

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

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EDITOR: S. SAMUEL C. RAJIV

REVIEW ADVISOR: S. KALYANARAMAN

CONTRIBUTORS

PRANAMITA BARUAH – Southeast Asia

MEDHA BISHT – Sri Lanka, Bhutan

KARTIK BOMMAKANTI – Missiles and Space

MAHTAB ALAM RIZVI – Iran, Iraq

SANJEEV KUMAR SHRIVASTAV – Afghanistan,
Pakistan

AMARJEET SINGH – Internal Security Review

GUNJAN SINGH – Japan

PRASHANT KUMAR SINGH - China



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

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1. COUNTRY REVIEW

A. SOUTH ASIA

AFGHANISTAN

- **Miliband calls on Afghan authorities to talk with ‘moderate’ Taliban; Karzai: Peace process with Taliban “will ensure peace and stability”; Truce agreement entered into with Taliban in Badghis ahead of August 20 poll; Holbrooke: ‘Perfect’ presidential elections not possible; UN Report: 24 per cent rise in civilian death toll in first 6 months of year**

British Foreign Secretary David Miliband in a speech at NATO headquarters urged the Afghan government to talk to moderate members of the Taliban and include them in a broad-based political coalition in an effort to bring stability to the country. Mr. Miliband made these comments even as the first phase of the combined UK-US offensive in southern Afghanistan – ‘Operation Panther’s Claw’, came to an end. He noted that the operation had resulted in a “heavy toll” for coalition forces but added that “significant gains” had been made. The Foreign Secretary reiterated that a viable political solution, alongside the military offensive, was essential to securing Afghanistan's future.¹

President Karzai on his part, welcoming Mr. Miliband’s comments, stated that peace process with the Taliban “will ensure peace and stability and such efforts are part of our government's strategy.”²

Reports meanwhile noted that the Afghan government has entered into a truce agreement with the Taliban insurgents in the north-western province of Badghis ahead of the August 20 presidential elections. Afghan officials stated that the Taliban have pledged not to attack voting centres and hand over control of key areas to government forces.³

The US Special Representative for Pakistan and Afghanistan, Richard Holbrooke stated on July 29 that a ‘perfect’ election may not be possible given the current security situation in the country. He was speaking to reporters in Washington after returning from a visit to the region. Mr. Holbrooke met with three main presidential candidates during his visit.⁴

In other developments, the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan stated that there has been a 24 percent rise in civilian death toll in the country in the current year. 1,013 civilians lost their lives in air strikes, car bombs and suicide attacks in the period from January-June, compared with 818 in the first half of 2008 and 684 in the same period in 2007. Releasing the report, UN High

¹ “Talk to Taliban, Miliband urges,” BBC, July 27, 2009, at http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/politics/8169789.stm

² “Karzai praises UK call for talks with Taliban,” *Pajhwok Afghan News*, July 28, 2009, at <http://www.pajhwok.com/viewstory.asp?lng=eng&id=78679>

³ “Afghanistan agrees Taliban deal,” BBC, July 27, 2009, at http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/8170003.stm

⁴ “Perfect election not possible: Holbrooke,” *Pajhwok Afghan News*, July 30, 2009, at <http://www.pajhwok.com/viewstory.asp?lng=eng&id=78750>

Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay urged that it was critical for authorities to take steps to shield the Afghan civilian population from the conflict. The report blamed Taliban insurgents for nearly 60 per cent of civilian deaths due to roadside bombs while the Afghan government and coalition forces were held responsible for deaths that occurred due to errant air strikes.⁵

PAKISTAN

- **Dushanbe summit pledges to curb drug trafficking; First Chinese-built frigate commissioned into Pakistan Navy; Six Christians killed by members of radical and banned Islamic sect; Pakistan SC terms November 3 emergency proclamation as illegal and unconstitutional**

Pakistan, Afghanistan, Russia and Tajikistan, at a Four Nation Summit meeting in Dushanbe during the week agreed to intensify the fight against drug trafficking in the region. In a joint statement issued after the meeting, Presidents Asif Ali Zardari, Hamid Karzai, Dmitry Medvedev and Emomali Rakhmon expressed concern over the increasing narcotics trade, noting that it was one of the main sources of financing for militancy in the region. They also called on the international community to take “additional steps for a decisive fight against the narco-threat.”⁶

