

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

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I. COUNTRY REVIEWS

A. East Asia

China

(October 15-29)

- **China continues to patrol Diaoyu Islands; China voices stern opposition to Japan's joint military exercises with "extraterritorial nations"; Romania, China call to boost closer cooperation; China-Tajikistan-Afghanistan agreement on the definition of the tri-junction point for national boundaries ratified by National People's Congress (NPC); The Standing Committee of the NPC announces the termination of Bo Xilai's post as an NPC Deputy; Chinese Defense Ministry dismisses media reports about a planned test launch of an anti-satellite missile; CPC leader calls for closer ties with Bangladeshi political parties**

According to reports, the Chinese State Oceanic Administration has said that China's marine surveillance vessels continued their routine patrol in territorial waters around the Diaoyu Islands.¹

In another development, reports noted that China has voiced stern opposition to Japan's joint military exercises with "extraterritorial nations". Spokesman for the Ministry of National Defense told a press conference on October 25 in Beijing, "We always sternly oppose Japan frequently wooing extraterritorial nations for joint military drills that only increase regional tensions."²

According to reports, Chinese Vice-Premier Li Keqiang met with Romanian Foreign Minister Titus Corlatean on October 26 and pledged to boost cooperation between the two countries. Hailing the traditional friendship and fruitful cooperation between the two nations, Li said the bilateral ties have been developing smoothly in a sustained way as China and Romania respected and supported each other on core interests and major concerns.³

Reports noted that the China-Tajikistan-Afghanistan agreement on the definition of the tri-junction point for national boundaries was ratified on October 26 by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC), the country's top legislature. Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi, who was entrusted by the State Council to explain the agreement to the NPC Standing Committee said, the agreement is based on relevant border pacts with Tajikistan and Afghanistan, and it was reached through negotiations among the three nations.⁴

¹ "Chinese ships continue patrol around Diaoyu Islands" *China Daily*, October 28, 2012 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2012Diaoyu/2012-10/28/content_15852096.htm

² "China opposes Japan's joint military drills" *China Daily*, October 25, 2012 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2012-10/25/content_15847514.htm

³ "China and Romania pledge closer cooperation" *China Daily*, October 27, 2012 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2012-10/27/content_15851068.htm

⁴ "China ratifies border agreement with Tajikistan, Afghanistan" *China Daily*, October 26, 2012 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2012-10/26/content_15850593.htm

According to reports, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC), China's top legislature, on October 26, announced the termination of Bo Xilai's post as an NPC deputy. The Standing Committee of Chongqing Municipal People's Congress removed the former high-ranking official, who was suspected of violating laws, from his post as the NPC deputy late last month.⁵

Reports noted that Chinese Defense Ministry spokesman Yang Yujun has dismissed media reports about a planned test launch of an anti-satellite missile in November. "Such reports did not conform to the fact," Yang said at a regular news briefing on October 25.⁶

In other developments, according to reports, Li Changchun, a senior leader of the Communist Party of China (CPC), called for closer ties between the CPC and Bangladeshi political parties on October 21 in Dhaka. Li, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, made the call during a meeting with Khaleda Zia, chairwoman of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party.⁷

Japan

(October 15-21)

- **Japan submits an anti-nuclear resolution to the UN for the 19th consecutive year; Japan, United States and South Korea to work together in resolving North Korea's nuclear threat; Japan decided to extend the mandate of SDF's PKO in Sudan by one year**

Japan recently submitted a draft resolution to the UN that called upon the member states of the world body to join hands in realizing a nuclear-weapon-free world order. Although it is the 19th consecutive year that Japan submitted such resolution to the UN General Assembly, this year, it was jointly submitted by a record 69 countries including the US. The draft basically underlines the nuclear threat posed by the North Korea.⁸

In another development, during a recent high-level meeting among the officials of Japan, the US and South Korea, the three countries agreed to cooperate in resolving the North Korean nuclear threat as well as the issue of abduction of Japanese nationals by North Korean agents. It is worth noting that in a meeting held in New York last month, the foreign ministers of three countries agreed to boost cooperation on North Korean issues.⁹

5 "Bo Xilai's post as national legislator terminated" *China Daily*, October 26, 2012 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2012-10/26/content_15848938.htm

6 "China dismisses reports about missile test" *China Daily*, October 25, 2012 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2012-10/25/content_15847416.htm

7 "Senior CPC leader vows closer ties with Bangladesh" *China Daily*, October 21, 2012 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2012-10/21/content_15834903.htm

