

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

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CONTENTS

In This Issue	Page
I. COUNTRY REVIEWS	
A. South Asia	2-6
B. East Asia	6-10
C. Central Asia & Russia	10-13
D. Africa	13-15
II. DEFENCE REVIEW	15-16
III. INTERNAL SECURITY REVIEW	16-21
IV. UNITED NATIONS (UN) REVIEW	21-22

I. COUNTRY REVIEWS

A. South Asia

Afghansitan

- **Outgoing US envoy to Afghanistan Crocker: American military will stay in Afghanistan for at least 10 years after the expected US withdrawal; Taliban attacks NATO tankers; Two NATO service men killed in attack in Southern Afghanistan**

According to reports, the outgoing Ambassador to Afghanistan Ryan Crocker has said that US troops will stay in Afghanistan till 2024 as the US will not allow the Taliban to take over the country. In two separate interviews to the US media this week, Crocker made it clear that the American military including some combat troops, will stay in Afghanistan for at least 10 years after the expected US withdrawal in 2014. The troops will include Special Forces soldiers and an effective air power to counter the rebels.¹

Meanwhile, reports noted that Taliban have claimed attacking NATO fuel supply tanker in Afghanistan. They have also attacked 22 supply trucks carrying food and essentials for coalition forces in Afghanistan. The tankers were transporting fuel south toward the Afghan capital, Kabul, from neighboring Uzbekistan to the north.²

In another incident, according to reports, two troops with international coalition forces were killed in an insurgent attack in Southern Afghanistan. The coalition has not disclosed any details on the deaths. It would be worth noting that so far this year, 237 international service members have been killed in Afghanistan, including at least 168 Americans.³

Pakistan

- **Pakistan-India Joint Working Group on Cross-LoC CBMs discusses modalities for strengthening and streamlining the existing trade and travel arrangements across the Line of Control; President Obama announces new US envoys to Afghanistan and Pakistan; Pakistan and Iran to form JWG on gas pipeline project; ISI Chief Lieutenant General Zaheer ul-Islam to visit the United States to resume talks on drone strikes**

According to reports, the meeting of Pakistan-India Joint Working Group on Cross-LoC CBMs (Confidence Building Measures) on July 19, 2012 discussed modalities for strengthening and

¹ "US troops to stay in Afghanistan till 2024: Envoy", *Dawn*, July 17, 2012 at <http://dawn.com/2012/07/17/us-troops-to-stay-in-afghanistan-till-2024-envoy/>

² "Taliban bombed NATO fuel tankers in Afghanistan", *Dawn*, July 18, 2012 at <http://dawn.com/2012/07/18/twenty-two-nato-supply-trucks-destroyed-in-afghanistan/>

³ "Two service members killed in Afghanistan: NATO", *Dawn*, July 16, 2012 at <http://dawn.com/2012/07/16/two-service-members-killed-in-afghanistan-nato/>

streamlining the existing trade and travel arrangements across the Line of Control. Pakistan delegation was headed by Zehra Akbari, Director General (South Asia) Ministry of Foreign Affairs, while the Indian side was led by Y.K. Sinha, Joint Secretary (PAI) Ministry of External Affairs, at the Foreign Office here. The meeting reviewed the progress of the last meeting of Joint Working Group on Cross-LoC CBMs. The meeting was held in a cordial and constructive atmosphere, a Foreign Office statement said. "They also discussed modalities for introducing additional Cross-LoC CBMs," it said.⁴

In another development, according to reports, President Barack Obama on July 17, 2012, named veteran diplomats to be the US ambassadors to Afghanistan and Pakistan, tasking them with shaping highly sensitive relationships after US troops pull out. Two month after the incumbents resigned, Obama named Richard Olson, a former ambassador to the United Arab Emirates, to serve in Pakistan and James Cunningham, the number two at the US embassy in Kabul, to be the ambassador.⁵

Reports noted that Pakistan and Iran on July 18, 2012, agreed to form a Joint Working Group (JWG) to expedite the Iran-Pakistan Gas Pipeline Project. A meeting of the Pakistan-Iran Joint Committee on oil, gas and energy was held on July 17-18, 2012 at Islamabad to discuss bilateral cooperation in said sectors. The Iranian team was headed by Dr Ahmad Khalidi, Deputy Minister for Internal Affairs to Minister for Petroleum and Pakistani team was headed by Abid Saeed, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Resources. The two sides discussed issues of mutual interest particularly the energy sector. The Iranian side expressed its intention to invest in the E & P sector including investment in the upstream and midstream. The Iranian side also invited Pakistani companies to invest in E & P sector in Iran.⁶

In other developments, Pakistan's head of intelligence will next week visit the United States to resume talks on drone strikes. It is the first time in a year the head of the ISI intelligence agency will travel to Washington, signaling a thaw in relations beset by crisis since US troops found and killed Osama bin Laden in Pakistan in May 2011. Lieutenant General Zaheer ul-Islam, who was appointed in March, will hold talks with CIA director David Petraeus on US drone strikes, counter-terror cooperation and intelligence sharing.⁷

Bangladesh

- **Bangladesh signs contracts for 12 projects worth \$654.71 million with India; A 10-day Vital Infrastructure Security training course, held by the US government in Bangladesh; US Senate Report: Two Bangladesh Banks are involved in terrorist financing; PM Hasina: 50 million**

⁴ "Pakistan, India discuss modalities to strengthen trade", *Dawn*, July 19, 2012 at <http://dawn.com/2012/07/19/pakistan-india-discusses-modalities-to-strengthen-trade/>

⁵ "Obama names new Afghan, Pakistan envoys", *Dawn*, July 18, 2012 at <http://dawn.com/2012/07/18/obama-names-new-afghan-pakistan-envoys/>

⁶ "Pakistan, Iran decide to form JWG over gas pipeline project", *Dawn*, July 18, 2012 at <http://dawn.com/2012/07/18/pakistan-iran-decide-to-form-jwg-over-gas-pipeline-project/>

⁷ "ISI chief to discuss drones in US: official", *Dawn*, July 18, 2012 at <http://dawn.com/2012/07/18/isi-chief-to-discuss-drones-in-us-official/>

poor people had been uplifted to the middle class group; ICAO drops Bangladesh from the list of countries with unsafe civil aviation systems

Reports noted that Bangladesh has so far signed contracts for 12 projects worth \$654.71 million with India for developing its infrastructure under the neighbour's \$1 billion line of credit. Of the projects, bidding for four projects is under process, while letters of credit (LC) for another four have been opened. The rest are waiting approval or are in a pre-bid process, according to India High Commission data. Under the first project, Bangladesh will buy 300 double-decker buses, 100 single-decker buses and 50 articulated buses (having two sections linked by a joint) at a cost of \$36.85 million. A total of 91 double-decker buses have already been delivered by Ashok Leyland and 35 are in transit. The final delivery for the rest of the double-decker buses will be made by the end of October. The second project to procure 180 broad gauge bogie oil tank wagons and six broad gauge bogie brake vans from Indian Texmaco Rail Engineering Ltd will cost \$17.38 million. Under the third project, a second Bhairab and second Titas bridge with approach rail lines will be constructed at a cost of \$120 million. A contract was signed with STUP Consultants Pvt Ltd of India in November last year. Under the fourth project, 10 broad gauge diesel electric locomotives will be procured at a cost of \$33.048 million. The \$7.43 million contract for the fifth project to buy 100 metre gauge bogie tank wagons and five metre gauge brake vans was signed with Texmaco Rail Engineering Ltd in March and the LC was opened in May. Under the sixth project, 30 broad gauge diesel electric locomotives will be purchased from India and a contract for this has been signed with RITES in June this year. Construction of the Khulna-Mongla port rail line, including a feasibility study, under the seventh project, will cost \$175 million. Apart from the seven projects, the bidding for four other projects is ongoing.⁸

