

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

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1. COUNTRY REVIEW

A. SOUTH ASIA

AFGHANISTAN

- **NATO Chief calls for greater role for India, China and Russia; Karzai: Afghan forces will have full responsibility of security by 2014; Clinton says Afghan cabinet is "honest, effective, and productive"; Gates: Taliban reconciliation has to be on terms of Afghan constitution; French PM visits Kabul; Italy to provide 25 million euros in aid to Afghanistan in first half of 2010; Operation Majra launched; 12 civilians killed in NATO rocket strikes, McChrystal apologizes**

At the Munich Security Conference, NATO chief Anders Fogh Rasmussen advocated a "stronger, (and a) more inclusive security coalition" which includes countries like India, China and Russia to tackle terrorism in Afghanistan. He added that India "has a stake in Afghan stability."¹ President Karzai in his speech asserted that by 2014, "Afghan forces will have full responsibility for security throughout the country, with international forces continuing to serve in the capacity of providing backup and assistance." Karzai added that the strength of the Afghan army and the national police force will rise to 300,000 by 2012."²

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton meanwhile in an interview to CNN praised the members of the new Karzai government as "honest, effective, and productive."³ Defence Secretary Robert Gates on his part told the Fox News network that any reconciliation drive with the Taliban had to be consistent with the terms of the Afghan constitution. He added that the US supported reintegration of moderate elements but that it had serious reservations with regard to reconciliation with the Taliban leadership.⁴

The visiting French Prime Minister Francois Fillon pledged long-term support in security and reconstruction of Afghanistan and assured President Karzai that French troops would remain in Afghanistan as long as their presence was needed.⁵ The Italian Ambassador to Afghanistan Claudio Glaentzer told a press conference in Kabul on February 9 that the Italian government will provide 25 million euros during the first six months of 2010 in order to promote health, agriculture, among other sectors.⁶

¹ 'NATO Chief for India's greater role in Afghanistan', *RTT News*, February 8, 2010 at <http://www.rttnews.com/ArticleView.aspx?Id=1203336&SMap=1>

² 'Karzai wants Afghanistan security handover to begin this year', *CNN*, February 7, 2010 at <http://edition.cnn.com/2010/WORLD/asiapcf/02/07/afghanistan.security/>

³ 'Clinton lauds Karzai cabinet', *Pajhwok Afghan News*, February 8, 2010 at <http://www.pajhwok.com/viewstory.asp?lng=eng&id=89275>

⁴ 'Reconciliation has to be on govt. terms: Gates', *Pajhwok Afghan News*, February 10, 2010 at <http://www.pajhwok.com/viewstory.asp?lng=eng&id=89403>

⁵ 'French PM assures troops to stay in Afghanistan', *Pajhwok Afghan News*, February 11, 2010 at <http://www.pajhwok.com/viewstory.asp?lng=eng&id=89486>

⁶ 'Italy pledges 25m euros aid in first half of 2010', *Pajhwok Afghan News*, February 9, 2010 at <http://www.pajhwok.com/viewstory.asp?lng=eng&id=89388>

NATO forces launched a large security operation involving more than 15,000 Afghan and international troops in the town of Marja on February 13 against Taliban militants. NATO spokesperson stated that a gradual transfer of the security responsibility to Afghan forces would start after the Marja operation.⁷ In related developments, at least 10 civilians were reportedly killed in a rocket strike by ISAF during an ongoing offensive in southern Helmand province. Gen. McChrystal "deeply regretted" the loss of civilian life."⁸

PAKISTAN

- **Top Pakistani leadership urges US to reconsider aid it provides; Qureshi: Cross-border infiltration among other issues to be discussed in the forthcoming Foreign Secretary-level talks; 15 people killed in bomb blast outside police training centre in Peshawar**

In a rare meeting, the top Pakistani leadership including President Zardari, Prime Minister Gilani, Foreign Minister Qureshi, Finance Minister Tarin, Army chief Gen. Kayani met with US National Security Advisor James Jones in Islamabad on February 11. The Pakistani leadership conveyed to Gen. Jones that the US should revise its aid strategy and concentrate on projects having larger impact but limited physical presence in order to limit the growing anti-Americanism in the country. Among other things, the US was also urged to help Pakistan achieve greater access to markets in Europe and the US.⁹

Foreign Minister Qureshi meanwhile stated that cross border infiltration among other issues would be discussed in the forthcoming Foreign Secretary-level talks between India and Pakistan. Qureshi was addressing the media after addressing a public rally in Multan on February 7.¹⁰ Pakistan's High Commissioner to India Shahid Malik on his part stated that there would be no preconditions to the talks and it would cover all bilateral issues.¹¹

Bomb attacks outside a police training center near in Peshawar killed at least 15 people and injured over two dozen on February 11.¹²