8 "Govt submits no-nuke resolution to the UN", *Yomiuri Daily*, October 20, 2012, at <http://www.yomiuri.co.jp/dy/national/T121019003747.htm>

9 "Japan, ROK, US affirm resolve over North Korea", *Yomiuri Daily*, October 18, 2012, at <http://www.yomiuri.co.jp/dy/national/T121017003466.htm>

In other developments, while keeping in mind the current stable security situation in South Sudan, especially in capital Juba and its surrounding areas, the Japanese government has recently decided to extend the mandate of Japan's Self defense Forces' (SDF) peace keeping operations there by one year to the end of October 2013.¹⁰

(October 22-28)

- **Japan protests South Korean lawmakers' recent visit to Takeshima islands**

According to reports, Japan has strongly protested the recent visit of the Takeshima islands by 15 South Korean lawmakers despite Tokyo's earlier demand to cancel that trip. This step by Seoul seems to further deteriorate the recent strained bilateral relationship between the two countries, as both of them claim sovereignty over that island. In Tokyo, Chief Cabinet Secretary Osamu Fujimura stated that the recent visit was extremely regrettable and unacceptable to Japan.¹¹

South Korea

(October 15-21)

- **South Korea elected as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council**

Reports noted that South Korea was recently elected as a non-permanent member of the UN Security council. It will replace India whose two-year term in the Council is to come to an end at the end of this year.¹²

(October 22-28)

- **South Korea and the US to expand military cooperation in space; South Korea to submit formal claim to an extended portion of its continental shelf to the UN**

During the recent annual bilateral security talks held between the defense ministers of South Korea and the US in the Washington DC., the two sides agreed to strengthen military cooperation in areas like space and cyber security to counter North Korean provocation. The two countries will also boost the South's anti-ballistic missile system and enhance combined capabilities to counter the North's provocation in the maritime order.¹³

In another development, amidst the ongoing territorial dispute across East Asia, South Korean Foreign Ministry has recently announced its plan to submit a formal claim to an extended portion

¹⁰ "SDF's South Sudan PKO mission extended", Yomiuri Daily, October 17, 2012, at <http://www.yomiuri.co.jp/dy/national/T121016002881.htm>

¹¹ "15 S. Korean lawmakers visit Takeshima islands", Yomiuri Daily, October 24, 2012, at <http://www.yomiuri.co.jp/dy/national/T121024003351.htm>

¹² "UNSC seat to give Korea bigger say", Korea Herald, October 19, 2012, at <http://nwww.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20121019000764>

¹³ "Korea, US seek to expand military cooperation in space", Korea Herald, October 24, 2012, at <http://nwww.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20121024001123>

of its continental shelf to the UN Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf in January next year. The ministry reiterates that the South's continental shelves 'naturally' stretch to the Okinawa Trough in the East China Sea. South Korea is believed to have come up with this plan to counter Japan's increasing maritime assertiveness in the East China Sea in recent times.¹⁴

B. Central Asia & Russia

Central Asia

- **Tajikistan to become full-fledged WTO member in mid-2013; Asian Development bank to provide a US\$ 150 million loan to Uzbekistan in order to modernize the energy supply to Ferghana valley; Kazakhstan and Czech Republic sign deals worth US\$ 25 million; Korean firm POSCO wins a US\$ 640 million contract to build a new town in Kazakhstan; State Development Bank of China gives a loan of US\$ 220 million to modernize Uzbekistan's thermal power plant; Central Asian countries fare well in World Bank's 'Doing Business Report'**

According to reports, after 12 years of negotiations, Tajikistan is in line to become WTO's members by the middle of next year.¹⁵

In another development, reports noted that the Asian Development Bank (ADB) will provide Uzbekistan with a \$150 million loan to modernize energy supply to its Ferghana Valley districts. The funds will be used to construct the Namangan substation and two autotransformers. The bank will also finance the building of a high-voltage power line between Angren and Namangan which will cover 108 miles. Construction is expected to be finished in 2015.¹⁶

According to reports, as part of Kazakhstan President's official visit to Prague, firms of the two countries have signed deals worth US\$ 250 million as part of President Nazarbayev's decision to increase bilateral trade by at least 25 per cent.¹⁷

Reports noted that Korean firm Posco Engineering & Construction (Posco E&C) has been awarded a \$640 million contract to build a new town in Kazakhstan. The project is part of the larger G4 New Town Development Project, which aims to create four new towns in total, stretching north from Almaty to Lake Kapchagay.¹⁸

¹⁴ "Korea to submit formal continental shelf claim", Korea Herald, October 22, 2012, at <http://nwww.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20121022000814>

