

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

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1. COUNTRY REVIEW

A. SOUTH ASIA

AFGHANISTAN

- **Top American commander in Afghanistan replaced; Obama: Sending additional 17,000 troops to Afghanistan was the hardest decision of my administration; UN Chief: Cooperative relationship between Afghanistan and Pakistan is key to peace; US forces to conduct military operations in consultations with Afghan counterparts in order to avoid civilian casualties; Forty four candidates register to contest the August 20 presidential polls**

The top American commander in Afghanistan Gen. David McKiernan was fired from his post by US Defence Secretary Robert Gates. Gates stated that “fresh eyes were needed” and that “a new approach was probably in our best interest” in dealing with the rapidly changing situation in the country.¹ Lt. Gen. Stanley McChrystal was appointed as the new US commander and Lt. Gen. David Rodriguez as assigned to be the new deputy commander. Gen. McChrystal was heading the US Special Operations Command which was credited with capturing Saddam Hussein and chief of al-Qaeda in Iraq, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, among others. He had also earlier served in Afghanistan as chief of staff of military operations in 2001 and 2002.²

US President Barack Obama meanwhile, in an interview with Newsweek, stated that sending additional 17,000 troops to Afghanistan was the hardest decision he had made so far. He also did not rule out the possibility of sending even more troops.³

In view of the large number of civilian casualties that resulted as a result of US air raid in Farah province in the previous week, US ambassador to Afghanistan Karl Eikenberry told reporters on May 16 that American troops will conduct operations in consultations with their Afghan counterparts in order to avoid such incidents in the future.⁴ The Afghanistan Rights Monitor (ARM) stated that 117 non-combatants were killed in the Farah air strikes.⁵

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, after meeting Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari stated that a robust, cooperative relationship between

¹ “Commander’s Ouster Is Tied to Shift in Afghan War,” *New York Times*, May 11, 2009, at <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/05/12/world/asia/12military.html?scp=5&sq=afghanistan&st=cse>

² “Top US commander in Afghanistan fired,” *Pajhwok Afghan News*, May 12, 2009, at <http://www.pajhwok.com/viewstory.asp?lng=eng&id=74267>

³ “Obama: Early to mull more troops in Afghanistan,” *Associated Press*, May 17, 2009, at http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20090517/ap_on_go_pr_wh/us_obama_afghanistan

⁴ “Raids in consultation with Afghans: US envoy,” *Pajhwok Afghan News*, May 16, 2009, at <http://www.pajhwok.com/viewstory.asp?lng=eng&id=7457>

⁵ “117 civilians killed in Farah air-raid: ARM,” *Pajhwok Afghan News*, May 13, 2009, at <http://www.pajhwok.com/viewstory.asp?lng=eng&id=74433>

Afghanistan and Pakistan was important for peace and stability in the volatile region.⁶

In other developments, reports noted that forty-four candidates, including two women candidates, have registered for the August 20 presidential elections. In order to register, a candidate has to deposit about \$1,000 to the election committee and submit at least 10,000 signatures endorsing his candidature. He/she must also be at least 40 years old and have no prior criminal record.⁷

PAKISTAN

- **At least 200 Taliban militants killed in Swat; ISPR: 10 percent of Swat militants are foreign nationals; Government offers peace talks in exchange for Taliban giving up its arms; UN: 834,000 civilians displaced due to Pak. security operations; Holbrooke: US needs to give 'sustained support' to Pakistan in the fight against militancy; EU pledges support to civilian government in Islamabad**

At least 200 militants were reported killed in the ongoing military operation against the Taliban in Swat valley. The security forces concurrently gained control over key strategic posts in the area, including Shangla Top, Dir and Buner.⁸ Over 83 militants were accounted for in Dir itself. The Pakistan Army meanwhile stated that over 10 per cent of militants operating in Swat were of foreign origin.⁹ The government also offered peace talks to the Taliban provided they give up their arms and stop fighting the armed forces.¹⁰ The UN on its part stated that as many as 834,000 civilians have been displaced due to the Army's offensive.¹¹

