

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

January 21-February 3, 20, (4 & 5), 2013

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I. COUNTRY REVIEWS

A. South Asia

Afghanistan

Jan 21-27

- **Kunduz Anti terror chief killed by suicide bomber**

According to reports, a suicide bomber has killed several Afghan officials and civilians in a crowded area of the northeast city of Kunduz, including “the city’s counter terrorism police chief and head of traffic police chief”, the Kunduz provincial governor’s spokesman Enayatullah Khaleeq said.¹

Jan 28-Feb 3

- **Afghan Defence Minister visits Pakistan; Pakistan’ offer to train Afghan forces being considered**

According to reports, Afghan Defence Minister Bismillah Khan Mohammadi arrived in Islamabad on January 27, commencing a five-day official trip. Leading a six-member delegation, Mohammadi will begin talks with Pakistan’s civil and military authorities on Monday, including Chief of Army Staff General Ashfaq Parvez Kayani. The Afghan minister will discuss a range of issues, including security and defence cooperation between the two neighbours.²

In another development, according to reports, putting aside years of mistrust, the Afghan government indicated its willingness to consider Pakistan’s longstanding offer of training its armed forces. This sense was conveyed during Afghan defence delegation’s meeting with Army Chief Gen Ashfaq Pervez Kayani at the military headquarters.³

Pakistan

Jan 21-27

- **Election Commission of Pakistan asks for additional Rs 5 billion for General Elections; the Election Commission of Pakistan approves electoral reforms**

The Election Commission of Pakistan has asked the government for additional Rs 5 billion for the

¹ Afghan suicide bomber kills anti terror chief, Al Jazeera, January 26, 2013 at <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia-pacific/2013/01/2013126143346668514.html>

² Roadmap to peace: Afghan Defence minister arrives on five day trip, The Express Tribune, January 28, 2013 at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/499597/roadmap-to-peace-afghan-defence-minister-arrives-on-five-day-trip/>

³ Kabul willing to consider Pak offer to train forces, Dawn, January 29, 2013 at <http://dawn.com/2013/01/29/kabul-willing-to-consider-pak-offer-to-train-forces/>

upcoming general elections in the country. The fund has been requested for expenditures related to election allowance, temporary phone connections, campaigning etc.⁴

In another development, the Election Commission of Pakistan has approved electoral reforms ahead of the upcoming general elections.⁵

Jan 28-Feb 3

- **Gwadar Port transferred to Chinese with cabinet support; Commission supports new province Bahawalpur Janoobi Punjab**

According to reports, the management of Gwadar Port has been handed to China from Singapore. This decision has been taken by during a cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Raja Pervaiz Ashraf. Also, on the sidelines of this transfer, the Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline was given an approval too.⁶

In another development, according to reports, a report prepared by the parliamentary commission on new provinces in Punjab was presented in the National Assembly on February 1. The report also contained the draft Twenty-fourth Constitutional Amendment Bill 2013. It suggested that there be only one new province, of which the capital would be Bahawalpur. It added that the new province should be named Bahawalpur Janoobi Punjab.

In other developments, according to reports, the commission recommended that the new province should receive almost 30 per cent of Punjab's National Finance Commission (NFC) award. It also stated that Bahawalpur Janoobi Punjab would consists of the Multan, Bahawalpur and Dera Ghazi Khan divisions as well as Mianwali and Bhakkar districts.⁷

Bangladesh

Jan 21-27

- **Expelled Jamaat-e-Islami member Abul Kalam Azad given death sentence; Noted Bangladeshi social worker and Gandhian Jharna Dhara Chowdhury has been chosen for Padma Shri**

According to reports, expelled Jamaat-e-Islami member Abul Kalam Azad has been sentenced to death for genocide and crimes against humanity committed during the Liberation War in 1971.⁸

⁴ General Elections: EC asks for additional funds worth Rs 5b, The Express Tribune, January 23, 2012 at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/498000/general-elections-ecp-asks-for-additional-funds-worth-rs5b/>

⁵ ECP approves India like electoral reforms, Dawn, January 24, 2012 at <http://dawn.com/2013/01/24/ecp-approves-indian-like-electoral-reforms/>

⁶ Too little too late? Gwadar port transfer to China wins cabinet nod, The Express Tribune, January 31, 2013 at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/500895/too-little-too-late-gwadar-port-transfer-to-china-wins-cabinet-nod/>

⁷ Commission recommends new Bahawalpur Janoobi Punjab Province, Dawn, February 1, 2013 at <http://dawn.com/2013/02/01/report-on-new-provinces-tabled-in-na/>

⁸ "Azad Verdict: Int'l media covered it widely", The Daily Star, January 23, 2013 at <http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=266340>.

Reports noted that noted Bangladeshi social worker and Gandhian Jharna Dhara Chowdhury has been chosen for Padma Shri, one of India's highest civilian awards. The award is recognition of Jharna's long-standing, selfless service to the people of Bangladesh, in particular those of Noakhali.⁹

Jan 28-Feb 3

- **Bangladesh and India sign agreements on extradition and relaxation of visa regime; Bilateral talks between the Indian Commerce and Industry Minister and Bangladesh's Commerce Minister; Fifth meeting of the India-Bangladesh Joint Steering Committee on Power Cooperation held in Dhaka; A delegation of the UAE led by Minister for Foreign Trade Sheikha Lubna Bint Khaled Al Qasimi visits Dhaka**

According to reports, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina reiterated her government's firm stance against terrorism, saying Bangladesh would not allow its territory to be used for launching attacks on other countries. Hasina made the remarks when visiting Indian Home Minister Sushil Kumar Shinde paid a courtesy call on her at her office on January 29, 2013.¹⁰ During the visit, Bangladesh and India have signed two agreements on extradition and relaxation of visa regime.

In another development, according to reports, while seeking expand of trade and economic engagement, India asked Bangladesh to allow smaller ships to operate between Chittagong and Visakhapatnam. This is to help faster movement of goods and reduce the trans-shipment cost as most of the present trade through sea route happens via Singapore inflating costs. The issue came up for discussion during the bilateral talks between the Indian Commerce and Industry Minister Anand Sharma and Bangladesh's Commerce Minister GM Quader held at Agra on January 28, 2013.¹¹

Reports noted that Indian Power Secretary P Uma Shankar went to Dhaka on January 29, 2013 for four day visit to co-chair, with his Bangladeshi counterpart Monwarul Islam, the fifth meeting of the India-Bangladesh Joint Steering Committee on Power Cooperation. There was also, a meeting of the India-Bangladesh Friendship Power Company, a joint venture between NTPC Ltd of India and Bangladesh Power Development Corporation. The joint venture was formed to build a 1,320mw thermal power project at Rampal in Khulna.¹²

In other developments, according to reports, a delegation of the United Arab Emirates led by Minister for Foreign Trade Sheikha Lubna Bint Khaled Al Qasimi arrived in Dhaka on January 29, 2013 to discuss with Bangladesh officials a proposal from a Dubai-based firm DP World to build a deep-sea port here. The UAE on behalf of DP World expressed interest to start building a deep sea port in Bangladesh in mid-2012 itself. The firm also proposed to undertake modernisation

⁹ "Padma Shri for Jharna", The Daily Star, January 27, 2013 at <http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=266726>.

