

# THE WEEK IN REVIEW

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## 1. COUNTRY REVIEW

### A. SOUTH ASIA

#### AFGHANISTAN

- **Afghan Defense Ministry: 70 insurgents killed in 'Operation Khanjar'; Adm. Mullen: US main focus is now Afghanistan and Pakistan; 24 people, including 16 children, killed in truck bomb explosion in Logar Province; Public meetings organised in several provinces as part of presidential election campaign; World Bank to provide \$68.5 million grant to Afghanistan**

Afghan Defense Ministry spokesperson stated on July 12 that 70 rebels have been killed since the beginning of 'Operation Khanjar' in Helmand province on July 2. He added that operations are still going on in Khanshin, Garmsir and Nahri Saraj districts of the province.<sup>1</sup>

The Chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff Adm. Mike Mullen, addressing a luncheon meeting in Washington on July 7 at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, stated that the focus of the US had now shifted completely from Iraq to Afghanistan and Pakistan.<sup>2</sup>

At least 24 people, including 16 children, were killed in Logar province when a huge truck carrying explosives exploded on July 8. The children were watching police officers investigate the overturned truck when it exploded.<sup>3</sup>

Public meetings were organized in support of presidential candidates in different provinces of Afghanistan on July 6 in which hundreds of people participated. Meetings in support of President Karzai were held in Jozjan, Faryab, Smangan, Kunduz, Uruzgan, Nangarhar and in Nimroz provinces, while a meeting was held in Samangan province in support of Dr. Abdullah Abdullah.<sup>4</sup> Meanwhile, a member of Afghanistan's Independent Elections Commission (AIEC), Dr. Muhammad Azam and his security guard were shot dead by unidentified gunmen in the northern Balkh province on July 6.<sup>5</sup>

In other developments, Afghanistan's Ministry of Finance and the World Bank on July 7 signed two grant agreements worth \$68.5 million to support the ongoing Emergency Irrigation Rehabilitation and to provide development policy support for the government's increasing fiscal demands. Afghan Finance

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<sup>1</sup> "70 insurgents killed in military offensive in S Afghanistan," *Xinhua*, July 12, 2009, at [http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-07/12/content\\_11697233.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-07/12/content_11697233.htm)

<sup>2</sup> "Focus now on Afghanistan: Mullen," *Pajhwok Afghan News*, July 8, 2009, at <http://www.pajhwok.com/viewstory.asp?lng=eng&id=77464>

<sup>3</sup> "Truck Blast in Afghanistan Leaves at Least 24 Dead," *The New York Times*, July 9, 2009, at [http://www.nytimes.com/2009/07/10/world/asia/10afghan.html?\\_r=1&scp=4&sq=afghanistan&st=cse](http://www.nytimes.com/2009/07/10/world/asia/10afghan.html?_r=1&scp=4&sq=afghanistan&st=cse)

<sup>4</sup> "Gatherings held in support of presidential candidates," *Pajhwok Afghan News*, July 6, 2009, at <http://www.pajhwok.com/viewstory.asp?lng=eng&id=77382>

<sup>5</sup> "AIEC official shot dead in Kunduz," *Pajhwok Afghan News*, July 6, 2009, at <http://www.pajhwok.com/viewstory.asp?lng=eng&id=77385>

Minister Dr. Omar Zakhailwal stated that that over the past seven years, the World Bank had been a great supporter of Afghanistan's national programs.<sup>6</sup>

## PAKISTAN

- **Zardari acknowledges militant groups were "deliberately created and nurtured" by Pakistan for "tactical" objectives; Pak government: Operations in Swat and Buner over; Reports: Baluchistan insurgency on the rise; US air strikes kill over 40 insurgents, Taliban leader Fazlullah wounded; US House of Representatives approves aid to Pakistan with strict conditions**

President Zardari acknowledged that militant groups were "deliberately created and nurtured" by Pakistan for "tactical" objectives. He made these comments while speaking to retired civil servants who met him on July 7 to discuss national security issues. This was for the first time that a Pakistan president has acknowledged complicity in creating terror groups.<sup>7</sup>

Pakistan's Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Qamar Zaman Kaira meanwhile told reporters on July 8 that the military operation in Swat and Buner had been completed and these two districts were safe for people who had been displaced to return to their homes. He however did not rule out possibility of isolated incidents of terrorism.<sup>8</sup> Other reports suggested that insurgency in Baluchistan was steadily gaining ground with the province's governor noting that the situation was "pretty volatile."<sup>9</sup>

Two US air strikes on July 8 killed at least 43 militants and wounded militant leader of the northern Swat valley, Maulana Fazlullah. The attacks, on a forest training camp and a vehicle convoy, were aimed at eliminating the network of Taliban leader, Beitullah Mehsud. Pakistan military spokesman Maj. Gen. Athar Abbas confirmed that Fazlullah was injured in one of the strikes, according to "credible information."<sup>10</sup> Earlier on July 7, a US drone attack killed at least 16 militants in South Waziristan.

