

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

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I. COUNTRY REVIEWS

A. South Asia

Bangladesh

- **SAARC Secretary General visits Bangladesh; People of the ethnic communities of plain land in Dinajpur form a human chain for their three point demand; Dhaka reiterates that no physical space available to accommodate refugees from Myanmar anymore; BSF all set to install surveillance and communication equipment on the international border at Meghalaya**

As part of his introductory visit to member states, SAARC Secretary General Ahmed Saleem made three day official visit to Bangladesh on June 18, 2012.¹ During his stay, Ahmed Saleem paid a courtesy visit to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in her office on June 19, 2012.

Reports noted that people of the ethnic communities of plain land in Dinajpur formed a human chain in front of deputy commissioner's office on June 17, 2012 to press upon their three-point demand which includes a separate land commission. The other demands include freeing their lands from encroachers and halting drive to evict them from their ancestral land in the name of afforestation.²

According to reports, Dhaka has reiterated its stance that it has no physical space available to accommodate refugees from Myanmar anymore and urged the international community to share the burden of refugee pressure. Bangladesh foreign ministry officials said they were disturbed as diplomats of some specific countries and UN agencies continued requesting them to allow the refugees to enter Bangladesh despite Dhaka's firm rebuff.³

Reports noted that Indian Border Security Force (BSF) is all set to install surveillance and communication equipment on the international border that Meghalaya shares with Bangladesh. Disclosing this at the Meghalaya Frontier Headquarters of the BSF on June 23, 2012, Utthan Kumar Bansal, Director General of BSF noted, "The state government and intelligence reports have hinted at cross-border movement of militants."⁴

Sri Lanka

- **Sri Lanka's economy expands by growth rate of 7.9 percent during the first quarter of the**

¹ "SAARC Secy General due today", *The Daily Star*, June 18, 2012 at <http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=238748>.

² "Human Chain in Dinajpur: Indigenous people of plain land place 3-pt demand", *The Daily Star*, June 18, 2012 at <http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=238787>.

³ "No space for more refugees: Reiterates Dhaka", *The Daily Star*, June 19, 2012 at <http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=238910>.

⁴ "BSF set for tech vigil on border", *The Daily Star*, June 24, 2012 at <http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=239470>.

year; President Rajapaksa attends Rio+20, meets world leaders on the sideline of the conference; 2012 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report : Sri Lanka among Tier 2 countries; Sri Lanka Navy lifts all bans imposed on fishermen within the Trincomalee outer harbor; US Ambassador to Sri Lanka and Maldives Amb. Butenis inaugurates three projects in Eastern Province; SL navy releases Indian fishermen; UNDP: Investment growth in Sri Lanka's North and East have been affected due to land ownership issues; Sri Lanka's Human Rights Commission receives less number of complaints

According to the data released by the Department of Census and Statistics, Sri Lanka's economy has expanded by a healthy growth rate of 7.9 percent during the first quarter of this year, from the same period a year earlier.⁵

Reports noted that Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa has concluded his visit to Cuba and left for Brazil on June 19, 2012 to attend the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio+20 held in Rio de Janeiro to be held from June 20 – 22, 2012. According to reports, addressing the United Nations largest conference on green economy and sustainable development, President Rajapaksa said the developed countries which largely contributed to the environmental crisis cannot and should not leave the responsibility of saving the environment to developing nations at the cost of their development. The policies set for environment by developed countries must not hinder the growth of developing nations, the President said, adding that pushing various barriers and setting standards of environment will hamper developing nations in achieving economic growth.⁶ On the sideline of the conference, President Rajapaksa met Chilean President Sebastian Pinera, Bhutanese Prime Minister Jigme Thinle, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Nepali Prime Minister Baburam Bhattarai.⁷

During the discussions with Sri Lankan President Rajapaksa on the sidelines of the Rio+20 summit in Brazil, Indian Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh has once again underlined the “great importance India attaches to the ability of the Tamil people in Sri Lanka to lead a life of dignity and as equal citizens of that country.” A statement issued by the High commission of India in Colombo said the PM started one-on-one discussion with the President first and then in delegation-level covering all bilateral relations.⁸

According to the 2012 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report released on June 19, 2012 by the U.S. Secretary of State Hilary Clinton, Sri Lanka has been placed among Tier 2 countries. The 2012 Trafficking in Persons Report analyzed 186 countries by looking at what the governments are doing against human trafficking which is defined as modern day slavery. Tier 2 countries are the

⁵ “Sri Lanka economy grows 7.9 percent in first quarter of 2012”, *Colombo Page*, June 18, 2012 at http://www.colombopage.com/archive_12A/Jun18_1340029177CH.php.

⁶ “Sri Lankan President leaves Havana for Brazil to attend Rio+20”, *Colombo Page*, June 19, 2012 at http://www.colombopage.com/archive_12A/Jun19_1340123712CH.php. “Economic development must respect environment, Sri Lankan President tells Rio+20 conference”, *Colombo Page*, June 20, 2012 at http://www.colombopage.com/archive_12A/Jun20_1340215422CH.php.

⁷ “Sri Lankan President meets world leaders at Rio+20”, *Colombo Page*, June 21, 2012 at http://www.colombopage.com/archive_12A/Jun21_1340292524CH.php.

