

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

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I. COUNTRY REVIEWS

A. South Asia

Afghanistan

- **Pakistan and Afghanistan to discuss Saudi Arabia's role in Afghan reconciliation process; International Crisis Group report on Afghanistan warns that the departure of NATO forces from Afghanistan in 2014 could be followed by the government's collapse; Two US troops killed in Eastern Afghanistan**

Reports noted that Pakistan's Foreign Minister Hina Rabbani Khar and her Afghan counterpart, Dr Zalmay Rasoul will travel to Saudi Arabia to discuss the kingdom's possible role in the Afghan reconciliation process. This comes on the heels of recent interactions of Saudi officials with representatives of the Taliban and Hizb-e-Islami party of former Afghan premier Gulbuddin Hekmatyar. Previously, Saudi Arabia was unwilling to get involved in the Afghan peace process unless the Taliban shunned al Qaeda. But now the kingdom has agreed in principle to act on a joint request from the US, Pakistan and Afghanistan.¹

In another development, according to reports, a new International Crisis Group (ICG) report on Afghanistan warns that the departure of NATO forces in 2014 could be followed by the government's collapse and even civil war, unless steps are taken now. It added that polls in two years' time would be "plagued" by fraud unless the state acted to ensure a clean vote.²

In other developments, according to reports, two American troops were killed by insurgents in eastern Afghanistan on October 6. No other information about the deaths was disclosed. This area has seen heavy fighting in recent months.³

Pakistan

- **Pakistan and Russia have decided to support an "all-inclusive intra-Afghan dialogue"; Afghan security officials expel over 30 'Pakistani clerics' from mosques in southern Kandahar province; Report: Pakistan is at high risk of food crisis**

Reports noted that Pakistan and Russia have decided to support an "all-inclusive intra-Afghan dialogue" to guide the war-ravaged country towards lasting peace. "The Afghan endgame was one of the key subjects that came under discussions between Pakistani authorities and the Russian

¹ "Reconciliation Process: Pakistani, Afghan FM's to discuss Saudi role in Riyadh", *The Express Tribune*, October 9, 2012 at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/448949/reconciliation-process-pakistani-afghan-fms-to-discuss-saudi-role-in-riyadh/>

² "Afghanistan's Government could collapse after 2014-Report", *BBC*, October 8, 2012 at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-19868043>

³ "Two US troops die in Afghanistan", *Dawn*, October 6, 2012 at <http://dawn.com/2012/10/06/two-us-troops-die-in-afghanistan/>

foreign minister, who travelled to Islamabad last week,” a senior Pakistan government official said. Situation in Afghanistan is believed to have been one of the key motivating factors that compelled the two countries to move beyond their bitter past.⁴

In another development, according to reports, Afghan security officials have expelled over 30 ‘Pakistani clerics’ from mosques in southern Kandahar province over ‘provocative speeches’ to encourage people for an ‘uprising against the government’. Hamdullah Nazak, Governor of district Dand in Kandahar, said that Pakistani clerics had come from Balochistan and had no valid documents. “When the authorities asked them to provide documents and prove their identity, they failed,” Nazak said.⁵

In other developments, a recently released report called the Food Security Risk Index by a British consultancy has revealed that Pakistan is at a high risk of food crisis in the coming years. The report ranks Pakistan 27th out of 48 countries named in the report.⁶

Bangladesh

- **Khleda Zia visits China; USPACOM wants to build closer “military-military relations” with the Bangladesh Navy**

Reports noted that Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) Chairperson Khleda Zia left for China on October 14, 2012 on a seven-day visit at the invitation of Chinese Communist Party.⁷

In another development, according to reports, the Pacific Command (PACOM) of the United States wants to build closer “military-military relations” with the Bangladesh Navy to fulfill its mandate to ensure better security environment in the Asia Pacific. This was noted by visiting Commander of the US Pacom Admiral Samuel J Locklear on October 10, 2012.⁸

Sri Lanka

- **First round of nuclear talk between India and Sri Lanka held in New Delhi; Sri Lankan Foreign Minister to attend Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) in Kuwait; UNICEF Regional Director for South Asia meet President Rajapaksa; Sri Lanka lifts travel ban on Tamil Nadu; Sri Lankan to open consulate in Melbourne**

India and Sri Lanka held the first round of talks on comprehensive civil nuclear cooperation in New Delhi on October 11. Reportedly, it was agreed that the two sides would work towards a

⁴ “Pakistan, Russia to support intra Afghan dialogue”, *The Express Tribune*, October 8, 2012 at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/448546/pakistan-russia-to-support-intra-afghan-dialogue/>

⁵ “Over 30 Pakistani clerics expelled from Afghanistan”, *The Express Tribune*, October 10, 2012 at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/449394/over-30-pakistani-clerics-expelled-from-afghanistan/>

⁶ “Pakistan at high risk of food crisis: Report”, *The Express Tribune*, October 11, 2012 at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/449942/pakistan-at-high-risk-of-food-crisis-report/>

⁷ “Khaleda Zia leaves for China today”, *The Daily Star*, October 14, 2012 at <http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=253724>.

