

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

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I. COUNTRY REVIEWS

A. South Asia

Bangladesh

- **Jatiya Party (JP) Chairman HM Ershad visits India; President Zillur Rahman attended the 4th Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Summit of the OIC in Makkah; Russia agreed to provide as credit 85 percent of the estimated Tk 12,000-15,000 crore needed for setting up the first-ever nuclear power plant in Bangladesh**

The Chairman of Jatiya Party (JP) HM Ershad visited India from August 13-18, 2012 and met President Pranab Mukherjee, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, National Security Adviser Shivshankar Menon and Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai. Ershad also visited Ajmer.¹

In another development, according to reports, on August 13, 2012, Bangladesh President Zillur Rahman left for a five-day visit to Saudi Arabia to attend the 4th Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Summit of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation held on August 14-15, 2012 in Makkah.² During his address in the closing ceremony of the summit, President urged the OIC member states to persuade the Myanmar government with political and economic support to ensure dignified living of their Muslim-minority Rohingyas.³

In other developments, according to reports, Russia has agreed to provide as credit 85 percent of the estimated Tk 12,000-15,000 crore needed for setting up the first-ever nuclear power plant in Bangladesh. It will initially provide \$500 million for conducting necessary studies and preparing the design for the 1,000 MW nuke plant. This was agreed at a two-day meeting between Bangladesh and Russia on August 8-9, 2012 in Moscow.⁴

Sri Lanka

- **Independence Day celebrated at Indian High Commission in Sri Lanka; A large Indian delegation of pharmaceutical industry visits Sri Lanka to set up the proposed Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Hub; Eight Sri Lankan refugees are on fast in Chennai; Sri Lanka to establish diplomatic relations with thirteen Latin American countries; Former LTTE Chief Arms**

¹ "Ershad meets Pranab: Raises Teesta deal issue", *The Daily Star*, August 18, 2012 at <http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=246631>

² "President leaves for S Arabia", *The Daily Star*, August 13, 2012 at <http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=246010>

³ "Settling Rohingya Crisis: Zillur urges OIC to persuade Myanmar", *The Daily Star*, August 17, 2012 at <http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=246481>.

⁴ "Nuke Power Plant: Russia agrees to provide 85pc fund", *The Daily Star*, August 13, 2012 at <http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=245929>.

Procurer: Twenty members of the Tamil diaspora from Canada, Australia and five European Countries visit Sri Lanka

According to reports, the High Commission of India and the Indian expatriate community in Sri Lanka celebrated the 66th Independence Day of India on August 15, 2012 at India House in Colombo. High Commissioner Ashok K. Kantha unfurled the National Flag, which was followed by rendering of the National Anthem by ladies from the High Commission and the Indian community. The High Commissioner inspected the Guard of Honour presented by the BSF contingent 3 and read out excerpts from the Address to the Nation on the eve of Independence Day by the President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee. The High Commissioner also conveyed his greetings on the occasion to the citizens of Sri Lanka and noted that India-Sri Lanka relations were growing rapidly and that the partnership must progress in the spirit of being the closest of neighbours and friends whose destinies are interlinked.⁵

In another development, according to reports, a large delegation of Indian pharmaceutical industry led by Pharmaceutical Export Promotion Council of India (Pharmexcil) arrived in Sri Lanka on August 15, 2012 to set up the proposed Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Hub in Sri Lanka.⁶

Reports noted that eight Lankan refugees joined the indefinite fast launched by Senthuran, an inmate at Poonamallee Special Refugees Camp in Tamil Nadu.⁷

According to reports, the Sri Lankan government has received approval from the Cabinet of ministers to establish diplomatic relations with thirteen Latin American countries. The Cabinet has approved a proposal made by the Minister of External Affairs Prof. G.L. Peiris to establish diplomatic ties with Guatemala, Suriname, Belize, Honduras, Nicaragua, Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Haiti, St. Kitts & Nevis, St Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.⁸

In other developments, according to reports, former LTTE Chief Arms Procurer Kumaran Pathmanathan (KP) has said that a group of twenty members of the Tamil diaspora from Canada, Australia and five European Countries visited Sri Lanka and held talks with Defence Secretary Gotabaya Rajapaksa in Colombo.⁹

Maldives

- **President Waheed met with Crown Prince Salman Bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia;**

⁵ "India's 66th Independence Day celebrated in Sri Lanka", Colombo Page, August 15, 2012, at http://www.colombopage.com/archive_12A/Aug15_1345037479CH.php.

⁶ "Indian pharma delegation arrives in Sri Lanka to set up pharmaceutical hub", Colombo Page, August 15, 2012 at http://www.colombopage.com/archive_12A/Aug15_1345050413CH.php.

⁷ "8 Lankans on indefinite fast in Chennai", Daily Mirror, August 16, 2012 at <http://www.dailymirror.lk/news/21181-8-lankans-on-indefinite-fast-in-chennai.html>.

