

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

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I. COUNTRY REVIEWS

A. South Asia

Afghanistan

- **Militants killed four Afghan policemen and two civilians by poisoning in Helmand province**

According to reports, militants killed four Afghan policemen and two civilians inside a police checkpoint by poisoning their yoghurt and launching an attack, officials say. The attack happened in the Nehre Siraj district of southern Helmand province, the local police chief told.¹

Pakistan

- **Pakistani President Zardari visits India; JuD defies US bounty on Hafiz Saeed, saying it was made to “please India”; Indus Water Commission to be formed**

In a significant development, the President of Pakistan, Asif Ali Zardari, has held “friendly” talks with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on a private visit to India on April 8, 2012. “We would like to have better relations,” Mr Zardari said after private talks with Prime Minister Singh in New Delhi. The Indian leader said they shared a desire for “normal” relations between their countries. It was the first visit to India by a Pakistani head of state in seven years. The two men last met in 2009 in Russia. PM Singh said he had accepted an invitation to visit Pakistan as soon as mutually acceptable dates were worked out. President Zardari later departed for a visit to a Muslim shrine in Ajmer, 350km (220 miles) south-west of the Indian capital. The shrine in Ajmer is dedicated to a Sufi saint, Moinudin Chishti, and is one of the most popular pilgrimage sites in the region, receiving a constant flow of devotees.²

According to reports, Hafiz Muhammad Saeed has issued a strong response to the 10-million-dollar bounty offered by the United States for information leading to his arrest. Jamaat-ud-Dawa gave a defiant response, condemning the US move and saying it was made to “please India”. The reward for Saeed, the founder of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) who makes frequent public appearances in Pakistan, was announced by US Undersecretary of State Wendy Sherman in India on Monday, and posted on the US government’s Rewards for Justice website. The Rewards for Justice notice said Saeed was “suspected of masterminding numerous terrorist attacks, including the 2008 Mumbai attacks, which resulted in the deaths of 166 people, including six American citizens.”³

¹ “Afghanistan; Militants kill police by poisoning food”, *BBC*, April 3, 2012 at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-17597797>

² “Pakistani leader in friendly talks on visit to India”, *BBC*, April 8, 2012 at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-17648622>

³ “Bounty on Hafiz Saeed an act to please India, says JuD”, *Dawn*, April 3, 2012 at <http://dawn.com/2012/04/03/us-offers-10-million-for-hafiz-saeed/>

In other developments, reports noted that Pakistan and India on April 6, 2012, mutually agreed to form an independent Indus water commission comprising of neutral and transparent professionals. The decision was taken in a conference between Pakistan and India in New Delhi which was held under the banner of 'track to diplomacy' initiative. The two countries also decided to install satellite telemeter system in Kashmir which will monitor the quality and quantity of water supplied through the rivers at 100 different places. The experts of Indus water commission will be inducted from the World Bank, the United Nations (UN) and the European Union who will work under direct supervision of the UN.⁴

B. East Asia

China

(March 26-April 8, 2012)

- **China-ROK FTA 'makes a larger cake; China, Mexico to mark 40 years of ties; Joint industrial park launched with Malaysia; Li calls for boosting cross-Straits ties; Country upgrades nuclear emergency planning; Allegations over govt-sponsored cyber attacks' groundless; China, ASEAN members to talk over S China Sea; Hu, Cambodian king hold talks; Chinese delegation: BRICS summit a success; China slams Japanese textbook revisions; China, Russia to conduct joint navy drill; China's top political adviser to visit New Zealand, Brunei and Thailand**

According to reports, during the BRICS summit in New Delhi the leaders of the five nations reached at important consensus. "The summit is a success as it has again showcased the cooperative partnership among BRICS countries, delivered a positive message to the world that BRICS is a united grouping aimed at win-win cooperation, and the meeting has successfully advanced cooperation among member countries," said Chinese delegation spokesman Qin Gang.⁵

In other developments, according to reports, Beijing and Seoul are working towards negotiating a bilateral free trade agreement.⁶

China and Mexico celebrated the 40th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic ties.⁷

