 government troops are stationed and hope to seize it soon. Control of Tiji would give the rebels a strategic and psychological boost and could make it easier for the insurgents to gain access to an important highway leading to Tripoli. In response, Gaddafi's forces launched missiles towards a road in an apparent attempt to prevent rebels attacking from a different direction.⁶⁸

However, in a significant development, Libyan rebel forces' Chief of Staff, Abdel Fattah Younes,

⁶⁵ "Bodies litter streets as tanks storm Syria's Hama", *Mail and Guardian*, July 31, 2011, at <http://mg.co.za/article/2011-07-31-tanks-storm-syrias-hama>

⁶⁶ "Syria, India to Enhance Bilateral Cooperation", *Syrian Arab News Agency*, July 31, 2011, at <http://www.sana.sy/eng/22/2011/07/31/361416.htm>

⁶⁷ "Syria, Iraq Sign Cooperation Agreements in Health and Transport", *Syrian Arab News Agency*, July 30, 2011, at <http://www.sana.sy/eng/22/2011/07/30/361070.htm>

⁶⁸ "Libyan rebels attack Gaddafi stronghold", *Mail and Guardian*, July 30, 2011, at <http://mg.co.za/article/2011-07-30-libyan-rebels-attack-gaddafi-stronghold/>

was killed by the supporters of Muammar Gaddafi. This was informed by the opposition leader and the Chairman of the National Transitional Council (NTC), Moustafa Abdel-Jalil. Jalil told that two other military leaders were also killed.⁶⁹ Reports noted that the assassination of Abdel Fattah Younes, apparently by his own side, has hurt the opposition as it was winning broader international recognition and launching an offensive against Gaddafi's forces in the west of the country.⁷⁰

In other developments, Britain's Foreign Secretary William Hague said that Britain has officially recognised Libya's main opposition group as the country's legitimate government and announced the expulsion of all diplomats loyal to Muammar Qadhafi's regime. Hague also said that his country was unfreezing £91 million (\$150 million) of Libyan oil assets to help the National Transitional Council (NTC).⁷¹

Egypt

● Islamist and secular forces join protests in Cairo; Hosni Mubarak to be tried in Cairo

Reports noted that thousands of protesters have assembled at Cairo's Tahrir Square in a joint protest by Islamist and secular groups. However, though the rally was supposed to be a show of unity in defence of anti-Mubarak revolution, it had been dominated by chants for an Islamic state. Key demands of the protesters included an end to military trials of civilians, swift trials for former regime members accused of killing protesters during the uprising and redistribution of wealth.⁷²

In another development, Justice Ministry official Mohammed Manei reportedly noted that Egypt's ex-president Hosni Mubarak's murder trial would take place in Cairo on August 3 along with his two sons Alaa and Gamal. Mubarak's transfer to Cairo was a key demand of protesters, who accused the ruling military and government that they were delaying trial of former regime officials.⁷³

Israel

● Kuwait calls for implementing Security Council Resolution on occupied territories

Kuwait's permanent representative to the United Nations, Mansour Ayyad Al-Otaibi, said that Kuwait requests the UN Security Council to take all necessary measures to pressurise Israel to

⁶⁹ "Libya: Leader of Opposition Forces Killed", *Allafrica.com*, July 29, 2011, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201107290175.html>

⁷⁰ "Rebel tug-of-war in Libya after military chief's death", *Mail and Guardian*, July 30, 2011, at <http://mg.co.za/article/2011-07-30-rebel-divisions-speculated-in-libya/>

⁷¹ "UK recognises Libyan rebels, expels Qadhafi envoys", *The Jordan Times*, July 28, 2011, at <http://jordantimes.com/index.php?news=39890>

⁷² "Islamist, Secular Forces Join Mass Protest in Cairo", *Allafrica.com*, July 29, 2011, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201107290843.html>