⁸ "Sri Lanka to establish diplomatic ties with 13 Latin American Countries", Colombo Page, August 16, 2012 at http://www.colombopage.com/archive_12A/Aug16_1345129915CH.php.

⁹ "Tamil Diaspora delegation meets Gota", Daily Mirror, August 15, 2012 at <http://www.dailymirror.lk/news/21124-tamil-diaspora-delegation-meets-gota.html>

Dr Waheed delivers his address at the fourth extraordinary session of the Organisation of Islamic Conference

Reports noted that President Dr Mohamed Waheed met with Crown Prince Salman Bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia on August 15, 2012. At the meeting, discussions were focused on the close bilateral relations between the Maldives and Saudi Arabia, and ways to further strengthen the close relations. At the meeting, the Saudi Crown Prince assured President Waheed of Saudi government's continuous cooperation and support to the Maldives.¹⁰

In another development, according to reports, President Waheed delivered his address at the fourth extraordinary session of the Organisation of Islamic Conference that began in Mecca on August 14, 2012. The agenda of the summit mainly focussed on four issues: the ongoing situation in Syria, the issues faced by the people of Palestine, the issues faced by the Muslim community in Burma, and the situation in Mali.¹¹

B. East Asia

South East Asia

- **Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) supports Philippine government in counter-offensive against Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF); Myanmar ends media censorship; Myanmar likely to become a mid-income nation by 2030; Myanmar to probe sectarian clashes; Malaysian Embassy in Syria temporarily closed; Sentences reduced for over 50,000 in Indonesia**

According to reports, for the first time in its history, the separatist rebel group of Philippines, Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) has supported the Philippine military's counter-offensive against the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF), a breakaway group of Moro rebels led by renegade Ameril Umbra Kato. MILF has recently issued formal statements condemning the recent unprovoked attacks by the BIFF against government militia detachments in Maguindanao where scores have been killed and thousands of civilians now seeking shelter in evacuation centers. Reports noted that the BIFF attacks were aimed at "shaming" the MILF, which has just concluded its 30th exploratory talks with the Philippine government. The latest round of talks ended on August 11, 2012 in Kuala Lumpur. The two sides are scheduled to meet again soon.¹²

According to reports, the Asian Development Bank, on 20 August 2012 said that strong economic growth could lift Myanmar to the rank of middle income nation by 2030. However, this is possible only if the formerly army-ruled country overcomes a host of reform challenges. Myanmar's gross domestic product (GDP) has the potential to expand at an annual pace of 7.0-8.0 percent, while per capita income could triple over the next 18 years, the Manila-based multilateral lender said.

¹⁰ "President Waheed meets the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia", *The President's Office, republic of Maldives*, August 16, 2012 at <http://www.presidencymaldives.gov.mv/Index.aspx?lid=11&dcid=7772>.

¹¹ "President Waheed to address at the OIC Summit this evening", *The President's Office, Republic of Maldives*, August 15, 2012 at <http://www.presidencymaldives.gov.mv/Index.aspx?lid=11&dcid=7765>.

¹² 'MILF joins Philippine government in condemning attacks by rebel breakaway group', *Global Times*, 20 August, 2012, <http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/727943.shtml>

It called for greater investment in infrastructure, education, health and social services to put the country on a sustainable recovery path. The ADB and the World Bank both recently opened offices in the impoverished country, which is emerging from decades of military rule under a new reformist government.¹³

In another development, according to Myanmar's information ministry statement, "Starting from August 20, all media publishing political and religious information are exempt from the obligation to get the approval of the information ministry's department of media control and registration before publishing." The reform, the latest in a series of pro-democratic changes, might lead to an end to the country's censorship history that lasted for more than five decades. Information Minister Kyaw Hsan announced in March, 2012 that censorship was abolished for 173 dailies and weeklies and 124 magazines publishing information about culture, sports, fashion, science and technology, but religious and political information remained under state control.¹⁴

According to media reports, Myanmar has set up a new commission to probe sectarian clashes that saw scores killed and displaced tens of thousands, following intense scrutiny of its handling of the issue. The 27-member commission, which includes religious leaders, artists and former dissidents, will "expose the real cause of the incident" and suggest ways ahead. It was further added that commission's remit is to establish the causes of the June violence, the number of casualties on both sides and recommend measures to ease tensions and find "ways for peaceful coexistence".¹⁵

Reports noted that the foreign ministry of Malaysia has ordered the temporary closure of its embassy in Syria due to ongoing conflict in the country. However, the ministry added that the embassy would not be shut permanently as several Malaysians still reside in Syria.¹⁶

In other developments in the region, according to reports, more than 50,000 convicts, including those sentenced for graft, murder and drug running, have been granted sentence reductions as the Indonesia celebrated its 67th Independence Day on August 17, 2012. Among high profile convicts receiving remission of sentences were Australian drug smuggler Schapelle Corby, former tax official Gayus H Tambunan, and former Garuda Indonesia pilot Pollycarpus Budihari Priyanto, who was sentenced for his role in the murder of human rights activist Munir Said Thalib.¹⁷