In other developments, the US House of Representatives on July 9 approved a \$48.8 billion spending bill, inclusive of \$1.5 billion for Pakistan. Both chambers of the US Congress have separately approved legislation to triple US assistance to Pakistan to \$1.5 billion a year. The Senate version, known as the

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<sup>6</sup> "WB to provide Afghanistan US\$68.5 m in grant," *Pajhwok Afghan News*, July 7, 2009, at <http://www.pajhwok.com/viewstory.asp?lng=eng&id=77417>

<sup>7</sup> "Pakistan admits to creating militant groups", *The Hindu*, July 9, 2009 at <http://www.hindu.com/2009/07/09/stories/2009070957160100.htm>

<sup>8</sup> "Swat and Buner cleared: govt", *Dawn*, July 9, 2009 at <http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/dawn-content-library/dawn/the-newspaper/front-page/swat-and-buner-cleared-govt>

<sup>9</sup> "Another Insurgency Gains in Pakistan", *The New York Times*, July 11, 2009 at [http://www.nytimes.com/2009/07/12/world/asia/12baluchistan.html?\\_r=1&scp=4&sq=pakistan&st=cse](http://www.nytimes.com/2009/07/12/world/asia/12baluchistan.html?_r=1&scp=4&sq=pakistan&st=cse)

<sup>10</sup> "Airstrikes Kill 43 Militants and Wound Taliban Chief", *The New York Times*, July 8, 2009 at <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/07/09/world/asia/09pstan.html?scp=6&sq=pakistan&st=cse>

Kerry-Lugar bill, now has to be reconciled with the House version, which seeks strict conditions for providing economic and military assistance to Pakistan.<sup>11</sup>

#### BHUTAN

- **Bhutan PM visits India, 10 hydel projects, among other joint efforts announced; Bhutan registered an economic growth of 8.1 per cent in 2008-09; Nepal to take up the issue of Bhutanese refugees with Thimpu**

The Bhutanese Prime Minister Jigme Thinley was on a four day visit to India from June 29-July 2. Mr. Thinley announced plans to jointly develop 10 hydel projects and cited information and communication technology as a potential area for cooperation.<sup>12</sup> Other sectors in which more cooperation was being sought include education and health. These areas will also come under focused attention in Bhutan's New Economic Policy currently being drafted.<sup>13</sup>

The government meanwhile announced its first annual financial statement for 2008-2009, highlighting the achievements over the past year. The document noted that 8.1 per cent economic growth was registered. It also acknowledged the grant of Nu 227.9 billion given by India towards the Tenth Five Year plan.<sup>14</sup>

In other developments, Nepal has promised to take up the issue of Bhutanese refugees with the government in Thimpu. The National Front for Democracy had recommended the formation of a 'high-level taskforce' to address the issue systematically.<sup>15</sup>

#### SRI LANKA

- **Chidambaram: Sri Lanka not doing enough to cater to the needs of the displaced Tamilians; Rajapakse: No place for "racism" in Sri Lanka; Saudi Arabia provides 100 tonnes of relief material; Sri Lankan FM: China has always been a friend to Sri Lanka "at times of difficulty"; India and Sri Lanka to look at the feasibility of laying under sea cables costing over Rs. 2,000 crore**

Union Home Minister P. Chidambaram charged that Sri Lanka was not doing enough to cater to the needs of the displaced Tamilians. Chidambaram also stated that Tamil refugees in India would not be forcibly sent to Sri Lanka and

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<sup>11</sup> "US House approves aid bill", *Dawn*, July 11, 2009 at <http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/dawn-content-library/dawn/the-newspaper/front-page/us-house-approves-aid-bill-179>

<sup>12</sup> "Bhutan PM to visit India," *Zee News*, June 28, 2009, at <http://www.zeenews.com/news542852.html>; "Bhutan, India to develop 10 hydel projects by 2020," *Sify.com*, June 30, 2009, at [http://sify.com/news/fullstory.php?a=jg4l5aghjcj&title=Bhutan\\_India\\_to\\_develop\\_10\\_hydel\\_projects\\_by\\_2020](http://sify.com/news/fullstory.php?a=jg4l5aghjcj&title=Bhutan_India_to_develop_10_hydel_projects_by_2020)

