

# THE WEEK IN REVIEW

May 4-10, 5(2), 2009

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

**REVIEW ADVISOR:** S. KALYANARAMAN

## CONTRIBUTORS

**PRANAMITA BARUAH** – Southeast Asia

**KARTIK BOMMAKANTI** – Space and Missiles

**ZAKIR HUSSAIN** – Defence Issues

**NIHAR NAYAK** – Nepal

**SALVIN PAUL** – Nuclear Issues

**MAHTAB ALAM RIZVI** – Iran, Iraq

**SANJEEV KUMAR SHRIVASTAV** - Afghanistan

**AMARJEET SINGH** – Internal Security Review

**GUNJAN SINGH** – Japan, South Korea

**PRIYANKA SINGH** – Pakistan



**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>3-5</b>
	<b>B. EAST AND SOUTHEAST ASIA</b>	<b>5-8</b>
	<b>C. WEST ASIA</b>	<b>8-9</b>
<b>II. MISSILES, SPACE, DEFENCE AND NUCLEAR REVIEW</b>		<b>10-11</b>
<b>III. INTERNAL SECURITY REVIEW</b>		<b>12-13</b>

## 1. COUNTRY REVIEW

### A. SOUTH ASIA

#### AFGHANISTAN

- **Dozens killed in US air raid in western Farah province; UN's Kai Eide condemns the raid; Obama and Clinton express deep regrets; Karzai renews his call to halt air strikes; Washington trilateral summit focuses on eliminating al Qaeda and its allies; US Congressional panel approves \$1.52b Afghan aid; Two women candidates register to contest Afghan presidential polls**

An American air raid in Bala Boluk district of western Farah province on May 4 resulted in the death of more than two dozen civilians.<sup>1</sup> The incident was condemned by UN Special Representative Kai Eide.<sup>2</sup> US President Barack Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton expressed regrets over the deaths of civilians. At the end of a trilateral summit with Afghan President Hamid Karzai and Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari at the White House on May 6, Mr. Obama reiterated his government's commitment to work with Afghan and international partners to make every effort to avoid civilian casualties.<sup>3</sup> President Karzai on his part again urged US and NATO forces not to conduct any more air strikes.<sup>4</sup>

President Obama meanwhile asserted that Washington was deeply committed to helping Kabul and Islamabad defeat al Qaeda and its extremist partners, and in ensuring that democracy endures and flourishes in both the countries. He stated that the US, Afghanistan, and Pakistan were "three sovereign nations joined by a common goal: to disrupt, dismantle and defeat al Qaeda and its extremist allies in Pakistan and Afghanistan and to prevent their ability to operate in either country in the future." The two visiting leaders also held discussions with Secretary of State Clinton, National Security Adviser Gen. James Jones, and the administration's envoy to the region Richard Holbrooke.<sup>5</sup>

In other developments, a key Congressional committee approved the Obama administration's supplemental request for \$1.52 billion aid to Afghanistan for the year 2009.<sup>6</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> "US air aid kills over 100 civilians in Farah," *Pajhwok Afghan News*, May 5, 2009, at <http://www.pajhwok.com/viewstory.asp?lng=eng&id=73895>

<sup>2</sup> "UN regrets civilian deaths in Farah," *Pajhwok Afghan News*, May 7, 2009, at <http://www.pajhwok.com/viewstory.asp?lng=eng&id=73996>

<sup>3</sup> "Obama, Clinton deeply regret civilian casualties," *Pajhwok Afghan News*, May 7, 2009, at <http://www.pajhwok.com/viewstory.asp?lng=eng&id=73963>

<sup>4</sup> "Stop air strikes, Karzai tells US," *Pajhwok Afghan News*, May 9, 2009, at <http://www.pajhwok.com/viewstory.asp?lng=eng&id=74079>

<sup>5</sup> "Emphasis on Al Qaeda at Three-Way Talks," *New York Times*, May 6, 2009, at [http://www.nytimes.com/2009/05/07/world/asia/07prexy.html?\\_r=1&scp=10&sq=AFGHANISTAN&st=cse](http://www.nytimes.com/2009/05/07/world/asia/07prexy.html?_r=1&scp=10&sq=AFGHANISTAN&st=cse)

