

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

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I. COUNTRY REVIEWS

A. South Asia

Afghanistan

- **US officials: Afghan government deliberately derailed US-Taliban talks; Afghan chargé d' affaires in Pakistan summoned after killing of 25 Pakistani security personnel in Chitral cross border raid by terrorists based in Afghanistan**

According to reports, the US officials have confirmed that the government of Afghanistan had deliberately derailed its talks with Taliban by leaking details about the emissary, Tayyab Agha. The emissary has gone underground since then. Even Pakistan was kept in dark about the talks, US officials reported. The Taliban were not keen on engaging Pakistan and had requested to keep the meetings a secret. The Afghan government's fear of getting sidelined by the US-Taliban axis was reason for the derailing of talks, officials noted.¹

In another development, the Afghan chargé d' affaires in Pakistan was summoned to the Foreign Office after Chitral cross border raid by terrorists based in Afghanistan. He was told that such activities will not be tolerated and that action should be taken to stop it. 25 Pakistani security personnel were killed in this attack. According to reports, earlier, in June this year, Afghan Ambassador Umar Daudzai was handed a demarche after a similar attack. But Afghan authorities did little to address Pakistan's concerns.²

Pakistan

- **Pakistan PM Gilani: Creation of new provinces will not weaken Pakistan; 11 killed in Quetta mosque attack**

Pakistani Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani has said that creation of new provinces will not weaken Pakistan. He also said that coalition will prevail and PPP will continue its policy of reconciliation. He hinted at overall progress in Pakistan under his tenure with some challenges as well.³

In another development, 11 people were killed when a bomber attacked a mosque in Quetta, in south western Pakistan. The people were leaving after Eid prayers, when the bomb exploded in

¹ "Afghan government derailed US talks with Taliban", *Dawn*, August 30, 2011 at <http://www.dawn.com/2011/08/30/afghan-govt-derailed-us-talks-with-taliban.html>

² "Afghan envoy summoned after Chitral cross border ambush", *Dawn*, August 28, 2011 at <http://www.dawn.com/2011/08/28/afghan-envoy-summoned.html>

³ "New Provinces will not weaken Pakistan; Gilani", *Dawn*, September 1, 2011 at <http://www.dawn.com/2011/09/01/new-provinces-will-not-weaken-pakistan-gilani.html>

a car park area. The victims were mostly from Shia sect. No one has claimed responsibility for the attack.⁴

B. East Asia

China

(Aug. 22-Sep. 04)

- **Xinjiang to lead nation's new opening-up drive; Consultation to settle China-Philippines disputes; China calls for stable ties with Vietnam; China urges more efforts in Iran nuclear issue; China dismisses Pentagon report, cites commitment to global peace; President Hu meets French counterpart Sarkozy; Chinese Foreign Minister Yang hailed the China-Pakistan relationship as a "high-quality strategic cooperative partnership"**

In a significant development, the Chinese government has decided that the inland regions of the country will be opened up to the world and this process will be lead by Xinjiang. This was announced by Vice-Premier Li Keqiang.⁵

On the regional front, leaders from China and the Philippines have agreed to handle the disputes properly with the help of bi-lateral consultations. This will also help in improving the bi-lateral relations.⁶ On the other hand Beijing has also declared that it will work with Vietnam to improve the bi-lateral relationship.⁷

On the international issues, China has called for efforts to strengthen the diplomatic efforts towards resolving the Iranian nuclear issue.⁸ Meanwhile, China has totally dismissed an annual report by Pentagon which assesses the Chinese military modernization and also enhances the Chinese mainland threat to Taiwan.⁹

Meanwhile, in an important development, Chinese President Hu Jintao met with his French counter part Nicolas Sarkozy to discuss the European debt crisis and the upcoming G-20 summit.¹⁰

⁴ "Bomber kills 11 outside mosque in Quetta, Pakistan", *BBC*, August 31, 2011 at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-south-asia-14727621>

⁵ "Xinjiang to lead nation's new opening-up drive" *China Daily*, September 2, 2011 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2011-09/02/content_13600329.htm

⁶ "Consultation to settle China-Philippines disputes" *China Daily*, September 1, 2011 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2011-09/01/content_13599820.htm

⁷ "China calls for stable ties with Vietnam" *China Daily*, September 1, 2011 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2011-09/01/content_13598782.htm

⁸ "China urges more efforts in Iran nuclear issue" *China Daily*, September 1, 2011 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2011-09/01/content_13599556.htm

⁹ "China dismisses Pentagon report, cites commitment to global peace" *China Daily*, August 27, 2011 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2011-08/27/content_13203149.htm

In other developments, Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi held talks with his Pakistani counterpart, Hina Rabbani Khar. Both sides pledged to promote bilateral ties. Yang hailed the China-Pakistan relationship as a “high-quality strategic cooperative partnership,” saying the two countries are close neighbors and have forged an all-weather friendship.¹¹

Japan

- **Yoshihiko Noda elected as the new Prime Minister of Japan**

In a significant development, Yoshihiko Noda has been elected as the new Prime Minister of Japan. As the 62nd Prime Minister of Japan, Noda is to head the 95th Cabinet to be constituted in the history of the country’s constitutional politics.¹²

South Korea

- **US plans to sell surveillance planes to South Korea**

Reports noted that Obama administration has started its consultation with the US Congress regarding the former’s plan to sell Global Hawk surveillance planes and related ground facilities to South Korea. Since North Korea’s two attacks on South Korea which killed 50 people last year, Seoul has been under pressure to strengthen its defence capabilities. The South has been seeking to acquire the Global Hawk drone since 2005, as it would help the former to conduct surveillance operation independently. It is a significant step as far as South Korea is concerned, as Seoul is to resume wartime operational control from the US in December 2015. Global Hawk reportedly is capable of flying at an altitude of 18 kilometers or higher for more than 30 hours. As it has an operational range of 3,000 kilometers, if Seoul succeeds in acquiring the drones, it would not only be able to cover the entire North Korean region, but also parts of China and other neighbouring countries.¹³

North Korea

- **Kim Jong-il arrives at Pyongyang after his visits to Russia and China**

After wrapping up his week-long visit to Russia and China, North Korean leader Kim Jong-il arrived at Pyongyang. It was his first visit to Russia after 2002. During his recent visit, he had a summit meeting with Russian President Dmitry Medvedev. During his visit, Kim hoped to return to Six Party Talks before next year. He also reportedly agreed to cooperate with Russia on a gas

¹⁰ “President Hu meets French counterpart Sarkozy” *China Daily*, August 25, 2011 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2011-08/25/content_13193210.htm