⁷³ "Mubaraks to be tried in Cairo", *The Jordan Times*, July 29, 2011, at <http://jordantimes.com/index.php?news=39930>

implement Security Council's Resolution No. 497, which stipulates for the Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Syrian Golan to the line of June 4, 1967. Al-Otaibi also underlined that the Israeli procedures aim at changing the legal, material and demographic situation in the occupied territories, which constitutes a violation of law and the UN Charter.⁷⁴

Palestine

- **Palestine to approach Security Council in September 2011 to seek full membership in the UN**

Addressing the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) Central Council in Ramallah, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas announced that the Palestinians would approach the UN Security Council in September 2011 to seek full membership in the UN and get recognition of Palestine on the 1967 borders. He told that 122 nations had already recognised a Palestinian state on the lines that existed before the 1967 War, which included the West Bank, Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem.⁷⁵

E. Africa

Somalia

- **Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) predicts famine spreading to Southern Somalia**

According to reports, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said in a new regional overview that the food crisis in the Horn of Africa is likely to continue for most of 2011 and famine is expected to spread to the whole of southern Somalia. It has cited high levels of severe acute malnutrition and under-five mortality, below-average harvest forecasts, a deterioration of pastoral conditions and continued increases in cereal prices. Further, the UN agencies have reviewed the humanitarian requirements and argue that US\$2.48 billion is needed. At present, 12.39 million people are severely affected across the region and need urgent life-saving assistance. This figure could go up by 25 percent in the coming months, OCHA said.⁷⁶

South Africa

- **Police National Commissioner General asked Special Investigating Unit (SIU) to probe police contracts; Moeletsi Mbeki criticises ANC of one-party state complacency**

Reports noted that South African Police National Commissioner General Bheki Cele has asked the Special Investigating Unit (SIU) to investigate the way certain contracts for construction,

⁷⁴ "Kuwait Calls for Israeli Withdrawal from Golan and All Occupied Arab Territories", *Syrian Arab News Agency*, July 27, 2011, at <http://www.sana.sy/eng/22/2011/07/27/360799.htm>

⁷⁵ "Palestinians to ask Security Council for UN membership - Abbas", *The Jordan Times*, July 28, 2011, at <http://jordantimes.com/index.php?news=39904>

⁷⁶ "Famine to Spread Across Southern Somalia - UN", *Allafrica.com*, July 29, 2011, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201107290986.html>

uniforms and equipment were granted within the South African Police Service (SAPS). 33 police stations at a cost of R330-million are currently under scrutiny by the SIU as well as three former police generals, who allegedly benefited from R4-billion worth of irregularly awarded tenders.⁷⁷

Separately, addressing the Cape Town Press Club, Moeletsi Mbeki, former president Thabo Mbeki's brother, said that President Jacob Zuma did not have the will or the ability to bail South Africa out of its economic and political difficulties and the African National Congress (ANC) was not the future for South Africa. Mbeki was also quoted as saying a steep decline in leadership within the ANC had developed and that politicians running the party lacked intellect and vision. The ruling party responded to this criticism by saying Mbeki's views were "disappointing and baseless".⁷⁸

Sudan

● Sudan and South Sudan to finalise oil talks by September

Reports noted that after the first round of negotiations, South Sudan has agreed with the North Sudan to finalise talks on key issues of oil, currency and borders by the end of September. Both the sides also signed an accord to send 300 Ethiopian troops to monitor the border separating the two countries.⁷⁹

South Sudan

● South Sudan endorses first foreign policy; South Sudan establishes full diplomatic relations with Israel; Security Council extends mandate of UNAMID in Darfur

The government of South Sudan's spokesperson and caretaker minister of information, Barnaba Marial Benjamin, said that the Republic of South Sudan has adopted its first foreign policy three weeks after its independence on July 9. The policy transformed the former ministry of regional cooperation into the new ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. Further, the policy stipulates that the new Republic shall be designed and guided by the principles and norms based on good neighbourly relations and peaceful coexistence, respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of other states and preservation of national interest and security as well as non-interference in the internal affairs of other states.⁸⁰