⁸ “US wants tighter military ties with Bangladesh: Says US Pacom Commander Samuel J Locklear”, *The Daily Star*, October 11, 2012 at <http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=253363>.

comprehensive agreement on bilateral civil nuclear cooperation. Discussions included, inter alia, training of officials, nuclear safety and response to nuclear accidents.⁹

In another development, Sri Lankan foreign minister Gamini Lakshman Peiris left for Kuwait on October 13 to participate in the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) foreign ministerial meeting.¹⁰

Meanwhile, UNICEF Regional Director for South Asia, Ms. Karin Hulshof met President Rajapaksa on October 12. During her meeting with the President, Ms Hulshof commended Sri Lankan government's programs and efforts to uplift the welfare of rural communities.¹¹

In other developments, according to reports, the Sri Lankan government has lifted its travel ban issued to Sri Lankans visiting Tamil Nadu.¹²

Sri Lanka is to open a consulate office of Sri Lanka in Melbourne Australia. The cabinet has approved establishing of the consulate general office.¹³

Maldives

- **High ranking Indian army official paid courtesy call on President; 40 years of diplomatic relations between China and Maldives; Regional Director for South Asia, UNICEF meets President Waheed**

Reports noted that General Officer Commanding in Chief of Southern Army Command of India, Lieutenant General A K Singh paid a courtesy call on President Dr Mohamed Waheed on October 8, 2012. At the meeting held at the President's Office, the President expressed his gratitude to the Indian government for their support being provided to the military hospital recently opened in Male'. Highlighting the great level of trusted bond established between the forces of the two countries, Lieutenant General A K Singh noted the need to collaborate and work together, in countering the security issues faced in either country.¹⁴

In another development, according to reports, President Dr Mohamed Waheed Hassan Manik has exchanged congratulatory messages with his Chinese counterpart, President Hu Jintao, on the occasion of 40 years of diplomatic ties between the two countries. President Hu said in his message that over the past 40 years, relations between Maldives and China have advanced steadily, and that the relations between the two countries are an exemplary model of friendship between a

⁹ "Indo-SL hold talks on nuke cooperation", *The Daily Mirror*, October 13, 2012 at <http://www.dailymirror.lk/news/22666-india-lanka-hold-talks-on-nuke-cooperation-.html>.

¹⁰ "GL in Kuwait", *The Daily Mirror*, October 14, 2012 at <http://www.dailymirror.lk/news/22677-gl-in-kuwait.html>.

¹¹ "UNICEF commends Sri Lanka", *The Daily Mirror*, October 13, 2012 at <http://www.dailymirror.lk/news/22671-unicef-commends-sri-lanka.html>

¹² "SL lifts travel ban to TN", *The Daily Mirror*, October 9, 2012 at <http://www.dailymirror.lk/news/22559-sl-lift-travel-ban-to-tn.html>.

¹³ "SL to open consulate in Melbourne", *The Daily Mirror*, October 11, 2012 at <http://www.dailymirror.lk/news/22618-sl-to-open-consulate-in-melbourne.html>.

¹⁴ "General Officer Commanding in Chief of Southern Army Command of India pays courtesy call on President Waheed", *The President's Office, Republic of Maldives*, October 8, 2012 at <http://www.presidencymaldives.gov.mv/Index.aspx?lid=11&dcid=8021>.

big and small country. President Waheed said in his message that Maldives greatly values the traditional friendship with China, and that it is grateful for China's assistance in its development efforts. A congratulatory message was also sent by Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi to Maldivian Foreign Minister Abdul Samad Abdullah.¹⁵

In other developments, Regional Director for South Asia, of the United Nation Children's Fund (UNICEF), Ms Karin Hulshof paid a courtesy call on President Dr Mohamed Waheed. At the meeting held at the President's Office on October 10, discussions were held on ways to increase cooperation between the Maldives and UNICEF. Discussions were also held on the measures that could be taken to overcome the social challenges being faced in the country.¹⁶

B. East Asia

China

- **China supports Russia's G-20 Presidency; China-Japan plans to re-start Diaoyu talks; Beijing hopes to solve the frontier dispute with New Delhi through friendly negotiations; China wants friendly solution to frontier problem with India; Beijing issues White Paper on judicial reforms**

According to reports, China has announced that it fully supports the Russian decision to host the leader's summit of the Group of 20 economies next year.¹⁷

In another development, China and Japan are planning to start vice-ministerial talks in order to overcome the deadlock over the Diaoyu Island row. However observers have concluded that in spite of this the problems will continue to persist.¹⁸

According to a Chinese foreign Ministry spokesperson, Beijing hopes to solve the frontier dispute with New Delhi through friendly negotiations.¹⁹

In other developments, Chinese government has issued a white paper on Judicial Reforms. It highlights the progress which China has made in safeguarding justice and protecting human rights.²⁰

¹⁵ "Maldivian, Chinese leaders exchange congratulatory messages on 40th anniversary of diplomatic ties", *The Sun Online*, October 14, 2012 at <http://sun.mv/english/6474>.

¹⁶ "UNICEF Regional Director for South Asia calls on the President", *The President's Office, Republic of Maldives*, October 10, 2012 at <http://www.presidencymaldives.gov.mv/Index.aspx?lid=11&dcid=8034>.

