

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

August 3-9, 8(1), 2009

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1. COUNTRY REVIEW

A. SOUTH ASIA

AFGHANISTAN

- **Afghan presidential campaign gains momentum ahead of the August 20 poll; AIEC: Appropriate measures taken to avert rigging; Over 17 million voting cards distributed; 7000 polling stations established; Gates and Mullen briefed by Gen. McChrystal on the Afghan situation**

The Afghan presidential campaign gained momentum ahead of the August 20 elections. The rival candidates addressed several public meetings in different provinces to garner support in their favor. These are only the second such elections after the ouster of the Taliban in 2001. While Dr. Abdullah Abdullah addressed thousands of people in northwestern Faryab province, gatherings were held in support of the incumbent president Hamid Karzai in Khost and Laghman provinces. In the western Herat province, over 1500 people gathered under the aegis of *Junbish Milli Afghanistan*, an organization led by former anti-Taliban commander Abdul Rashid Dostum, in support of Karzai. In northern Saripul, leaders of the Ishaqzai tribe pledged their support to Dr. Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai.¹

Officials of the Afghanistan Independent Election Commission (AIEC) meanwhile stated that the commission had taken appropriate measures to avert possibilities of rigging in the presidential and provincial council elections scheduled for August 20. The AIEC has so far accredited 13 domestic observer groups, 19 international observer organisations, 38 national media outlets, 40 international media organisations and 20 political parties. 37 candidates are staking their claims in the presidential election. Essential electoral materials had already been sent to 18 provinces while for the remaining 16 provinces, they were in the process of being dispatched. Around 17 million voting cards have been distributed across the country and over 7000 polling stations have also been established.²

In other developments, a Pentagon spokesperson stated that US Defence Secretary Robert Gates and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Adm. Mike Mullen met with top American commanders in charge of the Afghan war at an US air base in Belgium on August 2. They were briefed by Gen. Stanley McChrystal, the chief US commander in the country, on the ongoing assessment of the war which will be released later in the month.³

¹ "Afghan presidential campaign approaches its climax," *Pajhwok Afghan News*, August 6, 2009, at <http://www.pajhwok.com/viewstory.asp?lng=eng&id=79201>

² "Appropriate steps taken to avert rigging: AIEC," *Pajhwok Afghan News*, August 3, 2009, at <http://www.pajhwok.com/viewstory.asp?lng=eng&id=78990>

³ "US defense chief meets with military advisors on Afghanistan," *Xinhua*, August 4, 2009, at http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-08/04/content_11820873.htm

PAKISTAN

- **Baitullah Mehsud killed in a CIA drone strike; Sufi Mohammed booked on charges of sedition; Mullen: US needs to focus on a regional approach incorporating Pakistan and Afghanistan to defeat the al-Qaeda; IMF approves an additional \$ 3.2 billion loan to Pakistan**

Report indicated that Taliban leader Baitullah Mehsud was killed in a US drone attack on August 5. This was confirmed by a senior Taliban commander Kafayat Ullah, an aide to Mehsud. Ullah told the Associated Press agency that Mehsud and his second wife were killed in the missile attack in South Waziristan. Mehsud had a \$5m bounty on his head announced by the US while the Pakistani government had offered \$650,000.⁴

Mehsud was responsible for a series of attacks inside Pakistan, the assassination of former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and scores of suicide bombings, including at the Marriott Hotel in Islamabad which killed more than 50 people in September 2008. The drone attack was reportedly the result of months of close cooperation by the Pakistani and American intelligence agencies.⁵

The NWFP government meanwhile registered a case against the chief of the proscribed Tehrik Nifaz-i-Shariat Muhammadi (TNSM), Maulana Sufi Mohammad on August 2, charging him with sedition, rebellion, terrorism, rioting and other offences. An FIR was registered against Sufi Mohammad and his seven associates (two of whom are dead) under different sections of the Pakistan Penal Code and Anti-Terrorism Act 1997, some of which carry a maximum sentence of jail term for life.⁶

The US Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Adm. Mike Mullen told the National Public Radio (NPR) that the US needs to focus on a regional approach to finding a solution to the difficult situation in the region that incorporates active cooperation from Pakistan and Afghanistan and which allows for a sustained relationship with both countries. He added that the al-Qaeda cannot be defeated just by "focusing on one country or another."⁷

