

# THE WEEK IN REVIEW

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## 1. COUNTRY REVIEW

### A. SOUTH ASIA

#### AFGHANISTAN

- **7 dead, 91 injured in a suicide blast outside NATO headquarters in Kabul; Karzai, US, UN and others condemn the blast; Karzai, Ashraf Ghani and Ramazan Bashardost outline their priorities in a live presidential debate; Afghan election results to be announced on September 17; Eikenberry: US supports "the right of the people of Afghanistan to choose their own leaders"**

A few days ahead of the August 20 presidential elections, in one of the biggest attacks in the Afghan capital in nearly six months, a suicide car bomb exploded outside the NATO's headquarters in Kabul on August 15 killing seven people and injuring over 90. President Karzai condemned the attacks as one which was perpetrated by the "enemies of Afghanistan" who were trying to intimidate the population ahead of the elections. He however expressed confidence that the electoral process will continue to go ahead.<sup>1</sup>

International interlocutors like the UN, US, and Canada condemned the blasts. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon stated that he was "deeply concerned at this indiscriminate violence" before the presidential and provincial elections. The US termed the incident a "cowardly act of terror."<sup>2</sup>

Presidential candidates Karzai, Dr. Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai and Ramazan Bashardost outlined their programmes and priorities during a two-hour live debate on August 16. Among issues discussed included those related to national security, a possible framework for peace talks with the Taliban, foreign policy issues, and steps to be taken to stop civilian casualties, alleviating unemployment and women rights. Dr. Abdullah Abdullah however did not participate in this debate.<sup>3</sup>

Arrangements for the smooth conduct of the August 20 polls meanwhile were proceeding. Officials of the Independent Election Commission (IEC) stated that the election results will be announced on September 17. Under Article 61 of the Constitution, if no presidential candidate secures the mandatory fifty-plus-one votes, there will be a run-off.<sup>4</sup> Over 6500 polling centres had been established across the country and efforts were underway to ensure that security was provided at polling stations where security problems were anticipated.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> "7 die, 91 wounded in blast near NATO headquarters in Kabul," *The China Post*, August 16, 2009, at <http://www.chinapost.com.tw/asia/regional-news/2009/08/16/220679/p2/7-die.htm>

<sup>2</sup> "UN, US & Canada slam Kabul blast," *Pajhwok Afghan News*, August 16, 2009, at <http://www.pajhwok.com/viewstory.asp?lng=eng&id=79793>

<sup>3</sup> "Karzai, rivals outline priorities," *Pajhwok Afghan News*, August 16, 2009, at <http://www.pajhwok.com/viewstory.asp?lng=eng&id=79860>

<sup>4</sup> "Election result to be announced on Sept. 17," *Pajhwok Afghan News*, August 10, 2009, at <http://www.pajhwok.com/viewstory.asp?lng=eng&id=79433>

<sup>5</sup> "Elaborate security arrangements made for polls: Hamidzada," *Pajhwok Afghan News*, August 11, 2009, at <http://www.pajhwok.com/viewstory.asp?lng=eng&id=79520>

In other developments, US ambassador to Afghanistan Karl W. Eikenberry stated on August 12 that the US was working with the Afghan authorities to ensure that credible and inclusive elections that reflected the will of the Afghan people were held. He added that the US will "support the right of the people of Afghanistan to choose their own leaders."<sup>6</sup> The US Special Representative for Pakistan and Afghanistan Richard Holbrooke will also be in the country to monitor the elections.

#### PAKISTAN

- **Gates states that 'mistrust' between US and Pakistan is legitimate; Kerry-Lugar bill postponed till September; PM Gilani: Army has nothing to do with Musharraf's trial; ISPR confirms Baitullah is dead; Taliban burn down 7 schools which had re-opened**

US Defence Secretary Robert Gates at a Pentagon briefing on August 13 stated that the Pakistani "mistrust" of American intentions was "legitimate" and this was on account of past history of US interactions with that country. He added that there was an urgent need to "rebuild trust" between the two countries. Gates' reaction came even as a survey showed that a majority of people in Pakistan perceived the US to be an "enemy" rather than a friend.<sup>7</sup>

Meanwhile, the Kerry-Lugar bill, which provides for US non-military assistance for the next 5 years, has been held up by the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee till September, when the US Congress resumes its session. Reports noted that the final version of the bill would not link US assistance to access A.Q. Khan and would not ask for cooperation with India in fighting against terrorism.<sup>8</sup>

Prime Minister Gilani, talking to reporters in Lahore on August 15, stated that Pakistan Army would not act as a "stumbling block" in a trail of former president Gen. Musharraf and added that the army had "nothing to do with it."<sup>9</sup> Musharraf has been charged with illegally imposing emergency and arresting judges during 2007, charges which could lead to imprisonment or permanent exile outside the country.<sup>10</sup>

President Zardari, in his Independence Day address in Islamabad on August 14, put forward comprehensive political, judicial and administrative