¹⁷ "China pledges support to Russia's G20 presidency" *China Daily*, October 13, 2012 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2012-10/13/content_15815266.htm

¹⁸ "Discussions target Diaoyu deadlock" *China Daily*, October 13, 2012 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2012Diaoyu/2012-10/13/content_15814766.htm

¹⁹ "China looks to negotiate with India over frontier disputes" *China Daily*, October 12, 2012 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2012-10/12/content_15814614.htm

²⁰ "China issues white paper on judicial reform" *China Daily*, October 9, 2012 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2012-10/09/content_15803335.htm

Japan

- **Japan-China spat over the Senkaku islands continues; Tokyo intends to resume its yen loans to Myanmar as early as next year; Japan plans to promote a cyber-security defense network with the ASEAN states**

According to reports, Japan-China spat over the Senkaku islands seems to have escalated further with Tokyo's recent nationalization of three of the disputed islands in September this year. Since the nationalization, Chinese surveillance ships, including those belonging to the Chinese State Oceanic Administration, have repeatedly visited the waters off the islands. While offering a protest to the nationalization, Taiwanese patrol vessels and fishing boats too recently encroached on that area.²¹

In the meantime, the Japanese government has decided to change its tactics while dealing with China over the Senkaku islands. Tokyo is planning to lobby for international support on the issue by sending Foreign Ministry's three top officials, including Foreign Minister Koichiro Gamba, to relevant countries in order to explain Japan's sovereignty on the islands.²²

In another development, the Japanese government has recently expressed its intention to resume its low-interest yen loans to Myanmar by next year on the condition that Myanmar's external debt obligations will be eliminated. It is the first time since the late 1980s that Tokyo is offering such economic assistance to Myanmar. The loans are to assist develop infrastructure projects within Myanmar, such as electricity, roads, telecommunication network, etc.²³

In other developments, Japan is currently planning to promote a cyber-security defense network with the ten ASEAN member states. As many of these countries of the ASEAN are facing a series of cyber-attacks against websites of government offices and corporations, Japan has decided to promote the idea of a defense network to share information about cyber -attack patterns and technology to deal with it.²⁴

South Korea

- **South Korean President Lee reiterates the importance of South Korea-Japan relations; South Korea to fully deploy ballistic missiles with a range of 550-800 km within five years**

According to reports, South Korean President Lee Myung-bak, during his recent meeting with former Japanese Prime Minister Taro Aso, emphasized the importance of the two countries'

²¹ "Senkaku islands standoff sees mounting pressure", Yomiuri Daily, October 13, 2012, at <http://www.yomiuri.co.jp/dy/national/T121012003898.htm>

²² "Japan, China remark on 'propaganda war'/Government changes tactics on Senkaku islands, begins appeals to international community", Yomiuri Daily, October 13, 2012, at <http://www.yomiuri.co.jp/dy/national/T121012003485.htm>

²³ "Govt to resume lending to Myanmar", Yomiuri Daily, October 8, 2010, at <http://www.yomiuri.co.jp/dy/national/T121007002196.htm>

²⁴ "Japan to push cyber defense network", Yomiuri Daily, October 8, 2012, at <http://www.yomiuri.co.jp/dy/national/T121007002450.htm>

bilateral relationship. According to him, as the global economy is going through a rough phase, both Seoul and Tokyo should work together. Lee also insisted on the necessity of joining hands to ensure peace and security in the northeast Asian region. Lee-Aso meeting is expected to bring new hopes to revive the two countries' relationship that soured recently Lee's visit to the disputed Dokdo (Takeshima in Japanese) islands in August this year.²⁵

In another development, after years of negotiations with Washington, Seoul has finally been able to acquire Washington's approval to develop ballistic missiles with a range of up to 800 kms, nearly triple the previous range of 300 km. While emphasizing that the ballistic missile threat posed by North Korea is the most urgent threat to the Pacific Ocean, the US-Pacific Command (PACOM) argues that South Korea's improved missile range could bolster South Korea's 'defensive capability' to counter the North.²⁶ In the meantime, Seoul has expressed its intention to fully deploy the missiles with 550 and 800 kms within the next five years.²⁷

C. West Asia

Iran

- **Iran's Parliament speaker Ali Larijani: Iran is worried about Turkey-Syria tension; Reports: HPCL-Mittal Energy Ltd (HMEL) takes two shipments of Iranian oil**

According to reports, Iran's Parliament speaker Ali Larijani has said "The Islamic Republic of Iran is worried about tensions between neighboring countries and Muslims including Turkey and Syria." In a telephone conversation with his Turkish counterpart, Larijani insisted on the need to immediately calm tensions between Damascus and Ankara.²⁸

In another development, according to reports, India's HPCL-Mittal Energy Ltd (HMEL), part-owned by steel tycoon Lakshmi Mittal, has emerged as a new oil client of Iran. HPCL-Mittal Energy Ltd (HMEL) has taken two shipments of Iranian oil since the start of September to maximize margins at its 180,000 barrels per day (bpd) Bathinda refinery. However, a spokesman for Mittal said he could not confirm or deny the purchase, but said that being a minority shareholder, Mittal himself would not be involved in such decisions.²⁹

²⁵ "Lee confirms importance of Japan relations", Yomiuri Daily, October 12, 2012, at <http://www.yomiuri.co.jp/dy/national/T121009003319.htm>

²⁶ "PACOM: S. Korea's improved missiles to boost 'defensive capability' against N. Korea", Korea Herald, <http://view.koreaherald.com/kh/view.php?ud=20121015000120>

²⁷ "Seoul to deploy longer-range missiles in 5 years", Korea Herald, October 8, 2012, at <http://view.koreaherald.com/kh/view.php?ud=20121008000692>

²⁸ "Iran says worried about Turkey-Syria tension," Mehr News Agency, October 9, 2012, at <http://www.mehrnews.com/en/newsdetail.aspx?NewsID=1716128>

