

# THE WEEK IN REVIEW

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# I. COUNTRY REVIEWS

## A. South Asia

### Afghanistan

- **General David Petraeus hands over responsibilities in Afghanistan to his successor Gen John Allen; Afghan and Pakistani Presidents meet for talks amid rising tension; British troops handover control of Lashkar Gah to Afghan security forces; Four Afghan policemen killed in gun battle in southern city of Kandahar**

General David Petraeus, US commander of NATO troops in Afghanistan, has handed over his responsibility for the military campaign in Afghanistan to his successor, Gen John Allen. Gen Petraeus is returning to the United States to head the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). At the change of command ceremony in the Afghan capital, Kabul, David Petraeus, expressed his “profound and lasting” gratitude to Afghan and ISAF troops for their services. The transition comes hours after a close aide to Afghan President Hamid Karzai died in an attack in Kabul. Analysts fear tough security situation ahead of withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan.<sup>1</sup>

In another development, Afghan President Hamid Karzai held talks with his Pakistani counterpart, President Asif Ali Zardari in Kabul on July 19 amidst rising tensions over recent killings. It is feared that Pakistan’s spy agency was behind recent assassinations in Afghanistan. The two leaders spoke about the economic and security situation faced by the neighbours as well. Zaradari also offered his condolences to Karzai on his brother’s assassination.<sup>2</sup>

Reports noted that British troops in Afghanistan’s volatile Helmand province have handed control of the city of Lashkar Gah to Afghan security forces. The handover is seen as a critical step in a transition of power before foreign troops end combat operations in 2014. The new commander of ISAF forces in Afghanistan, Gen John Allen, was also present on the occasion.<sup>3</sup>

In other developments, at least four police were killed and three injured in a gun battle with insurgents in southern city of Kandahar. Kandahar provincial spokesman Zalmay Ayubi informed that the gunfight began at 8:30 in the morning and went on for more than an hour with a district police chief among those killed.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> “David Petraeus hands over Afghanistan command”, *BBC*, July 18, 2011 at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-south-asia-14181299>

<sup>2</sup> “Afghan, Pakistan presidents meet amid new tensions”, *Dawn*, July 19, 2011 at <http://www.dawn.com/2011/07/19/afghan-pakistan-presidents-meet-amid-new-tensions.html>

<sup>3</sup> “Lashkar Gah: Nato hands over volatile Afghan city”, *BBC*, July 20, 2011 at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-south-asia-14206060>

<sup>4</sup> “Four Afghan police dead in Kandahar gunbattle”, *Dawn*, July 20, 2011 at <http://www.dawn.com/2011/07/20/four-killed-in-attack-on-afghan-police-in-kandahar.html>

## Pakistan

- **Hina Rabbani Khar appointed new Foreign Minister of Pakistan; Syed Ghulam Nabi Fai in the arrested United States for illegal lobbying over Kashmir; US House submits legislation bill to cut aid to Pakistan; Indian and Pakistani officials discuss increased travel and trade between both sides of Kashmir**

In an important development, Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gillani has approved the appointment of Hina Rabbani Khar as the new Foreign Minister of Pakistan. The post has been vacant since February this year when Shah Mehmood Qureshi was dropped as foreign minister in a cabinet reshuffle. Ms. Khar will be the youngest and first female in Pakistan to hold this position.<sup>5</sup>

Reports noted that FBI agents in the United States have arrested Syed Ghulam Nabi Fai in Virginia on charges that he failed to register as an agent of a foreign government and lobbied illegally for Kashmir in the United States. Pakistan has spent at least \$4 million since the mid-1990s lobbying the US Congress and the White House through Fai and the Kashmiri American Council, also known as the Kashmir Center, where Fai served as executive director, according to an FBI affidavit filed in US court. According to the FBI affidavit, two unidentified confidential witness told investigators that Pakistan's powerful military spy agency, the Inter-Services Intelligence Agency (ISI), was behind some of the money Fai received.<sup>6</sup>

In another development, a House Panel in United States has passed a bill that would block aid to Pakistan. Apart from Pakistan, several other countries have been listed in the bill like Egypt, Lebanon, and Palestine. This bill bars aid until these countries especially Pakistan can reassure its commitment to fight terrorism. This legislation is a direct challenge to President Barack Obama and his foreign policy authority, and comes as the House is looking at significant cuts in the annual budget for the State Department and foreign assistance.<sup>7</sup>

In other developments, reports noted that Indian and Pakistani officials have discussed increasing trade within both the Kashmir as a part of renewed peace/bilateral talks between the two countries. Talks between the two countries were stalled post 26/11 Mumbai carnage. The countries decided to restart peace process in February and have discussed Kashmir and terrorism since then.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> "PM approves appointment of Hina Rabbani Khar as FM", *Dawn*, July 18, 2011 at <http://www.dawn.com/2011/07/18/pm-approves-appointment-of-hina-rabbani-khar-as-fm.html>

<sup>6</sup> "US charges 'Pakistani agents' for illegal lobbying over Kashmir", *Dawn*, July 20, 2011 at <http://www.dawn.com/2011/07/20/us-charges-%E2%80%98pakistani-agents%E2%80%99-for-illegal-lobbying-over-kashmir.html>

<sup>7</sup> "US House bill to cut aid to Pakistan", *Dawn*, July 19, 2011 at <http://www.dawn.com/2011/07/19/us-house-bill-to-cut-aid-to-pakistan.html>

<sup>8</sup> "Pakistan, India discuss travel, trade in Kashmir", *Dawn*, July 18, 2011 at <http://www.dawn.com/2011/07/18/pak-india-working-group-meets-in-new-delhi.html>

## Bangladesh

(July 11-17, 2011)

- **Bangladesh's population now stands at 14.23 Crore; Bangladesh allows Nepal to use the Chittagong Port; Indo-Bangla joint survey of the Adversely Possessed Lands (APL) resumes; India handed over the first batch of Sidr core shelters; Foreign Minister Dipu Moni on official visit to Saudi Arabia and Nigeria**

In a major step towards regional connectivity, Bangladesh allowed Nepal to use the Chittagong port, river route and railway facility for transit of goods to Nepal from July 16, 2011.<sup>9</sup>

In another development, the Indo-Bangla joint survey of the adversely possessed lands (APL) along Meghalaya-Sylhet frontier resumed from July 14 amid tight security at Sonarhat border point in Gowainghat upazila.<sup>10</sup>

Meanwhile, after four years of commitment, India finally handed over the first batch of Sidr Core Shelters built for the cyclone affected families in Sharonkhola, Bagerhat.<sup>11</sup>

According to the preliminary results of the latest census, fifth of its kind, Bangladesh's population now stands at 14.23 crore, which is 1.8 crore more than a decade ago.<sup>12</sup>

In other developments, Foreign Minister Dipu Moni left Dhaka on July 10 for a week-long official visit to Saudi Arabia and Nigeria.<sup>13</sup>

(July 18-24, 2011)

- **Foreign Minister Dipu Moni attends ARF ministerial meeting in Bali; Border Haat for trade between India and Bangladesh started; Bangladesh recognises Republic of South Sudan**

Foreign Minister Dr Dipu Moni left for Bali, Indonesia on July 22 to attend the two-day 18th ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) ministerial meeting.<sup>14</sup>

<sup>9</sup> "Nepal first to use Ctg port", *The Daily Star*, July 17, 2011 at <http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=194611>

<sup>10</sup> "Jt border survey resumes amid tight security", *The Daily Star*, July 15, 2011 at <http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=194359>

<sup>11</sup> "India hands over 1,600 Sidr shelters", *The Daily Star*, July 12, 2011 at <http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=193911>

<sup>12</sup> "Population 14.23cr: Fifth census finds it grew by 1.8cr in 10 years", *The Daily Star*, July 17, 2011 at <http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=194590>.

<sup>13</sup> "Dipu Moni off to Saudi Arabia", *The Daily Star*, July 11, 2011 at <http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=193735>.

<sup>14</sup> "Dipu Moni leaves for Bali", *The Daily Star*, July 22, 2011 at <http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=195235>.

Reports noted that the border haat for trade between India and Bangladesh started on July 23 at a place near Kalaichar, a bordering area of Meghalaya of India and Baliamari of Kurigram district in Bangladesh.<sup>15</sup>

In other developments, Bangladesh authorities accorded formal recognition to the Republic of South Sudan on July 20 and pledged support to consolidate democracy, sustainable development and equitable social justice in the world's newest nation.<sup>16</sup>

## Sri Lanka

(July 11-17, 2011)

- **Indian Government grant of Rs.215 million for vocational training to Sri Lanka; Centre for Contemporary Indian Studies to be established at the University of Colombo; Prof. Peiris meets with the heads of mission of EU member countries; Sri Lanka co-hosts the South Asia Maritime Security Conference; Bilateral agreement between Tibet and the Central Provincial Council of Sri Lanka; Sri Lankan Government congratulates the Republic of Southern Sudan**

Reports noted that an agreement for the setting up of modern facilities at the Nuwara Eliya Vocational Training Centre has been signed by Youth Affairs and Skills Development Minister Dullas Alahapperuma and Indian High Commissioner Ashok K. Kantha. It will be implemented by the Indian government through HMT (I) Ltd., on an Indian government grant of Rs.215 million.<sup>17</sup>

In another development, a Centre for Contemporary Indian Studies (CCIS) is to be established at the University of Colombo with the assistance of the Indian Government. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed on July 12, 2011 between the Colombo University and the Indian High Commission in this regard under which the Indian Government would provide a grant of Rs. 56.50 million added to which it would also provide related academic and research assistance towards the establishment of the centre.<sup>18</sup>

Meanwhile, External Affairs Minister G.L. Peiris met the Heads of Mission of EU member countries at the EU office in Colombo on July 13, 2011.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> Mirdha, Ullah, Refayet, "Border haats open Saturday", *The Daily Star*, July 21, 2011 at <http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=195104>.

