

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

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Defence Review

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I. COUNTRY REVIEWS

A. South Asia

Bangladesh

- **Prime Minister Hasina cancels her Pakistan visit; Myanmar refused to export electricity to Bangladesh**

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina cancelled her visit to Pakistan during which she had to attend a D-8 summit in Islamabad.¹ The Prime Minister's international affairs adviser Gowher Rizvi will represent Sheikh Hasina at the D-8 summit to be held in Islamabad on November 22.²

In another development, according to reports, Myanmar, which had earlier showed interest to export electricity to Bangladesh, has now rejected the proposal saying that the country itself has been suffering from power shortage. At a two-day sixth meeting of the Bangladesh-Myanmar Joint Trade Commission that ended on November 12 in Dhaka, Myanmar has formally informed their decision.³

Sri Lanka

- **European Commission warns of sanctions on eight developing countries including Sri Lanka if illegal fishing is not stopped; UK Prime Minister is being urged to consider boycotting 2013 Commonwealth summit in Sri Lanka; Sri Lanka denies to have intimidated UN humanitarian workers; Jayalalitha to construct 2500 houses for Sri Lankan Tamil refugees in Tamil Nadu**

The European Commission warned eight developing countries including Sri Lanka of sanctions if they did not do more to stop 'criminal' illegal fishing. The Commission said it did not plan to impose penalties as yet but stressed they could face a ban on the sale of fishing equipment. The EU, the world's biggest importer of fish, adopted an 'Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated' directive in 2010, aiming to close the market to those who flout its rules.⁴

¹ "PM cancels Pak visit to attend D-8 summit", *The New Age*, November 13, 2012 at <http://www.newagebd.com/detail.php?date=2012-11-13&nid=29939#.UKtbn-RkzLo>

² "Gowher Rizvi to represent PM at D-8 summit", *The New Age*, November 16, 2012 at http://www.newagebd.com/detail.php?date=2012-11-16&nid=30284#.UKtd_uRkzLo.

³ "Myanmar won't export electricity to Bangladesh", *The New Age*, November 13, 2012 at <http://www.newagebd.com/index.php?a=arc&date=2012-11-13>.

⁴ "EU gives 'yellow card' to SL for illegal fishing", *The Daily Mirror*, November 18, 2012 at <http://www.dailymirror.lk/news/23570-eu-gives-yellow-card-to-sl-for-illegal-fishing.html>.

In another development, UK Prime Minister David Cameron is being urged by MPs to consider boycotting next year's Commonwealth summit in Sri Lanka in protest at its human rights record.⁵

Reports noted that Sri Lanka denied allegations in a leaked United Nations report that it had intimidated UN humanitarian workers during the final stages of the country's Tamil separatist war.⁶

In other developments, according to reports, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Jayalalithaa ordered construction of 2,500 durable houses for Sri Lankan Tamils living in Camps in Tamil Nadu at the rate of Rs one lakh each in camps at 14 districts of the state.⁷

Maldives

- **US Deputy Assistant Secretary for South and Central Asia met President Waheed; Protest against GMR; Foreign-exchange reserves of the Maldives Monetary Authority is under pressure: IMF**

The US Deputy Assistant Secretary for South and Central Asia Ms Alyssa Ayres, has paid a courtesy call on President Dr Mohamed Waheed on November 18, 2012 at the President's Office. At the meeting, President Waheed and Ms Alyssa Ayres discussed the current political situation in the Maldives, and the economic state of the country.⁸

In another development, according to reports, the Maldivian Citizens' National Movement has held a dhoni-ride protest against Indian company GMR, the present operator of Male International Airport. Protesters called for the cancellation of the agreement between the government and GMR, saying that the agreement was made against the laws of Maldives.⁹

In other developments, according to reports, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has said that the Foreign-exchange reserves of the Maldives Monetary Authority (MMA) is under pressure due to increasing imports and estimated increase in the Balance of Payments deficit. At a press conference on November 12, Chief of IMF Mission Koshy Mathai highlighted the deteriorating Balance of Payments position of the Maldives and said that this would result in an estimated Current Account deficit of 30 percent of GDP.¹⁰

⁵ "Call for Cameron to boycott SL", *The Daily Mirror*, November 15, 2012 at <http://www.dailymirror.lk/news/23501-call-for-cameron-to-boycott-sl.html>.

