

# THE WEEK IN REVIEW

July 27 – August 2, 8 (1), 2015

**Editor: Saroj Bishoyi**

## Contributors

**Yaqoob-ul Hassan**

**Gulbin Sultana**

**Gunjan Singh**

**Titli Basu**

**Rajorshi Roy**

**Saroj Bishoyi**

**Amit Kumar**

**Rajbala Rana**

**Arpita Anant**

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1, Development Enclave, Rao Tula Ram Marg, New Delhi-110010

Telephone: 91-26717983; Fax: 91-11-26154191 Website: [www.idsa.in](http://www.idsa.in); Email: [twir@idsa.in](mailto:twir@idsa.in)

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# I. COUNTRY REVIEWS

## A. South Asia

### Afghanistan

(July 27-August 2, 2015)

- **Death won't derail peace talks; IS presence to be a serious threat to Afghan peace; Mullah Omar was mysteriously killed; \$800 million to Afghanistan under the new development partnership; Mullah Omar's death raises many questions; New Taliban leader Mansour rejects peace talks.**

Members of the Afghan government's delegation for peace negotiations with the Taliban on July 31 reassured that the death of Mullah Omar would not negatively impact the talks, a hopeful outlook that has been echoed by independent analysts. Mohammad Natiqi, a member of the first government delegation sent to Islamabad to meet with Taliban leaders earlier this month, emphasized that the new leadership of the Taliban, especially Mullah Akhtar Mansour, who was reportedly appointed Mullah Omar's successor, is willing and ready for peace talks. "I believe the death of Mullah Omar will not affect the peace talks, because the delegation we had for the first round of peace talks was appointed by Mullah Akhtar and Mullah Akhtar was leading the delegation," Natiqi said. "I think Mullah Akhtar is willing to continue peace talks."<sup>1</sup>

Islamic State (Daesh) in Afghanistan is not only a threat to stability of Afghanistan, but also a serious threat to Afghan peace talk's process special inspector general for Afghanistan Reconstruction said. SIGAR has reported to US congress that Afghan security forces have had poor acts on ensuring security for Afghanistan. SIGAR has not only written about the poor acts of the Afghan security forces but also about corruption, Narcotic drugs, combating insurgency, and spending of the US aids in Afghanistan to US congress. Part of the SIGAR report indicates the concerns on growing of the Islamic State forces (Daesh) In Afghanistan. SIGAR member John Sapko said," the following terrorist group is not only a threat to stability but also a serious threat to Afghan peace talks with Taliban." However a member of the peace talks delegation said," Islamic state (Daesh) cant be a threat to Afghan peace talks with Taliban because Taliban leaders still interesting

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<sup>1</sup> "Mullah Omar's Death Won't Derail Peace Talks: Officials", *Daily Outlook Afghanistan*, August 1, 2015, at [http://www.outlookafghanistan.net/national\\_detail.php?post\\_id=12720](http://www.outlookafghanistan.net/national_detail.php?post_id=12720)

in peace talks process. Mr. Johan has stated the survey indicated that Afghan security forces have been acting so poor in the past three months ensuring peace in Afghanistan.<sup>2</sup>

The Afghan Intelligence – National Directorate of Security (NDS) has said the Taliban supreme leader Mullah Mohammad was mysteriously killed in a hospital in Karachi city of Pakistan. A statement was issued by NDS earlier and strictly prohibited participation in any gathering aimed at mourning the death of Mullah Omar. The statement further added that Mullah Omar was killed in the month of April 2013 in a hospital in Karachi city. NDS said Mullah Omar played a key role in ongoing war and violence in the country by establishing the Taliban group which resulted in death of thousands of innocent Afghan people. The statement by NDS also added that participation in gatherings mourning Mullah Omar's death and other gatherings aimed at spreading propagandas in favour of Mullah Omar would be a major misery against thousands of innocent Afghans who have lost their lives. NDS said the Afghan security institutions have been instructed to raid any gatherings organized for Mullah Omar and insisted that such gatherings would be legitimate military targets for the Afghan security forces.<sup>3</sup>

Afghan Minister of Finance Hakimi, the U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan P. Michael McKinley, and the USAID Mission Director William Hammink signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the New Development Partnership on August 3, 2015. The New Development Partnership reflects the strategic importance of the U.S.-Afghanistan relationship and recognizes a new era of development cooperation between our governments. This initiative delivers on the commitment made during Afghan President Ashraf Ghani's March visit to Washington during which President Barack Obama pledged to support the Afghan National Unity Government's efforts to achieve its own ambitious reform agenda. Afghanistan's Minister of Finance Eklil Hakimi thanked the U.S. for its generous support with the New Development Partnership, under which the U.S. will provide up to \$800 million to Afghanistan in budget assistance to maintain and build on the development gains made over the last 13 years. U.S. Ambassador P. Michael McKinley remarked that the New Development Partnership represents a fundamental transformation in the nature of development cooperation between our two countries. It empowers Afghan solutions to Afghan challenges, by incentivizing and rewarding Afghan successes.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>2</sup> "IS Presence to be a Serious Threat to Afghan Peace Talks: SIGAR", *Daily Outlook Afghanistan*, August 1, 2015, at [http://www.outlookafghanistan.net/national\\_detail.php?post\\_id=12733](http://www.outlookafghanistan.net/national_detail.php?post_id=12733)

<sup>3</sup> "Mullah Omar was Mysteriously Killed in a Hospital in Karachi City: NDS", *Khaama Press*, August 3, 2015, at <http://www.khaama.com/mullah-omar-was-mysteriously-killed-in-a-hospital-in-karachi-city-nds-1352>

<sup>4</sup> "US Pledges \$800 Million To Afghanistan Under The New Development Partnership", *Khaama Press*, August, 4, 2015, at <http://www.khaama.com/us-pledges-800-million-to-afghanistan-under-the-new-development-partnership-9562>

Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah on August 2 said that news of the death of the Taliban's supreme leader Mullah Mohammad Omar has raised numerous questions, particularly in relation to the ongoing war in Afghanistan. Abdullah questioned the context of the war and raised the question of who the Taliban contingent represents in the peace talks. His death "has created lots of questions in Afghanistan and the world such as under which name the war is going on? And who do the Taliban represent in the peace talks," Abdullah asked. However, some political analysts have criticized government's silence on Mullah Omar's death and say they should have used this as an opportunity, especially in terms of putting pressure on Pakistan. They said that in the absence of President Ashraf Ghani, who is recovering from foot surgery in Germany, no one has the authority to take a stance on such issues – even matters as important as this.<sup>5</sup>

The Taliban's newly appointed leader, Mullah Akhtar Mohammad Mansour, has denied that any peace talks have taken place between his group and the Afghan government, despite reports last month that he was involved in the widely covered negotiations outside Islamabad. The denial of peace talks comes after reports circulated last week that the new Taliban leader, who was promoted after news of the death of the group's former leader Mullah Omar broke, is unpopular among many of the insurgency's leaders. As a whole, the peace process launched with the help of Pakistan and China last month, as well as the death of Mullah Omar, have exposed immense division within the Taliban's ranks. "The movement will continue until the Islamic system rules," Mansour said at an allegiance ceremony this week. "This rumour among the enemies that a peace process is going on, it is the enemies' propaganda." Mansour's move to deny the peace talks, which were in fact well-documented by Afghan and Pakistani officials, could potentially be an attempt to shore up his support among members of the group who have been reticent about the negotiations. Recently, Syed Tayyab Agha, the head of the Taliban's political office in Qatar, resigned from his post. Although it is unclear exactly why he resigned, it is rumoured that it was because of his opposition to Mansour's leadership.<sup>6</sup>

## Pakistan

(July 27-August 2, 2015)

- **Obstruct to CPEC will be thwarted; Nexus between terrorists, drug-pushers to be broken; Regional Al Qaeda chief killed in Chagai; COAS has trust of nation, govt., army.**

<sup>5</sup> "Mullah Omar's Death Raises Many Questions: Abdullah", *Daily Outlook Afghanistan*, August, 4, 2015, at [http://www.outlookafghanistan.net/national\\_detail.php?post\\_id=12753](http://www.outlookafghanistan.net/national_detail.php?post_id=12753)

<sup>6</sup> "New Taliban Leader Mansour Rejects Peace Talks", *Tolo News*, August, 4, 2015, at <http://www.tolonews.com/en/afghanistan/20747-new-taliban-leader-mansour-rejects-peace-talks>

Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Gen Raheel Sharif reiterated on July 31 his firm resolve that any attempt to obstruct or impede the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project would be thwarted at all costs. Speaking on occasion of the Chinese army's 88th anniversary, he said cooperation on the CPEC would benefit the entire region. According to ISPR, the COAS said recent strides and the holistic concept of the CPEC spoke volumes in this regard. "We will see both nations progressing and further maximising the dividend of our geostrategic relations." He said the entire world looked at the CPEC through the same lens. He had visited the site of the project and the pace of work was in full gear, he said. Gen Sharif said both countries had deep and resolute relations. "The all-weather friendship is sweeter than honey, higher than the Himalayas and deeper than oceans. Our friendship will further grow in these testing times." He said: "Your enemy is our enemy. Eliminating the East Turkistan Independence Movement (ETIM) is its manifestation."<sup>7</sup>

The Chief of the Army Staff (COAS), General Raheel Sharif, said on August 3 that the nexus between drug- pushers and terrorists would be eliminated at all costs as drug peddlers and those involved in drugs production were as much pernicious to the national security as the terrorists. "Drug money is being used for abetting terrorism and, therefore, it is important that drug dealers are dealt with an iron hand," the COAS emphasised. The COAS was addressing on the occasion of his visit to the Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) headquarters, Rawalpindi, a spokesman for the ANF headquarters said. "We will break the nexus among drug dealers, financiers and perpetrators of terrorism. We will not allow these drug barons to negatively influence and spoil our future generations," General Raheel reiterated. Major General Khawar Hanif, DG ANF, gave a detailed briefing to the COAS on various aspects related to the ANF operations to counter drug smuggling.<sup>8</sup>

Omar Latif alias Luqman, said to be Al Qaeda's chief for Balochistan and south Punjab, has been killed by Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) personnel in Chagai area close to the Afghan border. This was stated by Balochistan Home Minister Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti at a press conference on August 2. He said the man was killed when "ISI personnel carried out an operation on information about the presence of the Al Qaeda leader in the area". His wife and two children were taken into custody. Mr Bugti, who was accompanied at the press conference by Home Secretary Akbar Hussain Durrani, also confirmed the arrest in Quetta of a leader of the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan who had been accused of being the mastermind of attacks on the army General Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi

<sup>7</sup> "Attempt to Obstruct CPEC will be Thwarted, Gen Raheel Tells China", *Dawn*, August, 1, 2015, at <http://www.dawn.com/news/1197775/attempt-to-obstruct-cpec-will-be-thwarted-gen-raheel-tells-china>