²⁹ "India's HMEL bought 2 million barrels of Iranian oil," Tehran Times, October 14, 2012, at <http://www.tehrantimes.com/economy-and-business/102379-indias-hmel-bought-2-million-barrels-of-iranian-oil>

Syria

- **UN-Arab League peace envoy Lakhdar Brahimi on regional tour; Syria death toll crosses 33,000**

Reports noted that the UN and Arab League peace envoy, Lakhdar Brahimi, embarked on a regional tour aimed at finding a solution to the Syrian conflict, after Damascus rejected a UN call for a unilateral ceasefire. Brahimi's tour included Iraq, Iran, Turkey and Saudi Arabia. He is expected to visit Damascus later this week if talks in other countries prove productive.³⁰

In another development, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights has said that the violence in Syria has so far killed at least 33,082 people, most of them civilians. The group has pointed out that the actual toll may be well higher than the quoted figure, which does not include unidentified and missing victims, or those believed to be in detention.³¹

Jordan

- **Jordan faces brunt of Syrian refugee crisis**

According to reports, Jordanian authorities are planning to set up a new refugee camp west of the capital Amman if the number of occupants in the UN-run Zaatari camp crosses 45,000. According to the UN sources, more than 85,000 refugees have registered in Jordan so far with another 36,000 awaiting processing. While according to Jordanian officials, more than 200,000 Syrians have crossed into Jordan since the crisis erupted in mid-March last year.³²

Turkey

- **Turkey intercepts Syrian Air passenger jet on illegal cargo suspicion; Syria bans Turkish flights over its airspace; Turkey heightens border security; Turkish PM Erdogan rebukes UNSC over Syria inaction**

Reports noted that Turkey intercepted a Syrian passenger jet that was en route to Damascus from Moscow on suspicion of carrying illegal cargo. Two Turkish military jets forced the Syrian Air Airbus, which was carrying 35 passengers to land after receiving intelligence that its cargo did not comply with civil aviation rules. The aircraft was grounded for nine hours before it was allowed to continue on to Damascus after Turkey claimed it had confiscated the "objectionable" cargo. Syria called the interception "hostile and reprehensible" and demanded that the seized cargo be returned. The incident has infuriated Russia that has said Turkey put passengers' lives

³⁰ "Brahimi to visit Iraq over Syria crisis", The Daily Star, October 14, 2012 at <http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2012/Oct-14/191375-brahimi-to-visit-iraq-over-syria-crisis.ashx#axzz29LUO1RtU>

³¹ "Syria conflict death toll at least 33,000: activists", The Daily Star, October 13, 2012 at <http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2012/Oct-13/191297-syria-conflict-death-toll-at-least-33000-activists.ashx#axzz29LUO1RtU>

³² "Jordan plans new refugee camp for Syrians", The Daily Star, October 14, 2012 at <http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2012/Oct-14/191368-jordan-plans-new-refugee-camp-for-syrians.ashx#axzz29LUO1RtU>

at risk and denied the aircraft was carrying weapons or other military equipment.³³ Turkish Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan later announced that the cargo consisted of Russian-made munitions destined for Syrian armed forces,³⁴ while Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said that the aircraft was carrying radar equipment that is not forbidden by international conventions.³⁵ Syria has banned all Turkish flights over its airspace in retaliation against the incident.³⁶

In another development, according to reports, Turkey has heightened security along its border with Syria following the bombing of a Syrian border town by Syrian government forces. Fighting along the border has spilled over into Turkish territory over the past few weeks, with the Turkish army responding to gunfire and shelling from Syria.³⁷

In other developments, according to reports, Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan has rebuked the UN Security Council (UNSC) for failing to act to end the violence in Syria and said that world powers were repeating mistakes that led to the Bosnian massacres in the 1990s. Erdogan said that the inaction has encouraged Syrian President Bashar al-Assad to continue killing thousands of people daily. The UNSC has been divided between Western powers on one side, and Russia and China on the other. Turkish officials had been hopeful of convincing Russian officials to soften its opposition at the UNSC before relations between the two sank to a new low last week over the grounding of the Syrian passenger jet in Ankara.³⁸

D. Africa

- **Sudan and South Sudan seek foreign investment to rebuild economy; Egyptian citizenship granted to 50,000 Palestinians; 110 people injured in clash of opposite camps in Egypt; UN approves a resolution for international military intervention in Mali; Francophonie summit urges African role on Security Council; South African police arrest 72 miners of Gold Fields Kloof mines; 24 people killed in armed assault in Nigeria**

According to reports, during an interaction at an investment conference in Vienna, the foreign

³³ "Syria accuses Turkey of hostility as rebels cut route", The Daily Star, October 11, 2012 at <http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2012/Oct-11/190989-dozens-die-in-battles-for-key-north-syria-towns-activists.ashx#axzz29LUO1RtU>

³⁴ "Turkey says Syrian plane carried Russian munitions", The Daily Star, October 11, 2012 at <http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2012/Oct-11/191051-erdogan-says-intercepted-plane-was-carrying-military-gear-ammunition-to-syria.ashx#axzz29LUO1RtU>

³⁵ "Russia says Syria plane carried radar equipment", The Daily Star, October 12, 2012 at <http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2012/Oct-12/191125-syria-plane-carried-russian-anti-missile-radar-parts-report.ashx#axzz29LUO1RtU>