In another development, according to reports, a 10-day Vital Infrastructure Security training course, held by the US government through the state department's Anti-terrorism Assistance Program and the US embassy's Regional Security Office, concluded in Dhaka on July 12, 2012. Officers from Special Branch, Armed Police Battalion, Dhaka Metropolitan Police, Ministry of Home Affairs, Public Works Department, Special Security Force, Fire Service and Civil Defence Directorate, and National Parliament participated in the training.⁹

According to reports, Islami Bank Bangladesh Ltd and Social Islami Bank Ltd came into the spotlight on July 17, 2012 for their alleged links to terrorist financing after a US Senate report exposed British banking giant HSBC's internal governance failure to control flows of suspect funds.¹⁰ However, both Islami Bank Bangladesh Ltd and Social Islami Bank Limited refuted to have any link with any terrorist financing.¹¹

⁸ "Bangladesh signs deals for 12 projects under Indian credit", *The Daily Star*, July 19, 2012 at <http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=242634>.

⁹ "Vital Infrastructure Security: US experts provide anti-terrorism training", *The Daily Star*, July 17, 2012 at <http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=242432>.

¹⁰ "Terror financed due to HSBC failure", *The Daily Star*, July 18, 2012 at <http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=242569>.

¹¹ "Terror Financing: SIBL, Islami Bank clarify their positions", *The Daily Star*, July 19, 2012 at <http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=242706>.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, on July 19, 2012, has claimed that 50 million poor people had been uplifted to the middle class group during the present government's tenure due to developments in many sectors.¹²

In other developments, according to reports, the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) has dropped Bangladesh from the list of countries with unsafe civil aviation systems nearly three years after the organisation blacklisted the country. No local airlines obtained approval to operate flights on international routes while Bangladesh was on the significant safety concern list for the last three years. But now they are likely get permission to fly new international routes. Besides, several European countries are expected to lift restrictions on Bangladeshi aircraft using most of their airports.¹³

Sri Lanka

- **Presence of Sri Lankan Defence personnel sparked protest in Tamil Nadu; Indian Naval ship visits Trincomalee; IMF approves a final disbursement of \$415 million to Sri Lanka**

Reports noted that presence of two Sri Lankan officers, who are part of a 25-member delegation from 10 countries for a one day programme at the Defence Services Staff College Chennai, sparked protest in Tamil Nadu. In one of her strongest protests to the Centre over the presence and training of Lankan defence officers in Tamil Nadu, Chief Minister Jayalalitha in a letter to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, has accused the UPA government of showing "utter disrespect to the sentiments of the people of Tamil Nadu".¹⁴

In another development, the Indian Naval Ship 'Chetlat', a fast attack craft, arrived at the Port of Trincomalee on July 18, 2012. "Ship's Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Commander Nitin Gupta, accompanied by Indian Defence Adviser to Sri Lanka Captain Sumeet Kapoor, paid a courtesy call on the Commander Eastern Naval Area Rear Admiral Jayanath Colombage. They held cordial discussions and exchange mementos as a gesture of goodwill," it said. However, there were no reasons given for the visit of the Indian Navy ship to Sri Lanka.¹⁵

In other developments, the International Monetary Fund has approved a final disbursement of \$415 million to Sri Lanka on July 20, 2012.¹⁶

¹² "Three and Half Years of Govt: 50m poor uplifted to middle class: Hasina", *The Daily Star*, July 20, 2012 at <http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=242801>.

¹³ Islam, Shariful and Akter, Sayeda, "Civil Aviation Organisation: Bangladesh off the unsafe list", *The Daily Star*, July 22, 2012 at <http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=243084>.

¹⁴ "Another letter from Jaya to Manmohan", *The Daily Mirror*, July 16, 2012 at <http://www.dailymirror.lk/news/20337-another-letter-from-jaya-to-manmohan.html>

¹⁵ "Indian Navy Ship in Trinco", *The Daily Mirror*, July 19, 2012 at <http://www.dailymirror.lk/news/20417-indian-navy-ship-in-trinco.html>.

¹⁶ "IMF approves \$415 m loan to SL", *The Daily Mirror*, July 21, 2012 at <http://www.dailymirror.lk/news/20475-imf-approves-415-m-loan-to-sl.html>.

Maldives

- **High level Turkmen delegation met President Waheed; Maldives opens its first embassy in Abu Dhabi, UAE; EU expresses concern about escalating political tension in Maldives**

Reports noted that the high-level delegation from Turkmenistan met President Dr Mohamed Waheed on July 16, 2012 at President's Office. The head of the visiting delegation was the Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers of Turkmenistan, Hojamuhammet Muhammedov. At the meeting, discussions were held on industries on which the economy depended on, in both countries.¹⁷

In another development, the Maldives opened its first embassy in Abu Dhabi at the start of the month, aiming to enhance relations between the two countries. The newly arrived ambassador, Ahmed Rasheed, shared his plans to promote bilateral ties, tourism and investment. The Maldives is seeking cooperation with the UAE in a bid to develop renewable energy sectors that could help reduce carbon dioxide emissions in the island nation.¹⁸

In other developments, the European Union expressed concern about escalating political tension and violent protests in the Maldives on July 20, 2012 after the former president was charged with illegally ordering a senior judge's arrest, which led to the leader's ouster earlier this year.¹⁹

B. East Asia

Southeast Asia

- **Anti-China protests in Vietnam; China approves deployment of military garrison in West Philippine Sea; India- Singapore to share information on tax evaders; Myanmar President visits Thailand; Indonesia offers to mediate in the South China Sea dispute**

According to reports, for the third time in July, 2012, hundreds of demonstrators marched through the streets of Hanoi to protest against China's claims to sovereignty in the South China Sea. Protestors stopped mid-morning traffic as they carried banners and Vietnamese flags, while shouting "The Spratly and Paracel Islands belong to Vietnam!" and "Down with Chinese aggression!". However, demonstrators were turned away by police who had cordoned off the area. Similar rallies last year were broken up by police.²⁰

¹⁷ "Turkmen delegation visit the President", *The President's Office, Republic of Maldives*, July 16, 2012 at <http://www.presidencymaldives.gov.mv/Index.aspx?lid=11&dcid=7657>.

¹⁸ Ahmad, Anwar, "Maldives looks to the UAE for help in solar and wind energy", *The National*, July 20, 2012 at <http://www.thenational.ae/news/uae-news/environment/maldives-looks-to-the-uae-for-help-in-solar-and-wind-energy>.