¹¹ “China thanks Pakistan’s support on core issues” *China Daily*, August 24, 2011 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2011-08/24/content_13184093.htm

¹² “Noda named prime minister/Unity among DPJ groups essential for party leadership picks”, *The Yomiuri Shimbun*, August 30, 2011, at <http://www.yomiuri.co.jp/dy/national/20110830dy02.htm>

¹³ “US begins consultation with Congress for selling drones to South Korea”, *Korea Herald*, September 1, 2011, at <http://www.koreaherald.com/national/Detail.jsp?newsMLId=20110901000766>

pipe line project which will be utilized to transport gas from Russia to South Korea. On his way home from Russia, Kim toured an industrial complex in northern China. Although Kim's trip to China is widely considered as a calculating move to mollify the Chinese leadership after his successful Russia trip, the North Korean leader reportedly talked about his readiness to put a moratorium on the North's nuclear and missile testing to Chinese State Councilor Dai Bingguo in Daqing, home to China's largest oil field.¹⁴

C. Central Asia & Russia

Central Asia

- **Kazakh president calls for tighter control over religious groups; Cameco signs MOU with Kazakh state-owned atomic firm; Chinese firms acquire Kazakh gas field; Kazakhstan hopes to join OECD as an observer before assuming formal membership; First China-Eurasia Expo held in Urumqi; Kyrgyzstan becomes EDB member; Kyrgyz villagers protest against Chinese firms; Afghanistan joins Cross-Border Transport Agreement project; Dushanbe summit on regional security held**

The Kazakh president Nursultan Nazarbaev has called for tighter control over religious groups to protect the state from extremism. These comments by the President to the parliament came after the security forces in western Kazakhstan encountered suspected extremists, planning acts of terrorism.¹⁵

In another development, Kazakhstan is interested in becoming a full-fledged member in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Kazakh Vice Prime Minister Yerbol Orynbayev said last week. The minister hopes that Kazakhstan will join the OECD first as an observer, and then inquire about assuming formal membership. Earlier this interest was expressed by Kazakh Prime Minister Karim Massimov during a state visit to France.¹⁶

In the meanwhile, Canada's leading uranium producer Cameco last week penned a tentative agreement with Kazakhstan to step up output by some 33 percent at a mine in the center of the country. In a memorandum of understanding (MOU) signed with its Kazakh partner and state-owned atomic firm Kazatomprom, the two plan to boost annual output of uranium at the Inkai mine from 3.9 million pounds to 5.2 million pounds.¹⁷ Also, Chinese conglomerate Xinjiang

¹⁴ "Kim Jong-il completes his trip to Russia and China", *Joongangdaily*, August 29, 2011, at <http://koreajoongangdaily.joinsmsn.com/news/article/Article.aspx?aid=2940825>

¹⁵ "Kazakh president calls for tighter control of religious groups", *Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL)*, September 01, 2011 at http://www.rferl.org/content/kazakh_president_calls_for_tighter_control_of_religious_groups/24314953.html

¹⁶ "Kazakhstan seeks OECD membership", *Universal Newswires*, August 29, 2011 at <http://www.universalnewswires.com/centralasia/kazakhstan/viewstory.aspx?id=10063>

¹⁷ "Canadian uranium firm Cameco readies Kazakh production increase", *Universal Newswires*, September 01, 2011 at <http://www.universalnewswires.com/centralasia/kazakhstan/viewstory.aspx?id=10087>

Guanghui Industry and China's Weyn Investment have agreed to buy all shares in the Mangishlak Munay field in southern Kazakhstan from the Kazakh firm for \$20 million.¹⁸

Reports noted that leaders from several Central Asian states last week attended the inaugural China-Eurasia Expo in the western Chinese city of Urumqi. China hopes this expo, the largest of its kind in the western province of Xinjiang, will spur economic development in the impoverished region by forging critical trade links with neighboring states Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Pakistan, Mongolia and India.¹⁹ A Chinese commerce official, during the China-Eurasia trade expo in Urumqi, said that member states from the Russian- and Chinese-led Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) should create a free trade region. The proposal, expressed at a meeting of high-level SCO officials in the capital city of Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region, would see a merging of smaller free trade areas into a single zone.²⁰

Reports noted that Kyrgyzstan has completed its accession to full membership of the Eurasian Development Bank (EDB). The bank was formed by Kazakhstan and Russia in 2006 to assist former Communist states in developing their markets. The other members include Tajikistan, Belarus and Armenia.²¹ In the meanwhile, villagers of Terek-Say in the Chatkal district of the southern Jalalabad province held a protest several days ago that blocked the road leading to the gold mine, located in Ala-Buka, a town near the border with Uzbekistan. Last week residents near a Chinese-run gold mine in Kyrgyzstan demanded to be hired or threatened to resume their disruptive protest rallies. The demonstrations are the most recent in a string of protests against Chinese firms in the volatile Central Asian republic.²²

According to reports, top officials from Tajikistan and the Kyrgyz Republic finalized the accord with their Afghanistan counterparts in the Thai capital Bangkok on the cross-border transportation pact that will accelerate the passage of people, goods and services between them. The Cross-Border Transport Agreement (CBTA) project is overseen by the Asian Development Bank (ADB).²³ In the meanwhile, four-party summit on regional security was held on September 1, in Dushanbe between the leaders of Russia, Tajikistan, Afghanistan and Pakistan. Commenting on the results of the four-party summit earlier Russian President Dmitry Medvedev stated that the countries

¹⁸ "Two Chinese firms to jointly acquire Kazakh gas field for \$20M", *Universal Newswires*, August 30, 2011 at <http://www.universalnewswires.com/centralasia/kazakhstan/viewstory.aspx?id=10069>

¹⁹ "Central Asian leaders head to first-ever China-Eurasia expo", *Universal Newswires*, September 01, 2011 at <http://www.universalnewswires.com/centralasia/kazakhstan/viewstory.aspx?id=10094>

²⁰ "China proposes free trade agreement for SCO states", *Universal Newswires*, September 05, 2011 at <http://www.universalnewswires.com/centralasia/kazakhstan/viewstory.aspx?id=10110>

²¹ "Kyrgyzstan completes accession to EDB", *Universal Newswires*, August 30, 2011 at <http://www.universalnewswires.com/centralasia/kyrgyzstan/viewstory.aspx?id=10072>

²² "Kyrgyz residents threaten protests on Chinese mine", *Universal Newswires*, August 30, 2011 at <http://www.universalnewswires.com/centralasia/kyrgyzstan/viewstory.aspx?id=10067>