¹⁰ "No room for terrorists: PM reaffirms govt's stance as Indian home minister calls on", The Daily Star, January 30, 2013 at <http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=267089>.

¹¹ "India seeks small ships movement between Chittagong, Vizag", The Daily Star, January 30, 2013 at <http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=267086.a>

¹² "India's power secretary due today", The Daily Star, January 29, 2013 at <http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=266958>.

of Mongla Port, build a container terminal at New Mooring in Chittagong and an internal container depot at Gazipur.¹³

Sri Lanka

Jan 21-27

- **Sri Lankan External affairs Minister Prof. G.L. Peiris visited New Delhi; India and Sri Lanka will soon ink an agreement to draw a fishing boundary in the Palk Strait; High Ranking official delegates from the US visited Sri Lanka**

Sri Lanka's Minister of External Affairs Prof. GL Peiris visited New Delhi to participate in the 8th Session of the India-Sri Lanka Joint Commission on January 22, 2013. During his visit to New Delhi, Minister Peiris called on Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on 23 January. Minister has also delivered a public lecture at Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses on January 22, 2013.¹⁴ Three agreements were signed by the two countries, such as agreement for avoidance of double taxation and two separate agreements to fight terrorism.

According to reports, Sri Lanka and India will soon ink an agreement to draw a fishing boundary in the Palk Strait to end the continuing skirmishes between the Sri Lankan Navy and the Indian fishermen invading Sri Lanka's territorial waters. Reportedly, the proposed agreement to end recurring attacks on fishermen from Tamil Nadu allegedly by the island navy is in final stages and both governments have agreed to the boundary proposals.¹⁵

In other developments, according to reports, a delegation of three high-ranking officials of the United States government arrived in Sri Lanka on January 26, 2013 on a mission to mainly assess the progress on implementing measures recommended by the country's own Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission (LLRC). The delegation consists of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of State James Moore, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Vikram Singh, and Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Jane Zimmerman.¹⁶

Jan 28-Feb 3

- **US is to sponsor a procedural resolution against Sri Lanka; Decline of young population in Sri Lanka; Netherland cooperates with Sri Lanka to deal with maritime piracy; Cairn India begins its phase 2 exploration of well, 'Balack January 'protest in Sri Lanka**

According to reports, Sri Lanka has recorded an increase in the population of women and old in

¹³ "UAE to talk deep-sea port with govt", The Daily Star, January 29, 2013 at <http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=266955>.

¹⁴ "Sri Lanka External Affairs Minister calls on Indian PM", The Colombo Page, January 24, 2013 at http://www.colombopage.com/archive_13A/Jan24_1359051916CH.php.

¹⁵ "India, Sri Lanka to draw a fishing boundary to solve fishermen issues", The Colombo Page, January 27, 2013 at http://www.colombopage.com/archive_13A/Jan27_1359306768CH.php.

¹⁶ "High-ranking US delegation arrives in Sri Lanka to assess progress on reconciliation", The Colombo Page, January 26, 2013 at http://www.colombopage.com/archive_13A/Jan26_1359213979CH.php.

the country while the youth and adult populations are on the decline. The second preliminary report of the 2011 census by the Census and Statistics Department has recorded the female population to be around 51.5 percent of the total population. The report has also recorded a decline in the number of persons below the age of 15. The number of persons aged 60 years and above has increased to 12.2 percent in 2012 from a 9.2 percent in 2000. According to the report, a majority of the country's population is between the ages of 15 and 59, which is around 62 percent of the total population. The decline in the fertility rate and number of births, increase in life expectancy and migration by the young and young adult population have resulted in the increase of the elderly population in the country.¹⁷

In another development, according to reports, the government of the Netherlands with the cooperation of Sri Lanka's Ministry of Defense and Urban Development is providing security to the international trade vessels against maritime piracy. According to a release from the Netherlands Embassy in Colombo, arrangements have been made to use certain Sri Lankan harbors to on- and off-load Dutch Vessel Protection Detachment (VPD) teams which provides protection on board against piracy attacks.¹⁸

According to reports, US Deputy Assistant Secretary of the State Department James R. Moore in a media briefing in Colombo on January 28, 2013, said, "The US has decided to sponsor a procedural resolution with its international partners against Sri Lanka at the March 2013 sessions of the UNHRC,"¹⁹

According to reports, following the successful completion of the first phase of oil exploration in Sri Lanka's Mannar basin, Cairn India, in its recently released 2012 Third Quarter Financial Results statement said the drilling of the phase 2 exploration well in the offshore SL 2007-01-001 block is advanced by a quarter. Cairn Lanka, the wholly-owned subsidiary of Cairn India commenced drilling a fourth exploratory well 21km off the Kalpitiya coast on February 01, 2013. In Phase One Cairn successfully discovered two successive gas and condensate deposits in the wells CLPLDorado-91H/1z well and, the CLPL-Barracuda-1G/1 well in the offshore Block SL 2007-01-001 in the Mannar Basin of Sri Lanka. The third well, CLPL-Dorado North 1-82K/1 as been plugged and abandoned as a dry hole on 14th December, 2011.²⁰

In other developments, according to reports, the Alliance of Media organizations, a media right organization in Sri Lanka held the 'Black January' protest on January 29, 2013 to commemorate slain journalists and protest the acts of media suppression.²¹

¹⁷ "Sri Lanka population aging, young and adult population declining", The Colombo Page, February 3, 2013 at http://www.colombopage.com/archive_13A/Feb03_1359906980JR.php.

¹⁸ "Sri Lanka, Netherlands cooperate to provide protection against maritime piracy", The Colombo Page, January 31, 2013 at http://www.colombopage.com/archive_13A/Jan31_1359620765CH.php.

¹⁹ "US to bring another resolution against Sri Lanka", The Colombo Page, January 28, 2013 at http://www.colombopage.com/archive_13A/Jan28_1359394042CH.php.

²⁰ "Cairn to begin second phase of oil exploration in Sri Lanka next month", Colombo Page, January 30, 2013 at www.colombopage.com/archive_13A/Jan30_1359531398CH.php.

²¹ "Sri Lanka journalists commemorate media attacks on Black January Protest Day", The Colombo Page, January 29, 2013 at http://www.colombopage.com/archive_13A/Jan29_1359481011CH.php.