PNS Zulfiquar, the first of the four F-22P frigates built by China at the Hudong Zhonghua Shipyard in Shanghai, was delivered to the Pakistan Navy and commissioned on July 30. The ceremony was attended by Pakistan Navy Chief Adm. Noman Bashir and Chinese navy and government representatives.⁷

Six Christians were killed, several injured and properties destroyed in the Punjabi city of Gorja as members of a banned Islamic sect attacked the Christians over allegations that a Koran was defiled. Federal minister for minorities Shahbaz Bhatti stated that members of the banned Muslim organization Sipah-e-Sahiba were responsible for the incidents. Bhatti also clarified that there was no truth in the allegations that the Koran had been defiled.⁸

In other developments, the Pakistan Supreme Court on July 31 denounced the successive military takeovers during the past four decades and declared Gen. Pervez Musharraf's Emergency Order of November 3, 2007 imposing the emergency and the appointment of over 100 superior court judges, as illegal and unconstitutional. In the historic judgment, a 14-judge bench headed by Chief Justice Iftikhar Chaudhry declared as unconstitutional Justice Abdul Hameed

⁵ “24pc rise in civilian death toll this year: UN,” *Pajhwok Afghan News*, July 31, 2009, at <http://www.pajhwok.com/viewstory.asp?lng=eng&id=78805>

⁶ “Dushanbe summit vows to curb drug menace,” *Dawn*, July 31, 2009, at <http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/dawn-content-library/dawn/the-newspaper/front-page/dushanbe-summit-vows-to-curb-drug-menace-179>

⁷ “First Chinese-built frigate inducted into Pakistan Navy,” *Dawn*, July 31, 2009, at <http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/dawn-content-library/dawn/the-newspaper/front-page/first-chinesebuilt-frigate-inducted-into-pakistan-navy-179>

⁸ “6 Christians Killed in Riots in Pakistan,” *The New York Times*, August 1, 2009, at <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/08/02/world/asia/02pstan.html>

Dogar's appointment as the Chief Justice of Pakistan after the imposition of emergency.⁹ President Zardai and Prime Minister Gilani on their part welcomed the verdict and termed it a triumph of democratic principles in the country.¹⁰

SRI LANKA

- **First tranche of \$332 million pledged by IMF given; US pledges an assistance of \$8 million for rehabilitation of displaced people; Colombo accepts chairmanship of G-15; Nepal, Sri Lanka working to operationalise Joint Commission agenda**

Sri Lanka received the first tranche of the \$332 million pledged under the Stand by Agreement (SBA) signed with the IMF to buttress its foreign reserves and improve the balance-of-payments situation. The final amount of the 20-month SBA program will be disbursed by March 2011.¹¹

The US on its part pledged an assistance of \$8 million to help in the process of rehabilitation of people displaced in the recent conflict.¹² Pakistan meanwhile stated that it would not dictate to the Sri Lankan government regarding the rehabilitation of displaced people. Additional Foreign Secretary (Asia-Pacific) Masood Khalid stated that his country's relationship with Colombo was based on "non-interference, mutual respect and mutual trust."¹³

Sri Lanka meanwhile accepted the chairmanship of G-15 from Iran. The grouping is currently a coalition of 18 developing countries, including Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Egypt, India, Indonesia, and Iran, among others.¹⁴

Reports noted that Nepal and Sri Lanka were working to operationalise the mandate of the bilateral Joint Commission set up by both the countries. The Commission covers nearly fifteen areas of co-operation including trade, direct air links, education, health, global warming, among other issues.¹⁵

In other developments, Beijing gifted a Chinese language unit to Lumbini Vidyalaya in Colombo in order to enhance its Chinese language training courses. Among other programmes and schemes being undertaken with Chinese

⁹ "SC strikes down Nov 3 emergency," *Dawn*, August 1, 2009, at <http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/dawn-content-library/dawn/the-newspaper/frontpage/sc-strikes-down-nov-3-emergency-189>

¹⁰ "Zardari, Gilani welcome verdict," *Dawn*, August 1, 2009, at <http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/dawn-content-library/dawn/the-newspaper/frontpage/zardari%2C-gilani-welcome-verdict-189>

¹¹ "IMF USD 2.6 billion Stand by Agreement," *Daily News*, July 28, 2009, at <http://www.dailynews.lk/2009/07/28/news02.asp>