<sup>6</sup> "Congressional panel OKs \$1.52b Afghan aid," *Pajhwok Afghan News*, May 8, 2009, at <http://www.pajhwok.com/viewstory.asp?lng=eng&id=74044>

## PAKISTAN

- **Zardari speaking to members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee asserts Pakistan's resolve to fight the Taliban; Islamabad launches security operations in Swat, at least 140 Taliban militants killed**

President Asif Ali Zardari, in Washington to attend the trilateral summit with the Afghan and US Presidents, addressed members of the House Foreign Relations Committee on May 4. He asserted Pakistan's strong resolve to roll back the increasing Taliban influence in his country.<sup>7</sup> The summit meeting took place in the background of reports indicating the lack of confidence of the American administration on achieving positive outcomes from the effort.<sup>8</sup>

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Gilani, in an address to the nation, declared a full fledged war on the Taliban in the Swat and Malakand Division.<sup>9</sup> In operations launched by the security forces, over 140 Taliban militants were killed.<sup>10</sup> The militants on their part attacked government offices, including the DIG office and a museum in Saidu Sharif in Mingora on May 5.<sup>11</sup> The peace agreement in Swat meanwhile crumbled as the militants took over Mingora a day earlier, prompting the Pakistan government to respond militarily.<sup>12</sup>

## NEPAL

- **Dr. Yadav urges political parties to form a consensus government by May 10; Video-taped speech of Mr. Dahal on PLA cadre strength creates controversy; UNMIN chief Karin Landgren urges all parties concerned to work to rebuild trust; FICI Secretary General calls for 'corrective action' to prevent large scale industrial sickness and unemployment**

In the aftermath of Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal's resignation on May 5, President Ram Baran Yadav asked the political parties to form a national consensus government by May 10. However, no progress was achieved on that score with the CPN-Maoists continuing their street demonstrations and obstruction of the parliament over the president's action.<sup>13</sup>

Media channels meanwhile broadcast the controversial speech of Mr. Dahal in which he had admitted that the real cadre strength of the PLA was not

---

<sup>7</sup> Mark Landler and Helene Cooper, "Pakistani President Tries to Assure U.S. on Taliban," *New York Times*, May 5, 2009, at <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/05/06/world/asia/06policy.html>

<sup>8</sup> "Mr. Obama, Mr. Zardari and Mr. Karzai," *New York Times*, May 5, 2009, at <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/05/06/opinion/06wed1.html>

<sup>9</sup> Asim Yasin, "PM declares all-out war against militants," *The News*, May 8, 2009, at [http://www.thenews.com.pk/arc\\_default.asp](http://www.thenews.com.pk/arc_default.asp)

<sup>10</sup> Sajjad Malik, "140 Taliban killed in 'full-scale' Swat operation," *Daily Times*, May 9, 2009, at [http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2009\05\09\story\\_9-5-2009\\_pg1\\_1](http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2009\05\09\story_9-5-2009_pg1_1)

<sup>11</sup> "Militants occupy government offices in Swat," *The News*, May 6, 2009, at [http://www.thenews.com.pk/arc\\_default.asp](http://www.thenews.com.pk/arc_default.asp)

<sup>12</sup> "Armed Taliban back on Mingora roads : TNSM rejects Darul Qaza," *Daily Times*, May 4, 2009, at [http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2009\05\04\story\\_4-5-2009\\_pg1\\_1](http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2009\05\04\story_4-5-2009_pg1_1)

<sup>13</sup> "President writes to parliament calling for formation of majority govt," *nepalnews.com*, May 10, 2009, at <http://www.nepalnews.com/archive/2009/may/may10/news05.php>

more than 8,000.<sup>14</sup> Young Communist league (YCL) members have threatened to target supporters of President Yadav if they organized programmes in support of him.<sup>15</sup>