⁶ "SL denies intimidating UN workers", *The Daily Mirror*, November 14, 2012 at <http://www.dailymirror.lk/news/23485-sl-denies-intimidating-un-workers.html>.

⁷ "TN government to construct 2500 houses for Lankan Tamils", *The Daily Mirror*, November 14, 2012 at <http://www.dailymirror.lk/news/23483-tn-government-to-construct-2500-houses-for-lankan-tamils.html>.

⁸ "US Deputy Assistant Secretary for South and Central Asia calls on President Waheed", *The President's Office, Republic of Maldives*, November 18, 2012 at <http://www.presidencymaldives.gov.mv/Index.aspx?lid=11&dcid=8231>.

⁹ "Protest against GMR held at sea", *Sun Online*, November 13, 2012 at <http://sun.mv/english/7216>

¹⁰ "MMA reserves under pressure: IMF", *Sun Online*, November 12, 2012 at <http://sun.mv/english/7197>.

B. East Asia

China

- **Xi Jinping elected as the General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee; Wen Jiabao to attend the East Asian leaders meeting; Hu and Xi urge Chinese Army to follow party command and fulfill historical missions; Beijing and ASEAN agree to work for a code of conduct for South China Sea**

At the first plenary session of the 18th Chinese Party Congress, Xi Jinping was elected as the general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China.¹¹

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao left Beijing for Phnom Penh to attend meeting of the East Asian leaders scheduled from November 18 to 21, 2012.¹²

President Hu Jintao and Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the CPC Central Military Commission, have urged the Chinese army under the CPC's command to be absolutely loyal and accomplish historic missions.¹³

In other developments, China and the Association of the Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) have agreed to keep working towards establishing a code of conduct for the South China Sea. This was announced by Hong Lei, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson.¹⁴

Japan

- **Japanese Prime Minister dissolves Diet's lower house paving the way for general election; Japan-China-South Korea to declare the beginning of negotiations to conclude a trilateral FTA; Japan and North Korea agree to continue talks on the abduction issue**

Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda dissolved the House of Representatives on November 16. The general election is scheduled to be held on December 16 while official campaign for the election is to start from December 4.¹⁵

On the sidelines of the upcoming East Asia Summit to be held in Cambodia, Japan, China and South Korea are to formally announce the beginning of negotiations to conclude a trilateral FTA.

¹¹ "Xi Jinping elected general secretary of CPC Central Committee" *China Daily*, November 15, 2012 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2012cpc/2012-11/15/content_15931883.htm

¹² "Wen leaves for East Asian leaders meetings" *China Daily*, November 18, 2012 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2012-11/18/content_15939156.htm

¹³ "Hu, Xi urge army to fulfill historic missions" *China Daily*, November 17, 2012 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2012-11/17/content_15938565.htm

¹⁴ "China, ASEAN to work for S China Sea code of conduct" *China Daily*, November 16, 2012 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2012-11/16/content_15937515.htm

¹⁵ "Noda dissolves Diet's lower house/Key bills enacted; stage set for campaign leading up to Dec. 16 election", *The Yomiuri Daily*, November 17, 2012, at <http://www.yomiuri.co.jp/dy/national/T121116005013.htm>

Such an FTA is expected to create a major trade bloc among the three major East Asia states that together account for about 20% of the global gross domestic product.¹⁶

During the recently concluded two-day talks between senior diplomats from Japan and North Korea at Ulan Bator (Mongolia), the two sides agreed to continue holding talks on the abduction of Japanese citizens by North Korean agents decades ago. The next round of the bilateral talk is expected to be held as soon as possible.¹⁷

C. West Asia

Syria

- **Syrian National Dialogue conference held in Tehran; EU recognises new Syrian opposition coalition; Islamist rebel factions reject Western-backed opposition coalition**

Reports noted that the 27-nation European Union has formally recognised the newly formed Syrian opposition National Coalition as the “sole representative of the Syrian people”. The move came after France became the first Western country to recognise the coalition last week, followed by Italy. The US has said that it is monitoring progress of the coalition and will decide whether to recognise the body. Separately, the NATO chief Anders Fogh Rasmussen has said that the NATO would urgently consider any formal request from Turkey for deployment of surface-to-air missiles along the Turkish border with Syria.¹⁸ Turkey and the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) have also recognised the body.