<sup>16</sup> "Bangladesh recognises S Sudan", *The Daily Star*, July 21, 2011 at <http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=195042>.

<sup>17</sup> "Indian aid for N'Eliya Training Centre", *The Daily Mirror*, July 13, 2011 at <http://print.dailymirror.lk/news/news/49916.html>.

<sup>18</sup> "India joins Colombo Varsity to build centre", *The Daily Mirror*, July 16, 2011 at <http://print.dailymirror.lk/news/news/50221.html>.

<sup>19</sup> "GL meets EU Heads of Mission in Colombo", *The Daily Mirror*, July 15, 2011 at <http://print.dailymirror.lk/news/news/50103.html>.

According to reports, Sri Lanka in collaboration with the United States Center for Civil Military Relations (CCMR) and Pacific Command (PACOM) co-hosted the South Asia Maritime Security Conference (MARSEC). United States Ambassador Patricia A. Butenis and Navy Commander Somathilake Dissanayake attended the inaugural session.<sup>20</sup>

In other developments, Tibet and the Central Provincial Council of Sri Lanka signed a bi-lateral socio-economic and cultural agreement on July 11, 2011.<sup>21</sup> Separately, the Sri Lankan Government has congratulated the newly formed African Nation, 'the Republic of Southern Sudan,' which became an independent nation after the long period of civil war.<sup>22</sup>

(July 18-24, 2011)

- **Indian scholarship to Sri Lankan students; India to develop KKS Harbour; Indian fishermen rescued; Sri Lankan refugees wish to go back to Sri Lanka; Adjutant General of the Bangladesh visits Sri Lanka; Sri Lankan EAM visits Pakistan; Palestine looks for Sri Lankan help; A US Congressional Committee voted to ban aid to Sri Lanka**

Reports noted that the Government of India is offering forty slots to Sri Lanka for training in India under the Technical Cooperation Scheme (TCS) of the Colombo Plan during 2011-12.<sup>23</sup> In another development, the Indian Government has committed US \$20 million (SLR 2.2 billion) for the initial stage of developing the Kankesanthurai (KKS) Harbour and will be investing further in the project in the form of grants and concessional credit for the development of the harbour as well as other development projects in the Northern Province.<sup>24</sup>

According to reports, Sri Lankan navy rescued three Indian fishermen with their trawler on July 20 and handed over to the Indian Coast Guard.<sup>25</sup> While, another report noted that some 2,800 Sri Lankan refugees in India and beyond have expressed an interest in returning home in the near future.<sup>26</sup>

The Adjutant General of the Bangladesh, Army Major General Abu Belal Muhammad Shafiul

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<sup>20</sup> "South Asian security talks in Colombo", *The Daily Mirror*, July 13, 2011 at <http://print.dailymirror.lk/news/news/49914.html>.

<sup>21</sup> "Tibet and Central PC in bi-lateral agreement", *The Daily Mirror*, July 13, 2011 at <http://print.dailymirror.lk/news/provincial-news/49872.html>.

<sup>22</sup> Murshideen, B.M., "SL congratulates Southern Sudan", *The Daily Mirror*, July 16, 2011 at <http://print.dailymirror.lk/news/front-page-news/50237.html>

<sup>23</sup> "India offers forty scholarships to Sri Lanka", *The Daily Mirror*, July 18, 2011 at <http://print.dailymirror.lk/news/news/50327.html>

<sup>24</sup> "India commits US\$ 20 million to develop KKS port", *The Daily Mirror*, July 22, 2011 at <http://print.dailymirror.lk/news/news/50800.html>

<sup>25</sup> "Three Indian Fishermen Rescued", *The Daily Mirror*, July 21, 2011 at <http://print.dailymirror.lk/news/news/50682.html>

<sup>26</sup> "Lankan refugees express interest in returning", *The Daily Mirror*, July 18, 2011 at <http://print.dailymirror.lk/news/news/50348.html>.

Huq, was on a five-day goodwill visit to Sri Lanka to strengthen military ties. He called on Sri Lankan Army Chief Lieutenant General Jagath Jayasuriya during the visit.<sup>27</sup> While, Sri Lanka's External Affairs Minister Prof. G.L. Peiris visited Pakistan and met Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari.<sup>28</sup>

The Palestine Legislative Council Speaker Dr. Aziz Dwaik has appealed to President Mahinda Rajapaksa to intervene to get the Palestinian law makers released from Israel jails.<sup>29</sup>

In other developments, a US congressional committee voted to ban aid to Sri Lanka except for humanitarian aid, de-mining and activities to promote democracy and governance, unless the nation shows "accountability" over the bloodshed in the final stages of its civil war in 2009. Responding to the possibility of aid from the United States being banned, the government claimed that any dictation by the US government towards Sri Lanka's internal issues was contravening the principles of democracy propagated by the US.<sup>30</sup>

## Maldives

(July 11-17, 2011)

- **President Nasheed meets with the Foreign and Commonwealth Representative for Climate Change and British Deputy High Commissioner; United Nations' Special Rapporteur on Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons calls on the President; Special Envoy of the Maldivian President presents invitation to Dr. Manmohan Singh to the 17th SAARC Summit to be held in Addu City; President's message of sympathy to Indian President following 13/7 Mumbai attacks**

Reports noted that President Mohamed Nasheed met with the Foreign and Commonwealth Representative for Climate Change John Ashton and British Deputy High Commissioner Mark Gooding on July 12. At the meeting held at the President's Office, the President briefed on the country's energy policy and the government's commitment to the carbon neutrality goal. The Foreign and Commonwealth Representative for Climate Change congratulated the Maldivian Government on its positive efforts to consolidate democracy and entrench pluralism.<sup>31</sup> President

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<sup>27</sup> "Bangladeshi Army Adjutant General to meet Army Chief", *The Daily Mirror*, July 18, 2011 at <http://print.dailymirror.lk/news/news/50331.html>

<sup>28</sup> "G.L. meets Zardari", *The Daily Mirror*, July 18, 2011 at <http://print.dailymirror.lk/news/news/50341.html>

<sup>29</sup> "Palestinians want MR to intervene", *The Daily Mirror*, July 22, 2011 at <http://print.dailymirror.lk/news/front-page-news/50785.html>

<sup>30</sup> "US Votes Ban On Aid To SL", *The Daily Mirror*, July 23, 2011 at <http://print.dailymirror.lk/news/front-page-news/50936.html>

<sup>31</sup> "Foreign and Commonwealth Representative for Climate Change and British Deputy High Commissioner Calls on the President", *The President's Office, Republic of Maldives*, July 12, 2011 at <http://www.presidencymaldives.gov.mv/Index.aspx?lid=11&dcid=5608>

Mohamed Nasheed also met with the United Nations' Special Rapporteur on Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons, Dr Chaloka Beyani on July 17.<sup>32</sup>

In another development, the Maldivian President invited Indian Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and his wife, to the 17th SAARC Summit to be held in Addu City this November. The letter of invitation was presented to Dr. Manmohan Singh by the Special Envoy of the President, Mr. Ibrahim Hussain Zaki.<sup>33</sup>

In other developments, President Mohamed Nasheed sent a message of sympathy to President Pratibha Patil following the bomb blasts in Mumbai.<sup>34</sup>

(July 18-24, 2011)

● **MoU signed between the Maldives Police Service and the Australian Federal Police; China to provide renewable energy for 25 years in the Male area; Honorary Consul of the Maldives in Lebanon meets the Vice President of the Maldives**

The State Electric Company (STELCO) signed an agreement with XMEC New Energy of China to provide renewable energy for 25 years in the Male area which constitutes Male, Hulhumale, Villimale and industrial Thilafushi. Under the agreement the company will generate 50 megawatts of wind energy for the Male area and a Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) plant is to be built to provide 30 megawatts of energy on windless days to prevent service disruption. According to STELCO the project was awarded to the Chinese company as part of Maldives' ambition to become the world's first carbon neutral country by 2020.<sup>35</sup>

Meanwhile, the Maldives Police Service signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Australian Federal Police to combat transnational crime and develop cooperation between the countries.<sup>36</sup>

In other developments, Honorary Consul of the Maldives in Lebanon Mohamed Fakih has paid a courtesy call on Vice President Dr. Mohamed Waheed on July 24.<sup>37</sup>

<sup>32</sup> "President Meets with Special Rapporteur on Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons", *The President's Office, Republic of Maldives*, July 17, 2011 at <http://www.presidencymaldives.gov.mv/Index.aspx?lid=11&dcid=5641>

<sup>33</sup> "The President Invites Indian Prime Minister and His Wife to the 17th SAARC Summit to be Held in Addu City", *The President's Office, Republic of Maldives*, July 12, 2011 at <http://www.presidencymaldives.gov.mv/Index.aspx?lid=11&dcid=5614>.