⁸ “India presses Sri Lanka on a political solution for Tamil people”, *Colombo Page*, June 23, 2012 at http://www.colombopage.com/archive_12A/Jun23_1340474836CH.php.

countries whose governments do not fully comply with the minimum standards of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards.⁹

Reports noted that Sri Lanka Navy has lifted all bans imposed on fishermen within the Trincomalee Outer Harbor with effect from June 20, 2012. Although there were no terrorist activities since the end of the war three years ago, the restrictions imposed by the Navy remained in effect in the seas off the harbor area to curtail illegal activities carried out by certain groups.¹⁰

The United States Ambassador to Sri Lanka and Maldives Patricia A. Butenis visited Batticaloa in the Eastern Province Tuesday (19) to open projects completed by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the development arm of the U.S. Embassy. Ambassador Butenis inaugurated three projects - a bakery in Vakarai, Batticaloa, staff quarters at the Pulipanchakal School, and a children's park at the lighthouse complex in Batticaloa.¹¹

Sri Lanka Navy has arrested nine Indian fishermen, who set out to sea on June 16, 2012 from the Akkaraipettai village near Vedaranyam in Tamil Nadu state of India, when they entered in the Sri Lankan waters. They were produced before the magistrate and the local court has released them on June 20, 2012. Meanwhile, according to Consul General of India in Jaffna, the fishermen are awaiting for weather to clear for repatriation.¹²

In other developments, according to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) sources, the investment growth in Sri Lanka's North and East have been affected due to land ownership issues.¹³ Meanwhile, reports noted that Sri Lanka's Human Rights Commission (HRC) has received less number of complaints this year in comparison to last year but 125 of the 170 complaints it received on torture in the last six months were against the country's Police Department. HR Commissioner, Dr. Prathibha Mahanamahewa has said the complaints had been recorded from January to June, 2012.¹⁴

Maldives

- **President Waheed: Countrywide biosphere reserve by 2017; Ban Ki Moon: Maldives can**

⁹ "Sri Lanka making significant efforts to eliminate human trafficking despite lack of total compliance", *Colombo Page*, Jun 20, 2012 at http://www.colombopage.com/archive_12A/Jun20_1340167505CH.php

¹⁰ "Sri Lanka Navy lifts all bans on fishing in Trincomalee outer harbour", *Colombo Page*, June 20, 2012 at http://www.colombopage.com/archive_12A/Jun20_1340179762CH.php.

¹¹ "U.S. Embassy in Sri Lanka supports development projects in Eastern Province", *Colombo Page*, June 21, 2012 at http://www.colombopage.com/archive_12A/Jun21_1340288983CH.php.

¹² "Indian fishermen detained in Sri Lanka released", *Colombo Page*, June 22, 2012 at http://www.colombopage.com/archive_12A/Jun22_1340305328CH.php.

¹³ "Investment growth in Sri Lanka's North and East affected due to land ownership issues says UNDP", *Colombo Page*, June 24, 2012 at http://www.colombopage.com/archive_12A/Jun24_1340544524CH.php.

¹⁴ "Sri Lanka HRC receives less number of complaints this year, most against police", *Colombo Page*, June 23, 2012 at http://www.colombopage.com/archive_12A/Jun23_1340461950CH.php.

count on the UN for support in consolidating democracy; President sends congratulatory message to newly appointed Prime Minister of Pakistan and Greece

According to reports, Maldives President Dr Mohamed Waheed has briefed participants of The Maldives Story, a session organized by the Maldives as a side event at the Rio+20 Summit, on the government's environment and economic policies. Speaking at the event, the President emphasised on the Maldives' commitment to making it a countrywide biosphere reserve by 2017. Highlighting the many potential challenges to be faced in achieving this target, the President noted that everyone's contribution was required in taking this vital step, both financially and technically.¹⁵

Meanwhile, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has said that the Maldives can count on the UN for support in consolidating democracy in the Maldives and in the country's efforts to transform into a low-carbon economy. The Secretary-General made this remark at a meeting with President Dr Mohamed Waheed, on the sideline of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development.¹⁶

In other developments, President Dr Mohamed Waheed has sent a congratulatory message to Prime Minister-elect of Pakistan, Raja Pervez Ashraf, following his appointment as the new Prime Minister of Pakistan.¹⁷ President has also sent a congratulatory message to Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic, Antonis Samaras, on his appointment as the Prime Minister of Greece.¹⁸

B. West Asia

Iran

- **Deputy Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council Ali Bageri: Iran, P5+1 Moscow talks were "serious and constructive"; Iran, India discuss development of Iranian ports; Report: India wants Iranian ships to transport oil beginning next month**

According to reports, following the first day of the third round of talks between P5+1 and Iran in Moscow on June 18, 2012, the Deputy Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council has said that the talks were "serious and constructive". Ali Bageri added that both Iran and the West needed to take reciprocal steps to further facilitate talks and stressed Iran's right to nuclear enrichment as a signatory to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).¹⁹

¹⁵ "President Waheed briefs on the Maldives' environment and economic policies at "The Maldives Story" ", *The President's Office, Republic of Maldives*, June 21, 2012 at <http://www.presidencymaldives.gov.mv/Index.aspx?lid=11&dcid=7560>.

