

# THE WEEK IN REVIEW

March 30-April 5, 4(1), 2009

**EDITOR:** S. SAMUEL C. RAJIV

**REVIEW ADVISOR:** S. KALYANARAMAN

## CONTRIBUTORS

**S.M. FAIZAN AHMED** – International Terrorism

**PRANAMITA BARUAH** – Southeast Asia

**MEDHA BISHT** – Sri Lanka, Maldives

**KARTIK BOMMAKANTI** – Space and Missiles

**ZAKIR HUSSAIN** – Defence Issues

**MAHTAB ALAM RIZVI** – Iran, Iraq

**SANJEEV KUMAR SHRIVASTAVA** – Afghanistan,  
Pakistan

**AMARJEET SINGH** – Internal Security Review

**GUNJAN SINGH** – China, Taiwan, Japan



**INSTITUTE FOR DEFENCE STUDIES AND ANALYSES,  
1, DEVELOPMENT ENCLAVE, RAO TULA RAM MARG, NEW DELHI – 110010**

	<b>IN THIS ISSUE</b>	<b>PAGE</b>
<b>I. COUNTRY REVIEWS</b>		
	<b>A. SOUTH ASIA</b>	<b>3-6</b>
	<b>B. EAST AND SOUTHEAST ASIA</b>	<b>6-8</b>
	<b>C. WEST ASIA</b>	<b>8-10</b>
<b>II. MISSILES, SPACE AND DEFENCE REVIEW</b>		<b>10-13</b>
<b>III. INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM</b>		<b>13</b>
<b>IV. INTERNAL SECURITY REVIEW</b>		<b>13-14</b>

## 1. COUNTRY REVIEW

### A. SOUTH ASIA

#### AFGHANISTAN

- **72 countries represented at The Hague conference on Afghanistan; US to provide \$40 million for Afghan presidential elections; Stabilising Afghanistan figures prominently at the G20 and NATO Summits; NATO allies agree to contribute 5,000 additional troops**

At the UN conference on Afghanistan at The Hague during the week, representative of 72 nations pledged to do their bit to help stabilize the situation in that country. US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton told the conference that the first priority will be to ensure a smooth conduct of the presidential elections, scheduled for August 22. Clinton announced that the US would contribute \$40 million of the \$220 million requested by the UN to support a "fair and secure" electoral process. Clinton also admitted that there has been a widespread failure in the management of aid programs in Afghanistan.<sup>1</sup>

Measures to stabilise Afghanistan also figured prominently in the discussions at the G-20 summit in London on April 2 as well as at NATO's historic 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary Summit held in Strasbourg on April 3. NATO leaders agreed to send 5,000 additional military personnel to help provide security for the upcoming elections and train Afghan security forces. An additional \$100 million was pledged for a fund to build and sustain the Afghan army.<sup>2</sup> President Obama on his part welcomed the troop commitment as "a strong down payment" towards securing Afghanistan.<sup>3</sup>

In other developments, Taliban militants carried out an attack on a government office in Kandhar province, killing 13 people, including two provincial government officials on April 1 while NATO forces killed 12 insurgents in an operation later in the week.<sup>4</sup>

#### PAKISTAN

- **At least 8 killed and 93 injured in a terrorist attack on Lahore police centre; Baitullah Mahsud claims responsibility for the attack; 12 people die in drone attack in the Orakzai tribal agency; At least 55 dead in a series of suicide attacks in less than 24 hours; Pakistan Supreme court restores Shahbaz Sharif as Chief Minister of Punjab**

---

<sup>1</sup> "Aid programs failing Afghanistan, says Clinton," *The Age*, April 1, 2009, at <http://www.theage.com.au/articles/2009/03/31/1238261579705.html>

<sup>2</sup> "Europe to contribute 5,000 extra troops to Afghanistan," *Guardian*, April 4, 2009, at <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2009/apr/04/europe-troops-afghanistan-nato-obama>

<sup>3</sup> "Europe to contribute 5,000 extra troops to Afghanistan," *Guardian*, April 4, 2009, at <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2009/apr/04/europe-troops-afghanistan-nato-obama>

<sup>4</sup> "12 insurgents, woman killed in Afghanistan: NATO," *The Times of India*, April 4, 2009 at <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/South-Asia/12-insurgents-woman-killed-in-Afghanistan-NATO/articleshow/4357518.cms>