China

(August 6-19)

- **A group of Japanese rightists landed on Diaoyu Island; Chinese nationals released by Tokyo**

¹³ 'Myanmar could be mid income nation by 2030: ADB', *Yahoo News*, 20 August, 2012, <http://sg.finance.yahoo.com/news/myanmar-could-mid-income-nation-095114517.html>

¹⁴ Myanmar ends political, religious media censorship', *Deccan Herald*, 20 August, 2012, <http://www.deccanherald.com/content/272913/myanmar-ends-political-religious-media.html>

¹⁵ 'Burma announces Rakhine violence enquiry', *Radio Australia*, 19 August, 2012, <http://www.radioaustralia.net.au/international/2012-08-19/burma-announces-rakhine-violence-enquiry/1001702>

¹⁶ 'Malaysian Embassy in Syria ordered to temporarily close', *Bernama*, 19 August, 2012, <http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v6/newsgeneral.php?id=688970>

¹⁷ 'Indonesia cuts sentence of over 50,000 prisoners', *Zee News*, 18 August, 2012, http://zeenews.india.com/news/world/indonesia-cuts-sentence-of-over-50-000-prisoners_794419.html

arrive in Hong Kong; Taiwan official: Need for more efforts to boost Cross-Straits relations ; DPRK-Beijing agree to work on Economic Zone; China is willing to work with ASEAN on a code of conduct for South China Sea; Bhutan and China agreed to look for the solution of border issues

According to reports, a group of Japanese rightists landed on Diaoyu Island on August 19, 2012. This is being regarded by China as another attempt at flaring the issue of Chinese sovereignty.¹⁸ Meanwhile, seven out of fourteen Chinese nationals who were detained by Japanese police while going to the Diaoyu Islands, arrived in Hong Kong after their release. The release was welcomed by China.¹⁹

In another development, according to reports, a Taiwan affairs official for the Chinese mainland has called for greater efforts to promote Cross-Straits exchanges at the civilian level.²⁰

According to reports, China and DPRK have announced that they want to move forward in developing an economic zone.²¹

Reports noted that Beijing has announced that it will work with ASEAN on a code of conduct for South China Sea on a consensus basis.²²

According to reports, China and Bhutan have agreed to find solutions to their mutual border issues. This has been a major development after 28 years of bi-lateral talks.²³

C. Central Asia & Russia

Central Asia

- **Kazakhstan extends ban on petroleum product exports until 2013; Russia to increase duty-free fuel supplies to Kyrgyzstan by 30%; Kazakhstan will not sell uranium to Iran; Kazakhstan to supply 300 mcm in gas to Kyrgyzstan; Russia and Kyrgyzstan to discuss waiver of debts, sign new energy deals and extend the use of military bases; Tajikistan to buy wheat, corn, rice from Pakistan**

According to reports, the Kazakh government has extended the export of certain petroleum

¹⁸ "Japanese landing infringes Chinese sovereignty" *China Daily*, August 19, 2012 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2012-08/19/content_15686954.htm

¹⁹ "Nationals released by Japan police" *China Daily*, August 18, 2012 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2012-08/18/content_15685432.htm

²⁰ "More efforts urged to boost Cross-Straits ties" *China Daily*, August 19, 2012 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2012-08/19/content_15686943.htm

²¹ "China, DPRK vow to develop economic zones" *China Daily*, August 17, 2012 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2012-08/17/content_15685358.htm

²² "China seeks resolution to sea issue" *China Daily*, August 14, 2012 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2012-08/14/content_15672741.htm

²³ "China, Bhutan to continue border talks" *China Daily*, August 13, 2012 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/world/2012-08/13/content_15672493.htm

products (kerosene oil, light distillates) for an additional six months. The ban does not apply to special gasoline and heating oil. It has also asked members of the Eurasian Economic Commission (Russia and Belarus being the other members) to suspend exports of these products as well.²⁴

In another development, reports noted that Russia has agreed to increase the volume of duty-free petroleum products to Kyrgyzstan by 30 percent this year. Russia will supply a further 700,000 tons of petroleum, oil, and lubricants (POL). The two sides had earlier agreed to the supply of 300,000 tons of POL.²⁵

Meanwhile, the chief of Kazakhstan's national nuclear agency Kazatomprom, Vladimir Shkolnik, has reportedly said that the government will not sell uranium to Iran under its commitment to ensure the resource is used only for peaceful purposes.²⁶

Meanwhile, reports noted that Kazakhstan has agreed to supply 300 million cubic meters (mcm) of gas to Kyrgyzstan. It will provide the gas at \$95 per 1000 cubic meters, for a total gas bill of \$28.5 million.²⁷

