

# THE WEEK IN REVIEW

May 6-12, (2), 2013

**Editor:** Sanjeev Kumar Shrivastav

## Contributors

**Anwasha Roy Chaudhuri**

**Gulbin Sultana**

**Rajorshi Roy**

**Rahul Mishra**

**Pranamita Baruah**

**Amit Kumar**

**Shristi Pukhrem**

**Keerthi Kumar**

Afghanistan, Pakistan

Sri Lanka, Maldives, Bangladesh

Russia

Southeast Asia

Japan, South Korea, North Korea

Defence Review

Internal Security Review

UN Review

**Review Adviser:** S. Kalyanaraman

Follow IDSA



INSTITUTE FOR DEFENCE  
STUDIES & ANALYSES

1, Development Enclave, Rao Tula Ram Marg, New Delhi-110010  
Telephone: 91-26717983; Fax: 91-11-26154191 Website: [www.idsa.in](http://www.idsa.in); Email: [twir@idsa.in](mailto:twir@idsa.in)

# CONTENTS

<b>In This Issue</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b>I. COUNTRY REVIEWS</b>	
A. South Asia	2-6
B. East Asia	6-8
C. Russia	9-10
<b>II. DEFENCE REVIEW</b>	11-12
<b>III. INTERNAL SECURITY REVIEW</b>	12-13
<b>IV. UN REVIEW</b>	13-14

# I. COUNTRY REVIEWS

## A. South Asia

### Afghanistan

- **Afghanistan and Pakistan accuse each other over border skirmishes; Afghanistan to wring concessions from the United States in negotiations to sign a security pact**

According to reports, a senior diplomat of Pakistan met with the Afghan government officials on May 6 to discuss the second cross-border escalation in days, as thousands took to the streets in Kabul to denounce their eastern neighbour. Meanwhile, Pakistani officials accused the Afghans for starting the recent series of clashes which has claimed the lives of two people, one Pakistani soldier and one Afghan border police. Exchanges of fire and protests have threatened to worsen strained relations between Kabul and Islamabad, despite renewed efforts last month by US Secretary of State John Kerry to get them to work more closely on peace efforts.<sup>1</sup>

In another development, according to reports, Afghan President Hamid Karzai on May 9, vowed to wring concessions from the United States in negotiations to sign a security pact, noting that Washington wanted to retain nine military bases in the country. "We are in very serious negotiations with America", he said.<sup>2</sup>

### Pakistan

- **At least 25 people have been killed and scores wounded after an explosion during an election rally; Nawaz Sharif urges for closer ties with India; Nawaz Sharif set to form government in Pakistan**

According to reports, at least 25 people have been killed and scores wounded after an explosion during an election rally on May 6 in Kurram Agency for a Pakistani political party. A Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI) candidate, Munir Orakzai, is thought to have survived the bomb attack.<sup>3</sup>

According to reports, Pakistan Muslim League – Nawaz (PML-N) chief Nawaz Sharif, seen as the front-runner in Pakistan's election race, said he would not allow militant groups to attack India from his country and would work to improve ties with rival New Delhi if elected. "If I become the prime minister I will make sure that the Pakistani soil is not used for any such designs against

---

<sup>1</sup> Border skirmishes: Pakistan accuses Kabul for unprovoked firing, *The Express Tribune*, May 6, 2013 at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/545156/border-skirmishes-pakistan-accuses-kabul-for-unprovoked-firing/>

<sup>2</sup> US wants to keep nine bases in Afghanistan : Karzai, *Dawn*, May 9, 2013 at <http://beta.dawn.com/news/813878/us-wants-to-keep-nine-bases-in-afghanistan-karzai>

<sup>3</sup> Deadly bombing targets Pakistan poll rally, *Al Jazeera*, May 6, 2013 at <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia/2013/05/20135611295119183.html>

India," Nawaz told CNN-IBN in an interview. Nawaz, who was prime minister twice in the 1990s, said it was time to improve ties between New Delhi and Islamabad. "We have issues of course which need to be resolved and I think I can quote you a lot of examples where rivals or people opposed to each other, countries opposed to each other have resolved much difficult problems than we have," he said. Nawaz, who has been critical of military meddling in civilian affairs, said he would call for a joint investigation of whether Pakistani intelligence agencies played any role in the Mumbai attack.<sup>4</sup>

Meanwhile, according to reports, the unofficial election results indicate that Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz is set to take major seats in the parliament and form the next government. The party headed by Nawaz Sharif is set to become prime minister for the third time. During his second term he was ousted by former General Pervez Musharraf in a military coup.<sup>5</sup>

## Bangladesh

- **Awami League rejects BNP demand for restoring the non-party caretaker government system; Bangladesh garment makers proposes forming a wage board to review the wages of workers; International Crimes Tribunal-2 has found Muhammad Kamaruzzaman guilty of committing crimes against humanity during the liberation war**