¹⁹ "EU concerned on Maldives' rising political tension", *zeenews*, July 20, 2012 at http://zeenews.india.com/news/world/eu-concerned-on-maldives-rising-political-tension_788737.html

²⁰ 'Vietnamese protest against Chinese aggression', *The Guardian*, July 22, 2012, <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2012/jul/22/vietnamese-protesters-chinese-aggression>

In another developments, reports noted that China's central military authority- the People's Liberation Army, has approved the deployment of a military garrison in Sansha city, which is in the West Philippine Sea. A report in that regard was posted on the website of China's Ministry of National Defense. Aside from the Spratly Islands, Sansha City – which was established by the Chinese Cabinet June 21 2011 – also claims political sovereignty over the Paracel Islands and Macclesfield Bank. Portions of these territories are also being claimed by Vietnam, Taiwan and the Philippines.²¹

According to reports, India and Singapore will share a list of suspected tax evaders and cases related to black money as part of bilateral financial enforcement cooperation between the two countries. A top-level team of Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore (IRAS) will meet officials of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) and Income Tax department to exchange data on a number of cases of black money that India suspects is routed from the banking and financial institutions of the Southeast Asian country. The team, reportedly, had come with the official entourage of Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong who visited India in July 2012.²²

President of Myanmar, Thein Sein on July 22, 2012, began a twice-postponed visit to neighboring Thailand expected to focus on economic ties. Thein Sein arrived for his first trip to Thailand since he became president in March 2011 and initiated political and economic reforms after almost five decades of repressive military rule. He will meet with Thai Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra and Crown Princess Sirindhorn before departing on July 24, 2012.²³

In other developments, according to reports, after the recent rift which is believed to be responsible in failing to produce a joint statement at the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting, Foreign ministers of Indonesia and Cambodia said the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) hoped to agree on a “number of issues” over the territorial dispute in South China Sea. ASEAN failed to reach a common ground over the South China Sea dispute. For the first time in its 45-year history, it failed to produce a joint statement at a regional summit in Cambodia last week. Though the disagreement was attributed to overlapping claims of the Philippines, Vietnam, Brunei and Malaysia on certain parts of the South China Sea, it also exposed how Chinese pressure has polarized the regional politics.²⁴ Indonesia had also offered to mediate in the dispute between China the Southeast Asian nations.²⁵

²¹ 'China to deploy new military garrison in West Philippine Sea', *GMA News*, July 22, 2012, <http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/266282/news/nation/china-to-deploy-new-military-garrison-in-west-philippine-sea>

²² 'Black money: India- Singapore to share info on tax evaders', *Hindustan Times*, July 22, 2012, <http://www.hindustantimes.com/India-news/NewDelhi/Black-money-India-Singapore-to-share-info-on-tax-evaders/Article1-893659.aspx>

²³ 'Myanmar's reformists president begins twice-postponed visit', *The Washington Post*, July 22, 2012, http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia_pacific/myanmars-reformist-president-begins-twice-postponed-visit-to-neighboring-thailand/2012/07/22/gJQAynGZ1W_story.html

²⁴ 'South China Sea: Indonesia seeks to unify ASEAN opinion split under Chinese Pressure', *International Business Times*, July 19, 2012, <http://www.ibtimes.com/articles/364732/20120719/south-china-sea-indonesia-unify-asean-chinese.htm>

²⁵ 'Indonesia steps in to mediate South China sea dispute', *Asia News Network*, July 18, 2012, <http://www.asianewsnet.net/home/news.php?id=33587>

China

- **ASEAN' six-point statement on the South China Sea issue are in line with China's ever-lasting will of turning the disputed waters into a sea of peace, friendship and cooperation; Beijing announces that it will cooperate with ASEAN; Development plan for minority regions announced; China angry with Moscow over vessel attack; Hu Jintao pledges aid to African nations; Hu meets Niger President; China annoyed with Taiwan-US official's meetings**

According to a China Daily report, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has agreed on a six-point statement on the South China Sea issue that goes in line with China's ever-lasting will of turning the disputed waters into a sea of peace, friendship and cooperation. In response to the six-point principles, Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei said China values its relationship with the ASEAN and is willing to work together with the group's members to implement the DOC and "open to consultations with the ASEAN on the conclusion of a Code of Conduct in the South China Sea."²⁶ China has also announced that it would work in association with ASEAN to safeguard the regional peace and security.²⁷

On the domestic front the State Council of China has issued a five year plan which highlights the social and economic development of the ethnic minority areas.²⁸

On the regional front Beijing has voiced its discontent over Russian attack on Chinese fishing vessel, which has resulted in one fishermen going missing.²⁹

President Hu Jintao has announced a list of five priority areas where Beijing will provide aid to African countries, this includes African Union's peacekeeping missions, in order to strengthen China-Africa relations.³⁰ Hu Jintao also held talks with Niger President Mahamadou Issoufou.³¹

In other development, according to reports, China has expressed its discontent over official contacts between Taiwan and the United States.³²

²⁶ "ASEAN principles in accord with China's policy on S. China Sea settlement" *China Daily*, July 22, 2012 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2012-07/22/content_15606251.htm

²⁷ "China pledges co-op with ASEAN on S China Sea" *China Daily*, July 21, 2012 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2012-07/21/content_15604756.htm

²⁸ "China issues development plan in minority areas" *China Daily*, July 20, 2012 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2012-07/20/content_15604721.htm

²⁹ "China reprimands Russia over vessel attack" *China Daily*, July 20, 2012 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2012-07/20/content_15602142.htm

³⁰ "Hu vows more aid for African countries", *China Daily*, July 20, 2012 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2012-07/20/content_15601562.htm

³¹ "Hu holds talks with Niger president" *China Daily*, July 18, 2012 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2012-07/18/content_15594962.htm

³² "China opposes US-Taiwan official contacts" *China Daily*, July 19, 2012 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2012-07/19/content_15601442.htm

Japan

- **Japan to cooperate with Vietnam on maritime security and chemical substance management; Japan to dispatch MSDF minesweeping unit to join drill in the Persian Gulf**

According to reports, during his recent visit to Hanoi, Japanese Foreign Minister Koichiro Gamba met with his Vietnamese counterpart Pham Binh Minh and both the leaders agreed to cooperate in ensuring maritime security in the South China Sea region.³³ In the meantime, both the countries have also signed MoUs to enhance cooperation for chemical substance management. This the first time that Japan has signed such an agreement with a country on this issue. Under the agreement, both the countries would try to keep the adverse impact of chemical substances to a minimum as agreed at the 2002 UN Conference on sustainable development. Japan is to help Vietnam in drawing up a plan to implement chemical substance management, create a database and exchange personnel.³⁴

In another development, reports noted that the Japanese Ministry of Defense is planning to dispatch a Maritime Self Defense Force (MSDF) minesweeping unit to a large scale multinational exercise led by the US Navy in the Persian Gulf. The exercise is reportedly going to be held from September 16 to 27. About twenty countries, including US allies, are to participate in it. Tokyo hopes that such dispatch would prove instrumental in ensuring the safety of ships in regional sea-lanes, which are vital for Japan's crude oil transportation.³⁵

South Korea

- **South Korea proposes to hold talks with North Korea**

In a recent development, South Korea has proposed to hold unconditional bilateral talks with North Korea to discuss such matters as reunions of separated families, tours to Mt. Geumgang, and other stalled cross-border projects. After assuming power in the North after his deceased father Kim Jong Il, new leader Kim Jong-un rejected a similar proposal by South Korea in February this year.³⁶

North Korea

- **North Korea to reconsider its nuclear issue**

In a significant development, while alleging South Korea and the US for their recent attempt to destroy statues of North Korea's founder leader Kim Il-sung, Pyongyang recently stated that it had no other choice but to "fully reconsider the nuclear issue". While calling such attempt as "the