In another development, the increasingly powerful Syrian Islamist rebel factions have rejected the Western-backed opposition coalition and unilaterally declared an Islamic state in Aleppo last week. The move is a clear indication of the deep splits between those seeking to topple President Bashar al-Assad. As the violence continues in Syria, activist report that at least 40,000 people have killed so far in the 20-month conflict.¹⁹

In other development, according to reports, the Syrian National Dialogue Conference was opened in Tehran on November 18 by Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi under the title “No for Violence, Yes for Dialogue and Democracy”. Around 170 people took part in the event and the majority of them Syrians. The non-Syrians included Russia’s ambassador to Tehran, the Chinese

¹⁶ “Japan, China, South Korea to announce three-way FTA talks”, The Japan Times, November 17, 2012, at <http://www.japantimes.co.jp/text/nn20121117b6.html#>

¹⁷ “Japan, N. Korea agree on more abduction talks”, The Yomiuri Daily, November 17, 2012, at <http://www.yomiuri.co.jp/dy/national/T121116004582.htm>

¹⁸ “EU recognizes legitimacy of Syrian opposition”, The Daily Star, November 20, 2012 at <http://dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2012/Nov-20/195618-eu-recognizes-legitimacy-of-syrian-opposition.ashx#axzz2CeEkRpwR>

¹⁹ “Syrian Islamists reject Western-backed opposition”, The Daily Star, November 19, 2012 at <http://dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2012/Nov-19/195503-two-largest-islamic-groups-reject-new-syria-opposition-coalition-video.ashx#axzz2CeEkRpwR>

ambassador in Tehran, head of the Iraqi National Coalition, and head of the Association of Lebanon's Muslim Scholars. The conference was based on an Iranian initiative and rejected any foreign solution to the Syrian crisis, instead supporting a political solution "that complies with international accords and the opinions of the Syrian people". The participants also rejected military intervention in Syria and stressed the need to prevent arms reaching militants inside the country.²⁰

Israel/Palestine

- **Israeli airstrikes on Gaza continue, Tel Aviv targeted; Hamas leader: Israel must initiate ceasefire; US accused of preventing UN Security Council action on Gaza crisis**

Israel is reported to have launched over 100 attacks on sites in Gaza by early this week, following the killing of Ahmed Jabari, the commander of Hamas' military wing, Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigades, on November 14 in an airstrike that targeted the car he was travelling in.²¹ At least 105 people have been killed by Israeli airstrikes in the Gaza Strip over six days of violence. On the other hand, three Israelis were reported killed by rockets fired into Israel last week.²² Israel has also targeted twice a building that houses local and international media offices in Gaza City, killing a military leader of Islamic Jihad and injuring journalists and civilians.²³ Meanwhile, aid agencies have warned of a humanitarian disaster if the conflict continues. The situation is aggravated by over five years of a blockade of Gaza by Israel that has hampered supplies of essential aid.²⁴

The exiled Hamas leader, Khaled Mashaal, has said that Israel must make the first move towards a ceasefire in the Gaza conflict, since "whoever started the war must end it". Mashaal, speaking in Cairo, said that the Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had requested a ceasefire. This was immediately denied by Israel. He said Hamas would agree to a truce but would not yield to any Israeli conditions, and would fight back if the conflict escalated.²⁵ Palestinians have called for the lifting of the Israeli blockade on Gaza, and the permanent opening of the Rafah crossing with Egypt.²⁶