According to reports, the ruling Awami League on May 5, rejected opposition leader Khaleda Zia's 48-hour ultimatum to meet the demand for restoring the non-party caretaker government system. It again urged Khaleda to respond to the prime minister's call for talks to reach a consensus on holding the next polls.<sup>6</sup>

In another development, reports noted that Bangladesh Garment makers on May 5, proposed forming a wage board to review the wages of workers as the European Union warned of suspending preferential trade access for Bangladesh if it did not take immediate steps to improve labour standards.<sup>7</sup>

In other developments, according to reports, International Crimes Tribunal-2 has found Muhammad Kamaruzzaman, one of the key organisers of the infamous Al Badr force, guilty of committing crimes against humanity during the liberation war and has sentenced him to death. The 61-year-old Jamaat-e-Islami senior assistant secretary general was found guilty of mass killing, murder, abduction, torture, rape, persecution, and abetment of torture in greater Mymensingh district in 1971.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Nawaz Sharif calls for warmer ties with India, *The Express Tribune*, May 6, 2013 at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/546102/nawaz-sharif-calls-for-warmer-ties-with-india/>

<sup>5</sup> Pakistan election: Sharif edges closer to majority, *BBC*, May 13, 2013 at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-22506036>

<sup>6</sup> "AL rejects Khaleda's ultimatum", *The Daily Star*, May 06, 2013 at <http://www.thedailystar.net/beta2/news/al-rejects-khaledas-ultimatum/>.

<sup>7</sup> "Tragedy-Hit Garment: EU warns, again", *The Daily Star*, May 06, 2013 at <http://www.thedailystar.net/beta2/news/eu-warns-again/>.

<sup>8</sup> Ali Manik, Julfikar And Adhikary, Tuhin Shubhra, "Gallows for Kamaruzzaman", *The Daily Star*, May 10, 2013 at <http://www.thedailystar.net/beta2/news/gallows-for-kamaruzzaman/>

## Sri Lanka

- **IMF cautions Sri Lanka against easing monetary policies further; National Ranaviru Commemorative Month begins; President Rajapaksa makes a four-day official visit to Uganda; Adversary announcement of IUU issued by the European Union to the Sri Lankan fishing industry removed; Azerbaijan's Foreign Minister visits Sri Lanka**

Reports noted that the International Monetary Fund (IMF), while commending the authorities for prudent policy implementation, cautioned Sri Lanka against easing monetary policies further in the near term with rising wage and cost pressures.<sup>9</sup>

In another development, according to reports, Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa made a four-day official visit to Uganda to participate in the 2013 Commonwealth Local Government conference to be held in Kampala from May 14 -17. President Rajapaksa met with his Ugandan counterpart, President Yoweri Museveni at the State House in Entebbe on May 12 to hold bilateral discussions. The discussions focused on a number of sectors on which the two countries agreed to collaborate during President Museveni's visit to Sri Lanka last November. Bulk of the talks focused on agriculture, energy and trade sectors. As the incoming Commonwealth Chairperson-in-office, President Rajapaksa will deliver the keynote speech at the closing session of the conference on May 17.<sup>10</sup>

Reports noted that Sri Lanka has been able to get the adversary announcement issued by the European Union to the local fishing industry over the allegation of illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing (IUU) by Sri Lankan fishermen in international waters, removed. Minister of Fisheries and Aquatic resources Dr. Rajitha Senaratne has told media today that he held discussions with the Director-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries of European Union in Brussels, Belgium over the allegations last month. The Minister said following the discussions he was able to get the yellow card withdrawn and get a green card which allows for the country's fishermen to engage in fishing activities without any obstacle. The EU issued Yellow Card warning last year to Sri Lanka following complaints of 11 Sri Lankan vessels intruding into international waters in 2011 for fishing and fishermen violating the international maritime boundary laws.<sup>11</sup>

In other developments, according to reports, Azerbaijan's Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov, was on a four-day official visit to Sri Lanka. During his visit, Mr. Mammadyarov met President Mahinda Rajapaksa and the Minister of Petroleum Industries Anura Priyadarshana Yapa discussed opportunities for developing energy cooperation between the two countries.<sup>12</sup>

---

<sup>9</sup> "IMF cautions Sri Lanka against further easing monetary policy in near term", *The Colombo Page*, May 10, 2013 at [http://www.colombopage.com/archive\\_13A/May10\\_1368143435CH.php](http://www.colombopage.com/archive_13A/May10_1368143435CH.php).

<sup>10</sup> "Sri Lanka, Uganda leaders hold bilateral discussions", *The Colombo Page*, May 12, 2013 at [http://www.colombopage.com/archive\\_13A/May12\\_1368376997CH.php](http://www.colombopage.com/archive_13A/May12_1368376997CH.php).