¹⁵ "Tajikistan to become full-fledged WTO member in mid-2013", ITAR-TASS, October 26, 2012, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/556639.html>

¹⁶ "ADB loans \$150M to Uzbekistan for Ferghana power supply", Central Asia Newswire, October 24, 2012, <http://www.universalnewswires.com/centralasia/viewstory.aspx?id=13053>

¹⁷ "Nazarbayev vows to ramp up trade 25% with Czech Republic", Central Asia Newswire, October 24, 2012, <http://www.universalnewswires.com/centralasia/viewstory.aspx?id=13049>

¹⁸ "Korean firm wins \$640M contract to build new Kazakh town", Central Asia Newswire, October 26, 2012, <http://www.universalnewswires.com/centralasia/viewstory.aspx?id=13068>

In other developments, according to reports, Uzbekistan has secured a US\$ 220M loan from China's development bank to modernize the Tashkent thermal power plant.¹⁹

Separately, the five Central Asian countries, grouped in the Doing Business 2013 report with their fellow ex-Soviet republics in Eastern Europe, overtook East Asia and the Pacific region last year as the world's second most business-friendly region.²⁰

Russia

- **Russia's defence spending to touch 2.1 trillion roubles in 2013; Russia backs Germany's position in tackling the current European debt crisis; Rosneft agrees with British Petroleum to buy the full TNK-BP stock; US to abrogate the long disputed Jackson-Vanik Amendment with Russia; European Parliament approves sanctions against Russian officials involved in Magnitsky case; Russia successfully test fires a new inter continental ballistic missile to be used against anti-missile systems; Russia initiates UN Security Council consultations on Syria and Libya; Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister: Opposition in Syria has disrupted the current truce; Russia identifies territorial claims as the key threat to security in Asia Pacific; Russia asks the US to stop arresting Russian citizens in third countries by a US warrant; Russia and South Ossetia to continue investment cooperation during the period 2013-2015; US and Swedish inspectors to fly over Russia as part of the Open Skies Treaty**

According to reports, Chairman of the State Duma Defence Committee Vladimir Komoyedov has said that Russia's defence spending is expected to be close to 2.1 trillion roubles in 2013.²¹

In another development, according to reports, Russian President Vladimir Putin has backed the German position in tackling European debt crisis and believes that a system-based approach is needed to cope with it.²²

Reports noted that Russia's state-run oil company Rosneft has agreed with British Petroleum (BP) to buy the full TNK-BP stock. The deal is a mix of cash and shares involving payments of US\$ 17.1 billion by Rosneft and shares representing 12.84 per cent of Rosneft.²³

US Deputy National Security Advisor Michael Froman has said that the United States will abrogate the long disputed Jackson-Vanik Amendment with Russia after the culmination of the November 6 US Presidential elections.²⁴

¹⁹ "Chinese bank loans \$220M to modernize Uzbek thermal plant", Central Asia Newswire, October 23, 2012, <http://www.universalnewswires.com/centralasia/uzbekistan/viewstory.aspx?id=13041>

²⁰ "Central Asia fares well in latest 'Doing Business' report, October 23, 2012, <http://www.universalnewswires.com/centralasia/uzbekistan/viewstory.aspx?id=13039>

²¹ "RF defence spending in 2013 to reach Rub 2,1 trln", ITAR-TASS, October 24, 2012, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/554260.html>

²² "Putin backs Germany position on crisis overcoming in Europe", ITAR-TASS, October 25, 2012, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/555527.html>

²³ "BP Agrees Heads of Terms to Sell its TNK-BP Shareholding to Rosneft", British Petroleum, October 22, 2012, <http://www.bp.com/genericarticle.do?categoryId=2012968&contentId=7079089>

²⁴ "USA to abrogate Jackson-Vanik Amendment after prez polls", ITAR-TASS, October 24, 2012, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/553472.html>

Reports noted that a resolution of the European Parliament passed by a majority of vote has called upon the European Union to introduce a visa-ban and freeze the EU assets of all Russian officials linked to the death in custody of Russian lawyer Sergei Magnitsky.²⁵

Russia has successfully test fired a new inter continental ballistic missile. The missile is to be used by its strategic missile forces against anti-missile systems.²⁶

According to reports, Russia has initiated consultations on the situation in Syria and Libya at the UN Security Council. It involves debate on three draft statements proposed by Russia – on support for the armistice in Syria as proposed by the UN and Arab League’s special representative Lakhdar Brahimi, on October 21 terrorist act in Damascus and on the situation in the Libyan city of Bani Walid.²⁷