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<sup>6</sup> "Afghan elections: US reiterates its neutrality," *Pajhwok Afghan News*, August 12, 2009, at <http://www.pajhwok.com/viewstory.asp?lng=eng&id=79568>

<sup>7</sup> "Pakistani mistrust of Americans legitimate, says Gates," *Dawn*, August 15, 2009, at <http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/dawn-content-library/dawn/the-newspaper/front-page/pakistani-mistrust-of-americans-legitimate%2C-says-gates-589>

<sup>8</sup> Sami Abraham, "Pak aid bill put off till Congress vacation ends," *The News*, August 13, 2009, at [http://thenews.jang.com.pk/arc\\_default.asp](http://thenews.jang.com.pk/arc_default.asp)

<sup>9</sup> "Army has nothing to do with Musharraf's trial," *Daily Times*, August 16, 2009, at [http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2009\08\16\story\\_16-8-2009\\_pg1\\_1](http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2009\08\16\story_16-8-2009_pg1_1)

<sup>10</sup> Shakeel Anjum & Obaid Abrar Khan, "Musharraf booked for judges' illegal confinement," *The News*, August 11, 2009, at [http://thenews.jang.com.pk/arc\\_default.asp](http://thenews.jang.com.pk/arc_default.asp)

reforms for the tribal areas including FATA aimed at giving basic rights of appeal and other rights to the people of FATA.<sup>11</sup>

In other developments, even as Pakistan's ISPR reports confirmed that Baitullah Mehsud was killed in a US missile strike, the Taliban continued to carry out attacks in the Swat region. 7 schools where classes had resumed recently in the area were burnt down.<sup>12</sup>

## B. EAST AND SOUTHEAST ASIA

### CHINA

- **Shenzhen destroyer visit Cochin; PLA's largest military exercise spread over 2 months commences; Jinan Military Area Command conducts a 1,300 km maneuver drill involving over 30 trucks; An airborne troop unit develops a standard individual portable system: China's first female astronaut to be recruited by the end of the year**

The PLA Navy's 'Shenzhen' missile destroyer, returning from the Gulf of Aden, arrived at Cochin on August 8, 2009 for a 3-day goodwill visit. A number of naval activities were planned during its stay, including a discussion on its experience as an escort vessel in the Gulf of Aden and the waters off the Somali coast.<sup>13</sup>

The PLA launched its largest-ever military exercise on August 11 aimed at testing its long-distance mobility. The exercises involved the deployment of about 50,000 heavily-armored troops across thousands of miles. The army divisions and their air units were deployed in unfamiliar areas far from their garrison training bases by civilian rail and air transport. Reports noted that an army division from each of the military commands of Shenyang, Lanzhou, Jinan and Guangzhou were participating in a series of live-fire drills under this exercise lasting for two months.<sup>14</sup>

In continuing military readiness programmes, reports noted that a convoy of over 30 trucks of a truck transport battalion under the Jinan Military Area Command conducted a 3-day long-range maneuver drill in early August during the course of which the battalion covered more than 1,300 km.<sup>15</sup> Reports also noted that one of China's airborne troop units has developed a standard

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<sup>11</sup> Syed Irfan Raza, "Far-reaching Fata reforms unveiled," *Dawn*, August 14, 2009, at <http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/dawn-content-library/dawn/the-newspaper/front-page/farreaching-fata-reforms-unveiled-489>

<sup>12</sup> "Taliban torch 7 schools in Buner," *Daily Times*, August 12, 2009, at [http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2009\08\12\story\\_12-8-2009\\_pg1\\_1](http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2009\08\12\story_12-8-2009_pg1_1)

<sup>13</sup> "Shenzhen' Warship Visits India," *PLA Daily*, August 10, 2009, at [http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/news-channels/china-military-news/2009-08/10/content\\_4020254.htm](http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/news-channels/china-military-news/2009-08/10/content_4020254.htm)

<sup>14</sup> "PLA Kicks off Largest Long-range Tactical Military Exercise," *PLA Daily*, August 11, 2009, at [http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/news-channels/china-military-news/2009-08/11/content\\_4020975.htm](http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/news-channels/china-military-news/2009-08/11/content_4020975.htm)

<sup>15</sup> "Truck Transport Battalion Tempers Long-range Support Capability," *PLA Daily*, August 13, 2009, at [http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/news-channels/china-military-news/2009-08/13/content\\_4022112.htm](http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/news-channels/china-military-news/2009-08/13/content_4022112.htm)

individual portable system to satisfy the demands of the troops in field operation, training and daily life. The system includes over 20 components.<sup>16</sup>

The Chinese government is expected to recruit the first Chinese female astronaut by the end of this year. About 16 female fighter pilots have graduated from a pilot training institute of the PLA Air Force in April 2009, becoming the first batch of Chinese women to have qualified to fly fighter jets.<sup>17</sup>

## JAPAN

- **LDP may lose power to DPJ; ICNND Survey: Japanese opposition parties want more debate on the issue of US nuclear umbrella; Japanese Foreign Ministry: Russia has stopped accepting humanitarian aid for Kurile Islands**