²³ "Afghanistan to join Central Asian cross-border transport agreement", *Universal Newswires*, August 30, 2011 at <http://www.universalnewswires.com/centralasia/kyrgyzstan/viewstory.aspx?id=10066>

in Central Asia should ensure security in this region, and the assistance of other countries has an important but not decisive significance.²⁴

In other developments, the Russian President and his Tajik counterpart said, after the bilateral meeting, that Russia will remain at its three Tajik military bases for a further 49 years. Russia has approximately 7,000 troops stationed in three Tajik bases – Qurghonteppa, Kulob and Dushanbe. And in return, Russia provides Tajikistan military with high-tech weapons.²⁵

Russia

- **Duma elections in Russia set for December 4 this year; Construction of Russia's backed South Stream gas project on schedule; Russia's GDP to grow by 4% in 2011; Russia-Ukraine to hold consultations on ABM; Presidents of Russia, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Tajikistan hold a regional meeting in Dushanbe; Russia's arms show to feature over one thousand military products; Russia's first Borey class nuclear submarine to be assigned to Pacific Fleet in 2011; Russia invites Libya's Transitional National Council members to visit Russia to discuss key issues; Russia-Ukraine Foreign Ministers to focus on gas talks in Moscow; French President Sarkozy calls for cooperation with Russia in creating ABM system in Europe**

Russian President Dmitri Medvedev has signed a decree naming December 4 as the date for elections to the lower house of parliament, the State Duma. There are seven registered political parties in Russia, all of which have already expressed their intention to take part in Duma elections. The United Russia party, led by Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, will seek to retain its majority in the 450-seat Duma. United Russia is scheduled to hold its annual congress in Moscow on September 23-24. The date for the presidential elections has not yet been set.²⁶

According to reports, Gazprom has said that work is being carried out along expected lines for the South Stream gas pipeline. Work on the marine part of the South Stream, project has been finished, and the drafting of national feasibility studies has also been completed in the European countries participating in the project. A general feasibility study for the project will be ready by October and the implementation of the project "is proceeding strictly as scheduled and the first gas will be supplied in December 2015."²⁷

In another development, Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin has said that the country's GDP would exceed 4 percent this year. He believed that that Russia's economy will be able to fully

²⁴ "Medvedev, Pakistan president discuss regional security in Dushanbe", *Itar Tass*, September 02, 2011 at <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c154/217023.html>

²⁵ "Russia to extend lease of Tajik military bases by 49 years", *Universal Newswires*, September 02, 2011 at <http://www.universalnewswires.com/centralasia/tajikistan/viewstory.aspx?id=10102>

²⁶ "Medvedev sets Duma elections for December 4", *Radio Free Europe*, 29th August, 2011, http://www.rferl.org/content/russia_duma_elections_december_4/24311595.html

²⁷ "South Stream construction goes as scheduled- Gazprom", *ITAR TASS*, 5th September, 2011, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/218855.html>

compensate the crisis slump by the beginning of 2012. This will enable Russia to attain the pre-crisis development level.²⁸

Reports noted that experts of Russia and Ukraine will hold consultations on ABM issues. They have raised concern about how these issues are advancing and how the sides' stands correlate with the necessity of strengthening global European security.²⁹

In a significant development, Presidents of Russia, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Tajikistan have discussed in a regional meeting in Dushanbe how to prevent illegal drugs moving through the region, and the security measures needed to do so. In a joint statement following their talks in the Tajik capital, Dushanbe, Russia's Dmitry Medvedev, Pakistan's Asif Ali Zardari, Afghanistan's Hamid Karzai, and Tajikistan's Emomali Rahmon agreed to work more closely to combat extremism and drug trafficking. The leaders also urged the NATO-led coalition in Afghanistan to step up the training of local security forces as it completes its planned staged withdrawal. Medvedev, who also held bilateral meetings with Karzai and Zardari, said that true stability and rule of law in the region can only be achieved by local governments. The four leaders also pledged cooperation on regional energy projects and transport corridors.³⁰

Meeting on the sidelines of the summit, Medvedev and Tajikistan's President Rahmon signed an agreement on cooperation in guarding Tajikistan's frontier with Afghanistan and discussed extending Russia's use of military facilities in Tajikistan. The two presidents watched as another agreement on cooperation in securing Tajikistan's southern border was signed by Russia's Federal Security Service and Tajikistan's State Committee for National Security. During the last year, Russian officials have been speaking about a return of Russian border guards to Tajikistan. The Russian guards withdrew from the Tajik-Afghan border in 2005. Medvedev and Rahmon also agreed to sign a formal agreement early next year extending the presence of Russia's 201st Division in Tajikistan for another 49 years.³¹

Reports noted that more than 1,100 types of military equipment will be showcased at an arms show in Russia's Urals region on September 8-11. The Nizhny Tagil 2011 exhibition will host 64 Russian and 20 foreign defense companies. Thirty-two official delegations from 17 countries are expected to attend the event.³²

According to reports, Russia's first Borey class strategic submarine will be put into service with the Pacific Fleet in 2011. The Yury Dolgoruky, which has recently completed sea trials in the White Sea, is expected to be commissioned by the Russian Navy pending the outcome of Bulava

²⁸ Russia's GDP to exceed 4% in 2011-Putin", ITAR TASS, 5th September, 2011, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/218556.html>

²⁹ "Russia, Ukraine experts to hold consultations on ABM issues", ITAR TASS, September 5, 2011 at <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/218457.html>

³⁰ "Regional leaders in Dushanbe discuss drugs, security, trade", *Radio Free Europe*, September 2, 2011 at http://www.rferl.org/content/tajikistan_russia_afghanistan_pakistan_summit_dushanbe/24315779.html

³¹ Ibid

³² "Russian arms show to feature over 1,000 military products", *RIA Novosti*, September 5, 2011 at http://en.rian.ru/military_news/20110905/166453847.html

ballistic missile testing. On August 27, the Yury Dolgoruky conducted a successful launch of a Bulava missile at a range of 9,100 kilometers (about 5,650 miles). Three other Borey class nuclear submarines, the Alexander Nevsky, the Vladimir Monomakh, and Svyatitel Nikolai (St. Nicholas) are in different stages of completion. Russia is planning to build eight of these subs by 2015. Putin has said that the government had allocated 4.7 trillion rubles (\$160 bln) for the modernization of the Russian Navy until 2020.³³

In another development, Russia has invited representatives of the Transitional National Council of Libya to Russia on their request to discuss the future of Russian energy projects in that country. Earlier, Russian presidential special envoy for Mikhail Margelov conveyed an invitation to the National Transitional Council of Libya (NTC) to visit Moscow in the short run. A wide range of political and economic issues will be in the focus of the meeting.³⁴