Russia’s Deputy Foreign Minister Gennady Gatilov has said that the Syrian opposition has disrupted the current truce.²⁸

According to reports, the Secretary of the Russian Security Council Nikolai Patrushev has said that mutual territorial claims are a major threat to security in the Asia Pacific region. In meetings with his Japanese counterparts in Tokyo, Patrushev also discussed security challenges between Russia and Japan and stated that Russia will not take any sides on the issue of the Senkaku (Diaoyu) Islands dispute between China and Japan.²⁹

Russia has asked the United States to stop arresting Russian citizens in third countries by a US warrant and reaffirmed the need to protect its own citizens.³⁰

Reports noted that in the backdrop of talks between South Ossetian President Leonid Tibilov and Russian President Vladimir Putin, the two sides have declared that they will continue with their bilateral investment cooperation during the period 2013-2015.³¹

In other developments, according to reports, inspectors from the United States and Sweden will conduct inspection flights over Russia and Belarus under the Open Skies Treaty. The Open Skies Treaty, signed in 1992 on an initiative of U.S. President George H.W. Bush, established a regime

²⁵ “European Parliament approves sanctions against Russian officials involved in Magnitsky case”, ITAR-TASS, October 23, 2012, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/553339.html>

²⁶ “Russia successfully tests new intercontinental ballistic missile”, ITAR-TASS, October 24, 2012, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/554501.html>

²⁷ “Russia initiates UN Security Council consultations on Syria and Libya”, ITAR-TASS, October 23, 2012, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/552540.html>

²⁸ “Syrian opposition disrupts truce – Russian Dep ForMin”, ITAR-TASS, October 27, 2012, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/556841.html>

²⁹ “Russian security chief says territorial claims are key threat to security in Asia Pacific”, ITAR-TASS, October 25, 2012, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/554766.html>

³⁰ “Moscow demands Washington stop arresting RFs by US warrant”, ITAR-TASS, October 22 2012, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/551855.html>

³¹ “Russia, S Ossetia to continue investment cooperation in 2013-2015”, ITAR-TASS, October 24 2012, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/554459.html>

of unarmed aerial observation flights over the territories of its member states to promote openness and transparency of military forces and activities.³²

C. West Asia

Iran

- **Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov: Moscow will scuttle any UN Security Council resolution that could be interpreted as authorizing military action against Iran; Tehran agreed to finance Iran-Pakistan Gas Pipeline Project**

According to reports, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov has said that Moscow will scuttle any UN Security Council resolution that could be interpreted as authorizing military action against Iran. He stated “We won’t allow any more such disingenuous interpretations. We will see to it that no resolution is open to interpretation like the one on Libya.” Russia will therefore exercise an extremely cautious approach at the UN Security Council.³³

In another development, according to reports, Russia and China appear to be losing the race for the \$1.5 billion Iran-Pakistan (IP) gas pipeline project as Islamabad and Tehran have agreed to sign a \$250 million loan agreement next month for laying Pakistan’s portion of the pipeline. This deals come despite the US pressure, which opposes big commercial deals with Iran because of Tehran’s nuclear program. Iran has offered an additional loan of \$250 million from its commercial banks and will also provide material support for the pipeline. According to sources, Iran will provide a total of \$500 million to finance the gas pipeline and the remaining amount will be arranged by Pakistan through collection of gas infrastructure development cess, a kind of tax being paid by domestic gas consumers.³⁴

Iraq

- **17 People Killed in Iraq on Eid al-Adha holiday**

According to reports, 17 people killed mostly Shias during the Eid al-Adha holiday on October 27 in Iraq. The shootings and explosions, which also wounded more than 40 people, were the latest in a spate of violence in the past week that has broken a relative calm, even though authorities had announced a series of moves to boost security during the four-day Eid break. UN special envoy Martin Kobler condemned on Saturday’s violence as “atrocious,” adding in a statement: “The targeting of worshippers is an appalling crime.” Officials said some Iranian pilgrims were among the dead and wounded.³⁵

³² “US, Swedish Inspectors to Fly over Russia, Belarus”, RIA Novosti, October 29, 2012, http://en.rian.ru/military_news/20121029/177001648.html

³³ “Russia says will veto any UN resolution authorizing attack on Iran,” *Mehr News Agency*, October 24, 2012, at <http://www.mehrnews.com/en/newsdetail.aspx?NewsID=1727990>

³⁴ “Tehran to finance Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline,” *Mehr News Agency*, October 27, 2012, at <http://www.mehrnews.com/en/newsdetail.aspx?NewsID=1729993>

