

# THE WEEK IN REVIEW

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## I. COUNTRY REVIEWS

### A. South Asia

#### Afghanistan

- **Five foreign troops killed in Southern Afghanistan; Afghan Interior Minister: All private security firms in Afghanistan to be disbanded by year end**

Reports noted that a road side bomb blast killed five foreign troops in Southern Afghanistan. The nationality of killed troops or any other information regarding the incident has not been provided by NATO led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF). The killing comes in less than a week after a Chinook helicopter carrying troops was shot down by the Taliban in Wardak Province of Afghanistan.<sup>1</sup>

In another development, according to Interior Minister of Afghanistan, two billion Afghanis collected from 36 private security companies, has been transferred to national exchequer. The Meshrano Jirga (Upper House of Afghan parliament) had summoned Gen. Bismillah Mohammadi to answer questions from senators about the security situation in the country. Mohammadi told the Senate that all security firms would halt their operations at the end of the year and that the companies would be brought under police control. He dismissed apprehensions of some lawmakers that the security firms belonging high-ranking government officials were not going to be disbanded. He insisted that all security companies were being dissolved in compliance with President Hamid Karzai's directives. A commission, having representatives from interior, defense and foreign ministries and the intelligence service, has been working on dissolving the firms without any discrimination. A number of firms belonging to government officials had already been disbanded, Mohammadi noted.<sup>2</sup>

#### Pakistan

- **Pakistan's Ambassador to the US Haqqani: Despite rise in mutual distrust due to a spate of events, Pakistan-US need each other; Pakistan interested to sell heavy defence equipments to Saudi Arabia; Foreign Minister Hina Rabbani Khar: Paksitan looking forward to carrying forward the dialogue process with India with a view to opening a new chapter; Drone attack kills 21 insurgents in North Pakistan**

The Pakistan's Ambassador to the US Husain Haqqani has said that despite rise in mutual distrust due to a spate of events, the two countries need each other. Haqqani noted that particularly due

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<sup>1</sup> "Bomb Blast kills five foreign troops in southern Afghanistan", *Dawn*, August 11, 2011 at <http://www.dawn.com/2011/08/11/bomb-blast-kills-five-foreign-troops-in-southern-afghanistan.html>

<sup>2</sup> "Private Security Firms to Halt Operations by Year End", *The Daily Outlook Afghanistan*, August 10, 2011 at [http://outlookafghanistan.net/news?post\\_id=1513](http://outlookafghanistan.net/news?post_id=1513)

to two incidents this year, a unilateral US action on Osama bin Laden hideout in Pakistani town of Abbottabad and the killing of two Pakistanis by a CIA contractor led to a negative image of the United States among people. Having said that Haqqani stated, "Pakistanis continue to see America as a fickle ally, Americans continue to doubt Pakistan's commitment in eliminating all forms of terrorism from our soil. But underneath it all there is also recognition that both countries need each other."<sup>3</sup>

In another development, Pakistan's Prime Minister Gilani who travelled to Saudi Arabia to perform Umrah, reportedly held extensive talks with Saudi King Abdullah. They discussed matters of mutual interest including enhancing trade and commerce and standing by each other in times of need. Gilani also expressed Pakistan's interest to sell heavy defence equipment, including tanks and armoured vehicles to Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia also underlined the significant role that Islamabad had to play in bringing about a peaceful, negotiated end to the Afghan imbroglio.<sup>4</sup>

Meanwhile, Pakistan's Foreign Minister Hina Rabbani Khar told the National Assembly that Pakistan was looking forward to renewed and deeper engagement with India, over which the government promised a debate in the next house session. In her first speech to the lower house after being promoted to full minister from minister of state last month, she noted that during July 26-27 talks with Indian leaders and officials in New Delhi, the two sides agreed to carry forward the dialogue so they could resolve all outstanding issues between them. The dialogue included issues like counter-terrorism; economic and commercial cooperation; the construction of Wullar barrage- Tulbul project, that Pakistan thinks will affect the flow of Jhelum river from Kashmir, the disputed Siachen glacier in Kashmir, the dispute over maritime boundary at Sir Creek, peace and security, including confidence-building measures; the dispute over the Jammu and Kashmir state and promotion of friendly exchanges. She stated, "we look forward to carrying forward the dialogue process with a view to opening a new chapter in our relations."<sup>5</sup>

