

# THE WEEK IN REVIEW

April 29- May 5, (1), 2013

**Editor:** Sanjeev Kumar Shrivastav

## Contributors



Anweshia Roy Choudhury	Afghanistan, Pakistan
Gulbin Sultana	Sri Lanka
Gunjan Singh	China
Rahul Mishra	Southeast Asia
Rajorshi Roy	Central Asia & Russia
Mahtab Alam Rizvi	Iran, Iraq
Amit Kumar	Defence Review
Shristi Phukerem	Internal Security Review
Keerthi Kumar	United Nations Review

**Review Adviser:** S. Kalyanaraman

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1, Development Enclave, Rao Tula Ram Marg, New Delhi-110010  
Telephone: 91-26717983; Fax: 91-11-26154191 Website: [www.idsa.in](http://www.idsa.in); Email: [twir@idsa.in](mailto:twir@idsa.in)

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## I. COUNTRY REVIEWS

### A. SOUTH ASIA

#### Afghanistan

(April 22-28)

- **Talks between Afghanistan, Pakistan and United States to be held in Brussels; Karzai visits Brussels for talks; Human Rights Watch: Afghanistan's policewomen abused at work**

According to reports, US Secretary of State John Kerry will host talks between Afghan President Hamid Karzai and senior Pakistan officials in Brussels on April 23, aimed at calming tension over border disputes and a flagging peace process. The meeting is part of a series of on-off discussions between Afghanistan and Pakistan at the behest of the United States. Kerry said the meeting would discuss the handover of security responsibility to Afghan forces this year, a move intended to allow for the end of Nato-led combat operations. "This is the year of transition. This is the critical year in Afghanistan," he told US diplomats in Brussels.<sup>1</sup> Meanwhile, Afghan President Hamid Karzai on left for talks in Brussels April 23, with top US and Pakistani officials aimed at reviving faltering efforts to bring peace to his country.<sup>2</sup>

In other developments, according to reports, Afghanistan's policewomen suffer sexual assault by male colleagues, often inside police stations, Human Rights Watch (HRW) said on April 25, calling for women-only toilets and changing facilities to curb such abuse. "Harassment and abuse is an everyday experience for many Afghan women," said HRW Asia director Brad Adams. In a statement the group cited "numerous" media reports of the rape of female officers by male colleagues, and said the lack of separate secure toilets or places to change clothes makes them particularly vulnerable.<sup>3</sup>

(April 29- May 5)

- **Karzai admits accepting money from United States**

According to reports, the Afghan president Hamid Karzai has admitted his office received secret payments from the US, but says the amounts were small and used legitimately. Hamid Karzai

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<sup>1</sup> Afghanistan, Pakistan, US to meet for talks in Brussels, *The Express Tribune*, April 22, 2013 at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/538920/afghan-pakistan-us-to-meet-for-talks-in-brussels-afghan-official/>

<sup>2</sup> Patience is running out with Pakistan: Karzai's office, *The Express Tribune*, April 22, 2013 at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/539397/patience-is-running-out-with-pakistan-karzais-office/>

<sup>3</sup> Afghan policewomen suffer sexual abuse at work: HRW, *Dawn*, April 25, 2013 at <http://dawn.com/2013/04/25/afghan-policewomen-suffer-sexual-abuse-at-work-hrw/>

was responding to a New York Times report that alleged the CIA sent suitcases stuffed with cash to the president's office on a regular basis.<sup>4</sup>

## Pakistan

(April 22-28)

- **Pervez Ashraf allowed to contest elections finally; A Pakistani court orders a three-day house arrest on former military ruler Pervez Musharraf over the murder of ex-Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto; Pakistan and Russia agree on comprehensive partnership; MQM office attacked by Taliban in Karachi**