<sup>34</sup> "President Sends Sympathy to Indian President", *The President's Office, Republic of Maldives*, July 14, 2011 at <http://www.presidencymaldives.gov.mv/Index.aspx?lid=11&dcid=5626>.

<sup>35</sup> "Maldives signs renewable energy deal with Chinese company", *Haveeru*, July 24, 2011 at [www.haveeru.com.mv/english/details/37411](http://www.haveeru.com.mv/english/details/37411).

<sup>36</sup> "Police sign cooperation agreement with Australian Federal Police", *Minivan News*, July 23, 2011 at <http://minivannews.com/category/news-in-brief>.

<sup>37</sup> "Honorary Consul of Maldives in Lebanon Pays a Courtesy Call on the Vice President", *The President's Office, Republic of Maldives*, July 24, 2011 at <http://www.presidencymaldives.gov.mv/Index.aspx?lid=11&dcid=5675>.

## B. East Asia

### China

- **China and ASEAN can solve disputes by themselves; Wen extends condolences over Norway attacks; CPC Central Committee to hold 6th plenum; Xi urges Tibetans to build better future; State Council approves \$21b investment in Tibet; Iraqi PM concludes official visit to China; China eyes further cooperation with Italy**

On the regional front, China and the ASEAN have agreed to settle the South China Sea disputes by themselves. Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi told United States Secretary of State Hillary Clinton that China and the ASEAN states have the wisdom and the ability to do so.<sup>38</sup>

On the other hand Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao extended his condolences to the Norwegian Prime Minister after the deadly attacks which killed approximately 91 people.<sup>39</sup>

On the domestic front, the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee decided that the Sixth Plenary Session of the 17<sup>th</sup> CPC Central Committee will convene in Beijing in October 2011.<sup>40</sup> In other developments Vice-President Xi Jinping urged Tibetans to unswervingly follow the Communist Party of China (CPC) to build a brighter future. Xi made the remarks as he visited the village of Bagyi in Nyingchi prefecture of Tibet autonomous region, one leg of his tour in the plateau region for celebrations marking the 60th anniversary of its peaceful liberation.<sup>41</sup> Meanwhile the Chinese central government declared plans to invest 138.4 billion yuan (\$21.38 billion) in Tibet over the next five years.<sup>42</sup>

On the bilateral front the Prime Minister of Iraq Nouri Al-Maliki concluded his first official visit to China on July 21.<sup>43</sup> In addition the Vice Premier Li Keqiang said that China is ready for further enhancement of relations with Italy and other European countries. He said this during a meeting with the Italian Foreign Affairs Minister Franco Frattini.<sup>44</sup>

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<sup>38</sup> "China and ASEAN can solve disputes" *China Daily*, July 23, 2011 at [http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2011-07/23/content\\_12968965.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2011-07/23/content_12968965.htm)

<sup>39</sup> "Wen extends condolences over Norway attacks" *China Daily*, July 23, 2011 at [http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2011-07/23/content\\_12968903.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2011-07/23/content_12968903.htm)

<sup>40</sup> "CPC Central Committee to hold 6th plenum" *China Daily*, July 22, 2011 at [http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2011-07/22/content\\_12966103.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2011-07/22/content_12966103.htm)

<sup>41</sup> "Xi urges Tibetans to build better future" *China Daily*, July 22, 2011 at [http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/tibet2011/2011-07/22/content\\_12958018.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/tibet2011/2011-07/22/content_12958018.htm)

<sup>42</sup> "State Council approves \$21b investment in Tibet" *China Daily*, July 20, 2011 at [http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2011-07/20/content\\_12947142.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2011-07/20/content_12947142.htm)

<sup>43</sup> "Iraqi PM concludes official visit to China" *China Daily*, July 21, 2011 at [http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2011-07/21/content\\_12952589.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2011-07/21/content_12952589.htm)

<sup>44</sup> "China eyes further cooperation with Italy" *China Daily*, July 19, 2011 at [http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2011-07/19/content\\_12938296.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2011-07/19/content_12938296.htm)

## Japan

(July 11-17, 2011)

- **Japanese Prime Minister insists on lowering the country's dependency on nuclear energy**

Japanese Prime Minister Naoto Kan recently reiterated his administration's plan to introduce a new energy plan to lower dependency on nuclear energy and increase the generation of energy from alternative sources. Kan also insisted that the current energy plan which talks about increasing Japan's dependency on nuclear power to 53% by 2030 needed to be scrapped. However, considering that nuclear power accounts for 30% of Japan's energy supply while alternative sources of energy supply only 1.1% of it, Kan himself admitted that Japan's new goal on energy could not possibly be achieved immediately.<sup>45</sup>

(July 18-24, 2011)

- **Inter-Korea dialogue held in Indonesia on the sidelines of the ASEAN security forum; The United States shows interest in remaining engaged with South Korean military even after 2015**

A high-level talk between North and South Korea was held recently on the sidelines of the ASEAN security forum held in Indonesia. It was the first such interaction between the two neighbouring states after the collapse of the last round of the six party talks that took place in 2008. During the interaction, both the states promised to resume the stalled six-party talks for the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.<sup>46</sup>

Meanwhile, officials of the United States and South Korea at present are reportedly discussing the possibility of ways to allow the US to continue commanding forces in case of a fight in the Korean Peninsula beyond the end of 2015. Earlier it was agreed by both the states that the US would transfer wartime operational control from US military to the South Korean military by 2015. The US has reportedly expressed its desire to remain engaged in the region as it fears that if the North attacks the South after the former's withdrawal, the South Korean military might become excessively defensive.<sup>47</sup>

## South Korea

(July 11-17, 2011)

- **Seoul plans to boost the defense of Dokdo islands to deal with Japan's territorial claims**

According to reports, With a view to boosting the defence of the disputed Dokdo islands (also

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<sup>45</sup> "Kan plan set to end nuke goals", *The Japan Times*, July 13, 2011, at <http://search.japantimes.co.jp/cgi-bin/nn20110713a4.html>

<sup>46</sup> "North, South Korea hold "constructive" talks", *Asahi Shimbun*, July 23, 2011, at <http://www.asahi.com/english/TKY201107230306.html>

<sup>47</sup> "US seeks to keep military influence in South Korea", *Asahi Shimbun*, July 23, 2011, at <http://www.asahi.com/english/TKY201107220315.html>

claimed by Japan as part of its Shimane Prefecture), South Korea Navy is expanding its naval airbase on the island of Ulleung. The Navy has signed a contract in June to expand the airbase on Ulleung from 1,860 to 5,040 square meters. In the meantime, military experts have suggested that to deal with the territorial claim by Japan, the South should turn Ulleung base into an operations base.<sup>48</sup>

(July 18-24, 2011)

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## North Korea

(July 11-17, 2011)

● **Chinese Vice Premier visits North Korea; France to open its permanent office in Pyongyang**

Reports noted that a Chinese delegation led by Chinese Vice Premier Zhang Dejiang recently visited North Korea on the occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of a bilateral friendship and a mutual aid treaty. North Korean leader Kim Jong Il, along with his son and heir apparent- Jong Un- were present at the meeting held with the Chinese delegation. During the meeting, both the parties reportedly discussed various issues including reaffirmation of economic cooperation, the resumption of the stalled Six Party talks, etc. The Chinese Vice Premier Zhang reportedly reiterated China's continued support towards the development of friendly and cooperative relations between the two states.<sup>51</sup>

<sup>48</sup> "South Korea upgrading base near isles disputed with Japan", *Mainichi Shimun*, July 13, 2011, at <http://mdn.mainichi.jp/mdnnews/national/news/20110713p2g00m0dm029000c.html>

<sup>49</sup> "North, South Korea hold "constructive" talks", *Asahi Shimbun*, July 23, 2011, at <http://www.asahi.com/english/TKY201107230306.html>

<sup>50</sup> "US seeks to keep military influence in South Korea", *Asahi Shimbun*, July 23, 2011, at <http://www.asahi.com/english/TKY201107220315.html>

<sup>51</sup> "North Korean leader Kim Meets with Chinese delegation", *Mainichi Shimbun*, July 13, 2011, at <http://mdn.mainichi.jp/mdnnews/international/news/20110713p2g00m0in058000c.html>

In an interesting development, France has recently announced its plan to open its office for cultural exchange in Pyongyang in September. Currently France is the only major European country without diplomatic ties with North Korea. Although back in December 2009 itself, both France and North Korea agreed to open the office, factors like the Cheonan incident delayed it.<sup>52</sup>

## C. Central Asia & Russia

### Central Asia

- **Earth quake measuring 6.1 on Richter hits Ferghana Valley of Uzbekistan; Tajikistan to build first petroleum refinery; Tajik legislators amend the criminal code; ADB approves \$125 million to fund Turkmenistan on North-South railway; U.S. Secretary of State promotes TAPI over IPI; Kazakhstan provides subsidies to jump-start the private sector; Kazakh presidential aide hints Timur Kulibayev as successor to Nazarbayev; Tajikistan's security forces accomplish their mission at Rasht**