Maldives

Jan 21-27

- **Special Envoy of Commonwealth Secretary General meets President Waheed; President Waheed affirms increasing income inequality gap in Maldives; Vice President of the ADB Xiaoyu Zhao paid a courtesy call on President**

According to reports, Commonwealth Secretary General's special envoy Sir Donald McKinnon has paid a courtesy call on President Dr Mohamed Waheed on January 27, 2013 at the meeting held at the President's Office. During the meeting, McKinnon assured of Commonwealth's support to the Maldives in ensuring a free and fair elections as well as a smooth transition.²²

In another development, reports noted that Maldives is now in the upper-middle income group of countries, with the Real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita income amounting to \$6,000 USD. However, President Dr Mohamed Waheed remarked while addressing the people of Kar'ditheemu Island that the income inequality gap of the country has risen, making the rich richer, and the poor poorer.²³

In other development, according to reports, Vice President of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Mr Xiaoyu Zhao paid a courtesy call on President Dr Mohamed Waheed on January 22 at the President's Office. The President and Mr Zhao discussed the current economic and social situation of the country and deliberated on the potential developmental projects that could be undertaken with ADB's assistance, especially in the areas of fisheries and tourism sectors.²⁴

Jan 28-Feb 3

- **Economic forecast for 2013 by Maldives Monetary Authority; India is considering setting up a consulate in Hanimaadhoo**

According to reports, Maldives Monetary Authority (MMA) forecast has shown that Maldives real GDP is projected to grow by 4.3 percent in 2013. The authority also stated that according to the government budget 2013, total revenue (including grants) is projected to increase to MVR 12,608.9 million, while total expenditure (including net lending) is projected to decline to MVR13,973.0 million. As a result, the authority predicts an overall deficit to decline to MVR 1,364.1 million, which is equivalent to 4 per cent of GDP. According to the balance of payments estimates for 2013, the current account deficit is estimated to increase to MVR690.7 million, equivalent to 28 per cent of GDP.²⁵

In another development, according to reports, speaking at the ceremony held to commence international flights to Hanimaadhoo Airport of Maldives on February 2, 2013, Indian High Commissioner to Maldives D.M. Mulay said that they are currently considering setting up a

²² "Commonwealth Secretary-General's special envoy Don McKinnon calls on the President", The President's Office, Republic of Maldives, January 27, 2013 at <http://presidencymaldives.gov.mv/Index.aspx?lid=11&dcid=8558>.

²³ "Income disparity between the rich and poor has increased in the Maldives: President Waheed", The President's Office, Republic of Maldives, January 26, 2013 at <http://presidencymaldives.gov.mv/Index.aspx?lid=11&dcid=8551>.

consulate in Hanimaadhoo to make it easier to those who travel from Hanimaadhoo to India to obtain visas. He also said that until the consulate is set up, the High Commission, jointly with Island Aviation, will facilitate to obtain visas to India for those who travel from Hanimaadhoo.²⁶

B. East Asia

China

Jan 21-Feb 3

- **Chinese Communist Party leader meets the Venezuelan foreign minister; PLAN sends fleet for patrolling South China Sea; Vice-Premier calls for more cooperation and trust between China and the United States; Mongolia and China to expand cooperation and trade; Beijing reiterates its opposition to Philippines' request to take the South China Sea disputes to the United Nations tribunal**

According to reports, Yu Zhengsheng, a senior Communist Party of China (CPC) leader met with the Venezuelan Foreign Minister Elias Jaua Milano who visited China on February 2, 2013. They pledged to further promote cooperation between the two countries.²⁷

According to the Chinese military sources, a Chinese People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) fleet entered the Chinese territorial waters in the South China Sea for patrolling and training missions on February 1, 2013.²⁸

The Chinese Vice-Premier, Li Keqiang called for more trust and broadening common interests between China and the United States while meeting a visiting US congressional delegation on January 31, 2013.²⁹

In other developments, according to reports, Beijing has stated that China and Mongolia should also work towards expanding their cooperation in trade and investment.³⁰

²⁴ "ADB Vice President calls on the President", The President's Office, Republic of Maldives, January 22, 2013 at <http://presidencymaldives.gov.mv/Index.aspx?lid=11&dclid=8529>.

²⁵ "Maldives real GDP to grow by 4.3 percent this year: MMA", The Sun Online, February 3, 2013 at <http://sun.mv/english/9259>.

²⁶ "Indian consulate to be opened in Hanimaadhoo", The Sun Online, February 2, 2013 at <http://sun.mv/english/9237>.

²⁷ "CPC leader meets Venezuelan foreign minister" China Daily, February 2, 2013 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2013-02/02/content_16196366.htm

²⁸ "PLA navy fleet in South China Sea for patrol, training" China Daily, February 1, 2013 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2013-02/01/content_16194897.htm

²⁹ "Li urges more mutual trust with US" China Daily, February 1, 2013 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2013-02/01/content_16192113.htm

³⁰ "China, Mongolia to expand cooperation" China Daily, January 31, 2013 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2013-01/31/content_16192016.htm

Beijing has reiterated its opposition to Philippines' request to take the South China Sea disputes to the United Nations tribunal. This was stated by a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson on January 31, 2013.³¹

C. West Asia

Syria

Jan 21-27

- **Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev: Chances of Syrian President Bashar Al Assad staying in power were getting smaller by the day**

According to reports, Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev has said that the chances of Syrian President Bashar Al Assad staying in power were getting smaller by the day, but that this should be decided by the Syrian people and not by foreign states. Medvedev's remarks came as fighting in southwestern Damascus shut down a main highway from the capital. The Syrian government has counted a key ally in Moscow which has accused Western countries of breaching sovereign rights and vetoed UN resolutions against Assad. Russia has warned that removing Assad by force would result in decades of civil war. Medvedev also said that Assad did not appear ready for a negotiated solution to the crisis.³²

Jan 28-Feb 3

- **Syria accuses Israel of trying to "destabilise" country**

According to reports, Syrian President Bashar Al Assad has accused Israel of attempting to "destabilise" his country following a reported Israeli airstrike in Damascus on January 30. Syrian state television had reported that Israeli jets carried out the attack on a military research centre in the Jamraya area near Damascus. However, US officials have said that the strike targeted a weapons convoy that was bound for Lebanon. Israeli defence minister Ehud Barak has hinted that Israel was responsible, and that Syria should not be allowed to move advanced weapons systems into Lebanon. Israel has warned of the danger of chemical weapons from Syria falling into the hands of Lebanon's Hezbollah.³³ Damascus has threatened to retaliate fuelling fears of a regional spill-over of the Syrian conflict.³⁴

³¹ "China opposes taking sea disputes to UN" China Daily, January 31, 2013 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2013-01/31/content_16191917.htm

³² "Russia says Assad's prospects fading", The Jordan Times, January 27, 2013 at <http://jordantimes.com/russia-says-assads-prospects-fading>

³³ "President Assad accuses Israel of destabilising Syria", BBC News, February 3, 2013 at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-21311874>

³⁴ "Assad lashes out as Israel admits Syria raid", The Jordan Times, February 3, 2013 at <http://jordantimes.com/assad-lashes-out-as-israel-admits-syria-raid>