³⁵ “Iraq Eid attacks kill 17,” *Khaleej Times*, October 27, 2012, at http://www.khaleejtimes.com/kt-article-display-1.asp?xfile=data/middleeast/2012/October/middleeast_October347.xml§ion=middleeast

Syria

- **UN-backed ceasefire collapses as fighting continues in Damascus; Syrian Army blames ceasefire collapse on rebels**

According to reports, fighting between the Syrian military and opposition fighters continued over the Eid al-Adha holiday weekend, flouting the four-day ceasefire that was brokered by UN-Arab League peace envoy Lakhdar Brahimi. The truce was violated almost immediately after it was supposed to take effect on Friday, October 26. The failure of the truce is possibly a reflection of the inability of the international community to resolve the 19-month old conflict, and could also be an indication that the conflict will continue, affecting stability of Syria's neighbours – mainly Lebanon, Iraq, Jordan and Turkey.³⁶

Meanwhile, according to reports, the Syrian Army blamed the collapse of the ceasefire on "violations" by the rebels. However, opposition fighters have claimed that they have only reacted to attacks by Syrian government forces. Reports suggest that Brahimi is set to approach the UN Security Council in November with fresh proposals for talks between the Syrian government and the opposition. UN diplomats are also scheduled to visit Russia and China in the coming week.³⁷

Lebanon

- **March 14 coalition weighs legal means to oust government; FBI team assists Lebanese government in bomb blast investigation**

According to reports, the Lebanese opposition March 14 coalition has said that it will use legal and constitutional means to oust the current government after Prime Minister Najib Mikati announced he would stay in office. Hundreds of March 14 supporters gathered at Martyr's Square in central Beirut to mark the one week anniversary of the death of intelligence chief Brig. Gen. Wissam al-Hasan, and calling for the government's resignation and expulsion of the Syrian ambassador to Lebanon, Ali Abdel-Karim Ali. Ali has said that his country has no role in Hasan's assassination and has blamed Israel of provoking tensions in Lebanon.³⁸

Meanwhile, reports noted that Mikati has remained defiant following speeches by March 14 leaders that made him reconsider his initial decision to resign. March 14 figures such as Lebanese Forces leader Samir Geagea have said that the bomb attack that killed Hasan is a turning point and Lebanese political life cannot continue as normal.³⁹

³⁶ "Syria truce collapse shows limits of diplomacy", The Daily Star, October 29, 2012 at <http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2012/Oct-29/193067-syria-truce-collapse-shows-limits-of-diplomacy.ashx#axzz2Ag6OPYmZ>

³⁷ "New peace bids eyed after Syria truce collapses", The Daily Star, October 28, 2012 at <http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2012/Oct-28/192956-syrian-fighter-jets-bombard-eastern-damascus-suburbs.ashx#axzz2Ag6OPYmZ>

³⁸ "Syria not involved in Hasan killing: Ambassador", The Daily Star, October 24, 2012 at <http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Politics/2012/Oct-24/192580-syria-not-involved-in-hasan-killing-ambassador.ashx#axzz2Ag6OPYmZ>

³⁹ "March 14 vows to use legal means to oust government", The Daily Star, October 29, 2012 at <http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Politics/2012/Oct-29/193039-march-14-vows-to-use-legal-means-to-oust-government.ashx#axzz2Ag6OPYmZ>

In other developments, according to reports, a team from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) arrived in Lebanon on October 25 and met with Lebanon's state prosecutor before examining the site of last week's bombing to collect evidence. State Prosecutor Hatem Madi has said that the FBI team will provide technical help in the ongoing probe but will not participate in any other aspect of the investigation and is not authorised to be informed of the results of the investigation. Madi also urged the media to avoid speculating on judicial aspects of the case since this would obstruct the investigation.⁴⁰

II. DEFENCE REVIEW

National

(October 15-21)

- **India-Indonesia to enhance defence cooperation; Defence Minister for a proactive role for navy in the Indian Ocean region**

Reports noted that India and Indonesia have decided to significantly enhance their defence cooperation during a recent visit of the Indian defence minister Shri AK Antony to Indonesia. Shri Antony declared his meeting with his Indonesian counterpart Purnomo Yusgiantoro as a 'turning point' and an 'excellent beginning'. This was the first Ministerial level biennial defence dialogue between the two countries. The two sides have exchanged views on a whole range of issues relating to regional and global security, bilateral exercises involving Services, training, co-production of defence equipment and ammunitions and visits at high levels. Terrorism and power rivalries in the Indian Ocean Region figured prominently in the defence minister's speech. The defence dialogue mechanism at the highest level was agreed upon during the visit of Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono to India in January last year.