In other developments, at least 21 militants have been killed in a drone operation in North West Pakistan, local intelligence officials have noted. The attack took place in Miranshah, North Waziristan area of Pakistan. The dead militants include some foreigners and are believed to be part of the Haqqani network, officials said.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> "Despite differences Pakistan and US need each other: Haqqani" *Dawn*, August 8, 2011 at <http://www.dawn.com/2011/08/08/despite-differences-pakistan-and-us-need-each-other-haqqani.html>

<sup>4</sup> "PM sounds out Saudis on weapon sale", *Dawn*, August 9, 2011 at <http://www.dawn.com/2011/08/09/pm-sounds-out-saudis-on-weapons-sale.html>

<sup>5</sup> "Pakistan seeks "new chapter" in India ties", *Dawn*, August 10, 2011 at <http://www.dawn.com/2011/08/10/pakistan-seeks-new-chapter-in-india-ties.html>

<sup>6</sup> "US drone attack kills 21 militants in Pakistan", *BBC*, August 10, 2011 at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-south-asia-14471791>

## B. East Asia

### Southeast Asia

- **Newly elected Prime Minister of Thailand Yingluck Shinawatra assumes charge; Aung San Suu Kyi's first political trip after release; Militia Releases Chinese Workers in Myanmar; Vietnam to Construct its Biggest ever Airport; Vietnam's foreign debt reaches 42.2 percent of its GDP**

After a landslide victory in recent elections, the new Thai Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra took Prime Minister's charge on August 15. It would be worth noting that Shinawatra is former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra's sister and Thailand's first female Prime Minister.<sup>7</sup>

Reports noted that Myanmar's leader Aung San Suu Kyi, on August 14, made her first political trip after her release from house arrest outside her home city.<sup>8</sup> Meanwhile, the United States considered this development as a 'positive step' in the right direction. The US State Department appreciated the Junta and said that Myanmar's government had met its responsibilities to keep Suu Kyi safe and secure.<sup>9</sup>

In another development, three Chinese engineers along with an interpreter have been released by the local militia in Myanmar after three months. According to reports, one of the major armed groups- Shan State Army negotiated with the militants for the release of the hostages. Interestingly, it is said that the kidnap was carried out in protest over the Tasang Dam being built by the China Three Gorges Project Corporation (CTGPC). Tasang Dam building has been controversial one with accusations that it has caused displacement of thousands of Shan locals.<sup>10</sup>

According to reports, Vietnam is strategising to raise \$ 10 billion to build country's biggest airport, and is seeking private investment in that regard. The proposed Long Thanh airport will be situated in the Dong Nai province which is a southern province. It is said that the airport will be built in three phases. The project, to be started in 2015 would be completed by 2020. The proposed airport, when completed, would handle 25 million passengers by 2020 and 100 million by 2035.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>7</sup> "Yingluck starts working at PM's office", *The Nation*, <http://www.nationmultimedia.com/home/Yingluck-starts-working-at-PMs-office-30162782.html> August 15, 2011.

<sup>8</sup> "Suu Kyi begins political trip, calls for 'unity' in Myanmar", *The China Post*, August 15, 2011 at <http://www.chinapost.com.tw/asia/other/2011/08/15/313401/Suu-Kyi.htm>

<sup>9</sup> "US: It is encouraged that Myanmar's Suu Kyi can travel", *The Jakarta Post*, August 16, 2011 at <http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2011/08/16/us-it-encouraged-myanmars-suu-kyi-can-trave.html>

<sup>10</sup> "Shan Militia Frees Chinese Workers", *Albany Tribune*, August 15, 2011 at <http://www.albanytribune.com/burma-shan-militia-frees-chinese-workers-15082011/>