Turkey

- **US Embassy reopens following suicide attack; Turkish foreign minister asks international community to re-assess Syrian issue**

Reports noted that the American embassy in Ankara has reopened following a suicide bomb attack on Friday targeting the building. The Revolutionary People's Liberation Front (DHKP-C), an outlawed Turkish left wing group, has claimed responsibility for the attack, which killed a security guard and a Turkish journalist, in addition to the suicide bomber.³⁵ The US deputy secretary of state, Ash Carter, has arrived in Turkey following the incident for consultations with Turkey core issues, including international terrorism, and mutual defence cooperation.³⁶

In another development, according to reports, Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu, speaking at the Munich Security Conference on Sunday, has said that the international community should re-assess the Syrian situation and that the psychology of the regions such as the Middle East should be understood as regimes in these countries were changing for the first time since the 1950s and 60s. Turkey has welcomed the initiative taken by Qatar and Saudi Arabia on resolving the Syrian conflict. Davutoglu has also said that the Syrian crisis is a test for the UN given that the UNSC has not taken action even two years after the conflict began.³⁷

Israel/Palestine

Jan 21-27

- **Israel's parliamentary elections ends in an unanticipated deadlock between the hardline and centre-left parties; Netanyahu's Likud-Yisrael Beitenu alliance won 31 parliamentary seats, down from the 42 seats it previously held**

Israel's parliamentary elections ended on January 23 in an unanticipated deadlock between the hardline and centre-left parties forcing Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to piece together a coalition of parties from both blocs. Each of the two camps had won 60 seats each in the 120-seat Knesset. The strongest surprise showing was by the centrist Yesh Atid party. Its leader Yair Lapid has said that he would join in the government only if it committed to sweeping economic reforms and a serious push towards resuming peace talks with the Palestinians. Netanyahu's Likud-Yisrael Beitenu alliance won 31 parliamentary seats, down from the 42 seats it previously held, and far lower than pre-election polls had predicted. Yesh Atid won 19 seats.³⁸

³⁵ "US Embassy back in service", Anadolu Agency, February 4, 2013 at <http://www.aa.com.tr/en/headline/129459-us-embassy-back-in-service>

³⁶ "Senior Pentagon official in Turkey", Anadolu Agency, February 4, 2013 at <http://www.aa.com.tr/en/headline/129478-senior-pentagon-official-in-turkey>

³⁷ "International community should re-assess Syria", Anadolu Agency, February 3, 2013 at <http://www.aa.com.tr/en/headline/129304-international-community-should-re-assess-syria>

³⁸ "Israeli election ends in dramatic deadlock", The Hindu, January 23, 2013 at <http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/israeli-election-ends-in-dramatic-deadlock/article4335013.ece>

Iran

Jan 21-27

- **Iran's Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi proposes Cairo as a venue for the next round of talks with G5-plus one over Iran nuclear program; Iran's crude oil exports to China increased despite sanctions**

Iran's Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi is proposing Cairo as a venue for the next round of talks with G5-plus one over nuclear program. Salehi said that Egypt has welcomed the offer and is now consulting with the United States, Russia, China, Britain, France and Germany to finalize it. His comments came after a Cabinet meeting in Teheran. Negotiations between Iran and the six powers fell apart in June 2012 in Moscow. The two sides have been in discussions to get the talks back on track, perhaps as soon as later this month. The US and its allies fear that Iran may ultimately be able to develop a nuclear weapon, a charge Teheran denies.³⁹

Meanwhile, according to reports, recently released data shows Iran's crude oil exports to China soared to the second highest level in December 2012, despite U.S.-led sanctions against the Islamic Republic's energy sector. According to a Reuters report, China imported nearly 593,390 barrels per day (bpd) of crude from Iran in December last year, up 3.6 percent from the preceding year and up 39 percent from November. For the full year 2012, the highest level of China's crude imports from Iran stood at 633,000 bpd. Industry officials in China attributed the enhancement in Iran's crude oil exports to improvement in shipment. The problems that used to cause delays have been overcome recently. The period of delay has become shorter and overall, less frequent. Iran is currently China's third largest supplier of crude, providing Beijing with roughly 12 percent of its total annual oil consumption. According to another news report, China will soon start importing polyethylene made in Iran, which became possible after the Islamic Republic partially lifted a ban on the export of petrochemicals late last year.⁴⁰

Iraq

Jan 21-27

- **Suicide Bomber Killed 42 people in Iraq**

According to reports, a suicide bomber killed 42 people in Shia mosque. The attack, which also left 75 people wounded, is likely to heighten tensions as Iraq grapples with a political crisis and more than a month of protests in Sunni-majority areas that have hardened opposition against Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki. The militant struck at the Sayid al-Shuhada mosque in Tuz Khurmatu, 175 kilometres (110 miles) north of Baghdad, and targeted the funeral of a relative of a politician who was killed by gunmen a day earlier. No group claimed responsibility, but

³⁹ "Iran proposes nuclear talks in Egypt," Khaleej Times, **January 23, 2013**, at http://www.khaleejtimes.com/kt-article-display-1.asp?xfile=/data/middleeast/2013/January/middleeast_January330.xml§ion=middleeast

⁴⁰ "China defying sanctions imposed on Iran," Mehr News Agency, January 28, 2013, at <http://www.mehrnews.com/en/newsdetail.aspx?NewsID=1802555>

militants often launch attacks in a bid to destabilise the government and push Iraq back towards the sectarian violence that blighted it from 2005 to 2008. Recent suicide bomb came after a wave of attacks a day earlier killed 26 people and wounded dozens more, shattering a relative calm after a spate of deadly violence last week.⁴¹

Yemen

JAN 21-27

- **UNSC delegation in Yemen to discuss transition with leaders; West sends warplanes**

Reports noted that a delegation of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) arrived in Yemen on January 27, 2013 and held a meeting with President Abu Mansour Hadi. The UNSC delegation is expected to hold meetings with several other political factions to facilitate the political transition of the country. The agenda of the delegation includes meetings with President Hadi, the military committee, the general secretariat of the dialogue conference and the political settlement partners. The meetings intend to send a clear message to the Yemeni factions that the international community strongly backs President Hadi and to stress the importance to accelerate the completion of the two-year transitional period.⁴²

In another development, according to reports, the United States of America, France and the United Kingdom have sent war planes to Yemen. According to the security sources, 250 American Marines arrived in capital Saana on January 26, 2012, increasing yet again America's military presence in the country. In addition to the Marines, several American - Counterterrorism Units agents are reportedly deployed throughout the capital to check any potential threat. British troops scattered in Sana'a, criss-crossing with their American counterparts to cover as much ground as possible. Dozens of French warplanes were sent to patrol the sky.⁴³

II. DEFENCE REVIEW

National

Jan 21-27

- **India's national cyber security architecture on the anvil; India successfully test fires medium range K-5 ballistic missile**

According to reports, National Security Advisor Shivshankar Menon said on January 21 that India