³³ "Japan, Vietnam agree on maritime security", Yomiuri Daily, July 16, 2012, at <http://www.yomiuri.co.jp/dy/national/T120715002065.htm>

³⁴ "Japan, Vietnam sign agreement on chemical substance management", Yomiuri Daily, July 17, 2012, at <http://www.yomiuri.co.jp/dy/national/T120716002874.htm>

³⁵ "MSDF ships to join the drill in Persian Gulf", Yomiuri Daily, July 20, 2012, at <http://www.yomiuri.co.jp/dy/national/T120719004933.htm>

³⁶ "Seoul proposes talks with North", Korea Herald, July 16, 2012, at <http://view.koreaherald.com/kh/view.php?ud=20120716000865>

most serious act of hostility towards North Korea”, the North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesperson insisted, “The relevant situation forces us to fully reconsider the nuclear issue.” He further argued that due to the hostility measures adopted by the US against North Korea, it has become extremely difficult to aspire for a denuclearized Korean Peninsula.³⁷

C. Central Asia & Russia

Central Asia

- **Border guards of Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan exchange gunfire across border; Turkish firm to construct 60 power stations in Turkmenistan; Kyrgyzstan grapples with looming feed shortage; Taliban destroys 22 NATO fuel tankers moving from Uzbekistan; Iran, Turkmenistan look to expand trade to \$10B; Massive hydrocarbon reserves discovered in Tajikistan; Russia and Tajikistan have agreed upon a tentative deal on the military base issue; British military delegation visits Uzbekistan to discuss terms for withdrawal of British troops from Afghanistan through Uzbekistan**

According to reports, Kyrgyzstani and Uzbekistani border guards have exchange gunfire across the border over the issue of road repair work being carried in the Bulak-Bashi area of the Alabuk district in Kyrgyzstan’s southern Jalal-Abad region. However, the chiefs of the two countries’ border services held emergency negotiations by telephone and reached agreement on a peaceful resolution of the aftermaths of the incident.³⁸

In another development, reports noted that Turkish conglomerate Calik Holding will construct a reliable electricity power supply network for Ashgabat which involves the construction of 60 new electrical sub-stations. Turkish companies are among the leading investors in Turkmenistan, having implemented nearly 1,300 projects.³⁹

According to reports, continuing droughts in Kyrgyzstan will lead to a severe feed shortage for livestock and it has been estimated that Kyrgyzstan will lose approximately 50-70 percent of its crops.⁴⁰

According to reports, the Taliban have destroyed 22 NATO fuel tankers which were making their way south from Uzbekistan to their Afghan destination. At least nine soldiers were killed in the explosions, which occurred on a critical portion of the Northern Distribution Network (NDN).⁴¹

³⁷ “North Korea says will ‘fully reconsider nuclear issue’”, Korea Herald, July 20, 2012, at <http://view.koreaherald.com/kh/view.php?ud=20120720001177>

³⁸ “Kyrzgystani, Uzbekistani border guards exchange gunfire across border”, ITAR-TASS, July 17, 2012, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/474841.html>

³⁹ “Turkish firm to construct 60 power stations in Turkmenistan”, Central Asia Newswire, July 20, 2012, <http://www.universalnewswires.com/centralasia/viewstory.aspx?id=12454>

⁴⁰ “Kyrgyzstan grapples with looming feed shortage”, Central Asia Newswire, July 19, 2012, <http://www.universalnewswires.com/centralasia/viewstory.aspx?id=12452>

⁴¹ “Taliban destroys 22 NATO fuel tankers moving from Uzbekistan”, Central Asia Newswire, July 18, 2012, <http://www.universalnewswires.com/centralasia/viewstory.aspx?id=12442>

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi has said that Turkmenistan and Iran have agreed to increase their bilateral trade to \$10 billion. In a meeting of the two countries foreign ministers, Iran will also look to provide engineering and technical services as well as helping the Turkmenistan develop its housing market and energy development.⁴²

According to reports, Canadian energy major Tethys Petroleum believes its recent hydrocarbon discovery in Tajikistan could result in the finding of a supergiant hydrocarbon reserve in Tajikistan. It is estimated that there could be gross un-risked mean recoverable resources of 27.5 billion barrels of oil equivalent in the region.⁴³

Russia and Tajikistan have tentatively agreed to a new deal on Russia's proposed extension of a military lease by 49 years. As per the terms of the agreement Russia will pay no rent for the facility for use by the 201st division, and will instead provide Tajikistan with cheap weapons. At present there are close to seven thousand Russian troops in Tajikistan.⁴⁴

In other developments, reports noted that two British military delegations have visited Uzbekistan to negotiate the withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan via Uzbek territory.⁴⁵

Russia

- **President Putin discusses the developments with US President Obama; Russia to vote against resolution on Syria if it ignores Geneva agreements; Russia vetoes UNSC resolution on Syria; Venezuela interested in buying Russian Sukhoi SU-35 fighter jets from Russia; South Korea's Finance Minister: South Korea to step up efforts to expand economic, political and diplomatic ties with Russia; Russian upper house of parliament ratifies WTO entry protocol; President Putin created an Economic Council to prepare proposals and implementation methods for Russia's socioeconomic policy; Russia to spend nearly USD 10 bln on foreign debt by 2015; US House of Representatives bans Pentagon cooperation with Rosoboronexport; Italian Prime Minister visits to Moscow**

Reports noted that Russian President Putin and his US counterpart President Obama have discussed the situation in Syria in the context of the U.N. Security Council debate on the draft resolutions on Syria. Both noted that the situation was 'aggravating' and have agreed to be in close contact on the Syrian issue.⁴⁶

⁴² "Iran, Turkmenistan look to expand trade to \$10B", Central Asia Newswire, July 17, 2012, <http://www.universalnewswires.com/centralasia/turkmenistan/viewstory.aspx?id=12433>

⁴³ "Tethys discovers 'supergiant' hydrocarbon reserves in Tajikistan", Central Asia Newswire, July 19, 2012, <http://www.universalnewswires.com/centralasia/viewstory.aspx?id=12447>

⁴⁴ "Russia, Tajikistan reach deal on military base", Central Asia Newswire, July 17, 2012, <http://www.universalnewswires.com/centralasia/tajikistan/viewstory.aspx?id=12428>

⁴⁵ "Two British military delegations visit Uzbekistan", Central Asia Newswire, July 12, 2012, <http://www.universalnewswires.com/centralasia/uzbekistan/viewstory.aspx?id=12406>

⁴⁶ "Putin, Obama discuss Syria by telephone", ITAR-TASS, July 18, 2012, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/475894.html>

In another development, Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov has said that Russia will vote against the U.N. Security Council resolution on Syria if it is not be guided by the Geneva agreements.⁴⁷

Meanwhile, according to reports, Russia and China have vetoed the U.N. Security Council draft resolution on the settlement of the conflict in Syria. The draft document had been prepared by Western countries and with provision of sanctions against Damascus. Eleven members of the U.N. Security Council voted for the draft resolution while two abstained. Russia and China vetoed the draft resolution.⁴⁸

According to reports, Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez has that Venezuela is interested in buying Sukhoi Su-35 Flanker-E multirole fighter jets from Russia to enhance the country's defence capabilities. The aircraft has been touted as 4++ generation using fifth-generation technology.⁴⁹