²⁰ "Salehi: Crisis in Syria Exported from Abroad, Foreign Interference in Syria Establishes Dangerous Position in International Relations", Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA), November 18, 2012 at <http://sana.sy/eng/22/2012/11/18/453016.htm>; "Syrian National Dialogue Conference Continues Activities in Tehran", Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA), November 19, 2012 at <http://sana.sy/eng/22/2012/11/19/453176.htm>

²¹ "Israel bombs 'over 100' Gaza sites", Ma'an News Agency, November 20, 2012, at <http://www.maannews.net/eng/ViewDetails.aspx?ID=539913>; "Obituary: Ahmed Jabari, Hamas commander", BBC News, November 14, 2012 at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-20328270>

²² "Gaza crisis death toll passes 100", BBC News, November 19, 2012 at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-20404542>

²³ "Israel strikes media office, 2 killed", Ma'an News Agency, November 20, 2012 at <http://www.maannews.net/eng/ViewDetails.aspx?ID=539680>

²⁴ "Aid agencies warn of humanitarian crisis in Gaza", Ma'an News Agency, November 19, 2012 at <http://www.maannews.net/eng/ViewDetails.aspx?ID=539726>

²⁵ "Mashaal says Israel must make first move on ceasefire", Ma'an News Agency, November 19, 2012 at <http://www.maannews.net/eng/ViewDetails.aspx?ID=539702>

²⁶ "Moment of truth on Gaza truce", The Daily Star, November 20, 2012 at <http://dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2012/Nov-20/195616-moment-of-truth-on-gaza-truce.ashx#axzz2CeEkRpwR>

Meanwhile, according to reports, Israeli plans to launch a ground offensive into Gaza has been postponed reportedly after it decided to allow Egyptian mediators more time to broker a ceasefire with Hamas. Egyptian officials have said that a deal may be close but Israeli officials need to be more “flexible”.²⁷

In another development, Russia has accused the United States of blocking the UN Security Council from denouncing the Israeli-Gaza conflict and said that other Council members were “filibustering” the issue. A draft resolution was circulated by Morocco last week, but the US delegation has refused to engage in consultations relating to it to ensure that any UN statement would not become detrimental to ongoing mediation efforts by Egypt.²⁸

Turkey

● Turkish PM denounces Israel on Gaza conflict

Turkish Prime Minister Recept Tayyip Erdogan has called Israel a “terrorist state”, a week after the conflict between Israel and Gaza began. Erdogan termed Israeli actions as “terrorist acts”. The statement underlined the continued hostility between Israel and Turkey, following the 2010 flotilla incidents. Ankara had expelled the Israeli ambassador and frozen military cooperation with the country.²⁹

Jordan

● Jordanians protest against lifting of fuel subsidies

Jordan has witnessed mass protests in its capital Amman following a government announcement to hike fuel prices. The hike would cause the cost of household gas alone to rise by 53 per cent. Last week’s protests, for the first time, included calls for King Abdullah II to go. Calling for the overthrow of the king is punishable by imprisonment under Jordanian law.³⁰ Meanwhile, according to reports, the United Arab Emirates and other GCC states are considering efforts to assist Jordan to shore up its fuel supplies.³¹

²⁷ “Renewed rocket fire at Israel; Clinton to make surprise visit to Israel”, Haaretz, November 20, 2012 at <http://www.haaretz.com/news/israel-gaza-conflict-2012/news/renewed-rocket-fire-at-israel-clinton-to-make-surprise-visit-to-israel-1.479123>

²⁸ “Russia accuses US of blocking UN action on Israel-Gaza conflict”, Ma’an News Agency, November 11, 2012 at <http://www.maannews.net/eng/ViewDetails.aspx?ID=539881>

²⁹ “Turkey’s Erdogan: Israel carrying out ‘terrorist acts’”, The Daily Star, November 19, 2012 at <http://dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2012/Nov-19/195527-turkeys-erdogan-israel-carrying-out-terrorist-acts.ashx#axzz2CeEkRpwR>