In other developments, according to reports, Russia and Kyrgyzstan have discussed the cancellation of all debt (estimated to be around US\$ 490 million) owed to Russia. Both the sides have also discussed military cooperation and collaboration in electricity projects in Kyrgyzstan. Kyrgyzstan has also tentatively agreed to extend Russia's use of military bases in its territory for 15 years. Russia is currently using an airbase in Kant near Bishkek, a torpedo testing facility at Issyk-Kul lake in Eastern Kyrgyzstan, a communications center in the northern Chui province, and a seismic laboratory in Maily-Suu.²⁸

Meanwhile, reports noted that Tajikistan has concluded a deal with Pakistan to buy wheat, corn, rice and sugar. Tajikistan will import 100,000 tons of wheat, 5,000 tons each of rice and corn and 30000 tonnes of sugar.²⁹

Russia

- **Russia and the United States facilitate a visa regime between the two countries; PM Medvedev is hopeful of a visa free travel regime with the European Union; President Putin declares that Russia will not cut down on defence spending; Syrian delegation arrived in Moscow;**

²⁴ "Kazakhstan extends ban on petroleum product exports until 2013", Universal Newswire, August 16, 2012, <http://www.universalnewswires.com/centralasia/kazakhstan/viewstory.aspx?id=12629>

²⁵ "Russia to increase duty-free fuel supplies to Kyrgyzstan by 30%", Universal Newswire, August 17, 2012, <http://www.universalnewswires.com/centralasia/viewstory.aspx?id=12634>

²⁶ "Kazakhstan will not sell uranium to Iran, nuclear chief says", Universal Newswire, August 15, 2012, <http://www.universalnewswires.com/centralasia/kazakhstan/viewstory.aspx?id=12616>

²⁷ "Kazakhstan to supply 300 mcm in gas to Kyrgyzstan", Universal Newswire, August 14, 2012, <http://www.universalnewswires.com/centralasia/kyrgyzstan/viewstory.aspx?id=12611>

²⁸ "Russian lease on Kyrgyz military bases extended by 15 years", Universal Newswire, August 15, 2012, <http://www.universalnewswires.com/centralasia/kyrgyzstan/viewstory.aspx?id=12623>

²⁹ "Tajikistan sweet-talks Pakistan into cheaper sugar deal", Universal Newswire, August 13, 2012, <http://www.universalnewswires.com/centralasia/tajikistan/viewstory.aspx?id=12601>

Russia welcomes the appointment of Brahimi as new U.N. and Arab League envoy for Syria; Russia is against the imposition of a no fly zone over Syria; Belarusian President hails the year 2012 as the most productive with regards to developing relations with Russia; Russia's Foreign Minister concludes an official visit to Belarus

According to reports, Russia and the United States have facilitated a visa regime between the two countries. Citizens of both countries will be able to get multiple entry visas now, the Russian Foreign Ministry said on August 14, 2012. Earlier, on August 10, 2012, the two sides exchanged diplomatic notes to the effect that an Agreement on facilitating visa formalities for citizens of Russia and the United States goes into effect as of September 9, 2012. The agreement envisages issuance of multiple entry visas to citizens of both countries for a term of six months since every entry date and valid for a term of 36 months since the date of issuance. Russia will issue business, private, humanitarian and tourist visas on direct invitations of the host side; the United States will issue tourist visas of B1/B2 category. Decisions on visa applications be made as a rule within 15 days since the work on a visa application begins, the Russian Foreign Ministry said.³⁰

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev believes that Russia has good chances to move over to visa-free travel with the European Union in the years to come.³¹

According to reports, President Putin has declared that Russia will not cut down on defence spending and military modernization will be taken up as per the 2020 programme.³²

Reports noted that Russia has welcomed the appointment of Lakhdar Brahimi as U.N. and Arab League envoy for Syria.³³ Meanwhile, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov has said that Russia is against imposing of a no-fly zone over Syria, on the ground that it is a violation of the country's sovereignty.³⁴

In other developments, according to reports, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov has concluded an official visit to Belarus. The delegation exchanged views on topical international issues, including issues of regional and European security, expansion of cooperation within the framework of integration structures in the CIS space, especially the Russia-Belarus Union State, the Customs Union, the Common Economic Space, the Collective Security Treaty Organisation (CSTO).³⁵ Meanwhile, Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko has declared the year 2012 as the most fruitful one for developing relations with Russia. This includes developing trade and political relationship and achieving common ground on international issues including over Syria.³⁶

³⁰ "Russia, US facilitate visa regime to promote bilateral contacts", ITAR-TASS, August 14, 2012, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/495771.html>

³¹ "Medvedev says RF has good chances to move over to visa-free travel with EU", ITAR-TASS, August 13, 2012, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/495218.html>

³² "Russia not to cut defense spending - Putin", ITAR-TASS, August 14, 2012, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/496201.html>

³³ "Moscow welcomes appointment of Brahimi as envoy for Syria", ITAR-TASS, August 18, 2012, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/499125.html>