¹² "More US assistance," *Daily News*, July 28, 2009, at <http://www.dailynews.lk/2009/07/28/news25.asp>

¹³ "No Pakistan interference," *Daily News*, July 29, 2009, at <http://www.dailynews.lk/2009/07/29/news27.asp>

¹⁴ "Sri Lanka accepts G-15 Chairmanship," *Daily News*, July 28, 2009, at <http://www.dailynews.lk/2009/07/28/news11.asp>

¹⁵ "Foreign Secretary stresses need to operationalize Joint Commission with Nepal," *Daily News*, July 28, 2009, at <http://www.dailynews.lk/2009/07/28/news16.asp>

assistance include mega projects like the Hambanthota harbour, coal power plants in Norochcholai and other infrastructure projects.¹⁶

BHUTAN

- **Capabilities of hydro-power industry being augmented; India and Bhutan to cooperate in developing climate-change resistant crops; Union Minister of Water Resources: India, Bhutan Joint Group of Experts on flood management functioning; 4 cases of H1NI detected**

In an attempt to improve the capabilities of Bhutan's hydro-power industry, the government decided to set up a public construction company responsible for high capacity projects as well as upgrade the capacities of the Construction Development Corporation, which supplies the government with construction equipment.¹⁷

During the recent visit to Bhutan by the Prime Minister's Special Envoy on Climate Change, Mr. Shyam Saran, both countries discussed the possibilities of enhancing cooperation in the field of agricultural research to develop crops resistant to climate change, among other goals.¹⁸

Union Minister of State for Water Resources, Vincent H. Pala told Parliament that India and Bhutan have constituted a Joint Group of Experts (JGE) and a Joint Technical Team (JTT) on flood management to assess the probable causes and effects of floods and land erosion in the southern foothills of Bhutan.¹⁹

In other developments, a joint sitting of the Parliament decided that Royal Bhutan Police (RBP) would not be given administrative independence, in order to prevent any possibility of corruption.²⁰ Reports noted that four cases of H1NI virus have been detected so far in the country.²¹

¹⁶ "China donates language unit to Lumbini Vidyalaya," *Daily News*, July 30, 2009, at <http://www.dailynews.lk/2009/07/30/news30.asp>

¹⁷ "Reform to encourage specialisation, mechanisation, joint ventures and removal of classification barriers," *The Kuensel*, July 27, 2009, at <http://www.kuenselonline.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=13072>

¹⁸ "Towards a common stand on climate change," *The Kuensel*, July 30, 2009, at <http://www.kuenselonline.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=13095>

¹⁹ "Indo-Bhutan Joint Technical Team on flood management," *Press Information Bureau*, July 29, 2009, at <http://pib.nic.in/release/release.asp?relid=51158>

²⁰ "No administrative powers for RBP," *Bhutan Broadcasting Corporation*, July 27, 2009, at <http://www.bbs.com.bt/No%20administrative%20powers%20for%20RBP.html>

²¹ "Swine flu in Bhutan, 4 test positive," *Press Trust of India*, July 23, 2009, at http://www.ptinews.com/news/189686_Swine-flu-in-Bhutan--4-test-positive

B. EAST AND SOUTHEAST ASIA

CHINA

- **PLA Chief meets Pak Navy Chief, reiterates intention to carry out “effective full-range cooperation with the Pakistani military”; PLA drafting an Ordinance for Anti-terrorism Combat Operations; Vice-Chairman of the CMC visits restive Urumqi; Reports indicating a re-organisation of country’s seven military regions denied**

The Chief of General Staff of the PLA and member of the Central Military Commission (CMC), Chen Bingde met with the visiting Pakistani Naval Chief Adm. Noman Bashir on July 28. Chen told his guest that China considered Pakistan as an “old and good friend” and a “reliable neighbour.” He also reiterated the Chinese military’s intention to carry out “effective full-range cooperation with the Pakistani military.”²²

On the sidelines of the recently-held Russia and China joint exercises, Chinese officials met with senior military officials of SCO countries, including with military officials of the Republic of Tajikistan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Republic of Uzbekistan. These officials were special invitees to the anti-terrorism military exercises.²³

In a related development, Maj. Gen. Meng Guoping told reporters that the PLA was drafting an Ordinance for Anti-terrorism Combat Operations in order to deal with the growing terrorist threats facing the country.²⁴