<sup>11</sup> "EU advisory on Sri Lanka over illegal fishing removed", *The Colombo Page*, May 8, 2013 at [http://www.colombopage.com/archive\\_13A/May08\\_1368031562CH.php](http://www.colombopage.com/archive_13A/May08_1368031562CH.php)

<sup>12</sup> "Azerbaijani Foreign Minister meets with Sri Lankan Minister of Petroleum Industries", *The Colombo Page*, May 9, 2013 at [http://www.colombopage.com/archive\\_13A/May09\\_1368038465CH.php](http://www.colombopage.com/archive_13A/May09_1368038465CH.php).

According to reports, President Mahinda Rajapaksa declared the month beginning from May 9, 2013, as the National Ranaviru Commemorative Month at a function held at the Temple Trees to commemorate war heroes of the three armed forces and Police who perished and were injured in the three-decade long civil war that ended in May 2009. Ranaviru commemorations will be held island wide until June 8 and the main national event will be held on May 18 at the Ranaviru Commemorative Statue in Sri Jayewardenepura Kotte under the patronage of President Mahinda Rajapaksa.<sup>13</sup>

## Maldives

- **An Indian Navy aircraft facilitated by the Indian government arrives in Maldives to assist local authorities in the search for Azum; President Waheed congratulates newly appointed Prime Minister of Malaysia; United Nations Trust Fund for the Fight against Piracy has decided to provide support in the repatriation of the Somalian pirates under Maldivian authorities; Maldivian delegation of the Elections Commission visits India; US provides \$2.5 million to promote civic participation in the upcoming election; Assistant Secretary General of the United Nations pays a courtesy call on President Dr. Mohamed Waheed**

According to reports, an Indian Navy aircraft facilitated by the Indian government has arrived in the Maldives to assist local authorities in the search for a boat named Azum. The 40 foot fishing boat went missing along with two crewmen after it departed from Meemu Mulak on the morning of 4th May, en route to Laamu Maavah.<sup>14</sup>

Reports noted that President Dr. Mohamed Waheed Hassan Manik has sent a message of congratulations to Dato' Sri Haji Mohammad Najib bin Tun Haji Abdul Razak, on his appointment as the Prime Minister of Malaysia.<sup>15</sup>

Reports noted that United Nations Trust Fund for the Fight against Piracy has decided to provide support in the repatriation of the Somalian pirates currently under Maldivian authorities. Forty Somalian citizens reside under Maldivian authorities, the majority of who had drifted to Maldivian waters. Maldives Foreign Ministry had previously stated that they are working to repatriate them back to Somalia.<sup>16</sup>

According to reports, as part of the preparations for upcoming elections in the Maldives, a seven-member delegation of the Elections Commission has visited India on an invitation by the Indian Election Commission.<sup>17</sup>

<sup>13</sup> "Sri Lanka declares Ranaviru month to commemorate war heroes", *The Colombo Page*, May 9, 2013 at [http://www.colombopage.com/archive\\_13A/May09\\_1368041219CH.php](http://www.colombopage.com/archive_13A/May09_1368041219CH.php).

<sup>14</sup> "Indian Navy aircraft arrives in Maldives to assist in the search of Azum boat", *The Sun Online*, May 8, 2013 at <http://sun.mv/english/12268>.

<sup>15</sup> "President Waheed congratulates Prime Minister of Malaysia", *The Sun Online*, May 7, 2013 at <http://sun.mv/english/12233>.

<sup>16</sup> "UN to support repatriation of Somalian pirates in the Maldives", *The Sun Online*, May 7, 2013 at <http://sun.mv/english/12230>.

<sup>17</sup> "Elections Commission team departs to India", *The Sun Online*, May 6, 2013 at <http://sun.mv/english/12208>.

<sup>18</sup> "U.S. provides \$2.5 million as election support", *The Sun Online*, May 10, 2013 at <http://sun.mv/english/12340>.

In other developments, according to reports, the United States has provided \$2.5 million to public institutions and civil society organizations promote civic participation in the upcoming election. In a statement, the U.S Embassy said that an 18-month program aimed at promoting an open and democratic election would be implemented by the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) with Maldivian partners Transparency Maldives and the Raajje Foundation.<sup>18</sup>

Reports noted that Assistant Secretary General of the United Nations, Oscar Fernandez-Taranco has paid a courtesy call on President Dr. Mohamed Waheed Hassan Manik on May 9, 2013 at the President's Office. At the meeting, President and the Assistant Secretary General discussed the current political situation of the country and the preparations been made for this year's presidential elections.<sup>19</sup>