³⁶ "Syria slaps Turkish flight ban, hits back at rebels", The Daily Star, October 14, 2012 at <http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2012/Oct-14/191357-syria-hits-back-with-ban-on-turkish-flights.ashx#axzz29LUO1RtU>

³⁷ "Turkey scrambles fighter planes to Syria border", The Daily Star, October 12, 2012 at <http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2012/Oct-12/191162-turkey-scrambles-fighter-planes-to-syria-border.ashx#axzz29LUO1RtU>

³⁸ "Turkey condemns U.N. inertia as Syrian conflict deepens", The Daily Star, October 13, 2012 at <http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2012/Oct-13/191300-turkish-pm-slams-un-security-council-over-syria.ashx#axzz29LUO1RtU>

ministers of Sudan and South Sudan pledged to work together to rebuild their economies and not to return to war in a joint plea for foreign investment. This change in stance came after signing a critical trade and border agreement in Ethiopia in September 2012 to end hostilities and resume oil exports from South Sudan through Sudan. However, both countries are yet to sort out other conflicts such as deciding the fate of Abyei and other border regions. Separately, insurgents claimed that they shelled the main city in Sudan's oil-producing South Kordofan state.³⁹

In another development, an Egyptian security official revealed that nearly 50,000 Palestinians, most of them from the Gaza Strip, were granted Egyptian citizenship over the past few months. He added that the Interior Ministry was instructed to give Egyptian citizenship to all Palestinians who were born to Egyptian mothers. These instructions were given by the country's High Administrative Court in Cairo in May. The official also revealed that Cairo was studying the request of an additional 35,000 Palestinians to receive Egyptian citizenship.⁴⁰

According to reports, opponents and supporters of Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi clashed in Cairo in a first street violence between rival factions since the Islamist leader took office. They clashed over the issue of drafting a new constitution. Many were also angry at the court's ruling that acquitted former officials charged with ordering a camel-and-horseback charge on protesters in the uprising that ousted Hosni Mubarak. The health ministry reported that 110 people had sustained injuries in the clash.⁴¹

Reports noted that the UN Security Council unanimously approved a resolution, pressing the West African nations to speed up preparations for an international military intervention to reconquer northern Mali. The resolution also urged authorities in Bamako and representatives of "Malian rebel groups to engage in a credible negotiation process." However, the Council warned that the process should be undertaken with a view toward achieving a sustainable political solution. Further, the Council asked Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to work in collaboration with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the African Union and submit recommendations within 45 days.⁴²

During the 14th Francophonie summit in Kinshasa, Congo, leaders of French-speaking nations called for reforming the UN Security Council to give Africa better representation. Delegates also issued resolutions addressing various crises, including a resolution calling for strengthened dialogue to find a political solution to the chaos in Mali, where Islamist rebels seized the country's north and imposed Sharia law. Additionally, a resolution calling for the UN Security Council to adopt sanctions targeting those responsible for abuses in the east of DR Congo was also issued. The next Francophonie summit will be held in Senegalese capital Dakar in 2014.⁴³

³⁹ Georgina Prodhan (2012), "Sudan, South Sudan pledge peace, seek investment", *Reuters*, October 10, 2012, at <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/10/10/sudan-south-conference-idUSL6E8LAGKC20121010>

⁴⁰ Khaled Abu Toameh (2012), "Egypt grants citizenship to 50,000 Palestinians", *The Jerusalem Post*, October 11, 2012, at <http://www.jpost.com/MiddleEast/Article.aspx?id=287479>

⁴¹ "Egypt's liberals, Islamists clash: 110 reported injured", *The Times of India*, October 13, 2012, at http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2012-10-13/middle-east/34430281_1_morsi-islamist-leader-muslim-brotherhood-leader

⁴² "UN Council asks W. Africa for Mali military plan", *Radio Netherlands Worldwide*, October 13, 2012, at <http://www.rnw.nl/english/bulletin/un-council-asks-w-africa-mali-military-plan-1>

⁴³ "Francophonie urges African role on Security Council", *AFP*, October 14, 2012, at http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gl5F_tdHE4qfV8Fg9XJ4qvcrQA1A?docId=CNG.932a2c1fe6f0f9e91146bcf1b123fc2c.471

In other developments, according to reports, gunmen armed with assault rifles attacked a rural village Dogon Dawa in Kaduna State of northern Nigeria and killed at least 24 people, including worshipers leaving a mosque. The area had limited presence of police and security forces. In addition, police officers and soldiers cut off access to the region, limiting the response of aid agencies. A rescue official said that the attacks began in the morning, with as many as 50 gunmen surrounding the village and also farmlands. Earlier, Olufemi Adenaike, the state police commissioner, said that 12 people were killed in the attack.⁴⁴

Reports noted that South African police arrested 72 sit-in protesters out of 600 protesters from Gold Fields Kloof mines who were protesting in front of Westonaria police station. The protesters were demanding the release of 13 jailed miners. In a separate incident, police fired tear gas and rubber bullets at protesters hurling petrol bombs after a march on an Anglo American Platinum mine in Rustenburg turned violent.⁴⁵

II. DEFENCE REVIEW

National

- **IAF undergoing massive modernization process**

According to reports, Air Marshal Rajinder Singh, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Headquarters Training Command, said on the Air Force Day (October 8) that Indian Air Force is undergoing massive modernisation with induction of State-of-the-Art Aircraft and weapon systems. Air Marshal Singh while addressing the 80th IAF anniversary celebrations stated, "This evolution in tandem with the professional excellence, has catapulted the IAF to being the very best in the world".⁴⁶