⁴ "Pakistan, India agree to form Indus Water commission", *Dawn*, April 6, 2012 at <http://dawn.com/2012/04/06/pakistan-india-agrees-to-form-indus-water-commission/>

⁵ "Chinese delegation: BRICS summit a success" *China Daily*, March 30, 2012 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2012-03/30/content_14946992.htm

⁶ "China-ROK FTA 'makes a larger cake'" *China Daily*, April 8, 2012 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2012-04/08/content_14998595.htm

⁷ "China, Mexico to mark 40 years of ties" *China Daily*, April 6, 2012 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2012-04/06/content_14995319.htm

In another important development China and Malaysia launched the establishment of a joint industrial park.⁸

Vice-Premier Li Keqiang has asserted that there should be increase in cross-strait relations and economic cooperation should be promoted.⁹

Beijing has announced that it is working towards updating its nuclear emergency plan and also building its capacity to handle nuclear emergencies.¹⁰

China has denied allegations that Beijing has been backing hackers to launch cyber attacks against other nations.¹¹

Beijing has said that it will negotiate directly with the ASEAN on drafting a code of conduct for the South China Sea.¹²

President Hu Jintao met with the Cambodian King Norodom Sihamonihere to discuss the developments between China ad South East Asian nation.¹³

Beijing has slammed the latest Japanese text books which claim Diaoyu Islands as Japanese territory and deny the number of victims of the Nanking Massacre.¹⁴

China and Russia have stated that they will carry out joint navy exercises from April to May, 2012.¹⁵

In a recent development, according to reports, China's political advisor Jia Qinglin will be visiting New Zealand, Brunei and Thailand from April 15-25, 2012.¹⁶

⁸ "Joint industrial park launched with Malaysia" *China Daily*, April 2, 2012 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2012-04/02/content_14968971.htm

⁹ "Li calls for boosting cross-Straits ties" *China Daily*, April 1, 2012 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2012-04/01/content_14968309.htm

¹⁰ "Country upgrades nuclear emergency planning" *China Daily*, April 7, 2012 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2012-04/07/content_14995491.htm

¹¹ "Allegations over govt-sponsored cyber attacks' groundless'" *China Daily*, March 30, 2012 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2012-03/30/content_14947685.htm

¹² "China, ASEAN members to talk over S China Sea" *China Daily*, April 5, 2012 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2012-04/05/content_14986088.htm

¹³ "Hu, Cambodian king hold talks" *China Daily*, March 31, 2012 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2012-03/31/content_14960129.htm

¹⁴ "China slams Japanese textbook revisions" *China Daily*, March 29, 2012 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2012-03/29/content_14946329.htm

¹⁵ "China, Russia to conduct joint navy drill" *China Daily*, March 29, 2012 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2012-03/29/content_14945009.htm

¹⁶ "China's top political adviser to visit NZ" *China Daily*, April 8, 2012 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2012-04/08/content_15000006.htm

South East Asia

- **Myanmar President meets rebels; Suu Kyi meets Karen rebels in Rangoon; US to send combat ships to Singapore for joint exercise; Four killed in the Philippines militant ambush; 20th ASEAN Summit held in Phnom Penh; Thai PM Yingluck Shinawatra: ASEAN should play greater role in regional security**

According to reports, on April 7, 2012, a peace delegation from the rebel Karen National Union met with the President Thein Sein. This was the first time president had talks with rebel leaders since he called upon rebel groups to talk in August 2011. Earlier, on April 6, 2012 the KNU and government delegates met in Yangon and signed a 13- point agreement on how to move ahead with the peace process.¹⁷

Meanwhile, the opposition leader of Myanmar, Aung San Suu Kyi met with the Karen ethnic rebels in her first significant meeting after winning the April 1 by-elections. The meeting, which lasted for more than an hour, was held in Yangon. The meeting came a day after KNU delegates met Myanmar's President Thein Sein in Naypyidaw.¹⁸

Reports noted that the US defence secretary Leon Panetta announced on April 5, 2012 that the US administration is planning to deploy combat ships to Singapore for joint exercise. The announcement came a day after Panetta met his Singapore counterpart Ng Eng Hen met at the Pentagon. The US military already operates a small post in Singapore, a long-standing ally that assists in logistics and exercises for forces in Southeast Asia.¹⁹