## B. East Asia

### South East Asia

- **Taiwan national killed in a attack on a boat by Philippine military; Philippines expresses regret for the killing; Two Chinese spotted near Philippines occupied Ayungin Shoal; Najib Razak wins elections in Malaysia; Anwar Protests against Malaysian election results; Twenty one Malaysians arrested in Singapore**

According to Taiwan's Coast Guard Administration (CGA), one Taiwanese sailor was shot dead on 9 May when a boat registered to Pingtung County was attacked by the Philippine military in the disputed South China Sea. President Ma Ying-jeou expressed concern over the attack and has instructed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) to demand that the Philippine government investigate the incident and arrest the culprit. A sailor on the boat said they were fishing 170 nautical miles off the southern tip of Taiwan when they came under attack.<sup>20</sup> Meanwhile, on 11 May, the Philippines representative to Taiwan apologized to the family of a Taiwanese fisherman who was shot dead.<sup>21</sup>

According to reports, two Chinese military surveillance vessels are reported to have been stationary near the Philippine-occupied Ayungin Shoal in the disputed Spratly's region since May 9, 2013. The vessels were reported to be some six nautical miles west of Ayungin Shoal.

---

<sup>19</sup> "UN Assistant Secretary General pays courtesy call on President", *The Sun Online*, May 9, 2013 at <http://sun.mv/english/12309>.

<sup>20</sup> "1 dead in Philippine attack on Taiwan boat", *The China Post*, 10 May 2013, <http://www.chinapost.com.tw/taiwan/intl-community/2013/05/10/378189/1-dead.htm>

<sup>21</sup> "Philippine envoy apologizes to dead fisherman's family", *Focus Taiwan*, 11 May, 2013, <http://focustaiwan.tw/news/aall/201305110016.aspx>

<sup>22</sup> "Chinese spy ships sighted off Philippine-held shoal", *Manila News*, 9 May, 2013, <http://www.manilanews.net/index.php/sid/214408213/scat/3e5bbccc730d258c>

<sup>23</sup> "Malaysia vote: PM Najib Razak's Barisan Nasional wins", *BBC News*, 6 May, 2013, <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-22422172>

Ayungin Shoal, also known internationally as Second Thomas Reef, is one of the reef formations within the six islands where Philippine troops are present and is considered by the country as part of the municipality of Kalayaan. It is closest to Mischief Reef, which until 1995 was occupied by the Philippines until the Chinese built a fortification on it.<sup>22</sup>

According to reports, declaring the results of the thirteenth General Elections in Malaysia, the Election Commission said Prime Minister Najib Razak's Barisan Nasional (BN; National Front) coalition has won 133 of the 222 in parliamentary seats. The opposition won 89 seats, up from 82, in May 5 elections.<sup>23</sup>

However, according to reports, Malaysian Opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim called on Malaysians to protest the results of the general election by wearing black. Anwar also questioned the targeting of certain segments of society for the results. He said Pakatan Rakyat leaders would be gathering in Penang on 11 May for another rally. Among those present were Bersih co-chair Ambiga Sreenevasan and Democratic Action Party adviser Lim Kit Siang.<sup>24</sup>

In other developments, according to reports, twenty one Malaysians were arrested on 11 May, 2013, for staging a protest at Singapore's Merlion Park against the outcome of Malaysian general election held on 5 May. The rare police action followed earlier warnings that such gatherings are illegal, and after nine Malaysians was warned for participating in a similar protest earlier. Last week, the police warned nine Malaysians for "actively participating" in an illegal gathering at Merlion Park in Singapore.<sup>25</sup>

## Japan

- **Japan and the US to promote cooperation in cyber security; The Japan-Taiwan fishing pact goes into effect without specific rules; Japan, China and South Korea to launch a policy dialogue to combat air pollution problems**

According to reports, during the two-day long first round of the Japan-US Cyber Dialogue which was held in Tokyo from May 10-11, both the countries agreed to promote bilateral cooperation in cyber security. Their primary goal is to ensure protection of nuclear power plants and other critical infrastructure from possible cyber-attacks.<sup>26</sup>

In another development, according to reports, the Japan-Taiwan fishing pact that was concluded in April this year, has become effective since May 10. Under this pact, Taiwanese fishing boats are allowed to operate in the joint fishing zone within Japan's exclusive economic zone (EEZ) near the Senkaku islands. However, as both the sides are yet to reach an agreement on the fishing rules in the joint zone, the pact became effective with no rules.<sup>27</sup> In the meantime, in order to prevent

---

<sup>24</sup> "Anwar calls on M'sians to protest election results", *Malaysia Sun*, 8 May, 2013, <http://www.malaysiasun.com/index.php/sid/214383137/scat/48cba686fe041718>

<sup>25</sup> "M'sians arrested for staging protests at Merlion park", *The Sun Daily*, 12 May, 2013, <http://www.thesundaily.my/news/694376>