According to reports, a powerful earthquake measuring 6.1 on the Richter scale struck a densely populated Ferghana Valley of Uzbekistan on July 19 killing at least 13 people and injuring dozens more. In July 2008, an earthquake measuring 6.6 on the Richter scale flattened a village in the Ferghana Valley and killed 74 people.<sup>53</sup>

In another development, Tajik President Emomali Rahmon attended a groundbreaking ceremony for a privately-owned oil refinery, in Shahrinav district 20 miles west of the capital city of Dushanbe, where the country will have its first-ever petroleum refinery to process fuel in the country. The country depends on Russia for fuel supply. The refinery will produce 100,000 tons of oil products annually in the first stage of its operation beginning in the autumn of 2012 and eventually increase to full capacity of 200,000 tons.<sup>54</sup>

In the meanwhile Tajik legislators in the capital Dushanbe amended the Criminal Code to increase punishment for participants in unapproved meetings and rallies to up to two years. The previous maximum punishment was 15 days behind bars. Protesters who use violence or cause property damage may be imprisoned for two to five years in jail. Those found guilty under this count are also barred from seeking political office for an additional five years.<sup>55</sup> Other amendments to the

<sup>52</sup> "France confirms opening permanent office in Pyongyang", *Mainichi Shimbun*, July 13, 2011, at <http://mdn.mainichi.jp/mdnnews/international/news/20110713p2g00m0in020000c.html>

<sup>53</sup> 'Earthquake hits Uzbekistan, kills 13', *The Telegraph*, July 20, 2011 at <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/asia/uzbekistan/8650232/Earthquake-hits-Uzbekistan-kills-13.html>

<sup>54</sup> 'Private investor to build Tajikistan's first petroleum refinery', *Central Asia Newswire*, July 25, 2011 at <http://centralasianewswire.com/Business/Private-investor-to-build-Tajikistanrsquo-s-first-petroleum-refinery/viewstory.aspx?id=4504>

<sup>55</sup> 'Tajikistan increases penalties for unsanctioned protests', *Central Asia Newswire*, July 21, 2011 at <http://centralasianewswire.com/Tajikistan/Tajikistan-increases-penalties-for-unsanctioned-protests/viewstory.aspx?id=4489>

Criminal Code include the prohibition of opening illegal religious schools with punishments ranging from five to 12 years in jail, media publications may also be subject to criminal prosecution if they violate the constitution etc.<sup>56</sup> In related news, Tajikistan's upper house of parliament unanimously voted for the controversial "parental responsibility" bill, which bans children under 18 from attending mosque services.<sup>57</sup>

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved \$125 million in financing to help Turkmenistan fund its section of Central Asia's proposed North-South railway link to the Persian Gulf. This will be utilized to fund the purchase and installation of power equipment as well as signaling and telecommunication systems for a 193-mile stretch of the 435 miles of railway track that crosses Turkmen territory.<sup>58</sup>

In a significant development, at a spin-off meeting during Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's strategic dialogue with External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna on 19<sup>th</sup> July in New Delhi, the United States lauded and backed the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) pipeline but made no mention of the Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) 'peace' pipeline. At a meeting of the Energy Dialogue Steering Committee, one of the several Indo-U.S. panels handling specialized subjects, both sides reiterated the need for continued diplomatic efforts at laying the TAPI pipeline, "both for improved energy security in the subcontinent and the relatively clean energy natural gas that it would provide."<sup>59</sup> Clinton also encouraged Asian countries to work together on creating a new Silk Road of transnational networks of transit and economic connections to boost development in the volatile region.<sup>60</sup>

As part of the sweeping national program to jump-start the private sector in Kazakhstan, more than 600 Kazakh small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) will receive \$128.8 million for three years of subsidies. The other measures to improve the business sector are the tax deductions for the next three years to the tune of over \$274 million. The funding is part of the country's Business Road Map 2020 policy, which aims to develop private sector enterprises which are unrelated to natural resource extraction. Oil-, gas- and mineral- related enterprises account for 73 percent of exports and 39 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP), according to 2010 World Bank statistics.<sup>61</sup> Since the news of Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbayev's ill health, Yermukhamet Yertysbayev – an aide has said that Timur Kulibayev, Mr Nazarbayev's

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<sup>56</sup> -ibid-

<sup>57</sup> ibid-

<sup>58</sup> 'ADB provides \$125M for Turkmen stretch of North-South railway', *Central Asia Newswire*, July 21, 2011 at <http://centralasianewswire.com/Business/ADB-provides-125M-for-Turkmen-stretch-of-North-South-railway/viewstory.aspx?id=4485>

<sup>59</sup> 'U.S. backs TAPI but avoids mention of IPI', *The Hindu*, July 21, 2011 at <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/article2277586.ece>

<sup>60</sup> 'Clinton praises TAPI, ignores Iran's 'peace pipeline'', *Central Asia Newswire*, July 21, 2011 at <http://centralasianewswire.com/Business/Clinton-praises-TAPI-ignores-Iranrsquo-slsquopeace-pipelinerquo/viewstory.aspx?id=4484>

<sup>61</sup> "Kazakh private sector plan to give SMEs \$128M", *Central Asia Newswire*, July 25, 2011 at <http://centralasianewswire.com/Business/Kazakh-private-sector-plan-to-give-SMEs-128M/viewstory.aspx?id=4508>

powerful son-in-law, could take over control of the country. Kulibayev was appointed this year as chairman of Samruk-Kazyna, the mineral-rich country's burgeoning sovereign wealth fund.<sup>62</sup> President Nazarbayev has been president of Kazakhstan since independence from the Soviet Union in 1991.

In other developments in the region, reports noted that Tajikistan's security forces have calmed the restive eastern region of Rasht following a 10-month military campaign against Islamist rebels, Tajik Interior Minister Abdurakhim Kakhkharov said. Fighting broke out in Rasht in September 19, 2010. Government troops have so far killed 55 suspected "terrorists" in the campaign, and detained 18 members of the separatist group Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU) and 14 members of the extremist Islamist group Hizb-ut-Tahir (HT).<sup>63</sup>

## Russia

- **Russia's Presidential elections to be held on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2012; Gorbachev opposes Putin for President of Russia; Prime Minister Putin believes high oil prices will continue to prevail throughout the year and Russia will have a balanced budget; Iran welcomes Russia's proposal concerning its nuclear programme; Russia-Britain plan to improve military ties; Russia reduces offshore shelf extraction tax; Russian foreign minister to attend ASEAN meeting in Indonesia; Climate issues divide West and Russia; LU Koil wins fresh contracts in West Africa**

Reports noted that Russia's presidential election will be held on March 4, 2012, a Central Elections Commission official Yelena Dubrovina said on Thursday. Dubrovina stated, "The elections will be held on March 4,..." "We can't [hold elections] on the 11th, because it will be a working day." I would be worth noting that Russian legislation sets the first or second Sunday of March as possible dates for a presidential vote in 2012 but notes elections must be held on a non-working day.<sup>64</sup>

Meanwhile, Former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has said that Prime Minister Vladimir Putin should not seek a third term as president as the country struggles to develop democratic institutions. Members of Putin's inner circle, many from his hometown of St. Petersburg, have sought to centralize power to protect their own interests, Gorbachev said this week in an interview. Gorbachev stated, "If you try to do everything in the country without taking the people into account, while imitating democracy, that will lead to a situation like in Africa where leaders sit and rule for 20 or 30 years,".<sup>65</sup>

<sup>62</sup> "Kazakh presidential aide hints at successor", *The Telegraph*, July 25, 2011 at <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/asia/kazakhstan/8660073/Kazakh-presidential-aide-hints-at-successor.html>

<sup>63</sup> "Tajikistan declares victory over Rasht militants", *Central Asia Newswire*, July 20, 2011 at <http://centralasianewswire.com/Tajikistan/Tajikistan-declares-victory-over-Rasht-militants/viewstory.aspx?id=4478>

<sup>64</sup> "Kremlin vote on March 4", *The Moscow Times*, July 22, 2011, at <http://www.themoscowtimes.com/news/article/kremlin-vote-on-march-4/440942.html>

<sup>65</sup> "Gorbachev opposes Putin bid", *The Moscow Times*, July 22, 2011, at <http://www.themoscowtimes.com/business/article/gorbachev-opposes-putin-bid/440906.html>

However, PM Putin believes that Russia may be able to balance its budget this year due to higher oil prices and a growing economy. The government expects deficits in 2012-14 and will need “strenuous work” to rein in costs. The federal budget surplus surged to 640.2 billion rubles (\$23 billion) through June, equivalent to 2.7 percent of gross domestic product. The surplus in June widened to 5.9 percent of GDP from 5.3 percent a month earlier. Russia needs crude to average \$115 a barrel this year to balance the budget.<sup>66</sup>

In another development, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has cautiously welcomed a Russian proposal for bringing Iran back to talks over its nuclear program. The proposal calls for the international community to make limited concessions to Iran for each step it takes in meeting demands to clarify the nature of its nuclear program.<sup>67</sup>