According to the Philippine officials, the Al- Qaida linked militants killed three armed forces personnel during an ambush in southern Basilan Island. One militant was also killed during the ambush. It is said that Abu Sayyaf rebels under senior leader Furuji Indama attacked auxiliary force members on patrol on April 5 in a rubber plantation in Sumisip Township.²⁰

Reports noted that the 20th ASEAN Summit was held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The meeting ended on April 4, 2012. It produced a number of declarations, such as the 'Phnom Penh Declaration on ASEAN: One Community, One Destiny', 'Phnom Penh Agenda on ASEAN Community

¹⁷ 'Burma President Meets with Karen Rebels', *VOA News*, April 7, 2012, <http://www.voanews.com/english/news/Burma-President-Meets-with-Karen-Rebels-146521725.html>

¹⁸ 'Suu Kyi meets ethnic Karen rebels', *Gulf Today*, April 9, 2012, <http://gulftoday.ae/portal/5d2cbf78-13e6-4765-9bc0-b727403bb398.aspx>

¹⁹ 'US to send combat ships to Singapore for exercises', *Asia One*, April 6, 2012, <http://news.asiaone.com/News/Latest%2BNews/Singapore/Story/A1Story20120406-338106.html>

²⁰ '4 dead in militant ambush in southern Philippines', *Hindustan Times*, April 7, 2012, <http://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/RestOfAsia/4-dead-in-militant-ambush-in-southern-Philippines/Article1-836764.aspx>

Building', and 'Drug-Free ASEAN 2015'. The Summit, held from April 3-4 in Phnom Penh, also discussed the progress and challenges faced in completing the ASEAN Community by 2015.²¹

Meanwhile, Thai Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra said on April 4, 2012 that the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) should be more proactive to cope with challenges which could threaten regional peace and security to ensure sustainable growth and competitiveness. Attending the 20th ASEAN Summit in Cambodia, Shinawatra said the regional group should play a wider and more constructive role in peace building and closely cooperate with powers outside the region on trade and political stability as well as raising concerns about issues such as the battle against money laundering.²²

II. DEFENCE REVIEW

National

- **Defence Research and Development Organization to create new facilities for testing and quality; Russian sea trial of Admiral Gorshkov to be held in May 2012**

According to reports, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) will invest over Rs 1000 crore to create 4-5 new facilities for testing and quality. The investment and creation of these facilities will be over the next two-three years. These include, a full-fledged launch control centre in Port Blair, a hypersonic wind tunnel testing facility near Hyderabad, a hi-tech electronic range in Andhra Pradesh and another centre for testing and calibration of materials, according to Mr Avinash Chander, Chief Controller (R&D), Missiles and strategic systems of the DRDO.²³

In another development, reports noted that Russia will launch sea trials of heavy aircraft carrier Admiral Gorshkov, rechristened INS Vikramaditya on May 25, 2012. The 44,000-ton carrier, which is being completely retrofitted for the Indian Navy, will first be taken to the White Sea and then to the Barents Sea. It will be docked there for three to four months for sea trial, the Sevmash shipyard said in a statement on Friday. "After the sea trials are done, we plan to hand over the carrier to India by December 4," Sevmash release said. Gorshkov's main power generators are being tested

²¹ '20th ASEAN Summit closes, leaders reaffirm goals', *Antara News*, April 4, 2012, <http://www.antaranews.com/en/news/81149/20th-asean-summit-closes-leaders-reaffirm-goals>

²² 'Thai PM urges ASEAN to play crucial role in regional security', *Pattaya Mail*, April 6, 2012, <http://www.pattayamail.com/news/thai-pm-urges-asean-to-play-crucial-role-in-regional-security-11687>

²³ "DRDO investing Rs 1,000 cr in testing, quality facilities," *Business Line*, 06 April, 2012, at <http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/industry-and-economy/article3287437.ece>

and finishing touches given to its sleeping and living quarters, the shipyard said, adding “the crew training was completed last month”. Gorshkov, rechristened INS Vikramaditya, is a Soviet-made Project 1143.4 class aircraft carrier. It was sold to India in 2004 but the delivery has been delayed because of differences over its escalating cost. The vessel is expected to have a service life of 30 years.²⁴