In other developments, the IMF approved an additional \$3.2 billion loan to Pakistan after Islamabad requested for more help to weather the global economic crisis. The IMF stated that the funds would help Pakistan "address

⁴ "Air strike kills Taliban leader Baitullah Mehsud," *Guardian*, August 7, 2009, at <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2009/aug/07/baitullah-mehsud-dead-taliban-pakistan>

⁵ "Taliban Leader in Pakistan Is Reportedly Killed," *The New York Times*, August 7, 2009, at <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/08/08/world/asia/08pstan.html>

⁶ "Sufi booked for sedition," *Dawn*, August 3, 2009, at <http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/dawn-content-library/dawn/the-newspaper/front-page/sufi-booked-for-sedition-389>

⁷ "Mullen for sustained relationship with Pakistan, Afghanistan," *Daily Times*, August 6, 2009, at http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2009%5C08%5C06%5Cstory_6-8-2009_pg7_9

increased balance of payment needs." The IMF executive board also approved an extension of the loan till the end of 2010.⁸

SRI LANKA

- **UPFA garners majority in provincial elections; Rajapakse urges Sri Lankans to set aside political differences and work for nation's prosperity; Former DG of India's NCB: Efforts underway to control LTTE's drug network worth \$200-300 million; India pledges to support infrastructure development projects in the conflict-affected northern region; Former Indian soldiers assisting in de-mining operations; EU pledges Euro 62 million for emergency rehabilitation activities in the Northern and Eastern districts; Basil Rajapakse: 40,000 IDPs already been settled in the East in the past month; KP arrested**

In the provincial elections held in the northern districts of Sri Lanka after a gap of nearly 15 years, the UPFA garnered 72.39 per cent votes in the Uva Province. In the Jaffna Municipal Council polls, the UPFA was able to gather 50.67 percent of votes. In the Western Provincial Council elections, the UPFA won Colombo, Gampaha and Kalutara districts, securing two-thirds (68 out of 102 seats) majority. The UNP on its part retained only four city electorates in the Colombo District with slim majorities. The victory of the UPFA was interpreted by analysts as an endorsement of the policies of the Rajapakse government.⁹

President Rajapakse urged Sri Lankans to set aside their political and communal differences and work for the prosperity of the entire nation. He asserted that his government would do its utmost to develop and uplift the people of the Uva-Wellasa region.¹⁰

A former Director General of India's Narcotics Control Bureau stated that efforts were underway by various non-state groups to control the drug syndicate established by the LTTE. Reports estimate the LTTE's drug smuggling business to be worth at least \$200-300 million.¹¹

India pledged to support infrastructure development projects in the country's conflict-affected northern region. A bilateral agreement to this effect was signed between the Institute of Construction Training and Development (ICTAD) of the Sri Lankan Ministry of Construction and Engineering Services with India's Construction Industry Development Council (CIDC).¹²

⁸ "IMF package goes up to \$11.3bn," *Dawn*, August 9, 2009, at <http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/dawn-content-library/dawn/the-newspaper/front-page/imf-package-goes-up-to-%2411.3bn-989>

⁹ "UPFA landslide," *Daily News*, August 10, 2009, at <http://www.dailynews.lk/2009/08/10/pol01.asp>

¹⁰ "Actively rebuild the Nation," *Daily News*, August 5, 2009, at <http://www.dailynews.lk/2009/08/05/news01.asp>

¹¹ "Drug world out to grab LTTE cartel," *Daily News*, August 8, 2009, at <http://www.dailynews.lk/2009/08/05/sec01.asp>

¹² "Indo-Lanka agreement to support NE projects," *Daily News*, August 4, 2009, at <http://www.dailynews.lk/2009/08/04/news39.asp>

India has also sent eighty former Indian soldiers to assist in de-mining operations. Two Indian companies - Horizon group and Sarvatra Technical Consultants, are lead Indian companies responsible for the effort. Horizon Chief Executive, Maj. Gen. (retd) Shashikant Pitre stated that it could take almost two years to de-mine the area.¹³

The EU also pledged Euro 62 million for emergency rehabilitation activities in the Northern and Eastern districts.¹⁴ Senior Presidential Advisor Basil Rajapakse on his part claimed that around 40,000 IDPs have already been settled in the East in the past month. He also claimed that the Rajapakse government had established a world record in settling displaced people.¹⁵