South Korea's Finance Minister Bahk Jae Wan has said that the country would step up efforts to expand economic, political and diplomatic ties with Russia once it joins the World Trade Organization. South Korea, which currently ranks 13th among Russia's trading partners, wants to enter the top ten by 2020 and the potential areas of cooperation could include energy, capital development, exploration of natural resources, development of infrastructure as well as science and technology.⁵⁰

Reports noted that the Russian upper house of parliament has passed the bill ratifying Russia's entry into the WTO, the final legislative step required before President Vladimir Putin signs it into law.⁵¹

President Vladimir Putin has created an Economic Council under the President. The Council is an advisory body created for the purpose of preparing proposals on the main guidelines for Russia's socioeconomic policy, ensuring the strategy and tactic of its implementation, and mechanisms for sustainable development and technological renovation of the economy.⁵²

According to the Russian Finance Ministry sources, Russia will spend US\$ 9.4 billion on foreign debt servicing until 2015. More than 90 percent of these amounts will be interest payments on government securities.⁵³

⁴⁷ "RF to vote against resolution on Syria if it ignores Geneva agreements", ITAR-TASS, July 16, 2012, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/473624.html>

⁴⁸ "RF, China veto UN SC draft resolution on Syria", ITAR-TASS, July 19, 2012, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/476839.html>

⁴⁹ "Venezuela's Chavez Eyes Russian Su-35 Fighters", RIA Novosti, July 19, 2012, http://en.rian.ru/military_news/20120719/174673843.html

⁵⁰ "South Korea to step up ties with Russia after it joins the WTO", ITAR-TASS, July 16, 2012, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/473876.html>

⁵¹ "Russian upper house of parliament ratifies WTO entry protocol", ITAR-TASS, July 18, 2012, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/475617.html>

⁵² "Putin creates Economic Council under president", ITAR-TASS, July 16, 2012, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/474002.html>

⁵³ "Russia to spend nearly USD 10 bln on foreign debt by 2015", ITAR-TASS, July 19, 2012, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/475999.html>

Reports noted that Japanese Foreign Minister Koichiro Gamba will visit Russia on July 27, 2012 for a four-day official visit. He is expected to discuss the territorial issue, the issue of signing of a peace treaty, bilateral economic cooperation in the Far East as well as a wide range of international issues including the nuclear programs of North Korea and Iran and the situation in Syria.⁵⁴

In other development, according to reports, the US House of Representatives has adopted an addendum, which bans Pentagon's cooperation with Rosoboronexport as the latter had supplied armoury to Syria's government. It was supported by 407 legislators, and five voted against it. The voting took place several hours after Russia and China vetoed a draft resolution of the UN Security Council on Syria, which had been drafted by Western countries.⁵⁵

On the eve of his official visit to Moscow, the Italian Prime Minister Mario Monti has said that relations between Russia and Italy are of strategic character in all spheres and stressed on the importance of economic partnership. He has also outlined defence and energy cooperation as key priorities of the government.⁵⁶

D. Africa

- **AU Commission elects its first female chairperson; AU Summit pushes for democracy and crisis resolution; Liberia argues drugs and arms fueling Africa's unrest; China announces \$ 20 billion in credit for Africa; Moderates beat Muslim Brotherhood in Libyan election; South Sudan suspends talks with Sudan amid fresh air strikes; Western companies to gain from East Africa Gas exports; U.S. war on drugs expands to Africa**

According to reports, the African Union Commission has elected the South African Home Affairs minister Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma as its first female chairperson. The commission is the administrative arm of the continental organisation. Ms. Dlamini Zuma was also a medical doctor, diplomat, veteran cabinet minister and a former wife of South Africa's president. Interestingly, she was the foreign minister 10 years ago when the African Union was launched in Durban, South Africa, taking over from the Organization of African Unity.⁵⁷

In another development, reports noted that African leaders concluded their 19th biannual summit by a renewed pledge to push democracy and fast-track resolution of crises in the continent's hotspots, including Mali, the Sudans, Guinea Bissau and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The summit, which was themed as 'Boosting Intra-African Trade', also saw African leaders discussing acceleration of a free trade area and intense debates to map the way forward out of debilitating crises in the continent's hotspots.⁵⁸

⁵⁴ "Japan FM to visit Russia Jul 27", *ITAR-TASS*, July 20, 2012, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/477022.html>

⁵⁵ "US House of Representatives bans Pentagon cooperation with Rosoboronexport", *ITAR-TASS*, July 20, 2012, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/476964.html>

⁵⁶ "Relations between RF and Italy are of strategic character - Italy's PM", *ITAR-TASS*, July, 22, 2012, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/478262.html>

⁵⁷ "Pan-African Group Elects First Female Leader", *National Public Radio*, July 16, 2012, at <http://www.npr.org/2012/07/16/156869016/pan-african-group-elects-first-female-leader>

⁵⁸ "Africa pushes for greater democracy, crisis resolution", *Zee News*, July 17, 2012, at http://zeenews.india.com/news/world/africa-pushes-for-greater-democracy-crisis-resolution_788087.html

According to Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, growing drug trafficking and unchecked arms trade are fuelling insurgencies across Africa. Sirleaf said that the rise of militant groups - such as Boko Haram in Nigeria and al-Shabab in Somalia - was very disturbing. On recent attacks by Ansar Dine militants in Mali, She said that militiaman from the Ansar Dine Islamic group in northeastern Mali Islamist militants are now controlling northern Mali. She added that Liberia would lead a campaign to try to contain the menace and urged countries which manufactured weapons to sign a treaty to stop arms proliferation.⁵⁹

Reports noted that addressing a gathering of heads of state and representatives from 50 African countries at the fifth Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), China's President Hu Jintao announced that China would provide US\$ 20 billion in credit to African countries over the next three years. By this announcement, China doubled its earlier loan commitment of US\$ 10 billion in a move to strengthen fast deepening economic ties with the continent. Jintao announced that the credit line would assist African countries in developing infrastructure, agriculture, manufacturing and small and medium enterprises. He added that China would also increase assistance by building agricultural technology demonstration centres, training 30,000 personnel and offering 18,000 scholarships.⁶⁰

According to reports, the National Forces Alliance, a moderate coalition led by the wartime prime minister Mahmud Jibril, has beaten the Muslim Brotherhood in Libya's first post-Gaddafi election, reversing the trend of success for Islamist parties in Arab Spring countries. The alliance gained 39 of 80 seats available to parties in the general national congress, whereas the Justice and Construction Party, founded by Libya's Muslim Brotherhood, took 17 seats. The remainder went to a variety of smaller parties. Later, the results were welcomed in the West.⁶¹

South Sudan accused the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) of carrying out fresh air strike in Northern Bahr el-Ghazal state, triggering the suspension of ongoing talks in the Ethiopian town of Bahir Dar. According to Awet Kiir Awet, Aweil East County commissioner, two civilians were injured the aerial bombardment in Rumaker locality, North West of Aweil town, capital of Northern Bahr el Ghazal State. Jackline Nyibol Benjamin Ajonga, a state minister of information also confirmed receiving reports of the bombardment, adding that she was still gathering more information as she was outside Aweil.⁶²

According to reports, the business consultancy firm Bain and Company said that large western energy companies stand to gain most from a boom in East African natural gas exports as their technical know-how and capital power gives them an advantage over smaller competitors or Asian national firms. They cited the US Geological Survey, which estimated that over 250 trillion