<sup>11</sup> "Vietnam targets \$ 10 B for new major project", *Aviation Week*, August 15, 2011 at [http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/generic/story\\_channel.jsp?channel=comm&id=news/awx/2011/08/15/awx\\_08\\_15\\_2011\\_p0-358975.xml&headline=Vietnam%20Targets%20\\$10B%20For%20New%20Major%20Airport](http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/generic/story_channel.jsp?channel=comm&id=news/awx/2011/08/15/awx_08_15_2011_p0-358975.xml&headline=Vietnam%20Targets%20$10B%20For%20New%20Major%20Airport)

In other developments, according to Vietnam's Ministry of Finance reports, its foreign debt went up by 16.5 per cent last year, and was US \$ 32.5 billion. The debt accounted for 42.2 per cent of Vietnam's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Ministry has also cautioned the nation on the state of foreign exchange reserves of the country. The report mentions that foreign exchange reserves in 2010 were equal to only 187 percent of short-term outstanding loans, compared to 290 per cent in 2009 and 2,808 per cent in 2008.<sup>12</sup>

## China

- **China, Russia to boost military cooperation; Sudan, China pledge to strengthen ties; Mugabe applauds Chinese assistance to Zimbabwe; China to launch satellite for Pakistan; President Hu vows to expand relations with Mozambique; Premier Wen meets Sri Lanka president on ties; China, Ukraine to step up military co-op; Chinese, ASEAN leaders celebrate 20 years of ties; New US ambassador promises to promote ties**

On the bilateral front, Russia and China have issued a joint statement which calls for enhancing the military exchanges.<sup>13</sup> Meanwhile, the Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir and the Chinese foreign minister Yang Jiechi have stated that they want to strengthen their bi-lateral relations. China has asserted that it supports Sudan in exploiting oilfields and has helped train many Sudanese talents.<sup>14</sup>

In addition, the Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe thanked the Chinese government for extending loan to build the National Defence College.<sup>15</sup>

In an important announcement, Beijing has stated that it will be launching a communications satellite for Pakistan.<sup>16</sup> In another development, Beijing has also announced that it will increase the cooperation and investment in the agriculture, infrastructure and manufacturing sectors of Mozambique. President Hu Jintao said this during a meeting with his Mozambican counterpart President Armando Emilio Guebuza in Beijing on Wednesday.<sup>17</sup> Meanwhile, Prime Minister Wen Jiabao asserted enhanced relations with Sri Lanka during his meeting with the Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapakse.<sup>18</sup>

<sup>12</sup> "Vietnam's foreign debt tops \$ 32 billion: Ministry", *Saigon GP Daily*, August 15, 2011 at <http://www.saigon-gpdaily.com.vn/Business/2011/8/95779/>

<sup>13</sup> "China, Russia to boost military cooperation" *China Daily*, August 8, 2011 at [http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2011-08/08/content\\_13072693.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2011-08/08/content_13072693.htm)

<sup>14</sup> "Sudan, China pledge to strengthen ties" *China Daily*, August 9, 2011 at [http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2011-08/09/content\\_13078850.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2011-08/09/content_13078850.htm)

<sup>15</sup> "Mugabe applauds Chinese assistance to Zimbabwe" *China Daily*, August 10, 2011 at [http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2011-08/10/content\\_13083333.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2011-08/10/content_13083333.htm)

<sup>16</sup> "China to launch satellite for Pakistan" *China Daily*, August 10, 2011 at [http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2011-08/10/content\\_13085671.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2011-08/10/content_13085671.htm)

<sup>17</sup> "President Hu vows to expand relations with Mozambique" *China Daily*, August 11, 2011 at [http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2011-08/11/content\\_13089210.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2011-08/11/content_13089210.htm)

<sup>18</sup> "Premier Wen meets Sri Lanka president on ties" *China Daily*, August 11, 2011 at [http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2011-08/11/content\\_13096330.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2011-08/11/content_13096330.htm)



Reports noted that China has agreed towards enhanced military exchanges between Beijing and Ukraine.<sup>19</sup>

Separately, the Chinese and Indonesian leaders celebrated the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of dialogue between China and ASEAN.<sup>20</sup>

In other developments, the new Ambassador to China Gary Locke stated that he will work towards increasing cooperation and understanding between the two countries.<sup>21</sup>

## Japan

- **Japan is to provide Vietnam with 7 billion yen as Official Development Assistance (ODA); Japan plans to dispatch SDF for the UN peace keeping mission in South Sudan**