International

- **Israel deploys Patriot Missiles near Haifa; Leon Panetta outlines an aggressive agenda to prevent cyber attack**

Reports noted that Israel has deployed Patriot anti-missile batteries near the northern port city of Haifa. The Patriot system is capable of intercepting both aircraft and missiles. An Israeli military spokeswoman confirmed that the U.S.-made missiles, which can shoot down drones, had been stationed near Haifa but refused to confirm the move was related to the October 6 infiltration,

⁴⁴ "Gunmen Kill Worshipers Leaving Mosque in Nigeria", *The New York Times*, October 14, 2012, at <http://www.nytimes.com/2012/10/15/world/africa/muslim-worshipers-shot-in-nigeria.html>

⁴⁵ "South Africa police arrest 72 Gold Fields miners", *Reuters*, October 14, 2012, at <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/10/14/us-safrica-strike-goldfields-idUSBRE89D02C20121014>

⁴⁶ "Indian Air Force undergoing massive modernization," *The Economic Times*, October 8, 2012, at http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2012-10-08/news/34322773_1_massive-modernisation-president-pranab-mukherjee-hamid-ansari

when an unidentified drone infiltrated the country's airspace. It would be worth noting that on October 6, Israeli fighter jets had shot down the unarmed drone over the northern Negev desert, after it entered the country's airspace from the Mediterranean Sea near the Gaza Strip.⁴⁷

In another development, according to reports, the United States is mulling over a new Cyber Doctrine, focusing on preemption strategy. The US Defence Secretary Leon Panetta outlined an aggressive agenda to prevent cyber attacks on USA and sees deterrence as an important mission for the department of defence. "Our mission is to defend the nation," he stated. "We defend. We deter. And if called upon, we take decisive action to defend our citizens", Panetta asserted. Identifying two critical weaknesses that had previously limited the U.S.' ability to deter attackers, one, an inability to attribute attacks and therefore target aggressors, and second, a lack of tools to allow an aggressive response, Panetta significantly expressed willingness to act not only against attacks, but also threats of attacks, hinting at a policy shift from a defensive policy to an offensive one. He stated, "If we detect an imminent threat of attack that will cause significant physical destruction in the United States or kill American citizens, we need to have the option to take action against those who would attack us, to defend this nation when directed by the president. For these kinds of scenarios, the department has developed the capability to conduct effective operations to counter threats to our national interests in cyberspace."⁴⁸

III. INTERNAL SECURITY REVIEW

Jammu & Kashmir

- **Jammu & Kashmir Government discloses number of missing youths who joined militancy; Union Home Minister to visit Jammu & Kashmir on October 12; Elections to Block Development Councils (BDC) a significant step; Fresh warnings against Panchs, Sarpanchs; Union Home Minister assures to fortify cross LoC trade; Indian Official: Pakistan has regrettably raised the issue of Jammu and Kashmir at UN which is an integral part of India**

According to reports, a day after putting the figure of disappeared persons in the State at around 2300, Jammu and Kashmir Government on October 9 said that 824 missing youth have reportedly joined militancy. In response to a question by legislator Ravinder Kumar Sharma seeking information about the number of missing youth, believed to have joined militant ranks, the Government informed the Legislative Council (LC) that 824 missing youth of different districts are reported to have joined militancy.⁴⁹

⁴⁷ "Israel Deploys Patriot Missiles Near Northern Port", Defence News, October 8, 2012, at <http://www.defensenews.com/article/20121008/DEFREG04/310080007/-1/7daysarchives/Israel-Deploys-Patriot-Missiles-Near-Northern-Port>

⁴⁸ "DoD's New Cyber Doctrine," Defence News, October 13, 2012, at <http://www.defensenews.com/article/20121013/DEFREG02/310130001/-1/7daysarchives/DoD-8217-s-New-Cyber-Doctrine>

⁴⁹ "824 disappeared persons joined militancy: Govt", *Greater Kashmir*, October 9, 2012 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2012/Oct/10/824-disappeared-persons-joined-militancy-govt-50.asp>

Reports noted that Home Minister Sushil Kumar Shinde visited Jammu and Kashmir on October 12 to review the security situation of the state. Union Home Minister Sushil Kumar Shinde in his visit promised to remove all hurdles to strengthen cross-LoC trade with Pakistan. The minister addressed a delegation of cross-LoC traders at Chank-da-Bagh crossing point in Poonch district. Reviewing the cross-LoC trade, the Minister assured traders of full help from the Centre and promised that he would raise their demands at the appropriate forums in Delhi. The Cross-LoC Traders Panel handed over a memorandum to the Union Home Minister and also demanded setting up of communication network between two sides, one time visa to assess the markets on both sides of LoC by traders from two sides, spot deliveries, increase in number of cross-LoC trade items and seizure of goods like almonds by customs departments. The Union Home Minister also called for strict vigil to stop smuggling from across the LoC.⁵⁰

According to reports, National Conference on October 10 welcomed the announcement of elections to the Block Development Councils in J&K, calling it a historic step. The party spokesman Tanvir Sadiq said that the ensuing BDC election after the successful Panchayat election is yet another feather in the cap of Omar Abdullah government which believes that governance should be taken from the secretariat to the doorsteps of the people.⁵¹