<sup>8</sup> "Nexus between Terrorists, Drug-Pushers To Be Broken: COAS", *The News*, August, 3, 2015, at <http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-13-38927-Nexus-between-terrorists-drug-pushers-to-be-broken-COAS>

and ISI offices in Sukkur. He said that a brother of Omar Latif had escaped during the Chagai raid.<sup>9</sup>

Minister for Interior Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan has said that the Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) General Raheel Sharif is enjoying confidence of the government, the armed forces and the entire nation and the people of the country are standing behind the army. He said that no conspiracy was hatched in the army to oust General Raheel Sharif. Addressing a press conference at the Nadra headquarters on August 3, the minister said speaking against the army was harmful for the country and the military. Ruling out the possibility of any conspiracy against the COAS, the interior minister said, "It is a baseless speculation, we have complete trust in the incumbent top command of our military." The interior minister said, "Our army is a professional and disciplined force and enjoying a unique and consummate status in the world." He said that the nation should stand by the army chief as the country was in a state of war. He said the army was the only institution that had achieved success in guerrilla war, adding that the Pakistan Army was the only fighting force in the entire world which won the battle against terrorists. "We need an army chief like General Raheel Sharif who has earned national and international fame and therefore, we need him to fight the militants," he said adding that such 'baseless rumours' were being spread by 'enemies' of Pakistan.<sup>10</sup>

## Bangladesh

(July 27-August 2, 2015)

- **Bangladesh-China defence relationship has reached "unprecedented heights": Chinese Defence Attaché in Bangladesh.**

Chinese Defence Attaché' in Bangladesh Senior Colonel Zhang Wei said Bangladesh-China defence relationship has reached "unprecedented heights" in last few years. Addressing a reception on the Chinese embassy premises marking the 88th founding anniversary of the Chinese People's Liberation Army on July 28, Zhang Wei mentioned that Bangladesh so far is the only country to receive Chinese medical ship twice.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>9</sup> "Regional Al Qaeda Chief Killed in Chagai", *Dawn*, August 3, 2015, at <http://www.dawn.com/news/1198121/regional-al-qaeda-chief-killed-in-chagai>

<sup>10</sup> "COAS has Trust Of Nation, Govt, Army: Nisar", *The News*, August 4, 2015, at <http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-13-38928-COAS-has-trust-of-nation-govt-army-Nisar>

<sup>11</sup> "Bangladesh-China Defence Relations Reach 'Unprecedented Heights'", *The Daily Star*, July 29, 2015 at <http://www.thedailystar.net/city/bangladesh-china-defence-relationship-unprecedented-heights%E2%80%99-118240>.

## Sri Lanka

(July 27-August 2, 2015)

- **45 Sri Lankan Tamil refugees return back to Sri Lanka; Sri Lanka and Iran defence officials discuss bilateral defence relations.**

Another batch of 45 Sri Lankan Tamil refugees have left the refugee camps in the Tamil Nadu for their homeland on July 28. Before this, in May, a group of 41 Lankan Tamil refugees returned to Sri Lanka and another batch of 46 refugees went back in June.<sup>12</sup>

Defence officials of Sri Lanka and Iran have discussed bilateral cooperation in defence issues relevant to the two countries. Discussions took place when the Military Attaché of the Embassy of Iran in Colombo Colonel Ebrahim Rohani called on the Sri Lanka Navy Commander, Vice Admiral Ravindra Wijegunaratne at the Naval Headquarters in Colombo on July 29.<sup>13</sup>

## Maldives

(July 27-August 2, 2015)

- **British High Commissioner meets leader of the Jumhooree Party; Ministry of Foreign Affairs denies to have closed the High commission in Bangladesh; Foreign Secretary meets the Secretary –General of the Commonwealth.**

British High Commissioner to Sri Lanka and Maldives, James Dauris has met with the Leader of the Jumhooree Party, Qasim Ibrahim. Spokesperson of Jumhooree Party, Ali Soalih said that the political state of the Maldives was the main topic in the hour long meeting.<sup>14</sup>

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Maldives has denied reports that the Maldivian High Commission in Bangladesh had been closed. Media Coordinator of Foreign Ministry Ahmed Anoosh told media on July 29 that the Maldivian High Commissioner to Bangladesh was recalled recently, but the High Commission was never closed. He said that the mission has always had a second secretary level official.<sup>15</sup>

<sup>12</sup> “Another Batch of Sri Lankan Tamil Refugees Returns Home from India”, *ColomboPage*, July 29, 2015 at [http://www.colombopage.com/archive\\_15B/Jul29\\_1438137122CH.php](http://www.colombopage.com/archive_15B/Jul29_1438137122CH.php).

<sup>13</sup> “Sri Lanka, Iran Defence Officials Discuss Bilateral Cooperation”, *ColomboPage*, July 29, 2015 at [http://www.colombopage.com/archive\\_15B/Jul29\\_1438157797CH.php](http://www.colombopage.com/archive_15B/Jul29_1438157797CH.php).

<sup>14</sup> “British High Commissioner Meets with Qasim Ibrahim”, *SunOnline*, July 27, 2015 at <http://www.sun.mv/english/31314>.

<sup>15</sup> “Foreign Ministry: Maldivian High Commission in Bangladesh has not been Closed”, *SunOnline*, July 29, 2015 at <http://www.sun.mv/english/31339>.

Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Kamalesh Sharma has said that he hoped that the Maldives “would remain a valued and active member of the Commonwealth family”. Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement, that Sharma made this remark during a meeting with Foreign Secretary Dr. Ali Naseer Mohamed on July 28, 2015. The meeting took place at the Commonwealth Secretariat in London. During the meeting, the Foreign Secretary briefed the Secretary-General on the recent political developments in the Maldives, including the Prosecutor General’s decision to appeal former President Nasheed’s conviction. Sharma’s remark regarding Maldives remaining a member of the Commonwealth followed discussions on the recent debate in the parliament, regarding the Maldives’ membership of the Commonwealth.<sup>16</sup>

## B. East Asia

### China

(July 27-August 2, 2015)

- **Chinese Embassy upset with remarks on cyberattacks; Chinese Premier meets the President of Turkey; Chinese Vice President meets the Foreign Minister of Malta; China keen to help international NGOs; China and Scotland sign economic deals.**

On July 31 the Chinese Embassy in Washington rebuked the Washington Post for accusing China of alleged cyberattacks against the United States. The Embassy called such actions “counterproductive”. The Embassy spokesperson Zhu Haiquan said that, “Cyberattacks across borders are very complex and hard to trace. Therefore, combating such activities requires closer international cooperation and formulating international rules and norms to govern behaviours in cyberspace”.<sup>17</sup>

The Chinese Premier Li Keqiang met the President of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan on July 29 in Beijing. Both sides discussed bilateral cooperation and trade. During the meeting Li said that, “China hopes to strengthen cooperation with Turkey in such areas as new energy, light manufacturing, communication and infrastructure, including railways to boost balanced trade”.<sup>18</sup>

<sup>16</sup> “Commonwealth Secretary-General: Hope Maldives Remains a Member of Commonwealth”, *SunOnline*, July 30, 2015 at <http://www.sun.mv/english/31355>.

<sup>17</sup> “Chinese Embassy Rebukes Major US Paper for Unfair Accusations over Cyber Attacks”, *China Daily*, August 1, 2015 at [http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2015-08/01/content\\_21471101.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2015-08/01/content_21471101.htm), accessed on August 3, 2015

<sup>18</sup> “Chinese Premier Meets Turkish President”, *China Daily*, July 29, 2015 at [http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2015-07/29/content\\_21445023.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2015-07/29/content_21445023.htm), accessed on July 31, 2015

Chinese Vice President Li Yuanchao met the Foreign Minister of Malta George Vella on July 28. Both sides discussed bilateral relations. They discuss ways to further boost the trade and cooperation between the two sides<sup>19</sup>

The Chinese Minister of Public Security, Guo Shengkun, said on July 25 that China appreciates the role played by the international non-governmental organizations. According to the report, "The Standing Committee of the National People's Congress late last year started to mull a draft law that would set dos and don'ts for foreign NGOs in China. The draft allows NGOs to hold events with the permission of the State Council's public security departments and provincial government's public security organs".<sup>20</sup>

China and Scotland signed a new agreement which is worth 43.15 million pounds to the economy of Scotland and it will also create 70 new jobs. This agreement was signed during the visit of First Minister of Scotland Nicola Sturgeon. During her visit Sturgeon said that, "Scotland is well placed to benefit from China's strategic focus on innovation, with our longstanding expertise in sectors which have been identified as essential for China's future prosperity".<sup>21</sup>

## Japan

(July 27-August 2, 2015)

- **Japan fears expanding Chinese influence in the South China Sea; Vietnam Communist Party chief likely to visit Japan in September; Chinese Coast Guard vessel reportedly violated Japanese territorial waters; Fourth Japan-EU High-level Policy Dialogue for Development Cooperation was held in Tokyo.**

On July 29, Adm. Tomohisa Takei, commander of Japanese Maritime Self-Defence Force, during an event in Washington cautioned that in case China utilizes the newly constructed artificial islands in South China Sea for military purpose, it will expand Chinese sphere of military influence. He also stressed on the importance of freedom of navigation and warned that any effort to obstruct it may lead to "an unexpected incident at sea".<sup>22</sup> While Japan has no sovereignty claims in the South China Sea, it has been vocal about the developments in the region. In a related development, the US deputy assistant

<sup>19</sup> "Chinese Vice President Meets Malta's FM", *China Daily*, July 29, 2015 at [http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2015-07/29/content\\_21443129.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2015-07/29/content_21443129.htm), accessed on July 31, 2015

<sup>20</sup> "China Eyes Deepened Cooperation With Overseas NGOs", *China Daily*, July 27, 2015 at [http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2015-07/27/content\\_21416768.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2015-07/27/content_21416768.htm), accessed on July 31, 2015

<sup>21</sup> "Sino-Scottish Deals Worth £43m Announced", By Zheng Xin, *China Daily*, July 27, 2015 at [http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2015-07/27/content\\_21423804.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2015-07/27/content_21423804.htm), accessed on July 31, 2015

<sup>22</sup> "MSDF Chief Warns of China's Military Influence in South China Sea", *Kyodo, Reuters*, July 30 2015 <http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2015/07/30/national/politics-diplomacy/msdf-chief-warns-chinas-military-influence-south-china-sea/#.VcWVFPIbhHR>

secretary of state for East Asia Michael Fuchs underscored the necessity to decrease the threat of conflict in the South China Sea.