According to reports, Japan is to provide Vietnam with 7 billion yen as official development assistance (ODA) for the latter's development of space. Vietnam would reportedly spend that amount basically in developing and manufacturing two earth observation satellites to monitor natural disasters. This step is expected to boost the bilateral relationship between the two countries as well as the Japanese satellite launch industry.<sup>22</sup>

In another development, after UN Secretary General Ban Ki moon's renewed request to the Japanese government to provide Ground SDF's engineering unit to South Sudan, Tokyo is currently considering to dispatch its SDF troops for UN peacekeeping mission in the African country which gained independence on July 9 this year. However, Japanese Defense Minister Toshimi Kitazawa mentioned that Japan would not be able to send its SDF engineers unit to the new African country at present as the SDF is currently involved in the recovery operations of the affected areas of March 11 earthquake and tsunami in Japan.<sup>23</sup>

## North Korea

- **North Korea expands its missile development infrastructure**

Recently, South Korean MBC Television reportedly stated that North Korea has constructed four new assembly facilities at a missile production complex in North Korea's Pyeongannam

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<sup>19</sup> "China, Ukraine to step up military co-op" *China Daily*, August 11, 2011 at [http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2011-08/11/content\\_13096745.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2011-08/11/content_13096745.htm)

<sup>20</sup> "Chinese, ASEAN leaders celebrate 20 years ofties" *China Daily*, August 12, 2011 at [http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2011-08/12/content\\_13104337.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2011-08/12/content_13104337.htm)

<sup>21</sup> "New US ambassador promises to promote ties" *China Daily*, August 14, 2011 at [http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2011-08/14/content\\_13109302.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2011-08/14/content_13109302.htm)

<sup>22</sup> "Japan to offer ODA for Vietnam's space development", *Mainichi Shimbun*, August 14, 2011, at <http://mdn.mainichi.jp/mdnnews/national/archive/news/2011/08/14/20110814p2g00m0dm014000c.html>

<sup>23</sup> "Japan to send defense force staff to south Sudan mission", *Mainichi Shimbun*, August 10, 2011, at <http://mdn.mainichi.jp/mdnnews/national/archive/news/2011/08/10/20110810p2g00m0dm003000c.html>

province. Earlier, in that same place, Taepodong-2 missile was also believed to have been assembled. Analysis of recent satellite photos also believed to have found a cove which was in use as a missile silo and anti aircraft artillery trenches.<sup>24</sup>

## C. Central Asia & Russia

### Russia

- **Russia seeks to revive Iran's nuclear status talks; Putin promises government cash injection if needed in order to tackle the global market volatility; Gorbachev believes that Putin is not interested in solving Russia's problems; Russia-Turkmenistan to agree on new oil, gas and transport projects; India has simplifies visa procedures for Russians; Russia to open cultural centres in Abkhazia and South Ossetia; Russia to export 14 Mi-171 helicopters to Sri Lanka; Reports: Russia's defence ministry is trying to restore the missile umbrella over Russia**

Reports noted that Russia will look to revive nuclear talks between Iran and the world's biggest economic and military powers this week, hoping its special relationship with Tehran can help jolt back to life negotiations that some analysts consider "dead in the water." Presidential Security Council secretary Nikolai Patrushev is due to meet his Iranian counterpart and President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in Tehran and is expected to raise a Russian plan to restart the talks that collapsed in January. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov told U.S. President Barack Obama in July of Moscow's "step-by-step" approach under which Iran could address questions about its nuclear program and be rewarded with a gradual easing of sanctions imposed by countries that fear Tehran is seeking nuclear weapons, a charge it denies.<sup>25</sup>

In another development, Prime Minister Vladimir Putin has said that his government and central bank would inject cash into Russia's financial markets if it proved necessary. He also praised the European Central Bank's decision to purchase Spanish and Italian bonds to try to ease the euro zone sovereign debt crisis and hailed the United States' decision to increase its debt ceiling. Russia holds the world's third largest gold and foreign currency reserves, which now stand at \$535 billion. The central bank can dip into them to keep the rouble and markets stable.<sup>26</sup>