In another development, according to reports, after north Kashmir's Baramulla district, fresh posters have appeared in different areas of the south Kashmir district of Islamabad warning Sarpanchs and Panchs of dire consequences if they do not tender their resignation forthwith. While threat posters had earlier appeared in Pulwama and Shopian districts, apart from Baramulla district of north Kashmir, such posters have been spotted in Chee and Hakhoora villages. The posters, as per their contents, have been issued by Mutahida Squad – an amalgam of Lashkar-I-Toiba, Jaish-I-Muhammad, Hizb-ul-Mujahideen and Jamait-ul-Mujahidden.⁵²

In other developments, according to reports, India has criticized Pakistan after Pakistan's Deputy Permanent Representative at UN Raza Bashir Tarar said during the General Debate of the Special Political and Decolonisation Committee on October 8 that the decolonisation agenda of the UN would be incomplete without resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. Exercising India's Right of Reply, First Secretary at the Indian mission Prakash Gupta said Pakistan has regrettably raised the issue of Jammu and Kashmir, which is an integral part of India. A week before as well, External Affairs Minister S M Krishna had strongly asserted that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India and termed the reference about Kashmir by Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari in his address to the General Assembly, as unwarranted.⁵³

⁵⁰ "Cross-LoC trade to be strengthened", *Greater Kashmir*, October 12, 2012 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2012/Oct/13/-cross-loc-trade-to-be-strengthened-51.asp>

⁵¹ "BDC election another historic step", *Greater Kashmir*, October 10, 2012 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2012/Oct/11/-bdc-election-another-historic-step-59.asp>

⁵² "Fresh posters warn Panchs, Sarpanchs", *Greater Kashmir*, October 11, 2012 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2012/Oct/12/fresh-posters-warn-panchs-sarpanchs-74.asp>

⁵³ "Fresh spar over Kashmir at United Nations", *Greater Kashmir*, October 9, 2012 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2012/Oct/10/fresh-spar-over-kashmir-at-united-nations-56.asp>

North East India

- **Peace agreement signed between Dima Halim Daoga (DHD) and Government; Garo militants killed in encounter; Northeast peace interlocutor meets anti-talks Bodo rebels; Repatriation of ULFA leader Anup Chetia among the top agendas of India-Bangladesh talks; Normal life hit by shutdown in Manipur**

According to reports, amidst escalating tensions in Dima Hasao district, the Centre and the Assam Government sealed a pact with both factions of the Dima Halim Daoga (DHD), seeking to end eight years of conflicts in the hill district that had stalled several major infrastructure projects passing through the area. The most significant moment came, when Dilip Nunisa tried to reach out to the rival faction by honouring Jewel Garlossa with a traditional scarf. The Home Ministry said that the Memorandum of Settlement (MoS) provides for enhanced autonomy for the North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council (NCHAC), which has been rechristened as Dima Hasao Autonomous Territorial Council (DHATC) and also a special package for speedier socio-economic and educational development of the area, for which the council has been set up.⁵⁴

In another development, according to reports, two militants belonging to the banned Garo outfit GNLA were killed in police firing near Kharkutta in North Garo Hills district on October 8 at a place connecting Wageasi with Dainadubi. The militants were involved in extortion of money from a village market in Kharkutta.⁵⁵

Reports noted that the Central government's peace interlocutor for the Northeast and former Intelligence Bureau chief PC Halder on October 11 met in Guwahati Jail the chief of the National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB) faction opposed to talks. "The talks today were very positive and we hope that a formal agreement could be signed with the NDFB anti-talks faction (led by Ranjan Daimary) within this year," said an Assam Police official. He said it was yet to be decided whether the two factions of the rebel outfit would sit together for the talks. A splinter group of the outfit, now known as NDFB pro-talks faction and led by Gobinda Basumatary, earlier held several rounds of discussions with the state and central government representatives.⁵⁶

Reports noted that cooperation in combating terror, repatriation of ULFA leader Anup Chetia and early conclusion of an extradition treaty will top the agenda at the two-day India-Bangladesh Home Secretary-level talks in Dhaka from October 15. Home Secretary RK Singh will also discuss with his Bangladeshi counterpart Manjur Hussain issues related to infiltration, smuggling of goods and human trafficking. Home Secretary RK Singh and his Bangladesh counterpart Manjur Hussain will visit Akhaura Land Customs Station (LCS) and review the progress of the construction of the new LCS for which India sanctioned Rs.73.5 crore.⁵⁷

⁵⁴ "DHD peace agreement signed", *The Assam Tribune*, October 8, 2012 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=oct0912/at05>

⁵⁵ "2 Garo ultras killed in encounter", *The Assam Tribune*, October 8, 2012 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=oct0912/oth06>

⁵⁶ "Central emissary meets anti-talk Bodo rebel in jail", *The Assam Tribune*, October 11, 2012 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=oct1112/at045>

⁵⁷ "Chetia issue to figure in Indo-Bangladesh talks", *The Assam Tribune*, October 14, 2012 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=oct1512/at05>

In other developments, according to reports, normal life in Manipur came to a standstill on October 15 during an 18-hour general strike called by seven separatist outfits. The Coordination Committee (CorCom), an umbrella group of seven major separatist outfits in Manipur who are fighting for an independent state for the majority Meitei community in the state, had called for an 18-hour general strike starting October 14 midnight. The outfits are protesting the erstwhile princely state of Manipur's merger agreement with the Indian Union sixty three years ago.⁵⁸

Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) News

- **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) organizes 8th training programme to train Parliament security staff; Suspension of Operations (SoO) Agreement with National Democratic Front of Bodoland/Progressive (NDFB/P) extended**