Seven police trainees and a civilian were killed and 93 others injured as terrorists attacked a police training school in Manawan, which is just six kilometers from the Wagah border with India.<sup>5</sup> Pakistani Taliban commander Baitullah Mahsud claimed responsibility for the attack, stating that it was “revenge for the drone attacks in Pakistan.”<sup>6</sup> He also threatened to launch an attack on the US as a protest against the drone attacks in the tribal areas and the announcement of a \$5 million reward on his head.<sup>7</sup>

The US however showed its intention to widen the scope of the drone attacks when it launched an attack killing twelve people in the Orakzai tribal agency on April 1, the first such strike in the region. Orakzai Agency is the only tribal region, out of the seven regions of the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), which does not share its border with Afghanistan.<sup>8</sup> President Obama meanwhile, addressing a press conference in London on April 1, warned that al-Qaeda was planning to attack the US mainland from Pakistani soil and vowed to defeat the terror organisation.<sup>9</sup>

In continuing violence inside Pakistan, a suicide bomber blew himself up in a camp of the Frontier Constabulary, killing at least eight FC personnel and injuring 12 others on April 4. 30 people were killed in a suicide attack in the North Waziristan Agency (NWA) on the same day while 26 people lost their lives and more than 40 others were injured when a suicide bomber blew himself up at the Chakwal city’s main mosque on April 5.<sup>10</sup>

Pakistan’s President Asif Ali Zardari, along with Turkish President Abdullah Gul and Afghan President Hamid Karzai, at the Third Turkey-Pakistan-Afghanistan trilateral summit on April 1 in Ankara, vowed to increase coordination among their political, military and intelligence tiers to jointly fight militancy and terrorism and achieve greater economic cooperation to bring peace and stability to the region.<sup>11</sup>

In other developments, the Supreme Court of Pakistan overturned an order barring Shahbaz Sharif, brother of former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif

---

<sup>5</sup> “Terrorists storm Lahore police centre,” *The News*, March 31, 2009, at [http://www.thenews.com.pk/arc\\_default.asp](http://www.thenews.com.pk/arc_default.asp)

<sup>6</sup> “Militant Claims Responsibility for Pakistan Attack,” *New York Times*, March 31, 2009, at <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/04/01/world/asia/01pstan.html?scp=16&sq=pakistan&st=cse>

<sup>7</sup> “Baitullah threatens attack on White House,” *The News*, April 1, 2009, at [http://www.thenews.com.pk/arc\\_default.asp](http://www.thenews.com.pk/arc_default.asp)

<sup>8</sup> “12 die as drone hits militants’ camp in Orakzai,” *The News*, April 2, 2009, at [http://www.thenews.com.pk/arc\\_default.asp](http://www.thenews.com.pk/arc_default.asp)

<sup>9</sup> “Al-Qaeda planning attack on US from Pakistan: Obama,” *The News*, April 2, 2009 at [http://www.thenews.com.pk/arc\\_default.asp](http://www.thenews.com.pk/arc_default.asp)

<sup>10</sup> “Bloodbath in Chakwal leaves 26 dead, 40 injured,” *Dawn*, April 6, 2009, <http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/dawn-content-library/dawn/news/pakistan/chakwal-blast-in-imam-bargah-8-died-hs>

<sup>11</sup> “Pakistan, Turkey, Afghanistan vow to fight terror,” *The News*, April 2, 2009, at [http://www.thenews.com.pk/arc\\_default.asp](http://www.thenews.com.pk/arc_default.asp)

from holding office, and allowed him to return to his post as chief minister of Punjab.<sup>12</sup>

## SRI LANKA

- **Colombo seizes remaining LTTE-controlled territory; Government pledges to improve condition of IPD welfare centres**

Reports indicated that violence was on the rise in the safe zones declared by the government, with twenty-five civilians getting killed and fifty-six injured in Puthumathalan, Mulivaaikal, Irraddaivaikal and Valaingaramadam in Mullaittivu.<sup>13</sup> The Sri Lankan government meanwhile finally seized the remaining territory under LTTE control in Puthukkudiyiruppu with almost 250 LTTE cadres, including several senior leaders, getting killed.<sup>14</sup>

The government on its part has pledged to improve the condition of welfare centers catering to internally displaced persons (IDP's) to alleviate the plight of people affected by the conflict. According to government estimates, approximately 62,106 IDPs have reached government-controlled area.<sup>15</sup>

In other developments, Defence spokesman Minister Keheliya Rambukwella announced that a Parliamentary Select Committee has been set up to examine the writings of journalists who have been contributing articles to foreign non governmental organizations to determine if they were writing pro-LTTE articles.<sup>16</sup>