Mikhail Gorbachev, the first and only president of the Soviet Union, has accused Prime Minister Vladimir Putin of having no desire to tackle Russia's problems. Gorbachev stated, "Putin wants

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<sup>24</sup> "North Korea expands Taepodong-2 missile plant facilities: report" *Mainichi Shimbun*, August 13, 2011 at <http://mdn.mainichi.jp/mdnnews/national/archive/news/2011/08/13/20110813p2g00m0dm012000c.html>

<sup>25</sup> "Iran's 'nuclear partner' Russia seeks to revive global talks", *Reuters*, August 14, 2011, <http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/08/14/us-iran-russia-nuclear-idUSTRE77D0JJ20110814>

<sup>26</sup> "Bryanski, G, "Putin promises cash for Russian markets if needed", *Reuters*, August 9, 2011, <http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/08/09/russia-putin-economy-idUSLDE7780A220110809>



to stay in power, but not to resolve at long last our most pressing problems - education, medicine and poverty".<sup>27</sup>

According to reports, Russia and Turkmenistan are about to agree on new cooperation projects in the oil, gas and transport industries. This discussion was central to a working meeting of the co-chairs of the Russian-Turkmen intergovernmental commission for economic cooperation at Hasin hotel in the Avaz, Turkmenistan. According to the Turkmen Economics Ministry, Russia is currently second largest export trading partner of Turkmenistan and third largest importer of local products. The country has registered more than 100 offices of Russian companies operating in trade and industry. Active positions on the Turkmen market are taken by Russia's Gazprom and truck manufacturer OJSC KAMAZ. The supplies of trucks from Tatarstan since 2006 have exceeded 4,500. In January-July 2011 Gazprom purchased more than 6.4 billion cubic meters of Turkmen gas.<sup>28</sup>

According to reports, India has simplified the visa issuing procedure for Russian nationals with an aim to develop relations in the sphere of tourism. Tourist visas are now issued within three working days and are valid six months with the right of multi-entry. The issuing of a business visa for one year with the right of multi-entry also takes three days now. Last year 110,000 visas were issued.<sup>29</sup>

In another development, Russia will open its Centre of Science and Culture in Tskhinval, South Ossetia, until the end of 2011. By the same time a similar centre will have been opened in Sukhum - the capital of Abkhazia. The establishment of these centres in Abkhazia and South Ossetia is envisaged in corresponding intergovernmental agreements. Both centres will be financed at the expense of budgetary allocations beginning from 2011.<sup>30</sup>

Reports noted that Rosoboronexport will supply 14 Mi-171 helicopters to Sri Lanka. "A corresponding contract for supplying the helicopters will be carried out on account of the Russian state credit given to Sri Lanka by Russia in 2010 for purchasing Russian armaments."<sup>31</sup>

In other developments, according to reports, the Russian Space Troops will receive two sophisticated Voronezh-DM radars in December 2011, to be incorporated in the system of early warning of missile launches. One of them will start operating in Armavir, and the other - in

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<sup>27</sup> "Putin not interested in solving Russia's problems-Gorbachev", *RIA Novosti*, August 15, 2011, <http://en.rian.ru/russia/20110815/165809018.html>

<sup>28</sup> "Russia, Turkmenistan to agree on new projects in oil, gas, transport", *ITAR-TASS*, August 13, 2011, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/203412.html>

<sup>29</sup> "India simplifies visa issuing procedures for Russians", *ITAR-TASS*, August 11, 2011, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/202557.html>

<sup>30</sup> "Russia to open its cultural centers in Abkhazia, South Ossetia", *ITAR-TASS*, August 8, 2011, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/200272.html>

<sup>31</sup> "Rosoboronexport to supply 14 helicopters to Sri Lanka", *ITAR-TASS*, August 15, 2011, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/204074.html>

Kaliningrad, the Russian westernmost city. This radar will ensure Russian nuclear parity in case a Euro ABM is deployed. In 2012 a similar facility will be put into operation in the Irkutsk Region. The task of the advanced radars will be to detect missiles, blasted off from other countries. Using these radar stations, Russia will fully restore control over air space around its borders.<sup>32</sup>