<sup>13</sup> "India plans to invest in Bhutan's hospitality sector," *Business India*, July 1, 2009, at <http://www.hospitalitybizindia.com/detailNews.aspx?aid=5405&sid=1>

<sup>14</sup> "Bhutan to come out with economic development policy," June 29, 2009, *The Hindu*, at <http://www.hindu.com/thehindu/holnus/003200906291021.htm>

<sup>15</sup> "Bhutanese refugees hail govt.," *My Republica*, July 12, 2009, at [http://www.myrepublica.com/portal/index.php?action=news\\_details&news\\_id=7371](http://www.myrepublica.com/portal/index.php?action=news_details&news_id=7371)

their repatriation would be conditioned on favourable developments towards Tamilians under the Rajapakse government.

President Rajapakse on his part has assured that 3,00,000 Tamil civilians would be resettled soon and asserted that in a post-conflict Sri Lanka, there was no place for “racism” and that any action that “creates a disturbance among our three communities ... Sinhala, Tamil, or Muslim” will not be tolerated.<sup>16</sup>

Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia has provided relief materials including tents, foodstuffs, medicines and medical equipment amounting to more than 100 tonnes of cargo for the Sri Lankan Tamils.<sup>17</sup>

Sri Lanka’s Foreign Minister Rohitha Bogollagama visited China during the week and reiterated that China has always been a friend to Sri Lanka “at times of difficulty.”<sup>18</sup> Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi on his part congratulated Sri Lanka on the success achieved in defeating terrorism and reiterated his country’s support towards maintaining her independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty. The two ministers discussed issues relating to trade, tourism, investment promotion and development assistance.<sup>19</sup>

In other developments, reports noted that India and Sri Lanka will soon look at the feasibility of laying under sea cables to interconnect the power networks of the two countries. The total cost of the project is estimated at Rs. 2,292 crore.<sup>20</sup>

## B. EAST AND SOUTHEAST ASIA

### CHINA

- **Chinese Chief of General Staff meets with his Pakistani and Ecuadorean counterparts; Russia and China to conduct joint exercises; Indigenously-built ‘new-style catamaran missile speedboats’ successfully tested; PLA promulgates plan detailing handling of environmental emergencies; PLA’s GAD issues document specifying procedures for implementing competitive equipment procurement**

The Chief of the Pakistan Army General Staff, Muhammad Mustafa Khan met with his Chinese counterpart Chen Bingde on July 6. Both sides reiterated the value and importance of the bilateral relationship between “all-weather friends.”

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<sup>16</sup> “President wants a solution from people,” *Daily News*, July 7, 2009, at <http://www.dailynews.lk/2009/07/07/news02.asp>

<sup>17</sup> “Saudi relief for IDPs,” *Daily News*, July 10, 2009, at <http://www.dailynews.lk/2009/07/10/news45.asp>

<sup>18</sup> “Sri Lankan FM says China always a friend,” *Daily Mirror*, July 2, 2009, at [http://www.dailymirror.lk/DM\\_BLOG/Sections/frmNewsDetailView.aspx?ARTID=53600](http://www.dailymirror.lk/DM_BLOG/Sections/frmNewsDetailView.aspx?ARTID=53600)

<sup>19</sup> “Chinese FM congratulates Sri Lanka,” *Daily News*, July 6, 2009, at <http://www.dailynews.lk/2009/07/06/news16.asp>

<sup>20</sup> “India-Lanka undersea power cable pact soon,” *Daily Mirror*, June 30, 2009, at [http://www.dailymirror.lk/DM\\_BLOG/Sections/frmNewsDetailView.aspx?ARTID=53338](http://www.dailymirror.lk/DM_BLOG/Sections/frmNewsDetailView.aspx?ARTID=53338)

The Chinese official conveyed to Gen. Khan that his country was very much interested in enhancing the level of military cooperation with Pakistan.<sup>21</sup>

Mr. Chen also met the Ecuadorian Joint Command Armed Forces Chief Gen. Fabian Varela Moncayo on July 9. The officials reiterated their commitment to promote mutual military cooperation.<sup>22</sup>

In a related development, China and Russia will conduct a joint military exercise, 'Peace-Mission 2009' from July 22, 2009. The exercise will be carried out in the area abutting Russia's Far East and China's Northeast Shenyang Military Command.<sup>23</sup> Reports noted that the PLA Navy has tested its indigenously-developed 'new-style catamaran missile speedboats' successfully.<sup>24</sup>

