

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

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1. COUNTRY REVIEW

A. SOUTH ASIA

AFGHANISTAN

- **Electoral Complaints Commission (ECC) completes probe into allegations of voting fraud; Karzai's vote share said to drop to 47 per cent; Rahm Emmanuel: Need for a legitimate Afghan government to be formed before US can take a decision on troop strength; Obama approves 13,000 more support troops; Britain to send 500 more troops to Afghanistan; US Treasury official: Taliban militants are financially stronger than the al-Qaeda**

Reports noted that the UN-backed Electoral Complaints Commission (ECC) had completed the probe into allegations of fraud in voting and that the percentage of votes cast for President Karzai in the August 20 polls had reduced to 47 per cent from 54.6 percent. This could lead to a runoff as the vote share had come down to less than 50 percent.¹ The White House Chief of Staff Rahm Emmanuel told CNN that Afghan election results should be seen as credible for a legitimate government to be formed before the US can make a decision on increasing its troop strength.²

The *Washington Post* reported on October 12 that the Pentagon will deploy at least 13,000 more troops to Afghanistan, over and above the 21,000 announced in March 2009. These extra troops could include support forces like engineers, medical personnel, intelligence experts and military police.³ British Prime Minister Gordon Brown also announced on October 14 that 500 more troops would be sent to Afghanistan and urged NATO allies to undertake "fair burden-sharing." Brown told the House of Commons that these extra troops would meet the need for larger forces in the Taliban-infested Helmand province.⁴

In other developments, David S. Cohen, US Assistant Secretary for Terrorist Financing, at a conference on countering money-laundering stated that the Taliban were in a much stronger financial position than al-Qaeda. He also charged that the Taliban resorted to a series of criminal activities to finance attacks on international troops.⁵

¹ "Karzai's vote share slips to 47pc," *Pajhwok Afghan News*, October 16, 2009, at <http://www.pajhwok.com/viewstory.asp?lng=eng&id=83185>

² "Election result must be legitimate: White House," *Pajhwok Afghan News*, October 18, 2009, at <http://www.pajhwok.com/viewstory.asp?lng=eng&id=83311>

³ "Obama approves 13,000 more US troops for Afghanistan," *Pajhwok Afghan News*, October 12, 2009, at <http://www.pajhwok.com/viewstory.asp?lng=eng&id=82970>

⁴ "UK pledges 500 more troops," *Pajhwok Afghan News*, October 14, 2009, at <http://www.pajhwok.com/viewstory.asp?lng=eng&id=83086>

⁵ "Taliban more moneyed than al-Qaeda: US official," *Pajhwok Afghan News*, October 13, 2009, at <http://www.pajhwok.com/viewstory.asp?lng=eng&id=83012>

PAKISTAN

- **Pak Army launches offensive in South Waziristan even as spate of suicide attacks lead to massive loss of live across Pakistan; 19 killed in Lahore, 15 in Peshawar, 41 in Mingora; Kerry meets Qureshi, says misinterpretations will be clarified**

Even as the Taliban stepped up suicide attacks across the country, the Pakistan Army launched a renewed military assault against it in South Waziristan, killing at least 60 militants. The Taliban put up heavy resistance with rockets and other sophisticated weapons.⁶ The Taliban had launched multiple suicide attacks on October 16 in Lahore which claimed 19 lives, including several security personnel. The building of the federal investigations office in the city was among the first targets to be attacked, where terrorists opened indiscriminate fire killing 6 people.⁷ A day later on October 17, at least 15 people were killed in a suicide bomb attack at the office of the Special Investigation Unit of the Peshawar police, which is located close to a military establishment.⁸ Earlier on October 12 in Mingora, a suicide bomber killed 41 people, majority of them civilians.⁹

Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi meanwhile, amidst mounting criticism by opposition parties over the Kerry-Lugar bill, went to the US to discuss its provisions. The US on its part stated that it was willing to address Pakistani concerns but added that its provisions would not be reviewed under any circumstances. The visiting US Democratic Senator John Kerry met with Foreign Minister Qureshi and told him that any “misinterpretation” would “simply have to be clarified” and added that nothing in the bill compromises Pakistan’s sovereignty.¹⁰

BHUTAN

- **Maoists blamed for IED blast in Sarpang district, 2 RBA soldiers injured; UN to cut food aid to refugee camps in eastern Nepal; India to establish three rail links with Bhutan**

Two Royal Bhutan Army (RBA) soldiers were injured after an improvised explosive device exploded in Sarpang district on October 12. Sources indicated