Shri Antony was assisted by a high-level delegation including the Defence Secretary Shri Shashikant Sharma, Indian Ambassador to Indonesia, Shri Gurjit Singh, CISC Vice Admiral SPS Cheema, C-in-C Andaman & Nicobar Command Lt Gen NC Marwah and DG Ordnance Factory Board Shri SK Beri.⁴¹

In another development, according to reports, addressing the biannual Naval Commanders' Conference, India's Defence Minister Shri AK Antony underlined the key role of Indian Navy in India's engagements with countries of Indian Ocean Region. He stated, "Our Government is pursuing a string of proactive engagements with countries in the Indian Ocean Region to ensure peace and stability in the region, which is also related to our economic and wider security interests".

⁴⁰ "FBI team arrives to help in Hasan investigation", The Daily Star, October 26, 2012 at <http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Politics/2012/Oct-26/192793-fbi-team-arrives-to-help-in-hasan-investigation.ashx#axzz2Ag6OPYmZ>

⁴¹ "India and Indonesia Agree to Significantly Step up Defence Cooperation," Press Information Bureau, October, 16, 2012, at <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/erelease.aspx?relid=88424>

Shri Antony took this opportunity to assure India's maritime neighbors of Indian Navy's full support. Highlighting increased engagements of Indian navy, Shri Antony noted, "Indian Navy's overseas deployment in the South China Sea, East China Sea, the Western Pacific Ocean, Red Sea and the Meditarrean Sea carrying out exercises with the navies of these regions not only shows our capabilities but will also go a long way in reassuring the Indian diaspora in these countries."⁴²

(October 22-28)

- **Mini-Ratna company BDL pays highest ever dividend to the government; India-Japan to advance security cooperation**

Accordingb to reports, Chairman and Managing Director, Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL), SN Mantha presented a dividend cheque of Rs.47 Crore for the financial year 2011 - 12 to the Defence Minister Shri A K Antony on October 25. BDL is a Hyderabad based Public Sector unit under the Ministry of Defence, Govt of India. This is the highest- ever dividend paid by this Mini-Ratna Category-1 Company, which has achieved a record turnover of Rs.959 Crores during the financial year 2011- 12. The company has vigorously pursued self-reliance in the field of critical technologies and has embarked on an expansion drive to meet the growing demands of the Indian Armed Forces.⁴³

In another development, reports noted that the 2nd India-Japan 2+2 Dialogue was held in Tokyo on October 22, 2012. The Indian delegation was led by Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai and Defence Secretary Shashi Kant Sharma. The Japanese delegation was led by Deputy Foreign Minister Akitaka Saiki and Administrative Vice Defence Minister Hironori Kanazawa. The dialogue was in furtherance to the Action Plan to Advance Security Cooperation concluded between the two countries in December 2009. The two sides reviewed bilateral security and defence cooperation and exchanged views on maritime, cyber and outer space security. They also discussed ways of further expanding defence ties.⁴⁴

International

(October 15-21)

- **Major Joint Military drill to take place between US and Israel; Iraq calls on United States to speed up arms deliveries**

According to reports, U.S. troops and equipment have begun arriving in Israel ahead of a major exercise between the two countries. The exercise is slated to be the largest in the history of the longstanding military relationship between the U.S. and Israel. The officials claim that the exercise

⁴² "Antony Envisages a Proactive Role for Navy in the Indian Ocean Region," Press Information Bureau, October, 18, 2012, at <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/erelease.aspx?relid=88491>

⁴³ "BDL Pays Highest Ever Dividend to the Government," Press Information Bureau, GOI, October 25, 2012, at <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/erelease.aspx?relid=88604>

⁴⁴ "2nd India-Japan 2+2 Dialogue," Ministry of external affairs, October 22, 2012, at <http://mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/20723/2nd+IndiaJapan+2432+Dialogue>

named Austere Challenge 2012" (AC12) will be defensive and unrelated to the Iran nuclear crisis, other Middle East developments or elections in the United States and Israel.⁴⁵

In another development, according to reports, Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki on October 18 urged USA to speed up its delivery of weapons for Iraq's forces. The PM acquainted the visiting U.S. Deputy Defence Secretary Ashton Carter about the country's desire to develop an arms strength which would be able to protect the sovereignty of Iraq.⁴⁶

(October 22-28)

- **Russia accuses US of assisting Syrian rebels with arms; NATO unveils potential C4ISR acquisition plan**