In other developments, the Sri Lankan government arrested Kumaran Pathmanathan, also known as KP, who had taken over the LTTE organization in the aftermath of the death of Prabhakaran. KP was responsible for organizing LTTE activities in foreign countries and in charge of procuring weapons and equipment. Defence Affairs Spokesman, Minister Keheliya Rambukwella, on being asked by reporters if KP would be extradited to India in connection with the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi, stated that it would depend on the nature of request by India. He also confirmed that no such request had been made by the Indian government so far.¹⁶

B. EAST AND SOUTHEAST ASIA

CHINA

- **Chinese naval flotilla arrives in Karachi on the way from the Gulf of Aden; PLA in the process of upgrading its capabilities to handle security threats in multi-dimensional battlefields; The third batch of the Chinese peacekeeping engineering detachment to Darfur, Sudan to deploy early next month; PLA's GAD approves lab to conduct astro-dynamic studies**

A Chinese naval flotilla returning from the Gulf of Aden arrived at Karachi port on August 5, 2009 to pay a three-day long goodwill visit. Reports noted that the Chinese and Pakistani navies were to undertake joint exercises simulating a variety of combat situations.¹⁷

Reports noted that the PLA was in the process of upgrading its capabilities to handle security threats in multi-dimensional battlefields. Towards

¹³ "Indians fly to clear landmines," *Daily News*, August 10, 2009, at http://www.dailynews.lk/2009/08/10/main_News.asp

¹⁴ "EU gives Euro 62 m for emergency rehabilitation," *Daily News*, August 4, 2009, at <http://www.dailynews.lk/2009/08/04/news01.asp>

¹⁵ "Resettlement in record time," *Daily News*, August 6, 2009, at <http://www.dailynews.lk/2009/08/06/pol01.asp>

¹⁶ "KP in defence custody," *Daily News*, August 8, 2009, at <http://www.dailynews.lk/2009/08/08/sec01.asp>

¹⁷ "Chinese Naval Ship Formation Visits Pakistan," *PLA Daily*, August 6, 2009, at http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/news-channels/china-military-news/2009-08/06/content_4018615.htm

this end, the modernization of the Navy and the Air Force were being accorded priority.¹⁸ Reports noted that the PLAAF had recruited nearly 8,000 national defense students to meet the demands of the modernization drive. The PLA is also substantially relying on civilian higher learning institutions to improve the quality of its cadres and help in the force's strategic transformation.¹⁹

The third batch of the Chinese peacekeeping engineering detachment to Darfur, Sudan gathered at the Jinan Military Area Command (MAC) ahead of its deployment to Darfur early next month. The regiment is expected to provide assistance in the construction and maintenance of roads, bridges, buildings, water source searching activities, well drilling and other infrastructure activities. The detachment consists of 315 officers and men selected from an engineering regiment and the First Red Army Company of a regiment under the Jinan MAC and a water supply regiment under the Beijing MAC.²⁰

In other developments, plans for the construction of a major lab where astro-dynamics studies will be conducted, was approved by the General Armaments Department (GAD) of the PLA. Reports noted that since the successful launch of China's first man-made satellite, the GAD has focused on cutting-edge research in scientific and technological fields and has succeeded in achieving a leading position in the field of astro-dynamics.²¹

JAPAN

- **Japan's opposition leader calls for single Asian currency; Japan says China's moves to acquire stakes in Iran's oil field may hamper global efforts to address Tehran's nuclear programme; SM 3 Block IIA ballistic missile interceptor being developed by Raytheon jointly with Japan to cost over \$3 billion, more than \$700 million than earlier estimates; 64th anniversary of the US atomic bombing of Nagasaki observed**

Japanese opposition leader, Yukio Hatoyama, seen as the likely next prime minister of the country, has called for a single Asian currency to strengthen the region's economic and political ties. In an article to the magazine *Voice*, Hatoyama urged for efforts to "realize an Asian common currency."²²

¹⁸ "PLA to Upgrade Defense, Personnel Structure," *PLA Daily*, August 3, 2009, at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2009-08/03/content_8508216.htm