³⁰ “Jordanians demonstrate over fuel price hikes”, The Daily Star, November 20, 2012 at <http://dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2012/Nov-20/195613-jordanians-demonstrate-over-fuel-price-hikes.ashx#axzz2CeEkRpwR>

³¹ “Gulf states mull aid for Jordan – UAE”, The Jordan Times, November 19, 2012 at <http://jordantimes.com/gulf-states-mull-aid-for-jordan--uae>

D. Africa

- **At least 42 officers killed in attack on Kenyan police in Samburu; African Union endorses ECOWAS plan to deploy troops into Mali; Somali Parliament approves smaller cabinet for new prime minister; EU approves 5 billion euros financial support package for Egypt; Miners at Anglo-American Platinum mine resumed to work; Nigerian military kills top commander of Boko Haram; Puntland security forces arrests al Shabaab members in Galkayo**

According to reports, in the most deadly attack on police in Kenya's history, at least 42 officers were killed when cattle rustlers ambushed and attacked Kenyan police, who attempted to recover stolen cattle, with sophisticated weapons such as anti-personnel bombs and rocket-propelled grenades in Baragoi in the northern Samburu County. Police spokesman Eric Kiraithe said that three of the attackers were killed, while nine injured officers were admitted in hospital. In response, Internal Security Minister Katoo ole Metito vowed to bring those responsible to justice.³² Later, the National Security Council, chaired by President Mwai Kibaki, ordered the deployment of the Kenyan Military to flush out bandits who killed police officers and stole their arms. Following the order, Baragoi residents began to flee the area as they feared being caught up in revenge attacks after the arrival of the troops in the region.³³

In another development, reports noted that the African Union (AU) endorsed the decision of West Africa's regional bloc ECOWAS to send 3,300 troops into Mali to clear the north of Islamist extremists. The ECOWAS plan covers a six-month period, with a preparatory phase for training and the establishment of bases in Mali's south, followed by combat operations in the north. The soldiers would be provided mainly by Nigeria, Niger and Burkina Faso and other African countries could provide troops and logistical support. The AU's Peace and Security Commissioner, Ramtane Lamamra, said that the plan would be placed before the UN Security Council for approval before the end of 2012. On the other hand, the UN warned that the Islamist militias were imposing a harsh version of Islamic law on the areas they control and that forced marriage, forced prostitution, and rape were becoming widespread.³⁴

In a sign that Somalia's government was willing to move away from its troubled past, the parliament approved a smaller, 10-member Cabinet in a vote that serves as an important victory for the new prime minister. Parliamentary speaker Mohamed Sheikh Osman Jawari said that 219 parliamentarians endorsed the Cabinet in a vote while three voted against the move and three abstained. The Cabinet, formed by Prime Minister Abdi Farah Shirdon, is expected to be sworn soon. Separately, the UN representative for Somalia, Augustine Mahiga, hailed the naming of two women ministers: the minister of foreign affairs, who also serves as deputy prime minister,

³² "Kenya police attack in Samburu: More bodies found", BBC News, November 12, 2012, at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-20294747>

³³ Bernard Momanyi, "Kenya: Kibaki Deploys Kenyan Military to Samburu", Capital FM, reported in All Africa, November 13, 2012, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201211131548.html>

³⁴ "Mali crisis: African Union backs plan to deploy troops", BBC News, November 13, 2012, at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-20315423>

and the minister of development and social services. Further, European Union foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton opined that the limited size of the Cabinet would help the government implement key priorities.³⁵

Reports noted that following the talks between Egyptian President Mohammed Mursi and the EU's foreign policy chief, Catherine Ashton, in Cairo, the European Union approved a 5 billion euro (US\$ 6.4 billion) financial support package for Egypt. It was announced that the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) would each provide 2 billion euros and the remaining 1 billion euros would come from EU member states. Representatives of some 100 of Europe's largest firms as well as European Commission members and European MPs participated in the meeting and focused on strengthening bilateral relationships between Egypt and the European Union and deepening economic co-operation.³⁶