According to reports, Russia accused USA on October 25 of "coordinating" deliveries of arms to Syrian rebels, despite assurances by the US State Department that the United States provides no lethal assistance. The Russian foreign ministry said in a statement, "Washington is aware of the deliveries of various weapons to illegal armed groups active in Syria. Moreover, judging by the declarations of U.S. officials published in U.S. media, the U.S. coordinates and provides logistical assistance in such deliveries." Significantly, Russia's top general Nikolai Makarov said on October 24 that rebels fighting against Bashar al-Assad's army in Syria are using U.S.-made Stingers, a type of shoulder-launched missile systems also known as MANPADs. On its part, the US State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland promptly denied that the U.S. is delivering any such, or any other, weapons to the rebels. "We are providing no lethal assistance to the Syrians," the spokeswoman said.⁴⁷

In another development, according to reports, NATO Communications and Information (NCI) Agency has announced 2.1 billion Euros (\$2.7 billion) acquisition plan in the area of C4ISR and communication capabilities to support NATO missions and operations. These business opportunities are a forecast for the next 18 months and are tentative as some of the projects are yet to be approved by NATO's resource committees. The first industry conference of NATO Communications and Information (NCI) Agency, which was set up as part of NATO agency reform this year was attended by more than 600 senior European and North American industry representatives.⁴⁸

⁴⁵ "U.S., Israel Prepare for Major Joint Military Drill," Defense News October 17, 2012, at <http://www.defensenews.com/article/20121017/DEFREG04/310170002/-1/7daysarchives/U-S-Israel-Prepare-Major-Joint-Military-Drill>

⁴⁶ "Iraq PM Calls On U.S. To Speed Up Arms Deliveries," Defense News, October 18, 2012, at <http://www.defensenews.com/article/20121018/DEFREG03/310180009/-1/7daysarchives/Iraq-PM-Calls-U-S-Speed-Up-Arms-Deliveries>

⁴⁷ "Russia: U.S. Coordinates Weapon Deliveries to Syria Rebels," Defense News, October 25, 2012, at <http://www.defensenews.com/article/20121025/DEFREG02/310250006/Russia-U-S-Coordinates-Weapon-Deliveries-Syria-Rebels?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE>

⁴⁸ "NATO Announces 2.1B Euros of Potential C4ISR Investments," Defense News, October 26, 2012, at <http://www.defensenews.com/article/20121026/DEFREG01/310260003/NATO-Announces-2-1B-Euros-Potential-C4ISR-Investments?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE>

III. INTERNAL SECURITY REVIEW

Jammu & Kashmir

- **Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) militant arrested in South Kashmir; Tension prevailed in Zanskar, Kargil**

According to reports, a Hizbul Mujahideen militant, along with two of his accomplices, has been arrested from Kulgam district of South Kashmir. According to police, Muhammad Yousuf Magray was involved in an attack on a village head in June this year.⁴⁹

In another development, according to reports, members of the minority community in Zanskar area of Kargil district have alleged harassment after communal clashes in the area, forcing the authorities to clamp down curfew to prevent further tension.⁵⁰

North East India

- **Mizo border villagers set October 31 set as deadline for Myanmarese foreigners settled on their land to leave or face eviction ; Grenade attack in Chirang district, Assam leaves one dead and few injured; Illegal Bangladeshi immigrants arrested in Meghalaya; Proposal for railway line to Imphal cleared; Assam militants arrested in Tripura**

According to reports, the Joint Action Committee (JAC) of Vaphai, on the Indo-Burmese border in Champhai district on October 22 issued a deadline asking Myanmarese foreigners settled on their land to leave before October 31 or face eviction. The JAC has asked all Indian citizens to shift to other locations already earmarked for their rehabilitation by the Vaphai village council. The Council has issued an eviction notice to the Myanmarese settlers, constituting 21 families, to leave the locality of Saikhumphai. This order was also issued by the Local Administration Department of the Government of Mizoram in February 2011.⁵¹

In another development, reports noted that one person was killed and three others were injured when suspected militants carried out a grenade attack in Chirang district of Assam's Bodo areas on October 24. The incident took place near the railway tracks in Basugaon area in Chirang, 150 km away from Assam's main city Guwahati and is one of the four districts of Bodoland Territorial Areas Districts (BTAD). According to police, two grenades were lobbed but one of them failed to explode and was recovered from the site.⁵²

⁴⁹ "Hizb militant, 2 accomplices nabbed in JK", *Greater Kashmir*, October 23, 2012 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2012/Oct/24/hizb-militant-2-accomplices-nabbed-in-jk-69.asp>