Reports noted that the US has given the Pakistan Army considerable control over drone attacks targeted against militants inside Pakistan. The move was intended to help the army better fight the militant outfits.¹² US envoy Richard Holbrooke on his part, speaking before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on May 12, advocated 'sustained support' to Pakistan in its military

⁶ "Pak-Afghan cooperation key to peace: Ban," *Pajhwok Afghan News*, May 13, 2009, at <http://www.pajhwok.com/viewstory.asp?lng=eng&id=74369>

⁷ "44 candidates register for Afghan presidential elections," *Sindh Today*, May 9, 2009, at <http://www.sindhtoday.net/world/94925.htm>

⁸ "200 Taliban killed in Swat operation," *Daily Times*, May 11, 2009, at http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2009\05\11\story_11-5-2009_pg1_1

⁹ Iftikhar A. Khan, "400 foreigners among militants in Swat: ISPR," *Dawn*, May 17, 2009, at <http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/dawn-content-library/dawn/the-newspaper/front-page/400-foreigners-among-militants-in-swat-ispr-759>

¹⁰ Raja Asghar, "Govt offers talks if Taliban lay down arms," *Dawn*, May 16, 2009, <http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/dawn-content-library/dawn/the-newspaper/front-page/govt-offers-talks-if-taliban-lay-down-arms-659>

¹¹ "More than 834,000 displaced, says UN," *Dawn*, May 15, 2009, at <http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/dawn-content-library/dawn/the-newspaper/front-page/more-than-834,000-displaced,-says-un-559>

¹² "US gives Pakistan 'control' over drone strikes," *Daily Times*, May 14, 2009, at http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2009\05\14\story_14-5-2009_pg1_1

operations and urged that there be no delay in providing any kind of aid to Islamabad.¹³

In other developments, the EU pledged support to the civilian government in Pakistan while it was facing its current challenges. The EU will hold a summit on June 17 to discuss vital security issues that Pakistan was dealing with.¹⁴

NEPAL

- **Uncertainties regarding political formation continues; CPN-Maoists to launch a nation wide agitation House stalemate continues, CPN-Maoists to launch nationwide agitation to restore civilian supremacy; Maoists resurrect 'parallel governments; India and Nepal agree to construct oil pipeline between Raxaul and Amlekhganj; Maoists: Time to stop "Indian political, cultural and economic invasion of Nepal"**

The uncertainties regarding the political process in Nepal and the peace process continued with failure of the CPN-UML to form a government despite the support of 22 political parties. The Unified CPN-Maoists blocked the parliamentary proceedings demanding that the President withdraw his 'unconstitutional' order to reinstate the sacked army chief and restore 'civilian supremacy'.¹⁵

Meanwhile, Prachanda, the chairman of the Unified CPN-Maoist stated on May 17 that his party would launch a nationwide agitation to establish civilian supremacy in the country. He also charged that 'regressive' forces were hatching conspiracies to derail the peace process.¹⁶

Reports also noted that the Maoists had begun to revive 'parallel or people's government's in several villages in the mid-western districts in Nepal, as according to a member, after the resignation of the PM, the country was without a government.¹⁷ The UCPN-Maoist Central Secretariat member Chandra Prakash Gajurel on his part stated that President Ram Baran Yadav had given the Maoists a "golden opportunity to bring the revolution to an end through Peoples' Uprising III."¹⁸

¹³ "Delay in Pak aid to benefit US enemies, warns Holbrooke," *The News*, May 13, 2009, at http://www.thenews.com.pk/arc_default.asp

¹⁴ "EU plans summit to help strengthen Pakistan govt," *Dawn*, May 11, 2009, at <http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/dawn-content-library/dawn/the-newspaper/front-page/eu-plans-summit-to-help-strengthen-pakistan-govt-159>

¹⁵ "House stalemate continues," *nepalnews.com*, May 15, 2009, at <http://www.nepalnews.com/archive/2009/may/may15/news11.php>

¹⁶ "Chairman: UCPN-M to launch nationwide agitation in Nepal," *www.chinaview.cn*, May 17, 2009, at http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-05/17/content_11390482.htm

¹⁷ "Maoist resurrect 'parallel govts'," *kantipuronline.com*, May 14, 2009, at <http://www.kantipuronline.com/kolnews.php?&nid=194218>

¹⁸ "Nepal Maoist threaten Revolt, State Capture: Sunday Mass meets," *The Telegraph Nepal*, May 18, 2009, at http://telegraphnepal.com/news_det.php?news_id=5431

In other developments, Nepal and India agreed to construct a 41-km oil pipeline between Raxaul in India and Amlekhgunj in Nepal.