Reports noted that for the first time in over a generation, Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) may lose power to the Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) in the August 30 election.<sup>18</sup> Meanwhile, former Prime Ministers Junichiro Koizumi and Shinzo Abe, as well as a Cabinet minister and other Diet members, visited Yasukuni Shrine on August 15, the 64<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the Second World War. Prime Minister Taro Aso however did not visit the shrine, widely viewed as a symbol of Japan's past militarism.<sup>19</sup>

According to a survey conducted by the International Commission on Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (ICNND) Japan NGO Network, while the ruling LDP and its coalition partners have been insisting that Japan remain under the US nuclear umbrella, opposition parties have been varied in their policies on the issue. The survey notes that the LDP and the New Komeito party describe as "appropriate" the policy of being shielded by the US nuclear deterrence, but the main opposition DPJ wants more debate on the issue.<sup>20</sup>

In other developments, the Japanese Foreign Ministry announced that Russia had stopped accepting humanitarian aid for the Kurile Islands. These islands have been receiving Japanese assistance for the past 18 years.<sup>21</sup>

## KOREAN PENINSULA

- **North Korea terms US-South Korea joint exercises as "a maneuver for a nuclear war" and warns of "merciless retaliation"; South Korea to**

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<sup>16</sup> "New Individual Portable System Raises Parachutist's Capability," *PLA Daily*, August 10, 2009, at [http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/news-channels/china-military-news/2009-08/10/content\\_4020331.htm](http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/news-channels/china-military-news/2009-08/10/content_4020331.htm)

<sup>17</sup> "China to Announce Recruitment Plan for Women Astronauts," *China Daily*, August 10, 2009, at [http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2009-08/10/content\\_8550323.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2009-08/10/content_8550323.htm)

<sup>18</sup> "Japanese voters look to vote for opposition to punish ruling party," *Xinhua*, August 12, 2009, at [http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-08/12/content\\_11869936.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-08/12/content_11869936.htm)

<sup>19</sup> "Koizumi, Abe make Yasukuni visit," *Japan Times*, August 16, 2009, at <http://search.japantimes.co.jp/cgi-bin/nn20090816a2.html>

<sup>20</sup> "LDP, opposition parties differ on policy over U.S. nuclear umbrella," *Associated Press*, August 14, 2009, at [http://www.breitbart.com/print.php?id=D9A2N7R01&show\\_article=1](http://www.breitbart.com/print.php?id=D9A2N7R01&show_article=1)

<sup>21</sup> "Japan Told To Halt Aid To Kurils," *Moscow Times*, August 10, 2009, at <http://www.moscowtimes.ru/article/1010/42/380368.htm>

**deploy 60-70 anti-submarine guided missiles on destroyers by 2012;  
India detains North Korean ship under the terms of the UNSC  
resolution**

North Korea charged that an upcoming South Korea-US military exercise was "a maneuver for a nuclear war" and warned that it will react with "merciless retaliation." South Korea and the US are to stage the 'Ulji Freedom Guardian' exercise from August 17-27. Pyongyang has typically criticized such joint exercises as intended for war preparation, while Seoul and Washington have been insisting that they are purely defensive in nature.<sup>22</sup>

South Korea's defense ministry, after a meeting on mid-term arms procurement plans, stated that the newly developed anti-submarine guided torpedoes/missiles will be deployed on its destroyers by 2012 to beef up the country's naval defences. These destroyers will carry about 60-70 of these 'Red Shark' missiles.<sup>23</sup>

Indian authorities detained a North Korean vessel, the cargo ship, M V San, and searched it for radioactive material. This was the first time that a North Korean vessel has been seized and boarded under the terms of the sanctions adopted by the UN Security Council in June after North Korea tested a nuclear device in May. The Indian military stated that the ship had anchored without authorization in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, a territory of India in the Bay of Bengal.<sup>24</sup>

**SOUTHEAST ASIA**

- **India signs FTA with ASEAN; Suu Kyi convicted and sentenced to 18 months of house arrest; Thai PM visits Philippines; ASEAN signs an investment agreement with China; Tensions rise in South China Sea region; China protests against Philippines plan to extract oil from Reed Bank; Philippines lodges a protest against Vietnam, Palau and Malaysia for their claims over the Spratly Islands; China releases a Vietnamese fishing boat and its crew members detained on August 1, 2009 near the disputed Paracel Islands**

India has signed a free trade agreement (FTA) with ASEAN on August 13. The primary objective of the agreement is to reduce tariffs imposed on 80 percent of traded goods between the two regions. The FTA, to be effective from January 1, 2010, also aims to boost the annual bilateral trade, currently at \$40 billion.<sup>25</sup>

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<sup>22</sup> "N.K. blasts S. Korea-U.S. joint military drill," *Korea Herald*, August 16, 2009, at [http://www.koreaherald.co.kr/NEWKHSITE/data/html\\_dir/2009/08/16/200908160003.asp](http://www.koreaherald.co.kr/NEWKHSITE/data/html_dir/2009/08/16/200908160003.asp)