¹⁶ "You can count on us' says the UN SG", *The President's Office, Republic of Maldives*, June 23, 2012 at <http://www.presidencymaldives.gov.mv/Index.aspx?lid=11&dcid=7567>.

¹⁷ "President congratulates the New Pakistani PM", *The President's Office, Republic of Maldives*, June 23, 2012 at <http://www.presidencymaldives.gov.mv/Index.aspx?lid=11&dcid=7573>.

¹⁸ "President congratulates the New Greek PM", *The President's Office, Republic of Maldives*, June 23, 2012 at <http://www.presidencymaldives.gov.mv/Index.aspx?lid=11&dcid=7574>

¹⁹ "Iran, P5+1 Moscow talks "serious, constructive" - official", *Islamic Republic of Iran News Network*, June 18, 2012

Meanwhile, reports noted that in a series of meetings between the Iranian and Indian private sector organizations, both sides have discussed investment in the development of Iranian ports. The Head of Tehran's Chamber of Commerce called for stronger foreign partnership with Iranian firms in the country's ports development projects.²⁰

Separately, according to reports, with European sanctions likely to cripple shipping of Iranian oil from next month, India has said that it wants to use Iran's shipping lines to transport oil. India's Oil Ministry has proposed that Iran ship the crude oil in their own ships, thereby absolving the importer of the liability of insurance cover for the carrier and the oil.²¹

Syria

- **UN monitoring missions suspends work following escalating violence; Free Syrian Army supports suspension**

According to reports, following an announcement by the head of the UN monitors in Syria, General Robert Mood, that the mission would be suspended due to the recent escalation in violence, the Free Syrian Army's (FSA) deputy chief of staff has said that the FSA supports the decision. Col Arif al-Hamud stated that there was no practical role left for the UN monitoring mission in Syria since government forces were carrying out killings in spite of the presence of the monitors. He also added that the only solution to the crisis is to support the FSA with "weapons and money" in order that it resolves the military situation.²²

Meanwhile, according to reports a Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman has said that the country would like to see resumption of the work of the UN observers in Syria so as not to allow further suffering of the Syrian civilian population. He stressed Russia's unacceptability of "statements and actions by certain external forces" that have aggravated the conflict in Syria.²³

In other developments, reports noted that Presidents of Russian and the United States have jointly called for an immediate end to the violence in Syria and a movement towards political transition to a democratic and pluralistic system. They added that the Syrian people should choose their future independently, within the framework of Syria's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity.²⁴

Israel/Palestine

- **Israeli Deputy Premier urges Palestinians to drop preconditions to peace talks**

According to reports, Israeli Deputy Premier Shaul Mofaz has urged Palestinians to drop the preconditions for peace talks so that negotiations can resume. Both Mofaz and PLO negotiator held talks with US officials in Washington to discuss revival of stalled peace talks. Mofaz has

²⁰ "Tehran, New Delhi discuss development of Iranian ports", Fars News Agency website, June 19, 2012

²¹ "India wants Iranian ships to transport oil - PTI", PTI news agency, New Delhi, June 22, 2012

²² "Free Syrian Army welcomes suspension of UN mission activities", Al-Sharq al-Awsat website, June 17, 2012

²³ "Russia calls for UN observer mission in Syria to resume work", Ministry of Foreign Affairs website, June 18, 2012

²⁴ "Russian, US leaders say Syrians should "choose their future independently"", Interfax news agency, June 18, 2012

said that the preconditions are an obstacle and that upcoming negotiations must and will be restarted without any preconditions. The Palestinian conditions for resuming peace talks are: cessation of settlement construction, and recognition of pre-1967 borders as the future borders of a Palestinian state.²⁵

Yemen

- **Yemen's military announces victory against al Qaeda**

Following months of large scale military operation against al-Qaeda militants in Abyan province, the Yemeni armed forces announced that they have been successful in removing the militants from the cities of Jaar and Zinjibar. Both cities were seized by al-Qaeda in June 2011 and were declared Islamic Caliphates in March 2012, after a breakdown in security gave militants the means and opportunities to resume their military campaign in Yemen. An official statement on June 19, 2012, from the Yemeni Defence Ministry said that its army has achieved "a major breakthrough" in their fight against the al Qaeda.²⁶

Kuwait

- **Parliamentary crisis deepens in Kuwait: Emir suspends parliament; court annuls 2012 elections**

According to reports, Kuwait's constitutional court has annulled the 2012 legislative elections, ruling that the decree to dissolve the parliament elected in 2009 was void. The court ruling would mean that the members elected in 2009 would regain their seats. The court made the decision based on a case against members elected in February 2012 and filed by candidates and voters in the First, Second, third and Fourth constituencies. Under the ruling, the 2009 -2011 parliament will convene and will submit a request to the Emir to dissolve the parliament. Fresh elections will be held within two months of the dissolution. All laws endorsed by the 2012 parliament will be pending and the next parliament will make its decision on them.²⁷