Reports also noted that the Maoists have warned against the screening of Indian movies and that it was time to stop the “Indian political, cultural and economic invasion of Nepal.”¹⁹

B. EAST AND SOUTHEAST ASIA

CHINA

- **CMC to closely monitor performance of its officer corps; Top Chinese advisor calls for increasing cooperation between the mainland and Taiwan; Foreign Minister Yang calls for consolidation of ‘political trust’ among SCO member countries; Beijing to provide \$1 million in emergency humanitarian aid to Pakistan**

Reports noted that a document approved by the chairman of China’s Central Military Commission (CMC) stated that the working style, norms and conduct of the senior and middle ranking officers in the PLA will be supervised closely. This was to ensure greater accountability in the work of military officers at the corps level. If found guilty of violating military norms, officers will have to face strict punishment as well as disciplinary action. The document also states that a system of assessing commanding officers at the regimental level will be implemented.²⁰

On the issue of cross-straits relations, Jia Qinglin, chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference, has urged an expansion of cooperation between the mainland and Taiwan. In a statement, Jia also called for involving the public extensively while promoting cross-straits exchanges and cooperation across broad-based spheres. He was addressing the Cross-straits forum in the south-eastern coastal province city of Xiamen.²¹

The Foreign Ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) met in Moscow during the week to prepare the agenda of the forthcoming SCO summit scheduled for June in Yekaterinburg. Among issues discussed included the global financial crisis and its implications, efforts to crack down on terrorism, and deepening pragmatic cooperation among the member countries. Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi called for consolidation of “political trust” among member states of the SCO.²²

Reports noted that the Chinese government will provide \$1 million in emergency humanitarian aid to Pakistan to help the people displaced due to the

¹⁹ “Ban imposed on screening of Indian movies in Nepal”, *The Telegraph Nepal*, May 17, 2009, at http://www.telegraphnepal.com/news_det.php?news_id=5428

²⁰ “China tightens supervision of senior military officers,” *Xinhua*, May 18, 2009, at <http://english1.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90776/90785/6659349.html>

²¹ “Senior official urges “most broad-based” cross-Straits exchanges,” *Xinhua*, May 17, 2009, at <http://english.people.com.cn/90001/90776/90785/6659315.html>

²² “SCO FMs meet on upcoming summit in Russia,” *People’s Daily*, May 16, 2009, at <http://english.people.com.cn/90001/90776/90883/6659050.html>

ongoing fighting between the Taliban and government forces. Ma Zhaoxu, the Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson stated that the Chinese offer was in response to the Pakistani government's appeal for humanitarian aid.²³

SOUTHEAST ASIA

- **Thai PM meets foreign investors in Hong Kong to help restore investor confidence after massive opposition protests; Thai PM also urges Thaksin to return home to face the 'consequences of his actions'; Puea Thai Party demands UN investigation into the army crack down on protesters; Suu Kyi imprisoned; Rohingya boat people being deported to Bangladesh by Indian authorities in Andaman Island; Vietnam and Malaysia's joint petition to the UN to set new sea area boundaries invites strong criticism from China; China-Taiwan to expand their cooperation in the field of oil and gas exploration**

Thai Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva visited Hong Kong on May 15 and met with foreign investors as well as journalists to discuss possible strategies that will help restore investors' confidence in the country after the massive street riots witnessed in the previous month.²⁴ The opposition Puea Thai party meanwhile was demanding an UN investigation into the army crackdown on anti-government protesters.²⁵ PM Vejjajiva on his part urged former PM Thaksin Shinawatra to return home to "accept the consequences of his actions." He however denied any possibility of Thaksin being granted an amnesty.²⁶

In Burma, detained pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi was put behind bars on charges regarding a US national's entry into her residential premises in Rangoon.²⁷ The action was widely condemned by world powers and human rights activists.