¹⁹ "National Defense Students Become Vital Force in Boosting Air Force Strategic Transformation," *PLA Daily*, August 6, 2009, at http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/news-channels/china-military-news/2009-08/06/content_4018588.htm

²⁰ "Third Batch of Chinese Peacekeeping Engineering Detachment to Darfur Established," *PLA Daily*, August 7, 2009, at http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/news-channels/china-military-news/2009-08/07/content_4019151.htm

²¹ "GAD Base Advances Study on astro-dynamics," *PLA Daily*, August 7, 2009, at http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/news-channels/china-military-news/2009-08/07/content_4019149.htm

²² "Japan PM front-runner calls for single Asian currency," *Agence France-Presse*, August 7, 2009, at <http://www.canada.com/business/fp/Japan+front+runner+calls+single+Asian+currency/1869729/story.html>

Japan's Vice Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Harufumi Mochizuki told reporters that China's recent move to take a major stake in the Azadegan oil field in Iran may hamper global efforts geared to address concerns being generated by Iran's nuclear programme.²³

Reports meanwhile noted that a joint US-Japanese missile defense program being built by Raytheon is now slated to cost over \$3 billion, more than \$700 million than earlier estimates. US Rear Admiral Brad Hicks, the program director of the Aegis sea-based leg of the anti-missile shield, however stated that the Standard Missile 3 Block IIA ballistic missile interceptor being developed by Raytheon jointly with Japan would be a "game-changer" for the military.²⁴

In other developments, more than 5,000 people gathered in the Peace Park in Nagasaki to mark the 64th anniversary of the US atomic bombing of the southwestern Japanese city. Nagasaki Mayor Tomihisa Taue read the Peace Declaration, which urged worldwide nuclear disarmament and enhanced measures to tackle nuclear non-proliferation.²⁵

KOREAN PENINSULA

- **Bill Clinton makes surprise visit to Pyongyang, secures the release of two journalists; US expresses concern over nature of military cooperation between North Korea and Myanmar; North Korea seizes a South Korean fishing boat; US to deploy F-15E fighter jets to Korea to ease concerns caused by the withdrawal of a battalion of AH-64 Apache attack helicopters; South Korea and India sign a comprehensive bilateral trade pact**

Former US President Bill Clinton made a surprise visit to Pyongyang and met with the North Korean leadership, including Kim Yong Il. The visit resulted in the release of two American journalists who were sentenced to over 10 years of rigorous imprisonment on charges of spying. In the aftermath of Mr. Clinton's visit, the US has renewed its call for North Korea to return to multi-national talks on its de-nuclearization issue. US State Department spokesman Robert Wood stated that the US position on the North Korean nuclear issue "remains the same" and that the "ball is in the North's court. It needs to come back to the six-party framework ..."²⁶

The US also reiterated concerns over military cooperation between North Korea and Myanmar. US Assistant Secretary of State for Public Affairs Philip

²³ "Japan confused about Chinese deal over Iranian oil field," *Associated Press*, August 3, 2009, at http://www.breitbart.com/print.php?id=D99R8ALO1&show_article=1

²⁴ "Cost of US-Japan missile defense effort up sharply," *Reuters*, August 3, 2009, at <http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN0352811220090803>

²⁵ "Japan marks 64th anniversary of Nagasaki atomic bombing," *Xinhua*, August 9, 2009, at http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-08/09/content_11851094.htm

²⁶ "US repeats call on N. Korea to return to 6-way talks," *Korea Herald*, August 8, 2009, at http://www.koreaherald.co.kr/NEWKHSITE/data/html_dir/2009/08/09/200908090001.asp

Crowley called on Pyongyang "to clarify precisely the nature of its military cooperation" with Myanmar.²⁷

Meanwhile, in an escalatory action, a 30-tonne South Korean fishing boat – '800 Yeonanho' carrying four crew members was seized and hauled to the North Korean port of Jangjeon, despite warnings from the South.²⁸

Reports noted that the US will deploy a dozen F-15E fighter jets to Korea to bolster the country's defenses. The move is designed to ease concerns caused by the withdrawal of a battalion of AH-64 Apache attack helicopters.²⁹

The US blacklisted a North Korean firm, the Korea Hyoksin Trading Corporation, for its involvement in the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The action was in tune with the UNSC resolutions passed in the aftermath of North Korea's nuclear and missile tests.³⁰