⁶ “South Waziristan clashes kill 60 militants,” *Dawn*, October 18, 2009, at <http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/dawn-content-library/dawn/news/pakistan/04-troops-pound-south-waziristan-militant-positions-qs-06#>

⁷ Salman Aslam, “Lahore rocked by three terror attacks Friday,” *The News*, October 16, 2009, at http://www.thenews.com.pk/arc_default.asp

⁸ Javed Aziz Khan, “15 killed in Peshawar suicide bombing,” *The News*, October 17, 2009, at http://www.thenews.com.pk/arc_default.asp

⁹ “Terror wave continues, army targeted again,” *Daily Times*, October 13, 2009, at http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2009\10\13\story_13-10-2009_pg1_1

¹⁰ “US not to review KLB but will address concerns,” *The News*, October 14, 2009, at http://www.thenews.com.pk/arc_default.asp

that Maoists militants based in the eastern camps of Nepal were responsible for the attack.¹¹

Meanwhile, the UN has for the first time in seventeen years stated that it would be limiting food aid for the refugee camps in eastern Nepal. Latest estimates indicated that around 22,000 Bhutanese refugees have been settled in Western countries under the third country settlement programme.¹²

In other developments, Indian Railways announced that it would establish three rail links with Bhutan. Reports noted that the Indian decision was to counter China's influence in the region.¹³

B. EAST ASIA

CHINA

- **PLA Chief calls for long-term strategic perspective in Sino-Australian ties: 3rd round of the China-Indonesia defense and security consultation held: Deputy Chief of Vietnamese Army visits China: New batch of Chinese peacekeepers go to Lebanon; PLA tests new mine-sweeping equipment**

PLA Chief of Staff Gen. Chen Bingde, in remarks at the Australian Defense College, stated that Chinese and Australian military-to-military cooperation should be guided by long-term strategic perspective and added that both the countries had stakes in ensuring peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region.¹⁴ Chen was in Australia to participate in the 12th Australia and China Defense Strategic Dialogue.¹⁵ Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd in his meeting with Chen noted that the two countries had recorded constructive and productive cooperation in various fields such as economy, trade and culture.¹⁶

The 3rd round of China-Indonesia defense and security consultation also took place in Beijing in the previous week. While Xu Caihou, Vice-Chairman of China's Central Military Commission led the Chinese delegation, Secretary General of Indonesia's Defense Ministry Sjafrie Sjamuddin led the Indonesian

¹¹ "Two RBA soldiers injured in Sarpang Blast," *The Kuensel*, October 11, 2009, at <http://www.kuenselonline.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=13686>

¹² "U.N. to cut food aid to Bhutan refugees in Nepal," *The Reuters*, October 15, 2009, at <http://in.reuters.com/article/southAsiaNews/idINIndia-43188420091015>; "Nearly 22,000 Bhutanese refugees living in Nepal resettled," *China View*, October 18, 2009, at http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-10/18/content_12263553.htm

¹³ "India Developing Rail Links to Connect to Chinese Infrastructure," *Asia Briefing*, October 15, 2009, at <http://www.2point6billion.com/news/2009/10/15/india-developing-rail-links-to-connect-to-chinese-infrastructure-2586.html>

¹⁴ "Long-term Strategic View Needed in Sino-Australia Military Ties: Chinese General," *PLA Daily*, October 17, 2009, at http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/news-channels/china-military-news/2009-10/17/content_4062307.htm

¹⁵ "Australia, China Defense Strategic Dialogue Held in Canberra," *PLA Daily*, October 16, 2009, at http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/news-channels/china-military-news/2009-10/16/content_4061644.htm

¹⁶ "Bilateral Relations with China to Enter New Phase: Australian PM," *PLA Daily*, October 18, 2009, at http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/news-channels/china-military-news/2009-10/18/content_4062695.htm

delegation. Xu noted that there were no fundamental problems between China and Indonesia and that both countries enjoyed sound bilateral relations.¹⁷ China also hosted the deputy chief of general staff of the Vietnamese People's Army Ngyyen Quoc Khanh on October 13, 2009.¹⁸

170 officers and men of the 6th batch of the Chinese engineering battalion and the 5th batch of the medical detachment left for south Lebanon on October 15.¹⁹

The PLA successfully finished 'Vanguard 2009' exercises on October 13 in east China's Jinan area.²⁰ Reports noted that the PLA Navy conducted a mine-sweeping exercise in a complicated electromagnetic environment in the East China Sea in early October. A new-type of indigenously developed mine-sweeping devices were tested under close-to-real-war conditions.²¹ The PLA also started a new military exercise in central China's Henan Province involving around 10,000 soldiers and officers from the army and air force and more than 50 kinds of equipment.²²