<sup>26</sup> "Japan, US team up more closely on cyber security", *The Yomiuri Daily*, May 12, 2013, at <http://the-japan-news.com/news/article/0000216927>

<sup>27</sup> "Japan-Taiwan fishing pact takes effect with no rules", *The Yomiuri Daily*, May 11, 2013, at <http://the-japan-news.com/news/article/0000213756>

illegal fishing by Taiwanese ships outside the waters covered under the fisheries accord, the Japanese government has decided to double the number of patrol boats in the waters near the Senkaku islands.<sup>28</sup>

In other developments, according to reports, during the recently held two-day long annual ministerial meeting among the environment ministers of Japan, China and South Korea on May 6, the three countries agreed to launch a policy dialogue in order to deal with growing challenges related to air pollution. The working-level officials from the three countries are to promote exchanges of information on measures to handle the problems and technologies for monitoring air pollution to reinforce three-way cooperation further.<sup>29</sup>

## South Korea

- **US aircraft carrier Nimitz arrives in South Korea for drills; South Korea rules out its participation in the US-led missile defense system**

According to reports, a US naval strike group led by aircraft carrier USS Nimitz arrived at South Korea for drills on May 11. The 97,000 ton Nimitz, one of the largest warships in the world, reportedly has a strike group that includes 64 aircraft as well as cruisers and destroyers. During the drills, the Nimitz is to participate in the search and rescue operations and “sea maneuvering” around the Korean Peninsula.<sup>30</sup>

In another development, according to reports, on May 9, the South Korean Defense Ministry ruled out the country’s participation in the US-led missile defense system. In fact, it stated that the South would like to develop its own programme to counter North Korean missile threats. The ministry further stated that while the South Korean military has already been cooperating with US forces on missile defense, such cooperation, so far, it has been restricted to intelligence sharing only.<sup>31</sup>

## North Korea

- **North Korea denounces South Korean President’s US visit as a prelude to war**

According to reports, North Korea on May 10, denounced South Korean President Park Geun – hye’s recent visit to the US as a prelude to war. Park’s five-day long visit to Washington marked her first overseas trip since assuming office in February this year. The North described the visit as a “junket” tour that strained the tensions in the Korean Peninsula and the surrounding areas.<sup>32</sup>

---

<sup>28</sup> “Government to boost Senkaku patrols”, The Yomiuri Daily, May 8, 2013, at <http://the-japan-news.com/news/article/0000201802>

<sup>29</sup> “Japan, China, South Korea to exchange pollution info”, The Yomiuri daily, May 8, 2013, at <http://the-japan-news.com/news/article/0000201797>

<sup>30</sup> “US aircraft carrier Nimitz off S. Korea for drills”, The Korea Herald, May 11, 2013, at <http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20130511000074>

<sup>31</sup> “Seoul declines joining US-led missile defense”, The Korea Herald, May 9, 2013, at <http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20130509000874>

<sup>32</sup> “N. Korea slams Park’s US trip as prelude to war”, The Korea Herald, May 10, 2013, at <http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20130510000638>

## C. Russia

### Russia

- **Russian President Vladimir Putin and British Prime Minister David Cameron discuss steps to resolve the Syrian crisis; Russia and Jordan called on all involved parties to make an effort to organise the conference on Syria; Foreign Minister Lavrov: Russia has no plans to sell S-300 systems to Syria; Russia-Norway military exercisers begins in Barents Sea; Cyprus's Finance Ministry requests Russia for rescheduling a 2.5-billion Euro loan; President Putin expresses his satisfaction on the level Russia's ties with the US; Russia and the US have agree to create conditions for inclusive dialogue in Syria; Russia ratifies an agreement on the continuation of its military base in Tajikistan; Putin sign the federal law which bans officials from having assets abroad; Medvedev increases the share of new weaponry in service with the Russian armed forces to 75 per cent by 2020; Russia is ready to cooperate with Turkey for joint production of air defence systems; Russia's trade surplus is down by 13.6 per cent during the January-March period and stood at US\$ 54 billion.**

According to reports, Russian President Vladimir Putin and British Prime Minister David Cameron have discussed steps to resolve the Syrian crisis.<sup>33</sup>

In another development, according to reports, Russia and Jordan have called on all involved parties to undertake active efforts to organise an international conference on Syria. As part of a meeting between Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and Jordan's Foreign Minister Nasser Judeh, the two sides exchanged views on the current situation in the Middle East and Northern Africa and expressed deep concern about the complicated humanitarian situation with the inflow of refugees from Syria to Jordan.<sup>34</sup>

Meanwhile, Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov has said that Russia has no plans to sell S-300 systems long-range surface-to-air missile systems to Syria and is completing its arms deliveries under the previous contracts.<sup>35</sup>