International

- **First batch of U.S Marines arrive in Australia; U.S. acting Undersecretary for Arms Control and International Security Gottemoeller: Generation gap responsible for slow pace of Cyber Defense**

According to reports, the first batch of 2,500 US Marines to be deployed in Australia began work on April 4, 2012 as Washington bolsters its presence in the strategically vital Asia-Pacific. Some 200 Marines touched down in tropical Darwin overnight as part of an enhanced defense cooperation outlined during a visit by U.S. President Barack Obama in November, 2011. In a joint statement, Prime Minister Julia Gillard, Defence Minister Stephen Smith and Northern Territory Chief Minister Paul Henderson welcomed what they said was the latest chapter in a more than 60-year alliance with the U.S. “There are no (permanent) U.S. military bases in Australia, and this will not change,” they added. China has said the Marines deployment is proof of a “Cold War mentality”. As part of the major expansion of military ties, Australia last week said it may allow the United States to use its territory to operate long-range spy drones. Washington could also reportedly station U.S. aircraft carriers and nuclear-powered attack submarines in the western Australian city of Perth.²⁵

In another development, according to Rose Gottemoeller, U.S. acting Undersecretary for Arms Control and International Security, sluggish moves to counter the rising threat of cyber-attacks can be blamed on a generation of policymakers out of touch with rapid technological change. Gottemoeller stated “The truth is there are a lot of senior officials in many countries who barely even know how to use an email...The change will come with the new generation,”. Gottemoeller also noted that governments should consider incorporating open-source IT and social networking into arms control verification and monitoring.²⁶

²⁴ “Admiral Gorshkov’s Russian sea trial in May,” 08 April, 2012, at <http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/admiral-gorshkov-russian-sea-trial-in-may/1/183521.html>

²⁵ “First U.S. Marines Arrive in Australia,” 04 April, 2012, at <http://www.defensenews.com/article/20120404/DEFREG03/304040004/-1/7daysarchives/First-U-S-Marines-Arrive-Australia>

²⁶ “Cyber Defense Slow Due to Generation Gap: U.S. Official,” AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, 02 April, 2012, at <http://www.defensenews.com/article/20120402/DEFREG01/304020003/-1/7daysarchives/Cyber-Defense-Slow-Due-Generation-Gap-U-S-Official>

III. INTERNAL SECURITY REVIEW

Jammu & Kashmir

- **Home Minister P. Chidambaram to visit Jammu on April 10; Police Data in favour of AFSPA revocation in Jammu and Kashmir; Mixed response in Valley regarding meeting between Indian PM and Pakistan President; Five militants killed in Handwara, Kupwara District**

Reports noted that Union Home Minister P Chidambaram will chair a high-level security review meeting in Jammu to discuss the preparedness of Jammu and Kashmir Police and paramilitary forces ahead of this summer. Chidambaram will be flying to the winter capital of the state on April 10 and begin his day-long visit by paying obeisance at the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine. Later, he along with Chief Minister Omar Abdullah will chair a security review meeting to take stock of the situation which will deliberate upon the inputs of intelligence agencies about infiltration and secessionist movements. The surrender policy of the state government of bringing back the misguided youths from Pakistan-administered Kashmir will also come in for review at the meeting.²⁷

Meanwhile, according to reports, with voices growing louder and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah pressing for revocation of Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) from some pockets of Jammu and Kashmir, police data about militancy related incidents adds weight to the argument.

The figures about militancy related incidents in year 2011 note that seven districts of Jammu and Kashmir are militancy free, 13 districts record “single digit” militancy related incidents and four districts record “double digit” incidents of militancy. The data claims that there has been steep and continuous decline in militancy related incidents in J&K bringing casualties to a new low. The data adds that year 2010 had been described as the “most peaceful year” in over two decades of militancy in the state, with 375 militancy related casualties throughout the year. A senior police officer who has served at various important positions said on the basis of anonymity that data throws weight behind the revocation of AFSPA. The data says there is steep and drastic decline in militancy and the Act needs to be revoked.²⁸