Reports meanwhile noted that Indian authorities in the Andaman Island have started deporting Rohingya boat people to Bangladesh. They have been stranded on the island since December 2008.²⁸

Reports noted that Indo-Burma border trade will suffer on account of the decision of the Mizoram government to restrict the import of pig from Burma to prevent the outbreak of swine flu within Indian borders.²⁹

²³ "China offers \$1 mln emergency aid to Pakistan," *People's Daily*, May 14, 2009, at <http://english.people.com.cn/90001/90776/90883/6658082.html>

²⁴ "PM leaves for Hong Kong," *Bangkok Post*, May 15, 2009, at <http://www.bangkokpost.com/breakingnews/143324/pm-leaves-for-hong-kong>

²⁵ "PueaThai asks UN to probe riots," *Bangkok Post*, May 13, 2009, at <http://www.bangkokpost.com/breakingnews/143172/puea-thai-asks-un-to-probe-riots>

²⁶ "Abhisit urges Thaksin to return home," *Bangkok Post*, May 15, 2009, at <http://www.bangkokpost.com/breakingnews/143388/abhisit-urges-thaksin-to-return-home>

²⁷ "Suu Kyi jailed over US visitor," *Bangkok Post*, May 14, 2009, at <http://www.bangkokpost.com/breakingnews/143241/myanmar-suu-kyi-to-face-charges-over-us-visitor>

²⁸ "India deports some Rohingya boat-people to Bangladesh," *Burma News International*, May 13, 2009, at <http://www.bnionline.net/news/mizzima/6261-india-deports-some-rohingya-boat-people-to-bangladesh.html>

The first World Ocean Conference (WOC) was inaugurated by Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono on May 14 in Manado. The conference is being attended by a large number of people from different parts of the world representing the environment, marine and fishery lobbies. The meet is expected to come out with the Manado Ocean Declaration, which will include twenty-one articles on issues of maritime significance.³⁰

The recent joint petition by Vietnam and Malaysia to the UN Convention on the Law of Sea to set new area boundaries has drawn fierce criticism from China as the petition is seen as challenging Chinese claims over the outer limits of its continental shelf in the South China Sea. Criticizing Vietnamese and Malaysian claims as 'illegal and invalid', Beijing has asserted that it has "indisputable sovereignty, sovereign rights and jurisdiction over South China sea islands and their adjacent waters."³¹

Reports noted that the Taiwan-based state-owned CPC Corp. and China-based Chinese National Offshore Oil Corp. (CNOOC) were seeking to expand their area of joint oil and gas exploration from the present 15,400 square kilometer long area in the Taiwan Strait to more than 30,000 square kilometres. This would basically include the northern continental areas of the South China Sea.³²

C. WEST ASIA

IRAN

- **Iran warns of 'negative consequences' if Iraq continues its shelling of Kurdish villages; Italian Foreign Minister: Clinton has a "positive opinion" on the subject of participation of Iran at G8 Afghanistan talks in June; Presidential candidate Karroubi: Tough fight ahead for Ahmadinejad in presidential elections**

Iraq summoned Iran's ambassador to Baghdad and warned of 'negative consequences' if Iran continued its shelling of villages in northern Kurdistan region. Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Hassan Qashqavi stated that Tehran expected Baghdad to "pay special attention to movements of small groups which

²⁹ "Mizoram prohibits trade with Burma to prevent swine flu," *Burma News International*, May 12, 2009, at <http://www.bnionline.net/news/khonumthung/6253-mizoram-prohibits-trade-with-burma-to-prevent-swine-flu.html>

³⁰ "President officially inaugurates WOC," *The Jakarta Post*, May 14, 2009, at <http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2009/05/14/president-officially-opens-woc.html>

³¹ "China, Vietnam, Malaysia spar on Sea law," *United Press International (UPI)*, May 13, 2009, at http://www.upi.com/Top_News/2009/05/13/China-Vietnam-Malaysia-spar-on-sea-law/UPI-49621242214666/