Reports indicated that Japan and Vietnam are discussing the details of the General Secretary of Vietnam's Communist Party, Nguyen Phu Trong's visit to Japan in September. He paid a visit to the US in July, marking the first ever party leader visit since the Vietnam War. General Secretary Trong reportedly discussed the developments in South China Sea with President Obama. He is expected to discuss security issues related to China during his visit to Japan. It may be noted that Vietnamese Prime Minister Dung visited Japan in July in an effort to strengthen the Extensive Strategic Partnership.<sup>23</sup>

Japan Coast Guard on August 2 reported the development of three Chinese Coast Guard ships intruding into Japanese territorial waters for two hours near the disputed Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands. This made it the 22<sup>nd</sup> time in 2015 when Chinese vessels reportedly violated the Japanese waters.<sup>24</sup>

On July 27, the fourth Japan-EU High-level Policy Dialogue for Development Cooperation was held in Tokyo where both parties talked about the possibilities of deepening cooperation and focussed on the significance of coordination at multilateral forums including the United Nations, G20, and OECD. They also discussed other issues including gender equality and women's empowerment, global health. Japan and EU delegation also reflected on the development challenges in Asia and Africa together with quality infrastructure.<sup>25</sup>

## The Korean Peninsula

(July 27-August 2, 2015)

- **A trilateral meeting between the US, Japanese and the South Korean Deputy nuclear envoys was held in Tokyo; South Korean President Park Geun-hye and Foreign Minister Yun Byung-se met Japanese opposition party leader separately in Seoul; North Korean Foreign Minister is scheduled to attend the ASEAN Regional Forum in Malaysia; South Korean Ministry of Environment will support SMEs to reduce GHG emissions.**

<sup>23</sup> "Talks Afoot to Arrange First Visit to Japan by Vietnam Communist Party Chief," *Kyodo*, July 29, 2015 at <http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2015/07/29/national/politics-diplomacy/talks-afoot-arrange-first-japan-visit-vietnam-communist-party-chief/#.VcW4AP1bhHR>

<sup>24</sup> "Three China Ships Intrude Into Japan Waters Around Senkakus", *Kyodo*, August 2 2015 at <http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2015/08/02/national/politics-diplomacy/three-china-ships-intrude-japan-waters-around-senkakus/#.VcXNEvlbhHR>

<sup>25</sup> Fourth Japan- EU High-level Policy Dialogue for Development Cooperation, *MOFA Japan*, July 27, 2015 [http://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e\\_000820.html](http://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_000820.html)

On July 31, a trilateral meeting between the US, Japanese and the South Korean Deputy nuclear envoys was held in Tokyo to discuss steps aimed at convincing North Korea to renounce its nuclear weapons programme and also to coordinate a three nation's stand on the issue before raising and discussing it at the ASEAN Regional Forum in Malaysia in the coming days. While Kim Gunn represented the South Korean Foreign Ministry, US and Japan were represented by Sydney Seiler and Shigeki Takizaki respectively. US envoy Seiler stressed that North Korea needs to draw lessons from the Iran deal.<sup>26</sup>

On August 3, South Korean President Park Geun-hye and Foreign Minister Yun Byung-se separately met with Japanese opposition party leader Katsuya Okada in Seoul and discussed the critical issues in the bilateral relations. During the meeting, stress was given on the need for both countries to strengthen bilateral relations by addressing sensitive issues, including the comfort women issue and the Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's statement to commemorate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War II. They also discussed the importance of the ROK-Japan-China trilateral summit which will be important to build mutual trust.<sup>27</sup>

Malaysian foreign ministry confirmed that Ri Su-yong, North Korean Foreign Minister will attend ASEAN Regional Forum in Kuala Lumpur. This might be an opportunity where officials from both Koreas will meet. The North Korean delegation will also have the director-general of the Foreign Ministry's Bureau of International Organizations, Kim Chang-min. Yun Byung-se, South Korean Foreign Minister will visit Kuala Lumpur to be present at several ASEAN-related meetings, including the ARF.<sup>28</sup>

South Korean Environment Ministry plans to facilitate projects supporting SMEs to take part in the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) intended at easing GHG emissions. The objective is averting participating SME's loss of competitiveness and attaining GHG emissions cutback target by realistic support. The budget is around KRW 2 billion. The selected SME will either get subsidy within 50 percent of reduction facility investment or KRW 300 million.<sup>29</sup>

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<sup>26</sup> Regional Powers to Meet over N. Korea's Nuclear Programme, *Yonhap News Agency*, July 31, 2015 <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/national/2015/07/31/0301000000AEN20150731001500315.html>

<sup>27</sup> Foreign Minister Meets with President of the Democratic Party of Japan Okada, *MOFA ROK*, August 3, 2015 at [http://www.mofa.go.kr/webmodule/htsboard/template/read/engreadboard.jsp?typeID=12&boardid=302&seqno=315546&c=&t=&pagenum=1&tableName=TYPE\\_ENGLISH&pc=&dc=&wc=&lu=&vu=&iu=&du=](http://www.mofa.go.kr/webmodule/htsboard/template/read/engreadboard.jsp?typeID=12&boardid=302&seqno=315546&c=&t=&pagenum=1&tableName=TYPE_ENGLISH&pc=&dc=&wc=&lu=&vu=&iu=&du=)

<sup>28</sup> "N. Korean FM to Attend Regional Meeting in Malaysia: Official", *Yonhap News Agency*, July 29, 2015 at <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2015/07/29/0401000000AEN20150729004452315.html>

<sup>29</sup> "Ministry of Environment to Support SMEs to Reduce GHG Emissions under the Emissions Trading Scheme" *Korea.Net*, Jul 29, 2015 at <http://www.korea.net/Government/Briefing-Room/Press-Releases/view?articleId=3116&pageIndex=1&gov=>

## C. Russia

### National

(July 27-August 2, 2015)

- **Russian security forces kill 8 suspected Islamic State members in North Caucasus; Russia's oil output falls in July; Russia conducts military drills in South Urals; Russian and German gas companies sign memorandum on participation in Nord Stream 2 project; Central Bank lowers key interest rate by 0.5 percentage points to 11 per cent; New ammunition depots to help Russia's Defence Ministry cut 50,000 personnel; Energy Ministry stands for maintaining Gazprom's monopoly right to export pipeline gas; BP receives US\$ 271 million in dividends from Rosneft in July; Russian prosecutors deem National Endowment for Democracy undesirable in Russia; Russia deploys S-400 anti-aircraft missile systems in Kamchatka.**

Russia's counter-terrorism agency in the North Caucasus has, on August 2, killed eight militants who had sworn allegiance to the Islamic State group. The Anti-Terrorism Committee stated that the militants killed in combat in the Republic of Ingushetia were involved in a series of attacks on the police. Russian officials have estimated that 2,000 Russian citizens are currently fighting for the Islamic State.<sup>30</sup>

Russian oil output fell to 10.65 million barrels per day (bpd) in July, down from 10.71 million bpd it produced in June. The fall was mostly due to lower condensate production at Gazprom due to the energy agency carrying out work at its Surgut Gas Condensate Stabilization Plant.<sup>31</sup>

Motor rifle and artillery units of Russia's Central Military District have ended their military drills at the Totsky shooting range near Orenburg in the south Urals on July 31. The drills involved over 3,000 personnel and more than 400 pieces of the armour. The District's press office stated that 'the units practiced an offensive operation with the support of artillery fire, using intervals and gaps in enemy defences and developing the attack in depth'.<sup>32</sup>

<sup>30</sup> "Russian Forces Kill 8 Suspected Islamic State Members in North Caucasus", *The Moscow Times*, August 2, 2015 at <http://www.themoscowtimes.com/news/article/russian-forces-kill-8-suspected-islamic-state-members-in-north-caucasus/526621.html>

<sup>31</sup> "Russian Oil Output Falls in July, Still Beats Saudi Arabia", *The Moscow Times*, August 2, 2015 at <http://www.themoscowtimes.com/business/article/russian-oil-output-falls-in-july-still-beats-saudi-arabia/526609.html>

<sup>32</sup> "Military Drills Involving Over 3,000 Personnel Come To End In South Urals", *Itar-Tass*, July 31, 2015 at <http://tass.ru/en/russia/811988>

Russia and German energy companies Gazprom and Wintershall have signed a memorandum, on July 31, in order to participate in the Nord Stream 2 project. It involves construction of new lines of the Trans-Baltic gas pipeline that will supply up to 55 billion cubic meters of additional Russian gas to Germany.<sup>33</sup>

The Russian Central Bank has, on July 31, lowered its key interest rate by 0.5 percentage points to 11 per cent. The bank stated that the decision is based on the fact that the balance of risks 'still remains shifted to a significant economic slowdown despite higher inflation risks'.<sup>34</sup>

The Russian Defence Ministry is in the process of building new ammunition depots that will allow it to cut almost 17,000 servicemen and 30,000 civilian personnel. The new arsenals will accommodate Russia's entire missile and artillery weaponry and is expected to be operationalised by the end of 2015.<sup>35</sup>

Russia's Ministry of Energy has spoken in favour of retaining Gazprom's monopoly right to export pipeline gas. At present, Gazprom owns the exclusive right to export pipeline gas. It had earlier stated that the liberalization of the pipeline gas export is impractical in its present form and can shake the foundations of the market. According to the deputy chairman of Gazprom Alexander Medvedev, the Russian independent producers want to export gas at a lower price without investing in the development of the pipeline system. This was in response to Rosneft's request to be allowed to supply gas to Europe.<sup>36</sup>

BP has received its share of 2014 annual dividend of \$271 million after tax from Rosneft. BP holds a 19.75 per cent stake in Rosneft.<sup>37</sup>

The Russian Prosecutor General's Office has recognised the activities of the US National Endowment for Democracy as 'undesirable and undermining' national security after the US NGO spent millions on attempts to question the legitimacy of Russian elections and tarnish the prestige of military service. The bill on undesirable foreign organizations was signed into law by President Vladimir Putin in May. The new law allows the Prosecutor General's Office and the Foreign Ministry to create a proscribed list of 'undesirable foreign organizations', making the activities of such groups in Russia illegal. The main criterion

<sup>33</sup> "Wintershall and Gazprom Sign Memorandum On Participation In Nord Stream 2 Project", *Itar-Tass*, July 31, 2015 at <http://tass.ru/en/economy/811944>

<sup>34</sup> "Russian Central Bank Lowers Key Interest Rate By 0.5 Percentage Points to 11%", *Itar-Tass*, July 31, 2015 at <http://tass.ru/en/economy/811914>

<sup>35</sup> "New Ammunition Depots To Help Russia's Defence Ministry Cut 50,000 Personnel", *Itar-Tass*, July 31, 2015 at <http://tass.ru/en/russia/811806>

<sup>36</sup> "Energy Ministry Stands For Maintaining Gazprom's Monopoly Right To Export Pipeline Gas", *Itar-Tass*, July 28, 2015 at <http://tass.ru/en/economy/811227>