⁴¹ "Iraq suicide bomb kills 42," Khaleej Times, **January 23, 2013**, at http://www.khaleejtimes.com/kt-article-display-1.asp?xfile=/data/middleeast/2013/January/middleeast_January334.xml§ion=middleeast

⁴² "UN Delegates Arrive in Yemen, Hold Meetings with Leader", Yemen Post, January 27, 2013, at <http://www.yemenpost.net/Detail123456789.aspx?ID=3&SubID=6466&MainCat=3>

⁴³ French, British, US warplanes and troops in Yemen capital, Yemen Post, January 28, 2013, at <http://www.yemenpost.net/Detail123456789.aspx?ID=3&SubID=6467&MainCat=3>

is in the process of setting up national cyber security architecture with the aim to prevent sabotage, espionage and other forms of attack that could hurt the country. The architecture to protect critical information infrastructure and other networks will involve monitoring, certification and assurance of India's networks by designated agencies and bodies in accordance with the law. "It will also involve capacity and authority for operations in cyber space," Menon stated. A national cyber security coordinator in the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS) will be responsible for coordinating the entire effort in regard to this structure, involving various ministries and agencies.⁴⁴

In another development, according to reports, India on January 27 successfully test fired a ballistic missile, with a strike range of around 1500 kilometres, from an underwater platform in Bay of Bengal. The test is seen in the strategic community as an evidence of India's inching closer towards completing its nuclear triad. DRDO chief V K Saraswat told, "The medium range K-5 ballistic missile was test fired successfully today from an underwater pontoon and all parameters of the test firing were met." The development phase of the K-5 missile, which is a submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM), is now over and it is now ready for deployment on various platforms. K-5 is part of the family of underwater missiles being developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) for the Indian strategic forces' underwater platforms. This missile will help India to achieve the capability of launching nuclear warheads from underwater facilities, which is a major achievement, since so far, India had the capability of delivering nuclear weapons from land and aerial platforms only.⁴⁵

Jan 28-Feb 3

- **India and Japan to coordinate moves and exercises in maritime arena; India's Dornier surveillance aircraft to boost Seychelles' coastal security**

Reports noted that the first India-Japan Maritime Affairs Dialogue was held in New Delhi on January 29, 2013. The Indian delegation was led by Mr. D.B. Venkatesh Varma, Joint Secretary (Disarmament and International Security Affairs), in the Ministry of External Affairs and the Japanese delegation by Mr. Kazuyuki Yamazaki, Deputy Director General (Ambassador), Foreign Policy Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. Representatives of various Ministries participated from both sides. Issues of mutual interest were discussed, inter alia, maritime security including non-traditional threats, cooperation in shipping, marine sciences and technology, marine biodiversity and cooperation at various multilateral forums.⁴⁶

In another development, reports noted that the Defence Minister Shri AK Antony handed over Dornier surveillance aircraft to the Foreign Minister of Seychelles Mr. Jean Paul Adam on January 31. The maritime surveillance aircraft will be used to guard the extensive coastline of the island nation in the Indian Ocean. Describing the event as yet another milestone in the defence cooperation

⁴⁴ "India setting up national cyber security architecture: NSA," the Economic Times, January 21, 2013, at http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2013-01-21/news/36462874_1_cyber-attacks-national-cyber-security-critical-information-infrastructure

⁴⁵ "India test fires ballistic missile from underwater platform," the Indian Express, January 27, 2013, at <http://www.indianexpress.com/news/india-test-fires-ballistic-missile-from-underwater-platform/1065419/>

⁴⁶ "First India-Japan Maritime Affairs Dialogue," Ministry of External Affairs, January 29, 2013, at <http://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/21141/First+IndiaJapan+Maritime+Affairs+Dialogue>

between India and Seychelles, Shri Antony said HAL-DO-228 aircraft is being extensively utilized by our various users such as the Coast Guard, the Navy, Air Force and civilians for a variety of applications. He said it is a frontline surveillance platform for applications like maritime reconnaissance, intelligence warfare, search and rescue, pollution control and transport. He expressed confidence that the aircraft will prove useful for maritime applications by Seychelles, as it is fitted with the latest state of the art surveillance and communication equipment.⁴⁷

International

Jan 21-27

- **Japan successfully launches two satellites to strengthen its surveillance capabilities; China conducts test flight of indigenous Military Transport Plane**

According to reports, Japan, on January 27, successfully launched two satellites to boost its surveillance capabilities. One of them was a radar-equipped unit to complete a system of surveillance satellites that will allow Tokyo to monitor any place in the world at least once a day. The other was a demonstration satellite to collect data for research and development. The H-IIA rocket blasted off from Tanegashima and released the satellites. According to the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), “the rocket flew as planned and released both satellites.” The radar satellite is believed to be able to detect objects on the ground as small as a square meter from an altitude of several hundred kilometers, even at night and through cloud cover.⁴⁸

In another development, according to reports, China has carried out a test flight of its biggest-ever indigenous army transport airplane Y-20 on January 26. The plane is developed in China and will be used to transport military combat and support vehicles. It can carry weight up to 66 tons. Experts feel that the Y-20 would be a huge boost to the intercontinental strategic projection abilities of China’s air force.⁴⁹

Jan 28-Feb 3

- **Israeli armed forces chief visits United States**

According to reports, Israeli armed forces Chief Lt. Gen. Benny Gantz on February 3 began a five-day visit to USA. The chief will meet his U.S counterpart Gen. (Martin) Dempsey and other American officials. The two Generals will also discuss current security challenges, the regional security status in the Middle East and military cooperation. Gantz’s visit comes in the wake of

⁴⁷ India Hands Over a Dornier Surveillance Aircraft to Seychelles,” PIB, January 31, 2013, at <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/erelease.aspx?relid=91933>

⁴⁸ “Japan Launches New Satellites To Boost Surveillance, Defense News, January 27, 2013, at <http://www.defensenews.com/article/20130127/DEFREG03/301270012/Japan-Launches-New-Satellites-Boost-Surveillance?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE>

⁴⁹ “China Tests New Military Transport Plane,” Defense News, January 27, 2013, at <http://www.defensenews.com/article/20130127/DEFREG03/301270018/China-Tests-New-Military-Transport-Plane?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE>

Israel's air strike on military installations in Syria purportedly to prevent arms transfers to Lebanon's powerful Shiite group Hezbollah.⁵⁰

III. INTERNAL SECURITY REVIEW

Jammu & Kashmir

Jan 21-27

- **Issue of UN presence in Kashmir debated by India and Pakistan at United Nations Security Council (UNSC); UN rules out termination of UN Observer Group in Kashmir; Budget session of Jammu and Kashmir likely to commence soon; Review of AFSPA recommended by Justice J.S. Verma Committee; UN rules out termination of UN Observer Group in Kashmir; Jammu & Kashmir CM tells separatists to employ dialogues to resolve issues; Cross LoC bus service and trade to resume**