Reports noted that Russia and Britain are planning to expand significantly their bilateral military cooperation after a long period of strained relations between the two militaries. Chief of the Russian General Staff Gen. Nikolai Makarov met with his British counterpart Gen. David Richards, who was on a four-day visit to Russia. The British general said that Russia’s support of the anti-Taliban international operation in the war-torn Central Asian country of Afghanistan was invaluable because the Russian military knew the region better than anyone else. Russia’s main contribution to the NATO war effort in Afghanistan has been so far the provision of improved transit and supply routes for coalition forces and the deliveries of small arms and ammunition to the Afghan police. Other contributions include the supply of Mi-17 helicopters and crews to train Afghan pilots, Russian assistance in training Afghan national security forces, and increased cooperation on counter-narcotics and border security.<sup>68</sup>

According to reports, Russian President Dmitry Medvedev has signed a decree reducing to zero the mineral resource extraction tax for shelf deposits on the Black and Okhotsk seas and northern Yamalo-Nenets. Under the new legislation, a zero oil duty will apply to deposit shelves on the Black and Okhotsk Seas and the Yamalo-Nenets region starting from an accumulated oil production volume of 20, 30 and 25 million tons, respectively.<sup>69</sup>

A Russian delegation led by Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov has taken part in a series of ASEAN meetings on the Indonesian island of Bali on July 22-23 to boost Russia’s role in Southeast Asia. Lavrov attended a Russia-ASEAN ministerial meeting, the 18th session of the ASEAN Regional Forum for security dialogue and a ministerial meeting within the framework of the mechanism of East Asian summits. This year’s meeting marks the 15th anniversary of the establishment of

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<sup>66</sup> “Putin sees high oil prices, balanced budget this year”, *The Moscow Times*, July 22, 2011, at <http://www.themoscowtimes.com/business/article/putin-sees-high-oil-prices-balanced-budget-this-year/440909.html>

<sup>67</sup> “Iran greets Russian Plan”, *The Moscow Times*, July 22, 2011, at <http://www.themoscowtimes.com/news/article/iran-greets-russian-plan/440945.html>

<sup>68</sup> “Russia, Britain plan to improve military ties”, *RIA Novosti*, July 19, 2011, at [http://en.rian.ru/military\\_news/20110719/165282948.html](http://en.rian.ru/military_news/20110719/165282948.html)

<sup>69</sup> “Russia cuts offshore shelf extraction tax”, *RIA Novosti*, July 21, 2011, at <http://en.rian.ru/business/20110721/165316387.html>

Russia-ASEAN dialogue and partnership. Russia has taken part in the East Asian summits for the first time as a full member.<sup>70</sup>

Reports noted that western nations have clashed with Russia and developing countries over whether climate change was a security matter meriting the attention of the UN Security Council. Diplomats said Russia initially blocked the adoption of a statement on the issue by the 15-nation council, but later agreed to a revised, weakly worded text that spoke of the “possible security implications” of climate change. The Council was formally debating the environment for the first time in four years following dire warnings by a senior UN official that global warming was speeding up, with unpredictable consequences.<sup>71</sup>

In other developments, LUKoil has said that has it bought a 49 percent stake in an offshore block in Sierra Leone, as the company moves to build its portfolio of African oil assets. LUKoil, which replaced only 84 percent of its 2010 production with new reserves, is pinning its hopes on overseas ventures, including offshore exploration and production in another West African country, Ghana, and a major oil project in Iraq.<sup>72</sup>

## D. West Asia

### Iran

- **Iran launches largest solar power plant in Mashhad; India’s Petroleum Minister: India has a back-up plan to cope with a halt to crude supplies from Iran**

According to reports, Iran has started its biggest solar power plant in the northeastern city of Mashhad. The solar power plant - built by native experts - would generate enough electricity for Razavi Khorasan province near the Afghanistan border, where Mashhad is situated. The plant aims to make optimum use of energy from natural resources, to develop clean energy that help reduce pollution, and to stabilise electricity supply in the region.<sup>73</sup>

In a significant development, India’s Petroleum Minister, S. Jaipal Reddy has said that India has a back-up plan to cope with a halt to crude supplies from Iran. Reports noted that the Islamic republic upped the ante in an oil payments row and Indian refiners rushed to secure alternative supplies, including from Saudi Arabia. Since December 2010, India and Iran have struggled to find ways for New Delhi to pay for imports of 400,000 barrels per day or 12 per cent of its oil

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<sup>70</sup> “Russian foreign minister to attend ASEAN meetings in Indonesia”, *RIA Novosti*, July 22, 2011, at <http://en.rian.ru/russia/20110722/165321929.html>

<sup>71</sup> “Climate divides West, Russia”, *The Moscow Times*, July 22, 2011, at <http://www.themoscowtimes.com/news/article/climate-divides-west-russia/440943.html>

<sup>72</sup> “LUKOil expands further in West Africa”, *The Moscow Times*, July 22, 2011, at <http://www.themoscowtimes.com/business/article/lukoil-expands-further-in-west-africa/440900.html>

<sup>73</sup> “Iran inaugurates biggest solar power plant,” *Khaleej Times*, July 22, 2011, at [http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle08.asp?xfile=data/middleeast/2011/July/middleeast\\_July476.xml&section=middleeast](http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle08.asp?xfile=data/middleeast/2011/July/middleeast_July476.xml&section=middleeast)

demand after the Reserve Bank of India halted a clearing mechanism under US pressure. That move won praise from Washington, which is using sanctions in a bid to get Teheran to halt its nuclear programme. However, Indian Oil Minister S. Jaipal Reddy said no oil shortages would result from Iran's halting supplies in August. Iran has told BPCL, HPCL and Essar that they will receive no supply in August, said a source at Saudi Aramco, which has been approached by these companies for extra volumes. IOC and MRPL have so far not asked for additional Saudi oil. MRPL is still hopeful it will get a late allocation from Iran, a company source said. Iran is India's second-biggest supplier. Refiners had already turned to top world exporter Saudi Arabia and other Middle East producers the UAE, Kuwait and Iraq for extra barrels to replace those at stake. Saudi Arabia said it would boost supply unilaterally to meet rising global demand after an OPEC meeting in June failed to agree to raise output, with opposition led by Iran.<sup>74</sup>

## IRAQ

- **Iranian Ambassador praises Iraqi action against the terrorist group PJAK (the Party for a Free Life in Kurdistan)**

According to reports, the Iranian ambassador to Baghdad, Hassan Danaiifar has said that the Iraqi officials are serious in dealing with the terrorist group PJAK (the Party for a Free Life in Kurdistan), emphasizing they regard Iran's action against terrorists as justified. Asked about Mojahedin Khalq Organization (MKO), he said that the Iraqi government is determined to expel the members of the terrorist group from the country by the end of this year. He also added that most of the members of this group that have escaped from Camp Ashraf are trying to return to Iran. "After escape, they usually seek refuge in Iraq, and most of them demand to be granted permission to enter Iran as they have requested in their interviews with the International Committee of the Red Cross," he said referring to those members of the group that have not been involved in any criminal action. He went on to say that a remarkable number of the group members have been returned to Iran, and a special committee has been set up for this purpose in Iran's consulate in Iraq.<sup>75</sup>

## Syria

- **Syria and Iran discuss enhancing scientific cooperation; Russia against replicating Libyan scenario in Syria**

Syrian Minister of Higher Education Abdul-Razzaq Sheikh Issa and Head of the Iranian Technical Cooperation Center Hamid Reza Amiri Nia have discussed the prospects of scientific cooperation in transferring Iranian expertise and bio- & nanotechnology applications to the research centers in Syria, particularly in liver and bone marrow transplant in children. Specifically, Syrian Minister of Higher Education indicated the importance of benefiting from the Iranian expertise in light

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<sup>74</sup> "Iran halts oil supply, but India sees no shortages," *Khaleej Times*, July 22, 2011, at [http://www.khaleejtimes.com/biz/inside.asp?xfile=/data/business/2011/July/business\\_July391.xml&section=business](http://www.khaleejtimes.com/biz/inside.asp?xfile=/data/business/2011/July/business_July391.xml&section=business)

<sup>75</sup> "Iraq regards Iran's action against PJAK as justified," *Tehran Times*, July 24, 2011, at [http://www.tehrantimes.com/Index\\_view.asp?code=244662](http://www.tehrantimes.com/Index_view.asp?code=244662)

of the scientific progress achieved in Iran that can serve the interest of the people in both Syria and Iran.<sup>76</sup>

In another development, in a joint press conference with German Chancellor Angela Merkel, the Russian President Dmitry Medvedev said that his country stands against all steps of the international community that could result in pushing the events in Syria in the manner of the Libyan scenario. "For this particular reason, Russia has adopted a very reserved stance at the Security Council with regard to Syria" Medvedev added. Further, the Russian President stressed that he does not want to see an international resolution that might be later manipulated and used to control the skies over Syria.<sup>77</sup>

## Libya

- **Russia and Libya discuss Gaddafi's exit; Libya ready to hold more talks; South Africa and China agree on African Union's plan for Libya**