Meanwhile, the PLA promulgated the first of its kind 'Emergent Preplan of the Shenyang Military Area Command on Handling Emergent Environmental Pollution and Ecological Destruction Accidents.' The plan includes regulations on the "early warning, emergent response, information reporting, commanding and coordination, on-the-spot control, emergent monitoring, emergent handling and post-emergent actions," among other related issues.<sup>25</sup>

In other developments, the PLA's General Armaments Department (GAD) has issued a document - 'Opinions on Strengthening Competitive Procurement of Equipment', defining "the specific procedures and requirements for implementing competitive equipment procurement." Reports indicated that the document offered a legislative basis to implement "across-the-board and life-cycle competing procurement of equipment."<sup>26</sup>

## JAPAN

- **LDP loses Tokyo metropolitan assembly elections; LDP proposes reducing parliamentary chambers and the number of legislators; Reports: Foreign Ministry officials tried to destroy copies of secret 1960 nuclear agreement with the US**

Reports indicated that Japanese PM Taro Aso may face an uphill task in keeping his job after the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) was defeated in a July 12 Tokyo metropolitan assembly elections. The election was seen as a referendum ahead of the national elections in October. Aso on his part told senior ruling

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<sup>21</sup> "PLA: China to Further Ties with Pakistan," *PLA Daily*, July 7, 2009, at [http://english.chinamil.com.cn/site2/news-channels/2009-07/07/content\\_1826355.htm](http://english.chinamil.com.cn/site2/news-channels/2009-07/07/content_1826355.htm)

<sup>22</sup> "China, Ecuador Agree to Advance Military Ties," *PLA Daily*, July 10, 2009, at [http://english.chinamil.com.cn/site2/news-channels/2009-07/10/content\\_1831297.htm](http://english.chinamil.com.cn/site2/news-channels/2009-07/10/content_1831297.htm)

<sup>23</sup> "China, Russia to Conduct Joint Anti-terror Military Exercise," *PLA Daily*, July 8, 2009, at [http://english.chinamil.com.cn/site2/news-channels/2009-07/08/content\\_1829056.htm](http://english.chinamil.com.cn/site2/news-channels/2009-07/08/content_1829056.htm)

<sup>24</sup> "China's New-style Missile Boats Reach Combat Capability," *PLA Daily*, July 7, 2009, at <http://english.people.com.cn/90001/90776/90786/6695121.html>

<sup>25</sup> "PLA First Eco-environment Accident Emergent Preplan Promulgated," *PLA Daily*, July 7, 2009, at [http://english.chinamil.com.cn/site2/news-channels/2009-07/07/content\\_1827528.htm](http://english.chinamil.com.cn/site2/news-channels/2009-07/07/content_1827528.htm)

<sup>26</sup> "GAD Issues Document to Strengthen Competitive Equipment Procurement," *PLA Daily*, July 7, 2009, at [http://english.chinamil.com.cn/site2/news-channels/2009-07/10/content\\_1831749.htm](http://english.chinamil.com.cn/site2/news-channels/2009-07/10/content_1831749.htm)

party lawmakers that he planned to dissolve parliament's lower house as early as on July 14.<sup>27</sup>

The LDP has also pledged to reduce the country's parliament (from two chambers to one) and the number of legislators (by 30 percent over the next decade). Among other proposals, the LDP intends to restrict close relatives of lawmakers from inheriting their constitutional seats.<sup>28</sup>

Meanwhile, some reports suggested that Japanese Foreign Ministry bureaucrats had ordered the destruction of copies of a 1960 secret nuclear agreement between Japan and the US just before the information disclosure law took effect in 2001.<sup>29</sup>

## SOUTH KOREA

- **South Korea experiences third wave of cyber-attacks; Obama: US trying to keep door open for DPRK's return to Six-Party Talks; Nuclear negotiators of South Korea and Japan discuss implementation of UNSC resolutions; Rodong Sinmun: DPRK's nuclear deterrent is "self-defensive" in nature and its aim and mission is "to champion peace"**

South Korea experienced a third wave of suspected coordinated cyber-attacks. The targets under attack included the country's biggest banks, a leading national newspaper and the South Korean spy agency. Reports suggested that the latest attacks, and those that preceded it – when even US defence sites were targeted, were the handiwork of individuals and agencies inside North Korea.<sup>30</sup>

US President Obama stated that his administration was trying to "keep a door open" for the DPRK's return to the Six-Party talks. In an interview with the Associated Press, Obama insisted that the DPRK must first give up its nuclear weapon programs.<sup>31</sup> The US State Department meanwhile imposed sanctions against two companies allegedly involved in nuclear weapon and missiles-making activities.<sup>32</sup>