According to reports, India and Pakistan clashed at the UN Security Council over the relevance of the UN Military Observer Group on the LoC in Jammu and Kashmir with New Delhi saying it has been overtaken by 1971 Shimla Accord and Islamabad insisting the force still had a role. The exchange of words occurred during a UN Security Council open debate on peacekeeping, organised by Pakistan under its current Presidency of the 15-nation powerful UN body.⁵¹ Meanwhile, a spokesperson for UN chief Ban Ki-moon said the force can be terminated only by a decision of the 15-nation body.⁵²

In another development, according to reports, in a major fillip to the ongoing demand for revocation of the contentious Armed Forces Special Power Act (AFSPA) from conflict zones such as Jammu and Kashmir and North-Eastern states, Justice J.S. Verma committee set up by the government to look into laws for sexual crimes following heinous gang-rape of a young girl in Delhi, has recommended the need to review the law. The three member panel that also includes Justice (retired) Leila Seth and senior advocate Gopal Subramaniam suggested that the armed forces, including paramilitary forces, should be brought under the purview of a common law while operating in conflict zones as the panel felt it necessary to check the cases of women being sexually exploited.⁵³

In other developments, according to reports, asserting that dialogue is the only way forward to resolve issues, J &K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on January 25 asked separatists to open

⁵⁰ "Israel's chief of staff on U.S. visit," Defense News, February 3, 2013, at <http://www.defensenews.com/article/20130203/DEFREG04/302030007/Israel-8217-s-chief-staff-U-S-visit?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE>

⁵¹ "India, Pak spar over UN presence in Kashmir", Greater Kashmir, January 22, 2013 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2013/Jan/23/india-pak-spar-over-un-presence-in-kashmir-48.asp>

⁵² "UN rules out termination of mission Kashmir", Greater Kashmir, January 23, 2013 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2013/Jan/24/un-rules-out-termination-of-mission-kashmir-49.asp>

⁵³ "Justice Verma committee pitches for AFSPA review", Greater Kashmir, January 23, 2013 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2013/Jan/24/justice-verma-committee-pitches-for-afspa-review-51.asp>

channels of communication with the Centre and discuss political issues threadbare to seek amicable solution. The Chief Minister said in his televised address to the people on the eve of Republic Day that political issues cannot be resolved by gun or money but across the table through dialogue.⁵⁴

According to reports, after a month-long hostility and escalation of tension along the Line of Control, the cross-border trade and travel is likely to resume from January 28. The cross-LoC bus service and trade would resume along Chakan-da-Bagh crossing point in Poonch district.⁵⁵

Reports noted that Jammu and Kashmir government on January 22 fixed February 28 as the tentative date for commencement of the annual budget session of the state legislature.⁵⁶

Jan 28-Feb 3

- **Jammu & State Assembly to commence its budget session from February 28; Cross-LoC bus service resumed; Army questions the relevance of United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) on LoC; BSF sets up board to ensure no tunnel on Indo-Pak border; Security of the separatists asked to be reviewed by MHA**

Reports noted that the budget session of the Jammu & Kashmir legislature is set to commence by the end of next month, as the Governor NN Vohra on January 28 summoned both houses of the legislature from February 28.⁵⁷

In another development, according to reports, amid emotionally charged atmosphere, 138 people on January 28 exchanged sides as the cross-LoC bus service between divided parts of J&K resumed at Chakan-da-Bagh, Poonch, after a fortnight-long suspension due to Indo-Pak skirmishes.⁵⁸

According to reports, Indian Army on January 30 said that the relevance of the UN Military Observer Group on the LoC in Jammu and Kashmir is questionable in the aftermath of the 1972 Simla agreement. Army spokesperson Colonel J Dahiya said this in a statement while reacting to a media report which suggested that Pakistan Army had filed complaints with the UNMOGIP that Indian Army troops had beheaded Pakistani soldiers on many occasions in the last 15 years. UNMOGIP observers have been stationed at the ceasefire line between India and Pakistan in Jammu and Kashmir since 1949 and supervise the ceasefire between the two neighbours.⁵⁹

⁵⁴ "Talk to Delhi: Omar tells separatists", Greater Kashmir, January 25, 2013 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2013/Jan/26/talk-to-delhi-omar-tells-separatists-51.asp>

⁵⁵ "Cross LoC trade, bus service to resume today", Greater Kashmir, January 27, 2013 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2013/Jan/28/cross-loc-trade-bus-service-to-resume-today-45.asp>

⁵⁶ "Budget session likely from Feb 28", Greater Kashmir, January 22, 2013 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2013/Jan/23/budget-session-likely-from-feb-28-40.asp>

⁵⁷ "Budget session from Feb 28", Greater Kashmir, January 28, 2013 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2013/Jan/29/budget-session-from-feb-28-48.asp>

⁵⁸ "Cross LoC travel resumes in Poonch", Greater Kashmir, January 28, 2013 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2013/Jan/29/cross-loc-travel-resumes-in-poonch-46.asp>

⁵⁹ "Relevance of UNMOGIP on Line of Control questionable: Army", Greater Kashmir, January 30, 2013 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2013/Jan/31/relevance-of-unmogip-on-line-of-control-questionable-army-52.asp>

According to reports, after detection of a 400-mt tunnel at the Indo-Pak border, BSF has set up a high-level board for meticulous scanning of the international boundary to rule out existence of such underground passages.⁶⁰

In other developments, reports noted that the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has asked the Jammu and Kashmir Government to go for a detailed review of the security of separatist leaders in Kashmir. The Government has also been asked to offer security to the separatist leaders who have denied the cover so far. While most of the separatist leaders have been provided with lower-rung security cover, some of the important have been given the Z-security in 2004 after they started a dialogue with the Government of India over Kashmir issue. According to MHA official the review of security would be based on threat perception assessment.⁶¹

Northeast India

Jan 21-27

- **Manipur celebrated its 42nd Statehood day; Karbi Peoples' Liberation Tigers (KPLT) militants ambush security forces; All Tripura Tiger Force (ATTF) chief sent to judicial custody; Imphal witness serial bomb blast on Republic day eve; Rabha Hasong areas in Assam under strict security vigilance; Many villages in Southern Assam keen to merge with Mizoram**

Reports noted that Manipur celebrated its 42nd Statehood day on January 21 while the Kuki State Demand Committee (KSDC) renewed its demand for a separate Kuki State and threatened to launch a Quit Kukiland movement which includes blockade on Highways passing through Kuki-inhabited areas from 5pm of January 24. The communiqué urged the Kuki militants supporting Kuki Statehood to stand behind the KSDC to achieve Kuki people's ultimate political goal of governing themselves in their land.⁶² Meanwhile, according to reports, a CRPF trooper was killed and an Assam Police constable injured when armed Karbi Peoples' Liberation Tigers (KPLT) militants ambushed a security forces patrol in Assam's Karbi Anglong district on January 24. The attack took place at Koilamati village of Bokajan subdivision in the district.⁶³