Meanwhile, Xu Caihou, Vice-Chairman of the CMC visited Urumqi, the capital of the restive province of Xinjinag. Xu urged the PLA to ensure safety and security and maintain stability in the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.²⁵

In other developments, authorities refuted reports which stated that the country’s seven military command regions would be reshuffled into four “strategic zones.” A Hong Kong-based journal had reported that the Chinese military was initiating steps to reform the system of military regions.²⁶

JAPAN

- **Funding for F-22 scuttled; LDP to urge a reduction in the size of Diet in its manifesto; DPJ Chief: If elected, naval mission in Afghanistan will not be extended; US Commander: No reason for Japan to go nuclear as it is protected by nuclear umbrella**

²² “Chen Bingde Meets Chief of Staff of Pakistani Navy,” *PLA Daily*, July 29, 2009, at http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/news-channels/china-military-news/2009-07/29/content_4014244.htm

²³ “Chen Bingde Meets Military Leaders of SCO Member States,” *PLA Daily*, July 28, 2009, at http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/news-channels/china-military-news/2009-07/28/content_4013527.htm

²⁴ “PLA Adds Anti-terror Ops to Cache,” *China Daily*, July 31, 2009, at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2009-07/31/content_8495795.htm

²⁵ “Senior Chinese Military Officer Addresses Stability in Xinjiang,” *PLA Daily*, July 28, 2009, at http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/news-channels/china-military-news/2009-07/28/content_4003869.htm

²⁶ “Military Reshuffle Not Likely: Analysts,” *People’s Daily*, July 31, 2009, at <http://english.people.com.cn/90001/90776/90786/6715946.html>

The US House of Representatives passed a \$636.3 billion defense spending bill that scuttled the F-22 fighter jet program. The passage of the bill followed the threat from President Obama to veto a bill for fiscal 2010, starting October 1, if it included money to continue producing the F-22.²⁷

In domestic developments, reports noted that the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) will urge a reduction in the number of seats in the Lower House in its manifesto for the upcoming August 30 election. The manifesto, to be released by PM Taro Aso, will stipulate that the party trim the powerful chamber's 480 seats by "at least 10 percent" before the next Lower House election after the August 30 poll.²⁸

Meanwhile, opposition leader Yukio Hatoyama, seen as the country's likely next premier, stated that he would end a naval support mission backing US-led forces in Afghanistan early next year. The president of the Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) told television audience that his party's basic stance was "not to extend it."²⁹

In other developments, the top commander of US forces in Japan called on Tokyo not to consider going nuclear in the face of North Korean nuclear threats, adding that there was "no reason" for Japan to do so as it was protected by the US nuclear umbrella.³⁰

SOUTHEAST ASIA

- **Suu Kyi's trial delayed till Aug 11; US renews sanctions on Myanmar for next three years; Myanmar-China border trade suffers a setback following ban on the import of Chinese goods from Jiang Peng region; Thailand to apply for non-permanent membership of the UNSC for 2017-2018 term**

Even as international pressure on the authorities to release pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi increased, the verdict on her detention, which was to have been pronounced on July 31, was postponed until August 11.³¹

The Obama administration meanwhile renewed its sanctions by banning all imports from the country for the next three years. The new law (the H.J. Res,

²⁷ "U.S. House passes defense bill after killing F-22," *Associated Press*, July 30, 2009, at http://www.breitbart.com/article.php?id=D99P3JB00&show_article=1

²⁸ "LDP seeks to reduce size of Diet," *Japan Times*, July 30, 2009, at <http://search.japantimes.co.jp/cgi-bin/nn20090730a2.html>

²⁹ "Japan PM frontrunner would end Afghan support mission," *Associate Foreign Press*, July 31, 2009, at <http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5iPwWyEztDmhaNnM43sUncw9laALQ>

³⁰ "U.S. forces commander warns against Japan going nuclear," *Associated Press*, July 28, 2009, at http://www.breitbart.com/article.php?id=D99NFCM01&show_article=1

³¹ "Junta faces mounting pressure as Aung San Suu Kyi awaits fate," *Burma News International*, July 29, 2009, at <http://www.bnionline.net/news/mizzima/6756-junta-faces-mounting-pressure-as-aung-san-suu-kyi-awaits-fate.html>

56) renews import restrictions imposed by the Burmese Freedom and Democratic Act of 2003, which expired in the current week.³²