Reports noted that the gas issue is expected to be high on the agenda of the negotiations between Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and visiting Ukrainian counterpart Konstantin Grishchenko. The consultations between the foreign ministers are preceded by a meeting between Russian President Dmitry Medvedev and his Ukrainian counterpart Viktor Yanukovich on the sidelines of a CIS summit in Dushanbe. The foreign ministers will also discuss the demarcation of the border between the countries, the border delimitation on the Kerch Strait, and cooperation between the foreign ministries. The ministers will also discuss the terms of the Black Sea Fleet deployment in the Crimea.³⁵

In other developments, French President Nicolas Sarkozy has voiced his support for developing military cooperation with Russia in creating a NATO anti-missile defence in Europe. The French leader expressed this opinion at talks with NATO secretary-general Anders Fog Rasmussen.³⁶

D. West Asia

Iran

- **Iran's Supreme leader Ayatollah Khamenei worried about the west and its allies gain ground in the Arab Spring; Iran's Defense Minister Ahmad Vahidi: Iran attained self-sufficiency in short and medium range missiles**

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei warned the Arab world not to allow Western

³³ "First Borey class nuclear sub to be assigned to Pacific Fleet in 2011", *RIA Novosti*, September 5, 2011 at http://en.rian.ru/military_news/20110905/166452107.html

³⁴ "Moscow invites Libya's TNC representatives to visit RF-Lavrov", *ITAR-TASS*, September 3, 2011 at <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/217761.html>

³⁵ "Russia, Ukraine FMs to focus on gas talks in Moscow", *ITAR-TASS*, September 5, 2011, at <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/218133.html>

³⁶ "Sarkozy for cooperation with Russia in creating ABM system in Europe", *ITAR-TASS*, September 3, 2011 at <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/217544.html>

powers and Israel to “confiscate” the region’s pro-reform uprisings, in comments that appear to reflect the Islamic republic’s unease about their standing in a profoundly altered Middle East. Khamenei, in a speech broadcast on Iran’s state TV to mark the end of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, reflected the added worries that the West and its allies could gain ground in the Arab Spring. Khamenei stated, “Muslim nations in Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Yemen or other countries need vigilance today. They should not allow enemies confiscate the victories they’ve achieved,” ... “they should not forget that those who have come to the scene in Libya (U.S. and NATO) today and consider themselves owners of the uprising are the same people who used to sit and drink with those who once suppressed the Libyan nation.” He also added that “muslim nations in Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Yemen or other countries need vigilance today and they should not allow enemies confiscate the victories they’ve achieved.” However, he did not mention Syria, where Assad’s regime is struggling to contain opposition forces.³⁷

Reports noted that Iran has tried to walk two paths since the pro-democracy rebellions began in February – lauding the popular revolts as modern-day heirs to Iran’s 1979 Islamic revolution, while maintaining relentless pressure on opposition groups at home. But Iran is at risk of serious political setbacks. Iran’s main Mideast ally, Syria’s Bashar Assad, is under growing international pressure for his fierce crackdown on anti-government protests.³⁸

In another development, new domestically manufactured land-to-air missiles were delivered to the Khatam-ol-Anbia Base during a ceremony attended by Defense Minister Ahmad Vahidi on September 4. Vahidi said the medium-range Shalamche missile with a maximum speed of Mach 3 can hit targets and can be used in electronic warfare. The missile will be fired from the Mersad missile system, which is equipped with sophisticated radar signal processing technology and an advanced launcher. The range of the missile with the current 40 kilometers will increase in the future, he added. Vahidi noted that the medium-range anti-aircraft systems are regarded as highly important in aerial battles and these systems can hit almost 40 to 50 percent of their targets. Vahidi claimed that Iran has attained self-sufficiency in short and medium-systems and it will gradually be able to produce all of its anti-aircraft systems.³⁹

Iraq

- **Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK) unites with Party of Free Life of Kurdistan (PJAK) in fighting against Iranian forces; Iranian Ambassador to Baghdad Hassan Danaiifar: Iraqi Prime Minister expected to visit Iran in the near future**

Reports noted that the separatist Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK), which has battled Turkey for years, said it will aid another north Iraq-based Kurdish rebel group in fighting against Iranian forces. Iran’s elite Revolutionary Guards said earlier that they had resumed operations against

³⁷ “West cannot ‘confiscate’ Arab Spring: Iran,” *Khaleej Times*, September 1, 2011, at http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle08.asp?xfile=data/middleeast/2011/September/middleeast_September2.xml§ion=middleeast

³⁸ Ibid

³⁹ “Iran unveils a new land-to-air missile,” *Mehr News Agency*, September 4, 2011 at <http://www.mehrnews.com/en/newsdetail.aspx?NewsID=1399038>

Kurdish rebels in northwestern Iran along the Iraqi border, inflicting “heavy blows.” PKK spokesman Dozdar Hammo told “from now on we will fight on the side of the fighters of PJAK (Party of Free Life of Kurdistan) against the Iranian attacks that are trying to enter the Kurdistan region of Iraq, especially in the Qandil area.” He also added that “we are a force to protect the people of Kurdistan. We see it is our duty to protect the achievements of the people of Kurdistan in any part.” Fighters of the PJAK, which has ties with the PKK that has been battling Turkish forces since 1984, have clashed repeatedly with Iranian forces in the mountainous border region in recent years. In July, Iran launched a major offensive against rebels of the PJAK, targeting their bases in Iraqi Kurdistan along the Iran-Iraq border, and shelling the area for weeks. Human Rights Watch has charged that Iran may be deliberately targeting civilians in its campaign against the rebels.⁴⁰

In another development, Iranian Ambassador to Baghdad Hassan Danaiifar has said that Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maleki is scheduled to pay a visit to Tehran in the near future. The speaker of the Iraqi Council of Representatives Usama Abdul Aziz al-Nujayfi also plans to take a trip to Tehran to hold talks with high-ranking Iranian officials, Danaiifar told.⁴¹

Syria

● EU imposes oil embargo on Syria; ICRC chief visits Syria for talks with President

Reports noted that the European Union has decided to impose sanctions on Syrian oil exports in order to put more pressure on President Bashar Al-Assad, whose security forces killed six more protesters. The EU has already banned Europeans from doing business with dozens of Syrian officials, government institutions and military-linked firms which are tied to the violent repression of the protests. Now, four more people and three entities were added to that sanctions list.⁴² Further, France said it was pushing for a UN Security Council resolution that sets up United Nations sanctions against Syria.