The international community continued to express concern over the developments in the country. UNMIN chief Karin Landgren urged all parties concerned to work to rebuild trust and achieve consensus.<sup>16</sup>

In other developments, a FICCI survey indicated that the political turmoil has been a major blow to Indian investors seeking business in the country. FICCI Secretary General Amit Mitra stated that “unless corrective action is taken, it would result into large scale industrial sickness and unemployment.”<sup>17</sup>

## B. EAST AND SOUTHEAST ASIA

### JAPAN

- **Putin visiting Tokyo on May 11, to ink nuclear pact among other agreements; Taiwan protests Japanese diplomats comments on its political status; Beijing insists its nuclear policy and strategy were ‘very transparent’; Japanese parliament member hands over apology letter to Chinese survivors of 1932 massacre, signed by 24 other MPs**

Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, ahead of his three-day visit to Japan beginning from May 11, told members of the Japanese media in Moscow that in addition to a nuclear power pact between the two countries, he would also present a list of economic cooperation projects that will be jointly undertaken between the two countries.<sup>18</sup>

Taiwan strongly protested the comments of Masaki Saito, a Japanese diplomat and head of Japan's Interchange Association, to the effect that its political status was not settled. The incident threatened to dent relations between the island and its former colonial ruler.<sup>19</sup> China also voiced strong dissatisfaction regarding the remarks.<sup>20</sup>

---

<sup>14</sup> “Video shows Dahal admitting real strength of PLA not more than 8,000,” *nepalnews.com*, May 5, 2009, at <http://www.nepalnews.com/archive/2009/may/may05/news12.php>

<sup>15</sup> “YCL warns Prez supporters,” *kantipuronline*, May 7, 2009, at <http://www.kantipuronline.com/columns.php>

<sup>16</sup> “UNMIN chief concerned over future of peace process,” *nepalnews.com*, May 8, 2009, at <http://www.nepalnews.com/archive/2009/may/may08/news05.php>

<sup>17</sup> “Indian investors in Nepal worried,” *The Times of India*, May 7, 2009, at <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/Business/India-Business/Indian-investors-in-Nepal-worried/articleshow/4492972.cms>

<sup>18</sup> “Russia to sign nuclear pact with Japan: reports,” *Associate Foreign Press*, May 10, 2009, at [http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20090510/bs\\_afp/japanrussiadiplomacytradenuclearputin\\_20090510073031](http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20090510/bs_afp/japanrussiadiplomacytradenuclearputin_20090510073031)

<sup>19</sup> “Tokyo irks Taipei, says Taiwan status ‘up in air,’” *Japan Times*, May 5, 2009, at <http://search.japantimes.co.jp/cgi-bin/nn20090505a3.html>

<sup>20</sup> “China dissatisfied with Japanese comments on Taiwan's status,” *China Daily*, May 5, 2009, at [http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2009-05/05/content\\_7746348.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2009-05/05/content_7746348.htm)

Days after Japanese Prime Minister Taro Aso appeared to portray China's modernization of its nuclear arsenal as a threat, Beijing insisted that its nuclear policy and strategy were "very transparent."<sup>21</sup>

In other developments, a member of the Japanese House of Councillors, Aihara Kumiko, on May 5 handed over an apology letter in Fushun, a city in northwest China's Liaoning Province. The letter was signed by 24 other Japanese MPs expressing deep regrets to the survivors of the Pingdingshan massacre, in which more than 3,000 Chinese civilians were killed by Japanese soldiers on September 16, 1932. The letter was signed by 10 members of the lower house and 14 of the upper house.<sup>22</sup>

## **SOUTH KOREA**

- **Pyongyang rules out prospects of dialogue with Seoul after its criticism of the country's human rights record; US and South Korea: Six-Party talks remain 'heart' of the effort to ensure North Korea's nuclear disarmament**

Reacting to South Korea's criticism of its human rights records, Pyongyang rules out the prospects of any dialogue with Seoul in the near future.<sup>23</sup>

Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, ahead of his visit to Japan, urged for calm and warned of the dangers of an arms race in Asia in the aftermath of the launch of a long-range rocket by Pyongyang. He also called for a return to six-party talks, comprising China, the two Koreas, Japan, Russia and the United States.<sup>24</sup>

A similar sentiment was expressed by US envoy Stephen Bosworth and South Korean officials who met in Seoul. The two sides reiterated that the six-party negotiating process remained "the heart" of the effort to ensure North Korea's nuclear disarmament.<sup>25</sup>

## **SOUTHEAST ASIA**

- **Vietnam places an order for 6 Kilo-class submarines; Taiwan asserts its 'unquestionable' sovereignty over islands in South China Sea, in the wake of attempts by Malaysia, Thailand, and Vietnam to extend the outer limits of their continental shelves; China sets up a special department for boundary and ocean affairs; Indonesia's ruling party wins parliamentary elections; 60 members of the British Parliament urge**

---

<sup>21</sup> "China dismisses Aso's remarks about its nuclear arsenal," *Associated Press*, May 7, 2009, at [http://www.breitbart.com/article.php?id=D981CEB81&show\\_article=1](http://www.breitbart.com/article.php?id=D981CEB81&show_article=1)

<sup>22</sup> "Japanese MPs apologize for massacre in northeast China 77 years ago," *Xinhua*, May 5, 2009, at [http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-05/05/content\\_11319591.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-05/05/content_11319591.htm)

<sup>23</sup> "N. Korea Rules Out Dialogue with S. Korea," *VOA News*, May 9, 2009, at <http://www.voanews.com/english/2009-05-09-voa12.cfm>

<sup>24</sup> "Russia's Putin warns against arms race over N.Korea," *Reuters*, May 10, 2009, at <http://in.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idINIndia-39525020090510>

<sup>25</sup> "US, S. Korea stand by six-party North Korean talks: US," *Associate Foreign Press*, May 8, 2009, at [http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hYkcwK0X-pp9N55XA2\\_vq2Y4xigg](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hYkcwK0X-pp9N55XA2_vq2Y4xigg)

### **the UN to invoke the principle of 'Responsibility to Protect' against Myanmar**

Reports noted that Vietnam placed an order for 6 Kilo-class submarines worth an estimated \$1.8 billion. The order was considered significant in the light of the growing Chinese naval presence around Vietnam as well as in the background of the country's annual military budget, of just about \$3.6 billion.<sup>26</sup>

Taiwan meanwhile reaffirmed its 'unquestionable' sovereignty over several island groups in the South China Sea in the wake of recent bids by Malaysia and Vietnam to extend the outer limits of their continental shelves to include the disputed region. Taiwan's assertions were in the context of Malaysia and Vietnam jointly submitting an application to the UN to have their continental margins extended beyond 200 nautical miles on May 6, followed by a separate application submitted by Vietnam the following day. Taipei reaffirmed its sovereignty over the Spratly Islands, the Paracel Islands, the Macclesfield Bank, the Pratas Islands and their surrounding areas.<sup>27</sup>

In the Philippines, Typhoon Kuriya resulted in the death of 27 people and left over 54,000 homeless, even as the government warned of another storm gathering in the South China Sea. Most of the casualties were recorded in Magallanes town in Sorsogon province.<sup>28</sup>

China meanwhile has set up a special department of boundary and ocean affairs to deal with its land and sea boundary demarcation issues, particularly those of the East and the South China sea. The department will be headed by Ning Fukui, a senior diplomat and specialist in Asian affairs. A Chinese government official pointed out that as China shared its land boundary of 22,000 kms with 14 neighboring countries, had a coastline of 18,000 kms and maritime territory encompassing three million sq. kms., the need for a special department to deal adequately with land and sea boundary issues was acutely felt.<sup>29</sup>

In other developments, the US Pentagon accused two Chinese fishing vessels of confronting a US Navy surveillance ship 'The Victorious' on May 1 in international waters about 170 miles away from the Chinese mainland. This was the fifth incident of its kind in the previous two months when both the US and China have confronted each other on the sea, heightening tensions between the navies of the two major powers.<sup>30</sup>