According to reports, a Tripura court on January 24 sent militant leader Ranjit Debbarma to 14 days of judicial custody, a day after he was arrested when pushed into the Indian territory by Bangladeshi authorities. Chief of outlawed outfit All Tripura Tiger Force's (ATTF), Debbarma was facing Interpol's red corner notice for a number of massacres and other crimes.⁶⁴

⁶⁰ "BSF sets up board to ensure no tunnel on Indo-Pak border", Greater Kashmir, January 30, 2013 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2013/Jan/31/bsf-sets-up-board-to-ensure-no-tunnel-on-indo-pak-border-65.asp>

⁶¹ "MHA asks JK Govt to review separatists' security", Greater Kashmir, January 31, 2013 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2013/Feb/1/mha-asks-jk-govt-to-review-separatists-security-38.asp>

⁶² "KSDC to launch Quit Kukiland movement", The Assam Tribune, January 21, 2013 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=jan2213/oth06>

⁶³ "CRPF man killed, policeman injured in Assam ambush", The Assam Tribune, January 24, 2013 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=jan2413/at045>

⁶⁴ "ATTF chief sent to judicial custody", The Assam Tribune, January 24, 2013 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=jan2513/oth06>

Reports noted that a serial bomb blast rocked the Manipur state capital Imphal on the eve of the Republic Day celebrations though no report of casualty. The first explosion took place near a pond inside the 1st Battalion Manipur Rifles campus in Imphal where the Republic Day parade is scheduled to be held. The second bomb explosion occurred near Keishamthong Longjam Leirak crematorium on the Nambul river bank in Imphal West district.⁶⁵

According to reports, efforts by some unscrupulous elements to create ethnic tension in the Rabha Hasong area has become a matter of serious concern and the police and security forces have been kept in high alert to maintain law and order in the area. Additional Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel have also been rushed to the Council area to prevent any untoward incident.⁶⁶

In other developments, according to reports, around 16,000 people of 65 villages of Assam want to merge with neighbouring Mizoram according to a statement made by a leader of the villagers in Silchar, Assam on January 22. Residents of these 65 villages in Karimganj district in southern Assam formed the Cheragi-Jamuyang Sadak Unnayan Samiti (CJSUS) earlier this month to coordinate their move. The CJSUS has submitted a resolution to the deputy commissioner of Mamit district of western Mizoram expressing the villagers' willingness to merge with Mizoram. Assam's Karimganj district Deputy Commissioner Debeswar Malakar met CJSUS leaders last week and assured them that their woes would be addressed after the panchayat elections beginning Jan 30.⁶⁷

Jan 28-Feb 3

- **Extradition treaty signed between India and Bangladesh; First phase of Panchayat elections in Assam begun; Blast in oil pipeline in Tinsukia district, Assam; Blockade suspended in Manipur; Hmar People's Convention - Democrats (HPC-D) signs pact with Mizoram Government**

In a significant development, reports noted that India and Bangladesh signed a liberalised visa agreement and a landmark extradition treaty on January 28 that would pave the way for the deportation of jailed ULFA general secretary Anup Chetia and other wanted criminals. Home Minister Sushil Kumar Shinde signed the agreement with his Bangladeshi counterpart Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir at the end of their bilateral talks, which also yielded a revised travel arrangement under which New Delhi as well as Dhaka eased their visa regimes under several categories.

⁶⁵ "Serial blast rocks Imphal", The Assam Tribune, January 25, 2013 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=jan2613/oth05>

⁶⁶ "Security stepped up in Rabha Hasong areas", The Assam Tribune, January 27, 2013 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=jan2813/at06>

⁶⁷ "65 Assam villages keen to merge with Mizoram", The Assam Tribune, January 22, 2013 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=jan2213/at0461>

Union Home Minister Sushil Kumar Shinde said after signing the agreement that these contracts will enhance ties in areas of security and people-to-people contacts. The extradition deal was inked hours after Bangladesh Cabinet approved its draft a week after the Indian Cabinet took the identical decision clearing the inking of the pact. Officials said the treaty would not be applied on persons accused offences of political character.⁶⁸

In another development, reports noted that a total of 51,49,054 electorates in eight districts will exercise their franchise in the first phase of the Panchayat poll on January 30. The Assam State Election Commission has appointed 16 observers to ensure smooth and fair conduct of the local election. An official of the Commission informed that though no major election-related violence has been reported, security has been beefed up in all the sensitive areas. The second and third phases of the Panchayat election are scheduled on February 6 and 12 respectively.⁶⁹

According to reports, an oil pipeline at Makum in Tinsukia was damaged in an explosion for which ULFA claimed responsibility. The explosion in the pipeline of the IOC-Assam Oil Division (AOD) created a 4-ft crater in Pachim Mamarani area.⁷⁰

According to reports, the Kuki State Demand Committee (KSDC) sponsored public blockade on National and State Highways passing through Kuki-inhabited areas in Manipur has been suspended temporarily following an understanding with the State Government on January 28. Demanding a separate Kuki State and immediate dialogue with the Kuki militant groups, the KSDC imposed the public blockade from January 24 as part of Quit Kukiland movement in the Kuki areas.⁷¹

In other developments, reports noted that after over three years of bad blood, the Mizoram government and the Manipur-based Hmar People's Convention – Democrats (HPC-D) finally signed a Suspension of Operation (SoO) pact in New Delhi on January 31. Negotiations ahead of the pact were in a cordial atmosphere and that the SoO would be effective for six months and could be extended if agreed to by both the parties. As per the pact, cadres of HPC-D would be allowed to move freely anywhere in the State sans firearms and explosives and that security personnel would not launch any operation against the HPC-D members. The Hmar militants were also asked not to indulge in any illegal and violent activities, including extortion and intimidation. Further, they are also not to do anything against the polling process.⁷²

⁶⁸ "India, Bangla sign extradition treaty", The Assam Tribune, January 28, 2013 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=jan2913/at08>

⁶⁹ "1st phase of Panchayat election today", The Assam Tribune, January 29, 2013 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=jan3013/at06>

⁷⁰ "Blast in oil pipeline", The Assam Tribune, January 29, 2013 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=jan3013/state05>

⁷¹ "Manipur blockade suspended", The Assam Tribune, January 29, 2013 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=jan3013/oth06>

⁷² "Mizoram govt signs pact with Hmar rebels", The Assam Tribune, January 31, 2013 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=feb0113/oth05>

Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) News

Jan 21-27

- **Special Secretary for Internal Security appointed**

Shri S. Jayaraman has been appointed as Special Secretary (Internal Security) in the Ministry of Home Affairs. He is an IPS officer of 1977 batch of West Bengal cadre.⁷³

Jan 28-Feb 3

- **Criminal Law (Amendment) Ordinance, 2013 promulgated**

The President of India has accorded his assent to the Criminal Law (Amendment) Ordinance, 2013 on 3rd February, 2013.⁷⁴