⁷ 'Gradual security transfer to Afghans: Sedwill', *Pajhwok Afghan News*, February 13, 2010 at <http://www.pajhwok.com/viewstory.asp?lng=eng&id=89597>

⁸ 'NATO missiles kill 12 civilians', *Pajhwok Afghan News*, February 14, 2010 at <http://www.pajhwok.com/viewstory.asp?lng=eng&id=89644>

⁹ Baqir Sajjad Syed, 'US urged to focus on stabilising democracy, economy', *Dawn*, February 12, 2010 at <http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/dawn-content-library/dawn/the-newspaper/front-page/06-us-urged-to-focus-on-stabilising-democracy%2C-economy-220rs-07>

¹⁰ 'All issues to be discussed with India: Qureshi', *Daily Times*, February 8, 2010 at http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2010\02\08\story_8-2-2010_pg1_1

¹¹ 'No strings attached to India's talks proposal', *Daily Times*, February 11, 2010 at http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2010\02\11\story_11-2-2010_pg1_1

¹² '15 killed as twin bombs target police in Bannu', *Daily Times*, February 12, 2010 at http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2010\02\12\story_12-2-2010_pg1_1

B. EAST ASIA

JAPAN

- **Japan and South Korea insist that sanctions will not be removed until Pyongyang returns to disarmament talks; Japan and Australia likely to make a joint statement ahead of NPT RevCon**

Foreign Minister Okada Katsuya visiting Seoul acknowledged the pain caused by Japan's past policies in the region and expressed the desire that the two countries can settle their disputes and build a forward-looking relationship.¹³ 2010 marks the 100th anniversary of Japan's annexation of Korea. Okada and his South Korean counterpart Yu Myung-hwan also stated that sanctions on North Korea will not be removed until Pyongyang returned to disarmament talks and took serious steps towards scrapping its nuclear arms program.¹⁴

In other developments, the Japanese and Australian governments are likely to issue a joint statement on nuclear policy ahead of the May 2010 NPT Review Conference. Reports indicated that the statement would demand that nuclear-armed states not use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear states and limit the possession of nuclear weapons to the purpose of deterrence.¹⁵

SOUTHEAST ASIA

- **Indonesia requests renegotiation of ACFTA with China; Thai PM insists that there was no need for a mediator to deal with the country's row with Cambodia; Gen. Than Shwe: 'free and fair' elections will soon be held; Key Suu Kyi aide released**

Reports noted that the Indonesia has requested the Chinese government to renegotiate the terms of the ASEAN-China Free Trade agreement (ACFTA) which was signed in 2004 and was being implemented from January 1, 2010. The ACFTA introduced zero tariffs on 6682 tariff posts in 17 sectors, including in manufacturing, agriculture, mining and the maritime sectors.¹⁶

Thai Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva stated that there was no need for a mediator to deal with his country's current strained relationship with Cambodia. Abhisit added that a solution was possible if the two countries respected each other's position.¹⁷

Myanmar's military ruler Senior Gen. Than Shwe assured that 'a free and fair' election will soon be held. The National League of Democracy on its part

¹³ 'Okada acknowledges past wrongs in Seoul', *East Asia Forum*, February 14, 2010 at <http://www.eastasiaforum.org/2010/02/14/okada-acknowledges-past-wrongs-in-seoul/>

¹⁴ 'Sanctions stay until North Korea talks: South, Japan', *Reuters*, February 14, 2010 at http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20100211/wl_nm/us_korea_north_japan_2

¹⁵ 'Japan, Australia eyeing joint nuclear statement', *Yomiuri Shimbum*, February 14, 2010 at <http://www.yomiuri.co.jp/dy/national/T100213003195.htm>

¹⁶ 'RI sends letter to China to renegotiate ACFTA', *The Jakarta Post*, February 9, 2010 at <http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2010/02/09/ri-sends-letter-china-renegotiate-acfta.html>

¹⁷ 'Right measures used on Cambodia', *The Bangkok Post*, February 14, 2010 at <http://www.bangkokpost.com/breakingnews/168448/pm-proper-measures-used-on-cambodia>

was yet to confirm its participation in the proposed election.¹⁸ Detained Aung San Suu Kyi has also questioned the credibility of such elections unless freedom of information was allowed by the authorities.¹⁹ In a significant development, Tin Oo, a key aide of Suu Kyi was freed after seven years of detention.²⁰

C. WEST ASIA

IRAN

- **Obama warns of new UNSC sanctions as Iran says it has produced its first batch of enriched uranium; Clinton to address the annual US-Islamic World Forum in Qatar**

Even as President Ahmadinejad announced that his country has produced its first package of highly enriched uranium, President Obama urged a “fourth round of UN sanctions” unless Iran stopped uranium enrichment and accepted international proposals. Obama stated that the US and five other world powers were “moving along fairly quickly” to further increase pressure on Tehran and that progress has been made in convincing Russia to overcome its resistance to imposing new sanctions on Iran.²¹