³² "Taiwan, China planning to expand cooperation on oil exploration," *Taiwan News*, May 12, 2009, at http://www.etaiwannews.com/etn/news_content.php?id=946615&lang=eng_news&cate_img=35.jpg&cate_rss=news_Business

are officially known as terrorist groups even by Western governments.” Qashqavi added that Iran respected and supported Iraq’s territorial integrity.³³

Italian Foreign Minister Franco Frattini told reporters after meeting Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in Washington that she had expressed “a positive opinion on the subject of the eventual participation of Iran” at the G8 talks on Afghanistan to take place in Trieste, Italy in June.³⁴

In domestic developments, the Islamic Iran Development and Justice Party announced its support for the candidature of Mohsen Rezaii in the forthcoming presidential elections. Another presidential contender Karroubi stated that President Ahmadinejad will face serious competition in his re-election bid. He also charged that reformist candidates were not being provided the necessary means to convey their viewpoints to the public. The campaigns for the presidential elections will start from May 22 and last for twenty days.³⁵

IRAQ

- **Five US soldiers killed as a colleague opens fire in Camp Liberty; 355 people killed in April, deadliest month since September 2008; EU to give 20 million euros as humanitarian aid to displaced Iraqis**

A US soldier opened fire on his comrades on May 11 at the largest American base in Iraq, Camp Liberty, killing five soldiers. Increasing levels of stress as a result of extended postings in the war zone was cited as being responsible for the deadly attack. The shooting brought the number of American losses since the US-led invasion of Iraq in March 2003 to 4,293.³⁶ In an earlier such incident on September 14, 2008, US sergeant Joseph Bozicevich shot dead two of his superiors at a base south of Baghdad.

A series of bombings in Baghdad have raised concerns about the ability of Iraqi security forces to take on security responsibilities as US forces prepare to withdraw. 355 people were killed in April alone, making it the bloodiest month in Iraq since September 2008.

Meanwhile, the European Commission announced 20 million euros in humanitarian aid for displaced and ‘vulnerable’ Iraqis. EU Humanitarian Aid Commissioner Louis Michel pointed out that despite “positive developments in Iraq, the situation is still in a fragile transition stage. Around 1.6 million Iraqis remain displaced inside the country, and hundreds of thousands are living in difficult conditions in neighboring countries despite generous hospitality.” The

³³ “Iran urges Iraqi action on Kurdish rebels,” *Khaleej Times*, May 11, 2009, at http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle08.asp?xfile=data/middleeast/2009/May/middleeast_May198.xml§ion=middleeast

³⁴ “Clinton wants Iran presence at Afghan G8 meeting: Italian FM,” *Tehran Times*, May 11, 2009, at http://www.tehrantimes.com/index_View.asp?code=194265

³⁵ “Development and Justice Party backs Rezaii,” *Tehran Times*, May 13, 2009, at http://www.tehrantimes.com/index_View.asp?code=194451

³⁶ “Five U.S. soldiers shot dead at Baghdad base,” *Tehran Times*, May 12, 2009, at http://www.tehrantimes.com/index_View.asp?code=194346

EU funding is intended to help provide food, water, sanitation, basic healthcare, as well as 'psychosocial support.' Since 2007 the European Commission has provided 47.8 million euros to support internally displaced people in Iraq, as well as Iraqi refugees in Syria and Jordan.³⁷

II. MISSILES, SPACE, DEFENCE AND NUCLEAR REVIEW

MISSILES AND SPACE

- **Agni-II to be tested on May 19**

In a move to make the 2,000 km Agni-II fully operational, the army is expected to test-fire the missile on May 19. This will be the first 'training user-trial' of the missile designed to give the army confidence in its reliability.³⁸ The army has already carried out training trials of the 700 km range Agni-I missile. Reports noted that although the Agni-I and Agni-II missiles are being inducted into the armed forces, more user trials will be necessary to operationalize them in large numbers.