Reports noted that Russia-Norway military exercisers have begun in Barents Sea. The main objective is to develop joint actions of Russian and Norwegian military in the Arctic region.<sup>36</sup>

Cyprus's Finance Ministry has requested the Russian government to reconsider the terms of the

---

<sup>33</sup> "Putin, Cameron discuss practical steps to resolve Syria's crisis", Itar-Tass, May 10, 2013, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/732190.html>

<sup>34</sup> "Russia and Jordan call on all involved parties for active efforts to organise conf on Syria", Itar-Tass, May 10, 2013, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/732034.html>

<sup>35</sup> "Russia has no plans to sell S-300 systems to Syria – Lavrov", Itar-Tass, May 10, 2013, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/732188.html>

<sup>36</sup> "Russia-Norway military exercisers begin in Barents Sea", Itar-Tass, May 11, 2013, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/732504.html>

Russian loan issued in 2011. This involves lowering the interest rate to 2.5 percent, extending the repayment period and making payments in instalments.<sup>37</sup>

President Putin has expressed his satisfaction on the level Russia's ties with the US.<sup>38</sup>

Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov has said that Russia and the United States will spare no effort to create conditions for the beginning of Syria's inclusive dialogue.<sup>39</sup>

According to reports, President Vladimir Putin has signed the federal law, on the ratification of the agreement between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tajikistan on the status and stay of Russian military base in Tajikistan. The agreement was signed in Dushanbe on October 5, 2012 for the term of 49 years to be automatically extended for a period of next five years. The document regulates the status of personnel of the military base and family members and establishes the procedure for using military units of the base in coordination with Tajikistan's Armed Forces. The agreement also regulates the base's daily activity and property relations on using facilities of movables and immovables, plots of land.<sup>40</sup>

In other developments, according to reports, President Vladimir Putin has signed the federal law banning government officials from opening or keeping accounts at foreign banks outside Russia and using or owning foreign financial instruments.<sup>41</sup>

Prime Minister Medvedev has increased the share of new weaponry in service with the Russian armed forces to 75 per cent by 2020. The government has allocated 22 trillion roubles (\$730 billion) for its ambitious armed forces rearmament program through 2020.<sup>42</sup>

Russia is ready to attract the Turkish defence industry to the production of several component parts of the air defence system Antey-2500 (S-300VM).<sup>43</sup>

Russia's trade surplus is down by 13.6 per cent during the January-March period and stood at US\$ 54 billion. Falling oil exports to Europe and ex-Soviet republics are among the factors responsible for the slump.<sup>44</sup>

---

<sup>37</sup> "Cyprus's Finance Ministry asks Russia for rescheduling 2.5-blbn-euro loan", Itar-Tass, May 8, 2013, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/730964.html>

<sup>38</sup> "Putin satisfied with cooperation with US", Itar-Tass, May 7, 2013, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/729774.html>

<sup>39</sup> "Russia, US agree to create conditions for inclusive dialogue in Syria - Lavrov", Itar-Tass, May 8, 2013, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/730008.html>

<sup>40</sup> "Russia ratifies agreement on Russian military base in Tajikistan", Itar-Tass, May 8, 2013, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/730641.html>

<sup>41</sup> "Putin signs law banning officials from having assets abroad", Itar-Tass, May 7, 2013, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/729619.html>

<sup>42</sup> "PM Medvedev ups Russia's rearmament goal to 75% by 2020", Itar-Tass, May 7, 2013, [http://indrus.in/news/2013/05/07/pm\\_medvedev\\_ups\\_russias\\_rearmament\\_goal\\_to\\_75\\_by\\_2020\\_24617.html](http://indrus.in/news/2013/05/07/pm_medvedev_ups_russias_rearmament_goal_to_75_by_2020_24617.html)

<sup>43</sup> "Rosoboronexport ready to cooperate with Turkey in joint production of air defence systems", Itar-Tass, May 8, 2013, [http://indrus.in/news/2013/05/08/rosoboronexport\\_ready\\_to\\_cooperate\\_with\\_turkey\\_in\\_joint\\_production\\_of\\_ai\\_24689.html](http://indrus.in/news/2013/05/08/rosoboronexport_ready_to_cooperate_with_turkey_in_joint_production_of_ai_24689.html)

<sup>44</sup> "Oil export slump slashes Russia's Q1 foreign trade surplus", Rianovosti, May 8, 2013, [http://indrus.in/news/2013/05/08/oil\\_export\\_slump\\_slashes\\_russias\\_q1\\_foreign\\_trade\\_surplus\\_24679.html](http://indrus.in/news/2013/05/08/oil_export_slump_slashes_russias_q1_foreign_trade_surplus_24679.html)