<sup>23</sup> "S. Korea to deploy advanced anti-sub missiles on destroyers," *Korea Herald*, August 13, 2009, at [http://www.koreaherald.co.kr/NEWKHSITE/data/html\\_dir/2009/08/13/200908130096.asp](http://www.koreaherald.co.kr/NEWKHSITE/data/html_dir/2009/08/13/200908130096.asp)

<sup>24</sup> "N. Korean Ship Searched for Radioactive Material," *New York Times*, August 11, 2009, at <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/08/11/world/asia/11korea.html?hp>

<sup>25</sup> "India, Southeast Asia bloc sign free trade deal," *The Jakarta Post*, August 13, 2009, at <http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2009/08/13/india-southeast-asian-bloc-sign-free-trade-deal.html>

In Myanmar, pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi has been convicted and sentenced to 18 months of house arrest on charges of allowing an American tourist to visit her during confinement. The American himself was released after the visit of Democratic Senator Jim Webb.<sup>26</sup>

Thai Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva visited the Philippines on August 14. While the primary objective of the visit was to strengthen bilateral trade and investment ties, Abhisit also discussed issues like the developing situation in Myanmar as well as the continued detention of Aung San Suu Kyi with President Gloria Arroyo.<sup>27</sup>

During the 41<sup>st</sup> ASEAN Economic Ministers' (AEM) in Bangkok, ASEAN member states signed an investment agreement with China to boost bilateral economic ties. Indonesian Trade Minister Mari Elka Pangestu stated that the agreement provides "a clear platform to develop economic integration with one of the world's key economic players" and added that the aim of the agreement was not "liberalization, but investment facilitation, promotion and the creation of legal certainty."<sup>28</sup> China has also proposed the setting up of two ASEAN-China funds worth \$10 billion and \$15 billion respectively for the purpose of financing adequate infrastructure, logistic system and trade mechanisms.<sup>29</sup>

China and Vietnam held talks in Hanoi with an aim to arrive at mutually acceptable solutions to their long-drawn bilateral dispute over the South China Sea. Emphasizing the need to have friendly relations, both sides agreed to find a lasting solution to the dispute without affecting their bilateral relationship adversely.<sup>30</sup>

Tension in the South China Sea region however increased with China protesting against Philippines' plans to extract oil from the Reed Bank, an area which both the states claim to be a part of their own territory.<sup>31</sup>

Meanwhile, responding to the UN's call to the states of the region to lodge their protests against territorial claims by other states, Philippines formally lodged a protest against Vietnam, Palau and Malaysia for their claims over the Spratly Islands.<sup>32</sup>

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<sup>26</sup> "Suu Kyi convicted: News Reports," *Bangkok Post*, August 11, 2009, at <http://www.bangkokpost.com/breakingnews/151485/suu-kyi-convicted-news-reports>

<sup>27</sup> "PM Abhisit visits Philippines," *Bangkok Post*, August 14, 2009, at <http://www.bangkokpost.com/breakingnews/151780/pm-abhisit-visits-philippines>

<sup>28</sup> "ASEAN and China Sign Investment Agreement," *Bernama.com*, August 13, 2009, at [http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v5/news\\_lite.php?id=433112](http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v5/news_lite.php?id=433112)

<sup>29</sup> "China-ASEAN fund proposed," *Bangkok Post*, August 15, 2009, at <http://www.bangkokpost.com/breakingnews/151856/china-asean-funds-setting-up-proposed>

<sup>30</sup> "China, Vietnam hold talks on South China Sea dispute," *Xinhua News*, August 13, 2009, at [http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-08/13/content\\_11877364.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-08/13/content_11877364.htm)

<sup>31</sup> "China objects to Philippine oil project," *PTI News*, August 14, 2009, at [http://www.ptinews.com/news/230277\\_China-objects-to-Philippine-oil-project](http://www.ptinews.com/news/230277_China-objects-to-Philippine-oil-project)

<sup>32</sup> "Philippines disputes territorial claims," *Radio Australia News*, August 13, 2009, at <http://www.radioaustralianews.net.au/stories/200908/2655494.htm?desktop>

In other developments, China released the Vietnamese fishing boat as well as its 13 crew members detained on August 1, 2009 near the controversial Paracel Islands in the South China Sea. However, no decision was taken on the release of twelve other Vietnamese fishermen who have been detained since mid-June. China and Vietnam have long been involved in a long-standing territorial dispute over the Paracel Islands.<sup>33</sup>

## C. WEST ASIA

### IRAN

- **Opposition leader Karroubi charges that several protestors held behind bars have been raped; Ali Larijani rejects Karroubi's allegation; Larijani urges media to avoid giving coverage to statements detrimental to national interests; Ayatollah Sadeq Larijani appointed as chief of Iran's judiciary**

The defeated Iranian presidential candidate Mehdi Karroubi, in a letter to Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, the head of the Assembly of Experts, alleged that several protestors held behind bars have been raped. Over 2,000 opposition supporters were arrested during the unrest that swept Iran after Ahmadinejad's disputed election victory. While most of them have been released, around 200 still remain behind bars. At least 110 have been put on trial.<sup>34</sup>