In another development, Kuwaiti Emir Shaikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah issued a decree on June 18, 2012 to suspend the parliament sessions for one month in an apparent bid to defuse tensions between the government and Members of the Parliament. The decision was based on a constitutional provision that allows the Emir to suspend parliamentary meetings for a maximum of one month. The Emir's decision has come after tensions increased between the opposition in the parliament and the government controlled by the Al Sabah ruling family. Opposition members have repeatedly accused some members of the government of wide-ranging irregularities, forcing two cabinet ministers to quit.²⁸

²⁵ "Israeli deputy leader urges Palestinians to drop preconditions to talks", The Jerusalem Post website, June 21, 2012

²⁶ "Yemen Announces Victory Against Al-Qaeda", *Yemen Observer*, June 18, 2012, at <http://www.yobserver.com/local-news/10022115.html>

²⁷ "Kuwait court annuls 2012 legislative elections, reinstates former parliament", *Gulf News*, June 20, 2012, at <http://gulfnews.com/news/gulf/uae/employment/kuwait-court-annuls-2012-legislative-elections-reinstates-former-parliament-1.1038246>

²⁸ "Kuwait's emir suspends parliament", *Gulf News*, June 18, 2012, at <http://gulfnews.com/news/gulf/kuwait/kuwait-s-emir-suspends-parliament-1.1037306>

C. Africa

(June 11-17)

- **Ethiopia to host the July 2012 Summit of the Africa Union; Muslim Brotherhood claims victory in Egypt Presidential vote; African Union urges Sudans to accept its proposal for demilitarised zone; US unveils new partnership with Sub-Saharan Africa; South Africa looks to source oil from Nigeria and Angola; Global Peace Index ranks different countries in Africa; Tata Power explores Africa for coal and natural gas;**

According to reports, venue for the upcoming African Union summit scheduled for July 2012 has been shifted to the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa after Malawi refused to allow the participation of Sudan's President Omar Hassan al-Bashir, who is wanted by the International Criminal Court (ICC). Malawi said it did not want Bashir to attend the summit because he is wanted for genocide and war crimes in Darfur. Further, the ICC's chief prosecutor has called for aid cuts to countries that fail to detain the Sudanese president. However, Bashir denied the charges, saying they were politically motivated. Separately, the AU's Ferdinand Montcho accused the ICC of interfering in African affairs.²⁹

Meanwhile, in a significant development, according to reports, Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood claimed victory for its Presidential candidate Mohamed Morsy who contested against Ahmad Shafiq in a runoff that took place in the midst of an assertion of political power by a military group, marked by the dissolution of an elected lower house of parliament and an attack on civil liberties. Later, Morsy pledged inclusivity and called for unity. During his interaction with the media, he promised "to build a democratic and modern state with a constitution". The Brotherhood claimed that Morsy had won 52.5 per cent of votes.³⁰

In another development, the African Union urged Sudan and South Sudan to accept its proposal for a demilitarised zone in order to help end a dispute that threatens regional stability. Earlier, the two countries broke off talks after failing to resolve a disagreement over territory. It is to be mentioned that Sudan rejects southern claims to areas including the disputed oil-rich region of Heglig. On the other hand, South Sudan proposed the Permanent Court of Arbitration in the Hague to help resolve the issue.³¹

According to reports, the Obama administration announced the launching of a new partnership with sub-Saharan Africa to improve democracy, economic growth, security and trade in the region. The presidential policy directive on sub-Saharan Africa, which is based on major themes outlined in Barack Obama's 2009 speech to lawmakers in Ghana, commits the United States to elevate its

²⁹ "Ethiopia to host Africa Union summit after Omar al-Bashir Malawi row", *BBC News*, June 12, 2012, at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-18407396>

³⁰ Atul Aneja (2012), "Brotherhood claims victory in Egypt Presidential vote", *The Hindu*, June 18, 2012, at <http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/article3541658.ece>

³¹ William Davison (2012), "African Union Urges Sudan, South Sudan to Accept Border Proposal", *Bloomberg*, June 12, 2012, at <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-06-12/african-union-urges-sudan-south-sudan-to-accept-border-proposal.html>

work to strengthen democratic institutions and boost economic growth, trade and investment in Africa. It aims to advance the African democracy by strengthening institutions for more open and accountable governance and for promoting human rights and the rule of law. It also commits the United States to increasing trade and investment in sub-Saharan Africa by improving economic governance, promoting regional integration, expanding African access to global markets and encouraging U.S. companies to trade with and invest in Africa.³²

Meanwhile, reacting to this development, China clarified that it held an open attitude towards discussion with the United States on cooperation with Africa. Foreign Ministry Spokesman Liu Weimin further added that any cooperation should respect the will of the African side, be conducive to Africa's development and be conducted on the basis of equality and reciprocity.³³

According to Nelisiwe Magubane, Director General at the energy department, South Africa is looking to source oil from Angola, Nigeria and Saudi Arabia to replace supplies from Iran, which is facing sanctions over its nuclear programme. Africa's biggest economy used to import a quarter of its crude from Iran, but has come under Western pressure to cut the shipments as part of sanctions designed to halt Tehran's suspected pursuit of nuclear weapons. Of late, the United States granted South Africa an exemption from financial sanctions after the cuts in Iranian imports, but Pretoria still face problems because of sanctions from the European Union, which does not provide any waivers.³⁴