Chief nuclear negotiators of South Korea and Japan had "in-depth" discussions on joint actions towards the DPRK. The discussions included the status regarding implementing the UN Security Council resolutions, which

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<sup>27</sup> "Japan PM fights for job, eyes Aug. 8 poll: Report," *Reuters*, July 12, 2009, at <http://in.reuters.com/article/marketsNewsUS/idINT35340320090712?pageNumber=2&virtualBrandChannel=11584&sp=true>

<sup>28</sup> "Japan LDP May Pledge Single-Chamber Parliament, Yomiuri Says," *Bloomberg*, July 7, 2009, at <http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601101&sid=ahpSC7GZqZdg>

<sup>29</sup> "Japan has tried to destroy secret nuke documents: report," *Xinhua*, July 11, 2009, at [http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-07/11/content\\_11691004.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-07/11/content_11691004.htm)

<sup>30</sup> "New 'cyber attacks' hit S Korea," *BBC News*, July 9, 2009, at <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/8142282.stm>

<sup>31</sup> "U.S. keeps door open for DPRK's return to disarmament talks: Obama," *Xinhua*, July 3, 2009, at [http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-07/03/content\\_11643365.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-07/03/content_11643365.htm)

<sup>32</sup> "U.S. beefs up sanctions against DPRK," *Xinhua*, June 30, 2009, at [http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-07/01/content\\_11630148.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-07/01/content_11630148.htm)



urged UN member nations to impose tough financial sanctions as well as an arms embargo on the DPRK.<sup>33</sup>

South Korea meanwhile in early July sent humanitarian aid to the North, in the first such instance after the aid was halted following the launch of a long-range rocket by Pyongyang in early April.<sup>34</sup>

The DPRK's *Rodong Sinmun* asserted that the country's nuclear weapons were "neither threatening other countries, nor [to] be used for preemptive attacks." A commentary in the newspaper stated that the DPRK's nuclear deterrent was "self-defensive" in nature and its aim and mission was "to champion peace." The article went on to accuse the US of using the nuclear programs as a pretext to isolate and choke the country.<sup>35</sup>

## SOUTHEAST ASIA

- **Thai-Cambodia border dispute intensifies; Thai PM visits Vietnam; Indonesian Army gets forty APCs as part of its military modernization programme; Malaysia to propose ASEAN Defence Industry Council at the upcoming ASEAN Defence Ministers' meeting; Negotiations between the Philippines government and communist insurgents to resume soon**

In a sign of increasing tension near the Thai-Cambodian border on account of the controversy surrounding the Preah Vihear temple, Cambodia has reportedly deployed a large of troops and equipment, including tanks in the region. Thai forces on their part have built around twenty large bunkers to deal with possible Cambodian troop incursions.<sup>36</sup> Thai Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva meanwhile visited Vietnam on July 10 and discussed issues relating to economic cooperation, tourism and transportation development with his Vietnamese counterpart Nguyen Tan Dung.<sup>37</sup>

The Indonesian Army received over forty armored personal carriers (APCs) by the state weapons manufacturer PT Pindad. As part of weaponry modernization programme, twenty APCs were provided to the army in 2008. A third batch of twenty five APC's is expected to be handed over by the end of 2010.<sup>38</sup>

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<sup>33</sup> "S Korea, Japan discuss moves towards DPRK," *Xinhua*, July 6, 2009, at [http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-07/06/content\\_11662426.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-07/06/content_11662426.htm)

<sup>34</sup> "South Korea eases humanitarian aid ban against DPRK," *Xinhua*, July 3, 2009, at [http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-07/03/content\\_11649151.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-07/03/content_11649151.htm)

<sup>35</sup> "DPRK's nuclear weapons not to threaten others: newspaper," *Xinhua*, June 28, 2009, at [http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-06/28/content\\_11615023.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-06/28/content_11615023.htm)

<sup>36</sup> "Cambodia deploys tanks at border," *Bangkok Post*, July 10, 2009, at <http://www.bangkokpost.com/breakingnews/148524/cambodia-deploys-tanks-at-border>

<sup>37</sup> "PM on an official visit to Vietnam," *Bangkok Post*, July 10, 2009, at <http://www.bangkokpost.com/breakingnews/148523/pm-on-an-official-visit-to-vietnam>

<sup>38</sup> "Indonesian Army gets 40 home-made armored vehicle," *The Jakarta Post*, July 10, 2009, at <http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2009/07/10/indonesian-army-gets-40-homemade-armored-vehicle.html>