Iran's parliament speaker Ali Larijani rejected as "baseless" Karroubi's accusation. He added that said "based on parliament's investigations, detainees have not been raped or sexually abused in Iran's Kahrizak and Evin prisons." Many of the post-election detainees were held in south Teheran's Kahrizak prison.<sup>35</sup>

Mr. Larijani also urged media outlets to abstain from giving widespread coverage to statements that are detrimental to the country's national interests. He charged that in the months prior to the June 12 presidential election, it was "completely obvious" that certain foreign powers were attempting to interfere in the country's internal affairs. He added that after the elections, when certain politicians acted in an "inappropriate" manner and "neglected national interests", these powers decided to undermine the election.<sup>36</sup>

In other developments, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei appointed Ayatollah Sadeq Larijani as the new head of Iran's judiciary. Larijani

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<sup>33</sup> "China Releases Vietnamese fishermen," *Australia Network News*, August 12, 2009, at <http://australianetworknews.com/stories/200908/2654145.htm?desktop>

<sup>34</sup> "Iran's Karroubi alleges rape of jailed protestors," *Khaleej Times*, August 10, 2009, at [http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle08.asp?xfile=data/middleeast/2009/August/middleeast\\_August225.xml&section=middleeast](http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle08.asp?xfile=data/middleeast/2009/August/middleeast_August225.xml&section=middleeast)

<sup>35</sup> "Iran speaker says vote detainees not been raped," *Khaleej Times*, August 12, 2009, at [http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle08.asp?xfile=data/middleeast/2009/August/middleeast\\_August301.xml&section=middleeast](http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle08.asp?xfile=data/middleeast/2009/August/middleeast_August301.xml&section=middleeast)

<sup>36</sup> "Media shouldn't add fuel to fire: Larijani," *Tehran Times*, August 11, 2009, at [http://www.tehrantimes.com/index\\_View.asp?code=200677](http://www.tehrantimes.com/index_View.asp?code=200677)

is a brother of parliament speaker Ali Larijani and a member of Iran's hardline constitutional watchdog, the Guardian Council. He replaces Ayatollah Mahmoud Hashemi-Shahrudi whose 10-year term has ended. Some reformist websites had reported that Larijani was initially hesitant to accept the position because of the mass arrests of moderate detainees over unrest that erupted after the country's disputed presidential election.<sup>37</sup>

## IRAQ

- **Maliki's adviser: Broad-based multi-party national coalition to be formed ahead of the January 30 elections; Wave of suicide bombings target Shias in Mosul and Baghdad**

Reports noted that Iraqi PM Nuri al-Maliki was expected to break ranks with his ruling Shiite parliamentary bloc and set up a broad-based multi-party national coalition ahead of the January 30 elections. The alliance is expected to include tribal Sunni leaders as well as Shiite candidates. This comes in the wake of simmering differences between al-Maliki and the ruling coalition - United Iraqi Alliance, formed after Shiite parties secured 128 seats in the 275-strong parliament in the last general elections in 2005. The PM's adviser Ali al-Mussawi told reporters that Mr. Malik favoured "a truly national alliance, both in its programme and composition."<sup>38</sup>

A wave of suicide bombings targeting primarily Shias, near the northern city of Mosul and in Baghdad, killed over 40 people. The attacks were a grim reminder of the difficult security situation as the insurgents try to derail security gains made even as the Americans scale back their presence. They also raised fears that Sunni insurgents were increasingly targeting Shias in an effort to re-ignite sectarian violence that nearly tore the country apart in 2006 and 2007.<sup>39</sup>

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

### MISSILES AND SPACE

- **ISRO Chief: Indian Regional Navigational Satellite System (IRNSS) expected to provide positional accuracy of more than 20 meters across India and over an extended region of 2,000 km; ISRO to start its own mapping service - 'Bhuvan', on the lines of Google Earth; ISRO Chief: ISRO has finished the design of the Chandrayaan-2 moon mission;**

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<sup>37</sup> "Iran's leader appoints new judiciary chief," *Khaleej Times*, August 15, 2009, at [http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle08.asp?xfile=data/middleeast/2009/August/middleeast\\_August351.xml&section=middleeast](http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle08.asp?xfile=data/middleeast/2009/August/middleeast_August351.xml&section=middleeast)

<sup>38</sup> "Iraq PM set to break with Shiite coalition in polls," *Khaleej Times*, August 13, 2009, at [http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle08.asp?xfile=data/middleeast/2009/August/middleeast\\_August313.xml&section=middleeast](http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle08.asp?xfile=data/middleeast/2009/August/middleeast_August313.xml&section=middleeast)

<sup>39</sup> "String of bombings kill at least 42 in Iraq," *Khaleej Times*, August 10, 2009, at [http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle08.asp?xfile=data/middleeast/2009/August/middleeast\\_August224.xml&section=middleeast](http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle08.asp?xfile=data/middleeast/2009/August/middleeast_August224.xml&section=middleeast)