According to reports, the meeting between Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh and Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari over lunch and issuing a joint statement has evoked a mixed response from the leaders of separatist and mainstream camps in the Valley. The chairman of Hurriyat Conference (G) Syed Ali Shah Geelani said there is “nothing” for Kashmiris in the joint statement

²⁷ “PC visiting Jammu on Apr 10”, *Greater Kashmir*, April 5, 2012 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2012/Apr/6/pc-visiting-jammu-on-apr-10-71.asp>

²⁸ “Police data favour AFSPA revocation”, *Greater Kashmir*, April 6, 2012 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2012/Apr/7/police-data-favour-afspa-revocation-54.asp>

as there is no direct reference to Kashmir issue in it. Patron of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Mufti Muhammad Sayeed hoped that this positive development would help in finding pragmatic solutions to a number of issues affecting relationship between the two countries.²⁹

In other developments, according to reports, less than a week after killing of five Lashker-e-Toiba (LeT) militants in Zachaldara forests of Handwara in district Kupwara, Army said it killed five more militants of the same group in the area after busting a hideout. The search party came under heavy fire from heavily armed militants. The fire was retaliated. The militants went into their hideout after the first assault. The sector commander said that the militants were asked to surrender, however they refused and opened fire on the joint party from the hideout. The hideout was busted by joint party of RR and SOG and in subsequent searches five bodies of militants were found.³⁰

North East India

- **Maoists train two batches of new recruits in Assam; Meghalaya Chief Minister: Ceasefire with Achik National Volunteers' Council is in jeopardy; Four Garo National Liberation Army (GNLA) cadres killed on Assam-Meghalaya border; Centre and Pro-talk ULFA faction will held its talk on April 9, 2012; Four Ultras killed in East Garo Hills; ULFA cadre killed in Goalpara; Ultra arrest reveals Maoist links with PLA of Manipur; GNLA camp busted in Tura, Meghalaya**

According to reports, the Maoist rebel groups have been gradually establishing their roots in Assam and according to information available with the security forces, at least two batches of new recruits of the Maoists from Assam have already completed training. One member from Assam has already been inducted into the Central committee of the Maoists to give a boost to the activities of the groups in Assam. One batch of the new recruits were trained by cadres of the National Socialist Council of Nagalim (I-M) in India-Myanmar border area but it is not known whether the training took place inside India or across the border. The second batch was trained in Jharkhand. Those who received training have already returned to Assam and the possibility of them indulging in acts of violence cannot be ruled out. Sources revealed that the total strength of the Maoists in Assam would be not less than 70 persons but not all are armed cadres. The Maoists have strong links with the PLA of Manipur and NSCN (I-M) and in fact, they signed an agreement with the PLA long back. Sources revealed that according to information available with the security forces, the NSCN (I-M) also sent "trainers" to Jharkhand to train up Maoist cadres.³¹

²⁹ "Mixed response in Valley", *Greater Kashmir*, April 8, 2012 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2012/Apr/9/mixed-response-in-valley-68.asp>

³⁰ "5 militants killed in Handwara encounter", *Greater Kashmir*, April 5, 2012 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2012/Apr/6/5-militants-killed-in-handwara-encounter-67.asp>

³¹ "Maoists train two batches of new recruits in State", *The Assam Tribune*, April 2, 2012 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=apr0312/at09>

In another development, according to reports, Meghalaya Chief Minister Mukul Sangma said that the previous DD Lapang Congress Government erred by signing the 2004 ceasefire agreement with the Achik National Volunteers' Council (ANVC) without taking all its cadres into confidence. The Suspension of Operations (SoO) agreement was signed between the State, Central Governments and the ANVC without realising the fact that there was an armed group within the ANVC working independently. Due to that error, the armed group has now surfaced and the ongoing agreement is in jeopardy.³²

According to reports, four members of the militant group Garo National Liberation Army (GNLA) were killed in a gun battle with security forces in East Garo Hills district of Meghalaya on the Assam-Meghalaya border. The militants fired at the police team forcing them to retaliate. In the ensuing gun battle, four militants were gunned down while the rest of the group managed to escape.³³