<sup>37</sup> "BP Receives \$271 Mln Of Dividends from Rosneft in July", *Itar-Tass*, July 28, 2015 at <http://tass.ru/en/economy/811197>

for putting a foreign or international NGO on the list is a “threat to the constitutional order and defence capability, or to the security of the Russian state.” Non-compliance with the ban can be punished by administrative penalties, and for repeated and aggravated offenses can carry prison sentences of up to six years. Russian citizens and organizations that continue to work with banned groups would face administrative fines only.<sup>38</sup>

Russia has deployed S-400 anti-aircraft missile systems in the Far-Eastern region of Kamchatka. The regiment is expected to comprise of three battalions.<sup>39</sup>

## Russia: International

(July 27-August 2, 2015)

- **Russia updates its maritime doctrine; US imposes additional sanctions on Russia; Russia’s envoy to UN says expansion of UN Security Council will not make it more effective; Russia ready to assist China in preparations for 2022 Winter Olympics; Russia’s Energy Ministry and OPEC discuss shale energy and prospects for oil market till 2040; BRICS Contingent Reserve Arrangement Treaty comes into force; Ukrainian President rules out special status for Donbass; Russia pledges US\$ 5.4 million to Tajikistan’s anti-drug drive; Putin and Erdogan exchange views on the situation in the Middle East; Russia vetoes UN move to probe MH 17 crash.**

Russian President Vladimir Putin has approved a new maritime doctrine on July 26, 2015. Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Rogozin has said that the ‘amendments to the doctrine are the result of the changes in the political situation in the world and the objective strengthening of Russia as a great naval power.’ The doctrine calls for the ‘provision of sufficient Russian naval presence in the Atlantic and Arctic Ocean.’ The regional section of Russia’s national maritime policy calls for ensuring sufficient naval presence of Russia in the Mediterranean region on a permanent basis. As part of the strategic framework, the doctrine also calls for the improvement of the Black Sea Fleet and its infrastructure in Crimea and coastal Krasnodar Territory. Independent shipbuilding has been introduced in the doctrine as part of Russia’s national marine policy. It calls for long-term technological independence in the fields of shipbuilding and naval equipment in accordance with the state armament program.<sup>40</sup>

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<sup>38</sup> “US National Endowment for Democracy Labelled ‘Undesirable’ Group Under New Law”, *RT*, July 28, 2015 at <http://www.rt.com/politics/310958-us-national-endowment-for-democracy/>

<sup>39</sup> “Russia’s S-400 Antiaircraft Missile Systems Deployed in Far Eastern Kamchatka”, *Itar-Tass*, July 28, 2015 at <http://tass.ru/en/russia/811132>

<sup>40</sup> “Russian Maritime Doctrine Lays Foundation to New Marine Law”, *Sputnik News*, July 26, 2015 at <http://sputniknews.com/russia/20150726/1025068628.html>

The USA has, on July 31, imposed further Russia and Ukraine-related sanctions by adding associates of a billionaire Russian gas trader, Crimean port operators and former Ukrainian officials to its list of those it is penalizing in response to Russia's actions in Ukraine. The list includes eight entities and people that have been accused of providing support to Gennady Timchenko - a prominent gas trader who has been previously sanctioned, two entities accused of providing support to Boris Rotenberg - a Russian businessman and ally of President Vladimir Putin, four former Ukrainian officials and their close associates who have been linked to former Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich and 35 subsidiaries of VEB and Rosneft, including the Russian Direct Investment Fund, the Globex bank and the Eximbank. Five Crimean port operators and one ferry operator have also been sanctioned for operating in Crimea.<sup>41</sup>

Russia's Ambassador to UN Vitaly Churkin has said, on August 3, that the expansion of UN Security Council will not make it more effective. He stated that 'This is now the acutest and most important issue of reforming UN. Initially, there were 11 countries there, including five permanent members. After that, the number of permanent members remained, but it [UN Security Council] came to include 15 countries. Now, they are talking about including more members in UN Security Council so that it becomes more effective and representative. However, I want to note that UN Security Council will be more representative if its membership is expanded, but it will definitely not be more effective'.<sup>42</sup>

President Putin has said, on July 31, that Russia was prepared to offer an all-round assistance to China in preparations for the 2022 Winter Olympic Games that has been awarded to Beijing.<sup>43</sup>

The current situation on the global oil market and its prospects till 2040 dominated the discussions, held on July 30, between Russia's Energy Minister Alexander Novak and Secretary-General of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) Abdallah el-Badri. However, the pricing policy of Russia and OPEC and oil production cuts were not discussed during the meeting.<sup>44</sup>

The Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA) Treaty of the BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) came into force from July 30. The CRA volume is set at

<sup>41</sup> "U.S. Imposes More Russian and Ukrainian Sanctions", *The Moscow Times*, July 31, 2015 at <http://www.themoscowtimes.com/news/article/us-imposes-more-russian-and-ukrainian-sanctions/526551.html>

<sup>42</sup> "Expanding UN Security Council will not Make It More Effective — Russia's Envoy to UN", *Itar-Tass*, August 3, 2015 at <http://tass.ru/en/world/812163>

<sup>43</sup> "Russia Ready To Assist China In Preparations for 2022 Winter Olympics — Putin", *Itar-Tass*, July 31, 2015 at <http://tass.ru/en/sports/812002>

<sup>44</sup> "Russian Energy Ministry, OPEC Discuss Shale Revolution, Prospects For Oil Market Till 2040", *Itar-Tass*, July 30, 2015 at <http://tass.ru/en/economy/811747>

US\$ 100 billion. The parties have agreed to establish a self-managed contingent reserve arrangement to forestall short-term balance of payments pressures, provide mutual support and further strengthen financial stability. Each BRICS member state's Central Bank reserves certain funds in case of emergency, which may be caused, in particular, by a strong capital outflow. The CRA is a framework for the provision of support through liquidity and precautionary instruments in response to actual or potential short-term balance of payments pressures. The initial total committed resources of the CRA shall be \$100 billion, with individual commitments as follows: China — \$41 billion, Brazil — \$18 billion, Russia — \$18 billion, India — \$18 billion and South Africa — \$5 billion.<sup>45</sup>

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko has, on July 29, ruled out the possibility of the Donbas region getting a special status. He added that 'there will be no federalization' and Ukraine will remain a unitary state. Constitutional reform is one of the basic demands in the Minsk Package of Measures for the settlement of crisis in Ukraine. This had been approved by the Normandy Four leaders and signed by the parties in the conflict in Minsk on February 12.<sup>46</sup>

Russia has allocated US\$ 5.4 million to Tajikistan for a three-year campaign against illegal drugs. Tajikistan shares a 1,344 kilometres long border with Afghanistan.<sup>47</sup>

Russian and Turkish Presidents, Vladimir Putin and Recep Tayyip Erdogan, exchanged views on the situation in the Middle East in a telephone conversation held on July 26. The Kremlin press report stated that 'two heads of state exchanged views on the situation in the Middle East, first of all in Syria and Iraq, in the context of closer multilateral and bilateral coordination aiming to boost the efficiency of efforts to rebuff threats coming from the Islamic State. The two leaders stressed that consolidated efforts of all states concerned on the basis of international law were needed to address the threat of terrorism and extremism.' The conversation was initiated by the Turkish side.<sup>48</sup>

Russia has blocked a move by the UN Security Council to set up a criminal tribunal to investigate the causes for the disappearance of MH-17 passenger aircraft over Donetsk in eastern Ukraine in 2014. Russia was the only country to veto the resolution in New York on July 29. The resolution had 11 supporters in the 15-member council, while three others - China, Venezuela and Angola - abstained. Russia sought to justify its decision to block the resolution by arguing that the UN Security Council had exceeded its powers, claiming

<sup>45</sup> "BRICS Contingent Reserve Arrangement Treaty Comes Into Force", *Itar-Tass*, July 30, 2015 at <http://tass.ru/en/economy/811583>

<sup>46</sup> "Poroshenko rules out special status for Donbas", *Itar-Tass*, July 29, 2015 at <http://tass.ru/en/world/811523>

<sup>47</sup> "Russia Pledges \$5.4 Million For Tajikistan Drugs Menace Battle", *Itar-Tass*, July 29, 2015 at <http://tass.ru/en/world/811450>

<sup>48</sup> "Putin and Erdogan Exchange Views On Situation in Middle East", *Itar-Tass*, July 26, 2015 at <http://tass.ru/en/russia/810836>

that the idea of the tribunal was premature, ill-defined and unfounded. Russia's permanent representative to the UN, Vitaly Churkin stated that in principle, the organization of criminal justice is not a matter for the Security Council. He added that the MH17 disaster in principle cannot be qualified as "a threat to international peace and security," and there was no reason to be confident that the tribunal's decision would be impartial. He ended his speech by stressing that Russia is still in favour of a full, independent and objective investigation.<sup>49</sup>

## India-Russia Relations

(July 27-August 2, 2015)

- **Russia may soften conditions for supply of cheese from India.**

An aide of the head of Russian Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance (Rosselkhoznadzor) Alexey Alekseenko has said, on July 30, that Russia will look to soften its requirements for supplies of dairy products (in particular - hard cheese) from India. He was responding to a publication in the Indian media about requests to soften the requirements, which at present allow imports of dairy products only from large farms. He added that "in India, there are a lot of farms, which literally have only few cows. It is very difficult to monitor their condition but Rosselkhoznadzor is ready to discuss all issues with India". In April, Rosselkhoznadzor had allowed exports of dairy products from India to Russia and prepared a list of companies and individuals with the right to supply - two Indian producers of hard cheese - Parag Milk Foods and Shreiber Dynamix Diaries. However, India has not signed the protocol on security norms in veterinary and sanitary dairy production, which defers the start of supplies.<sup>50</sup>

## D. The United State of America

### National

(July 27-August 2, 2015)

- **DOD releases Climate Change report; Donald Trump stakes his run for president in a vow to protect American jobs, but his companies import foreign workers; Marine Corps' declaration of IOC marks a milestone in the continued evolution of the F-35 programme; Charleston shooter pleads not guilty; Economy advanced a 2.3 percent**

<sup>49</sup> "Russia Vetoes UN Move To Probe MH 17", *Russia and India Report*, July 31, 2015 at [http://in.rbth.com/world/2015/07/31/russia\\_vetoes\\_un\\_move\\_to\\_probe\\_mh\\_17\\_44527.html](http://in.rbth.com/world/2015/07/31/russia_vetoes_un_move_to_probe_mh_17_44527.html)

<sup>50</sup> "Russia may soften requirements for supplies of cheese from India — watchdog", *Itar-Tass*, July 30, 2015 at <http://tass.ru/en/economy/811754>

**in the April-to-June period; Democratic candidates far behind GOP in raising money; Trump jumped into a big lead in the Republican presidential race.**