Reports noted that Malaysia will propose the setting up of an ASEAN Defence Industry Council at the ASEAN Defence ministers' meeting in November this year. This will ensure that an avenue is provided to enhance defence cooperation and help expand the market for defence products among ASEAN member states.<sup>39</sup>

In other developments, reports noted that peace negotiation between the Philippines government and the communist insurgents will resume soon. The negotiations were suspended by President Arroyo in 2005 when the communists demanded that the US remove the rebel's designation as terrorists.<sup>40</sup>

## C. WEST ASIA

### IRAN

- **Khamenei warns West on "negative impact" on relations; Brown: The outcome of the Iranian election was "a matter for the Iranian people"; Obama denies US has given Israel a green light to strike Iran's nuclear facilities; Iran's Expediency Council ratifies a parliamentary bill prohibiting Guardian Council members from holding other official posts; India to "develop a common understanding of the [IPI] project and evolve (an) agreement on the path ahead amongst the stakeholders"**

Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei warned Western governments of a "negative impact" on relations over what he termed their meddling in Iran's post-election riots. He once again emphasized his support for president-elect Ahmadinejad and termed his re-election a "lasting and pure truth." British Prime Minister Gordon Brown on his part stressed that the Iranian authorities should understand that Britain will act along with its European partners in dealing with the situation arising out of the detainment of 9 British Embassy staff. Brown also stated that the outcome of the Iranian election was "a matter for the Iranian people."<sup>41</sup> French President Nicolas Sarkozy on his part stated that his country supported Britain amidst rising tensions with Iran over the elections unrest, while President Obama and Vice President Biden stated that the post-election unrest in Iran would not deter them from seeking to engage the country's top leadership in direct negotiations.<sup>42</sup>

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<sup>39</sup> "Malaysia to propose ASEAN Defence Industry Council," *Bernama.com*, July 7, 2009, at [http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v5/news\\_lite.php?id=423642](http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v5/news_lite.php?id=423642)

<sup>40</sup> "Manila to talk with communists," *Bangkok Post*, July 9, 2009, at <http://www.bangkokpost.com/breakingnews/148395/philippines-to-resume-talks-with-communists>

<sup>41</sup> "Iran's top leader warns West over alleged meddling," *Khaleej Times*, July 6, 2009, at [http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle08.asp?xfile=data/middleeast/2009/July/middleeast\\_July\\_148.xml&section=middleeast](http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle08.asp?xfile=data/middleeast/2009/July/middleeast_July_148.xml&section=middleeast)

<sup>42</sup> "Policy on Iran is engagement: Obama," *Tehran Times*, July 7, 2009, at [http://www.tehrantimes.com/index\\_View.asp?code=198387](http://www.tehrantimes.com/index_View.asp?code=198387)

President Obama, in an interview with the CNN, strongly denied that the US had given Israel a green light to strike Iran's nuclear facilities. He added that the US can not "dictate to other countries what their security interests are."<sup>43</sup>

Iran's Expediency Council has ratified a parliamentary bill which prohibits Guardian Council members from holding other official posts. The Majlis previously ratified the bill but the GC had rejected it. The bill states that GC members must resign from all other posts in the next two months or they will be dismissed from the GC. The decision was being seen as important on account of earlier complains that some GC members who hold other posts may be biased in favor of or against certain political factions in parliamentary or presidential elections.<sup>44</sup>

In other developments, India's Petroleum Ministry announced that it would reconsider its position on the Iran-Pakistan-India gas pipeline as it seeks to "develop a common understanding of the project and to evolve (an) agreement on the path ahead amongst the stakeholders."<sup>45</sup> Earlier concerns that were a factor in the decision to not proceed with the project included the quantity of domestic gas reserves like the Krishna-Godavari field, pipeline security and gas-pricing mechanisms.

## IRAQ

### ▪ More than fifty killed in suicide bombings across Iraq

Suicide bombings in Baghdad and in northern Iraq killed at least 50 people during the week. Reports noted that the attacks in the north - where tensions between Arabs and Kurds threaten to flare into Iraq's next conflict, and in the capital, appeared to be part of an attempt by insurgents to reignite sectarian fighting following the partial US pullback. While two suicide bombings on July 10 in Tal Afar in Nineveh province (home to minority Turkmen of the Shi'ite Muslim faith) killed 34 people and wounded 60, seven people were killed in Baghdad in a market in Sadr City, another poor, Shi'ite Muslim area. On the same day, a bomb near a market in another Shi'ite area in the north of the capital killed nine people.<sup>46</sup>