## MALDIVES

- **9 Maldivian citizens arrested in Pakistan; At Bonn climate change talks, Maldives calls for stabilizing GHG emissions below 350 parts per million; Advisory Council on Climate Change set up**

Reports indicated that nine Maldivian citizens have been arrested by security forces in the northern region of Pakistan. The government on its part offered no intervention regarding the release of these people, and stated that the Pakistan government was free to take action against them.<sup>17</sup>

Reports noted that the Maldivian delegation participating in the climate change talks at Bonn towards furthering commitments for Annex I parties under

---

<sup>12</sup> "Pakistani Court Allows Official to Return to Post", *New York Times*, March, 31, 2009, at <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/04/01/world/asia/01sharif.html?scp=13&sq=pakistan&st=cse>

<sup>13</sup> "More than 270 Tamil civilians flee rebel territory in northern Sri Lanka" *China View*, April 3, 2009, at: [http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-04/03/content\\_11125758.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-04/03/content_11125758.htm)

<sup>14</sup> "Last LTTE stronghold falls to Army in Sri Lanka", *Colombo Page*, April 3, 2009, at: [http://www.colombopage.com/archive\\_09/April5153804CH.html](http://www.colombopage.com/archive_09/April5153804CH.html)

<sup>15</sup> "Vast improvements in Sri Lanka IDP centers", *Colombo Page*, April 2, 2009, at: [http://www.colombopage.com/archive\\_09/April2161523CH.html](http://www.colombopage.com/archive_09/April2161523CH.html)

<sup>16</sup> "Sri Lanka Defence Spokesman Minister Keheliya Rambukwella", *Nidahasa News*, April 3, 2009, at: <http://news.nidahasa.com/news.php?go=fullnews&newsid=760>

<sup>17</sup> "Pakistani security forces arrest nine Maldivians for weapon possession," *Haveeru Times*, April 2, 2009, at [http://www.haveeru.com.mv/english/details/26394/Pakistani\\_security\\_forces\\_arrest\\_nine\\_Maldivians\\_for\\_weapon\\_possession](http://www.haveeru.com.mv/english/details/26394/Pakistani_security_forces_arrest_nine_Maldivians_for_weapon_possession)

the Kyoto Protocol, emphasized on the need for stabilizing greenhouse gas concentrations below 350 parts per million and limiting temperature increases to below 1.5°C.<sup>18</sup>

In other developments, President Nasheed, speaking at a press conference on the formation of an Advisory Council on Climate Change, stated that future Maldivian government's should allow its citizens to travel study or work any where in the world. He also stated that he will be asking foreign governments to exempt Maldivians who wish to buy land abroad from taxation. The council, to be chaired by Vice-President Dr. Mohamed Waheed Hassan Manik and supported by a group of international climate and energy experts, will "set out detailed plans and a timeline for emissions cuts and other environmental measures to be implemented over the coming decade."<sup>19</sup>

## B. EAST AND SOUTHEAST ASIA

### CHINA

- **Beijing urges regional countries to show restraint as DPRK launches rocket; President Hu and PM Aso meet at G20 Summit, pledge to increase cooperation, Hu proposes 5-point proposal to improve ties; China opposed to labeling Hong Kong and Macau as tax havens**

Beijing urged regional countries to keep calm and show restraint even as the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) launched a rocket carrying an experimental satellite on April 5. Foreign Minister Jiang Yu called on regional countries to handle the issue 'properly' and join hands to safeguard peace and stability in the region.<sup>20</sup>

President Hu Jintao meanwhile, after a meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Taro Aso at the G20 summit in London, stated that in the context of the changing international situation and the grave impact of the global financial crisis, it was very important for China and Japan to strengthen cooperation and make joint efforts to overcome the current difficulties. He also put forward a five-point proposal to ensure stable development of bilateral ties. These included the maintaining of high-level of bilateral exchanges; expanding trade and economic cooperation; strengthening of personnel exchanges; cooperation in international affairs, particularly in Asia; and proper handling of sensitive issues.<sup>21</sup>

---

<sup>18</sup> "Maldives attends Bonn Climate Change talks," *Miadhuv News*, April 1, 2009, at <http://miadhuv.com.mv/news.php?id=9731>

<sup>19</sup> "Advisory council to oversee carbon-neutral plan," *Minivan News*, April 1, 2009, at [http://www.minivannews.com/news\\_detail.php?id=6269](http://www.minivannews.com/news_detail.php?id=6269)