According to the 2012 Global Peace Index (GPI), produced by the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), Mozambique remains among the world's top 50 most peaceful nations, taking the 48th position for the second consecutive year. As per the report, Botswana is the most peaceful country in the region, taking the 31st place. Somalia is ranked the least peaceful country according to the GPI. The report sates that all regions apart from the Middle East and North Africa saw an improvement, with Sub-Saharan Africa lifting off of the bottom spot for the first time since the GPI was launched in 2007.³⁵

In other developments, according to Anil Sardana, Managing Director of Tata Power Co. Ltd, India's largest private power generator, Tata Power is exploring for coal mines and natural gas assets in Africa to ensure feedstock supplies. However, he did not elaborate on any timeline for any deal or quantum of funds earmarked for such acquisitions. The announcement came at a time when the viability of its 4,000 megawatts (MW) power project in Mundra, Gujarat, hinges on regulatory clearance for higher tariff.³⁶

³² Scott Stearns (2012), "Clinton Unveils New US Africa Policy", *Voice of America*, June 14, 2012, at <http://www.voanews.com/content/clinton-unveils-new-us-africa-policy/1211105.html>

³³ "China open to Africa cooperation with U.S.", *Xinhuanet*, June 15, 2012, at http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/china/2012-06/15/c_131655804.htm

³⁴ Wendell Roelf (2012), "South Africa looks to Nigeria, Angola to replace Iran oil", *Reuters*, June 15, 2012, at <http://in.reuters.com/article/2012/06/15/safrica-iran-oil-idINL5E8HF3VE20120615>

³⁵ "Mozambique Among World's Top 50 Peaceful Countries", *All Africa*, June 17, 2012, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201206170214.html>

³⁶ Makarand Gadgil and Bhuma Shrivastava (2012), "Tata Power explores Africa for coal and natural gas assets", *Live Mint*, June 18, 2012, at <http://www.livemint.com/2012/06/17222856/Tata-Power-explores-Africa-for.html?type=tp>

(June 18-24)

- **Nearly 100 killed in sectarian clashes in Nigeria; 105 dead in tribal clashes in Libya; Somali pirates freed the South African couple after 20 months hostage; Africa woos Indian investors; Sudan and South Sudan resume security talks; Brazil takes South Africa's use of anti-dumping measures to WTO; India replaces US as Nigeria's largest export market; Morsy democratically elected as President of Egypt**

According to reports, at least 101 people were killed in three days of sectarian clashes and gun battles between soldiers and insurgents in two Nigerian cities of Damaturu and Kaduna after suicide bombers attacked three churches on June 17, 2012. State Police spokesman Patrick Egbuniwe confirmed that 34 of those who were killed in the clashes were members of the radical Islamist group, Boko Haram. Following the violence, the governments of the two states of Yobe and Kaduna have declared 24 hours curfew to forestall further confrontation. Meanwhile, the country's top security chiefs, including the chief of Defence Staff Air Marshal Oluseyi Peturin have assured the civilians that normalcy will return to the state immediately.³⁷

In another development, according to Libyan government spokesman Nasser al-Manaa, 105 people were dead and about 500 injured in recent tribal clashes in western Libya. According to Rana Jawad, the fighting was mainly between fighters from Zintan, backed by another tribe known as the Guntrara from Mizdah, and armed members of the Mashashya tribe based in Shegayga. The area includes the towns of Zintan, Mizdah and Shegayga, some 150km (90 miles) south of the capital Tripoli. The latest clashes were triggered by the death of a man from Zintan after he was stopped at a checkpoint, which Zintan militias have blamed on the Mashashya tribe. However, there had been no fighting in the mountainous area, following the deployment of the army.³⁸

Meanwhile, reports noted that the two South African nationals, Deborah Calitz and Bruno Pelizzari, held hostage by the Somali pirates for 20 months, have been freed. Ms Calitz and Mr Pelizzari were kidnapped in October 2010 while they were sailing in the Indian Ocean off east Africa. Somalia's Defence Minister Hussein Arab Isse said that the Somali army and security forces had started the rescue of Calitz and Pelizzari. However, the Defence Minister did not say whether a ransom had been paid. It is to be mentioned that the pirates had originally demanded \$10m (£6m) in return for the release of Ms Calitz and Mr Pelizzari.³⁹

According to reports, addressing a gathering at the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Susan Sikaneta, High Commissioner of the Republic of Zambia, said that African countries like Ethiopia, Mozambique and Zambia are wooing Indian investors to set up their ventures across industries including equipment, consultancy, services industry, with major focus on agriculture and food processing units. She opined that Africa is emerging as an investment hub for many Indian companies across sectors due to its friendly government polices business and investment

³⁷ "101 dead in Nigeria sectarian clashes", *One India*, June 21, 2012, at <http://news.oneindia.in/2012/06/21/101-dead-in-sectarian-clashes-in-nigeria-1022167.html>

³⁸ "Libya's tribal clashes leave 105 dead", *BBC News*, June 20, 2012, at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-18529139>