South Korea also detained a Chinese fishing boat on charges of poaching in South Korean waters off the West Sea. The crew of the 25-ton vessel was accused of illegally fishing in waters about 96km southwest of Socheong Island, which is within South Korea's exclusive economic zone.³¹

In other developments, South Korea and India signed a comprehensive bilateral trade pact, ending three-years of negotiations. The two countries started their negotiations in March 2006, and initialed the so-called comprehensive economic partnership agreement (CEPA) in February 2009.³²

SOUTHEAST ASIA

- **Malaysia and Brunei hold their 13th annual consultation in Bandar Deri Begawan; Malaysia, Australia to set up a working group to tackle issue of human trafficking; Report: Myanmar actively seeking the help of North Korea and Russia to establish nuclear facilities; Second Myanmar-Sri Lanka Joint Meeting on Bilateral Cooperation held in Colombo; Sino-Burmese border trade zone near Kan Pai Ti village reopens; India's Trade and Industry Minister calls for greater foreign direct investment from Indonesia; Floods in Philippines displace over 20,000 people**

²⁷ "U.S. concerns over N.K.-Myanmar military cooperation," *Korea Herald*, August 4, 2009, at http://www.koreaherald.co.kr/NEWKHSITE/data/html_dir/2009/08/04/200908040073.asp

²⁸ "N.K. seizes S. Korean boat," *Korea Herald*, July 31, 2009, at http://www.koreaherald.co.kr/NEWKHSITE/data/html_dir/2009/07/31/200907310045.asp

²⁹ "US to deploy F-15Es in Korea," *Korea Herald*, August 2, 2009, at http://www.koreaherald.co.kr/NEWKHSITE/data/html_dir/2009/08/02/200908020012.asp

³⁰ "US blacklisted N.K. firm for WMD proliferation," *Korea Herald*, July 31, 2009, at http://www.koreaherald.co.kr/NEWKHSITE/data/html_dir/2009/07/31/200907310074.asp

³¹ "Chinese boat seized for illegal fishing," *Korea Herald*, August 4, 2009, at http://www.koreaherald.co.kr/NEWKHSITE/data/html_dir/2009/08/04/200908040090.asp

³² "Korea, India to sign bilateral trade pact," *Korea Herald*, August 4, 2009, at http://www.koreaherald.co.kr/NEWKHSITE/data/html_dir/2009/08/04/200908040072.asp

MALAYSIA

Malaysia and Brunei held their 13th annual consultation in Bandar Deri Begawan. Malaysian Prime Minister Naji Razak and Brunei Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah renewed their commitment to strengthen their bilateral relations and increase cooperation in areas such as trade and investment. Brunei's recent proposal to establish joint committees to facilitate and create conducive environment for promoting cooperation was appreciated by Malaysia.³³

Malaysian Home Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin tun Hussein visited Australia during the week. In meetings with his Australian counterparts, both the countries agreed to hold a working group meeting involving senior officials to deal with the issue of human trafficking to Australia, for which Malaysia was being used as a transit country.³⁴

MYANMAR

Reports noted that Myanmar was actively seeking the help of North Korea and Russia in establishing nuclear facilities. The report cited revelations by two defectors indicating that the country's inability to compete with neighbouring Thailand, which had conventional superiority, was forcing Myanmar to pursue a nuclear weapon programme.³⁵

The second joint meeting on bilateral cooperation between Foreign Ministers of Myanmar and Sri Lanka concluded in Colombo. Both the states agreed to step up bilateral cooperation in areas such as counter terrorism, investments, trade, and tourism.³⁶

Reports noted that in order to tackle the growing problem of weapons smuggling along Indo-Myanmar border, Indian police in Mizoram had formed a special unit.³⁷

After being closed for seven years, the Sino-Burmese border trade zone near Kan Pai Ti village was again reopened. The move was made possible following the decision of the New Democratic Army-Kachin or NDA-K (which controls the Kan Pai Ti area) to accept the junta's proposal of transforming the insurgent group's army to a Border Guard Force.³⁸

³³ "Malaysia, Brunei Renew Commitment to Cooperation," *Bernama.com*, August 5, 2009, at http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v5/news_lite.php?id=430432