<sup>20</sup> "China Urges Calm after DPRK Satellite Launch," *Prensa Latina*, April 5, 2009, at <http://www.plenglish.com/article.asp?ID={459E4E59-BA1F-44FE-B417-6290A9C873B8}&language=EN>

<sup>21</sup> "Chinese president puts forward five-point proposal on China-Japan relations," *Xinhua*, April 2, 2009, at [http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-04/03/content\\_11126123.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-04/03/content_11126123.htm)

In other developments, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang stated that Beijing was opposed to labeling Hong Kong and Macao as tax havens, as proposed at the G20 summit.<sup>22</sup>

#### JAPAN

- **Japan brands Pyongyang's rocket launch "extremely regrettable"; Chavez on a state visit to Japan, to seek Japanese investments**

Japan strongly protested the launch of the North Korean rocket over its territory on April 5, branding Pyongyang's move "extremely regrettable." Chief Cabinet Secretary Takeo Kawamura stated that even if the object launched was a satellite, it was in violation of UN resolutions.<sup>23</sup> He also stated that Tokyo will decide on new sanctions, to be decided at the cabinet meeting on April 10, to punish North Korea.

In other developments, President Hugo Chavez of Venezuela, currently on a state visit to Japan, stated that he will be seeking Japanese investments in the country and take steps to promote energy cooperation and establish a strategic alliance between the two countries.<sup>24</sup>

#### SOUTHEAST ASIA

- **Najib Razak sworn in as Malaysia's PM; Shinawatra declines Thai PM's offer of negotiations; Thai and Cambodia's border commanders meet to ease tensions following death of 2 Thai soldiers; Myanmar to start constructing a fence along 40 miles of its 190-mile border with Bangladesh**

After being sworn in as the sixth Prime Minister of Malaysia on April 3, Najib Razak announced that thirteen Internal Security Act (ISA) detainees will be released and vowed to conduct a review of the controversial act.<sup>25</sup> Mr. Razak also stressed that the proper implementation of the 'One Malaysia' concept was essential to ensure that no community feels isolated from the nation-building process.<sup>26</sup> He also hailed the contributions of the ethnic Chinese community, stating that they will have a crucial role to play in the future. Reports indicated that the new PM's moves were intended to mend ties with minorities who deserted his party's coalition in the 2008 elections.<sup>27</sup>

---

<sup>22</sup> "China objects to labeling Hong Kong, Macao tax havens," *Xinhua*, April 2, 2009, at [http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-04/02/content\\_11122659.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-04/02/content_11122659.htm)

<sup>23</sup> "Japan protests "regrettable" N.Korean rocket launch," *Reuters*, April 4, 2009, at <http://www.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUSTKE004254>

<sup>24</sup> "Chavez visits Japan to boost energy cooperation," *Xinhua*, April 6, 2009, at [http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-04/06/content\\_11137411.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-04/06/content_11137411.htm)

<sup>25</sup> "New PM Najib Launches Administration with Release of 13 ISA Detainees," *Bernama.Com*, April 3, 2009, at <http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v5/newsindex.php?id=401561>

<sup>26</sup> "One Malaysia Concept Just Way to Unity-Najib," *Bernama.Com*, April 1, 2009, at [http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v5/news\\_lite.php?id=401034](http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v5/news_lite.php?id=401034)

<sup>27</sup> "Malaysian Chinese will forever play crucial role: Najib," *The Daily Express*, April 1, 2009, at <http://www.dailyexpress.com.my/news.cfm?NewsID=63913>

In Thailand, fugitive former Premier Thaksin Shinawatra declined PM Abhisit Vejjajiva's call for negotiations, thus further aggravating the ongoing nine-day long anti-government protests.<sup>28</sup> In the meantime, the opposition Puea Thai party has demanded the removal of PM Abhisit and Deputy PM Suthep Thaugusban for their alleged involvement in transferring senior police officers.<sup>29</sup>

Recent tensions between Thailand and Cambodia over a disputed border, which led to the death of 2 Thai soldiers, have eased to some extent after a meeting of the two countries field commanders on April 5. The issue is also expected to be discussed at the forthcoming ASEAN Summit meeting.<sup>30</sup>

Reports from Myanmar indicated that India's Ministry of Defense was not cooperating in the trial of 34 Burmese rebels currently imprisoned at Kolkota's Presidency jail on charges of gun running and waging war against India. The Burmese on their part allege that these people have been double-crossed by Indian military intelligence.<sup>31</sup>