⁵⁰ "Zanskar tense after clashes", *Greater Kashmir*, October 24, 2012 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2012/Oct/25/zanskar-tense-after-clashes-28.asp>

⁵¹ "Mizo border villagers set October 31 deadline", *The Assam Tribune*, October 22, 2012 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=oct2312/oth05>

⁵² "One killed, three injured in grenade attack", *The Assam Tribune*, October 24, 2012 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=oct2512/state05>

According to reports, Border Security Force (BSF) troopers arrested 11 illegal Bangladeshi immigrants who were working as coal miners in Meghalaya's East Jaintia Hills district. The Bangladeshi nationals were arrested on October 25 from Kuliang and Umkiang villages near the India-Bangladesh border in Meghalaya while they were attempting to cross over to Bangladesh. With these arrests, the number of illegal Bangladesh immigrants arrested by the BSF has gone up to 92 in the month of October alone.⁵³

Reports noted that decks have been cleared for setting up rail lines to Imphal, with the Cabinet Committee on Infrastructure on October 25 clearing a proposal of Ministry of Railways to extend the new broad gauge line from Imphal Road (Tupul) to Imphal. The updated cost of the entire project is estimated at Rs 4,444 crore. The project is proposed to be funded as per the funding pattern of 25 percent from General Budgetary Support (GBS) for Railways and 75 percent from the Ministry of Finance. According to official sources, the project will be completed by March 2016. An expenditure of Rs 682 crore was incurred till last fiscal. This project will cover Imphal East, Tamenglong and Senapati districts of Manipur.⁵⁴

In other developments, according to reports, three dreaded militants of the Assam-based United Democratic Liberation Army (UDLA) were arrested in Tripura and handed over to Assam Police on October 28. According to police, the UDLA rebels are active in Mamit districts of western Mizoram and southern Assam. Their bases are in Patharkhandi and Highlakandhi areas of southern Assam and they carry out murders, abductions and run extortion rackets in both states.⁵⁵

IV. UNITED NATIONS (UN) REVIEW

- **India claims UN Biodiversity Conference to be a “huge” achievement; Syrian president accepts ceasefire on the eve of Eid; FDI inflows into India fall by 8 per cent: UN report**

With the UN Biodiversity conference coming to an end, India claimed a “huge” achievement as the nations agreed to increase funding to stop rate of biodiversity loss. India also noted that the developed countries agreed to double funding to support efforts in developing states towards meeting the internationally-agreed Biodiversity Targets and the main goals of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. It was also for the first time that India and several African states pledged additional funds above and beyond their core funding towards the work of the Convention on Biodiversity.⁵⁶

⁵³ “11 Bangla immigrants arrested in Meghalaya”, *The Assam Tribune*, October 26, 2012 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=oct2612/at044>

⁵⁴ “Proposal for railway line to Imphal cleared”, *The Assam Tribune*, October 25, 2012 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=oct2612/oth06>

⁵⁵ “3 Assam militants arrested in Tripura”, *The Assam Tribune*, October 29, 2012 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=oct2812/at037>

⁵⁶ “UN biodiversity conference outcome a huge achievement: India”, *The Times of India*, October 22, 2012 at http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2012-10-22/developmental-issues/34652717_1_expenditures-for-biodiversity-protection-rate-of-biodiversity-loss-convention-on-biological-diversity

In another development, the UN-Arab League mediator for the Syrian conflict, Lakhdar Brahimi told the UN Security Council that the Syrian President, Bashar al-Assad had accepted a ceasefire beginning last Friday, on the eve of Eid. According to reports, the Syrian army announced that it would observe the ceasefire although it reserved the right to respond to any rebel attack or attempts to reinforce the armed opposition. The UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon welcomed the reported announcements.⁵⁷

In other developments, according to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Foreign Direct Investment inflows into India declined by 8 per cent in the first half of 2012. The decline was mainly due to the decline of \$37 billion in inflows into the US and a \$23 billion fall in inflows into BRIC countries.⁵⁸

⁵⁷ “Ban welcomes reports of Syria ceasefire being observed for Eid holiday – UN spokesperson”, *UN News Centre*, October 25, 2012 at <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=43378&Cr=syria&Cr1=#.UI5qU2-7LNY>

⁵⁸ “India’s FDI inflows fall 42% in first half of 2012: UN agency”, *Livemint*, October 25, 2012 at <http://www.livemint.com/Politics/pBdBYENQd9Aabq8GGgQ5JJ/Indias-FDI-inflows-fall-42-in-first-half-of-2012-UN-agenc.html>