Separately, the Republic of South Sudan has officially established full diplomatic ties with the state of Israel. South Sudan's President Salva Kiir Mayardit received an official letter from the Israeli government, congratulating the leadership for attaining independence and pledged to

⁷⁷ "Cele asked SIU to probe police contracts", *Mail and Guardian*, July 27, 2011, at <http://mg.co.za/article/2011-07-27-cele-asked-siu-to-probe-police-contracts>

⁷⁸ "ANC accused of one-party state complacency", *Mail and Guardian*, July 31, 2011, <http://mg.co.za/article/2011-07-31-anc-accused-of-oneparty-state-complacency>

⁷⁹ "Sudan, South Sudan to Finalise Oil Talks By End September", *Allafrica.com*, July 31, 2011, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201107310014.html>

⁸⁰ "South Sudan cabinet endorses first foreign policy after independence", *Sudan Tribune*, July 30, 2011, at <http://www.sudantribune.com/South-Sudan-cabinet-endorses-first,39688>

establish full diplomatic relations with South Sudan. Barnaba Marial further explained that the two countries will soon open their respective embassies in Juba and Tel Aviv at ambassadorial levels.⁸¹

In another development, the Security Council has extended the mandate of the joint United Nations-African Union peacekeeping force in Sudan's Darfur region (UNAMID) for one year. It has also requested the Secretary General to continue reporting on UNAMID's mandate implementation every 90 days, and not later than 180 days.⁸²

Nigeria

- **National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS) commends President Jonathan for Education Trust Fund (ETF) Law; NDLEA arrests Nigerians smuggling drugs to Malaysia**

According to reports, the National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS) called on President Goodluck Jonathan to immediately constitute a committee that would ensure proper implementation of the Education Trust Fund (ETF), an intervention agency for educational institutions in the country. Commending the President for signing the ETF Bill into Law, the group also urged support for the proposed six-year single term for governors and president.⁸³

In another development, the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) at the Murtala Mohammed International Airport (MMIA) arrested two Nigerians when they were trying to smuggle 2.575 kg of methamphetamine to Malaysia. Reacting to the arrests and seizures, Chief Executive of the NDLEA, Ahmadu Giade, reiterated his commitment to reduce drug trafficking in the country through diligent investigation, arrest, seizure of drugs and prosecution of accused persons.⁸⁴

II. DEFENCE REVIEW

National

- **Indian Navy accords high priority to submarine acquisition plans; Vice-Chief designate Air Marshal K K Nohwar: Indian Air Space violation will not be tolerated**

The Indian Navy has appointed Rear admiral MT Moraes, as the new assistant chief of naval

⁸¹ "South Sudan establishes full diplomatic relations with Israel", *Sudan Tribune*, July 28, 2011, at <http://www.sudantribune.com/South-Sudan-establishes-full,39675>

⁸² "Security Council Extends Mandate of UN-African Mission in Darfur", *Allafrica.com*, July 30, 2011, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201107300002.html>

⁸³ "NANS Charges Jonathan On ETF Disbursement, Supports Six-year Single Term", *Nigerian Guardian*, July 31, 2011, at http://www.ngrguardiannews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=56235:nans-charges-jonathan-on-etf-disbursement-supports-six-year-single-term-&catid=1:national&Itemid=559

⁸⁴ "NDLEA Intercepts Malaysia-bound Drugs", *Nigerian Guardian*, July 31, 2011, at http://www.ngrguardiannews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=56233:ndlea-intercepts-malaysia-bound-drugs&catid=1:national&Itemid=559

staff (submarines), a position in naval headquarters that is being revived after a long time to oversee and fast-track all submarine acquisition plans, even as it grapples with a depleting underwater force and rising levels of submarines in the inventories of nations hostile to India. He assumed command on Friday. With a rapidly depleting fleet, the Navy has to move fast to get its Project-75 India (P-75I) rolling at the earliest. The Rs50,000 crore P-75I programme envisages acquisition of six new stealth submarines, equipped with both tube-launched missiles for land-attack capabilities as well as AIP (air-independent propulsion) for enhanced underwater endurance. Even as its older fleet of German HDW and Russian Kilo-class submarines approaches redundancy levels, the ongoing Rs23,562-crore project to build six French Scorpene submarines at the Mazagon Docks is running late by three years.⁸⁵