### **Russia to cooperate in providing lander and the rover; India to develop orbital vehicle**

In a bid to enhance the country's security system, ISRO Chief Mr. K. Madhavan Nair stated that the Indian Space Research Organization was developing a set of seven satellites. This constellation of satellites - known as the Indian Regional Navigational Satellite System (IRNSS), was expected to provide positional accuracy of more than 20 meters across India and over an extended region of 2,000 km. While three of the satellites will be placed in the geostationary orbit, four will be placed near the geostationary orbit to ensure that all seven satellites would have continuous radio visibility with the Indian control stations. The satellite payloads, to consist of atomic clocks and electronic equipment to generate the navigational signals, will boost surveillance against infiltration in mountainous terrain as well as improve surveillance capabilities over the sea.<sup>40</sup>

ISRO is also expected to start its own mapping service - 'Bhuvan', on the lines of Google Earth to enable personal computer users the option of securing data using satellite imagery.<sup>41</sup> The mapping service will help users gain access to imaging data across any part of the Subcontinent, with the exception of sensitive installations such as military and nuclear facilities. The imagery for the service will be provided by ISRO's network of seven remote sensing satellites which can provide three-dimensional imagery of objects the size of a car. The images generated by Bhuvan will have a resolution of 10 meters which is higher than the 200 meter resolution provided by Google Earth. However, while Google Earth allows users to download imagery, Bhuvan does not provide this option.

ISRO Chief K. Madhavan Nair stated that ISRO has finished the design of the Chandrayaan-2 moon mission. Russia will also be collaborating in the country's second lunar probe. The mission will have a lander and rover to collect soil samples from the surface of the moon.<sup>42</sup>

For the lunar transfer trajectory (LTT), the Chandrayaan-2 will have an orbital vehicle that carries an orbital craft and a lunar craft. Using data from the Chandrayaan-1 moon mission launched in October 2008, the precise locations for the lander-rover craft will be ascertained. While India will develop the orbital vehicle, Russia will provide the lander and the rover. ISRO will also solicit bids from the international scientific community for additional payloads.

ISRO officials pointed out that since the Chandrayaan-1 mission failed with regard to redundancy and thermal management, Chandrayaan-2 mission will redress the failure. Mr. Nair stated that the requisite rectifications were

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<sup>40</sup> "Seven satellites to guard India," *Times of India*, August 9, 2009, at <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/news/health-science/science/Seven-satellites-to-guard-India/articleshow/4874017.cms>

<sup>41</sup> "ISRO to Unveil Mapping Application," *Hindustan Times*, August 12, 2009, at <http://www.hindustantimes.com/StoryPage/StoryPage.aspx?sectionName=HomePage&id=22ebc415-5252-4f46-a491-9c18a9268ee3&Headline=ISRO+to+unveil+mapping+application+Bhuvan+today>

<sup>42</sup> "India completes design of Chandrayaan-2," *Indian Express*, August 16, 2009, at <http://www.indianexpress.com/news/india-completes-design-of-chandrayaan2/502613/0>

being done to prevent the recurrence of another failure for the Chandrayaan-2 mission. Even in the case of the Chandrayaan-1, ISRO pointed out that nearly 95 per cent of the mission's objectives were accomplished.

## DEFENCE NATIONAL

- **Adm. Mehta: Coping with China will be one of our primary challenges in the years ahead**

India's outgoing naval chief Adm. Sureesh Mehta, addressing a function organised by the National Maritime Foundation (NMF) stated that "in military terms, both conventional and non-conventional, we [India] neither have the capability nor the intention to match China, force for force." Adm. Mehta added that "coping with China will be one of our primary challenges in the years ahead." Stating that a serious "trust deficit" existed between the two countries, he noted that the 13<sup>th</sup> round of talks aimed at settling the disputed India-China border ended with little progress.<sup>43</sup>

- **INS Viraat to be back in service by September**

Reports noted that the Indian Navy was interested in operating the INS Viraat till the Gorshkov was inducted in 2015. The carrier is currently being renovated in a dry dock at the Cochin Shipyard and is expected to be ready by September. It is being fitted with modern fire control equipment, navigation radars, improved nuclear, biological and chemical protection, and deck landing aids. Its Russian-made air defence system has been sent for repairs to Russia. The carrier is also fitted with Barak air defence system and the BrahMos anti-ship cruise missiles. INS Viraat was originally commissioned in the British Royal Navy as HMS Hermes in 1959. India purchased the vessel in 1989.<sup>44</sup>

## INTERNATIONAL

- **UK Royal Navy designs two Queen Elizabeth-class aircraft carrier's displacing over 65,000 tonnes**

Reports noted that after nearly 15 years of efforts, the UK Royal Navy (RN) has been successful in conceptualising and defining two new Queen Elizabeth-class aircraft carriers with rejuvenated strike capabilities. The carriers – HMS Queen Elizabeth and HMS Prince of Wales, will have a displacement of 65,500 tonnes, measure over 260 meters from stem to stem, having 8 internal decks with more than 2,500 separate compartments, and a flight-deck area of about 1.6 ha. The carrier will handle F-35B Lightning II variant of Lockheed Martin's Joint Strike Fighter (JSF), selected as the RN's Joint Combat Aircraft (JCA). The carrier will be