According to reports, the Lahore High court on April 20 finally gave the green signal to former prime minister and Pakistan People's Party (PPP) leader Raja Pervez Ashraf to contest the May 11 general election. The court also cleared Pakistan Muslim League – Nawaz (PML-N) leader Khwaja Asif and PPP's Qamar Zaman Kaira to contest the polls.<sup>5</sup>

In another development, according to reports, a Pakistani court has ordered a three-day house arrest on former military ruler Pervez Musharraf over the murder of ex-Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto more than five years ago. Musharraf appeared in court on April 26 in the garrison city of Rawalpindi for his remand hearing under tight security a day after being formally arrested. He is accused of conspiracy to murder Bhutto, who died in a gun and suicide attack in December 2007.<sup>6</sup>

In other development, according to reports, Pakistan and Russia agreed on April 25 to promote a 'comprehensive partnership' after talks between senior officials from the two countries. The meeting of the Pakistan-Russia Consultative Group on Strategic Stability was part of the efforts by the two countries to increase cooperation on key regional and international issues. The issues discussed were international arms control, disarmament and Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) non proliferation.<sup>7</sup>

According to reports, at least five people were killed and around ten others injured when a blast ripped through an election office of Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) in Karachi's Nusrat Bhutto Colony on April 25. The Tehrik I Taliban Pakistn (TTP) has claimed responsibility for the attack. The TTP has vowed to attack secular parties in Pakistan in the wake of coming elections.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Afghan President Hamid Karzai confirms secret US cash help, *BBC*, April 29, 2013 at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-22343030>

<sup>5</sup> Court clears Ashraf to contest elections, *Dawn*, April 22, 2013 at <http://dawn.com/2013/04/22/court-clears-ashraf-to-contest-elections/>

<sup>6</sup> Musharraf put on remand over Bhutto killing, *Al Jazeera*, April 26, 2013 at <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia/2013/04/2013425151713444188.html>

<sup>7</sup> Diplomatic ties: Pakistan, Russia agree on a comprehensive partnership, *The Express Tribune*, April 26, 2013 at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/540771/diplomatic-ties-pakistan-russia-agree-on-a-comprehensive-partnership/>

<sup>8</sup> Pakistani Taliban attack MQM office in Karachi, five killed, *Dawn*, April 22, 2013 at <http://beta.dawn.com/news/794274/pakistani-taliban-attack-mqm-office-in-karachi-five-killed>

**(April 29- May 5)**

- **Election Commission orders provinces to beef up security before poll; Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) defends its attacks on politicians; Musharraf barred from contesting elections for life; A fifteen-day targeted operation by the army and Frontier Corps against the armed militants to commence on May 1**

According to reports, in the wake of volatile security situation in Pakistan, the Election Commission has ordered the provincial governments to step up security especially for contesting candidates. The commission has expressed serious concerns over the increasing attack on election candidates and campaigns before the upcoming elections on May 11.<sup>9</sup>

In another development, according to reports, the outlawed Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) has defended its attacks politicians, claiming that they were targeting liberal political parties for their secular ideology and support for military operations. "The first reason for attacking political parties is their secular doctrine. The second reason is that they were responsible for burning Fata, Swat and Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa," said TTP spokesperson Ehsanullah Ehsan in a statement. He claimed that the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), Awami National Party (ANP) and the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) were responsible for the "displacement of millions of people, the plight of the Pakhtun, for abandoned villages and destroyed mosques," adding that the TTP would avenge the oppressed.<sup>10</sup>

In other developments, reports noted that former president Pervez Musharraf has been declared ineligible to contest elections for life by the Peshawar High Court (PHC) on April 30. The four-member larger bench of the Peshawar High Court (PHC), headed by the Chief Justice of PHC, also dismissed Musharraf's appeal against his disqualification from the elections. Earlier in April, Musharraf's nomination papers were rejected from all the constituencies he had applied for. His nomination papers for Karachi, Islamabad and Chitral were earlier rejected by the returning officers.<sup>11</sup>