---

<sup>26</sup> "Vietnam orders fleet of Russian Subs, sending message to China," *Fox News*, May 7, 2009, at <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,519341,00.html>

<sup>27</sup> "Taiwan reaffirms sovereignty over South China sea Islands", *Taiwan News*, May 20, 2009 at [http://www.etaiwannews.com/etn/news\\_content.php?id=944332&lang=eng\\_news&cate\\_img=logo\\_taiwan&cate\\_rss=TAIWAN\\_eng](http://www.etaiwannews.com/etn/news_content.php?id=944332&lang=eng_news&cate_img=logo_taiwan&cate_rss=TAIWAN_eng)

<sup>28</sup> "Philippines' typhoon kills 27, new storm approaches," *Channel News Asia*, May 6, 2009, at [http://www.channelnewsasia.com/stories/afp\\_asiapacific/view/427293/1/.html](http://www.channelnewsasia.com/stories/afp_asiapacific/view/427293/1/.html)

<sup>29</sup> "Special agency set up to handle sea, land disputes," *China Daily*, May 6, 2009, at [http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2009-05/06/content\\_7746562.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2009-05/06/content_7746562.htm)

<sup>30</sup> "US says Chinese vessels confront Navy Ship," *Reuters*, May 5, 2009, at <http://www.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idUSTRE5443IY20090505>

Indonesia's ruling Democratic Party once again won the country's parliamentary election held on April 9 by winning 148 seats. The country's presidential elections will be held on July 8.<sup>31</sup> Indonesia has decided to raise its contribution to the Asian Development Bank (ADB) by Rp 2 trillion or US\$188 million within the next four year.<sup>32</sup>

Reports indicated that Malaysian authorities were on the lookout for LTTE leader Velupillai Prabhakaran, who had reportedly fled to either Malaysia or India in the wake of the Sri Lankan Army operations against his organization.<sup>33</sup>

Addressing the opening ceremony of the ASEAN+3 Health Ministers' meeting at Bangkok on April 7, Thai PM Abhisit Vejjajiva called on the member states of the association to work together to help prevent and tackle a possible outbreak of the H1N1 influenza virus in the region.<sup>34</sup>

In Myanmar, the military junta rejected the recent appeals made by the opposition National League for Democracy (NLD) to release the detained leader Aung San Suu Kyi.<sup>35</sup> Reports noted that the Burmese police have rather tightened its security around Suu Kyi after the recent arrest of an American citizen who allegedly attempted to sneak into the detained leader's home.<sup>36</sup> In a related development, over 60 members of the British Parliament urged the UN to inquire into the crimes against humanity committed under Myanmar's ruling military junta. They have also suggested that the UN should invoke the principle of Responsibility to Protest (R2P) in relation to the present crisis in that country.<sup>37</sup>

## C. WEST ASIA

### IRAN

- **More than 300 candidates register for the presidential elections; Pak., Afghan, and Iranian Foreign Ministers meet in Kabul**

As the five-day registration period for presidential candidates ended during the week, over 300 people registered themselves to run for the office of the president. These included the incumbent Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, former prime minister Mir Hossein Mousavi, National Confidence Party leader Mahdi Karrubi, and

---

<sup>31</sup> "Susilo's Demokrat Party wins Indonesia's election," *Bernama.com*, May 10, 2009 at [http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v5/news\\_lite.php?id=410034](http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v5/news_lite.php?id=410034)

<sup>32</sup> RI to raise contribution to ADB by Rp 2t," *The Jakarta Post*, May 3, 2009 at <http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2009/05/03/ri-raise-contribution-adb-rp-2-t.html>

<sup>33</sup> "Malaysia Looks out for Prabhakaran," *Bernama.com*, May 7, 2009 at <http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v5/newsindex.php?id=409513>

<sup>34</sup> "PM underscores regional cooperation," *The Bangkok Post*, May 8, 2009 at <http://www.bangkokpost.com/breakingnews/142692/pm-underscores-regional-cooperation>