According to reports, ending more than eight-week strike that crippled the world's largest platinum producer, miners at Anglo American Platinum Ltd. operations in South Africa returned to work in Rustenburg, about 100 kilometres northwest of Johannesburg. At the same time, farm workers, angered over their minimum daily wages, launched a second day of violent protests in the nation's Western Cape, setting fires and marching through the countryside. At least one man was killed in the violence and five others injured. Most of the striking farm workers come from the vineyards of South Africa, the world's eighth largest overall producer of wine. They were asking for an increase in the minimum day wage to 150 rand (US\$13), up from about 70 rand (US\$ 8).³⁷

In other developments, according to reports, Nigerian military killed Ibn Saleh Ibrahim, a top commander of militant Islamist group Boko Haram, along with six of his lieutenants, in an exchange of fire in the north-eastern city of Maiduguri. A number of civilians were said to have also been killed in the crossfire. Army spokesman Lt. Col. Sagir Musa said that Ibrahim was "very close" to Abubakar Shekau, the current head of Boko Haram, and had a reputation of being "invincible". Musa added that Ibrahim was responsible for the assassination of retired General Mohammed Shuwa following an order from Shekau.³⁸

In other developments, according to reports, President of Somalia's northern region of Puntland said that its security forces arrested two suspected members of the al Qaeda-linked al Shabaab militant group in Galkayo. They were identified as Abu Hafsa, al Shabaab's head of assassinations and Abdirizak Hussein Tahlil, al Shabaab logistics officer. It was added that Puntland forces also seized suicide jackets, hand grenades, explosive powder, as well as wires, fuses and remote

³⁵ "Somali parliament endorses downsized Cabinet in victory for new prime minister", The Washington Post, November 13, 2012, at http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/africa/somali-parliament-endorses-downsized-cabinet-in-victory-for-new-prime-minister/2012/11/13/d3098af6-2d95-11e2-b631-2aad9d9c73ac_story.html

³⁶ "EU 'approves \$6.4bn Egypt financial aid package'", BBC News, November 14, 2012, at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-20322407>

³⁷ "South African miners return to work at Anglo American Platinum mine, ending 8-week strike", The Washington Post, November 15, 2012, at http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/south-african-miners-return-to-work-at-anglo-american-platinum-mine-ending-8-week-strike/2012/11/15/e7843294-2f05-11e2-af17-67abba0676e2_story.html

³⁸ "Nigeria Boko Haram commander Ibn Saleh Ibrahim 'killed'", BBC News, November 16, 2012, at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-20357575>

controls during the raid. However, al Shabaab spokesman for military operations, Sheikh Abdiasis Abu Musab, denied the arrests and said that this was a false propaganda to get funds from Westerners.³⁹

II. DEFENCE REVIEW

National

- **Defence Minister A K Antony: Austerity measures would not affect defence preparedness; India & Maldives holding fourth joint military exercises at Belgaum**

According to reports, India's Defence Minister Shri A K Antony has said that there will be no cut in budget for procuring equipment essential for operational preparedness of armed forces. "Everything depends on the entire financial situation of the government for ammunition and platforms essential for operational preparedness of the armed forces, there would not be any cut," he told reporters on the sidelines of an IDSA function in New Delhi. The Minister was asked if there would be delays in the procurement of weapon systems for armed forces due to economic slowdown and austerity measures. He said in view of cost-cutting measures, the Defence forces have been asked by the Ministry to concentrate on prioritising their procurements.⁴⁰

In another development, according to reports, India and Maldives are holding the fourth joint annual military training exercises in Belgaum from November 12 to 25. The exercise is named EKUVERIN 2012. These bilateral annual exercises, which commenced in 2009 in Belgaum, are alternately held in India and Maldives. A total of 45 personnel from the MNDF are taking part in the exercises along with the personnel from the Indian Army. The aim of the exercises is to enhance the close military cooperation between the two countries. Notably, defence ties between India and Maldives have continued to expand and strengthen over the years with several high profile visits and joint exercises between the two countries.⁴¹

International

- **United States to focus on arms exports; Canadian prime minister pushing for restructuring of the armed forces**