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<sup>43</sup> "Indian naval head warns of Chinese military challenge," August 21, 2009, at [http://www.janes.com/news/defence/jdw/jdw090812\\_2\\_n.shtml](http://www.janes.com/news/defence/jdw/jdw090812_2_n.shtml)

<sup>44</sup> "Indian Aircraft Carrier Back in Service in a Month," August 17, 2009, at <http://www.defensenews.com/story.php?i=4238801&c=ASI&s=SEA>

capable of embarking an air wing of up to 30 JCA's plus a range of rotocraft. The carrier has also been designed to meet the requirements of embarking up to three generations of aircrafts over a life span of 50 years, including new genre of unmanned combat air vehicles under development.<sup>45</sup>

- **South Korea to deploy ship-to-submarine light torpedoes by 2012**

The Defense Acquisition Program Administration (DAPA) of South Korea stated that its navy will deploy 60-70 long-range ship-to-submarine light torpedoes by 2012. These are capable of traveling about 20 km in the air before reaching and hitting the target in the water. The \$145 million programme to produce the first batch of *Hongsango* (Red Shark) torpedoes and ship-based vehicle launch systems was approved by the agency. A decision on follow-up production will be made between 2013 and 2015.<sup>46</sup>

#### NUCLEAR REVIEW

- **Experts: Threat to Pakistani nuclear arsenal is real**

Reports citing non-proliferation experts indicated that the threat to Pakistan's nuclear arsenal was strong and must be taken seriously despite the assurances given by Pakistan and US officials. For instance, as recently as in the July, al-Qaeda had expressed its intention to use Pakistan's nuclear weapons against the US if it could get its hands on them. Oliver Meier, international representative of the Arms Control Association told reporters that while the danger of theft of an operational nuclear weapon was minimal, stealing nuclear weapons components stored at different places could not be ruled out. Another Pakistan expert at the University of Duisburg also pointed out the downside of storing nuclear weapon components at different places. Meier also pointed out the possibility that terror groups and individuals with access to Pakistan's nuclear secrets could cooperate, given past instances of such cooperation between some officials of Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission and Osama bin Laden in the 1990's.<sup>47</sup>

#### III. ENERGY SECURITY REVIEW

- **China opposes Manila's plans to extract oil from the disputed Reed Bank in South China Sea**

China charged that Manila's plan to extract oil from the Reed Bank in the disputed South China Sea was a violation of Chinese sovereignty. Beijing lays claims on the entire sea, including the Spratlys, which are also partly claimed by the Philippines. The Reed Bank is about 60 miles (100 kms) west of Palawan, an

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<sup>45</sup> "Two of kind: Pragmatism drives UK carrier construction scheme," August 13, 2009, at [http://www.janes.com/news/defence/idr/idr090813\\_1\\_n.shtml](http://www.janes.com/news/defence/idr/idr090813_1_n.shtml)

<sup>46</sup> "S. Korea to Deploy New Anti-Sub Torpedoes By 2012," August 16, 2009, at <http://www.defensenews.com/story.php?i=4237570&c=ASI&s=SEA>

<sup>47</sup> Michael Knigge, "Threat to Pakistani nuclear arsenal is real, say experts," August 14, 2009, at [http://www.dw-world.de/dw/article/0,,4563482,00.html?maca=en-en\\_nr-1893-xml-atom](http://www.dw-world.de/dw/article/0,,4563482,00.html?maca=en-en_nr-1893-xml-atom)

uncontested Philippine territory, thus placing it within the country's 200-mile (320 km) exclusive economic zone. Studies have shown that the Reed Bank could contain some 3.4 trillion cubic feet (0.1 trillion cubic meters) of gas and potentially 440 million barrels of oil.

The president of Forum Energy Philippines Corp., which has completed its geophysical survey and exploration contract, stated that the company was only waiting for a go-ahead from the Department of Energy to begin extracting oil. Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes had earlier stated that the contract was still being evaluated as some government departments may have concerns about it. Local media reports quoting unnamed sources stated that the government was proceeding with caution because the area is part of a survey completed by China, the Philippines and Vietnam in 2008 to find possible petroleum reserves.

Chinese Ambassador Liu Jianchao meanwhile expressed the hope that the matter can be settled through negotiations. He added that if Manila went ahead with exploration unilaterally, it will be a violation of Chinese sovereignty.

China, Vietnam, the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia and Taiwan claim parts or all of the about 100 islets, reefs and atolls in the Spratlys, which straddle the world's busiest shipping lanes and are believed to be rich in oil, gas and fish.<sup>48</sup>

▪ **Chinese companies in the hunt to acquire overseas assets on account of their relatively low prices on account of the current oil slump**

The Chinese state-owned China National Petroleum Corporation stated on August 12 that it plans to accelerate acquisition of oil and gas assets in Latin America and Africa. CNPC executives were quoted as stating that the “relatively low prices of foreign assets” offered unprecedented opportunities for ensuring China’s energy security. Dow Jones-Efe reported that CNPC and China’s No. 3 oil company, CNOOC, together offered \$17 billion for Repsol’s 84 percent stake in the Argentina-based YPF. While CNPC and CNOOC refused comments on any possible deal, the deputy chairman of China’s powerful National Reform and Development Commission, Zhang Guobao, indicated in July that the acquisition was being actively discussed.