<sup>35</sup> "Junta rejects appeal for Aung San Suu Kyi's release," *Burma News International*, May 5, 2009 at <http://www.bnionline.net/news/mizzima/6212-junta-rejects-appeal-for-aung-san-suu-kyis-release.html>

<sup>36</sup> "Junta boosts security on detained Suu Kyi," *The New Zealand Herald*, May 8, 2009, at [http://www.nzherald.co.nz/world/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=2&objectid=10571085](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/world/news/article.cfm?c_id=2&objectid=10571085)

<sup>37</sup> "British MPs urge UN to invoke R2P in Burma," *Burma News International*, May 8, 2009, at <http://www.bnionline.net/news/mizzima/6233-british-mps-urge-un-to-invoke-r2p-in-urma.html>



former commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Mohsen Rezai. Though the Iranian constitution does not lay down specific criteria for presidential hopefuls, their candidature is however carefully vetted by the Guardian Council. The Council had recently rejected a bill vote by the lawmakers to set conditions for presidential aspirant nominations. Lawmakers like current Majlis speaker Ali Larijani have criticized the current law which allows even an uneducated farmer to give in his nomination for the post of president, as deficient and a waste of time which also degrades the post and damages Iran's international reputation. Former president Khatami dropped out of the race in favor of Mousavi. While Mousavi and Karrubi are from the reformist camp, Ahmadinejad and Rezai are from the traditionalist camp.<sup>38</sup>

Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi, addressing the Pakistan-Afghanistan-Iran Ministerial Forum in Kabul, stated that Pakistan had presented a draft joint-declaration on the framework for trilateral cooperation between the countries. This draft framework will be placed before the second trilateral meeting of the heads of states of Economic Coordination Organization when they meet in Tehran in June. The ministerial forum was also attended by Foreign Minister Rangin Dadfar Spanta of Afghanistan and his Iranian counterpart Manouchehr Mottaki. The meeting in Kabul discussed a number of regional issues, including strategies to counter terrorism, narcotics and measures to enhance relations between the three countries.<sup>39</sup>

## IRAQ

- **Eleven people killed in bomb blast**

A car bomb at the entrance to a fruit and vegetable market in south Baghdad killed 11 people and wounded about 30. The blast occurred at the Rasheed market in the city's southern Dora area, which had earlier witnessed violent Sunni-Shia fighting clashes. The bomb attack followed a sharp rise in attacks in the country over the past month.

Despite the rise in attacks, the Iraqi government has however ruled out asking US combat troops to remain in Iraqi cities after the June 30 deadline for their withdrawal. The US-Iraq security agreement that took effect this year calls for American combat troops to leave urban areas by the end of June, with all US forces out of the country by the end of 2011.<sup>40</sup>

---

<sup>38</sup> "Over 300 register as presidential candidates," *Tehran Times*, May 10, 2009, at [http://www.tehrantimes.com/index\\_View.asp?code=194162](http://www.tehrantimes.com/index_View.asp?code=194162)

<sup>39</sup> "Iran, Pakistan, Afghanistan discuss trilateral cooperation," *Tehran Times*, April 28, 2009, at [http://www.tehrantimes.com/index\\_View.asp?code=193268](http://www.tehrantimes.com/index_View.asp?code=193268)

<sup>40</sup> "Baghdad market blast kills 11: police," *Khaleej Times*, May 6, 2009, at [http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle08.asp?xfile=data/middleeast/2009/May/middleeast\\_May91.xml&section=middleeast](http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle08.asp?xfile=data/middleeast/2009/May/middleeast_May91.xml&section=middleeast)

## II. MISSILES, SPACE, DEFENCE AND NUCLEAR REVIEW

### MISSILES AND SPACE

- **DRDO successfully test fires the Astra BVR AAM**

Reports noted that the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) successfully carried out the flight trial of the Astra Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile (BVRAAM). The missile test validated the dual mode guidance system when fired against a simulated target from the ground.<sup>41</sup>

The Astra is being developed as high-end tactical missile to intercept enemy aircraft at supersonic speeds. The missile can intercept targets in a head-on mode at 80 kilometers an hour and in a tail-chase mode at 20 km an hour. Three aircraft will be fitted with the Astra eventually, including the Sukhoi-30 MKI, the MiG-29 and the Tejas Light Combat Aircraft.