IV. UNITED NATIONS (UN) REVIEW

Jan 21-27

- **India calls for termination of UN Observer group at LoC; UN Security Council adopts resolution condemning missile launch by DPRK; UNSC emphasises on multidimensional peacekeeping missions; UNSC extends mandate of peacekeeping force in Cyprus and peace building office in CAR; UN Human Rights chief praises report submitted by Justice Verma committee; Six Indian NGOs granted consultative status with UN**

According to reports, at the UN Security Council, India and Pakistan got into a verbal exchange on the relevance of the UN Observer group at LoC in Jammu and Kashmir. India argued that the force's role was "overtaken" by subsequent agreements signed between the two nations where they resolved to settle differences "through bilateral negotiations". India's representative, H S Puri also suggested that it would be better to spend resources allocated for the observer group elsewhere.⁷⁵ Following the verbal clash, a spokesperson for UN Secretary-General responded that the force can be terminated only through a decision of the UN Security Council.⁷⁶

⁷³ "Jayaraman Appointed Special Secretary (Internal Security)", Press Information Bureau, Govt. Of India, January 24, 2013 at <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/erelease.aspx?relid=91789>

⁷⁴ "Criminal Law (Amendment) Ordinance, 2013 Promulgated", Press Trust of India, Govt. Of India, February 3, 2013 at <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/erelease.aspx?relid=91973>

⁷⁵ "India, Pakistan spar over UN mission in Kashmir", Hindustan Times, January 22, 2013 at <http://www.hindustantimes.com/India-news/NewDelhi/India-asks-UN-to-wind-up-mission-in-Kashmir/Article1-997955.aspx>

⁷⁶ "UN mission in Kashmir can be terminated only by UNSC", Business Standard, January 23, 2013 at <http://www.business-standard.com/india/news/un-mission-in-kashmir-can-be-terminated-only-by-unsc/203684/on>

In another development, according to reports, the UNSC unanimously adopted a resolution condemning the December 2012 missile launch by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and imposed sanctions while demanding an end to its nuclear and ballistic tests. The Council also called on the Member States to exercise "enhanced vigilance" in preventing the transfer of funds related to the DPRK's nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles programmes.⁷⁷

Meanwhile, the UN Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 2086 (2013) which emphasised that UN peacekeeping activities be conducted in a manner that facilitates post-conflict peacebuilding, prevention of relapse of armed conflict and progress towards sustainable peace and development. The Council through the resolution stated that multidimensional peacekeeping missions may be mandated to support a range of activities that aim at future stability.⁷⁸

In other developments, the UN Security Council extended the UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus till July 31, 2013. The Council also urged the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities to continue discussions aimed at reunifying Cyprus. Both the sides were urged to engage with the UN force on the demarcation of a buffer zone and to increase the participation of civil society organisations in the negotiation process.⁷⁹

Reports noted that the UNSC extended the mandate of the UN peacebuilding office in Central African Republic until January 31, 2014. The resolution adopted by the Council tasked the UN Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the CAR (BINUCA) to work with all parties to facilitate the full implementation of the agreements signed in Libreville.⁸⁰

Meanwhile, the UN human rights chief, Navi Pillay praised the report passed by the Verma Committee for proposing ways to tackle violence against women in India and said that it represents a groundbreaking basis for action. Ms. Pillay also urged the government to follow through with its recommendations.⁸¹

According to reports, six non-governmental organisations from India that work for the uplift of women, Dalits and poor have been granted consultative status with the UN. This enables the NGOs to attend meetings of the UN Economic and Social Council and issue statements.⁸²

⁷⁷ "Security Council sharpens sanctions on DPR Korea in wake of ballistic missile launch", UN News Centre, January 22, 2013 at <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=43982&Cr=democratic&Cr1=korea#.UQYo3R27Iq8>

⁷⁸ "Security Council strongly endorses 'multidimensional approach' to UN peacekeeping", UN News Centre, January 21, 2013 at <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=43970&Cr=peacekeeping&Cr1=#.UQYo9h27Iq8>

⁷⁹ "Security Council extends UN peacekeeping force in Cyprus until July 2013", UN News Centre, January 24, 2013 at <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=43993&Cr=cyprus&Cr1=#.UQYowx27Iq8>

⁸⁰ "CAR: Security Council extends mandate of UN office, calls on parties to abide by ceasefire pact", UN News Centre, January 24, 2013 at <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=43992&Cr=central+african+republic&Cr1=#.UQYoxB27Iq8>

⁸¹ "UN rights chief praises groundbreaking report on violence against women", UN News Centre, January 25, 2013 at <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=44000&Cr=India&Cr1=rights#.UQdQ1R27Iq9>

⁸² "6 Indian NGOs accorded special consultative status with UN", The Indian Express, January 27, 2013 at <http://www.indianexpress.com/news/6-indian-ngos-accorded-special-consultative-status-with-un/1065373/0>

Jan 28-Feb 3

- **India pledges \$1 million to African-led mission to Mali; UN Security Council condemns terrorist attack in Ankara; UNSC calls for coordination between governments of Central Asia; UNSC urges actors in Haiti to preserve stability**

India pledged \$1 million to the African-led International Support Missions to Mali that is currently witnessing violence by militants. India also condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations said that the fight against it should be unrelenting. The money will go into a UN trust fund for the mission and will support training and equip the Malian army.⁸³

In another development, the UN Security Council condemned the terrorist attack against the US embassy in Ankara, Turkey and expressed their deep sympathy and condolences to the families of the victims of the “heinous” act.⁸⁴

Meanwhile, the UNSC emphasised on the need for cooperation and coordination between governments in Central Asia and regional organisations to strengthen peace, stability and sustainable development in the region. The 15-member body highlighted the need for governments to collaborate with the UN Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia.⁸⁵

In other developments, according to reports, the UNSC urged all political actors in Haiti to work constructively on priorities, including the 2013 elections and security sector reform. The actors were also asked to redouble their efforts to preserve the stability and progress achieved over the past year.⁸⁶

⁸³ “India pledges \$1 million to UN-backed mission to Mali”, Livemint.com, January 31, 2013 at <http://www.livemint.com/Politics/D6lcrpxXzETzxyUuFJYmlN/India-pledges-1-million-to-UNbacked-mission-to-Mali.html>

⁸⁴ “Security Council strongly condemns ‘heinous’ attack on US embassy in Turkey”, UN News Centre, February 01, 2013 at <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=44060&Cr=terror&Cr1=#.URlh4R27Iq9>

⁸⁵ “Security Council stressed need for further cooperation in Central Asia”, UN News Centre, January 29, 2013 at <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=44033&Cr=central+asia&Cr1=#.URlh2x27Iq9>

⁸⁶ “Haiti: Security Council calls for timely elections, security sector reform”, UN News Centre, January 29, 2013 at <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=44025&Cr=haiti&Cr1=#.URlh5R27Iq9>