⁵⁹ "Drugs and arms fuel Africa unrest, says Liberia leader", *BBC*, July 17, 2012, at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-18867259>

⁶⁰ Ananth Krishnan (2012), "China boosts Africa ties with \$ 20 billion credit pledge", *The Hindu*, July 19, 2012, at <http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/article3657007.ece?homepage=true>

⁶¹ "Libya moderates beat Muslim Brotherhood in election", *Daily News & Analysis*, July 19, 2012, at http://www.dnaindia.com/world/report_libya-moderates-beat-muslim-brotherhood-in-election_1717069

⁶² "South Sudan Suspends Talks Accusing Sudanese Army of New Bombardments", *All Africa*, July 20, 2012, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201207210057.html>

cubic feet (7.1 trillion cubic metres) of natural gas may lie off Kenya, Tanzania and Mozambique, compared to 186 trillion cubic feet for Nigeria, Africa's biggest energy producer. The consultant added that the gas findings announced earlier in 2012 in the region are estimated to hold enough gas to supply France, Germany, Britain and Italy for at least a year - possibly much more.⁶³

In other developments, according to a New York Times report, in a significant expansion of the war on drugs, the United States has begun training an elite unit of counter-narcotics police in Ghana and planning similar units in Nigeria and Kenya as part of an effort to combat the Latin American cartels that are increasingly using Africa to smuggle cocaine into Europe. It mentioned William R. Brownfield of the State Department as a leading architect of new anti-drug strategies. The report added that this growing American involvement in Africa follows an earlier escalation of anti-drug efforts in Central America.⁶⁴

II. DEFENCE REVIEW

National

- **Shivalik class stealth frigate INS Sahyadri commissioned**

According to reports, Defence Minister A.K Antony on July 2012 commissioned INS Sahyadri, a Shivalik class stealth frigate in the Indian navy, equipped with an array of modern weapons and sensors to operate both in peacetime and a multi-threat environment. The warship has been built by MDL over the past seven years. Stressing the need for a strong and vigilant Navy to defend the mainland, island territories and offshore assets, Defence Minister A.K. Antony announced that the Navy would get seven more frigates under the next P-17A project. "Cost negotiations are on into the P-17A project and once that is done, the proposal will go to the Cabinet Committee on Security [CCS] for approval," Antony told. He said the Navy would continue to get five warships of different capabilities every year. He said the prevailing downturn in the economic situation would not affect defence plans. With the commissioning of this indigenous stealth frigate, the third and last in the Shivalik class series, the Navy has added teeth to its surface combatants' fleet. The first two stealth frigates in the class are INS Shivalik and INS Satpura, which are now on active naval duty, including anti-piracy operations in the Gulf of Aden. The three stealth frigates in the P-17 project have cost about Rs. 10,000 crore. INS Sahyadri is equipped with some of the most advanced surface and air-to-air missiles of Russian, European and Israeli origin and can carry two helicopters – a mix of Dhrun, Sea King or Kamov – on board. A crew of 300 officers and men from the Navy will man the frigate.⁶⁵

⁶³ "Large western energy companies to gain most from East Africa gas boom", *Economic Times*, July 20, 2012, at http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2012-07-20/news/32764684_1_gas-reserves-natural-gas-bg-group

⁶⁴ Charlie Savage and Thom Shanker (2012), "U.S. Drug War Expands to Africa, a Newer Hub for Cartels", *The New York Times*, July 21, 2012, at <http://www.nytimes.com/2012/07/22/world/africa/us-expands-drug-fight-in-africa.html>

⁶⁵ "Credible Navy need of the hour: Antony," *The Hindu*, July 21, 2012, at <http://www.thehindu.com/news/article3665741.ece>

International

- **Worldwide defense sales fell 3.3 percent in 2011; U.S. military fighter jet crashed into the sea off northern Japan**

Reports noted that worldwide defense sales fell 3.3 percent in 2011 from a year ago, driven by governments' spending priorities, weak Western economies, and withdrawal from Iraq and Afghanistan, a report from consultancy Deloitte said. The decline in defense contrasted with an overall 2.3 percent rise in global aerospace and defense revenues, helped by higher production rates of airliners, the 2011 Global Aerospace & Defense Industry performance wrap-up report showed.⁶⁶

In another development, according to reports, a U.S. military fighter jet crashed into the sea off northern Japan on July 22 and its solo pilot was waiting for rescue at sea after ejecting, the coast guard said. "The F-16 jet crashed some 470 nautical miles northeast of Nemuro" at around 11:30 a.m., a spokesman at the Japan Coast Guard said. "The pilot ejected and is now waiting for rescue at sea," the official said, adding the coast guard's ships and plane were heading to the accident site. The city of Nemuro is 1,000 kilometers (620 miles) north of Tokyo.⁶⁷

III. INTERNAL SECURITY REVIEW

Jammu & Kashmir

(July 9-15)

- **Planning Commission approves Rs 7300 cr plan for JK; Air Force Chief visits Kashmir; Bodies of two army soldiers recovered; Hizbul commander killed in North Kashmir**

According to reports, the annual plan 2012-13 for Jammu and Kashmir has been pegged at Rs 7300 crore. This plan was cleared after Chief Minister Omar Abdullah had over three hour long meeting with the top functionaries of the Planning Commission including its Deputy Chairman Montek Singh Ahluwalia here on July 13, 2012. The Planning Commission also approved Rs 700 crore under Prime Minister's Reconstruction Program (PMRP) for J&K. The Commission has agreed to provide additional Central resources of Rs 6384 crore - Rs 4400 crore as a Special Central

⁶⁶ "Global Defense Sales Slip 3.3%; Aerospace Rises," July 20, 2012, at <http://www.defensenews.com/article/20120720/DEFREG02/307200002/Global-Defense-Sales-Slip-3-3-59-Aerospace-Rises?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE>

⁶⁷ "U.S. F-16 Crashes Into Sea Off Japan, Pilot Ejects," AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, July 22, 2012, at <http://www.defensenews.com/article/20120722/DEFREG03/307220003/U-S-F-16-Crashes-Into-Sea-Off-Japan-Pilot-Ejects?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE>

Assistance (SCA) and Rs. 1984 crore as Special Plan Assistance (SPA) to finance the approved Annual Plan. Significantly, while lauding the state government's efforts on restoring economic activity and focusing on social and physical infrastructure, the Commission has stressed on the need to further encourage private participation in infrastructure development. In this regard, Singh suggested that atmosphere conducive to private investment in the state should be created.⁶⁸

In another development, reports noted that the Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal NAK Browne, PVSM AVSM VM ADC, was on a two-day visit to Awantipora and Srinagar bases. The Air Chief met the station personnel and interacted with the key appointments of the station. The CAS also inspected the newly inducted Mi 17 V5 Helpt unit which has the onerous task of supporting the Army units in the J&K sector. During the visit the Air Chief is also scheduled to call on Narinder Nath Vohra, Governor J&K.⁶⁹

According to reports, bodies of two army soldiers buried in an avalanche in north Kashmir were recovered from the melting snow. A senior police officer said that bodies of Ajay Kumar and Lalit Mohan Singh of 1 Bihar Regiment were recovered in Keran sector of the Line of Control (LOC) in Kupwara district. The soldiers were buried under an avalanche Jan 24, 2012.⁷⁰