According to Russian foreign ministry sources, Libyan Foreign Minister Abdelati Al-Obeidi held one hour of talks with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov in Moscow and discussed the exit of Muammar Gaddafi. The meeting came days after US envoys held a meeting with representatives of Gaddafi's regime, urging the Libyan leader to cede power.<sup>78</sup>

Meanwhile, Government spokesman Moussa Ibrahim announced that Libya is ready to hold more talks with the United States and the rebels trying to overthrow Muammar Gaddafi. However, he cautioned that the Libyan leader would not bow to demands of relinquishing power and also would not leave Libya. Hours later, NATO planes bombed targets in the capital, causing damage and casualties.<sup>79</sup>

In another development, according to President's spokesperson, Mac Maharaj, South African President Jacob Zuma and his Chinese counterpart Hu Jintao discussed the African Union's proposals for ending the conflict in Libya. Earlier, Zuma said that a decision on Gaddafi's future should be part of negotiations among the warring parties.<sup>80</sup>

## Egypt

- **New Ministers swears in Egypt Cabinet; Final amendments to new Parliament Law**

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<sup>76</sup> "Syria, Iran Discuss Enhancing Scientific Cooperation", *Syrian Arab News Agency*, July 21, 2011, at <http://www.sana.sy/eng/21/2011/07/21/359694.htm>

<sup>77</sup> "Medvedev: Russia against Pushing Libyan Scenario in Syria", *Syrian Arab News Agency*, July 20, 2011, at <http://www.sana.sy/eng/22/2011/07/20/359332.htm>

<sup>78</sup> "Russia, Libya discussed Gaddafi's exit", *iol News*, July 22, 2011, at <http://www.iol.co.za/news/africa/russia-libya-discussed-gaddafi-s-exit-1.1104219>

<sup>79</sup> "Libya wants more talks as NATO strikes hit capital", *The Jordan Times*, July 24, 2011, at <http://jordantimes.com/?news=39742>

<sup>80</sup> "South Africa, China Agree on AU Plan for Libya", *The Tripoli Post*, July 23, 2011, at <http://tripolipost.com/articledetail.asp?c=1&i=6466>

## **announced; Egypt's military seeks future political role; Pitched street battles resulted in 55 injured**

In a major reshuffle of Egypt's Cabinet, new ministers in the government of Prime Minister Essam Sharaf were sworn in the presence of the commander of the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces, Field Marshal Hussein Tantawi. Nearly half of the ministers in the reshuffled Cabinet are new. Reportedly, these ministers were inducted as the prime minister sought to appease protesters over the pace of reform.<sup>81</sup>

Separately, announcing final amendments to the Peoples' Assembly and Shoura Council law and the political rights law, Army council General Mamdouh Shahin said that international monitoring of the forthcoming legislative elections will not be allowed because Egypt "doesn't accept guardianship from any country", adding that this was an issue of national sovereignty. In return, Shahin said, local civil society organisations would be allowed to submit applications to the Supreme Electoral Commission to monitor the elections.<sup>82</sup>

In another development, Egypt's ruling generals are seeking to assure a future role for themselves with considerable independence from civilian leaders and preferably an authority to intervene in politics. Their demand appears to be driven by the military's fear of losing the near-autonomous power it has enjoyed for nearly 60 years. However, democratic activists worry that it would open the door for the army to dictate politics in a democratic Egypt.<sup>83</sup>

In other developments, armed men attacked a demonstration heading from Tahrir Square to the Ministry of Defense in Egypt, injuring nearly 55 people in the clashes. A crowd, estimated at around 10,000 people, set out from Cairo's Tahrir Square but was stopped from reaching the military headquarters in the eastern Abbasiya neighborhood by a line of army barricades. Along the way, they chanted slogans against the military council's delay in implementing their demands. Later, bands of men, armed with knives and sticks, joined them from side roads, and set off pitched street battles in which both sides threw punches and hurled rocks resulting in injuries.<sup>84</sup>

## **Israel**

### **● Israel plans new West Bank settlement units**

Spokesperson for the Israeli ministry of construction and housing, Ariel Rosenberg, told that Israel is planning to issue tenders for 336 new housing units in two West Bank settlements. In

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<sup>81</sup> "Egypt swears in new Cabinet in sop to protesters", *The Jordan Times*, July 22, 2011, at <http://jordantimes.com/index.php?news=39712>

<sup>82</sup> "International election monitors not welcome, according to new parliament law", *The Daily News Egypt*, July 20, 2011, at <http://www.thedailynewsegypt.com/egypt/international-election-monitors-not-welcome-according-to-new-parliament-law.html>

<sup>83</sup> "Egypt's military seeks future political role", *The Daily News Egypt*, July 20, 2011, at <http://www.thedailynewsegypt.com/egypt/egypts-military-seeks-future-political-role.html>

<sup>84</sup> "Armed men attack thousands marching to ministry of defense; 55 injured", *The Daily News Egypt*, July 23, 2011, at [tp://www.thedailynewsegypt.com/egypt/armed-men-attack-thousands-marching-to-ministry-of-defense-55-injured-dp1.html](http://www.thedailynewsegypt.com/egypt/armed-men-attack-thousands-marching-to-ministry-of-defense-55-injured-dp1.html)

total, 294 homes were planned for Beitar Illit, and 42 others in Karnei Shomron. In response, Nabil Abu Rudeina, spokesperson for Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, condemned the decision as “unacceptable”.<sup>85</sup>

## Palestine

- **Mahmoud Abbas asserts UN bid is forced on Palestinians; B’Tselem Study findings: Israel violating rights of Palestinian minors**

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas accused that the Palestinians’ bid for UN membership was forced upon them by Israel’s refusal to halt settlement building and end its occupation. Abbas made these remarks at a speech in Istanbul, where a meeting of Palestinian diplomats from around the world is taking place in order to finalise Palestinian strategy ahead of the UN General Assembly in September 2011.<sup>86</sup>

In another development, in a report titled “No Minor Matter”, B’Tselem, an Israeli rights group, pointed that Israel is violating the rights of young Palestinians accused of stone-throwing, failing to protect them as minors and mistreating them during arrest. B’Tselem found that military law encouraged minors to plead guilty to avoid lengthy pre-trial detention, and that children were routinely sentenced to prison terms as a punishment rather than as a final resort. It said, of the 835 Palestinian minors, aged 17 and younger, arrested and prosecuted for stone-throwing between 2005 and 2010, just one was acquitted. However, the army rejected the report as “unbalanced” and described stone-throwing as “a serious criminal offence which can result in serious injury”.<sup>87</sup>

## E. Africa

### Somalia

- **Arab League promises funds for humanitarian aid in Somalia; United Nations declares famine in Somalia**

Following an appeal by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, the Arab League has promised funds for humanitarian aid to the famine-stricken regions of Somalia. The League announced that it would use its missions in Mogadishu and Nairobi to provide relief, food, water, and medicine to those in need. The League has also encouraged the Arab states and regional organisations to support Somalia. Earlier, the FAO called for an additional \$120 million in support of East Africa, with \$70 million going to Somalia and \$50 million going to the neighbouring countries of Ethiopia, Kenya, Djibouti, and Uganda.<sup>88</sup>

<sup>85</sup> “Israel to build 336 new West Bank settlement units”, *The Jordan Times*, July 19, 2011, at <http://jordantimes.com/index.php?news=39597>

<sup>86</sup> “UN bid forced on Palestinians – Abbas”, *The Jordan Times*, July 24, 2011, at <http://jordantimes.com/?news=39760>

<sup>87</sup> “Israel violates rights of Palestinian minors – study”, *The Jordan Times*, July 19, 2011, at <http://jordantimes.com/index.php?news=39598>

<sup>88</sup> Cabot, Charlie (2011), “Arab League promises funds for Somalia aid”, *The Daily News Egypt*, July 20, 2011, at <http://www.thedailynewsegypt.com/region/arab-league-promises-funds-for-somalia-aid.html>

In another development, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs for Somalia, the United Nations has officially declared that two parts of Somalia – southern Bakool and Lower Shabelle are in the grip of famine. The region is Somalia’s breadbasket and the UN said that an estimated 3.7 million people – nearly half of the country’s population – were facing a food crisis. Welcoming the announcement, the rebels said that they would now allow Western aid to be distributed in the region.<sup>89</sup>

## South Africa

### ● South Africa pledges aid for famine relief in Somalia

As the United Nations declared famine in two parts of southern Somalia, with up to 3,50,000 people affected in the worst food crisis in Africa for two decades, the South African deputy foreign minister Marius Fransman announced that South Africa has pledged one million rand for famine relief in Somalia. He has also urged citizens and charities to make donations to the victims of the drought which has brought “despair and suffering to East African countries”.<sup>90</sup>

## Sudan

### ● The Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) captures Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) military commander in South Kordofan; Sudan’s SPLM leaders meet in South Kordofan, call for third-party talks

The Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) announced that it captured the military commander of the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), Brigade-General Al-Toom Toto, during clashes in Al-Tais area in South Kordofan, thus refuting its own claim that the rebel group was not part of clashes in the area. Earlier, the SAF dismissed reports that JEM forces had participated in an attack mounted by forces of the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement (SPLM) in Al-Tais area.<sup>91</sup>