### DEFENCE ISSUES

#### NATIONAL

- **India to develop MCA**

Reports noted that India will soon form a joint committee made up of representatives of the Indian Air Force (IAF) and organizations involved in developing the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) to design and develop specifications for the Medium Combat Aircraft (MCA). These organizations are the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA), the National Aeronautics Laboratory (NAL), Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), and the DRDO, which will help develop futuristic sensors and systems for the MCA.

Initially, five to six prototypes at a cost of Rs. 5,000 crore would be developed. When the current fleets of the IAF would be phased out by 2020, 250 medium fighters would be required by the IAF. The MCA would be India's first foray into building medium range category (14-15 tonnes) fighters.<sup>42</sup>

#### INTERNATIONAL

- **US DoD announces 2010 budget cuts and savings**

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) published "Terminations, Reductions, and Savings," in the defence budget as recommended by US Defence Secretary Robert Gates. Among the programs that will be terminated and the amount of funding they would be granted in 2010 are the following: C-17 airlifter, and \$91 million to shut down the production line; Combat Search and Rescue (CSAR-X) helicopter, funding for which has been reduced from \$233 million to \$89 million; Future Combat Systems (FCS) manned ground vehicles, funding reduced from \$3.6 billion to \$2.98 billion; F-22 Raptor fighter aircraft, for which \$2.9 billion has been requested in 2010; the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF)

---

<sup>41</sup> "DRDO Tests Astra BVRAAM," May 9, 2009, at [http://www.domain-b.com/aero/mil\\_avi/miss\\_muni/20090511\\_astra\\_bvraam.html](http://www.domain-b.com/aero/mil_avi/miss_muni/20090511_astra_bvraam.html)

<sup>42</sup> "Indian Air Force, DRDO and HAL to Frame Requirements for Fifth Generation Fighter Jet," May 5, 2009, at <http://www.india-defence.com/reports/4357>

alternate engine, for \$465 million; and the Multiple Kill Vehicle program, valued at \$283 million.

Among the programs to be reduced are: Airborne Laser program, funding reduced from \$401 million to \$187 million; money for aircraft carrier construction, reduced from \$1.2 billion to \$484 million; government reliance on contracted service support, reduced from \$20.1 billion to \$19.2 billion; ground-based mid-course defense missile defense program, reduced from \$1.5 billion to \$983 million; LPD-17 and mobile landing platform transport ships, increased from \$930 million to \$1.2 billion.<sup>43</sup>

## NUCLEAR ISSUES

- **Obama: Stronger nuclear nonproliferation treaty needed**

US President Barack Obama has called for a concerted global effort to bolster the nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty. In a statement read out by US Assistant Secretary of State Rose Gottemoeller at the UN Preparatory Session for the 2010 NPT Review conference, Obama noted that a strengthened NPT can "deal effectively with the threat of nuclear weapons and nuclear terrorism." He added that action was needed "to improve verification and compliance with the NPT and to foster the responsible and widest possible use of nuclear energy by all states." Mr. Obama also called for strategies for establishing "effective consequences" for treaty violators.<sup>44</sup>

Gottemoeller also told the meeting that the Obama administration "will immediately and aggressively pursue US ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty" and that plans were also in the works to "launch a diplomatic effort to bring on board the other states whose ratifications are required for the treaty to enter into force."