In other developments, according to reports, a senior Hizbul Mujahideen commander was killed in an encounter with forces at Chandej Hayan in Kangan forests of North Kashmir's Ganderbal district. 24 RR and police laid siege around Chandej village on a tip off and started searches. As the searches were on, a militant present in the house of Muhammad Yousuf Khatana fired on the search party triggering an encounter in which the militant was killed.⁷¹

(July 16-22)

- **Grenade fired at Civil Secretariat in Srinagar; Former Hizb-e-Islami (HeI) commander arrested**

According to reports, panic gripped Civil Secretariat on July 18, 2012 when militants fired a rifle grenade towards the building. However the grenade didn't explode. The incident created panic in the area. The security personnel posted at the Secretariat gate were seen taking combat positions. Police and Central Reserve Police Force later carried out search operations in the adjoining areas.⁷²

⁶⁸ "Planning Commn approves Rs 7300 cr plan for JK", *Greater Kashmir*, July 13, 2012 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2012/Jul/14/planning-commn-approves-rs-7300-cr-plan-for-jk-66.asp>

⁶⁹ "Air Force Chief arrives in Kashmir". *Greater Kashmir*, July 12, 2012 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2012/Jul/13/air-force-chief-arrives-in-kashmir-33.asp>

⁷⁰ "Bodies of 2 soldiers recovered", *Greater Kashmir*, July 9, 2012 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2012/Jul/10/bodies-of-2-soldiers-recovered-53.asp>

⁷¹ "Hizb commander killed in Kangan encounter", *Greater Kashmir*, July 10, 2012 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2012/Jul/11/hizb-commander-killed-in-kangan-encounter-42.asp>

⁷² "Grenade fired at Civil Secretariat", *Greater Kashmir*, July 18, 2012 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2012/Jul/19/grenade-fired-at-secretariat-25.asp>

In another development, reports noted that a former district commander of the Hizb-e-Islami (HeI) outfit, his wife and their three children were arrested in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir after they returned from Pakistan via Nepal. Sarfaraz Ahmed, his wife Shaheen Akhtar and their children were taken into custody by a police team. Sarfaraz, who belonged to Surankote belt of the district, had crossed over to PaK via the LoC in 1999 for arms training and came back to India in 2000. He operated as a HeI commander in Poonch and Rajouri belts for 3 years.⁷³

Northeast India

(July 9-15)

- **ULFA demand note to Parliamentary Secretary; Nagaland bandh affects supplies to Manipur; Centre extends truce with Dima Haram Daogah (DHD); Demand for Inner Line Permit in Manipur intensifies; Three Bodo militants killed in Goalpara; Twelve hour shutdown cripples life in Tripura; Indefinite bandh on National Highway; Garo National Liberation Army (GNLA) hideout busted in Garo Hills**

According to reports, the hard-line faction of the United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) has sent a demand note to Parliamentary Secretary (Environment and Forest) Abu Taher Bepari and the incident has created ripples in the administration. Police investigation into the incident is on and on preliminary investigation; police apprehended that the demand note is not a fake one. The letter was signed by hardcore militant Drishti Asom (Rajkhowa) and it came by post a few days back. It is suspected that the letter was posted in Goalpara district.⁷⁴

In another development, according to reports, the indefinite bandh on Nagaland sector of the National Highway 2 (formerly NH 39) particularly Kohima-Mao section since July 13, 2012 has severely affected the movement of Manipur-bound vehicles. The Southern Angami Youth Organisation (SAYO) had called the bandh in protest against the authority's alleged failure in recovering a stolen vehicle and arresting the vehicles lifters of June 21 incident.⁷⁵

Reports noted that the Centre on July 11, 2012 announced extension of ceasefire pact with Dima Haram Daogah (DHD) for another six months. It has been mutually agreed with DHD Group in North Cachar Hills to further extend Suspension of Operations (SoO) for period of six months up to September 9, an official spokesman of the Home Ministry said. An agreement of Suspension of Operations (SoO) between the security forces and DHD has been in operation January 2003 and has been extended periodically. Tripartite talks on the demands of DHD are continuing.⁷⁶

⁷³ "Former HeI commander, family arrested", *Greater Kashmir*, July 20, 2012 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2012/Jul/21/former-hei-commander-family-arrested-87.asp>

⁷⁴ "ULFA demand note to Parliamentary secy", *The Assam Tribune*, July 9, 2012 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=jul1012/at09>

⁷⁵ "Nagaland bandh affects supplies to Manipur", *The Assam Tribune*, July 10, 2012 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=jul1112/oth05>

⁷⁶ "Centre extends truce with DHD", *The Assam Tribune*, July 11, 2012 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=jul1212/state05>

According to reports, three suspected cadres of the anti-talk faction of the National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB) were gunned down on July 13, 2012. The incident took place in Salpara village in Assam's Goalpara district. An AK-56 rifle, a 9mm pistol, a Chinese grenade and over 100 rounds of live ammunition were recovered from the possession of the killed militants.⁷⁷

Reports noted that the 96-hour bandh called by Southern Angami Youth Organisation (SAYO) on Kohima-Khuzama sector of the National Highway 2 has been suspended following partial fulfillment of their demands. SAYO had imposed the bandh protesting the Manipur Government's alleged failure to recover the stolen vehicle and in producing arrested accused vehicle lifters. The bandh created a fuel scarcity besides affecting supplies to Manipur since last week.⁷⁸

In other developments, according to reports, East Garo Hills police has busted a hideout of GNLA militants forcing them to flee during an encounter in Resubelpara sub-division area on July 15, 2012. Acting on intelligence reports about the movement of heavily armed GNLA militants led by their area commander Laben alias Chenang, East Garo Hills police SWAT commandos conducted an overnight operation in Resubelpara area and by July 15 morning located the hideout inside Resu Song Megap. The militants, who were coming out of their hideout in the house of a sympathizer opened fire from automatic rifles resulting in a brief encounter.⁷⁹

(July 16-22)

- **At least nine persons dead in Kokrajhar district, curfew imposed; Editor in chief of News Live Channel resigns in lieu to the molestation case in Assam; Centre rules out Bodoland demand; Northeast separatist leader arrested in New Delhi; 72 ultras surrender in Manipur; Arunachal media houses to shut down**

According to reports, tension prevailed as indefinite curfew was imposed in Kokrajhar town following sporadic group violence which left at least nine persons dead in Kokrajhar district. The sporadic violence rattled the law-and-order situation in the district with the Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) Chief Hagrama Mohilary appealing Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi for enhanced security force at the vulnerable areas of Bodoland Territorial Autonomous District (BTAD) where the communities are at a minority. Addressing a press conference, Mohilary claimed that the group clashes in some places are political conspiracies to unsettle the bond between the two communities. He also appealed to maintain brotherhood and peace. The violence began following the lynching of four youths by some miscreants at Joypur under Kokrajhar Police Station. The retaliatory incidents this morning were reported from Duramari and Narabari under Kokrajhar

⁷⁷ "Three Bodo militants killed in Goalpara", *The Assam Tribune*, July 13, 2012 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=jul1312/at041>

⁷⁸ "Indefinite bandh on NH2 suspended", *The Assam Tribune*, July 14, 2012 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=jul1512/oth07>

⁷⁹ "GNLA hideout busted in Garo Hills", *The Assam Tribune*, July 15, 2012 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=jul1612/oth06>