## II. DEFENCE REVIEW

### National

- **Defence Minister Antony: “Each country has a right to build border infrastructure in their own land. If China has a right to develop infrastructure, India also has a right”; First squadron of MiG-29K fighter jets commissioned in the Indian Navy**

According to reports, days after the standoff with China over intrusion in Ladakh, India on May 11 defended its right to build border infrastructure and said Army and Air Force will continue to shore up their capabilities “on our own land”. “Each country has a right to build border infrastructure in their own land. If China has a right to develop infrastructure, India also has a right. Over the years, the building of infrastructure has been going on,” defence minister AK Antony told reporters. The 21-day stand-off in Daulat Beg Oldi sector had ended on May 5 after the two sides agreed to pull back their troops to their earlier positions along the line of actual control (LAC).<sup>45</sup>

In another development, according to reports, in a boost to the country’s defence capabilities, the first-ever squadron of the MiG-29K fighter jets was formally commissioned into the Indian Navy on May 11. Defence minister Shri AK Antony commissioned the INAS 303 ‘Black Panthers’ squadron of the aircraft carrier-based multirole fighter jets at a ceremony held at the INS Hansa naval airbase in Dabolim, Goa. It would be worth noting that the supersonic MiG-29K aircraft, which will add to India’s Naval Aviation might, are equipped with an array of missiles and bombs including air-to-air anti-aircraft missiles, air-to-surface missiles as well as anti-ship and laser guided missiles. The fighter jets, which come in single seat and the twin seat MiG-29KUB variant, also have sophisticated avionics systems onboard.<sup>46</sup>

### International

- **North Korea criticizes the arrival of the US aircraft carrier Nimitz in the South for a joint drill as an “extremely reckless” provocation; United States: Minesweeping exercise in gulf involving forty one countries not directed at Iran**

According to reports, North Korea has criticized the arrival of the US aircraft carrier Nimitz in the South for a joint drill as an “extremely reckless” provocation and a rehearsal for war against the communist state. A US naval strike group led by the nuclear-powered Nimitz arrived off the

<sup>45</sup> “India has right to build infrastructure along border, Antony says,” TOI, May 11, 2013, at [articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2013-05-11/india/39185518\\_1\\_defence-minister-border-infra-structure-chumar](http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2013-05-11/india/39185518_1_defence-minister-border-infra-structure-chumar)

<sup>46</sup> “Indian Navy commissions MiG-29K fighter jets,” TOI, May 11, 2013, at [http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2013-05-11/india/39185964\\_1\\_indian-navy-ins-hansa-mig-29kub](http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2013-05-11/india/39185964_1_indian-navy-ins-hansa-mig-29kub)

<sup>47</sup> “N. Korea Slams US Aircraft Carrier’s Arrival In S. Korea,” Defense News, May 12, 2013, at <http://www.defensenews.com/article/20130512/DEFREG03/305120006/N-Korea-Slams-US-Aircraft-Carrier-s-Arrival-S-Korea>

South's southern port of Busan on May 11 for the drill to be staged this week, following joint exercises that infuriated North Korea in recent months. The 97,000-ton Nimitz, one of the world's largest warships, will participate in joint search-and-rescue operations as well as "sea maneuvers" around the Korean Peninsula, the South's defense ministry said. The North's Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of Korea that handles cross-border affairs called the arrival of the US fleet "a grave military provocation" that would dramatically ratchet up tension.<sup>47</sup>

In another development, according to reports, Vice Admiral John Miller, commander of the US Fifth Fleet, said on May 12 that a massive naval minesweeping exercise involving 41 countries was not directed at Iran. According to reports, thirty-five ships, 18 Unmanned Underwater Vehicles and more than 100 explosive ordnance disposal divers will participate in the anti-mine manoeuvres. The exercise will continue till the end of May. Iran has warned against any "provocations" in the Gulf as the US-led international naval forces plan to conduct the exercise. The U.S. maintains that safety of the maritime environment is crucial to the global economy and the minesweeping exercise is aimed at ensuring maritime security.<sup>48</sup>

### III. INTERNAL SECURITY REVIEW

#### Jammu & Kashmir

- **Militants enter in Kupwara; Police officer shot dead at Pulwama, South Kashmir**

According to reports, Army on May 8 launched searches in Shamshawari forest Range near Line of Control (LoC) in frontier district of Kupwara to track down a group of militants that ostensibly crossed over to this side on May 7. According to sources, this is the first militant group which was spotted near Line of Control (LoC) in this sector this year. Three Army units, 6/11 GR, 16 Grenadiers, 9 Para and Special Operation Group (SOG) of JK Police are carrying out the massive searches of the dense forests. Army has also cordoned off the adjacent areas and additional reinforcements have been rushed to assist the forces.<sup>49</sup>

In another development, according to reports, suspected militants on May 10 shot dead a police officer in the South Kashmir town of Pulwama.<sup>50</sup>