In another development, after having a two-day meeting in South Kordofan to assess the political, military and humanitarian situation in the state, the leadership of the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement (SPLM) in north Sudan expressed that any future talks on addressing the situation in the area must be held outside Sudan and through a third party. In a press statement, the SPLM leaders stressed that they would only negotiate with the ruling party through a third party and outside Sudan, citing the National Congress Party (NCP)’s rejection of a deal signed in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa on new security and political arrangements in South Kordofan as an evidence for the need of a third party.<sup>92</sup>

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<sup>89</sup> “Somalia: It’s famine, says UN”, *Mail and Guardian*, July 20, 2011, at <http://mg.co.za/article/2011-07-20-somalia-its-famine-says-un>

<sup>90</sup> “SA pledges aid for famine relief in Somali”, *Mail and Guardian*, July 22, 2011, at <http://mg.co.za/article/2011-07-22-sa-pledges-aid-for-famine-relief-in-somali>

<sup>91</sup> “Sudan army claims capturing JEM military commander in South Kordofan”, *Sudan Tribune*, July 21, 2011, at <http://www.sudantribune.com/Sudan-army-claims-capturing-JEM,39604>

<sup>92</sup> “Sudan’s SPLM leaders meet in South Kordofan, call for third-party talks”, *Sudan Tribune*, July 23, 2011, at <http://www.sudantribune.com/Sudan-s-SPLM-leaders-meet-in-South,39609>

## South Sudan

- **South Sudan rebel leader killed in mysterious circumstances**

Reports noted that a rebel leader in South Sudan's Unity state, Colonel Gatluak Gai, was shot dead along with some of his bodyguards, after a group of people opened fire on him at Pakur in Koch county. This incident has happened just three days after he signed a peace deal with the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).<sup>93</sup>

## Nigeria

- **President orders critical review of Nigerian foreign policy; Christian leaders threaten legal action against Islamic Banking**

In order to relook at the driving forces of Nigeria's Foreign Policy, Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan called for a critical and comprehensive review of foreign policy by top Nigerian diplomats and former Foreign Affairs Ministers. The review, under the Presidential Advisory Council on Foreign Affairs, headed by Emeka Anyaoku, would cover the whole gamut of Nigeria's foreign relations, including staffing, morale, standards and budget and also the management of the new investment diplomacy announced at the end of the Federal Executive Council (FEC) meeting.<sup>94</sup>

In another development, Christian leaders of the Nigerian House of Representatives have threatened to institute legal action against the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) Governor, Mallam Lamido Sanusi, over the establishment of Islamic banking in the country. The chairman of the group, Rt Rev Emmanuel Chukwuma, said that although they were not against non-interest banking, they suspect the religious connotation attached to the bank. They feel that the banking system is a hidden agenda to receive money from sponsors of terrorism to fund Boko Haram activities.

## II. DEFENCE REVIEW

### National

- **DRDO's Prahaar missile successfully test-fired; Navy chief returns from Russia after a successful trip**

Reports noted that "Prahaar," the new surface-to-surface missile with a range of 150 km, was

<sup>93</sup> "South Sudan rebel leader Gatluak Gai killed in mysterious circumstances", *Sudan Tribune*, July 23, 2011, at <http://www.sudantribune.com/South-Sudan-rebel-leader-Gatluak,39613>

<sup>94</sup> "Jonathan Orders Critical Review Of Foreign Policy", *Nigerian Guardian*, July 24, 2011, at [http://www.ngrguardiannews.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=55479;jonathan-orders-critical-review-of-foreign-policy-&catid=1:national&Itemid=559](http://www.ngrguardiannews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=55479;jonathan-orders-critical-review-of-foreign-policy-&catid=1:national&Itemid=559)

<sup>95</sup> "Islamic Banking: Christian Leaders Threaten Court Action", *Nigerian Guardian*, July 24, 2011, at [http://www.ngrguardiannews.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=55472:islamic-banking-christian-leaders-threaten-court-action&catid=1:national&Itemid=559](http://www.ngrguardiannews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=55472:islamic-banking-christian-leaders-threaten-court-action&catid=1:national&Itemid=559)

test-fired for the first time from the Integrated Test Range at Chandipur, Orissa on Thursday at 8.20 a.m. from a road mobile launcher. The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) developed Prahaar (meaning “to strike”) in two years. Prahaar carries a 200-kg conventional warhead. “Prahaar is a unique missile because it has high manoeuvrability, very high acceleration and excellent impact accuracy. It will bridge the gap between the multi-barrel rocket system, Pinaka and the Prithvi missiles. Basically, it will be a battlefield support system for the Army,” said Scientific Adviser to the Defence Minister V.K. Saraswat, who watched the launch operations from the Launch Control Centre at the ITR. It is an all-weather missile that can be launched from canisters. Since it can be fired from a road mobile launcher, it can be quickly transported to different places, adding to its value. Prahaar is a single stage missile, propelled by solid fuel. It is 7.3 metres tall, has a diameter of 42 cm and weighs 1.3 tonnes. The missile reaches a height of 35 km before reaching the targets 150 km away.<sup>96</sup>

Meanwhile, the Indian Navy Chief Admiral Nirmal Verma returned from Russia on July 18 after a six-day visit during which he took stock of all the major Indian navy projects undergoing there, particularly the progress of the Talwar Class follow-on warships, under construction at the Yantar shipyard in Russia. He was “reassured that the first ship ‘Teg’ would commence trials shortly and be delivered in six to eight months,” the Navy said in a release. The new frigates namely ‘Teg’, ‘Teer’ and ‘Trikanth’ are follow ons of the three Talwar Class warships built for India by Russia and inducted into service around the early part of the decade. In the new ships, the Russian-origin Klub missiles would be replaced by the indigenous BRAHMOS missiles. The Navy chief also visited the Sevmaash Shipyard where the Admiral Gorshkov aircraft carrier is being retrofitted and observed that “significant progress had been made on the Gorshkov project and the ship was shaping up well for the preliminary sea trials.” “Reviewing ongoing projects, the Admiral observed that they were progressing satisfactorily and had reached critical stages of maturity. He also expressed satisfaction with the quality of construction and repairs,” the navy release said. In his discussions with the Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Navy on operational exchanges between the two navies, the two sides agreed that the INDRA series of exercises form an important aspect of their bilateral relationship and would need to be continued and extended in scope and participation.<sup>97</sup>

## International

- **US army gets its first Lightweight Company Mortar Systems; United Kingdom gears up for extended campaign in Libya**

The US Army announced on 19 July that it had begun fielding its new 60 mm mortar systems, which weigh about 20 per cent less than legacy M224 systems. A Special Forces unit received the first M224A1 60 mm Lightweight Company Mortar Systems in June, according to the army’s Program Executive Office (PEO) for Ammunition, which oversees the programme. The office

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<sup>96</sup> “Prahaar missile successfully test-fired”, The Hindu, July 21, 2011, at <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/article2279166.ece>

<sup>97</sup> “Indian Navy’s new frigate to be fitted with BRAHMOS”, *Brahmand*, July 21, 2011, at <http://www.brahmand.com/news/Indian-Navys-new-frigate-to-be-fitted-with-BRAHMOS/7571/1/14.html>

noted that it plans to replace all legacy M224 systems with the new lightweight systems. The weight of the M224A1 was lowered by reducing the total number of components and using lighter materials.<sup>98</sup>

Meanwhile, reports noted that military planners in United Kingdom are busy preparing plans to deploy the Royal Navy's (RN's) remaining Invincible-class aircraft carrier, HMS *Illustrious*, to the Mediterranean Sea with a squadron of attack helicopters embarked to sustain extended strike operations against Libya into 2012. At least one of the new Royal Navy's Type 45 Daring-class destroyers is expected to be deployed on the type's first combat mission to accompany HMS *Illustrious* if the plans are approved by the UK National Security Council. UK Defence Secretary Dr Liam Fox hinted during a speech to the Royal United Services Institute in London on 13 July that preparations are under way to allow the country's armed forces to rotate the contingent supporting the NATO campaign in Libya, saying that the length of operations there could not be predicted and the campaign could last longer than anticipated.<sup>99</sup>

### III. INTERNAL SECURITY REVIEW

#### Jammu & Kashmir

- **Militants killed in Handwara; Geelani's rally raided by cops; Two civilians injured in two mine blasts along the Line of Control in Poonch district; Geelani's rally raided by cops in South Kashmir district**

Police claimed to have killed two Lashker-e-Toiba militants in north Kashmir's Handwara area in an encounter. The two militants were hiding in storage house belonging to a local resident. The gunfight lasted for four hours. Both the militants are foreigners. The police said they recovered two AK 47 Rifles, 7 AK magazines and some rounds from the encounter site.<sup>100</sup>

However, two civilians including a girl were today injured in two mine blasts along the Line of Control in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir. Zahida Parveen was cutting grass near the border at Jandrol of Mandi belt in Poonch district when she accidentally stepped on the mine resulting in an explosion. In a similar incident at Shahpur border belt in the district, another person-Muhammad Hussain was injured and hospitalised.<sup>101</sup>

In another development, several people were injured when police used force on the rally of