³⁴ "Moscow against imposing of no-fly zone over Syria", ITAR-TASS, August 18, 2012, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/499090.html>

³⁵ "Lavrov to depart for Belarus on visit", ITAR-TASS, August 14, 2012, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/495492.html>

D. Africa

- **Egypt's President orders retirement of top generals; Kenya warns Somalia detractors of punitive measures; Fresh unrest reported in Darfur region of Sudan; Shooting in South African mine kills 30 miners; SADC opposes Rwandan support to Congo rebels**

In a significant development, according to reports, Egypt's President Mohammed Morsi shuffled the military establishment by ordering the retirement of the defence minister Field Marshal Hussein Tantawi and chief of staff Gen. Sami Annan. Thus, the president seized back powers that the military generals grabbed from his office like sole control of the constitution drafting process and the right to legislate. However, he appointed them as presidential advisers and awarded them some of the nation's highest honours. Meanwhile, there was no "negative reaction" from within the military and no unusual military movements were detected anywhere across the nation.³⁷

In another development, according to reports, Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki warned that any individuals or groups in and out of Somalia trying to jeopardize the roadmap for ending the transition in Somalia would risk immediate imposition of specific punitive measures and restrictions spelt out in resolutions of the Africa Union, United Nations and Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD). He also urged the Somali people to remain vigilant as the process moves closer to key benchmarks. He further urged all the people of Somalia, including the Somali Diaspora to support the process that will usher in a new dawn in Somalia. He emphasized that the security of Kenya and the entire Horn of Africa region is vitally connected and inextricably linked to lasting peace and stability of Somalia.³⁸

Reports noted that six people were killed and twelve others injured in fresh unrest in Sudan's troubled western Darfur region. These six people died during three days of clashes between residents of the town of Mellit in North Darfur. The police and army had restored order. The violence erupted two weeks after four people were killed and six injured when gunmen looted several places and clashed with government forces in another part of North Darfur. Earlier, the International Criminal Court has indicted Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir and issued an arrest warrant for Defence Minister Abdel Raheem Muhammad Hussein for war crimes in Darfur.³⁹

In another development, according to reports, South African police killed more than thirty armed miners at a Lonmin PLC platinum mine. Police ministry spokesman Zweli Mnisi informed that an investigation into the shooting near Marikana, about 70 kilometres (40 miles) northwest of Johannesburg, is underway. It would be worth noting that these shootings were one of the worst

³⁶ "Lukashenko names 2012 most fruitful for relations with Russia", ITAR-TASS, August 15, 2012, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/496806.html>

³⁷ "Egypt's president Morsi removes top generals", *CTV News*, August 13, 2012, at <http://www.ctvnews.ca/world/egypt-s-president-morsi-removes-top-generals-1.911745>

³⁸ "Kenya warns Somalia detractors of sanctions", *Capital FM*, August 17, 2012, at <http://www.capitalfm.co.ke/news/2012/08/kenya-warns-somalia-detractors-of-sanctions/>

³⁹ "Six killed and 12 injured in unrest in Sudan's Darfur", *Daily News & Analysis*, August 17, 2012, at http://www.dnaindia.com/world/report_six-killed-and-12-injured-in-unrest-in-sudan-s-darfur_1728971

in South Africa since the end of the apartheid era, and are seen as deepening rift between the ruling African National Congress and an impoverished electorate confronting massive unemployment and growing poverty and inequality. However, political parties and labour unions, including the African National Congress, called for an independent inquiry.⁴⁰

In other developments, according to reports, Southern African leaders at the Southern African Development Community (SADC) meeting in the Mozambican capital opposed Rwanda for supporting rebels in the Democratic Republic of Congo as a threat to regional stability and urged Kigali to immediately stop its “interference”. The group also resolved to send a mission to Rwanda. It would be worth noting that the security situation in the eastern part of DRC has deteriorated in the last three months causing displacement of people, loss of lives and property. Also at the meeting, Zimbabwe was urged to put in place a road map for a new constitution ahead of a vote to end the shaky power-sharing deal.⁴¹

II. DEFENCE REVIEW

National

- **Four major DRDO projects running behind schedule**

According to reports, Lok Sabha was informed on August 13, 2012 that four major DRDO projects including Light Combat Aircraft, Airborne Early Warning and Control System (AEWC) and Kaveri engine are running behind schedule resulting in increase in their development cost. Defence Minister A K Antony said in written reply, “LCA Phase II, Naval LCA, AEW and C and Kaveri are the projects sanctioned by the Cabinet Committee on Security for which probable dates of completion (PDC) have been extended and costs have been enhanced.” “The PDC and cost of these projects have been revised due to various reasons like change in scope, ab-initio development of technologies and denial of technologies by the advanced countries, extended trials and increase in cost of materials and manpower,” he noted. The LCA project has been going on for the last over 25 years and the air force and the navy are waiting for their delivery. Similarly, the Kaveri engine project for LCA is still in trial phases and DRDO has been importing US-made engines for the aircraft’s trials.⁴²