In response, the Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov criticised the embargo, saying unilateral sanctions would not help mitigating the crisis and on contrary this would ruin the partnership approach to any crisis.⁴³

In another development, Syrian forces killed 26 people in different parts of the country in their move to suppress anti-regime protests. The bloodshed came despite the European Union

⁴⁰ “Iraq-based Kurdish rebels to unite against Iran,” *Khaleej Times*, September 3, 2011, at http://www.khaleejtimes.com/displayarticle.asp?xfile=data/middleeast/2011/September/middleeast_September39.xml§ion=middleeast&col=

⁴¹ “Iraqi PM and parliament speaker to visit Tehran,” *Mehr News Agency*, September 4, 2011, at <http://www.mehrnews.com/en/newsdetail.aspx?NewsID=1399279>

⁴² Oweis, Khaled Yacoub (2011), “EU agrees oil embargo as Syrians march against Assad”, *The Daily News Egypt*, September 2, 2011, at <http://www.thedailynewsegyp.com/region/eu-agrees-oil-embargo-as-syrians-march-against-assad.html>

⁴³ “Russia Condemns European Sanctions on Syria”, *Syrian Arab News Agency*, September 4, 2011, at <http://www.sana.sy/eng/337/2011/09/04/367217.htm>

announcing the Syrian oil embargo and as EU ministers warned of possible further sanctions over the regime's failure to respond to global calls to halt the repression. Meanwhile, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said that its chief Jakob Kellenberger reached Damascus for talks with President Bashar Al Assad over access to prisoners and areas affected by the crackdown.⁴⁴

Libya

- **National Transitional Council (NTC) forms supreme security council to secure Tripoli; Secret documents reveal intelligence links with Gaddafi regime; European Union lifts sanctions on Libya**

The National Transitional Council (NTC) announced the creation of a 17-member supreme security council in Libya under the chairmanship of Ali Tarhuni in order to secure the capital Tripoli. The committee, which includes majority of the revolutionary groups in the capital, also decided to include other groups under its umbrella. Tarhuni also announced the creation of another committee charged with the responsibility of centralising prisoners of war in a safe and secure location to protect and ensure their legal and human rights.⁴⁵

In another development, secret documents, discovered by the Human Rights Watch and the British Independent newspaper's journalists, have revealed that the intelligence services of the UK and the United States had a regular dialogue with their counterparts in Libyan Intelligence during the war on terror. The files, discovered in former Libyan foreign minister and head of Libya's intelligence service Mussa Kussa's private offices in Tripoli, revealed that the US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) had abducted several suspected militants from 2002 to 2004 and handed them to Tripoli. Separately, the UK's MI6 apparently gave details of the dissidents to Gaddafi regime. Further, it was revealed that the US had used Libya as a base for its controversial rendition programme.⁴⁶

In other developments, reports noted that following discussions by the foreign ministers of the European Union member states on how to help Libya's transition to a new beginning, the EU decided to lift sanctions on 28 Libyan entities including ports, oil firms and banks. The lifting of the sanctions came a day after the 'Friends of Libya' conference in Paris freed up billions of dollars that had been frozen during the Libyan conflict. The easing of the restrictions are intended to help National Transitional Council rebuild the nation. The EU also discussed the possibility of helping Libya with security sector reforms and police training, after the NTC had called for help in reforming the judiciary and improving governance.⁴⁷

⁴⁴ "ICRC chief visits Syria as death toll rises", *The Jordan Times*, September 4, 2011, at <http://www.jordantimes.com/?news=40944>

⁴⁵ "NTC forms supreme council to secure Tripoli", *The Jordan Times*, September 4, 2011, at <http://www.jordantimes.com/?news=40938>

⁴⁶ "Secret Documents Reveal UK-US Spy Links with Al Qathafi's Regime", *The Tripoli Post*, September 3, 2011, at <http://www.tripolipost.com/articledetail.asp?c=1&i=6827>

⁴⁷ "European Union Lifts Sanctions on Libya Imposed Under Al Qathafi", *The Tripoli Post*, September 2, 2011, at <http://www.tripolipost.com/articledetail.asp?c=1&i=6821>

Egypt

- **Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights (EIPR) claims at least 100 prisoners killed in Egypt revolt; Ten Kuwaiti lawyers to join the defence team of Mubarak**

According to a report by the Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights (EIPR), at least 100 prisoners were killed and many others injured in Egypt during the January 2011 popular uprising that ousted President Hosni Mubarak's regime. The investigation found crimes committed at five detention facilities, including Torah prison in Cairo and Giza's Al Qatta. EIPR noted that the killings were deliberate and were not related to escape, pointing that the bodies bore bullet wounds to the head or chest. Based on the report, the EIPR called on Egypt's government to form an independent commission of inquiry and grant compensation to the dead and injured.⁴⁸

In another development, reports noted that ten Kuwaiti lawyers would join the defence team for Egypt's ousted President Hosni Mubarak for the third session of his trial on charges of corruption and authorizing the killing of protesters. It was opined that close ties between Kuwait and the Mubarak family and respect for Egypt's support of Kuwait after it was invaded by Iraq in 1990 might have prompted the lawyers' decision. The addition of ten Kuwaitis brought Mubarak's defence team to 1,700 lawyers, of which only 50 would be allowed to attend the trial sessions, reports added.⁴⁹

Israel

- **Israel seeks amendment of peace treaty with Egypt**

Reports noted citing senior Israeli government officials that Israel will look into making necessary changes to the military appendix of the 1979 Peace Treaty with Egypt that regulates the presence of Egyptian troops in the Sinai Peninsula. Israel will also seek to hold strategic dialogue with Egypt as well as conduct a comprehensive review of bilateral ties. The Israeli initiative stems from the desire to establish better relations with Egypt's ruling Supreme Council of the Armed Forces (SCAF).⁵⁰

Palestine

- **EU urge for direct peace talks to ease Middle East tension**

In order to ease the threat of renewed Middle East tension triggered by a Palestinian bid for full

⁴⁸ "At least 100 prisoners killed in Egypt revolt – NGO", *The Jordan Times*, August 30, 2011, at <http://www.jordantimes.com/index.php?news=40916>

⁴⁹ Fahmy, Omar and Amena Bakr (2011), "Ten Kuwaiti lawyers to help defend Mubarak", *The Daily News Egypt*, September 2, 2011, at <http://www.thedailynewsegypt.com/egypt/ten-kuwaiti-lawyers-to-help-defend-mubarak.html>