In other developments, with a view to checking cross-border smuggling, Myanmar has started the construction of a fence along 40 miles of its 190 miles long common border with Bangladesh.<sup>32</sup>

## C. WEST ASIA

### IRAN

- **Iran at The Hague conference: Sending more foreign troops is ineffective; Holbrooke meets Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister; Tehran condemns Arab League statement on islands in Persian Gulf; Private German firms in negotiation for exploring alternate supply routes to Afghanistan; Iran's Parliament urges government to reconsider ties with countries that support anti-Iran terrorist groups**

Iran's deputy foreign minister Mohammed Mehdi Akhondzadeh, speaking at the conference on Afghanistan at The Hague, pledged his country's help in the reconstruction of the country and to cooperate in regional efforts to crack down on the Afghan drug trade. He however argued that sending more foreign troops

---

<sup>28</sup> "Thaksin rejects talks offer," *The Bangkok Post*, April 3, 2009, at <http://www.bangkokpost.com/news/politics/139512/thaksin-rejects-talks-offer>

<sup>29</sup> "Puea Thai seeks removal of PM, Deputy," *The Bangkok Post*, April 3, 2009, at <http://www.bangkokpost.com/news/politics/139476/puea-thai-seeks-removal-of-pm-deputy>

<sup>30</sup> "Thai PM says tension eases at border with Cambodia," *The Jakarta Post*, April 5, 2009, at <http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2009/04/05/thai-pm-says-tension-eases-border-with-cambodia.html>

<sup>31</sup> "Indian Armed forces withhold cooperation in trial of Burmese rebels," *Burma News International*, April 1, 2009, at <http://www.bnionline.net/news/mizzima/6082-indian-armed-forces-withhold-cooperation-in-trial-of-burmese-rebels.html>

<sup>32</sup> "Burma commences fence construction on Bangladesh border," *Burma News International*, March 31, 2009, at <http://www.bnionline.net/news/mizzima/6075-burma-commences-fence-construction-on-bangladesh-border.html>



would be ineffective, stating that “the presence of foreign forces has not improved things in the country.”<sup>33</sup>

Iran’s participation in the conference was highly anticipated, because of the possibility that the meeting could provide the first forum for interaction with members of the Obama administration. US Secretary of State Hilary Clinton later told reporters that Mr. Richard Holbrooke exchanged greetings with the Iranian official and that the US handed over a letter to the Iranian delegation requesting its intercession regarding two American citizens currently being held in Iran and information about another who was missing. Mrs. Clinton added that “the rise of Afghanistan’s drug trade with Iran gives Tehran a natural role to play.”<sup>34</sup>

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman criticized the Arab League Summit statement issued in Doha which talked about the UAE claims regarding the islands of Greater and Lesser Tunbs and Abu Mousa in the Persian Gulf. The spokesman asserted that the islands were part of Iranian territory and that such statements accounted for interference in Iranian national affairs.<sup>35</sup>

Meanwhile, a German Army spokesman stated that two private German logistic companies were involved in talks with Iranian authorities for exploring alternative non-military supply routes to Afghanistan. He however stressed that neither NATO nor the German government were involved in any contractual negotiations. Reports noted that alternate supply routes were being explored as NATO convoys traveling through Pakistan were increasingly coming under attack by the Taliban and al-Qaeda.<sup>36</sup>

In other developments, the Iranian parliament urged the government to reconsider trade and economic ties with those countries which supported terrorism. The bill was approved with 146 members among the 201 who cast their vote. The bill was introduced on the belief that some countries were supporting certain groups opposing the Islamic Republic of Iran, despite huge trade relations.<sup>37</sup>

---

<sup>33</sup> Mark Landler, “Iran Offers Help for Afghanistan,” *New York Times*, April 1, 2009, at [http://www.nytimes.com/2009/04/01/world/middleeast/01diplo.html?\\_r=1&hp](http://www.nytimes.com/2009/04/01/world/middleeast/01diplo.html?_r=1&hp)

<sup>34</sup> Mark Landler, “Obama Administration Has First Face-to-Face Contact With Iran,” *New York Times*, April 1, 2009, at [http://www.nytimes.com/2009/04/01/world/middleeast/01diplo.html?\\_r=1&hpw=&pagewanted=print](http://www.nytimes.com/2009/04/01/world/middleeast/01diplo.html?_r=1&hpw=&pagewanted=print)

<sup>35</sup> “Iran raps Arab leaders statement over UAE illusion about islands,” *IRNA*, April 1, 2009, at <http://www5.irna.ir/En/View/FullStory/?NewsId=413659&IdLanguage=3>