<sup>98</sup> "US Army fields lightweight mortar system", *Janes*, July 21, 2011, at [http://www4.janes.com/subscribe/jdw/doc\\_view.jsp?K2DocKey=/content1/janesdata/mags/jdw/history/jdw2011/jdw46640.htm@current&Prod\\_Name=JDW&QueryText=](http://www4.janes.com/subscribe/jdw/doc_view.jsp?K2DocKey=/content1/janesdata/mags/jdw/history/jdw2011/jdw46640.htm@current&Prod_Name=JDW&QueryText=)

<sup>99</sup> "UK looks to send 'Lusty' to Libya", *Janes*, July, 22, 2011, at <http://www.janes.com/products/janes/defence-security-report.aspx?ID=1065930096&channel=defence>

<sup>100</sup> "2 militants killed in Handwara", *Greater Kashmir*, July 23, 2011 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2011/Jul/24/2-militants-killed-in-handwara-70.asp>

<sup>101</sup> "2 injured in Poonch mine blasts", *Greater Kashmir*, July 23, 2011 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2011/Jul/23/2-injured-in-poonch-mine-blasts-87.asp>

veteran pro-freedom leader and Hurriyat (G) Chairman Syed Ali Shah Geelani in Verinag area of south Kashmir district. Several people sustained injuries in the police action. However Geelani was taken away by the people to safe destination. Later youth retaliated by pelting stones on the police who in turn fired more tear gas canisters.<sup>102</sup>

## North East India

- **Militants take abducted Tripura villagers to Bangladesh; Assam government sounded a maximum security alert ahead of Independence Day; Reports: Anti-talk ULFA faction using Manipur based ultras; Militants held in Manipur**

According to police sources, National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT) guerrillas have taken the eight tribal villagers kidnapped from north Tripura last week to Bangladesh. Eleven heavily armed NLFT guerrillas raided East Chawmanu village in north Tripura abducted 12 tribal villagers. Later, four captives managed to escape from the militants' clutches.<sup>103</sup>

The Assam government sounded a maximum security alert after reports that a faction of the outlawed United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) led by commander-in-chief Paresh Baruah was planning a massive strike in the state ahead of Independence Day on August 15. Intelligence officials said ULFA rebels were lying low at the moment, but have the potential to strike just a few days before Independence Day. The ULFA has for decades been striking hard on and around Aug 15 to make their presence felt.<sup>104</sup>

The anti-talk faction of the United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) has started using members of Manipur-based militant group PLA to indulge in acts of violence in Assam, particularly in the upper Assam districts and the district police forces have been alerted to keep a close watch on the situation as the group may plan to indulge in major acts of violence in the run up to the Independence Day celebration. Highly-placed security sources said that the ULFA anti-talk faction recently managed to send a group of around 17 members to India from the bases in Myanmar and according to reports available with the security agencies, eight members of the group are cadres of the PLA.<sup>105</sup>

In other developments, four militants of the banned Kangleipak Communist Party-Lalheiba group (KCP-L) were arrested during search operations in Imphal West district of Manipur according to official sources. Search operations were launched at some places including Uripok area of the district following report of movement of the ultras during which the four were nabbed.<sup>106</sup>

<sup>102</sup> "Cops raid Geelani's rally", *Greater Kashmir*, July 20, 2011 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2011/Jul/21/cops-raid-geelani-s-rally-60.asp>

<sup>103</sup> "Militants take abducted Tripura villagers to Bangladesh", *The Assam Tribune*, July 24, 2011 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=jul2411/at018>

<sup>104</sup> "Alert in Assam over ULFA strike threat", *The Assam Tribune*, July 23, 2011 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=jul2311/at042>

<sup>105</sup> "Anti-talk ULFA faction using Manipur based ultras", *The Assam Tribune*, July 19, 2011 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=jul2011/at08>

<sup>106</sup> "4 militants held in Manipur", *The Assam Tribune*, July 24, 2011 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=jul2511/oth06>

## IV. UNITED NATIONS (UN) REVIEW

(July 11-17, 2011)

- **UN Security Council condemns attacks against embassies in Damascus; South Sudan recommended for a seat in UN General Assembly; Security Council supports UN efforts in Central Asia; UNSC takes steps to curb attacks against children; India's communist leader Yechury: China will support India's claim for a permanent seat at the UNSC provided India part company with Japan; Poland backs India's bid to UNSC**

The Council and the Secretary General of the UN, Ban ki-Moon condemned the attacks against embassies in Damascus, Syria. The Council also called on the Syrian authorities to protect diplomatic property and personnel.<sup>107</sup>

Meanwhile, the Republic of South Sudan was recommended by the Security Council to the General Assembly for the membership of the UN. This brought the country one step closer to becoming the UN's 193<sup>rd</sup> member.<sup>108</sup>

In another development, the Security Council reaffirmed its support to the UN's efforts to facilitate dialogue between the countries of Central Asia on issues of common concern which includes water and energy management, counter-terrorism and sustainable development. The Council members also reaffirmed their support for the efforts of the UN Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA) to facilitate dialogue and respond to cross-border threats and challenges such as terrorism, drug trafficking and environmental degradation.<sup>109</sup>

Reports noted that taking a major step towards ending the culture of impunity and protecting children at their most vulnerable, the Security Council in a resolution called for all parties to conflict that attack facilities such as schools and hospitals to be held accountable and that they be added to the list published annually by the UN of those who commit grave violations against children.<sup>110</sup>

In other developments, according to reports, India's communist leader Sitaram Yechury, during his recent visit to China, was told by the Chinese leaders including State Councilor Dai Bingguo that in order to receive China's backing for India's claim for a permanent seat at the UNSC, India should part company with Japan. Yechury noted during an interaction with journalists that "Dai said China has no objection to backing India provided we come out of Japan's field."

<sup>107</sup> "Syria: Ban and Security Council condemn attacks on embassies", *UN News Center*, July 12, 2011 at <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=39015&Cr=syria&Cr1=>

<sup>108</sup> "Security Council recommends South Sudan for UN membership", *UN News Center*, July 13, 2011 at <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=39026&Cr=south+sudan&Cr1=>

<sup>109</sup> "Security Council voices its support for UN diplomatic efforts in Central Asia", *UN News Center*, July 15, 2011 at <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=39055&Cr=central+asia&Cr1=>

<sup>110</sup> "Security Council calls for parties that attack schools and hospitals to be held accountable", *UN News Centre*, July 12, 2011 at <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=39013&Cr=children&Cr1=armed+conflict>

Yechury pointed out that Chinese have a lot of historical baggage with Japan.<sup>111</sup> In the interim, Poland too expressed support for India's aspirations to a permanent seat the UN Security Council.<sup>112</sup> Earlier, other countries like UAE and the Netherlands too had extended their support.

(July 18-24, 2011)

● **UN Security Council reaches an impasse on Climate Change talks; Persistent attacks by Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) condemned by Council; UNSC denounced Norway terror attacks**

According to reports, the Security Council failed to reach an agreement on climate change being a threat to international peace and security even as India, Russia and China opposed the discussion within the Council. According to India, such an issue required a 'broader approach anchored in development, adaptive capacity, risk assessment and institution build-up'.<sup>113</sup> India was opposed to the discussions within the UNSC since the power equations would not necessarily favour the developing countries.<sup>114</sup>

Meanwhile, the Security Council condemned the persistent attacks by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) across Central Africa, and demanded that they end its atrocities against civilians and its members disarms and surrender. The Council also commended the military operations of the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan and Uganda against the LRA and stressed the importance of sustained coordinated action by these governments to end the problem.<sup>115</sup>

In other developments, the Council members strongly denounced the twin terror attacks in Norway which killed more than 90 people. The Council also expressed its sympathies for the victims and their families.<sup>116</sup>

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<sup>111</sup> "Part company with Japan for UNSC seat, China tells India", *The Times of India*, 16 July 2011 at [http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2011-07-16/china/29781227\\_1\\_chinese-workers-chinese-leaders-state-councilor-dai-bingguo](http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2011-07-16/china/29781227_1_chinese-workers-chinese-leaders-state-councilor-dai-bingguo)

<sup>112</sup> "Sikorski supports India's permanent UN Security Council membership", *The Warsaw Voice*, July 13, 2011 at <http://www.warsawvoice.pl/WVpage/pages/article.php/17313/news>

<sup>113</sup> "India objects at climate change debate at UNSC", *IBN Live*, July 21, 2011 at <http://ibnlive.in.com/generalnewsfeed/news/india-objects-at-climate-change-debate-at-uns/759436.html>

<sup>114</sup> "India prevents UNSC from hijacking climate talks", *The Times of India*, July 23, 2011 at [http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2011-07-23/developmental-issues/29807276\\_1\\_climate-change-g77and-china-climate-convention](http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2011-07-23/developmental-issues/29807276_1_climate-change-g77and-china-climate-convention)

<sup>115</sup> "Condemning Lord's Resistance Army atrocities, Security Council demands surrender", *UN News Centre*, July 21, 2011 at <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=39116&Cr=LRA&Cr1=>

<sup>116</sup> "Norway: Security Council deplors deadly terrorist attacks", *UN News Centre*, July 23, 2011 at <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=39133&Cr=Norway&Cr1=>