Meanwhile, Indian Air Force Vice-Chief designate Air Marshal K K Nohwar, who will take over as the Vice Chief of Air Staff on August 1 said on Wednesday that if any enemy aircraft violates India's air sovereignty, it will meet the same fate as Pakistan Navy's Atlantic patrol aircraft which was shot down in 1999. "Let me assure you, if any of our neighbours tries to intrude into our air space, it will meet the same fate as that met the Atlantic in the Rann of Kutch," Nohwar said, when pointed to reports about Chinese air planes chasing an US spy aircraft over Taiwan recently. In 1999, a Pakistan Navy Atlantic was shot down by IAF MiG-21s after they failed to force it to land at an Indian base. "The military is prepared to ensure that there is no violation of its territory. Every country has the right to defend its own territory," the Air Marshal said.⁸⁶

International

- **Lockheed's unmanned airship High Altitude Long Endurance-Demonstrator falters during first demonstration flight; China registers strong protest against US spy plane flights near the Chinese coast**

Reports noted that the first demonstration flight of a Lockheed-built unmanned solar power airship High Altitude Long Endurance-Demonstrator (HALE-D), being developed for the US Army has faltered in achieving the desired altitude. It reached an altitude of approximately 32,000 feet, however, a technical anomaly prevented the airship from attaining its target altitude of 60,000 feet and the HALE-D team decided to terminate the flight, the company said. "While we didn't reach the target altitude, first flights of new technologies like HALE-D also afford us the ability to learn and test with a mind toward future developments," said Dan Schultz, vice president ship and aviation systems for Lockheed Martin's Mission Systems & Sensors business. Lockheed Martin was contracted by the US Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command to develop the airship for demonstrating advanced new technologies and capabilities for keeping American soldiers safer through improved communications.⁸⁷

⁸⁵ "Indian Navy moves to fast-track submarine acquisition plans", *Domain-B*, 30 July 2011, at http://www.domain-b.com/defence/sea/indian_navy/20110730_submarine.html

⁸⁶ "Intruder aircraft would be shot down: IAF", *Brahmand*, July 27, 2011, at <http://www.brahmand.com/news/Intruder-aircraft-would-be-shot-down-IAF/7622/1/13.html>

⁸⁷ "Lockheed's unmanned airship falters during demo flight", *Brahmand*, July 28, 2011, at <http://www.brahmand.com/news/Lockheeds-unmanned-airship-falters-during-demo-flight/7631/1/13.html>

In a significant development, China has demanded that the United States stop spy plane flights near the Chinese coast, saying they have “severely harmed” trust, but the Pentagon insisted that it was within its rights. The dispute comes after Taiwanese media reported two Chinese fighter jets attempted to scare off an American U2 reconnaissance plane that was collecting intelligence on China while flying along the Taiwan Strait in late June. “We demand that the US respects China’s sovereignty and security interests, and take concrete measures to boost a healthy and stable development of military relations,” China’s state-run Global Times reported. In Washington, Pentagon spokesman Colonel Dave Lapan said, “Part of the reason that we have a desire for a more robust (military) relationship and communication with the Chinese is to prevent things from developing into a crisis.” Sino-US military relations have been plagued in recent years by periodic tensions stemming from US plans for arms sales to Taiwan and naval standoffs in the disputed South China Sea. Beijing considers Taiwan part of its territory. The United States recognizes Beijing and not Taipei, but provides military support to Taiwan.⁸⁸

III. INTERNAL SECURITY REVIEW

Jammu & Kashmir

- **Curfew remains imposed for the third running day in Manzgam; Youth shot dead by unidentified men in Sopore; Sopore youth dies in police custody; Three army soldiers killed in Kupwara; Gunfight broke out in Daspora area of Kupwara**

Reports noted that strict restrictions were imposed in Manzgam village of this South Kashmir district for the third running day where clashes broke out after a woman alleged abduction and rape by soldiers.