Reports noted that the Government of India is keen on expediting the peace talks with the pro-talk faction of the United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) and is of the view that the acts of violence by the members of the hardline faction would not affect the peace talks. The Union Home Secretary would meet the leaders of the ULFA on April 9 to review the progress of talks. Sources said that though the Centre's interlocutor PC Haldar has been entrusted with the responsibility of talking with the ULFA and other militant groups of the state, the MHA was of the view that the progress of talks should be reviewed from time to time to ensure that the process of expedited. Sources said that the MHA is keen on early solution of the problem and the leaders of the ULFA should also feel the sincerity of the Government to find amicable solution. However, it is difficult for setting any deadline for signing an agreement with any militant outfit.³⁴

According to reports, security forces on April 5, 2012 shot down four suspected Garo National Liberation Army (GNLA) cadres in a pre-dawn operation at Mongpangro village, 22 km from Mendhipathar, East Garo Hills district.³⁵ While in another development, a hard-core member of the Ulfa's anti-talk faction was killed during a gun battle with the army and the police in Goalpara district on the Assam-Meghalaya border. Goalpara Superintendent of Police Luis Aind said that an AK-56 rifle, over 100 live bullets, magazines and a hand grenade were recovered from his possession.³⁶

³² "Ceasefire with ANVC in jeopardy: Sangma", *The Assam Tribune*, April 3, 2012 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=apr0412/oth06>

³³ "Four GNLA cadres killed on Assam-Meghalaya border", *The Assam Tribune*, April 5, 2012 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=apr0512/at043>

³⁴ "Pro-talk ULFA, Centre talks on April 9", *The Assam Tribune*, April 5, 2012 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=apr0612/at05>

³⁵ "4 ultras killed in East Garo Hills dist", *The Assam Tribune*, April 5, 2012 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=apr0612/oth05>

³⁶ "ULFA cadre killed in Goalpara", *The Assam Tribune*, April 8, 2012 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=apr0812/at0155>

Reports noted that the National Investigating Agency (NIA) managed to snap a major link between the Maoist rebel groups and Manipur based militant group PLA following the arrest of hardcore PLA cadre Arnold Sing alias Bekon in Siliguri, where he was working at a call centre. Official sources said that Arnold, who originally hails from Guwahati, joined the PLA in 2003 and following the signing of an agreement between the Maoist rebels and PLA, he led a four member team of the PLA to Jharkhand to impart training to the Maoist rebels. He along with other members of the PLA imparted arms training to several batches of Maoist rebels.³⁷

In other developments, according to reports, special police commandos from the elite SWAT unit of the East Garo Hills Police, backed by the CRPF CoBRA special forces, blasted their way through a major camp belonging to the Garo National Liberation Army and engaged in a fierce encounter which forced the ultras to flee, leaving behind a large quantity of powerful explosives.³⁸

IV. UNITED NATIONS (UN) REVIEW

- **UNSC concerned about situation in Mali; India's representative to the UNSC : Iran could play a crucial role in resolving the Syrian crisis**

Reports noted that the UN Security Council expressed concern over the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Mali and called on all parties to allow access to aid organizations to provide assistance to civilians in need. The Council also called for an increased mobilization of the international community to support humanitarian efforts.³⁹

In another development, in an interview with the Islamic Republic News Agency, India's representative to the UN Security Council, Hardeep Singh Puri said that the UN special envoy to Syrian affairs, Kofi Annan is counting on the decisive role that Iran could play in resolving the Syrian crisis. He further added that Tehran could use its position and influence to encourage the Syrian government to cooperate in resolving the issues.⁴⁰

³⁷ "Ultra arrest reveals Maoist links with PLA", *The Assam Tribune*, April 8, 2012 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=apr0912/at06>

³⁸ "GNLA camp busted, explosives found", *The Assam Tribune*, April 8, 2012 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=apr0912/oth05>

³⁹ "Security Council concerned over deteriorating humanitarian situation in Mali", *UN News Centre*, 04 April 2012 at <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=41711&Cr=mali&Cr1=>

⁴⁰ "Iran role in resolving Syria crisis decisive: India UN envoy", *Press TV*, April 07, 2012 at <http://presstv.com/detail/235063.html>