IAEA chief Yukiya Amano in a one-page report meanwhile stated that Iran had informed agency inspectors that it had “begun to feed the (LEU) low-enriched uranium into one cascade (of uranium-enriching) centrifuges” at its plant in Natanz. He added that “currently only one cascade installed in (Natanz) is capable of enriching the LEU up to 20 percent.”²²

In other developments, US Secretary of State Clinton is to address the annual US-Islamic World Forum in Qatar. She is also expected to meet Turkish PM Recep Tayyip Erdogan at the Forum. Turkey opposes the imposition of any further sanctions on Iran. She will also make her first-ever trip to Saudi Arabia.²³

¹⁸ ‘Myanmar junta chief says elections will be ‘soon’, *The Jakarta Post*, February 12, 2010 at <http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2010/02/12/myanmar-junta-chief-says-elections-will-be-039soon039.html>

¹⁹ ‘Myanmar’s Suu Kyi undecided on junta’s elections’, *The Jakarta Post*, February 10, 2010 at <http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2010/02/10/myanmar039s-suu-kyi-undecided-junta039s-elections.html>

²⁰ ‘Burma frees 83-year old Tin Oo’, *The Bangkok Post*, February 14, 2010 at <http://www.bangkokpost.com/breakingnews/168469/burma-frees-83-year-old-tin-oo>

²¹ ‘Obama warns of swift sanctions against Iran’, *Khaleej Times*, February 10, 2010 at http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle08.asp?xfile=data/middleeast/2010/February/middleeast_February278.xml§ion=middleeast

²² ‘Iran makes first batch of higher enriched uranium’, *Khaleej Times*, February 11, 2010 at http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle09.asp?xfile=data/middleeast/2010/February/middleeast_February315.xml§ion=middleeast

²³ ‘Clinton seeking Arab help on Iran’, *BBC News*, February 14, 2010 at http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/8514772.stm

II. DEFENCE REVIEW

NATIONAL

- **India releases three joint military operational doctrines**

Gen. Deepak Kapoor, Chief of Army Staff and the Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee released three joint operational doctrines – the Joint Doctrine for Sub Conventional Operations; Joint Doctrine for Electronic Warfare; and Joint Doctrine for Maritime Air Operations formulated by the Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (HQ IDS). The doctrines emphasise on the need to enhance the joint war-fighting capabilities of the Indian armed forces as “wars would be fought not only in air, on land and sea but also in cyberspace, on electronic fronts, along information highways and media fronts.”²⁴

- **India to launch defence satellite**

Reports noted that ISRO and DRDO were developing a satellite with sensors “to pick up conversations and detect espionage activities” across the borders. The satellite to be placed in the lower-orbit by a polar satellite launch vehicle (PSLV) is likely to be launched in 2014. The components for the Rs. 100 crore satellite will be jointly developed by the Defence Avionics Research Establishment (DARE), the Defence Electronics and Research Laboratory (DLRL) and Bharat Electronics Ltd. (radar).²⁵

- **HAL demands \$10.5 million from BAE for AJT Hawk troubles**

Reports noted that HAL has demanded compensation worth \$10.5 million from UK's BAE Systems for the ‘troubles’ in assembling the Hawk Advanced Jet Trainer (AJT). India had signed a contract with BAE systems in 2004 under which 24 aircrafts were to be delivered off-the-shelf while 42 were to be assembled by HAL. During the assembly, the HAL faced problems in re-tooling and re-designing the components supplied, resulting in delay in its delivery schedule.²⁶

- **HAL, Boeing sign \$4.5 million offset deal**

Boeing and HAL signed a \$4.5 million offset deal under which the Indian company would supply weapon bay doors for the P8-I maritime reconnaissance and anti-submarine aircraft. India had earlier signed a deal with Boeing for supply of eight P8-I's in a deal worth \$2.1 billion for which Boeing is required to provide offsets of 30 per cent of the contract's value.²⁷

²⁴ Government of India, Press Information Bureau, ‘Chiefs of Staff Committee releases joint operational doctrines’, *Press Release*, February 9, 2010 <http://www.pib.nic.in/release/release.asp?relid=57725>

²⁵ ‘Soon, an intelligence satellite’, *The Hindu*, February 9, 2010 at <http://beta.thehindu.com/sci-tech/article103697.ece>

²⁶ Josy Joseph, ‘India demands \$10 million from British military firm’, *DNA*, February 10, 2010 at http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report_india-demands-10-million-from-british-military-firm_1345719

²⁷ ‘Boeing-HAL ink \$4.5-m deal for reconnaissance aircraft’, February 12, 2010 at <http://www.financialexpress.com/news/boeinghal-ink-4.5m-deal-for-reconnaissance-aircraft/578734/>