International

- **Chinese warships from the PLA Navy (PLAN) dock in Israel for a five-day visit**

According to reports, three Chinese warships from the People’s Liberation Army Navy (PLAN)

⁴⁰ “South African police kill more than 30 striking miners”, *NDTV*, August 17, 2012, at <http://www.ndtv.com/article/world/south-african-police-killed-more-than-30-striking-miners-255866>

⁴¹ “Southern Africa tells Rwanda to halt DR Congo rebel support”, *Gulf News*, August 19, 2012, at <http://gulfnews.com/news/world/other-world/southern-africa-tells-rwanda-to-halt-dr-congo-rebel-support-1.1063610>

⁴² “Four DRDO projects, including LCA, behind schedule: Govt,” *ZEE News*, August 13, 2012, at <http://www.business-standard.com/generalnews/news/four-drdo-projects-including-lca-behind-schedule-govt/43649/>

docked in Haifa on August 13, 2012 for a five-day visit here as guests of the Israel Navy. Led by Rear Adm. Yang Junfei, deputy commander of the PLAN's North China Sea Fleet, the Chinese contingent will tour multiple sites throughout the country in honor of the 20th anniversary of diplomatic ties between Jerusalem and Beijing. Last month, Yang met with EU Naval Force (NAVFOR) Commander, Rear Adm. Jean-Baptiste Dupuis, aboard the French command and replenishment ship *Marne*, which was plying the waters of the Gulf of Aden. At the time of the July 17 visit, an EU NAVFOR spokesman noted about the need for enhanced cooperation with the PLAN's anti-piracy task force operating in the Gulf of Aden and off the coast of Somalia. "The significant number of actors who are committed in counter-piracy makes regular contact essential [for] de-confliction ... and coordinated actions where appropriate to increase the effectiveness of the various navies present in the area," according to the EU NAVFOR spokesman. Meanwhile, Israel has hinted at, but has not publicly acknowledged, anti-smuggling and counter terror operations around the Horn of Africa and into the Arabian Sea. It would be worth noting that in an interview last spring, Lt. Gen. Benny Gantz, Israel Defense Forces (IDF) chief of staff, told Israel's *Yediot Ahronot*, "You almost won't find a point in time that nothing is happening somewhere around the world." Gantz spent a week in China last May as guest of PLA Commander Gen. Chen Bindnge. It was the first visit by an IDF chief of staff since 1996 and was aimed to strengthen Sino-Israeli ties in light of Beijing's growing interests in the Mediterranean and Arabian Gulf regions.⁴³

III. INTERNAL SECURITY REVIEW

Jammu & Kashmir

(August 6-12)

- **Jammu and Kashmir Interlocutors to revisit the Report; Curfew imposed in a village in Ganderbal district after clashes; Infiltration bid foiled, soldier killed; Retired police official shot dead in Srinagar**

According to reports, the Centre's interlocutors on Kashmir are again visiting the Valley this month for getting feedback on their report" and to redraft it. The centre is yet to convene the meeting of Cabinet Committee on Security to discuss the report, submitted by the three-member panel of interlocutors to the then Union Home Minister P Chidambaram October last year. The three member committee will be staying for a week in Kashmir starting from August 30, 2012. The committee will not move outside Srinagar but will meet people at Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC).⁴⁴

⁴³ "Chinese Warships Dock in Israel," *Defence News*, August 13, 2012, at <http://www.defensenews.com/article/20120813/DEFREG03/308130006/-1/7daysarchives/Chinese-Warships-Dock-Israel>

⁴⁴ "Interlocutors to revisit their report", *Greater Kashmir*, August 7, 2012 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2012/Aug/8/interlocutors-to-revisit-their-report-52.asp>

In another development, according to reports, curfew was imposed Sendbal village of Ganderbal district after one person was killed in clashes between two groups over the use of a mosque loudspeaker on August 6, 2012 night. Shabir Ahmad Bhat, was killed and two people were injured when followers of two different schools of Islamic thought clashed with each other.⁴⁵

According to reports, Army on August 9, 2012, claimed to have foiled an infiltration bid by militants on Line of Control (LoC) in Gurez valley in north Kashmir's Bandipora district. One soldier has been killed in the encounter.⁴⁶

In other developments, according to reports, suspected militants on August 10, 2012, shot dead a retired Deputy Superintendent of Police (Dy SP) in Srinagar. Police said the attack was carried out in the afternoon in Batamaloo area of Srinagar. The incident created panic in the area. Heavy contingents of police and paramilitary CRPF reached the spot and launched a manhunt to trace the people involved in the killing.⁴⁷

(August 13-19)