## II. DEFENCE REVIEW

### National

- **User trial of BrahMos Block-III supersonic cruise missile successful; Indian Navy will acquire six more submarines under Project-75**

The Indian Army at 1100 hours on August 12 successfully conducted the user trial of BrahMos Block-III supersonic cruise missiles that has the ability to engage inaccessible targets inside hillocks. The Block III version has the capability of scaling mountainous terrain and can take a steep dive to engage targets located inside hillocks which are otherwise inaccessible. This was the 25th test of the cruise missile which has already been inducted in the Army and Navy. Army has plans to induct the missile for mountain warfare. The missile has the capability to engage ground targets from a very low altitude with minimum radar signature and is considered best for surgical operations. Jointly developed by India and Russia, BrahMos is a stealth supersonic cruise missile that can be launched from submarines, ships, aircraft or land and considered one of the fastest cruise missiles in the world. BrahMos can gain a speed of Mach 2.8. It has a two-stage propulsion system, with a solid-propellant rocket for initial acceleration and a liquid-fuelled ramjet responsible for sustained supersonic cruise.<sup>33</sup>

Meanwhile, the Indian Navy will acquire six more submarines under Project-75(India) apart from nearly half a dozen such vessels which are under construction under an earlier programme. In his written reply to a question in Rajya Sabha on acquisition of new generation submarines Defence Minister A K Antony noted, "To increase the submarine fleet of Indian Navy, a programme for construction of six submarines is currently underway at Mazagaon Docks Limited under Project-75,". In his written reply to a question in Rajya Sabha on acquisition of new generation submarines, Antony said, "Further, Acceptance of Necessity for acquisition of six more submarines under Project-75(India) has been accorded by the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)." Government constantly reviews the security environment and accordingly decides about induction of appropriate defence equipments and platforms including submarines for the Navy, the minister told the House.

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<sup>32</sup> "Defence Ministry restoring missile umbrella", *ITAR TASS*, August 11, 2011, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/201969.html>

<sup>33</sup> "Army successfully conducts trial of BrahMos Block-III missile," *Bharat Rakshak*, August 12 2011, at <http://www.bharatrakshak.com/NEWS/newsrf.php?newsid=14999>

"In addition, the existing anti-submarine capability is being augmented by induction of surface and air assets," he said.<sup>34</sup>

## International

### ● After US, now Japan questions Chinese aircraft carrier; Pakistani Naval ships accorded ceremonial welcome at the Colombo Port

Reports noted that Japan's defence minister called on China on Friday to explain why the latter needs an aircraft carrier, after Beijing sparked increased concerns over its military expansion by starting sea trials for the vessel. "As an aircraft carrier, it is of a highly maneuverable and offensive nature. We want China to explain the reasons why it needs it," the defence minister told reporters. "There is no doubt that it will have a big impact on the region," he added. Earlier, China put the revamped Soviet-built aircraft carrier Varyag to sea on Wednesday, prompting the United States to call for an explanation.

Beijing has sought to play down the vessel's capability, saying it will mainly be used for training and "research". In its annual defence report last week, Japan expressed concern over China's growing assertiveness and widening naval reach in nearby waters and the Pacific and over what it called the "opaqueness" of Beijing's military budget.

China criticised the report as "irresponsible", insisting its drive to modernise its forces was entirely defensive.<sup>35</sup>

Meanwhile, two Pakistani Naval Ships, PNS Shamsheer and PNS Nasr, have docked at the Colombo Port, Sri Lanka Navy said on Tuesday.

PNS Shamsheer, a guided missile frigate had 28 officers and 215 sailors while PNS Nasr, a fleet oil tanker had 23 officers and 296 sailors on board.