³⁴ "Malaysia-Australia agree to fight Human Trafficking," *Bernama.com*, August 4, 2009, at http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v5/news_lite.php?id=430220

³⁵ "Myanmar wants Nuclear Weapons, defectors say," *Indo-Burma News*, August 4, 2009, at <http://www.indoburmanews.net/archives-1/2009/august-2009/myanmar-wants-nuclear-weapons-defectors-say>

³⁶ "Burma-Sri Lanka to counter-terrorism," *Burma News International*, August 5, 2009, at <http://www.bnionline.net/news/mizzima/6806-burma-sri-lanka-to-counter-terrorism.html>

³⁷ "Burma-India arms trade prompts Special Police unit," *Indo-Burma News*, August 8, 2009, at <http://www.indoburmanews.net/archives-1/2009/august-2009/burma-india-arms-trade-prompts-special-police-unit>

³⁸ "Seven Years on Sino-Burmese border trade zone reopened," *Burma News International*, August 5, 2009, at <http://www.bnionline.net/news/mizzima/6802-seven-years-on-sino-burmese-border-trade-zone-reopened.html>

INDONESIA

India's Trade and Industry Minister Jyotiraditya Madhavrao Scindia, after meeting with his Indonesian counterpart Fahmi Idris in Jakarta called for greater foreign direct investment from Indonesia. India's investment in the country so far amounts to around \$2 billion. Other investments in the pipeline include a \$3 billion aluminum smelter in South Sumatra to be built by the country's state-run National Aluminum Company (NALCO), \$200 million to be invested by the Tata's and \$10 million by TVS Motors.³⁹

PHILIPPINES

The number of casualties in the Philippines from the month-long landslides and flooding has risen to 29. The disasters left over 20,000 displaced people.⁴⁰

C. WEST ASIA

IRAN

- **Ahmadinejad sworn in for 2nd term, criticises Western countries for not recognizing the elections; Iranian Army General warns of foreign media instigating next coup in Iran**

Mr. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad was sworn in as Iran's President by Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on August 5. Ahmadinejad was re-elected president in the June 12 election. Khamenei termed the June 12 elections "glorious" which indicated "the people's decisive and unprecedented vote ..."⁴¹ The election results had resulted in widespread protests and had split Iran's clerical leadership. All three of Ahmadinejad's electoral challengers boycotted the swearing in ceremony.

In his inaugural address, Mr. Ahmadinejad emphasized his plans to improve the faltering economy and criticized Western countries for having "not recognized the elections or extended their congratulations." He added that these nations "do not respect the rights of other nations, yet they recognize themselves as the yardstick for democracy."⁴²

The deputy commander of the Iranian army, Gen. Massoud Jazayeri warned that the next 'coup' against Iran would be via the foreign media. He noted that after the failure of the 'Green Coup', "foreign elements and their agents inside have started programming the next phase of the coup against Iran."

³⁹ "RI, India committed to leveraging two-way direct investment, trade," *The Jakarta Post*, August 7, 2009, at <http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2009/08/07/ri-india-committed-leveraging-twoway-direct-investment-trade.html>

⁴⁰ "Month long flood, landslides kills 29 in Philippines," *The Jakarta Post*, August 6, 2009, at <http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2009/08/06/month-flood-landslides-kills-29-philippines.html>

⁴¹ "Leader endorses Ahmadinejad presidency," *Tehran Times*, August 4, 2009, at http://www.tehrantimes.com/index_View.asp?code=200154

⁴² "Ahmadinejad sworn in amid crisis," *Khaleej Times*, August 5, 2009, at http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle08.asp?xfile=data/middleeast/2009/August/middleeast_August117.xml§ion=middleeast

The 'Green Coup' refers to the reform movement of opposition leader Mir-Hosseini Moussavi who had chosen the colour as symbol for change in Iran.⁴³

IRAQ

● 36 killed in series of bomb attacks in Mosul and Baghdad

A series of bomb attacks against Shiites near the northern city of Mosul and in Baghdad killed at least 36 people and wounded nearly 100 others. These attacks were the second devastating instances of strikes near the Shiite Turkmen mosques in recent months. On a Friday in June, a truck bomb exploded in the northern city of Kirkuk, killing 68 people and wounding 200. Insurgents linked to al-Qaeda in Mesopotamia, a home-grown militant group, remain active in Mosul.⁴⁴