Contingent of troopers and police were deployed in the village to prevent people from taking to streets and staging demonstrations against the alleged abduction and gang-rape of the woman.⁸⁹

In another incident, unidentified gunmen shot dead a youth in Sopore town of north Kashmir. The spokesman said that the killed youth, a resident of MET Road in Sopore, was working as a labourer in the town. This is the second civilian killing in Sopore town within a week.⁹⁰ However, a 28-year old shopkeeper was allegedly tortured to death in police custody in north Kashmir’s Sopore town. Following the incident, tension gripped the entire Sopore area with additional forces of police and CRPF rushed in to control the angry residents.⁹¹

⁸⁸ “China protests US spy plane flights”, *Brahmand*, July 28, 2011 at <http://www.brahmand.com/news/China-protests-US-spy-plane-flights/7625/1/13.html>

⁸⁹ “Curfew in Manzgam”, *Greater Kashmir*, July 25, 2011 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2011/Jul/26/curfew-in-manzgam-108.asp>

⁹⁰ “Youth shot dead in Sopore”, *Greater Kashmir*, July 28, 2011 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2011/Jul/29/youth-shot-dead-in-sopore-56.asp>

⁹¹ “Sopore youth dies in police custody”, *Greater Kashmir*, July 31, 2011 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2011/Aug/1/sopore-youth-dies-in-police-custody-107.asp>

Reports noted that three Army soldiers were killed and two others injured in a fierce gun-battle with militants near the Line of Control in Kupwara district. According to sources, soldiers of 19 Rajput Rifles of the Army noticed movement of heavily-armed militants near Temple Post at Furkian Gali near LoC. Two soldiers died on the spot while three others were injured.⁹²

In other developments, a gunfight broke out between the militants and force personnel in frontier district of Kupwara. A joint party of policemen and soldiers cordoned off Daspora area and launched searches. Militants present there opened fire on the search party which retaliated triggering an encounter.⁹³

North East India

- **National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB) offers indefinite ceasefire; Couple killed by ultras in Manipur; ULFA militant held in Sonitpur district; Heavy exchange of fire with militants in Manipur reported**

According to reports, an influential faction of the outlawed National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB) led by guerrilla leader Ranjan Daimary offered an indefinite ceasefire aimed at ending decades of violent insurgency in Assam through peace talks. It would be worth noting that with the Ranjan Daimary faction of the NDFB opting for a truce, almost all the militant groups are now in peace mode, barring a faction of the outlawed United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) led by the elusive commander-in-chief Paresh Baruah.⁹⁴

However, in a tragic development, a 35-year-old man and his wife were shot dead in front of their three children at an isolated village in Phungyar sub-division of Manipur's interior Ukhrul district bordering Myanmar. The report said about six suspected militants in military uniform barged into the house of Vareingam Mahonao Shimray at Lungphu village and gunned down Shimray and his wife, Ngaherla (33) in front of their three children.⁹⁵

Meanwhile, a hardcore ULFA cadre of Paresh Baruah faction, Rittik Hazarika at Rajib Lahn was apprehended in a joint operation by 44 Assam Rifles and Sonitpur Police at Gingia near Behali under Gingia Police outpost of Biswanath subdivision in Sonitpur district.⁹⁶

In other developments, heavy exchange of fire between security personnel and insurgents was reported from Manipur's Ukhrul district bordering Myanmar according to the officials. The

⁹² "3 soldiers killed in Kupwara", *Greater Kashmir*, July 31, 2011 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2011/Aug/1/3-soldiers-killed-in-kupwara-102.asp>

⁹³ "Gunfight rages in Kupwara", *Greater Kashmir*, July 29, 2011 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2011/Jul/30/gunfight-rages-in-kupwara-79.asp>

⁹⁴ "NDFB offers indefinite ceasefire", *The Assam Tribune*, July 26, 2011 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=jul2611/at014>