On July 28, the Department of Defence's report on "National Security Implications of Climate-Related Risks and a Changing Climate" was provided to Congress. The report reinforces the fact that global climate change will have wide-ranging implications for U.S. national security interests over the foreseeable future because it will aggravate existing problems such as poverty, social tensions, environmental degradation, ineffectual leadership, and weak political institutions that threaten domestic stability in a number of countries. The report finds that climate change is a security risk because it degrades living conditions, human security, and the ability of governments to meet the basic needs of their populations. Communities and states that are already fragile and have limited resources are significantly more vulnerable to disruption and far less likely to respond effectively and be resilient to new challenges.<sup>51</sup>

Donald Trump is staking his run for U.S. president in part on a vow to protect American jobs. But this month, one of his companies, the elite Mar-a-Lago Club resort in Florida, applied to import 70 foreign workers to serve as cooks, wait staff and cleaners. A *Reuters* analysis of U.S. government data reveals that this is business as usual in the New York property magnate's empire. Trump owns companies that have sought to import at least 1,100 foreign workers on temporary visas since 2000, according to U.S. Department of Labour data reviewed by *Reuters*. Most of the applications were approved, the data show.<sup>52</sup>

The U.S. Marine Corps' declaration of Initial Operational Capability (IOC) marks a significant milestone in the continued evolution of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter programme. The decision was made following a thorough Operational Readiness Inspection which assessed the Marine Corps' ability to employ this complex weapon system in an operational environment. This achievement is a testament to the efforts of the F-35 joint programme office and industry team, as well as the hard work and support from the Marine Corps. This accomplishment is an affirmation that the F-35 programme is on track to deliver essential 5th generation warfighting capabilities to our U.S. services and international partners.<sup>53</sup>

<sup>51</sup> "DOD Releases Report on Security Implications of Climate Change", *DoD News*, July 29, 2015 at <http://www.defense.gov/News/News-Releases/News-Release-View/Article/612812/dod-releases-report-on-security-implications-of-climate-change>

<sup>52</sup> "Trump Companies Sought Visas to Import Over 1,000 Workers", *Reuters*, August 01, 2015 at <http://www.voanews.com/content/trump-companies-sought-visas-to-import-over-1000-workers/2893982.html>

<sup>53</sup> "Undersecretary of Defence for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics Frank Kendall statement on Marine Corps F-35 IOC", *DoD News*, July 31, 2015 at <http://www.defense.gov/News/News-Releases/News-Release-View/Article/612819/undersecretary-of-defense-for-acquisition-technology-and-logistics-frank-kendal>

The man charged with the shooting deaths of nine African-American churchgoers in Charleston, South Carolina has pleaded not guilty to 33 federal charges. On July 31, Dylann Roof entered the plea during a brief arraignment in a federal court in Charleston, even as his defence attorney said Roof wants to plead guilty. The attorney, David Bruck, said he could not advise his client to plead guilty until prosecutors say whether or not they will seek the death penalty. Roof faces federal charges including hate crimes and obstructing the practice of religion.<sup>54</sup>

The U.S. economy advanced a solid 2.3 percent in the April-to-June period after a harsh winter. On July 30, the Commerce Department reported that a surge in consumer spending and new export gains pushed the world's largest economy ahead in the second quarter. Second-quarter growth was fuelled mainly by a solid increase in U.S. consumer spending, which accounts for 70 percent of the country's economy, advancing 2.9 percent compared to the 1.8 percent growth in the January-to-March period. There was also a major turnaround in exports, which had been hit in the first quarter by the West Coast ports slowdown that choked traffic. Exports of goods and services advanced 5.3 percent in the second quarter after plummeting 6.0 percent in the first.<sup>55</sup>

Hillary Rodham Clinton has a message for the country's wealthiest Democrats: I need you, unfortunately. "We're going to have to do what we can in this election to make sure that we're not swamped by money on the other side," the front-runner for the Democratic presidential nomination said. But when asked how she feels about encouraging large contributions to a group supporting her candidacy, she replied: "Do I wish that we didn't have to be doing this? Yeah, I do." Clinton's paradox when it comes to fundraising explain why, six months into the 2016 race for president, Democrats are barely in the conversation when it comes to the groups known as super PACs. But while Priorities collected from about 30 donors in the first six months of the year, the super PAC helping Republican candidate Jeb Bush persuaded 9,900 contributors to give a record haul of \$103 million. The bottom lines for super PACs backing four other GOP contenders: \$38 million for Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, \$26 million for Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, \$16 million for Florida Sen. Marco Rubio and \$16.8 million for former Texas Gov. Rick Perry — who may not have the poll numbers needed to make the top 10 cutoff for the first GOP debate.<sup>56</sup>

Some Republicans gleefully scripted Donald Trump's political obituary in the wake of his scathing comments about Sen. John McCain's military service earlier this month, hoping

<sup>54</sup> "US Church Shooting Suspect Pleads Not Guilty", *VOA News*, July 31, 2015 at <http://www.voanews.com/content/ap-suspect-charleston-church-shooting-due-us-federal-court/2888264.html>

<sup>55</sup> "US Economy Grew 2.3 Percent From April to June", *VOA News*, July 30, 2015 at <http://www.voanews.com/content/us-economy-likely-rebounded-to-solid-growth-rate-in-spig/2886625.html>

<sup>56</sup> "Democrats Far Behind GOP in Raising Money for '16 Super PACs", *Associated Press*, July 31, 2015 at <http://www.voanews.com/content/ap-democrats-far-behind-gob-in-raising-money-for-16-super-pacs/2888356.html>

that his freewheeling presidential campaign had finally imploded. Predictions of his demise were apparently premature.<sup>57</sup> However, according to the latest Quinnipiac University national poll, billionaire Donald Trump has jumped into a big lead in the Republican presidential race. Trump led all contenders with 20 percent, followed by Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker at 13 percent and former Florida governor Jeb Bush at 10 percent. Now, 20 percent may not sound like much, but consider this: Trump's tally is the largest for any of the Republican contenders so far this year in any of the Quinnipiac surveys.<sup>58</sup> With former Virginia Governor Jim Gilmore (65) filed the paperwork on July 29 to join the race for the Republican presidential nomination, becomes the 17th candidate to seek the 2016 nomination, a field that includes former Florida Governor Jeb Bush, businessman Donald Trump and Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker.<sup>59</sup>

## International: Asia

(July 27-August 2, 2015)

- **Secretary of State Kerry says Iran nuclear deal good for the US and the world; Obama says he is yet to hear a strong factual argument against Iran nuclear deal; Lawmakers press for details on the international inspection regime; Obama urges deal supporters to counter the millions of dollars in lobbying; Kerry opens talks in Egypt with his diplomatic counterpart on security issues; Washington and Ankara differ over how to use a Turkish air base in the fight against IS militants; Turkey moves to join in the campaign against IS; Deputy Secretary of Defence Work meets with ROK Saenuri Party Chairman Moo-Sung; WikiLeaks published documents shows the United States spied on Japanese officials and companies; China's Defence Ministry accuses the US "militarizing" the SCS.**

On July 28, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry told sceptical lawmakers that if the U.S. rejects the internationally brokered Iran nuclear deal there would be "no restraints" on Tehran developing a nuclear weapon. Kerry told the House Foreign Affairs Committee that "It's a good deal for the world, a good deal for America, a good deal for allies and our friends".<sup>60</sup> President Barack Obama says he has yet to hear a strong factual argument "that holds up to scrutiny" against the nuclear deal with Iran. Speaking at a news conference in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Obama criticized rhetoric about the agreement from some leading

<sup>57</sup> "Trump Shows Staying Power With Surge Ahead of First Debate", *Reuters*, July 30, 2015 at <http://www.voanews.com/content/reu-trump-shows-staying-power-with-surge-ahead-of-first-debate/2886624.html>

<sup>58</sup> "Malone, Jim, Trump Tops Poll as Rivals Battle to Make Debate", *VOA News*, July 30, 2015 at <http://www.voanews.com/content/trump-tops-poll-as-rivals-battle-to-make-debate/2887208.html>

<sup>59</sup> "Gilmore Becomes 17th Republican in 2016 Presidential Race", *Reuters*, July 29, 2015 at <http://www.voanews.com/content/gilmore-becomes-sixteenth-republican-presidential-race/2885449.html>

<sup>60</sup> Bredemeier, Ken, "Kerry: Iran Nuclear Pact 'Good Deal for the World'", *VOA News*, July 28, 2015 at <http://www.voanews.com/content/kerry-moniz-return-to-capitol-hill-to-push-iran-deal/2881178.html>

Republicans. "The reason why 99 percent of the world thinks it is a good deal is because it is a good deal," he said. The Iran deal has been approved by the U.N. Security Council, but despite lobbying and testimony by top Obama administration officials, it has won few new congressional supporters. If the deal is rejected, Obama has promised to veto that decision.<sup>61</sup> On July 29, U.S. lawmakers pressed top administration officials for details on the international inspection regime that will enforce a landmark nuclear pact with Iran. The officials, including Secretary of State John Kerry, Defence Secretary Ash Carter, Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Martin Dempsey, testified before the Senate Armed Forces Committee to try to allay lawmakers' concerns and convince them to approve the deal reached earlier this month in Vienna.<sup>62</sup>

U.S. President Barack Obama told groups who support the Iran nuclear deal to make their voices heard to Congress to counter the millions of dollars in lobbying by those who want to derail the agreement. On July 30, in a call with groups affiliated with the Centre for American Progress, a left-leaning Washington think-tank, Obama said activists who want peace must not make the same mistake they did in the run-up to the Iraq war, when proponents of the war drowned out their weaker voices. "Right now the opponents of this deal have been flooding Congressional offices," pouring \$20 million into television ads and "putting the squeeze" on legislators to vote against the deal, he said, telling supporters they must work hard to counter an aggressive lobbying campaign against it.<sup>63</sup> Determined to secure support for the Iran nuclear deal, President Barack Obama is making inroads with a tough constituency - his fellow Democrats in Congress. A handful of key Democrats stepped forward to support the accord within hours of Obama's personal lobbying at the White House this past week, part of the administration's all-out campaign since the pact was announced July 14. Other Democrats have signalled they are leaning in favour and still others have remained undeclared, awaiting a vote in September.<sup>64</sup>

On August 1, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry opens talks in Egypt with his diplomatic counterpart on a range of security issues, as the Cairo government confronts growing terrorist threats in the Sinai peninsula. American officials say Kerry's talks with Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukri aim to relaunch a strategic partnership slowed by U.S. human rights concerns over Egypt's 2013 military ouster of elected President Mohamed Morsi. The two governments have not addressed that partnership in face-to-face talks since 2009. A senior State Department official who discussed the situation in the Sinai before Kerry

<sup>61</sup> "Obama: Yet to Hear Good Argument Against Iran Deal", *VOA News*, July 27, 2015 at <http://www.voanews.com/content/obama-says-he-has-yet-to-hear-good-argument-against-iran-deal/2880164.html>