<sup>36</sup> “German firms in talks with Iran over supply routes to Afghanistan,” *IRNA*, April 1, 2009, at <http://www5.irna.ir/En/View/FullStory/?NewsId=414503&IdLanguage=3>

<sup>37</sup> “Government urged to reconsider ties with countries supporting terrorism,” *IRNA*, April 5, 2009, at <http://www5.irna.ir/En/View/FullStory/?NewsId=420277&IdLanguage=3>

## IRAQ

- **Violence erupts in Baghdad following arrest of member of Awakening Council; Suicide attack kills seven in Mosul**

Violence erupted between the Iraqi Army and members of the Sunni Awakening Council in central Baghdad area of Fadel following the arrest of Adel Mashhadani, a local chief of the Sahwa or Awakening Council, on charges of murder and extortion. Iraqi officials later stated that the area was under the control of the army and that the Iraqi Army “will no longer give the Sahwa any powers in Fadel.”<sup>38</sup>

In other developments, seven people, including four police officers, were killed when a suicide bomber drove an explosives-laden truck into the compound of a police station in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul, which has become a flashpoint for ethno-sectarian conflict. While a majority of the population is Sunni Arabs, Mosul had been run by a Kurdish minority government until provincial elections earlier in the year restored the political clout of the Sunni community.<sup>39</sup>

## II. MISSILES, SPACE AND DEFENCE REVIEW

### MISSILES AND SPACE

- **Pyongyang goes ahead with its satellite launch, termed a failure by analysts**

Even as Pyongyang went ahead with the launch of its first indigenously built communications satellite, analysts believe that the highly publicized satellite launch was a failure. North Korean media reported that the satellite was a three-stage rocket called Unha-2.<sup>40</sup> Despite warning from members of the international community that Pyongyang would be in breach of UN resolutions if it launched the satellite, the calls for restraint had no impact on North Korea.<sup>41</sup> The United States Northern Command, based in Colorado Springs, also announced that tracking data revealed that the launch was a failure. Discussions will now take place at the UN Security Council for contemplating any further action against Pyongyang.

---

<sup>38</sup> “Iraq army begins pullout from Baghdad flashpoint,” *Khaleej Times*, March 30, 2009, at [http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle08.asp?xfile=data/middleeast/2009/March/middleeast\\_March587.xml&section=middleeast](http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle08.asp?xfile=data/middleeast/2009/March/middleeast_March587.xml&section=middleeast)

<sup>39</sup> “Seven killed by truck bomb in northern Iraq,” *Khaleej Times*, March 31, 2009, at [http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle08.asp?xfile=data/middleeast/2009/March/middleeast\\_March615.xml&section=middleeast](http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle08.asp?xfile=data/middleeast/2009/March/middleeast_March615.xml&section=middleeast)

<sup>40</sup> “Controversial Satellite Launch North Korea Triggers Alarm,” *The Hindu*, April 6, 2009, at <http://www.hindu.com/2009/04/06/stories/2009040657620100.htm>

<sup>41</sup> William J. Broad, “North Korean Missile Launch was a Failure,” *New York Times*, April 5, 2009, at <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/04/06/world/asia/06korea.html?pagewanted=2&hp>

- **Indian Army to induct Block-II version of Brahmos missile**

Following a few days of uncertainty due to a test evaluation process, reports noted that the Indian Army acceded to the induction of the Block-II version of the Brahmos supersonic cruise missile, which can be used to undertake precision attacks in urban environments. Lt. Gen. Noble Thamburaj, Vice-Chief of the Army Staff, who witnessed the third and latest test stated that the test was "extremely successful" as opposed to the first flight test on January 20, 2009. The Army and the Navy have already started incorporating in their order of battle the Block-I version of the BrahMos missile. The Navy on its part has placed an order of 49 BrahMos Block-I missiles at a cost of Rs. 711 crore, while the Army placed an order worth Rs. 8,352 crore rupees for 134 missiles mounted over 10 Tatra mobile launchers and four mobile command posts.<sup>42</sup>

## DEFENCE NATIONAL

- **CNS: 160 warships to be inducted into IN in the next 10-15 years**

The Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral Sureesh Mehta, at the end of a gallantry award ceremony, announced that during the next 10-15 years, around 160 warships and 300 aircrafts would be inducted into the Indian Navy to meet the emerging challenges in coastal security as well as to guard India's increasing maritime interests. He confirmed that aircraft carrier under construction at Cochin shipyard would be inducted by 2016 into the Eastern Naval Command (ENC). Three Shivalik-class frigates would also join the ENC in the near future. The Naval Chief stated that to fulfill the requirements of skilled staff to man these ships, a new Naval Academy being set up in Kerala would start functioning from June 2009.<sup>43</sup>