JAPAN

- **Foreign Minister Okada wants Australia as part of East Asia community; Japan to review deployment of US troops; New government enjoying approval ratings of over 70 per cent; Hatoyama meets with Wen Jiabao and Lee Myung Bak in Beijing; Okada makes a surprise visit to Afghanistan; Japan says Russian-held Northern Territories are an integral part of Japan**

Japan's Foreign Minister Katsuya Okada stated that Australia should belong to the 'East Asia community' currently being envisaged by the new Japanese government.²³ Okada also stated that he wants to review the deployment of US troops in his country to ease the burden on the people of Okinawa and ensure that the American military presence in Japan continues.²⁴ Reports also indicated that after decades of denials by Washington and Tokyo, newly declassified US

¹⁷ "China, Indonesia Seek Closer Military Ties," *PLA Daily*, October 16, 2009, at http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/news-channels/china-military-news/2009-10/16/content_4061640.htm

¹⁸ "Ge Zhenfeng Meets Vietnamese Counterpart," *PLA Daily*, October 13, 2009, at http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/news-channels/china-military-news/2009-10/13/content_4060028.htm

¹⁹ "New Chinese Peacekeeping Troops to Lebanon Set Out," *PLA Daily*, October 16, 2009, at http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/news-channels/china-military-news/2009-10/16/content_4062035.htm

²⁰ "Vanguard 2009 Joint Military Exercise Concludes," *PLA Daily*, October 14, 2009, at http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/news-channels/china-military-news/2009-10/14/content_4060728.htm

²¹ "New-Type Mine-Sweeping Device Put into Use," *PLA Daily*, October 14, 2009, at http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/news-channels/china-military-news/2009-10/14/content_4060713.htm

²² "PLA Kicks off Fresh Military Exercise in C China," *PLA Daily*, October 13, 2009, at http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/news-channels/china-military-news/2009-10/13/content_4059590.htm

²³ "Japan favours Australian inclusion in East Asia community," *The Australian News*, October 8, 2009, at <http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,25197,26179518-2703,00.html>

²⁴ "Japan: US troop burden on Okinawa needs easing," *Associated Press*, October 7, 2009, at http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20091007/ap_on_re_as/as_japan_us_3

documents showed that a secret pact did exist that allowed the US to transport nuclear weapons through Japan.²⁵

In domestic developments, public opinion polls revealed that Japan's new cabinet was enjoying approval ratings of over 70 percent. However, some of those polled were unhappy with Prime Minister Hatoyama's explanation of the scandal involving election funds.²⁶

Report also noted that the new government was considering postponing formulation of the next National Defense Program Outline and the midterm defense build-up program until the end of 2010. These tasks were initially planned to be completed by the end of 2009.²⁷

Meanwhile, Japanese Prime Minister Hatoyama met with his Chinese and South Korean counterparts in Beijing on October 10. The meeting followed Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao's visit to Pyongyang. Japan reaffirmed its commitment to seek a comprehensive solution to the North Korean nuclear, ballistic missile and abduction issues while restarting the stalled six-party talks.²⁸

Japan's Foreign Minister Okada made a surprise visit to Afghanistan and conveyed to President Karzai that the Japanese government was interested in providing vocational training for former Taliban fighters, as well as other forms of aid.²⁹ Later in the week, Japan's parliamentary defence secretary Akihisa Nagashima, the third-ranking defence official, told National Security Adviser James Jones and Undersecretary of Defence Michele Flournoy in Washington that Japan's re-fuelling mission would not be renewed when its legal mandate expires in January 2010.³⁰

In other developments, Seiji Maehara, state minister in charge of the Northern Territories - the four Russian-held islands off Hokkaido claimed by Japan, stated that these islands were an integral part of Japan and that Tokyo will keep demanding their return from Russia's "illegal occupation." Maehara made these comments after he had viewed the islands from a Japan Coast Guard vessel.³¹

²⁵ "US documents point to secret Japan nuclear pact," *Agence France-Presse*, October 14, 2009, at <http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,25197,26208923-12335,00.html>

²⁶ "Support for Japan PM high but headaches ahead," *Reuters*, October 5, 2009, at http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20091005/wl_nm/us_japan_politics_3

²⁷ "Govt ponders delay in defense programs," *Yomiuri Shimbhun*, October 11, 2009, at <http://www.yomiuri.co.jp/dy/national/20091011TDY02309.htm>

²⁸ "Japan aims to confirm with China, S. Korea to work via 6-way talks," *Associated Press*, October 9, 2009, at http://www.breitbart.com/print.php?id=D9B7RHP00&show_article=1