<sup>62</sup> Bowman, Michael, "US Lawmakers Seek Details of Iran Nuke Inspection Regime", *VOA News*, July 29, 2015 at <http://www.voanews.com/content/senior-us-officials-continue-testimony-on-iran-nuclear-deal/2882915.html>

<sup>63</sup> "Iran Deal Backers Urged to Lobby Congress", *VOA News*, July 31, 2015 at <http://www.voanews.com/content/obama-urges-supporters-of-iran-deal-lobby-congress-for-it/2888384.html>

<sup>64</sup> "Obama Making Case for Iran Deal to Democrats", *Associated Press*, August 01, 2015 at <http://www.voanews.com/content/obama-making-case-for-iran-deal-to-democrats/2893988.html>

arrived said the U.S. needs to support Egypt's efforts to achieve stability.<sup>65</sup> However, differences have emerged between Washington and Ankara over how to use a Turkish air base near the Syrian border in the fight against Islamic State militants. Ankara's decision in recent days to open the Incirlik airbase to U.S. jets was reportedly described as a "game changer" by one U.S. official in the battle against the Islamic State group.<sup>66</sup>

Turkey's move to join in the campaign against the group known as the Islamic State, while simultaneously bombing Kurdish fighters associated with the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), is again highlighting a critical obstacle to U.S. efforts in the region. A defence official told VOA on condition of anonymity, using an acronym for the Islamic State that "We need to get all sides to agree that the main enemy is ISIL". But so far, that has not happened. The U.S. is struggling to forge a cohesive coalition out of groups operating on loose and sometimes shifting alliances. Fears are growing that as Turkey and these other groups pursue their own agendas, it is the Islamic State that stands to benefit.<sup>67</sup>

On July 27, Deputy Secretary of Defence Bob Work met with Republic of Korea (ROK) Saenuri Party Chairman Kim Moo-Sung at the Pentagon. This was the first meeting between the two officials. Work reiterated the importance of the U.S.-ROK alliance, referring to this friendship as a linchpin of peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region. The deputy secretary and Chairman Kim discussed wide-ranging areas of mutual interest, to include trilateral security cooperation, peacekeeping contributions and North Korean provocations. Work reaffirmed U.S. commitment to coordinating with the ROK to effectively deter North Korean aggression.<sup>68</sup>

The media whistle blower *WikiLeaks* has published documents that it says show the United States spied on Japanese officials and companies. On July 31, *WikiLeaks* published a list of 35 companies, government ministries, and individuals it identified as targets of surveillance by the U.S. National Security Agency (NSA). It said the surveillance dates as far back as 2006, the first term of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. A *WikiLeaks* press release said the intercepts related to topics such as U.S.-Japan relations, trade negotiations, and

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<sup>65</sup> Dockins, Pamela, "Kerry in Egypt for Talks on Security, Terrorism", *VOA News*, August 01, 2015 at <http://www.voanews.com/content/secretary-of-state-john-kerry-in-egypt-for-talks-on-security-terrorism/2892906.html>

<sup>66</sup> Jones, Dorian, "US, Turkey Differ Over How to Fight IS From Incirlik Air Base", *VOA News*, July 30, 2015 at <http://www.voanews.com/content/us-turkey-differ-over-how-to-fight-is-from-turkish-air-base/2886887.html>

<sup>67</sup> Seldin, Jeff, "US Struggles to Align Focus on Fight Against IS", *VOA News*, July 30, 2015 at <http://www.voanews.com/content/us-struggles-align-focus-fight-against-is/2887335.html>

<sup>68</sup> "Readout of Deputy Secretary of Defence Bob Work's Meeting with Republic of Korea (ROK) Saenuri Party Chairman Kim Moo-Sung", *DoD News*, July 27, 2015 at <http://www.defense.gov/News/News-Releases/News-Release-View/Article/612810/readout-of-deputy-secretary-of-defense-bob-works-meeting-with-republic-of-korea>

climate change strategy. The United States and Japan have been allies for more than a half-century following the end of World War II.<sup>69</sup>

On July 30, China's Defence Ministry accused the United States of "militarizing" the South China Sea by staging patrols and joint military drills there, leading to raised tensions in the disputed region. China Defence spokesman Yang Yujun said Beijing has been angered by U.S. Navy and Air Force forays through waters it claims as its own, strengthened military alliances with the Philippines and others, and frequent military exercises in the region. Yang said the actions are creating risks of incidents in the air and at sea.<sup>70</sup>

Trade negotiators said on July 31 that after a week of intense talks, they have made considerable progress toward reaching a major trade deal, but have not reached a full and final agreement. U.S. Trade Representative Michael Froman said at a press conference in Hawaii that he is more confident than ever that a deal on the Trans Pacific Partnership is within reach. He said negotiators will continue their intensive talks to reach a deal. Negotiations among the 12 nations involved in the Trans Pacific Partnership have been underway for years, and the deal was thought to be close to completion. The TPP could cover 40 percent of the global economy. The issues are politically sensitive, including efforts to allow more imports of rice to Japan, more imports of sugar to the United States, greater access to Canada's dairy market, and expanding patent protection to a new class of promising drugs for 12 years.<sup>71</sup> However, negotiations have ended for now without agreement. At a news conference late July 31, Froman said, "After more than a week of productive meetings we've made significant progress and will continue to work on resolving a limited number of remaining issues, paving the way for the conclusion of the Trans-Pacific Partnership negotiations". Negotiations for the TPP have been underway for years, and the deal was thought to be close to completion.<sup>72</sup>

## India-US Relations

(July 27-August 2, 2015)

- **President Obama extends deepest condolences over the death of former President of India, Kalam; Defence cooperation moving from "buyer-seller" relationship to co-development and co-production; India remain the largest users of the H-1B visa for**

<sup>69</sup> "WikiLeaks: US Spied on Japan Since 2006", *VOA News*, July 31, 2015 at <http://www.voanews.com/content/wikileaks-us-spied-on-japan/2888046.html>

<sup>70</sup> "China Accuses US of Militarizing South China Sea", *VOA News*, July 30, 2015 at <http://www.voanews.com/content/china-accuses-us-of-militarizing-south-china-sea/2886799.html>

<sup>71</sup> Randle, Jim, "TPP Negotiators Fail to Reach Deal", *VOA News*, July 31, 2015 at <http://www.voanews.com/content/tpp-talks-appear-headed-for-crucial-stage/2890488.html>

<sup>72</sup> Randle, Jim, "Trans-Pacific Trade Talks End Without Deal", *VOA News*, August 01, 2015 at <http://www.voanews.com/content/trans-pacific-trade-talks-end-without-deal/2890535.html>

**computer-related jobs; General Motors would invest \$1 billion in India over the next few years.**

US President Barack Obama extended his deepest condolences on behalf of the American people over the death of former President of India APJ Abdul Kalam. Obama described Kalam as an advocate for stronger US-India relations who worked to deepen the two countries' space cooperation.<sup>73</sup> President Obama said in a statement on July 28, "A scientist and statesman, Kalam rose from humble beginnings to become one of India's most accomplished leaders, earning esteem at home and abroad". He also noted Kalam's "tenure as India's 11th president witnessed unprecedented growth in US-India ties". Obama said, "An advocate for stronger US-India relations, Kalam worked to deepen our space cooperation, forging links with NASA during a 1962 visit to the United States".<sup>74</sup> He added, "Suitably named as the People's President, his humility and dedication to public service served as an inspiration to millions of Indians and admirers around the world." Meanwhile, the US media highlighted his role in advancing India's nuclear, space and missile programmes. *The New York Times* in an obit said Kalam's "role in advancing India's nuclear programmes made him one of his country's most beloved figures". "Kalam's celebrity could be traced to 1998, when India detonated five nuclear devices in the northwestern desert, to widespread international condemnation," it said.<sup>75</sup>

Indian Ambassador to the US, Arun K Singh has said that India and the US have decided to move away from a "buyer-seller" relationship to co-development and co-production. In an interaction with local Indian-American media in the Silicon Valley last week, Singh said, India has the strongest relationship with the US. Ambassador Singh underlined that there is a huge opportunity for bilateral cooperation in various areas including in the economic sector. He said that the most important fact that provides firm basis to the Indo-US relationship is the "people-to-people interaction". The defence cooperation with the US is strong. In the last four years, India has bought about US \$ 10 billion worth of defence supplies from the US, which is more than from any other country. He said, "It is the reflection of our relationship but what is new is that the two governments have announced to move away from the buyer-seller relationship" to co-development and co-

<sup>73</sup> "Obama: Kalam was an advocate for stronger Indo-US relations", *Hindustan Times*, July 29, 2015 at <http://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/barack-obama-mourns--apj-abdul-kalam-was-an-advocate-for-stronger-india-us-relations/article1-1374196.aspx>;

<sup>74</sup> "Statement by the President on the Death of Former Indian President Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam", *The White House*, Office of the Press Secretary, July 28, 2015 at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/07/28/statement-president-death-former-indian-president-dr-apj-abdul-kalam>;

<sup>75</sup> Berry, Ellen, "A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, Ex-President Who Pushed a Nuclear India, Dies at 83", *The New York Times*, July 27, 2015 at [http://www.nytimes.com/2015/07/28/world/asia/apj-abdul-kalam-ex-president-who-pushed-a-nuclear-india-dies-at-83.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2015/07/28/world/asia/apj-abdul-kalam-ex-president-who-pushed-a-nuclear-india-dies-at-83.html?_r=0); and, "An advocate for stronger US-India ties, says Obama on Kalam", *The Hindu*, July 29, 2015 at <http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/apj-abdul-kalam-tribute-an-advocate-for-stronger-usindia-ties-says-obama-on-kalam/article7476667.ece>

production.<sup>76</sup> He said, "We have identified six pathfinder projects for co-development and once that is in progress that will further deepen defence cooperation. As far as the joint military exercises of India and the US, it has been said that the largest number of military exercises both India and the US had with any country in the world, is with each other".<sup>77</sup>

According to new data, Offshore outsourcing firms that do most of their work in India remain the largest users of the H-1B visa for computer-related jobs, seemingly unaffected by the odds of the visa lottery,. With the exception of a few tech firms -- notably Microsoft, Google, Amazon and Oracle -- the top 25 H-1B-using firms are either based in India or are U.S. firms running large offshore operations. These firms include Tata Consultancy Services, the leading H-1B user with 7,149 approved visa petitions for last year, and Infosys, which ranked third on the list at just over 4,000 approved visas. Both were major contractors at Southern California Edison, where IT employees were fired as work was shifted to contractors.<sup>78</sup>