DEFENCE ISSUES

NATIONAL

- **India to receive Akula-II by the end of 2009**

Reports noted that Russia would hand over to India its new generation Akula-II class nuclear attack submarine by the end of 2009. The submarine was to have been delivered in June of last year on a 10-year lease but it met with an accident during sea trials killing 20 sailors and injuring 17 others. The deal to lease the submarine, worth \$300 million, would significantly enhance the Indian navy's capabilities.³⁹

- **Lockheed Martin intends to outsource AGMS components to India**

The director for sea-based missile defence systems of Lockheed Martin, Ric Rushton has expressed his company's desire to outsource some of the components of its Aegis ballistic missile defence systems to India. He noted that the systems, which already equip Japanese and South Korean vessels, could be useful on Indian warships as well. Rushton was speaking with reporters in Singapore at the IMDEX Asia 2009 maritime defense show.⁴⁰

³⁷ "EU announces 20m euros aid for vulnerable Iraqis," *Tehran Times*, May 17, 2009, at http://www.tehrantimes.com/index_View.asp?code=194744

³⁸ "User-Trial of Surface-to-surface Agni-II missile on May 19," May 13, 2009, at <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/India/User-trial-of-surface-to-surface-Agni-II-missile-on-May-19-/articleshow/4521589.cms>

³⁹ "Russia to Deliver Akula-II Nuclear Submarines by 2009-end," May 13, 2009, at <http://www.india-defence.com/reports/4374>

⁴⁰ "Lockheed Martin May Outsource Production of Aegis Missile Defense System to India," May 12, 2009, at <http://www.india-defence.com/reports/4372>

INTERNATIONAL

- **US buys Su-27 fighters from Ukraine**

Reports noted that the US has purchased two Su-27 Flanker fighter jets from a private Ukrainian company to train its pilots to cope with the growing number of Russian fourth generation aircraft sold around the globe. The aircraft would also be used to test the capability of new US radars and electronic warfare equipments.⁴¹

- **US Navy finalizes deal with GD on surface electronic warfare systems**

Reports noted that the General Dynamics Advanced Information Systems has bagged a \$39.9 million contract from the US Navy for the development and production of Surface Electronic Warfare Improvement Program (SEWIP) Block 1B. The upgraded SEWIP Block 1B are expected to provide huge improvements in the Navy's anti-ship missile defense systems by enhancing the ship's detection and identification capabilities.⁴²

- **China could give fighter jets in exchange for oil**

As part of arms-for-oil strategy, reports indicated that China was aiming to give its third generation J-10 fighter aircrafts to oil-rich Third World countries like Angola, Nigeria and Venezuela. Pakistan is the first buyer of the J-10, which will be delivered in 2014. The Pakistani version will be called the FC-20.⁴³

III. ENERGY SECURITY REVIEW

- **Kazakhstan approves participation in Russian-led gas pipeline**

Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev signed into law on May 13 the country's gas pipeline agreement with Russia and Turkmenistan. The agreement, signed by Kazakhstan, Russia and Turkmenistan in December 2007, envisages the construction of a new trans-Caspian gas pipeline expected to transport up to 10 billion cubic meters of Turkmen gas a year.

Reports noted that Kazakhstan's approval of the agreement could divert potential supplies away from the EU-backed Nabucco project. During a summit in Prague in the previous week, officials from Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan did not come to an agreement on a final declaration to accelerate work on the Nabucco project, which seeks to bring Caspian gas to Europe.⁴⁴

⁴¹ "United States Buys Su-27 Fighters from Ukraine for Aggressor Training" May 13, 2009, at <http://www.india-defence.com/reports/4380>

⁴² "General Dynamics Receives Contract by US. Navy to Work on Surface Electronic Warfare Systems," May 13, 2009, at <http://www.india-defence.com/reports/4379>

⁴³ "Will China Trade Advanced Fighter Jets for Oil?" May 13, 2009, at <http://www.india-defence.com/reports/4377>

⁴⁴ "Kazakhstan approves participation in Russia-led gas pipeline," *Xinhua*, May 16, 2009, at <http://asianenergy.blogspot.com/2009/05/kazakhstan-approves-participation-in.html>

- **Russia warns of dangers of war over Arctic oil and gas riches**

Russia's new national security strategy, which analysed security threats up to 2020, identified the intensifying battle for ownership of vast untapped oil and gas fields around its borders as a source of potential military conflict within a decade. The document states that use of military cannot be ruled out "to resolve emerging problems that would destroy the balance of forces near the borders of Russia and her allies." Stating that it is not "militarising the Arctic," Moscow asserted that it is willing to defend its interests by force if necessary, even as global warming makes exploitation of the region's energy riches more feasible.