According to reports, U.S. Defense Department is looking at designing new weapons and equipment so to attract foreign nations and thereby increase her exports. Senior Pentagon officials are looking at exportability within development programs including one for a radar and another for an electronic warfare system that will serve as pilots for this effort. Underscoring this point,

³⁹ "Puntland says arrests al Shabaab members, seizes explosives", Chicago Tribune, November 18, 2012, at <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/sns-rt-us-somalia-puntlandbre8ah0dj-20121118,0,6938840.story>

⁴⁰ "No Budget Cut for Critical Defence Purchases," Defence Now, November 12, 2012, at <http://www.defencenow.com/news/1004/no-budget-cut-for-critical-defence-purchases.html>

⁴¹ "India, Maldives holding joint military training exercises," The Hindu, November 12, 2012, at <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-maldives-holding-joint-military-training-exercises/article4091069.ece>

Frank Kendall, Under Secretary for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics said, “We might want to have a slightly different variation of the product that we sell.” This initiative is part of a hefty overhaul of DoD weapon buying guidance – dubbed Better Buying Power 2.0 – which is designed to improve efficiency in arms production. Since, defense spending is slated to decline in the coming years, US has looked to exports of weapons to makeup for the loss in the military budget. “ In the current climate with budgets around the world coming down for defense spending, industry is looking to foreign sales more than ever to help keep their base healthy,” Kendall said.⁴²

In another development, according to reports, Canada’s prime minister wants to economize the military spending and has asked for restructuring of the armed forces. Prime Minister Stephen Harper has asked the military’s leaders to change the structure of the military to save money. “The forces must be restructured to ensure administrative burdens are reduced and resources freed up for the front line,” he said at the October 29 ceremony to swear in the new chief of the Defence Staff, Gen. Tom Lawson. The service must transform itself into a modern military, with “more teeth and less tail,” Harper told the senior officers. Apart from several other measures to cut cost, the Canadian Forces will pull its personnel out of the NATO airborne warning and control system program, and it has withdrawn from NATO’s Alliance Ground Surveillance system, which is to acquire a fleet of UAVs.⁴³

III. INTERNAL SECURITY REVIEW

Jammu & Kashmir

- **Militant killed in Kulgam district, South Kashmir; Soldiers and militants killed on LoC; Model Code of Conduct comes into force in Jammu and Kashmir; Jammu and Kashmir to conduct Sixth Economic Survey**

According to reports, police and security forces trapped a group of militants in Kujjar village of Kulgam district on November 13 after the gunmen earlier broke a cordon in a neighbouring village. One militant has been killed in the encounter and searches are on in the area. On a specific tip-off a joint contingent of Special Operation Group (SOG) of Police, Army’s 1 Rashtriya Rifles (RR) and 18 Battalion CRPF cordoned off the village and laid siege around some houses where the militants were believed to be holed up. A police spokesman said the militant was asked to surrender but he opened fire at the search parties and was killed in retaliatory action.⁴⁴

In another development, reports noted that two militants and three Army men were killed in a fierce encounter near Line of Control (LOC) in Nowgam sector of Baramulla district on November

⁴² “Pentagon Aims to Reduce Time, Cost for Weapons Design,” Defense News, November 13, 2012, at <http://www.defensenews.com/article/20121113/DEFREG02/311130010/-1/7daysarchives/Pentagon-Aims-Reduce-Time-Cost-Weapons-Design>

⁴³ “PM Pushes for More Canadian Forces Cuts,” Defense News, November 13, 2012, at <http://www.defensenews.com/article/20121113/DEFREG02/311130009/-1/7daysarchives/PM-Pushes-More-Canadian-Forces-Cuts>

⁴⁴ “Militant killed in Kulgam encounter”, *Greater Kashmir*, November 13, 2012 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2012/Nov/14/militant-killed-in-kulgam-encounter-37.asp>

13. Srinagar-based Defence Spokesperson Lt. Col J.S. Brar said that the encounter started on November 13 when a group of militants were sighted in Saugam near Taut Mari Gali near LOC in Nowgam sector by 17 JAT Regiment. On being challenged, they opened fire which triggered the encounter. Two AK assault rifles were recovered from the scene of the encounter.⁴⁵