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<sup>43</sup> "Absolutely no green light for Israel to strike Iran: Obama," *Khaleej Times*, July 7, 2009, at [http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle08.asp?xfile=data/middleeast/2009/July/middleeast\\_July171.xml&section=middleeast](http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle08.asp?xfile=data/middleeast/2009/July/middleeast_July171.xml&section=middleeast)

<sup>44</sup> "GC members banned from holding other posts," *Tehran Times*, July 12, 2009, at [http://www.tehrantimes.com/index\\_View.asp?code=198579](http://www.tehrantimes.com/index_View.asp?code=198579)

<sup>45</sup> "New Delhi weighs role in IPL," *Tehran Times*, July 12, 2009, at [http://www.tehrantimes.com/index\\_View.asp?code=198597](http://www.tehrantimes.com/index_View.asp?code=198597)

<sup>46</sup> "Bombs kill 50 in Iraq as violence flares," *Tehran Times*, July 11, 2009, at [http://www.tehrantimes.com/index\\_View.asp?code=198505](http://www.tehrantimes.com/index_View.asp?code=198505)

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

### MISSILES AND SPACE

- **Pakistan 'spoofing' Thuraya satellite phones in order to make it difficult to track them; VSSC Director: Two humans to be sent into space by 2015**

Government sources indicated that Pakistan was "spoofing" Thuraya satellite phones used by terrorists and that it had erected transmitters across the LoC and the IB which obliterate signals emitted by Thuraya phones utilized by terrorists. As a result, Indian intelligence agencies were unable to track the precise location of these Thuraya phones. Tracking these phones, which were also used by the terrorists involved in the Mumbai terror attacks, was among the most effective means to trace Pakistan-based terrorists. New Delhi indicated that these transmitters cannot exist without the indirect support of the Pakistani Army.<sup>47</sup>

Vikram Sarabhai Space Center Director K. Radhakrishnan stated that the agency was planning to send two humans into space (Low Earth Orbit - LEO) by 2015.<sup>48</sup> He however noted that the project was yet to secure the government's approval. The government had already sanctioned a sum of Rs. 95 crores for pre-project planning. If approved, VSSC would make the space suits for the flight.

### DEFENCE

#### NATIONAL

- **DRDO-made NBC detection vehicle inducted into Indian Army**

Reports noted that the Indian Army has for the first time inducted a DRDO-built vehicle helpful in detecting nuclear, biological and chemical (NBC) weapon attacks. The indigenously-built vehicle, based on a BMK-IIK Infantry Vehicle chassis, is fitted with nuclear, chemical, biological, metrological and positional sensors and contamination detection devices. The vehicle would also be helpful in demarcating the affected or contaminated areas with a flag-marking system as well as collecting soil and water samples by using an in-built scooping device. The system can also distinguish and store NBC contamination data and transmit it to the Army Headquarters through Communication Link and Controller Star-V radio set.<sup>49</sup>

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<sup>47</sup> "India's New Worry: Terror Phones jammed, with some Pak help," *Express India.com*, July 8, 2009, at <http://www.expressindia.com/latest-news/Indias-new-worry-Terror-phones-jammed-with-some-Pak-help/486553/>

<sup>48</sup> "Indian space center plans manned space probe 2015," *Times of India*, July 12, 2009, at <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/NEWS-Health-Science-Science-Indian-space-centre-plans-manned-space-probe-by-2015/articleshow/4769683.cms>

<sup>49</sup> "Indian Army Inducts DRDOs NBC Weapons Detection Vehicle," July 6, 2009, at <http://www.india-defence.com/reports/4476>

## INTERNATIONAL

### ▪ **Arrow 3 to have better performance parameters than Raytheon SM-3**

At the Paris Air Show held from June 15-21, 2009, Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) displayed its new Arrow-3 missile interceptor, apart from the Arrow-2 model. The latest system is compatible with the existing ground equipment and is intended to act as an upper-tier complement. Reports noted that the two systems would provide a 'near-zero leakage rate'. It is also expected that the missile will potentially have better performance parameters than the land-based version of the Raytheon Standard Missile-3 (SM-3).<sup>50</sup>

## NUCLEAR REVIEW

### ▪ **Amano: IAEA not just a nuclear watchdog**

The next head of the IAEA Yukiya Amano stated that the agency would continue to investigate instances of potential proliferation but that promoting peaceful uses of nuclear energy would become a crucial component of its work.<sup>51</sup>

### ▪ **START could expire before replacement approved**

President Barack Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, during their Summit meeting in the previous week, signed a 'Joint Understanding' to reduce their deployed nuclear arsenals to between 1,500 and 1,675 warheads and 500 to 1,000 delivery vehicles. They pledged to continue their aggressive efforts to replace the 1991 arms control pact that is scheduled to expire on December 5. However, reports noted that the effort could face challenges from the Senate Republicans, who are insisting that a new push on arms control must go hand-in-hand with a program for updating US nuclear arsenal and a strengthened resolve to deploy missile shield technology in Europe.<sup>52</sup>