- **Imam shot at in Rajouri; Clashes in old city**

According to reports, on August 14, 2012, unidentified gunmen shot at and injured an Imam in Rajouri district. The gunmen fired upon the Imam, Muhammad Taj, from a close range in Kotranka area. However, assailants managed to escape after carrying out the attack.⁴⁸

In another development, according to reports, clashes erupted between police and protesters in Nowhatta area of old city after Friday prayers, leaving several people injured. Police and CRPF men deployed in the area fired teargas canisters and used batons to disperse the protesting people. The youth responded and started pelting stones. During the clashes, 12 persons including four policemen were injured. Police said that they exercised maximum restraint and one cop was injured in clashes.⁴⁹

North East India

(August 6-12)

- **Three killed in fresh violence in Kokrajhar; Centre identifies fourteen radical outfits; Sixty Nagaland MLAs meet Prime Minister on Naga issue; Centre, Meghalaya not keen on talks**

⁴⁵ "Curfew in Sendbal after clashes", *Greater Kashmir*, August 7, 2012 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2012/Aug/8/curfew-in-sendbal-after-clashes-64.asp>

⁴⁶ "Infiltration bid foiled, soldier killed in Gurez", *Greater Kashmir*, August 9, 2012 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2012/Aug/10/infiltration-bid-foiled-soldier-killed-in-gurez-51.asp>

⁴⁷ "Retd police officer shot dead", *Greater Kashmir*, August 10, 2012 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2012/Aug/11/retd-police-officer-shot-dead-67.asp>

⁴⁸ "Imam shot at, injured", *Greater Kashmir*, August 15, 2012 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2012/Aug/16/imam-shot-at-injured-38.asp>

⁴⁹ "Clashes in Old City", *Greater Kashmir*, August 17, 2012 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2012/Aug/18/clashes-in-old-city-28.asp>

with GNLA; MHA-CBI team arrives in Guwahati; Thirty Five ultras surrender in Tezpur, Assam

According to reports, three people were killed and two injured as fresh violence broke out in Kokrajhar district. The killings took place on August 6, 2012 night, a day after four bodies were recovered, prompting authorities to impose indefinite curfew in Kokrajhar district and in the Dhubri and Bilasipara subdivisions of Dhubri district. According to an official, unidentified men killed three people and injured two in the Raanighuli area on the Kokrajhar-Dhubri border. Indefinite curfew has been imposed in the entire district.⁵⁰

Meanwhile, reports noted that a team of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) comprising Joint Secretary (North East) of the MHA, Shambhu Singh, Special Director of the CBI and others arrived in the State on August 9, 2012 on a two-day visit to assess the situation before the Central agency takes over the cases relating to the ethnic clashes. The MHA official said that the CBI would take over the cases relating to the ethnic clashes in Kokrajhar, Chirang and Dhubri districts immediately after the formal notification in this regard is issued by the Government of India. The role of the MHA would be facilitator to the process of handing over of the cases to the CBI and the present visit of the CBI officials is only to assess the situation on the ground.⁵¹

In another development, according to reports, taken aback by intensity of violence in BTAD areas as well as reports of the growth of radical organizations belonging to a particular community, the Centre has identified at least fourteen such organisations in Assam and five in Manipur.⁵²

Reports noted that sixty legislators of Nagaland visited New Delhi on August 7, 2012 and urged the Prime Minister to finalise an acceptable solution on the Naga issue before the State Assembly election due in February next year. Sources in Democratic Alliance of Nagaland (DAN) Government in Kohima informed that the 60 MLAs of Nagaland cutting across party lines have met Dr Manmohan Singh and Union Home Minister Sushil Kumar Shinde and urged them to finalise a solution which is acceptable and honourable by February next year. Over 40 NSCN-IM leaders are camping in New Delhi currently while engaging in informal talks with the Central leaders. Formal talks are likely to resume soon.⁵³

In other developments, according to reports, the resolute counter terrorist operations carried out by Gajraj Corps with the support of Assam Police, Eastern Command Intelligence Unit and civil administration have resulted in motivating a number of terrorists of different groups to give up arms and join the mainstream. An Adarnee Sabha was organised on August 11, 2012, by the Gajraj Corps at the District Library where six cadres of National Democratic Front of Bodoland

⁵⁰ "Fresh violence in Kokrajhar, three killed", *The Assam Tribune*, August 7, 2012 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=aug0712/at046>

⁵¹ "MHA-CBI arrives in city", *The Assam Tribune*, August 9, 2012 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=aug1012/city05>

⁵² "Centre identifies 14 radical outfits in State", *The Assam Tribune*, August 7, 2012 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=aug0812/at094>

⁵³ "60 Nagaland MLAs meet Prime Minister on Naga issue", *The Assam Tribune*, August 8, 2012 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=aug0912/oth05>

(NDFB) anti talk faction, two cadres of United liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) anti talk faction and 27 cadres of Karbi Peoples Liberation Tigers (KPLT) surrendered with their arms and ammunition.⁵⁴

(August 13-19)