Reports noted that following the recent ban on the import of Chinese goods from Jiang Peng opposite Lweje region, Sino-Burmese border trade had suffered a setback.³³

The Thai Cabinet decided to apply for a non-permanent membership in the UN Security Council during 2017-2018. Thailand had previously been a member of the UNSC during 1985-1986.³⁴

C. WEST ASIA

IRAN

- **Khamenei orders closure of jail holding detainees arrested during the post-elections unrest; Over 50 arrested during mourning for activist Neda Soltan; Trial begins for 100 moderates charged with spying and attempts to over-throw the regime; Ahmadinejad rejects any differences with Supreme Leader**

The Secretary of Iran's National Security Council Saeed Jalili stated that Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei ordered the closure of a jail holding protesters detained after the last month's presidential election, in order to "ensure that there is no injustice committed against anyone in the aftermath of the recent events." Reports noted that up to 2,000 protestors, political activists and journalists were detained in the aftermath of the elections.³⁵

The Tehran police authorities arrested about 50 people who had gathered to mark the 40th day after the death of opposition protestor Neda Agha Soltan, who was shot dead in Tehran on June 20 in the post-election unrest.³⁶

Meanwhile, the trial of about 100 moderates arrested shortly after Iran's disputed June presidential election and charged with trying to overthrow the government, began in Tehran. Reports indicated that this was the first time since the 1979 Islamic revolution that dozens of senior officials, including former ministers, vice-presidents and lawmakers, have been put on trial. Under the

³² "Obama renews sanctions on Burma," *Burma News International*, July 29, 2009, at <http://www.bnionline.net/news/mizzima/6754-obama-renews-sanctions-on-burma.html>

³³ "Ban hits Sino-Burmese border trade," *Burma News International*, July 27, 2009, at <http://www.bnionline.net/news/mizzima/6743-ban-hits-sino-burmese-border-trade.html>

³⁴ "Thailand to seek Security Council Seat," *Bangkok Post*, July 28, 2009, at <http://www.bangkokpost.com/breakingnews/150410/thailand-to-vie-for-unscc-seat>

³⁵ "Khamenei orders closure of jail with protesters," *Khaleej Times*, July 28, 2009, at http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle08.asp?xfile=data/middleeast/2009/July/middleeast_July_656.xml§ion=middleeast

³⁶ "50 arrested in Thursday gatherings," *Tehran Times*, August 1, 2009, at http://www.tehrantimes.com/index_View.asp?code=199949

country's Islamic law, acting against national security - a common charge against dissenters in Iran, is punishable by the death penalty.³⁷

President Ahmadinejad on his part denied reports that there were differences between himself and the country's Supreme Leader. Conservative commentators have accused Ahmadinejad of showing insufficient respect for Khamenei while deciding on cabinet posts.³⁸

IRAQ

▪ Iraqi forces storm MKO base; Ruling parties sweep Kurdish elections; 19 killed in Baghdad bomb blast

Iraqi soldiers and riot police stormed Camp Ashraf, where Mojahedin Khalq Organization (MKO) members were based, triggering violent clashes that left at least 260 people injured. The camp, which was disarmed by US soldiers following the US-led invasion of Iraq in 2003, was being overseen by US soldiers and was handed over to Iraqi forces about three months ago.³⁹

A new opposition group registered surprising gains in elections in Kurdistan, even though the two ruling parties have maintained a strong grip on power. Kurdish President Massoud Barzani was re-elected securing almost 70 percent of the vote, while the leading candidate from the opposition party, Kamal Mirawdeli, received 25 percent of the vote. A coalition of the two ruling parties – Barzani's Kurdistan Democratic Party and Iraqi President Jalal Talabani's Patriotic Union of Kurdistan – received over 57 percent of the vote for the 111-seat parliament. The opposition Gorran (Change) party took about 23 percent. Nearly 80 percent of the over 2.5 million eligible voters cast their votes. Reports noted that the high turnout reflected voter frustration with allegations of corruption within the ruling coalition, nepotism, media intimidation and heavy-handed behavior by private security agencies.⁴⁰

Bombs exploded outside four Shiite mosques around Baghdad and killed at least 19 people during the week. While numerous attacks have taken place on Shiite pilgrims in Baghdad and in predominantly Shiite marketplaces in recent months, attacks on the city's mosques have been rare.⁴¹