The United States, Norway, Canada and Denmark are among countries challenging Russia's claim to a section of the Arctic shelf. An earlier document had declared the Arctic a strategic resource for Russia and that development of its energy reserves by 2020 was a vital national objective.

The strategy states that struggle over energy resources would increasingly dominate international relations and identifies the Barents Sea and Central Asia, as possible areas of friction.⁴⁵

- **Pakistan Foreign Minister: Pakistan to get French nuclear technology**

Reports noted that France and Pakistan have agreed to cooperate on civilian nuclear power after a meeting between President Zardari and French President Sarkozy. Foreign Minister Qureshi told reporters that France had agreed to transfer civilian nuclear technology to Pakistan. However, Mr. Sarkozy's spokesperson stated that France had agreed only to co-operate in the field of "nuclear safety" so that the "Pakistani programme can develop in the best conditions of safety and security."⁴⁶

IV. INTERNAL SECURITY REVIEW

JAMMU AND KASHMIR

- **Militants explore new infiltration routes**

Reports indicated that militants sneaking into Jammu and Kashmir were increasingly using air and train routes from Pakistan on the basis of fake passports instead of sneaking through the Line of Control (LoC). The Pakistan army and the ISI were reluctant to push top militants of Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) and Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) through the LoC or the International Border (IB) for fear of them getting captured by Indian security forces. Four commanders of LeT and HM, who were arrested recently, confirmed that they had flown from Islamabad to Karachi and then took a flight from Karachi to Kathmandu. From Kathmandu, they reached Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh by bus. They then took a

⁴⁵ "Russia warns of war within a decade over Arctic oil and gas riches," *Times*, May 14, 2009, at <http://www.ecoearth.info/shared/reader/welcome.aspx?linkid=127454>

⁴⁶ "Pakistan in 'French nuclear deal' ", *Asia Energy*, 16 May, 2009, at <http://asianenergy.blogspot.com/2009/05/pakistan-in-french-nuclear-deal.html>

train from Gorakhpur to Delhi and then reached Jammu from Delhi, from where they were sent to various destinations.

In addition to the Karachi-Nepal air route, some of the militant commanders have also taken the Karachi-Dhaka route and then sneaked into India via the Bangladesh border.⁴⁷

NORTH EAST DEVELOPMENTS

- **Nine migrants killed in Manipur**

Unidentified militants shot dead nine persons at the Keibul Lamjao National Park in Manipur's Bishnupur district on May 11. The site of the killing was one of the battlegrounds during the 'Operation Summer Storm' launched by the security forces against the militants in April this year.⁴⁸

Security forces meanwhile shot dead six Kanglei Yawol Kanna Lup (KYKL) militants in an encounter in Manipur's Senapati district on May 15. Five AK-series rifles, one pistol, a large quantity of ammunition, and two Chinese grenades were recovered from the site of the incident.⁴⁹

Also in Manipur, the Azad faction of the Peoples United Liberation Front (PULF) expressed its willingness to enter into a peace process with the state government. The militant group had recently sent a delegation of a civil society group to the state chief minister O. Ibobi Singh.⁵⁰

⁴⁷ "Militant comdrs develop new infiltration routes," *Daily Excelsior*, May 11, 2009, at <http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/web1/09may11/news.htm#2>

⁴⁸ "Nine migrants feared killed," *Telegraph*, May 12, 2009, at http://telegraphindia.com/1090512/jsp/frontpage/story_10951559.jsp

⁴⁹ "6 KYKL rebels gunned down," *Telegraph*, May 16, 2009, at http://telegraphindia.com/1090516/jsp/northeast/story_10969558.jsp

⁵⁰ "Another group on Ibobi peacelist," *Telegraph*, May 12, 2009, at http://telegraphindia.com/1090512/jsp/northeast/story_10948435.jsp