Reports noted that the Election Commission of India has ordered enforcement of the Model Code of Conduct in Jammu and Kashmir in the wake of notification issued by the EC for conducting of polls to the four Legislative Council seats under Panchayat quota in the state. The state government on November 14 forwarded a communication in this regard from the Election Commission of India to various heads of departments and deputy commissioners. The Election Commission has asked ministers not to hold any official meeting with the Panchayat members, who form the electorate to the LC polls.⁴⁶

In other developments, according to reports, Jammu and Kashmir is likely to conduct the 6th Economic Survey 2012-13 from December to estimate various parameters of economy. Sources in the Directorate of Economics and Statistics said that the six-month long exercise was likely to start by December and the preparations for the process were already underway.⁴⁷

North East India

- **Kuki body in Manipur reiterates separate State demand; Huge arms haul in Assam; Dima Haram Daogah (Jewel) to be disbanded formally; Curfew imposed in Kokrajhar, Assam as violence escalates; Border Security Force (BSF) seeks Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) to take action against North-east ultras**

According to reports, after the United Naga Council demanded an alternative arrangement for the Nagas in Manipur, a Kuki body on November 12, renewed their demand for creation of a separate State for them, claiming that the Kukis were neglected and suppressed in the State.⁴⁸

In another development, according to reports, a joint team of Assam and Meghalaya Police on November 13 recovered a huge cache of arms and ammunition from Khetri area and arrested five persons, including a cadre of the Garo National Liberation Army (GNLA), for which the consignment was meant. Two more arrests, including a former CRPF jawan and a GNLA cadre, were made in Dimapur by Nagaland Police in this connection.⁴⁹

Reports noted that militant outfit Dima Haram Daogah (Jewel), which recently signed a peace pact with the Central and State Governments, will be formally disbanded on November 26.

⁴⁵ "3 soldiers, 2 militants killed on LoC", *Greater Kashmir*, November 14, 2012 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2012/Nov/15/3-soldiers-2-militants-killed-on-loc-90.asp>

⁴⁶ "Model Code of Conduct comes into force", *Greater Kashmir*, November 15, 2012 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2012/Nov/16/model-code-of-conduct-comes-into-force-69.asp>

⁴⁷ "JK to start 6th Economic Survey from December", *Greater Kashmir*, November 15, 2012 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2012/Nov/16/jk-to-start-6th-economic-survey-from-december-67.asp>

⁴⁸ "Kuki body reiterates separate State demand", *The Assam Tribune*, November 12, 2012 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=nov1312/oth06>

⁴⁹ "Huge arms haul at Khetri, 7 held", *The Assam Tribune*, November 14, 2012 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=nov1512/at08>

Meanwhile, a number of senior leaders of the outfit are likely to join politics after the disbanding of the outfit. Commander-in-chief of DHD (J), Niranjan Hojai said that the outfit would be disbanded in a formal function to be held at Haflong on November 26.⁵⁰

According to reports, Kokrajhar district administration imposed indefinite curfew and issued shoot-at-sight order in the district from November 15 until further order in view of several incidents of sporadic violence between two particular communities which disrupted the law and order situation. The curfew has been imposed to control and stabilize the tense situation that has been prevailing.⁵¹

In other developments, reports noted that Border Security Force (BSF) has requested its Bangladeshi counterpart, Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) to destroy 55 camps of North-East insurgents in the country. The list was handed over at an Inspector General level meeting of border management and coordination held in Sylhet district of the neighbouring country last week.⁵²

⁵⁰ "DHD (J) to be formally disbanded on Nov 26", *The Assam Tribune*, November 14, 2012 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=nov1512/at09>

⁵¹ "Curfew in Kokrajhar, violence escalates", *The Assam Tribune*, November 15, 2012 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=nov1612/at05>

⁵² "BSF seeks BGB action on 55 NE ultra camps", *The Assam Tribune*, November 15, 2012 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=nov1612/at094>