³⁷ "Iran tries 100 moderates over election unrest," *Khaleej Times*, August 1, 2009, at http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle08.asp?xfile=data/middleeast/2009/August/middleeast_August19.xml§ion=middleeast

³⁸ Robert F. Worth and Nazila Fathi, "Iran President Denies Rift With Leader," *New York Times*, August 1, 2009, at http://www.nytimes.com/2009/08/01/world/middleeast/01iran.html?_r=1&hpw=&pagewanted=print

³⁹ "Iraqi forces storm MKO camp," *Tehran Times*, July 30, 2009, at http://www.tehrantimes.com/index_View.asp?code=199862

⁴⁰ "Ruling parties keep power in Kurdish vote," *Khaleej Times*, July 30, 2009, at http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle08.asp?xfile=data/middleeast/2009/July/middleeast_July706.xml§ion=middleeast

⁴¹ Sam Dagher, "Bombs Outside Mosques in Baghdad Kill at Least 19," *New York Times*, August 1, 2009, at http://www.nytimes.com/2009/08/01/world/middleeast/01iraq.html?_r=1&hp=&pagewanted=print

II. MISSILES AND SPACE

- **IIT-Kanpur builds a nano-satellite to track climatic and ground conditions**

Reports noted that the Indian Institute of Technology (Kanpur) has developed a nano-satellite that will provide information on drought, floods, vegetation and forestation.⁴² IIT-K Director Prof. S.G. Dhande stated that the satellite, named 'Jugnu' will have "specific function of sending imagery on ground conditions." The satellite, to be placed on a low-earth orbit, cost Rs. 2.5 crore to build and weighs about ten kgs.

III. INTERNAL SECURITY REVIEW

JAMMU AND KASHMIR

- **EAM Krishna: China in possession of 38,000 sq. kms of Indian territory in J and K after 1962 war, as well as 5180 ceded by Pakistan to it; Chidambaram: AFSPA amendments will be amended**

External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna informed the Rajya Sabha that China was in possession of 38,000 sq. kms of Indian territory in J and K after the 1962 war, besides 5180 sq. kms of land illegally ceded by Pakistan under an agreement in 1963. Krishna stated that India had always maintained that the boundary agreement between China and Pakistan was "illegal and invalid."

On the issue of the Chinese secretly building a port at Humbantota, Sri Lanka, Mr. Krishna stated that the government was aware of the port development with Chinese assistance since 2007, and added that India had not approached Sri Lanka regarding the issue.⁴³

Home Minister P. Chidambaram told reporters in New Delhi on August 1 that the central government was working to amend the provisions of the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) and explore ways to "limit its application." Political parties in J and K have been demanding the repeal of AFSPA contending that the Act gave unfettered powers to armed forces. Reports noted that the government might explore the possibility of phased withdrawal of the AFSPA in two districts of Kashmir - Srinagar and Budgam, and two in Jammu region - Jammu and Kathua, as these districts had registered minimum violence during the past one year. Apart from J&K, Manipur had also witnessed violent protests demanding the repeal of the Act.⁴⁴

⁴² "IIT Kanpur develops nanosatellite, to be launched by ISRO," *Times of India*, August 2, 2009, at <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/NEWS/City/Kanpur/IIT-Kanpur-develops-nanosatellite-to-be-launched-by-ISRO/articleshow/4847654.cms>

⁴³ "China in possession of 38,000 sq km J&K land," *Daily Excelsior*, July 31, 2009, at <http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/web1/09july31/news2.htm#2>

⁴⁴ "AFSPA amendments getting ready: Chidambaram," *Daily Excelsior*, August 2, 2009, at <http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/web1/09aug02/news.htm#1>

NORTHEAST DEVELOPMENTS

▪ Assam DGP: ULFA Chief Barua currently in southern China

Assam Director-General of Police G.M. Srivastava stated that the ULFA leadership, including its commander-in-chief, Paresh Barua, could move to Malaysia as Bangladesh was no longer interested in providing them refuge. According to the DGP, Barua was currently in southern China. Srivastava also stated that ULFA and Barua in particular were in a property-purchasing spree in Canada, having bought at least three flats in Canada, where he proposed to shift his wife and children.⁴⁵

⁴⁵ "Ulfa boss eyes new haven in Malaysia," *Telegraph*, July 27, 2009, at http://www.telegraphindia.com/1090727/jsp/northeast/story_11284615.jsp