On July 2, General Motors (GM) said it would invest \$1 billion over the next few years to turn India into a global export hub, even as it cuts production capacity in the country due to sluggish demand. The Detroit carmaker, which has the capacity to produce more than 280,000 cars a year in India, will reduce this to 220,000 a year by 2025 as it stops making cars at one plant and modestly raises capacity at its second plant in the country. GM has two plants in India, one in Gujarat state and the other in Maharashtra that together can produce more than 280,000 vehicles a year. CEO Mary Barra told reporters in New Delhi that "We need to have that kind of consolidation and rationalization to make sure we are here for the long term, that we have a sustainable business". India's automobile market has been sluggish for the past few years, with annual sales of less than 3 million cars. But by 2020 analysts expect India to become the world's third-largest passenger vehicle market after China and the United States.<sup>79</sup>

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<sup>76</sup> "India, US share more than buyer-seller relationship", *The Times of India*, July 30, 2015 at <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/India-US-share-more-than-buyer-seller-relationship/pmarticleshow/48277883.cms?prtpage=1>

<sup>77</sup> "India, US Share More Than Buyer-Seller Relationship", *Press Trust of India*, July 30, 2015 at <http://www.ndtv.com/world-news/india-us-share-more-than-buyer-seller-relationship-1202144>; and, "India, US share more than buyer-seller relationship: Indian envoy Arun K Singh", *The Economic Times*, July 30, 2015 at [http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2015-07-30/news/65036740\\_1\\_indian-ambassador-indian-embassy-indo-us-relationship](http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2015-07-30/news/65036740_1_indian-ambassador-indian-embassy-indo-us-relationship)

<sup>78</sup> Thibodeau, Patrick and Machlis, Sharon, "Despite H-1B lottery, offshore firms dominate visa use", *Computerworld*, July 30, 2015 at <http://www.computerworld.com/article/2954612/it-outsourcing/despite-h-1b-lottery-offshore-firms-dominate-visa-use.html>

<sup>79</sup> "GM to Invest \$1 Billion in India to Boost Exports", *Reuters*, July 29, 2015 at <http://www.voanews.com/content/reu-gm-to-invest-1billion-in-india-to-boost-exports/2883337.html>

## II. Defence Reviews

### National

(July 27-August 2, 2015)

- **28 cases of alleged human rights violation against defence personnel pending in High-Courts of North-Eastern States; 340 women officers have been granted permanent commission in the Indian armed forces.**

Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar has informed the Lok Sabha that the information related to cases filed in all the courts against defence personnel is not centrally maintained. However, there are 28 cases of alleged human rights violation, such as rape / torture / killing / disappearance / custodial deaths) etc. against defence personnel pending in High-Courts of North-Eastern States pertaining to years 2012 to 2015. According to the minister, during the last three years, only one officer, three Junior Commissioned Officers (JCOs) and one Other Rank (OR) have been punished under departmental action for procedural lapses in Assam.<sup>80</sup>

As per latest figures provided by defence minister Manohar Parrikar in Parliament on July 31, the armed forces have granted permanent commission to 340 women officers till now, even though combat roles still do not figure anywhere on the horizon for them. The number is miniscule considering there are over 60,000 officers in the 1.3 million strong armed forces. Women are inducted as Short Service Commission Officers (SSCOs) in the Armed Forces. Women SSCO are eligible for consideration for grant of Permanent Commission in specified branches in terms of Government Policy letters.<sup>81</sup>

### International

(July 27-August 2, 2015)

- **China and Russia to hold joint military drills in the waters and airspace of the Sea of Japan; United States starts delivery of eight F-16 fighter jets to Egypt.**

Meanwhile, reports say that China and Russia will hold joint military drills in the waters and airspace of the Sea of Japan. The exercises will take place from August 20-28 in the Peter the Great Gulf and other areas off the Russian coast. A key purpose of the drills

<sup>80</sup> “Cases Pending Against Defence Personnel,” *PIB*, July 31, 2015, at <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=124010>

<sup>81</sup> “Permanent Commission for Women Officers in Defence Forces,” *PIB*, July 31, 2015, at <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=124011>

would be to further enhance their capabilities of jointly coping with maritime security threats. The exercise will include training in air defence, anti-submarine and surface warfare, and landings. China will send seven naval ships including a destroyer and a frigate, along with fighter jets and other aircraft to participate in the exercise. Russia's contingent will include surface vessels, submarines and fixed wing aircraft. Moreover, both sides will dispatch ship-borne helicopters and marines. The drills come as the two countries intensify cooperation in military, political and economic spheres. In May they conducted their first joint naval exercises in European waters in the Black Sea and Mediterranean. It was China's farthest ever naval exercise from its home waters.<sup>82</sup>

Meanwhile, according to reports, the United States has started delivery of eight F-16 fighter jets to Egypt. The delivery of jets comes in the wake of Secretary of State John Kerry's scheduled visit to Egypt for a strategic dialogue. Following the overthrow of Morsi, Egypt's first freely elected leader in 2013, US froze \$1.3 billion in annual military aid to Egypt. It fully resumed assistance in March 2015, and Egypt took delivery of two US fast missile boats last in June. The eight F-16 Block 52 jets will soon reach Egypt and will be immediately integrated into the Egyptian air force, joining its existing fleet of F-16 aircraft.<sup>83</sup>

### III. Internal Security Reviews

#### Jammu & Kashmir

(July 27-August 2, 2015)

- **4 CRPF men, 4 civilians injured in Anantnag grenade attack; Teenagers wave IS flags for fun: J&K police chief.**

Four CRPF men were among eight persons injured in a grenade blast along Khannabal-Pahalgam (KP) road in south Kashmir's Anantnag town on July 29. Police said suspected militants lobbed a grenade towards a vehicle of CRPF 96 bn near Chee Morh, along KP road in Anantnag town, at about 12 noon. KP road is a commercial-cum-residential area

<sup>82</sup> "China, Russia To Hold Joint Naval, Air Drill," *Defence News*, July 30, 2015, at <http://www.defensenews.com/story/defense/training-simulation/2015/07/30/china-russia-hold-joint-naval-air-drill-afp/30886781/>

<sup>83</sup> "US Delivers F-16s To Egypt Ahead of Kerry Visit," *Defence News*, July 30, 2015, at <http://www.defensenews.com/story/defense/international/mideast-africa/2015/07/30/us-delivers-egypt-ahead-kerry-visit/30913029/>

and the main route to Pahalgam. The road becomes all the more important in wake of on-going Amarnath Yatra. Meanwhile, militant outfit Tehreek-ul-Mujahideen has claimed responsibility of the grenade attack. "Our militants attacked a CRPF vehicle, killing a paramilitary personal and injuring three others. The vehicle was damaged in the attack. Our militants also snatched rifle of a CRPF man," a Tehreek-ul-Mujahideen spokesman said. He said common people, women, old or young belonging to any religion or Hindu Amarnath pilgrims and tourists are never their target.<sup>84</sup>

Negating the reports of any presence of dreaded terror organisation Islamic State (IS) in Jammu and Kashmir, the state Director General Police (DGP) K Rajendra said that some teenagers wave flags of the IS in the Valley for fun. "Police investigations reveal that some youth in the age group of 16 to 18 years wave the flags of Islamic State for fun. After the police investigations were conducted to find the reason behind the surfacing of the IS flags during protests in Kashmir, it was found that there was no such conviction that is luring the young boys to wave the flags," the DGP told reporters. He said the youth who were arrested in connection with waving of the (IS) flags can't be termed "ideologues" of the terror organisation. There is no ideology of IS reaching Kashmir, the state police chief said.<sup>85</sup>

## Northeast India

(July 27-August 2, 2015)

- **ASAK rebel killed in encounter in West Garo Hills; Kangleipak Communist Party militant arrested in a joint operation; India, Bangladesh exchange enclaves, people rejoice; Nagaland govt., civil societies agree on Naga issue.**

One Achik Songna Anpachakgipa Kotok (ASAK) militant was killed in an encounter with Army and Meghalaya police in the jungles of Darenchigre in West Garo Hills in Meghalaya. Army sources said that based on specific intelligence, a joint search operation was conducted on July 26. During the operation, the forces came under heavy fire from militants to which they retaliated, neutralising one militant. On searching the area, the ASAK militant's body was recovered along with one 7.65 mm pistol, some live rounds and few fired cases, the sources said. ASAK is a breakaway faction of the GNLA and was formerly known as the GNLA (F).<sup>86</sup>

<sup>84</sup> "4 CRPF Men Among 8 Injured In Anantnag Grenade Blast", *Rising Kashmir*, July 30, 2015 at <http://risingkashmir.in/news/4-crpf-men-among-8-injured-in-anantnag-grenade-blast/>

<sup>85</sup> Majid, Zulfikar, "Teenagers wave IS Flags For Fun: J&K Police Chief", *Deccan Herald*, August 2, 2015 at <http://www.deccanherald.com/content/492819/teenagers-wave-flags-fun-jampk.html>

<sup>86</sup> "Militant Killed In Encounter", *The Assam Tribune*, July 28, 2015 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=jul2815/oth051>

A joint team of the police and Assam Rifles arrested a self-styled corporal of the outlawed Kangleipak Communist Party (KCP), the police said. The militant was nabbed, during a search operation at Kakmayai area in Manikpur of Bishenpur district on July 25, they said. The team recovered one 9 mm pistol with four live rounds from him, a press release issued by the police PRO said.<sup>87</sup>

At the stroke of July 31 midnight, 51,000 stateless people of India and Bangladesh attained freedom when the two countries ended more than six decades of their lingering wait for citizenship by exchanging 162 adversely-held enclaves between them. The exchange of enclaves was made possible under the Land Boundary Agreement signed between the two countries recently. About 51,000 residents of the enclaves, who have been stateless for decades, have chosen the country they want to live in. A total of 14,000 of them living in Bangladeshi enclaves, which have now merged with India, have become Indian citizens. All the Indian enclaves are located in West Bengal's Cooch Behar district. Barring less than 1,000 people, the rest living in Indian enclaves in Bangladesh have become Bangladeshi citizens. As many as 111 Indian enclaves measuring 17,160 acres became Bangladesh territory. Similarly, 51 Bangladeshi enclaves measuring 7,110 acres became Indian territory.<sup>88</sup>

The Nagaland government and the Naga civil society groups have resolved to work together for an early solution of the Naga political issue and also endorsed the Nagaland Assembly resolution of July 27 on the issue. Briefing media persons after a day-long consultative meet among the state government, civil society groups and tribal hohos at Jotsoma near Kohima on July 31, Chief Minister TR Zeliang informed that the consultative meet was held against the backdrop of the July 27 House resolution urging the government of India for an early settlement of the Naga political issue. On the concluding day of the 9th session of the 12th Nagaland Legislative Assembly on July 27, the House unanimously resolved to reaffirm its resolutions on December 12, 1964, August 28, 1970, September 1994 and December 2003 on integration of all Naga contiguous areas under one administrative umbrella and urge upon the government of India and the NSCN (K) to resume the ceasefire agreement to create a conducive atmosphere for political negotiations. It was also resolved to urge the Centre for withdrawal of the Disturbed Area Act under AFSPA from the state, to appeal to all Naga political groups and civil societies to unite and work for an early settlement of the Naga political issue and permanent peace