³⁹ "South Africa couple freed from Somali pirates", *BBC News*, June 21, 2012, at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-18532305>

environment and favourable climatic conditions. Later, Suresh Chitturi, Convenor, CII-AP task force on agriculture, announced that CII's Andhra Pradesh chapter is planning to send a task force to the African subcontinent to explore investment opportunities in that region.⁴⁰

According to reports, post-partition direct talks between Sudan and South Sudan on security issues have recommenced under the mediation of the African Union High Level Panel (AUHIP) in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa. The talks recommenced weeks after unfruitful round of talks on how to implement agreements on security arrangements along the 2000 km of the common border. The talks on a buffer zone are deadlocked as the parties failed to endorse a map to line the demilitarised zone.⁴¹

Brazil has taken the first legal step at the World Trade Organisation to challenge South Africa's use of anti-dumping measures on shipments of Brazilian poultry meat. The WTO said that Brazil has "requested consultations" with South Africa over South Africa's accusation that Brazilian imports were "dumped", or sold at an unfairly low price that damaged South Africa's own poultry sales. As per the procedure, if the consultations fail to resolve the issue, in 60 days' time, Brazil could ask the WTO to set up a panel to adjudicate. The dispute is the first between Brazil and any African country and only the fourth brought against South Africa at the WTO.⁴²

According to the first quarter Trade Statistics released by the National Bureau of Statistics, India has overtaken the US to become Nigeria's largest market for exports. The moving of the US to the second position is seen as a major development for Nigerian and Indian trade relations, given that the US had remained the country's largest export market since 1964. The NBS data also revealed that India-Nigeria bilateral trade reached USD 5.15 billion in the first quarter or within 0.5 per cent of the US. NBS put the total value of Nigeria's exports in the first quarter of 2012 at about USD 30 billion, showing that exports to India reached USD 4.2 billion, compared to USD 3.7 billion credited to the US in the period under review. Nigeria's export to India is mostly crude oil and cashew nuts while India exports pharmaceutical goods, machinery, electronics and rice.⁴³

In other developments, reports noted that Islamist Mohamed Morsy was declared Egypt's first freely elected President. Morsy defeated former general Ahmed Shafik in a run-off by a convincing 3.5 percentage points, or nearly 900,000 votes, taking 51.7 percent of the total. Later, The Muslim Brotherhood vowed to continue a struggle to take power from the generals who retain ultimate control. It is worth mentioning here that the military council, which has ruled the biggest Arab nation since the overthrow of Mubarak, has curbed the powers of the presidency, meaning the head of state will have to work closely with the army on a planned democratic constitution.⁴⁴

⁴⁰ "Africa woos AP investors", *Business Standard*, June 22, 2012, at <http://www.business-standard.com/india/news/africa-woos-ap-investors/478096/>

⁴¹ "East Africa: Sudan and South Sudan Resume Security Talks With No Tangible Progress", *All Africa*, June 22, 2012, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201206230496.html>

⁴² "Brazil challenges South Africa over poultry at WTO", *Reuters*, June 22, 2012, at <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/06/22/us-trade-brazil-safrica-poultry-idUSBRE85L0I920120622>

⁴³ "India overtakes US as Nigeria's biggest export market", *The Times of India*, Jun 23, 2012, at <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/India-overtakes-US-as-Nigerias-biggest-export-market/articleshow/14359139.cms>

⁴⁴ Shaimaa Fayed and Marwa Awad (2012), "Islamist joy as Morsy elected Egypt president", *Reuters*, June 24, 2012, at <http://in.reuters.com/article/2012/06/24/egypt-election-idINDEE85N00920120624>

II. DEFENCE REVIEW

National

- **DRDO rolls out Missile Defence System for Mumbai, Delhi; Mid-life refit programme for the Indian Navy's Kilo-class diesel-electric submarines completed in Russia**

According to reports, the two most important metros of India, Delhi and Mumbai, have been chosen for DRDO's Ballistic Missile Defence system that can be put in place at short notice. The detailed proposal is being prepared for final clearance from the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS). The strategic planning has already begun to install the BMD system in the two cities and the final proposal will be put before the government after detailed analysis of the entire project. To ensure maximum protection against air-borne threats, DRDO will put a mix of counter-attack missiles which will be able to shoot down enemy missiles both within the earth's atmosphere (endo-atmospheric) and outside it (exo-atmospheric). The BMD system will require minimum human intervention due to the complete automation of tracking devices and counter-measures. Human intervention will be required only to abort the mission, the sources said. After successful implementation in Delhi and Mumbai, the system will be used to cover other major cities in the country. The shield, developed by Defence Research and Development Organization, has undergone a series of successful tests. It can destroy an incoming ballistic missile within 2,000 km.⁴⁵

In another development, reports noted that the INS Sindhurakshak submarine came off the slips at the Zvezdochka shipyard in Severodvinsk on June 23, 2012, marking the completion of a mid-life refit programme for the Indian Navy's Kilo-class diesel-electric submarines in Russia. During a two-year in-depth modernisation the torpedo-firing INS Sindhurakshak, built in 1997, has been equipped with the tube-launched Club-S cruise missiles effective against surface vessels and submarines at a range of about 200 km. It has also been provided with some Indian-made systems, including a hydro-acoustic "USHUS" complex, a CCS-MK radio-communication system and Porpoise Electronic Support Measures. After going through sea trials and firing tests the submarine will be handed over to the Indian Navy later this year. The INS Sindhurakshak is the seventh and the last of the 10 Kilo-class submarines that India bought from Russia between 1986 and 2000 to have undergone mid-term repairs and modernisation in Russia. Of the remaining three submarines one was repaired in India and the two others are currently under repair in India.⁴⁶