Reports noted that keeping in view, chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) safety and security of Parliament House Complex (PHC), India's National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) under the leadership of Shri M. Shashidhar Reddy, Vice Chairman, NDMA has been CBRN training programmes of Parliament security personnel. Seven training courses had already been conducted so far. The 8th training programme was held in NDMA on October 11-12, 2012. Nearly 400 security personnel have been trained during eight courses.⁵⁹

In another development, reports noted that the Suspension of Operations (SoO) Agreement with the National Democratic Front of Bodoland/Progressive (NDFB/P) has been extended for a further period of three months up to 31st December, 2012. Tripartite talks on the demands of NDFB (P) will be continued.⁶⁰

IV. UNITED NATIONS (UN) REVIEW

- **UN Biosafety meet ends with an agreement to advance work on living modified organisms; UN biodiversity calls for committing more resources to achieve targets by 2020; India calls for effective implementation of international frameworks for combating terrorism; India called on to play a larger role in protecting civilians from mass atrocities; India to pursue wider dialogue on internet-related policies on a global level; UN peacekeeping mission in Haiti extended for a year; Security Council considers international military force in Mali**

According to reports, the UN meeting on biosafety came to an end with an agreement to advance work on the issue of socio-economic considerations regarding living modified organisms (LMOs).

⁵⁸ "Separatists call shutdown in Manipur, normalcy hit", *The Assam Tribune*, October 15, 2012 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=oct1512/at048>

⁵⁹ "Parliament Security Staff trained by NDMA to handle any CBRN emergency", *Press Information Bureau, GOI*, October 11, 2012 at <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/erelease.aspx?relid=88346>

⁶⁰ "Suspension of Operations Agreement with NDFB (P) Extended", *Press Information Bureau, GOI*, October 10, 2012 at <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/erelease.aspx?relid=88307>

⁶¹ "UN meet on biosafety ends on promise to advance work on LMOs", *Business Standard*, October 08, 2012 at <http://www.business-standard.com/generalnews/news/un-meetbiosafety-endspromise-to-advance-worklmos/65663/>

It was further agreed to convene a group of experts to further clarify the issue of socio-economic considerations and to conduct research and exchange information and experiences on it.⁶¹ Meanwhile, the UN biodiversity meet called for committing more resources to achieve targets by 2020 while asking the developed nations to shoulder greater responsibility. India, which took over the presidency of the UN Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention of Biological Diversity for the next two years said that the global economic crisis should not be a deterrence for the countries from making investment to achieve biodiversity targets.⁶²

In another developemnt, at the UN General Assembly session on 'Rule of Law at the National and International levels', India stressed for an effective implementation by nations of international legal frameworks to combat terrorism and deny safe havens to terrorists anywhere in the world. India reiterated its position on the importance of strengthening capacity of states to enable them to carry out the rule of law related activities and to fulfil their obligations.⁶³

At a conference held on R2P in New Delhi, the Secretary-General of the World Federation of UN Associations, Bonian Golmohammadi said that India could play a larger role in protecting civilians from mass atrocities and crimes against humanity. He added that India as an emerging and influencing power, India can play a proactive and constructive role in strengthening and implementation of R2P.⁶⁴

Meanwhile, at the Budapest Cyber Space Conference, India said that it would pursue enhanced cooperation through wider dialogue instead of opposing the US-based Internet Cooperation for Assigned Names and Numbers and its operations. According to India, the UN Committee on Internet-Related Policies would be a middle ground for the two extreme positions taken by countries like Russia, China and others on the one hand and US and western countries on the other.⁶⁵

According to reports, the UN peacekeeping mission in Haiti was extended until October 15, 2013 by the UN Security Council. It was also decided that the overall force levels would be reduced as responsibility for security would be gradually handed over to the national police.⁶⁶

In other developments, the United Nations Security Council is considering the possibility of endorsing an international military force within the next 45 days to restore the unity of Mali. The

⁶² "Global biodiversity meet calls for committing resources", *The Times of India*, October 08, 2012 at http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2012-10-08/developmental-issues/34322200_1_biodiversity-braulio-ferreira-biological-diversity

⁶³ "India asks for implementation of international frameworks on terrorism", *NDTV.com*, October 11, 2012 at <http://www.ndtv.com/article/india/india-asks-for-implementation-of-international-frameworks-on-terrorism-278117>

⁶⁴ "India can play a larger role in protecting civilians worldwide", *Business Standard*, October 09, 2012 at <http://www.business-standard.com/generalnews/news/india-can-play-larger-role-in-protecting-civilians-worldwide/65947/>

⁶⁵ "On internet rules, India now more willing to say ICANN", *The Hindu*, October 13, 2012 at <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/on-internet-rules-india-now-more-willing-to-say-icann/article3994985.ece>

⁶⁶ "Security Council extends mandate of UN peacekeepers in Haiti for another year", *UN News Centre*, October 12, 2012 at <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=43283&Cr=haiti&Cr1=#.UHvmcm-7LNY>

15-member Council called on the UN Secretary-General to provide military and security planners to the Economic Community of West African States, the African Union and other partners to help frame such a force based on the request of Mali's transitional authorities and report within the next 45 days.⁶⁷

⁶⁷ "Security Council paves way for possible intervention force in northern Mali", *UN News Centre*, October 12, 2012 at <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=43281&Cr=+mali+&Cr1=#.UHzir2-7LNZ>