⁵⁰ Marwa Al-A'sar (2011), "Israel may seek amendment of peace treaty with Egypt, says report", *The Daily News Egypt*, September 1, 2011, at <http://www.thedailynewsegypt.com/other-top-stories/israel-may-seek-amendment-of-peace-treaty-with-egypt-says-report.html>

United Nations membership, the EU foreign ministers urged both Israel and the Palestinians to return to direct peace talks, while offering to take a lead role in recommending a solution acceptable to all sides. However, despite the fast-approaching deadline, EU Foreign Policy Chief Catherine Ashton insisted that a return to the talks table remained a possibility and urged the EU to remain united on the issue while insisting there could be no common position, other than the need for a resumption of peace talks, until the Palestinians issue further details on the move.⁵¹

E. Africa

Somalia

- **Somali leaders to pave the way for new government; OCHA warns against spreading famine in Somalia**

A three day conference of the Somali leaders is scheduled in Mogadishu in an attempt to pave the way for a new government in the country. The UN-backed meeting is proposed to gather leaders of the Transitional Federal Government as well from the breakaway Puntland region and other semi-autonomous territories. Key focus of the conference will be on winding up the transitional government, writing a new charter and holding elections. Further, the talks would focus on improving security, national reconciliation, a new constitution, governance and parliamentary reforms.⁵²

In another development, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has warned that famine affected areas of southern Somalia will likely spread in coming days, with the situation continuing to worsen despite massive international aid efforts. The UN has earlier described Somalia as facing the most severe humanitarian crisis in the world.⁵³

South Africa

- **Malema-Zuma division divides ANC top officials**

According to reports, spearheaded by its President Jacob Zuma and Secretary General Gwede Mantashe, the leadership of the ANC appears determined to restrict the youth league, which it perceives went out of control. Specifically, the League members are mounting a massive mobilisation campaign to take over the ANC divisions and influence the outcome of provincial party conferences and other important events such as the policy conference. Even the ANC's

⁵¹ "EU in damage control over Palestinian UN bid", *The Jordan Times*, September 4, 2011, at <http://www.jordantimes.com/?news=40941>

⁵² "Somalia: Leaders to Pave the Way for New Government", *AllAfrica.com*, September 3, 2011, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201109030072.html>

⁵³ "Famine likely to spread in Somalia", *The Jordan Times*, September 4, 2011, at <http://www.jordantimes.com/?news=40950>

top six officials could not escape the divisive climate; they are known to differ both over the charges against Malema and on leadership choices leading up to Mangaung.⁵⁴

Sudan

● Sudan declares emergency in Blue Nile State

Reports noted that Sudan's armed forces clashed with the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) in Blue Nile State, opening a third battle front in North Sudan where conflict is still ongoing in South Kordofan and Darfur. However, both sides have accused each other of starting the fighting.⁵⁵ Following the eruption of clashes, the Sudanese president Omar Hassan al-Bashir declared a state of emergency in Blue Nile and dismissed its governor Malik Agar. There were also reports of aerial bombardments and subsequent displacement in the region. Al-Bashir further decreed the appointment of the commander of Sudan's army (SAF) base in the Blue Nile's capital al-Damazin, Major General Yahya Mohamed Khair, as a military ruler of the state.⁵⁶

South Sudan

● South Sudan relocates its capital to Ramciel

Following consultations with various stakeholders, the Republic of South Sudan has finally decided to relocate its national capital from Juba to Ramciel in Lakes state of Greater Bahr el Ghazal region. The decision was reached in the Council of Ministers meeting chaired by the President Salva Kiir Mayardit and is based on a report presented to the cabinet by an adhoc committee formed to look into the issue. Ramciel or Ramkiel, which is few hundreds of kilometres away from Juba, is geographically at the centre of South Sudan and is almost no man's land. The area borders Jonglei state and is not far from Central, and Eastern Equatoria states.⁵⁷

Nigeria

● Over 100 dead in Nigerian floods; Nigerian authorities suspect Mamman Nur masterminded UN attack; West warns against excessive force on Boko Haram

According to Umar Mairiga, Disaster Management Coordinator for the Nigerian Red Cross Society, at least 102 people were killed when the Eleyele dam collapsed in south-west Nigeria because of torrential rain and flooding. Several houses and bridges were also swept away in heavy flooding around Ibadan, 150km north of the economic capital Lagos, displacing many

⁵⁴ "Malema-Zuma division divides ANC top six", *Mail and Guardian*, September 2, 2011, at <http://mg.co.za/article/2011-09-02-malemazuma-division-divides-anc-top-six>

⁵⁵ "Sudan: War Opens On Third Front in North", *AllAfrica.com*, September 2, 2011, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201109030083.html>

⁵⁶ "Sudan's president declares emergency in Blue Nile, sacks governor", *Sudan Tribune*, September 2, 2011, at <http://www.sudantribune.com/Sudan-s-president-declares,40030>

⁵⁷ "South Sudan relocates its capital from Juba to Ramciel", *Sudan Tribune*, September 3, 2011, at <http://www.sudantribune.com/South-Sudan-relocates-its-capital,40027>

residents. An official of the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) said the drains in the town were blocked by rubbish, meaning the water could not escape normally and resulting in heavier floods.⁵⁸

In another development, Nigerian authorities investigating the bombing of the United Nations headquarters in Abuja, in which twenty-three persons were killed and 76 others injured, have arrested two members of Islamist sect Boko Haram a week before the attack and said they suspect a third member with an al-Qaeda connection Mamman Nur led the plot. However, they did not disclose details of the investigation, beyond mentioning that the two suspects in detention before the bombing had given “valuable statements”.⁵⁹

In a related development, Nigeria seems to be under pressure from Western agencies and capitals, especially from the United States, on how to handle the rising Boko Haram insurgency and its links to international terrorism. While diplomats from the Western nations like the US are urging caution in the use of military approach, officials of the United Nations repeatedly demand that justice be served to the victims of extremism.⁶⁰

II. DEFENCE REVIEW

National

- **Two top Army generals seek criminal contempt proceedings against Defence Secretary; INS Hansa will remain important for the Indian navy**

Two serving lieutenant generals, Lt Generals JS Bajwa and PG Kamath from the Indian Army have approached the Armed Forces Tribunal (AFT) seeking institution of criminal contempt proceedings against the Secretary, Defence, Ministry of Defence (MoD) accusing him of “open defiance” of the Tribunal’s orders. In their pleas, they have asked the AFT to initiate “appropriate criminal contempt proceedings against the named contemnors as well as their subordinate officers who are responsible for open defiance of order dated June 2 passed by the Tribunal.” In the order passed on 2 June, the Tribunal had asked the government to keep one vacancy each of corps commander vacant for the two officers but the respondents did not do so, the counsel for the two officers, SS Pandey, said. This alleged act “needs to be viewed seriously,” they pleaded.⁶¹