### ▪ **French authorities: Pakistan's enthusiasm might delay nuclear pact**

French authorities indicated that Pakistan's public enthusiasm over a civilian nuclear trade agreement with France might delay the deal because of the sensitivities involved. French officials also refused to confirm or deny that a deal had been struck.<sup>53</sup>

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<sup>50</sup> "IAI exhibits full-size Arrow 3 at Paris," July 9, 2009, at [http://www.janes.com/news/defence/jmr/jmr090709\\_1\\_n.shtml](http://www.janes.com/news/defence/jmr/jmr090709_1_n.shtml)

<sup>51</sup> "IAEA Not Just a Nuclear Watchdog, Amano Says," July 13, 2009, at [http://gsn.nti.org/gsn/nw\\_20090713\\_2976.php](http://gsn.nti.org/gsn/nw_20090713_2976.php)

<sup>52</sup> "START Could Expire Before Replacement Approved," July 13, 2009, at [http://gsn.nti.org/gsn/nw\\_20090713\\_3393.php](http://gsn.nti.org/gsn/nw_20090713_3393.php)

<sup>53</sup> "Pakistan's Enthusiasm Might Delay Nuclear Pact With France," July 13, 2009, at [http://gsn.nti.org/gsn/nw\\_20090713\\_2976.php](http://gsn.nti.org/gsn/nw_20090713_2976.php)

### III. INTERNAL SECURITY REVIEW

#### JAMMU AND KASHMIR

- **Omar Abdullah: CRPF can't be withdrawn overnight from J&K unless capabilities of state police are augmented**

J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on July 7 ruled out any immediate withdrawal of the CRPF from the state, before augmenting the capabilities of the state police, in terms of their numbers, equipment and levels of training.<sup>54</sup>

#### MAOIST INSURGENCY

- **30 policemen killed in Maoist strikes in Chhattisgarh**

Thirty police personnel, including a Superintendent of Police (SP), were killed in three attacks by Maoist guerillas in and around Rajnandgaon in Chhattisgarh on July 12. The attacks occurred in one of the most remote Maoist-hit areas where the communication network is dismally poor.

In the first incident, unidentified guerillas killed two policemen in the morning of July 12. The second incident occurred when Rajnandgaon SP Vinod Kumar Choubey was heading for Madanwada, where Maoist guerillas triggered a powerful landmine blast and followed it up with indiscriminate firing killing Mr. Choubey and 23 policemen. Four more personnel were killed as rebels ambushed another team of security men heading to Madanwada by a different route.<sup>55</sup>

#### NORTHEAST DEVELOPMENTS

- **Union Home Minister talks tough on insurgency**

Speaking in the Rajya Sabha on July 10, Union Home Minister P. Chidambaram asserted that the central government would not negotiate with any militant groups unless they surrendered and laid down arms. He added that dialogues with these groups will only be held within the ambit of the Indian Constitution.<sup>56</sup> The Home Ministry had on July 7 banned the Dima Halam Daogah (J) as a terrorist organisation.

The National Democratic Front of Boroland (NDFB) meanwhile claimed that it had received Rs. 50 lakh from the Bodo Territorial Council (BTC) chief Hagrama Mohilary, ahead of the 2006 Assembly election to help the Bodo Peoples Front (BPF). The BTC Chief, Hagrama Mohilary, on his part denied the allegation.<sup>57</sup>

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<sup>54</sup> "CRPF can't be withdrawn overnight from J&K: Omar," *Daily Excelsior*, July 9, 2009, at <http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/web1/09july08/news.htm#1>

<sup>55</sup> "Maoists kill 30 police personnel in Chhattisgarh," *Hindu*, July 13, 2009, at <http://www.hindu.com/2009/07/13/stories/2009071359700100.htm>

<sup>56</sup> "PC talks tough on insurgency," *Telegraph*, July 12, 2009, at [http://telegraphindia.com/1090712/jsp/northeast/story\\_11225063.jsp](http://telegraphindia.com/1090712/jsp/northeast/story_11225063.jsp)

<sup>57</sup> "Mohilary paid us Rs 50 lakh: NDFB," *Telegraph*, July 7, 2009, at [http://telegraphindia.com/1090707/jsp/northeast/story\\_11202721.jsp](http://telegraphindia.com/1090707/jsp/northeast/story_11202721.jsp)