²⁹ "Japan's FM makes surprise visit to Afghanistan," *Associate Foreign Press*, October 11, 2009, at http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20091011/wl_asia_afp/japanafghanistandiplomacy_20091011071904/print

³⁰ "Japan official tells U.S. it will halt refueling mission in Jan." *Associated Press*, October 14, 2009, at http://www.breitbart.com/article.php?id=D9BB7E400&show_article=1

³¹ "Russia 'illegally' on isles: Maehara," *Japan Times*, October 18, 2009, at <http://search.japantimes.co.jp/cgi-bin/nn20091018a1.html>

C. WEST ASIA

IRAN

- **Prosecutors say Karroubi faces legal action as charges of rape against protestors dismissed; Clinton in Russia, Moscow opposes economic sanctions against Iran; US Senate approves legislation that seeks to punish foreign oil companies from exporting gasoline to Iran; 35 people including senior Guards commanders killed in suicide attack in southeastern Iran**

Prosecutors in Tehran stated that opposition leader Mehdi Karroubi would face legal action over his charge that several of the protesters who took to the streets after Iran's June election were raped. The judiciary panel which looked into these allegations came to the conclusion that they were baseless and "made without any proof and ... aimed at distracting public opinion."³²

Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov told visiting US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton that threatening Iran with more sanctions would be counterproductive. Clinton on her part told reporters that negotiations will be "very vigorously" pursued but added that the US was looking at potential sanctions in the event that those negotiations fail.³³

The US Senate meanwhile approved legislation that will punish foreign oil companies that export gasoline to Iran, the first time that both chambers of Congress cleared the same bill imposing economic sanctions on Iran as a result of its nuclear programme. President Obama is expected to sign the bill into law. The bill seeks to block US Energy Department from awarding contracts to companies that deliver oil to the US Strategic Petroleum Reserve if the companies sell or ship gasoline to Iran. While Iran holds some of the world's biggest oil reserves, it still imports 40 percent of its gasoline to meet domestic demand.³⁴

More than 30 people including top military officers were killed in a suicide attack at a meeting of the elite Revolutionary Guards in southeastern Iran. Iran blamed "foreign elements" linked to the US for the attack, and also accused Britain of complicity. State media blamed the *Jundollah*, linked to the Taliban in Pakistan, as being responsible for the attack. Among those killed included the deputy head of the Guards' ground forces, Gen. Nourali Shoushtari,

³² "Iran's Karroubi faces legal action," *Khaleej Times*, October 13, 2009, at http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle08.asp?xfile=data/middleeast/2009/October/middleeast_October316.xml§ion=middleeast

³³ "Russia Resists U.S. on Iran Sanctions," *New York Times*, October 13, 2009, at http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2009/10/13/world/AP-EU-Clinton-Russia.html?_r=1&hp=&pagewanted=print

³⁴ "US Congress oks sanctions on Iran's fuel suppliers," *Khaleej Times*, October 16, 2009, at http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle08.asp?xfile=data/middleeast/2009/October/middleeast_October378.xml§ion=middleeast

and the Guards' commander in Sistan-Baluchestan province, Gen. Mohammadzadeh. Shoushtari was also a senior official of the elite Qods force.³⁵

IRAQ

- **15 killed in Tal Afar mosque during Friday prayers**

In an audacious attack, a man in Tal Afar, northern Iraq shot dead the prayer leader at the Taqwa mosque during Friday prayers with an assault rifle before targeting other worshipers and detonating a suicide belt. At least 15 people were killed and over 100 others were wounded. The mosque was primarily attended by Sunni Arabs and the prayer leader, Abdel Satar Hassan, was a member of the Iraq Islamic Party, the largest Sunni political group.³⁶

II. DEFENCE, NUCLEAR AND SPACE REVIEW

DEFENCE

NATIONAL

- **India-Russia IRIGC-MTC term extended by another 10 years to 2020**

India and Russia are expected sign two major agreements on defence cooperation during PM Dr. Manmohan Singh's visit to Moscow in December 2009. The outlines of the agreements were laid during the 9th meeting of the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Military Technical Cooperation (IRIGC-MTC) held in Moscow during the week. At this meeting, an agreement to extend the IRIGC-MTC's term by another 10 years to 2020 as well as an agreement on ensuring after-sales product sales support for Russian origin defence equipment was agreed upon.³⁷