⁵⁸ “Over 100 dead in Nigeria floods”, *Mail and Guardian*, September 1, 2011, at <http://mg.co.za/article/2011-09-01-over-100-dead-in-nigeria-floods/>

⁵⁹ “Mamman Nur masterminded UN attack, says Nigeria”, *Mail and Guardian*, August 31, 2011, at <http://mg.co.za/article/2011-08-31-mamman-nur-masterminded-un-attack-says-nigeria/>

⁶⁰ “US, Others Warn Against Excessive Force On Boko Haram”, *Nigerian Guardian*, September 4, 2011, at http://www.ngrguardiannews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=59967:us-others-warn-against-excessive-force-on-boko-haram&catid=1:national&Itemid=559

⁶¹ “Army generals seek contempt proceedings against secretary, MoD”, *Domain-B*, 03 September 2011, at http://www.domain-b.com/defence/land/indian_army/20110903_contempt_proceedings.html

In another development, Commodore Ravneet Singh, Officer Commanding INS Hansa, told reporters that India's biggest naval airbase INS Hansa will retain its assets and position as an important station for the Indian Navy, despite the commissioning of INS Kadamba in Karnataka. "There will be a lot of ships in Karwar (INS Kadamba) and also there will be a short runway. But (INS) Hansa will remain Hansa. We would continue doing same thing which we have been doing. There will be no shifting of assets from this base," he said. Singh said the base had been exceptionally useful in curbing piracy and anti-social activities in Arabian Sea. It is also home for MiG-29Ks that would be attached to aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya, and Sea Harriers attached to aircraft carrier INS Viraat.⁶²

International

● Israel deploys third Iron Dome battery to protect Israeli towns and cities from rockets and missiles; US clarifies its stand on the Pentagon report on China

The Israeli Defence Minister Ehud Barak has said that Israel has installed a third battery of its Iron Dome rocket interceptors, placing it in the southern city of Ashdod, a target of rockets fired from Gaza. "Installation of the third battery is part of the national emergency plan which I announced several weeks ago and is a real expression of the protection of Israeli residents from rockets and missiles," Barak said. The first of its kind in the world and still at the experimental stage, it is not yet able to provide complete protection, but it has successfully brought down several rockets fired from Gaza. Designed to intercept rockets and artillery shells fired from a range of between four and 70 kilometres (three and 45 miles), Iron Dome is part of an ambitious multi-layered defence programme to protect Israeli towns and cities.⁶³

Meanwhile, in a damage repair exercise, the Pentagon has dismissed the Chinese allegation that its recent report on China's military buildup is trying to provoke confrontation with its neighbours, in particular with India, saying this is America's assessment on the issues for national security. "Every time we issue that report, Chinese have concerns over it. We hope that do not look at it negatively, but it tends to happen that way. It is again our assessment of all of the issues for national security and military perspective on China," Pentagon Spokesman Col Dave Lapan said. The Pentagon report, titled 'Military and Security Developments Involving the People's Republic of China' had said China has deployed more advanced and survivable solid-fuel nuclear capable CSS-5 MRBM missiles against India as a 'deterrent posture'. China has reacted sharply over the report and has said that the claims were made with "ulterior motives". "The conclusion is totally groundless. China and India are not enemies, not opponents, but neighbours and partners," Chinese Defence Ministry spokesman Tang Yujun, told reporters at a regular news conference in Beijing.⁶⁴

⁶² "INS Hansa will retain its importance: Navy", *Bharat Rakshak*, September 3, 2011, at <http://www.bharat-rakshak.com/NEWS/newsrft.php?newsid=15165>

⁶³ "Israel deploys third Iron Dome battery", *Brahmand*, September, 01, 2011, at <http://www.brahmand.com/news/Israel-deploys-third-Iron-Dome-battery/7880/1/13.html>

⁶⁴ "Report on China not to create wedge with its neighbours: US", *Brahmand*, September, 02, 2011, at <http://www.brahmand.com/news/Report-on-China-not-to-create-wedge-with-its-neighbours-US/7901/1/13.html>

III. INTERNAL SECURITY REVIEW

Jammu & Kashmir

- **Defence Secretary visits valley; Two militants killed in Pulwama; Tension grips Pulwama; Security forces foiled an exfiltration bid, six youth arrested in Rajouri; Clashes in Baramulla; Militant killed and soldiers injured in Kupwara**

Newly appointed Defence Secretary Shashikant Sharma arrived on a three-day visit to the valley. The Defence Secretary is accompanied by Vice Chief of Army Staff, Lieutenant General AS Lamba. The high level delegation was given a detail brief on the current security situation in Jammu & Kashmir and the recent ceasefire violation by Pakistan by HQ Northern Command and Lieutenant General SA Hasnain, General Officer Commanding, Chinara Corps.⁶⁵

Two militants were killed in an encounter with soldiers and police in Pulwama district while unidentified gunmen shot at and injured a truck driver in a village in north Kashmir's Sopore area of Baramulla district. The gunfight between militants and forces started at Mitrigam village, six kilometres from Pulwama. Incidents of stone pelting on police were also reported from the area during which one police constable was injured.⁶⁶

In another development, tension gripped South Kashmir's Pulwama town when word about inscriptions on fire crackers, which could hurt the religious sentiments, spread. Following the reports District Magistrate ordered a ban on the sale and use of fire crackers in the area. According to reports, the news about inscriptions on fire crackers spread in the town people tried staging protest. However, police and CRPF men beat up protesters with batons. The demonstrators retaliated with stones triggering clashes, which continued for sometime.⁶⁷

Meanwhile, security forces claimed to have foiled an exfiltration bid and arrested at least six youth in Rajouri, who were trying to cross-over to other side of LoC. According to official sources based on the inputs from Military Intelligence, soldiers of 63 Rashtriya Rifles and district police laid a special Naka at Kalakote check post and intercepted a Tata Sumo.⁶⁸

Reports noted that police resorted to baton charge and tear gas shelling in north Kashmir's Baramulla town and Nowhatta area to disperse youth after Friday prayers ended. A group of youth held protest demonstrations and started pelting stones at police and paramilitary personnel

⁶⁵ "Defence Secretary in Valley", *Greater Kashmir*, September 4, 2011 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2011/Sep/5/defence-secretary-in-valley-42.asp>