II. DEFENCE AND NUCLEAR REVIEW

DEFENCE

NATIONAL

▪ HAL supplies new helicopters to IAF

Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL) has supplied four indigenous Cheetal helicopters to the Indian Air force. The remaining six would be supplied over the next two to three months. The Cheetal is an upgraded version of the Cheetah helicopter with Turbomeca engine, having reduced weight and improved fuel consumption. It can be used for multiple operations including in search-and-rescue and high-altitude missions. The new helicopter also has lightweight modern cockpit instruments, like electrically driven, artificial horizon directional gyro, and lightweight modern avionics. The IAF on its part wants to replace its 200-odd Cheetah and Chetak helicopters with the new one.⁴⁵

▪ HAL to get F414 engines

Reports noted that the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADE) has sent a proposal requesting GE for its state-of-the-art F414 military aviation engines to speed up the development of Tejas light combat aircraft (LCA) manufactured by HAL. The F414-GE-400 is the US Navy's latest production fighter engine incorporating the design base of its predecessor F-404 engine, which powers the

⁴³ "Next 'coup' against Iran via foreign media," *Khaleej Times*, August 9, 2009, at http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle08.asp?xfile=data/middleeast/2009/August/middleeast_August207.xml§ion=middleeast

⁴⁴ Sam Dagher, "Scores Killed in Spate of Attacks on Shiites in Iraq," *New York Times*, August 8, 2009, at <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/08/08/world/middleeast/08iraq.html?hp>

⁴⁵ "India Gets 1st Batch of Indigenous Cheetal Helos," July 30, 2009, at <http://www.defensenews.com/story.php?i=4212539&c=AIR&s=TOP>

Boeing F/A-18E/F Super Hornet. The F414-GE-400 has been found to be highly reliable during initial field trials.⁴⁶

- **C-130J-30 Hercules for Indian Special Forces**

Reports noted that the IAF is planning to purchase C-130J planes for its Special Forces and Border Security Force. The planes possess the ability to land and take off even in improvised or short fields and without lights and can be operated easily even in hot temperatures and at high altitudes.⁴⁷

- **MMRCA trails to begin soon**

Reports noted that the trails of the fighter jets in the fray for the \$12 billion MMRCA contract will begin soon. Six companies - including Boeing, Lockheed Martin, EADS, MiG, Dassault and Saab would participate in the trial. While Boeing would take part with its F/A-18 Super Hornet, Lockheed Martin and EADS will showcase the F-16 and Typhoon Eurofighter respectively. Russia will display its MiG-35 and MiG-29 fighters while the French Dassault will showcase its Rafale aircraft. Sweden's Saab will bring the Gripen. Reports indicated that Boeing and Lockheed Martin were the current front runners.⁴⁸

INTERNATIONAL

- **China supplies frigates to Pakistan**

Pakistan received four F-22P frigates from China. These frigates were constructed at the Hudong Zhonghua Shipyard in Shanghai. They will be equipped with anti-submarine helicopters, surface-to-surface and surface-to-air missiles and other defense systems.⁴⁹

- **Naval support services agreement between Abu-Dhabi and UK naval shipbuilder**

British naval shipbuilder BVT Surface Fleet and Abu Dhabi Shipbuilding has inked a deal to establish a joint venture for providing naval support services in the United Arab Emirates. The operation, Gulf Logistics and Naval Support (GLNS), will provide services and training capabilities to military and paramilitary forces of members of the Gulf Cooperation Council, Egypt and Jordan. Abu Dhabi Shipbuilding will own 70 percent of the venture. The services that GLNS will offer include provision of spare parts, training, fleet maintenance

⁴⁶ "GE Aviation's F414 Engines for HAL Tejas Fighters," July 21, 2009, at <http://www.india-defence.com/reports/4477>

⁴⁷ "India Buys 6-12 C-130J-30 Hercules for Special Forces," August 6, 2009, at <http://www.defenseindustrydaily.com/india-to-purchase-6-c130j-hercules-for-special-forces-02224/>

⁴⁸ "Race Begins Next Week for \$12B India War jet Deal," August 7, 2009, at <http://www.defensenews.com/story.php?i=4225734&c=ASI&s=AIR>