- **TATA to supply Akash SAM to IAF**

The Strategic Electronics Division of Tata Advanced Systems (Defence unit) has obtained an order worth Rs. 182 crore to supply 16 indigenous Akash surface-to-air missile (SAM) launchers to the Indian Air Force (IAF). Reports noted that the deal was bigger than the Rs. 172 crore deal secured in 2007 for the Pinaka, multi-barrel rocket launcher manufactured by the same group.<sup>44</sup>

- **A.K. Antony: Allegations of bribes could hurt missile deal with Israel**

Defence Minister A.K. Antony stated that India will cancel the contract for \$2 billion medium-range surface-to-air missiles with Israel if "credible evidence of malpractice" is found. Israel has replaced France in 2007 as India's second-largest arms supplier, after Russia. Reports also noted that India is the biggest weapons buyer among emerging countries, having imported \$28 billion worth of military

<sup>42</sup> "Brahmos Ready for Induction: Army," *Times of India*, March 31, 2009.

<sup>43</sup> "Navy gearing up to meet coastal security challenges," *The Hindu*, March 29, 2009, p. 18.

<sup>44</sup> <http://www.india-defence.com/reports-4296>

hardware since 2000 and earmarked an additional \$30 billion, including \$12 billion for 126 fighter jets to be purchased by 2010. The Defence Minister noted that six global aeronautical giants were in the race to bag the jet fighter contract.<sup>45</sup>

## INTERNATIONAL

- **Iron Dome rocket and artillery shell defence system successfully tested by Israel**

Israel successfully tested its 'Iron Dome' defence system against short-range rockets. The system is developed by RAFAEL Armament Development Authority Ltd. in association with ELTA Systems, a subsidiary of the Israel Aerospace Industry. The Iron Dome is a mobile defence system designed to counter short-range rockets and 155mm artillery shell threats, fired from distance of up to approximately 70 km. The system is meant to protect Israeli citizens from missile attacks such as Qassams and the more advanced rockets, such as the Katyushas, frequently used by the Hamas and Hezbollah from Gaza Strip and Lebanon. The System can be operated both during day and night, under all weather conditions.<sup>46</sup>

- **Australian Defence Minister: Large investments required to overcome hollowness of defence capability**

The Australian government has expressed dissatisfaction over the capability of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) to field equipment and platforms that are fully operationally prepared. Its Defence Minister Joel Fitzgibbon told Jane's on April 1 that in order to overcome the "hollowness" in the ADF's field capability, "large investments" were required to "remediate frontline capability".<sup>47</sup>

- **US Army releases 'Robotics Strategy' paper**

The US Army, in association with Army Capabilities Integration Center (ARCIC) and the Tank-Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center (TARDEC) has released the jointly published 'Robotics Strategy' White Paper dealing with issues like how unmanned systems can empower soldiers at the present and in the near future. The White Paper underlines three 'critical opportunities' where robotics can help the army personnel - reducing risk to soldiers while dealing with C-IED's (counter-mine/counter-improvised explosive device; minimizing workloads of the soldiers by doing "routine tasks that do not require full-time human intervention, such as surveillance of bases; leveraging robotics for extended range or stand-off reconnaissance operations by using unattended ground sensors or advanced sensors for mobile reconnaissance. Lt. Gen. Michael Vane, director of ARCIC stated that the Army will come out with an information technology doctrine and a robot doctrine.<sup>48</sup>

---

<sup>45</sup> <http://www.defensenews.com/story.php?i=4021942&c=ASI&s=AIR>

<sup>46</sup> <http://www.india-defence.com/reports/4293>

<sup>47</sup> [http://www.janes.com/news/defence/jdi/jdi090402\\_1\\_n.shtml](http://www.janes.com/news/defence/jdi/jdi090402_1_n.shtml)

<sup>48</sup> [http://www.janes.com/news/defence/idr/idr090402\\_1\\_n.shtml](http://www.janes.com/news/defence/idr/idr090402_1_n.shtml)