The two commanding officers called on the Sri Lankan Navy Commander Somathilake Dissanayake and discussed bilateral issues, the Naval sources said. The two ships were accorded a ceremonial welcome by the Sri Lanka Navy. The Navy said the visit was a part of the regular bilateral co-operation between the two Navies which will further strengthen the contacts between the naval forces of the two south Asian neighbours.<sup>36</sup>

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<sup>34</sup> "Indian Navy to acquire six more submarine," *Brahmand*, August 12, 2011, at <http://www.brahmand.com/news/Indian-Navy-to-acquire-six-more-submarines/7755/1/13.html>

<sup>35</sup> "Japan calls for China to explain aircraft carrier," *Brahmand*, August 13, 2011, at <http://www.brahmand.com/news/Japan-calls-for-China-to-explain-aircraft-carrier/7759/1/13.html>

<sup>36</sup> "Two Pakistani Naval ships in Colombo," *Brahmand*, August 11, 2011, at <http://www.brahmand.com/news/Two-Pakistani-Naval-ships-in-Colombo/7743/1/14.html>

### III. INTERNAL SECURITY REVIEW

#### Jammu & Kashmir

- **A Special Police Officer (SPO) and an army soldier held; Unrest in Maisuma; Militant escapes a jail in south Kashmir's Shopian district**

According to reports, the 12-hour long encounter in Poonch in which a top LeT militant from Pakistan was said to have been killed, was allegedly fake and the victim has turned out to be a mentally challenged youth and a beggar by profession. A Special Police Officer (SPO) and an Army soldier who allegedly staged the killing of the civilian as part of a conspiracy to gain personal benefits were arrested.<sup>37</sup>

In another development, reports noted that at least 15 youth were detained during nocturnal raids in different parts of downtown city which triggered protests and stone pelting in Maisuma. The protestors were demanding release of the youth. Six youth were also detained in south Kashmir's Islamabad (Anantnag) town. According to reports, police raided Maharaj Gunj, Nowhatta, Khanyar and other areas and arrested about 15 youth.<sup>38</sup>

In other developments, a militant escaped from a jail in south Kashmir's Shopian district. The held militant Muzaffar Malik whose Public Safety Act (PSA) was quashed by Court was to be handed over to his parents.<sup>39</sup>

#### North East India

- **Two Manipuri rebels held in Tripura; Garo National Liberation Army (GNLA) rebels killed in Meghalaya; Arms restriction on pro-talk ULFA leaders; Sixteen Manipuri ultras surrender; Bomb defused in Kamakhya-Puri Express; Ahead of Independence day, ULFA militants arrested in Jorhat**

Two members of a Manipur-based separatist outfit have been arrested with a huge quantity of electronic goods in Tripura. Tripura police have informed their Manipur counterparts about the detention of the two Kangleipak Communist Party (KCP) rebels. The security forces have recovered 13 mobile sets, two laptops, one high powered digital camera, nine mobile sim cards, Indian currency and incriminating documents from them.<sup>40</sup>

<sup>37</sup> "SPO, soldier arrested", *Greater Kashmir*, August 8, 2011 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2011/Aug/9/spo-soldier-arrested-93.asp>

<sup>38</sup> "Arrests, protest in city", *Greater Kashmir*, August 8, 2011 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2011/Aug/9/arrests-protests-in-city-91.asp>

<sup>39</sup> "Militant escapes", *Greater Kashmir*, August 11, 2011 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2011/Aug/12/militant-escapes-98.asp>

<sup>40</sup> "Two rebels held, NE on alert as I-Day approaches", *The Assam Tribune*, August 9, 2011 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=aug0911/at038>

In another development, four rebels, including a top commander of the Garo National Liberation Army (GNLA), were killed and a police officer wounded in a gunbattle in Meghalaya. The battle broke out in Bolkinggre forests near Williamnagar, the district headquarters of East Garo Hills when the rebels fired at the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) commandos who were tracking them down.<sup>41</sup>

According to reports, no leader of the pro-talk faction of the United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) will be allowed to carry weapons and those having security threat will be provided PSOs for their protection. According to highly placed sources in the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), pro-talk faction of the ULFA would have to surrender weapons immediately after the signing of the agreement for suspension of operations. However, it is yet to be decided whether the weapons would be kept in the custody of the police or whether those would be kept in the double lock system in the camps to be set up for keeping the members of the outfit.<sup>42</sup>