International

- **United States and New Zealand sign agreement to expand defense cooperation; U.S. Army looking to reposition stocks of equipment close to potential global flashpoints**

Reports noted that the United States and New Zealand have signed an agreement to expand

⁴⁵ "India flexes some firepower as DRDO rolls out Missile Defence System for Mumbai, Delhi," India Today, June 24, 2012, at <http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/drdo-rolls-out-ballistic-missile-defence-system-for-mumbai-delhi/1/202162.html>

⁴⁶ "Russia completes India's submarine modernisation program," the Hindu, June 23, 2012, at <http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/article3562912.ece>

defense cooperation on June 19, 2012 but the deal does not alter Auckland's longstanding ban on port visits by nuclear-armed American warships, officials said. The accord was the latest in a series marking U.S. attempts to shift its strategic focus to the Asia-Pacific. New Zealand's Defense Minister Jonathan Coleman said the accord called for a security dialogue as well as joint exercises and other collaborative efforts between the two countries' armed forces. "This high-level arrangement recognizes the significant security cooperation that exists between New Zealand and the U.S. within the context of our independent foreign policy, and seeks to build upon that cooperation in the years ahead," Coleman said in a statement. The Pentagon said the partnership "will include security cooperation in areas such as maritime security cooperation, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, and peacekeeping support operations." The June 19 deal illustrated a thawing of once chilly military relations between the two countries.⁴⁷

In another development, according to reports, the U.S. Army is looking to preposition stocks of equipment to keep them close to potential global flashpoints and assist with multilateral training missions with partner nations. One of the places critical to this new program is Australia, the U.S. Army Chief of Staff Gen. Ray Odierno said on June 20, 2012 during an appearance at the Council on Foreign Relations in Washington. "We're working with the Australians where we can do multilateral training," he said, adding that "one of the concepts we're looking at, [is] putting prepositioned equipment there ... then bring countries from around the region in to conduct multilateral efforts." While not naming specific nations, Odierno said the Army is looking to do the same thing in Africa, adding that the train and advise mission is "going to be more and more important as we go forward" in a post-Iraq and Afghanistan era. Army officials have already said that early plans call for about 11,000 MRAPs to be prepositioned around the globe. Africa is becoming increasingly important to the Army's plans due in no small part to the fact that "terrorist elements around the world go to the areas they think has the least resistance," the chief noted.⁴⁸

III. INTERNAL SECURITY REVIEW

Jammu & Kashmir

- **Restrictions, shutdown continues in Bandipora, North Kashmir; Centre to incorporate clause on Human Rights abuses in AFSPA**

According to reports, restrictions are continued in Bandipora town of North Kashmir following eruption of protests over the alleged desecration of Quran at Haskalan Tragbal. The town and its peripheries are under strict restrictions since June 23, 2012 when the people staged massive

⁴⁷ "U.S., New Zealand Sign Defense Cooperation Accord," AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, June 19, 2012, at <http://www.defensenews.com/article/20120619/DEFREG02/306190010/-1/7daysarchives/U-S-New-Zealand-Sign-Defense-Cooperation-Accord>

⁴⁸ "U.S. Army Will Focus on Training, Partnering with SOF: Odierno," Defence News, June 20, 2012, at <http://www.defensenews.com/article/20120620/DEFREG02/306200008/-1/7daysarchives/U-S-Army-Will-Focus-Training-Partnering-SOF-Odierno>

protests against alleged desecration of the holy book. Several persons were wounded as police and paramilitary CRPF used force to quell the protestors.⁴⁹

In another development, reports noted that after 54 years of its operation, the Government of India is now mulling incorporating a clause in the controversial Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) aimed at redressing complaints of human rights abuses committed by the members of armed forces in the areas where the Act is in vogue. After stiff opposition by the Defence Ministry to the amendment in any existing clauses of the contentious law, the Central government seems to be working on a middle path by incorporating a fresh clause in AFSPA so that the grievances of the victims of rights abuses by the armed forces could be addressed.⁵⁰

North East India

- **Manipur observes June 2001 incident; Garo National Liberation Army (GNLA) arms procurer arrested in Meghalaya; Panel formed for linking North-East Capitals; 4 NSCN cadres killed; Tripartite talks to be held on June 29; Four militants killed in Assam; NSCN-K transit camp wrecked; Eastern Naga People's Organisation (ENPO) adamant on Frontier Nagaland demand**

Reports noted that Manipur on June 18, 2012 paid floral tributes to the departed souls who laid down their lives during the agitation in June 2001 in protest against the extension of the ceasefire between the Government of India and the NSCN (IM) without territorial limit. The June 18 incident was observed by holding public meetings. It was on this day in 2001 that the people of Manipur came out on the streets to oppose the extension of the ceasefire without territorial limit.⁵¹