---

<sup>48</sup> "US: Gulf Navy Drill Not Directed At Iran," Defense News, May 12, 2013, at <http://www.defensenews.com/article/20130512/DEFREG02/305120011/US-Gulf-Navy-Drill-Not-Directed-Iran>

<sup>49</sup> "Militants sneak in", *Greater Kashmir*, May 8, 2013 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2013/May/9/militants-sneak-in-77.asp>

<sup>50</sup> "ASI shot dead at Pulwama", *Greater Kashmir*, May 10, 2013 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2013/May/11/asi-shot-dead-at-pulwama-46.asp>

## North East India

- **Refugees in Tripura to return to Mizoram; North-East Students Organization (NESO) moves Prime Minister on influx issues; President to visit Assam and Nagaland**

According to reports, despite uncertainties among refugees, the Mizoram government has agreed to resume the rehabilitation of over 40,000 tribals who had sought refuge in Tripura for about 16 years. In view of the growing ethnic troubles, the Tripura government has been repeatedly telling the Centre that the long stay of the immigrants was causing socio-economic and law and order problems. In contrast, refugee leaders have been insisting that without a formal agreement between the governments of the States of Mizoram and Tripura, the Union government, and tribal leaders, the rehabilitation of refugees would remain uncertain. Meanwhile, the Union Home Ministry has asked the Mizoram to re-start the stalled rehabilitation of refugees, in coordination with Tripura. The issue was also taken up at the Chief Ministers' meeting with Union Home Minister Sushilkumar Shinde in New Delhi last month.<sup>51</sup>

In another development, according to reports, the North East Students Organisation (NESO) while urging the Prime Minister not to abolish the Ministry of DoNER has called for its re-structuring besides demanding detection and deportation of illegal migrants. The NESO leaders said that though they were satisfied with the Prime Minister's response to their demands, they would like to wait for fulfillment of the assurances made by Dr Singh. The NESO leaders claimed that the Prime Minister agreed with the view that illegal foreigners should be detected and deported. He also wanted the National Register of Indian Citizens to be updated within a specific time-frame. However, the Prime Minister strongly favoured the land boundary agreement signed with Bangladesh arguing that the deal would lead to final demarcation of the land boundary between India and Bangladesh.<sup>52</sup>

In other developments, reports noted that President Pranab Mukherjee will be on a three-day visit to Assam and Nagaland from May 6.<sup>53</sup>

## IV. UNITED NATIONS (UN) REVIEW

- **UN Security Council condemns attacks against UN convoy in DRC and Abyei; Four UN peacekeepers captured by Syrian rebels, freed**

According to reports, the UN Security Council and the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon condemned the targeted attack against a UN military convoy in the province of South Kivu,

---

<sup>51</sup> "Refugees likely to return home to Mizoram from Tripura", *The Assam Tribune*, May 7, 2013 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=may0713/at048>

<sup>52</sup> "NESO moves PM on influx, NRC issues", *The Assam Tribune*, May 8, 2013 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=may0913/at094>

<sup>53</sup> "President to visit Assam, Nagaland", *The Assam Tribune*, May 12, 2013 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=may1213/at046>

Democratic Republic which resulted in the death of a Pakistani peacekeeper. The UNSC also called on the DRC authorities to “swiftly investigate the incident and bring the perpetrators to justice”.<sup>54</sup>

In another development, the UNSC vehemently condemned the attack on a UN convoy in Abyei which resulted in the death of a peacekeeper from the UN Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA). The Council, in a statement reiterated its support to the UNISFA and called on all parties in the Abyei area to “exercise maximum restraint, to cooperate fully with the mission, and to use mechanisms they have put in place to facilitate an effective investigation” into the acts of violence”.<sup>55</sup>

In other developments, according to reports, four Filipino UN peacekeepers who were captured on the ceasefire between Syria and the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights by Syrian rebels were freed. Reportedly, they have been transferred to Israel.<sup>56</sup>

---

<sup>54</sup> “Security Council, Ban call on DR Congo to investigate death of Pakistani peacekeeper”, *UN News Centre*, May 08, 2013 at <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=44852&Cr=democratic#.UZIOW6Le4y4>

<sup>55</sup> “Security Council condemns Abyei killing of tribal chief, UN peacekeeper”, *UN News Centre*, May 06, 2013 at <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=44838&Cr=abyei&Cr1=#.UZIOyaLe4y4>

<sup>56</sup> “Syria rebels free UN peacekeepers held in Golan: Reports”, *The Times of India*, May 12, 2013 at [http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2013-05-12/middle-east/39202918\\_1\\_rebel-group-21-filipino-observers-peacekeepers](http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2013-05-12/middle-east/39202918_1_rebel-group-21-filipino-observers-peacekeepers)