Reports noted that the global oil slump was giving CNPC a chance to expand its oil reserves at a comparatively low cost, in the light of China’s growing dependence on imported crude. It is expected that by 2020, China will be importing nearly 65 per cent of its energy needs. China is currently the world’s second-biggest energy consumer after the United States. Most of China’s oil imports are currently source from the Middle East, Africa and East Asia.<sup>49</sup>

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<sup>48</sup> “China objects to Philippine oil project,” *The Associated Press*, August 14, 2009, at <http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D9A2MC880.htm>

<sup>49</sup> “China Oil Giant Hunting for Assets in Latin America, Africa,” *Herald Tribune*, August 18, 2009, at <http://www.laht.com/article.asp?ArticleId=341290&CategoryId=13280>

- **Japan to provide funds to develop a deep sea port in Cambodia**

Japan on August 13 provided \$72 million at a concession rate to help develop Cambodia's Sihanoukville port, the only international deep sea port in Cambodia. Multipurpose terminals, including a bulk terminal and oil supply base will be constructed and related infrastructure will also be developed. An agreement to this effect was signed by the Japanese Ambassador to Cambodia, Shinohara Katsuhiro with Cambodian officials in the presence of Prime Minister Hun Sen.<sup>50</sup>

#### IV. INTERNAL SECURITY REVIEW

##### JAMMU AND KASHMIR

- **Dr. Manmohan Singh: Separatist ideology has no place in J&K**

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh addressing the nation on the occasion of the 63rd Independence Day noted that the recent elections in Jammu and Kashmir had demonstrated that separatist ideology had no place in the state and asserted that the central government will work to ensure that human rights are respected. He added that the central government would continue to assist the state in improving governance in the state.

Dr. Singh also assured all help to the state authorities to root out the twin menaces of terrorism and Naxalism. He promised all help to make their police forces more effective and stated that central forces would be provided wherever they were needed. Criticising naxalite violence, Dr. Singh charged that "those who think that they can seize power by recourse to the gun do not understand the strength of our democracy."<sup>51</sup>

##### MAOIST INSURGENCY

- **Three woman naxalites killed in Orissa**

Three woman naxalites were killed in an encounter between a group of about 10 to 15 CPI (Maoist) cadres and a joint team of the Andhra Pradesh and Orissa police in Orissa's Rayagada district on August 12.<sup>52</sup>

##### OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

- **Central government denies terror outfits have penetrated stock markets**

The Union government on August 11 categorically denied in the Supreme Court the allegation that certain terrorist outfits had penetrated the country's stock market surreptitiously. In a fresh affidavit on the PIL petition filed by the former Union Law Minister, Ram Jethmalani and others alleging inaction in bringing

<sup>50</sup> "Japan to fund oil supply port in Cambodia," *Xinhua*, August 14, 2009, at <http://asianenergy.blogspot.com/2009/08/japan-to-fund-oil-supply-port-in.html>

<sup>51</sup> "Separatist ideology has no place in J&K: PM," *Daily Excelsior*, August 16, 2009, at <http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/web1/09aug16/news.htm#1>

<sup>52</sup> "Three woman naxalites killed," *Hindu*, August 13, 2009, at <http://www.hindu.com/2009/08/13/stories/2009081350250100.htm>

back Rs. 70,000 crore in black money stashed away in foreign banks, government sources indicated that they did not have any “reliable credible information of any surreptitious entry of terrorist outfits into the stock market.” They added that “no fictitious or notional companies can be stated to be involved in stock market operations.”<sup>53</sup>

- **FBI: Mumbai attackers came from Karachi**

Reinforcing the Pakistan link to the Mumbai terror attack, the US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) told a special court in Mumbai on August 12 that its probe had established that the perpetrators of the attack came from Karachi. Deposing before Special Judge M.L. Tahaliyani, an FBI forensic expert stated that GPS devices recovered by the Mumbai police from the slain terrorists indicated plans for a return journey from Mumbai to Karachi and Rawalpindi. He added that this showed that the terrorists were given practical training in Pakistan to use GPS. The FBI official added that “way point” data retrieved from the GPS devices pointed to the route from Karachi to Mumbai and also positions between these two cities.<sup>54</sup>

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<sup>53</sup> “Centre denies terror outfits have sneaked into stock market,” *Hindu*, August 12, 2009, at <http://www.hindu.com/2009/08/12/stories/2009081260351000.htm>

<sup>54</sup> “Mumbai attackers came from Karachi: FBI,” *Hindu*, August 13, 2009, at <http://www.hindu.com/2009/08/13/stories/2009081358990100.htm>