Meanwhile, in a major breakthrough, the police arrested the chief arms procurer of the outlawed Garo National Liberation Army (GNLA), a rebel group operating in western Meghalaya. A foreign-made revolver along with six rounds of live ammunition, four GNLA extortion notes and seals were seized.⁵²

According to reports, the Minister of Development of North Eastern Region Paban Singh Ghatowar has said that to overcome the perennial connectivity problem, a sub-committee for bringing all the capitals of the north-eastern States under rail and air services have been constituted. Acknowledging that the rail connectivity still remains a challenge in the North East, Ghatowar said that the situation has been changing in NC Hills rapidly after deployment of security personnel. The ongoing work for Broad Gauge (BG) from Lumding to Badarpur will gain momentum following improvement of law-and-order situation there.⁵³

Reports noted that four hardcore cadres belonging to NSCN (Khaplang) and NSCN (Khole-Kitovi)

⁴⁹ "Restrictions, shutdown continue in Bandipora", *Greater Kashmir*, June 19, 2012 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2012/Jun/20/restrictions-shutdown-continue-in-bandipora-68.asp>

⁵⁰ "Centre to incorporate clause on HR abuses in AFSPA", *Greater Kashmir*, June 21, 2012 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2012/Jun/22/centre-to-incorporate-clause-on-hr-abuses-in-afspa-69.asp>

⁵¹ "Manipur observes June 2001 incident", *The Assam Tribune*, June 18, 2012 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=jun1912/oth07>

⁵² "GNLA chief arms procurer arrested in Meghalaya", *The Assam Tribune*, June 20, 2012 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=jun2012/at0151>

⁵³ "Panel formed for linking NE capitals", *The Assam Tribune*, June 20, 2012 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=jun2112/at092>

were killed in three separate incidents in Zunheboto and Tuensang districts on June 19, 2012. In the first incident of fresh factional clash that took place in the wee hours at Zhekiye village in Zunheboto district, two cadres of the NSCN-K were reported killed while another sustained serious bullet injuries. In the other two incidents, two cadres belonging to the NSCN (Khole-Kitovi) were kidnapped at gunpoint from their houses and shot dead in what is suspected to be retaliation for the earlier attack on the cadres of NSCN-K.⁵⁴

According to reports, the pro-talk faction of ULFA, Centre and the Assam Government would meet on June 29, 2012 for the next round of formal political dialogue. The discussions are likely to be held at the Home Secretary level. A ULFA delegation led by chairman, Arabinda Rajkhowa is scheduled to arrive on June 27, 2012. The agenda for the discussion is yet to be finalised, spokesman of the group, Sasha Choudhury. According to sources, some of the issues that were raised in talks last April would be discussed further. Last time, issues like constitutional safeguard for the indigenous people of Assam and Centre-State relation were discussed. The militant outfit is in the process of settling its cadres in designated camps in Nalbari and Upper Assam.⁵⁵

However, reportedly, a joint team of police and army killed four militants at a remote village in Dima Hasao district in the wee hours of June 23, 2012. Dima Hasao District Superintendent of Police (DSP) Mugdha Jyoti Mahanta confirmed the incident and said that three AK-47 rifles and some live ammunition were recovered from the slain militants. The slain militants belong to a lesser known militant outfit of the Dimasa community- the Dimasa National Revolutionary Front (DNRF). One militant belonging to the National Socialist Council of Nagalim (NSCN Isak-Muivah) faction was also apprehended during the operation.⁵⁶

Meanwhile, the Assam Rifles busted an 'ad hoc transit camp' of NSCN-K and recovered arms, ammunition, and huge quantity of rice recently in Dimapur. Two NSCN-K cadres, including an officer who was in charge of Chenmoho under Aboi PS, Mon, were also apprehended during the operation. During the operation, the troops seized one pistol, one 12 bore rifle, several live rounds of various calibers, explosive and many other warlike stores besides 3,000 kg of rice.⁵⁷

In other developments, according to reports, after the meeting on June 23, 2012 between the Nagaland State Government representatives headed by Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio and the Eastern Nagaland People's Organization (ENPO) leaders in Kohima, the ice could not be broken. ENPO leaders informed that the meeting was cordial and peaceful. However, the ENPO leaders said their demand for a separate State by carving out four districts of Nagaland in the eastern part of the State remains. It would be worth mentioning that ENPO is demanding that the districts of Mon, Kiphire, Tuensang and Longleng be carved out from Nagaland to form a separate State called 'Frontier Nagaland'.⁵⁸

⁵⁴ "4 NSCN cadres killed in factional clashes", *The Assam Tribune*, June 20, 2012 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=jun2112/oth05>

⁵⁵ "Tripartite talks to be held on June 29", *The Assam Tribune*, June 21, 2012 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=jun2212/at05>

⁵⁶ "Forces kill four militants in pre-dawn Assam raid", *The Assam Tribune*, June 23, 2012 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=jun2312/at04>

⁵⁷ "NSCN-K transit camp busted", *The Assam Tribune*, June 22, 2012 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=jun2312/oth07>

⁵⁸ "ENPO adamant on Frontier Nagaland demand", *The Assam Tribune*, June 23, 2012 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=jun2412/oth05>