⁶⁶ "2 militants killed in Pulwama", *Greater Kashmir*, August 29, 2011 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2011/Aug/30/2-militants-killed-in-pulwama-44.asp>

⁶⁷ "Pulwama tense", *Greater Kashmir*, September 1, 2011 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2011/Sep/2/pulwama-tense-3.asp>

⁶⁸ "6 Shopian Youth arrested in Rajouri", *Greater Kashmir*, September 2, 2011 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2011/Sep/3/6-shopian-youth-arrested-in-rajouri-29.asp>

in Baramulla town after Hurriyat Conference (G) Chairman Syed Ali Shah Geelani addressed a Friday gathering there. Force personnel fired several rounds of tear smoke shells to chase the protestors.⁶⁹

In other developments, a militant was killed and two Army soldiers injured in an encounter in Handwara area of north Kashmir's Kupwara district. The gun-battle broke out between militants and soldiers in Wuder Bala area of Handwara, some 30 kilometers from district headquarter Kupwara, in the wee hours after 21 Rashtrya Rifles (RR) and SOG launched a search operation in the area. Two soldiers sustained minor injuries during the operation.⁷⁰

North East India

- **Centre-ULFA sign ceasefire agreement; Pro-Bodoland protests in Assam; Drugs worth crores seized in Manipur; Tezpur police rescue 22 minors**

In a significant development, nearly seven months after ULFA and the Centre had met for what was described as an ice-breaking meeting, the three sides, including Assam government, formally signed a ceasefire pact. An official statement issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs announced that a tripartite agreement for suspension of operations (SoO) against ULFA was signed. The Government of India was represented by the Joint Secretary (North-East), Ministry of Home Affairs, Shambhu Singh, while Government of Assam was represented by the Home Commissioner Jishnu Barua and Addl. Director General of Police Khagen Sharma. ULFA was represented by Shashadhar Chaudhuri, Chitaban Hazarika and Raju Barua.⁷¹

In another development, hundreds of supporters of the pro-talk faction of National Democratic Front of Boroland - Progressive (NDFB-P) staged demonstrations in various parts of Assam and submitted a memorandum demanding a separate state. Protesters handed a memorandum to the district administration to be submitted later to the Prime Minister demanding a peaceful solution to the Bodo tangle. The supporters also wanted speeding up of the process of peace talks between the NDFB-P and the government over the issue.⁷²

Reports noted that soldiers of 31 Assam Rifles based on a tip-off recovered a huge cache of narcotic drugs from two persons in Manipur's border town Moreh. The recovered drugs are about 300 kg of Pseudo-ephedrine tablets valued around Rs 5 crore in the open market.⁷³

⁶⁹ "Clashes in Baramulla, old city", *Greater Kashmir*, September 2, 2011 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2011/Sep/3/clashes-in-baramulla-old-city-85.asp>

⁷⁰ "Militant killed, 2 soldiers injured", *Greater Kashmir*, September 2, 2011 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2011/Sep/3/militant-killed-2-soldiers-injured-62.asp>

⁷¹ "Centre, ULFA sign ceasefire agreement", *The Assam Tribune*, September 3, 2011 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=sep0411/at05>

⁷² "Pro-Bodoland protests in Assam", *The Assam Tribune*, September 1, 2011 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=sep0111/at012>

⁷³ "Drugs worth Rs 5 crore seized in Manipur", *The Assam Tribune*, August 29, 2011 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=aug3011/oth05>

In other developments, following intelligence input, Tezpur police rescued 22 children of Arunachal Pradesh in the five to ten year age group. According to police sources, one Prema Changma of Arunachal Dirang Basti and his sister Kuki Changma tried to take the children hailing from different areas of the hill state to Bangalore. The brother-sister duo wanted to convince the police here that the children were being taken to Bangalore Tibet refugee camp, for religious education, they could not provide any valid documentary evidence to police. Later they were arrested and the children were taken back to Arunachal.⁷⁴

IV. UNITED NATIONS (UN) REVIEW

- **India completes one-month Presidency in Security Council; UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) mandate extended for another year; Security Council not united on Syria; Security Council expressed concern over maritime piracy in Gulf of Guinea**

Having completed its one-month tenure as the President of the Security Council, India said its constructive approach to important issues has demonstrated that it will strengthen the Council once it becomes a permanent member. India's permanent representative to the Council, H.S. Puri stated that the country has worked with a "voice of moderation, based on realism". According to him, India was appreciated for the manner in which it handled the issues which included situation in Libya, Sudan, Syria and Horn of Africa.⁷⁵

In another development, the Security Council extended the mandate of the UN peacekeeping forces in southern Lebanon, UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) until 31 August 2012. While commending the positive role of UNIFIL, the Council strongly condemned all terrorist attacks against UNIFIL and urged all parties to respect the safety of UNIFIL and other UN personnel.⁷⁶

Reports noted that with the Security Council members working on two competing resolutions, neither having the support to be passed, the stalemate over Syria continued. While the US, France, Germany and Portugal circulated a draft resolution calling for arms embargo and financial sanctions against the Syrian leader, Bashar al-Assad and others in the regime. Russia and China on the other hand, have disapproved of this resolution and Russia introduced its own draft resolution urging Assad's regime to implement reforms hold talks with the opposition.

⁷⁴ "Tezpur police rescue 22 minors", *The Assam Tribune*, August 30, 2011 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=aug3111/state07>

⁷⁵ "India to help strengthen UNSC when it becomes permanent: Puri", *The Economic Times*, September 02, 2011 at http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2011-09-02/news/30105976_1_permanent-membership-permanent-unsc-members-puri

⁷⁶ "Mandate of UN peacekeepers in southern Lebanon extended for another year", *UN News Centre*, August 30, 2011 at <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=39419&Cr=Leban&Cr1=>

Meanwhile, India, South Africa and Brazil have been reluctant to impose any kind of sanctions against Syria.⁷⁷

In other developments, the UN Security Council expressed its concern over increasing maritime piracy, armed robbery and hostage-taking in the Gulf of Guinea that were having adverse effects on security, trade and other economic activities in the sub-region. The Council members stressed on the need for regional coordination and leadership in order to develop a comprehensive strategy to address the threat.⁷⁸

⁷⁷ "UN stalemate over Syria", *Financial Times*, August 29, 2011 at <http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/548324ec-d24e-11e0-9137-00144feab49a.html#axzz1X35tXrjO>

⁷⁸ "Security Council voices concern over maritime piracy in West Africa's Gulf of Guinea", *UN News Centre*, August 30, 2011 at <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=39421&Cr=West+Africa&Cr1=>