- **Exodus of North-East students, workers after clashes in Bodoland Territorial Autonomous Districts (BATD); North East MPs express concern over attacks; Three militants gunned down in Garo Hills; Four serial blasts in Manipur; Four more border trade centres to be opened in North-East**

According to reports, after clashes in the Bodoland Territorial Autonomous Districts (BTAD), many workers, employees and students from the North East living in places like Kerala, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Mumbai and Pune are returning to the northeast region fearing attack and assault on them by some anti-social elements.⁵⁵ Meanwhile, according to reports, expressing deep concern over attacks on people from the northeast in other parts of the country, MPs from the region sought adequate protection for those belonging to the area.⁵⁶

In another development, according to reports, Meghalaya police defused a grenade planted underneath a flagpole of the banned Hyniewtrep National Liberation Council (HNLC) on the occasion of its 25th Raising day. The incident occurred at Phot Ja-ud village in South West Khasi Hills after the outfit unfurled its flag and also attached the grenade. Meanwhile, in a separate incident, three cadres of the newly floated Achik National United Front were gunned down by security forces in North Garo Hills district. One AK-47 rifle was recovered from the place of the incident.⁵⁷

Reports noted that two people were injured after four serial bomb blasts rocked Manipur's capital Imphal city and Thoubal district on Independence Day. All the three explosions took place when Chief Minister Okram Ibobi Singh was delivering his Independence Day speech at the 1st Manipur Rifles' Parade Ground. No insurgent group has claimed responsibility for the blasts. Meanwhile, Ibobi Singh asked insurgents to shun violence and become part of the mainstream for the overall development of Manipur.⁵⁸

In other developments, according to reports, Union Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai informed that four more border trade centres would be opened in the Northeastern States. The Foreign Secretary was in Imphal on August 18, 2012, to attend the two day International conference on

⁵⁴ "35 ultras surrender in Tezpur", *The Assam Tribune*, August 11, 2012 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=aug1212/state07>

⁵⁵ "Exodus of NE students, workers after BTAD clash", *The Assam Tribune*, August 13, 2012 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=aug1412/state06>

⁵⁶ "Northeast MPs express concern over attacks", *The Assam Tribune*, August 16, 2012 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=aug1612/at01411>

⁵⁷ "3 militants gunned down in Garo Hills", *The Assam Tribune*, August 14, 2012 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=aug1512/oth06>

⁵⁸ "Four serial blasts in Manipur, two injured", *The Assam Tribune*, August 15, 2012 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=aug1612/at06>

'India and her neighbours: Reverting relation with Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Maldives' at the Manipur University.⁵⁹

IV. UNITED NATIONS (UN) REVIEW

- **Veteran diplomat Brahimi to replace Kofi Annan as UN special representative for Syria, UN Observers end their mission in Syria; UNSC condemns terrorist attacks in Afghanistan; UNSC condemns attack on UN peacekeeper in Darfur**

Reports noted that veteran diplomat Lakhdar Brahimi was appointed as the new Joint Special Representative of the UN and League of Arab States for the crisis in Syria after Kofi Annan resigned from the post. With the end of Annan's mandate on August 31, 2012, Brahimi will take over.⁶⁰ Meanwhile, UN observers ended their mission in Syria.⁶¹

Meanwhile, the UN Security Council condemned the terrorist attacks in Afghanistan on 14th and 15th of August which caused numerous deaths and injuries, mostly to civilians. The Council also expressed serious concern at the threats posed by the Taliban, al-Qaida and illegal armed groups to the local population, national security forces, international military and international assistance efforts in Afghanistan. The Council also reaffirmed the international strategy for Afghanistan's recovery from conflict towards a stable democracy.⁶²

In other developments, the attack that killed a UN peacekeeper from Bangladesh and injured another in South Darfur was strongly condemned by the UN Security Council. The Council also expressed condolences to the peacekeeper's family as well as to the government of Bangladesh and called on the government of Sudan to swiftly investigate the incident and bring the perpetrators to justice.⁶³

⁵⁹ "4 more border trade centres to be opened in NE", *The Assam Tribune*, August 18, 2012 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=aug1912/oth05>

⁶⁰ "UN, Arab League appoint veteran diplomat to take over Annan's role on Syrian crisis", *UN News Centre*, August 17, 2012 at <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=42702&Cr=syria&Cr1=>

⁶¹ "UN observers wind up Syria mission", *The Times of India*, August 19, 2012 at http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2012-08-middle-east/33272150_1_manaf-tlass-free-syrian-army-chief-observer

⁶² "Noting terrorist group threats, Security Council condemns attacks in Afghanistan", *UN News Centre*, August 17, 2012 at <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=42704&Cr=afghan&Cr1=terror>

⁶³ "Security Council condemns attack on UN-African Union peacekeepers in Darfur", *UN News Centre*, August 15, 2012 at <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=42689&Cr=darfur&Cr1=>