Police Station and Kodaldoha under Fakiragram Police Station. The Kokrajhar district administration also promulgated Section 144 CrPC throughout the district.⁸⁰

In another development, according to reports, Atanu Bhuyan, the editor-in-chief of NewsLive channel, on July 17, 2012 announced his decision to quit following widespread criticism of the telecast of the molestation of a teenage girl on July 9, 2012. Bhuyan made the announcement at a press conference. Channel reporter Gaurav Jyoti Neog has been accused of instigating the mob to strip the teen after she came out of a pub on the busy GS Road.⁸¹

According to reports, ruling out the possibility of acceding to the demands for creation of a separate Bodoland, the Centre has asked the NDFB (P) to lay down arms within three months to ensure further progress in the dialogue process. The Centre has also held back extension of the ceasefire with NDFB (P) faction owing to reluctance on part of the militant outfits to surrender their weapons. The Bodo militant outfit has sought another extension of the ceasefire for a year. The ceasefire with NDFB (P) has expired on June 30, pending further extension. But the Centre has conveyed that it may be willing to extend the suspension of operation pact for another three months, within which they expected the NDFB (P) to lay down arms.⁸²

According to reports, a top leader of a separatist outfit operating in the Northeast was arrested by a combined team of Delhi Police and Mizoram Police from Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi. Hmar People's Convention-Democrats (HPC-D) self-styled chairman H Sangbera was arrested at the airport on July 17, 2012 night soon after he landed from (Manipur capital) Imphal by a flight via Guwahati.⁸³

Reports noted that a total of 72 armed underground cadres belonging to eight different groups operating in Manipur laid down arms and surrendered to the Assam Rifles authority in a home coming ceremony on July 20, 2012. Chief Minister O Ibobi Singh accompanied by Home Minister Gaikhangam and Director General of Police Y Joykumar besides Inspector General of Assam Rifles (South) Major General UK Gurung welcomed the ultras by receiving the arms and ammunition in presence of relatives of the underground cadres. The surrendered underground cadres belong to United National Liberation Front (UNLF), People's Liberation Front (PLA), Kangleipak Communist Party, People's Revolutionary Party of Kangleipak (Prepak), Kuki National Liberation Front (KNLF), Manipur Naga Revolutionary Front (MNRF) and People's United Liberation Front (PULF).⁸⁴

⁸⁰ "9 killed, curfew clamped in Kokrajhar", *The Assam Tribune*, July 21, 2012 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=jul2212/at05>

⁸¹ "Molestation case: Atanu Bhuyan will resign", *The Assam Tribune*, July 17, 2012 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=jul1712/at04>

⁸² "Centre rules out Bodoland demand", *The Assam Tribune*, July 16, 2012 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=jul1712/at08>

⁸³ "Northeast separatist leader arrested in New Delhi", *The Assam Tribune*, July 19, 2012 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=jul1912/at044>

⁸⁴ "72 ultras surrender in Manipur", *The Assam Tribune*, July 20, 2012 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=jul2112/oth06>

In other developments, reports noted that following gun attack on a lady journalist by unidentified assailants that left the State's Press fraternity shocked and baffled, the Arunachal Press Club and Arunachal Pradesh Union of Working Journalists vehemently condemned the firing incident, demanding the government to arrest the culprit(s) within a week. In their harshest ever resolution, the press fraternity, backed by management/ owners, decided to go for one-day shutdown of all media houses on July 17, 2012 and to boycott all news and advertisements of the State Government for a period of 15 days as a mark of protest.⁸⁵

IV. UNITED NATIONS (UN) REVIEW

- **UN Security Council fails to pass resolution on Syria; Mandate of UN mission in Syria and Cyprus extended; Attacks in DRC condemned; India wants treaty on arms trade to be based on consensus; UNSC asks Israel and Lebanon to move forward on all outstanding issues**

Reports noted that the UN Security Council failed to adopt a resolution that would have threatened sanctions on Syria as Russia and China vetoed the resolution. The UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon and Kofi Annan expressed disappointment over the Council's failure to be united and take strong and concerted action.⁸⁶ India which was one among the 11 nations that had voted in favour of the resolution said that it wanted to facilitate united action by the Security Council and also expressed regret at the lack of unity among Council members.⁸⁷ Meanwhile, Iran had appealed to India, as a member of the UNSC, to look for a solution that would diminish the role of 'foreign interests' in the country.⁸⁸

According to reports, the mandate of the UN Supervision Mission in Syria (UNSMIS) tasked with monitoring the cessation of violence in Syria was renewed for a final period of 30 days. The Council took into consideration the Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's recommendations to reconfigure the Mission and operational implications of the increasingly dangerous security situation in Syria.⁸⁹

⁸⁵ "Arunachal media houses to shut down today", *The Assam Tribune*, July 16, 2012 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=jul1712/oth05>

⁸⁶ "Security Council fails to adopt resolution on Syria", *UN News Centre*, July 19, 2012 at <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=42513&Cr=Syria&Cr1=>

⁸⁷ "India supports UN resolution against Syria; vetoed by Russia and China", *The Times of India*, July 20, 2012 at http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2012-07-20/india/32763701_1_russia-and-china-resolution-syrian-government

⁸⁸ "Iran urges India to solve Syrian crisis at UN", *The Times of India*, July 19, 2012 at http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2012-07-19/india/32746754_1_assad-regime-nam-summit-syrian-affairs

⁸⁹ "Security Council extends mandate of UN observers in Syria for 30 days", *UN News Centre*, July 20, 2012 at <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=42523&Cr=syria&Cr1=>

Separately, the mandate of the UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) was extended until 31 January 2013 and the Council also called the leadership of the Greek Cypriot and the Turkish Cypriot communities to accelerate the pace of talks to reunify the divided island nation.⁹⁰

In other developments, the attacks in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) by the M23, a group of renegade soldiers was strongly condemned by the UN Security Council. The Council also demanded that all forms of support to armed groups in DRC cease immediately.⁹¹

Reports noted that at the UN negotiations for a global Arms Trade Treaty, India hopes that a treaty emerges from consensus, otherwise the lack of involvement of major stakeholders will create a huge gap in the implementation of the legislation. India is looking at a 'practical and implementable treaty'. India also stressed that the proposed treaty should 'strike a balance in the obligations between the exporters and importers'.⁹²

Meanwhile, the UN Security Council emphasized the need for Israel and Lebanon to move forward on all outstanding issues regarding the implementation of relevant resolutions. The Council also welcomed the efforts made by the Lebanese President in reconvening the National Dialogue of the country's political leaders and looked forward to the continuation of the process.⁹³

⁹⁰ "Security Council extends UN peacekeeping force in Cyprus until early 2013", *UN News Centre*, July 19, 2012 at <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=42520&Cr=cyprus&Cr1=>

⁹¹ "DR Congo: Security Council condemns attacks by rebel soldiers in country's east", *UN News Centre*, July 16, 2012 at <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=42487&Cr=democratic&Cr1=congo>

⁹² "India hopes for arms treaty consensus", *The Asian Age*, July 20, 2012 at <http://www.asianage.com/india/india-hopes-arms-treaty-consensus-968>

⁹³ "Security Council emphasizes need for Israel and Lebanon to tackle outstanding issues", *UN News Centre*, July 19, 2012 at <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=42516&Cr=Leban&Cr1=>