<sup>87</sup> "3 Militants Arrested", *The Assam Tribune*, July 29, 2015 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=jul2915/oth054>

<sup>88</sup> "Celebrations Mark Enclave Exchange", *The Assam Tribune*, August 2, 2015 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=aug0215/at052>

and to urge upon the government of India to expedite the Naga political dialogue so as to bring an early resolution to the Naga political issue.<sup>89</sup>

## Left-wing Extremism

(July 27-August 2, 2015)

- **Maoist urban support network busted in Chhattisgarh; Police recover huge cache of explosives in Bihar; Three Maoists killed in encounter in Malkangiri district.**

The Chhattisgarh police, on July 26, busted an alleged Maoist urban support network, with the arrest of five people including a Raipur-based scrap businessman, from separate places. Dantewada SP Kamlochan Kashyap told *PTI* that based on intelligence inputs, businessman Arun Agrawal and his accountant Balaram were arrested from Raipur airport on July 25 night when they were trying to flee, while three Maoist cadres were apprehended from Bhansi police station limits in the insurgency-hit Dantewada district. "Agrawal is said to be in close contact with a prominent Maoist of the Western Bastar Division Committee called Commander Sanjay alias Mohan Kadti. He often supplied detonators, explosives, generators, welding machines and other materials to the Maoists," the police officer said. After receiving information six months ago, the State Intelligence Bureau and Dantewada police kept an eye on Arun, Sanjay and others associated with them, he said.<sup>90</sup>

Ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's scheduled rally in Gaya district in Bihar on August 9, the Special Task Force (STF) of Bihar police on July 31 recovered a huge cache of explosives suspected to be belonging to Maoists. The explosives were recovered from the forested area near Chhatarpur village under Imamganj police station, Inspector General of Police (Operations) Sushil M Khopde said. The seized items included 1,000 high-power gelatin sticks, three big cylinder bombs, explosive cords, detonators and other things. "The place where the items were hidden seemed to have been used by Maoists as an explosives dump. Investigations are being conducted to trace the trail of the gelatin sticks and the cylinder bombs. Nobody has been arrested in this connection so far," Khopde said.<sup>91</sup>

Three Maoists, including two female cadres, were killed in an encounter with the police in remote Burudi forest under Tandki panchayat of Malkangiri district bordering Sukma

<sup>89</sup> "Govt, Civil Societies Agree On Naga Issue", *The Assam Tribune*, August 2, 2015 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=aug0215/oth052>

<sup>90</sup> "Maoist Urban Support Network Busted", *The Hindu*, July 27, 2015 at <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/maoist-urban-support-network-busted/article7468084.ece>

<sup>91</sup> "Huge Cache Of Explosives Recovered in Bihar", *The Economics Times*, July 31, 2015 at <http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/huge-cache-of-explosives-recovered-in-bihar/articleshow/48295391.cms?cfmid=11001094>

district of Chhattisgarh on July 31. Odisha Director General of Police (DGP) Sanjiv Marik confirmed the encounter. The anti-Maoist operation, involving personnel of District Voluntary Force (DVF) and Special Operation Group (SOG), was led by Malkangiri Superintendent of Police Mitrabhanu Mohapatra. Three country-made guns, one INSAS rifle, a Self-Loading Rifle (SLR), live ammunition, grenades, materials of Maoist use including kitbags and Maoist literature were seized from the spot where the ultras were holding the camp. Identity of slain Maoists has not been ascertained. It is suspected that the Maoists in this camp may be of Darbha division, which is active in Chhattisgarh and parts of Malkangiri district.<sup>92</sup>

## Terrorism

(July 27-August 2, 2015)

- **Gurdaspur terror attack leaves 7 dead after a 12-hour firefight; ISIS preparing to attack India: Report.**

In the first such strike in Punjab in eight years, three suspected Pakistan-based terrorists attacked a passenger bus and stormed a police station in Dinanagar early on July 27, killing seven persons including an SP, before being gunned down after a 12-hour firefight. Director General of Police Sumedh Singh Saini said the terrorists, wearing combat fatigues, were carrying two GPS systems and hand grenades. Five bombs placed by the terrorists on the railway tracks were removed by a bomb disposal squad. "It is too early to say where they had come from," Saini said, before adding that there were some "pointers". He said these "pointers" did not suggest any link to groups seeking a separate Khalistan. Seven persons — three civilians, Superintendent of Police (Detective) Baljit Singh and three home guards — were killed by the terrorists who engaged Punjab policemen from inside the building they were holed up in. The Army, which reached the spot on the request of the district administration, was kept largely on 'standby' as SWAT squads joined Punjab policemen to take on the terrorists.<sup>93</sup> Police claimed to have recovered three AK 47 rifles, 17 magazines, 85 live cartridges, 220 empty cartridges, three bullet proof jackets, a cutter knife, one live mortar and two GPS sets from the terrorists.

<sup>92</sup> "Three Maoists Killed In Encounter", *The Hindu*, August 1, 2015 at <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/three-maoists-killed-in-encounter/article7487270.ece>

<sup>93</sup> Gopal, Navjeevan, "7 Killed In Gurdaspur Terror Strike After 12-Hour Firefight", *The Indian Express*, July 28, 2015 at <http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-others/anti-terror-operation-in-gurdaspur-ends-all-terrorists-killed/>

Following the attack, security has been tightened at strategic government establishments, crowded places, schools and police stations.<sup>94</sup>

The ISIS is preparing to attack India to provoke an Armageddon-like confrontation with the US, according to an internal recruitment document of the feared group which also seeks to unite the Pakistani and Afghan Taliban into a single army of terror. An investigative story published on July 28 by the *USA Today* and reported by American Media Institute refers to a 32- page Urdu document obtained from a Pakistani citizen with connections inside the Pakistani Taliban. "The document warns that 'preparations' for an attack in India are underway and predicts that an attack will provoke an apocalyptic confrontation with America," the report said. "Even if the US tries to attack with all its allies, which undoubtedly it will, the ummah (Muslims) will be united, resulting in the final battle," it added. The document, according to the report, was independently translated into English by a Harvard scholar and verified by several serving and retired intelligence official. Bruce Riedel, a retired CIA official and now a senior fellow at the Brookings Institute, said striking in India would magnify the ISIS' stature and threaten the stability of the region. "Attacking in India is the Holy Grail of South Asian jihadists," he was quoted as saying. The undated document is titled 'A Brief History of the Islamic State Caliphate, The Caliphate According to the Prophet.' The document was reviewed by three US intelligence officials, who said they believe the document is authentic based on its unique markings and the fact that language used to describe leaders, the writing style and religious wording match other documents from the ISIS, *USA Today* added.<sup>95</sup>

## IV. United Nations Reviews

### India and the UN

(July 27-August 2, 2015)

- **India distinguished investment from climate finance; AMUL to produce therapeutic food with UNICEF oversight; DMAI gets ECOSOC consultative status; India to be most populous by 2022; GA more conducive than SC for addressing security concerns: PR; Pakistan to raise Indian involvement in Balochistan and FATA in GA.**

<sup>94</sup> "Gurdaspur Attack: US Govt Marks On Night-Vision Devices Used By Terrorists", *The Indian Express*, July 29, 2015 at <http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-others/gurdaspur-terror-attack-us-government-marks-on-night-vision-devices-used-by-terrorists/>

<sup>95</sup> "ISIS Preparing To Attack India: Report", *The Economic Times*, July 29, 2015 at <http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/isis-preparing-to-attack-india-report/articleshow/48264822.cms?cfmid=11001094>

In an interaction with the French Special Envoy for Conference of Parties (COP)-21 Laurence Tubiana organised by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), Susheel Kumar, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment, states that investments per se must not be regarded as climate finance. Ideally, climate finance must come as public funding or a subvention for industries to adapt climate friendly technologies. In addition, he said that the issues of discrimination against industries from developing countries in the global carbon market and the importance of transfer of green technology to developing countries must be addressed in the Paris conference in December 2015.<sup>96</sup>

Kaira District Co-operative Milk Producers Union Limited (KDCMPUL), better known as Amul Dairy, will produce ready-to-use therapeutic food (RTUF) for severely malnourished children on a non-profit basis in a plant approved by the UNICEF. Amul has already collaboration with an Irish company, Valid Nutrition, will also be supplied to African countries.<sup>97</sup>

The Disease Management Association of India (DMAI) was accorded a consultative status by the ECOSOC. DMAI was recommended for this by the Committee of NGOs in recognition of the work it has done to address health challenges in India.<sup>98</sup>

A report of the 2015 Revision of World Population Prospects, the 24<sup>th</sup> round of UN estimates and projections, has projected that “the current world population of 7.3 billion is expected to reach 8.5 billion by 2030, 9.7 billion in 2050 and 11.2 billion in 2100.” Notably, India will become the most populous country, surpassing China by the year 2022.<sup>99</sup>

At a Security Council discussion on the peace and security of Small Island Developing States, India’s Permanent Representative to the UN, Asoke Mukherji, said that as in the case of tackling piracy off the Somalian coast, the security and developmental concerns of the small island countries are best addressed in democratic and transparent forums such as the General Assembly rather than the Security Council.<sup>100</sup>

Pakistan is likely to raise the issue of Indian covert support to terrorism in Balochistan and FATA at the upcoming session of the General Assembly.<sup>101</sup>

<sup>96</sup> “Investment Flows Can’t Be Treated As Climate Finance: India”, *DNA News*, July 27, 2015, at <http://www.dnaindia.com/money/report-investment-flows-can-t-be-treated-as-climate-finance-india-2108547>

<sup>97</sup> “Amul to Join Nation’s Fight Against Malnutrition”, *The Times of India*, July 28, 2015, at <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/vadodara/Amul-to-join-nations-fight-against-malnutrition/articleshow/48244805.cms>

<sup>98</sup> “United Nations Confers DMAI with Special Consultative Status”, July 28, 2015, at <http://www.pharmabiz.com/NewsDetails.aspx?aid=89661&sid=1>

<sup>99</sup> “UN Projects World Population to Reach 8.5 Billion By 2030, Driven by Growth in Developing Countries”, *UN News*, July 29, 2015, at [http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=51526#.VcHhz\\_Oqqko](http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=51526#.VcHhz_Oqqko)

<sup>100</sup> “Restricted UNSC Prevents Small Nations Voice To Be Heard: India’s UN Representative”, *The Economic Times*, July 31, 2015, at [http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2015-07-31/news/65074403\\_1\\_sids-unscc-united-nations](http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2015-07-31/news/65074403_1_sids-unscc-united-nations)

<sup>101</sup> “PM to Raise RAW Interference at UNGA: Aziz”, August 1, 2015, at <http://nation.com.pk/national/01-Aug-2015/pm-to-raise-raw-interference-at-unga-aziz>