- **US purchases Russian Mi-17CT Helicopters for Iraq**

Reports noted that the US government purchased 22 Russian Mi-17CT helicopters (NATO codename “Hip-H”) worth \$80.6 million for the use of the Iraqi government. The helicopters can be used for both military and civilian purposes. Russia has till date produced more than 11,000 Mi-17 helicopters and exported them to more than 80 countries. The helicopter can carry 32 passengers or four tones of cargo and its six hard points are capable of carrying bombs, rockets and gun pods weighing up to up to 1,500 kgs.<sup>49</sup>

### **III. INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM REVIEW**

- **ISRO scientists and engineers are LeT targets: Let Operative**

Reports noted that the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) had plans to target senior scientists and engineers of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO). This was revealed during the interrogation of a LeT operative Sarfaraz Nawaz by the Karnataka police in connection with the 2008 Bangalore blasts. Nawaz named a Pakistani terrorist, Jasim, as saying that the Lashkar planned to send terrorists to target the scientists, including ISRO head G. Madhavan Nair.

Officials stated that Nawaz’s statement had detailed accounts of how the terrorists in Kerala operated on instructions from leaders in Pakistan and in the Gulf. Nawaz was brought to Bangalore recently from Muscat in connection with the probe into the Bangalore blasts of July 25, 2008. Nawaz joined the SIMI in 1995, had attended Nadwat-ul-Ulema in Lucknow and started working in the SIMI headquarters in New Delhi in 2000.

The Union Home Ministry meanwhile asked scientists of ISRO to be extra careful in their movements and security around scientific installations was also enhanced.<sup>50</sup>

### **IV. INTERNAL SECURITY REVIEW**

#### **JAMMU AND KASHMIR**

- **Intercepts suggest Taliban presence in J&K; Yasin calls for complete demilitarization**

Reports noted that the militancy scenario in J and K might change as wireless and satellite intercepts suggested the presence of a group of nearly 15 Taliban militants in the state. Sources indicated that wireless messages of a group of militants holed up at Chowkibal area in Kupwara were intercepted and another such communication was also revealed to have taken place at Lolab area in

---

<sup>49</sup> <http://www.defensenews.com/story.php?i=4017801&c=MID&s=TOP>

<sup>50</sup> “LeT plans to target Isro scientists,” *The Times of India*, April 4, 2009, at <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/Lashkar-plans-to-target-ISRO-scientists/articleshow/4357358.cms>  
See also “Ministry cautions ISRO scientists,” *The Hindu*, April 4, 2009, at <http://www.hindu.com/2009/04/04/stories/2009040460700100.htm>

Kupwara. It was suspected that one group of militants who identified it self as being part of the Taliban crossed the LoC using GPS - enabled maps.<sup>51</sup>

The chairman of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) Mohammad Yasin Malik asked the central government to take immediate steps for a complete demilitarisation in the state.<sup>52</sup>

Both the factions of Hurriyat Conference as well as the JKLF on March 31 offered their unconditional support to the welfare and protection of property including worship places of the migrant Kashmiri Pandit community and urged them to return to the state. JKLF chairman Malik hailed the courage and resilience of non-migrant Pandits who despite all odds preferred to stay in valley and blamed New Delhi for "a deliberate delay in return of Kashmiri Pandit."<sup>53</sup>

In other developments, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah stated that the state's industrial sector had suffered huge financial losses due to the militancy in the valley and stated that his government will do its best to boost the industrial sector. Mr. Abdullah charged that big industrial houses in the past took advantage of the packages and concessions offered by the administration but left midway without contributing to the larger goal of industrialization of the state.<sup>54</sup>

#### **NORTH EAST DEVELOPMENTS**

- **Bomb blast in Guwahati**

One person was killed and at least nine persons were injured when an improvised explosive device (IED) exploded in Guwahati's Jyotikuchi area on March 31. It was suspected to be the handiwork of the banned United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA).<sup>55</sup>

---

<sup>51</sup> "Intercepts suggest Taliban presence in Kashmir valley," *Daily Excelsior*, April 5, 2009, at <http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/web1/09apr05/newsupdate.htm#4>

<sup>52</sup> "Yasin calls for complete demilitarization," *Kashmir Times*, March 31, 2009, at <http://kashmirtimes.com/main.htm>

<sup>53</sup> "Separatists call for return of migrant KPs," *Kashmir Times*, April 1, 2009, at <http://kashmirtimes.com/news3.htm>

<sup>54</sup> "Industrial sector worst hit by militancy: Omar," *Daily Excelsior*, April 4, 2009, at <http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/web1/09apr04/news.htm#3>

<sup>55</sup> "1 killed, 9 hurt in city blast," *Assam Tribune*, April 1, 2009, at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/details.asp?id=apr0109/at01>