Reports noted that sixteen underground cadres of banned outfits operating in Manipur laid down arms before the DGP and IG of Assam Rifles (South) at a surrender ceremony at the Assam Rifles headquarter at Mantripukhri. The surrendered underground cadres include three from the United National Liberation Front, two from People's Revolutionary Party of Kangleipak (S), four from People's Revolutionary Army, two from United Tribal Liberation Army, three from People's United Liberation Front and one each from Kanglei Yawol Kanna Lup (KYKL-Oken), Kangleipak Communist Party (Noyon).<sup>43</sup>

However, a passenger train carrying about 500 people had a miraculous escape in Assam when police seized a powerful bomb from one of the coaches. According to a police spokesperson the bomb was recovered from one of the coaches of the Kamakhya-Puri Express near the Pancharatna station in western Goalpara district. The train was bound for Puri in Orissa from Assam's main city of Guwahati.<sup>44</sup>

In other developments, ahead of the Independence Day celebrations, Jorhat police detected the blueprint of a bomb blast in Jorhat and arrested an ULFA cadre, Lachit Das from the town. Following confessions by the arrested Lachit, another ULFA member Arup Konwar was arrested from Sonari in Sivasagar district.<sup>45</sup>

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<sup>41</sup> "Four GNLA rebels killed in Meghalaya", *The Assam Tribune*, August 9, 2011 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=aug0911/at043>

<sup>42</sup> "Arms restriction on pro-talk ULFA leaders", *The Assam Tribune*, August 8, 2011 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=aug0911/at09>

<sup>43</sup> "Sixteen Manipur ultras surrender", *The Assam Tribune*, August 9, 2011 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=aug1011/oth07>

<sup>44</sup> "Bomb found in Assam train, defused", *The Assam Tribune*, August 12, 2011 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=aug1211/at013>

<sup>45</sup> "ULFA militants held in Jorhat, Sivsagar", *The Assam Tribune*, August 12, 2011 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=aug1311/state06>

## IV. UNITED NATIONS (UN) REVIEW

- **UN Security Council condemns attacks against joint United Nations-African Union force in Darfur (UNAMID); Security Council expresses concern over Yemen crisis; Representatives from IBSA visit Syria; India reiterates demand for UNSC reforms**

Following attacks on a joint United Nations-African Union force in Darfur (UNAMID), the UN Security Council condemned the attacks and called on the Sudanese government to ensure bringing the perpetrators to justice. The Council also stressed that impunity for those that attack peacekeepers be ended.<sup>46</sup>

In another development, the UNSC voiced its concern over what it termed as a “serious deterioration of the economic and humanitarian situation” in Yemen. The 15-member body urged all parties in Yemen to reject violence and display maximum restraint. It also called on the parties to seek a solution to the crisis immediately that “meets the needs and the aspirations of the Yemeni people for change”.<sup>47</sup>

Meanwhile, representatives from India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA) visited Syria to appeal to the Syrian authorities to put an end to the violence against civilians and to implement democratic reforms in the country.<sup>48</sup>

In other development, addressing the Lok Sabha, the Minister of state for foreign affairs, Praneeet Kaur reiterated that India demands UNSC membership expansion from 15 to 25, with the addition of six permanent and four non-permanent members. The minister also stated that there has been a steady increase of support for India’s candidature in the Council.<sup>49</sup>

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<sup>46</sup> “Security Council calls for end to impunity in attacks on UN-AU force in Darfur”, *UN News Centre*, August 8, 2011 at <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=39257&Cr=Darfur&Cr1=>

<sup>47</sup> “Security Council voices grave concern over worsening situation in Yemen”, *UN News Centre*, August 9, 2011 at <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=39263&Cr=Yemen&Cr1=>

<sup>48</sup> “Envoys from India, South Africa, Brazil head to Syria”, *IBN Live*, August 09, 2011 at <http://ibnlive.in.com/generalnewsfeed/news/envoys-from-india-south-africa-brazil-head-to-syria/781433.html>

<sup>49</sup> “India wants UNSC club expanded to 25 states”, *The Times of India*, August 11, 2011 at [http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2011-08-11/india/29875852\\_1\\_unsc-membership-intergovernmental-negotiations-candidature-for-permanent-membership](http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2011-08-11/india/29875852_1_unsc-membership-intergovernmental-negotiations-candidature-for-permanent-membership)