- **DRDO on the verge of developing multiple-warhead missiles**

Reports noted that DRDO was on the verge of developing multiple independently targetable re-entry vehicle (MIRV) technology. The MIRV will enable the placement of several warheads on a single missile, all of which can be fired at different targets. It is expected that the new technology would be deployed in the next 4-5 years. At present, only the US, Russia and China have this technology.³⁸

³⁵ "Suicide bomber kills 35 in attack on Iran Guards," *Khaleej Times*, October, 18, 2009, at http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle09.asp?xfile=data/middleeast/2009/October/middleeast_October433.xml§ion=middleeast

³⁶ Timothy Williams and Sa'ad Al-Izzi, "Attacker Kills 15 in Iraqi Mosque," *New York Times*, October 17, 2009, at <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/10/17/world/middleeast/17iraq.html?ref=todayspaper&pagewanted=print>

³⁷ Government of India, Press Information Bureau, "India, Russia to ink two major agreements on defence cooperation," October 15, 2009.

³⁸ Pinaki Bhattacharya, "India's developing multiple-warhead missile," *India Today*, October 16, 2009, at http://indiatoday.intoday.in/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&issueid=111&id=66545&Itemid

INTERNATIONAL

- **China's New MALE UAVs**

Reports noted that photographs taken in early October 2009 have revealed two of China's hitherto unknown medium-altitude long-endurance (MALE) unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs). The new UAVs are believed to have an "endurance of 40 hrs at a maximum altitude of about 26,000 ft" and can carry a 150 kg payload.³⁹

NUCLEAR

- **India inks nuclear pact with Argentina**

During the recent visit of Argentine President to India, India signed an agreement in civilian nuclear cooperation with Argentina, the seventh such pact it has signed after the NSG waiver was granted. A joint statement issued after Mrs. Kirchner's talks with Dr. Singh stated: "Taking into account their respective capabilities and experience in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, both India and Argentina have agreed to encourage and support scientific technical and commercial cooperation for mutual benefit in this field." India has already signed civilian nuclear pacts with the US, France, Russia, Kazakhstan, Namibia and Mongolia.⁴⁰

- **Australia firm on its decision not to export uranium to India**

Australian Foreign Minister Stephen Smith told reporters that his country was firm on its position of not wanting to export uranium for India's nuclear energy programme, unless India signs the NPT. Smith added that Australia was keen to strengthen security cooperation with India and place it in the "front rank of our bilateral relationships." Australia boasts the world's largest reserves of uranium but has no nuclear power industry and only operates three mines producing partially-refined uranium ore known as yellowcake.⁴¹

SPACE

- **ISRO's Antirx bagged contracts worth Rs. 1000 crore during 2008-09; Nair: ISRO's heavy satellite to be launched by Arianespace; ISRO to launch a European-built Algerian satellite**

ISRO is set to launch another of its heavy satellites from one of Arianespace's launch vehicles shortly. ISRO Chairman Madhavan Nair told reporters that Arianespace was good "for heavy-lift launches" of more than four tonnes. Nair noted that from 1988 to 2007, the European space giant had launched twelve of

d=1§ionid=114; Rajat Pandit, "India surprised by Chinese fuss over Agni-V," *The Times of India*, October 17, 2009.

³⁹ Ted Parsons, "Photographs reveal new Chinese MALE UAVs," *Jane's Defence Weekly*, October 13, 2009.

⁴⁰ Sandeep Dikshit, "India Inks Nuclear Pact with Argentina," *The Hindu*, October 15, 2009, at <http://www.hindu.com/2009/10/15/stories/2009101562041200.htm>

⁴¹ "Australia Firm on Uranium Exports to India: FM," at <http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5h2KNsNuuGHCauZjkoCTwrCbWMmUQ>

ISRO's satellites.⁴² He also noted that ISRO was looking for collaborative opportunities with Arianespace to secure launch contracts for smaller satellites from Europe. Following the Technology Safeguards Agreement (TSA) between Washington and New Delhi, prospects for launch of US satellites by ISRO had also brightened. A 200-tonne European-built Algerian satellite is to be launched by ISRO soon.

ISRO has bagged launch contracts from countries including France, Algeria, Germany, Canada and Indonesia, with Antrix Corporation, the commercial arm of ISRO earning over Rs. 1000 crore during 2008-09. Antrix is expecting a growth of 25-30 percent in the current year. Overseas clients are also reported to have sought satellite subsystems, propulsion systems and wheels. Photographic imagery from ISRO's constellation of Earth Observation Satellites (EOS) is also expected to serve as another source of revenue.

⁴² "ISRO eyes more satellite launches from Europe, US," *MSN News*, October 14, 2009, at <http://news.in.msn.com/national/article.aspx?cp-documentid=3295491>