However, reports indicated that about half of the members of the Congressional Commission on the Strategic Posture of the United States disagreed with the ratification of the treaty. This was indicated by William Perry, chairman of the panel, at a press conference on May 6. Perry was the US defense secretary when President Clinton signed the test ban treaty in September 1996. However, the Senate in 1999 voted against ratification of the treaty, with a number of lawmakers expressing concerns that the pact could not be adequately verified.<sup>45</sup>

---

<sup>43</sup> "2010 DoD Budget Request Includes Cuts," on May 7, 2009, at <http://www.militaryphotos.net/forums/showthread.php?t=156889>

<sup>44</sup> "Stronger Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty Needed, Obama Says," *Global Security Newswire*, May 6, 2009, at [http://gsn.nti.org/siteservices/print\\_friendly.php?ID=nw\\_20090506\\_1113](http://gsn.nti.org/siteservices/print_friendly.php?ID=nw_20090506_1113)

<sup>45</sup> Elaine M. Grossman, "Strategic Posture Panel Reveals Split Over Nuclear Test Pact Ratification," *Global Security Newswire*, May 7, 2009, at [http://gsn.nti.org/gsn/nw\\_20090507\\_3983.php](http://gsn.nti.org/gsn/nw_20090507_3983.php)

### III. INTERNAL SECURITY REVIEW

#### JAMMU AND KASHMIR

- **Sufi Muhammad: Jihad is not mandatory in Kashmir; Militant 'doctor' arrested**

Contradicting militant groups' claim that they were engaged in jihad in Kashmir, a hard-line Pakistani cleric stated that jihad is not mandatory in the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir as people there were not demanding Sharia. The cleric, Sufi Mohammad, is the chief of the banned Tehrik-e-Nifaz-e-Sharia Muhammadi (TNSM). He added that the Kashmiris were demanding a state and not Sharia or Islamic law and democracy was 'kufar' (infidelity) and that backing democratic forces was useless.<sup>46</sup>

Meanwhile, three villagers were killed by unidentified militants at Mahore in Reasi district on May 7.<sup>47</sup> Elsewhere, a militant, Khursheed 'Doctor', who was reportedly trained by Hizbul Mujahideen with the help of a surgeon to remove bullets and administer follow-up medical treatment, was arrested by police from Laloor village in Doda district on May 2. The person had opened a chemist shop at Laloor in order to hide his links with the militants. He however did not have any degree or a license to practice as a doctor. Preliminary investigations revealed that he was trained by some surgeons in Kashmir for providing first aid to the wounded militants.<sup>48</sup>

#### MAOIST INSURGENCY

- **Eleven persons killed in Maoist attack**

Eleven persons, including four civilians and seven security forces personnel, were killed in an ambush on a police party by the cadres of the Communist Party of India-Maoist (CPI-Maoist) in Dantewada district in Chhattisgarh on May 6. The Maoists managed to flee, taking with them the weapons of the slain security personnel. The police party was on its way back after delivering a consignment of monthly ration at a police camp at Bhejji, when the Maoists triggered a land mine blast.<sup>49</sup>

#### NORTH EAST DEVELOPMENTS

- **Militants raid village in Assam**

Unidentified militants raided a village and burnt down 14 houses in Assam's NC Hills district on May 8, forcing the residents to flee to a nearby jungle. One resident sustained bullet wound when the militants opened indiscriminate

---

<sup>46</sup> "Jihad not mandatory in Kashmir," *Daily Excelsior*, May 4, 2009, at <http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/web1/09may04/news2.htm#1>

<sup>47</sup> "Three villagers shot dead," *Daily Excelsior*, May 8, 2009, at <http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/web1/09may08/newsupdate.htm#1>

<sup>48</sup> "Militants' doctor' arrested in Doda," *Daily Excelsior*, May 4, 2009, at <http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/web1/09may04/news.htm#4>

<sup>49</sup> "11 persons killed in Maoist ambush in Chhattisgarh," SATP, May 7, 2009, at [http://satp.org/satporgtp/detailed\\_news3.asp?date3=2009%2F5%2F7#3](http://satp.org/satporgtp/detailed_news3.asp?date3=2009%2F5%2F7#3)

firing.<sup>50</sup> Elsewhere, three persons were killed in an attack by unidentified militants at an interior village in Assam's NC Hills district on May 10.

---

<sup>50</sup> "Militants raid village, set 14 houses ablaze," *Hindu*, May 9, 2009, at <http://www.hindu.com/2009/05/09/stories/2009050957640100.htm>