⁴⁹ "China Delivers Frigate To Pakistan Navy," July 30, 2009, at <http://www.defensenews.com/story.php?i=4212711&c=SEA&s=TOP>

activities, management of integrated logistics support and operation of workshops and warehouses.⁵⁰

- **Ease military restrictions in Japan, recommends the report**

An advisory board appointed by Prime Minister Taro Aso of Japan has recommended that Tokyo ease its restrictions on military exports to enable its indigenous defence industries to participate in international military research and development programmes. The 52-page report noted that export restrictions have thwarted the development of the Japan's defence industrial base and have increased procurement and developmental costs. It also recommends the amendment of the constitutional right to exercise self-defence and calls for legislation that will allow the SDF to be deployed more easily in international peacekeeping operations.⁵¹

NUCLEAR REVIEW

- **Reports: Jihadis thrice attacked Pak nuclear sites**

Reports noted that over the last two years, Pakistan's nuclear facilities have been attacked at least thrice by its home-grown extremists and terrorists in incidents which have been not reported properly. While Pakistan insists that its nuclear weapons are fully secured and there is no chance of them falling into terrorist hands, there has been justifiable concern about their safety.

Analysts believed that the geographical location of Pakistan's principal nuclear weapons infrastructure, which is mainly in areas dominated by al-Qaeda and the Taliban, makes it more vulnerable to internal attacks. Fearing an Indian attack when Pakistan was developing its nuclear weapons infrastructure in the 1970s and 1980s, Pakistan, with a few exceptions, chose to locate much of its nuclear weapons infrastructure to the north and west of the country and to the region around Islamabad and Rawalpindi and away from the border with India.⁵²

III. INTERNAL SECURITY REVIEW

JAMMU AND KASHMIR

- **UK: LeT responsible for Mumbai attacks**

The British Parliamentary Foreign Affairs Committee in its report "Global Security: Afghanistan and Pakistan" held the Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) responsible for the 2008 Mumbai attacks. It noted that several major terror attacks across the

⁵⁰ "Abu Dhabi-UK Deal To Give Naval Support Services," July 28, 2009, at <http://www.defensenews.com/story.php?i=4209002&c=SEA&s=TOP>

⁵¹ "Report recommends easing of Japanese export restrictions," August 6, 2009, at http://www.janes.com/news/defence/jdi/jdi090806_1_n.shtml

⁵² "Jihadis thrice attacked Pak nuclear sites," *Times of India*, August 11, 2009, at <http://lite.epaper.timesofindia.com/getpage.aspx?pageid=17&pagesize=&edid=&edlabel=CAP&mydateHid=11-08-2009&pubname=&edname=&publabel=TOI>

world - including in London, Madrid and Bali, had origins in the tribal areas of Pakistan. The report quoted former CIA chief Mike Hayden as stating that the LeT had reached a 'merge point' with al-Qaeda. The report stated that a section of the Pakistani army and the ISI still held the view that "India, rather than the Islamic terrorists," were the main threat to the country.⁵³

- **A.K. Antony: Rise in infiltration in J&K worrisome**

Defence Minister A.K. Antony on August 8 expressed concerns over the recent spurt in incidents of infiltration from Pakistan, and added that it was "worrisome."⁵⁴

OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

- **Two Hizbul militants arrested in Delhi**

Two Hizbul Mujahideen militants - Javed Ahmed and Ashiq Ali, allegedly planning terror strikes in Delhi ahead of the Independence Day, were arrested by the Delhi Police' special cell from Daryaganj on August 6. The arrest came hours after Union Home Ministry Mr. Pillai made public intelligence inputs about LeT planning terror attack in Delhi, Hyderabad and Kolkata ahead of August 15. Two AK-47 rifles, about 100 cartridges and two grenades were recovered from the militants.⁵⁵

⁵³ "LeT responsible for Mumbai attacks: UK," *Daily Excelsior*, August 3, 2009, at <http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/web1/09aug03/news.htm#1>

⁵⁴ "Rise in infiltration in J&K worrisome: Antony," *Daily Excelsior*, August 9, 2009, at <http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/web1/09aug09/news.htm#1>

⁵⁵ "Two Hizbul militants arrested in Delhi," *Hindu*, August 7, 2009, at <http://www.hindu.com/thehindu/holnus/000200908070339.htm>