⁹⁵ "Couple shot dead by ultras in Manipur", *The Assam Tribune*, July 26, 2011 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=jul2611/at018>

⁹⁶ "Hardcore ULFA militant held", *The Assam Tribune*, July 26, 2011 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=jul2711/state05>

12th Assam Rifles, posted at Nambisa village, launched a manhunt in the adjacent villages following information that insurgents of banned People's Liberation Army had entered the state from across the border. During operation, both sides exchanged fire, but there was no casualty.⁹⁷

IV. UNITED NATIONS (UN) REVIEW

- **India set to assume UNSC presidency for the month of August; India against Israeli construction of settlements; UN Security Council extends UN mandates in Cote d'Ivoire and Iraq; Council re-establishes Monitoring Group on Eritrea and Somalia; Sanctions imposed against Pakistani Taliban**

In a significant development, India will assume the monthly presidency of the UN Security Council on August 1st after a gap of nearly two decades. Other than the regular work of the Council, India will organize a thematic debate on peacekeeping. Hardeep Singh Puri, India's envoy to the UN noted that it could be a 'relaxed' month but would have to deal with the normal agenda of the Council. Conflicts in Sudan and Libya would continue to be the priorities on the agenda.⁹⁸ Puri added that India would like to conduct its presidency in such a manner which sends across a "clear image to all that India is a country, which not only has the credentials but also the political maturity to supervise the work of the Council."⁹⁹

At a monthly debate on the Middle East, India said that Israel needed to stop the construction of settlements in occupied territories to enable peace talks to resume. Otherwise, India warned that "the growing desperation may lead the parties to actions that may spiral out of control".¹⁰⁰

Meanwhile, the Security Council extended the mandate of the UN Peacekeeping mission in Cote d'Ivoire for a year till 31 July 2012 to help the country tackle challenges that followed the recent post-election crisis.¹⁰¹ The Council also extended the mandate of the UN Assistance Mission for Iraq for a year. The 15-member body also urged the Iraqi government to continue to promote human rights and developing strategies to ensure greater role for women in decision-making.¹⁰²

⁹⁷ "Exchange of fire with militants in Manipur", *The Assam Tribune*, July 28, 2011 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=jul2811/oth04>

⁹⁸ "India to preside over UN Security Council after 19 years", *The Economic Times*, July 27, 2011 at http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2011-07-27/news/29820654_1_hardeep-singh-puri-envoy-india

⁹⁹ "India for ending fight in Libya during Ramadam", *The Hindu*, July 29, 2011 at <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/article2306081.ece>

¹⁰⁰ "Israel must stop building settlements first: India", *MSN News*, July 27, 2011 at <http://news.in.msn.com/international/article.aspx?cp-documentid=5320636>

¹⁰¹ "Security Council extends UN mission in Cote d'Ivoire for another year", *UN News Centre*, July 27, 2011 at <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=39159&Cr=ivoire&Cr1=>

¹⁰² "Security Council extends UN mission in Iraq by another year", *UN News Centre*, July 28, 2011 at <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=39172&Cr=Iraq&Cr1=>

Reports noted that the Council in a resolution re-established the Monitoring Group on Eritrea and Somalia that monitors the embargoes on the delivery of weapons and military equipment to these countries for a year. The Group is also tasked with investigating seaport operations in Somalia and overall monitoring of financial and maritime sectors.¹⁰³

In other developments, the UN Security Council slapped sanctions which included assets freeze and travel ban on the al-Qaeda linked Pakistani Taliban. The Council put the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan on its international anti-terrorism list.¹⁰⁴

¹⁰³ "Security Council extends mandate for monitoring group for Somalia and Eritrea", *UN News Centre*, July 29, 2011 at <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=39196&Cr=somali&Cr1=>

¹⁰⁴ "UNSC slaps sanctions on Pakistani Taliban", *The Asian Age*, July 30, 2011 at <http://www.asianage.com/international/unsc-slaps-sanctions-pakistani-taliban-562>