Reports noted that Balochistan Home Secretary Akbar Hussain Durrani has said that a fifteen-day targeted operation by the army and Frontier Corps against the armed militants will commence on May 1 in different parts of the province. The operation will be taken against all proscribed organisations, including the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA), the Balochistan Republican Army (BRA), the Balochistan Liberation Front (BLA), the United Baloch Army (UBA), the Lashkar-e-Balochistan (LB) and "all those who are involved in subversive activities to sabotage the election process," Durrani said. The operation will initially take place in nine districts where voters have

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<sup>9</sup> ECP urges provinces to step up poll security, *The Express Tribune*, April 29, 2013 at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/541874/ecp-urges-provinces-to-step-up-poll-security/>

<sup>10</sup> Deadly mandate: Liberal parties targeted for their ideology, says TTP, *The Express Tribune*, April 29, 2013 at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/541944/deadly-mandate-liberal-parties-targeted-for-their-ideology-says-ttp/>

<sup>11</sup> Musharraf declared ineligible to contest elections, for life, *The Express Tribune*, April 30, 2013 at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/542514/musharraf-s-appeal-against-election-disqualification-dismissed/>

been or are being threatened by militants. These districts are Turbat, Makran, Gwadar, Punjgor, Kalat, Kharan, Washuk, Awaran and Khuzdar.<sup>12</sup>

## Sri Lanka

(April 22-28)

- **China to strengthen military cooperation with Sri Lanka; Chairman of the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group confirms that the 23rd CHOGM will be held as planned in Sri Lanka; Australia vows not to boycott the CHOGM; Canada expresses its concerns that Colombo is not facing censure for its Human Rights records; Two Japanese naval ships, "Akebono" and "Hamagiri" arrived at the Port of Colombo for logistics requirements; STF of Sri Lanka conducted a VIP training for a group of thirty Maldivian police officers; Sri Lanka's Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva Ambassador called for the total elimination of nuclear weapons from the world**

According to reports, the Chinese government said its military was willing to make joint efforts with the Sri Lankan military to strengthen high-level contacts, deepen pragmatic cooperation and innovate exchange forms, so as to push forward the relations between the two militaries to a new high. Fang Fenghui, member of the Central Military Commission (CMC) of the People's Republic of China (PRC) and Chief of General Staff of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) revealed this during a meeting with visiting Navy Commander Jayanath Colombage on April 26, in Beijing.<sup>13</sup>

According to reports, the 23rd Commonwealth Heads of Government Conference (CHOGM) would be held as planned in Sri Lanka, despite opposition from some member states, allied organisations and rights groups, chairman of the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG), Dr Dipu Moni announced after a meeting of the CMAG in London on April 26.<sup>14</sup>

Meanwhile, according to reports, Former Prime Minister of Australia Malcolm Fraser joined dozens of other prominent Australians in calling for Canberra to boycott the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) unless there was significant progress on Sri Lanka's human rights record. However, Foreign Minister Bob Carr said it would be counter-productive to skip the summit in the Sri Lankan city of Hambantota in November. Therefore, Australia has vowed not to boycott the CHOGM in Sri Lanka over allegations of human rights violations, despite mounting calls not to attend.<sup>15</sup> On the other hand, John Baird, Canada's foreign minister, said he was stunned that Colombo was not facing censure for its human rights records.<sup>16</sup>

<sup>12</sup> Targeting militants: Balochistan operation commences today, *The Express Tribune*, May 1, 2013 at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/542872/targeting-militants-balochistan-operation-commences-today/>

<sup>13</sup> "China to enhance military ties with SL", *The Daily Mirror*, April 28, 2013 at <http://www.dailymirror.lk/news/28694-china-to-enhance-military-ties-with-sl.html>

<sup>14</sup> "CHOGM to be held as planned in SL", *The Daily Mirror*, April 27, 2013 at <http://www.dailymirror.lk/news/28664-sl-not-on-cmag-agenda.html>.

<sup>15</sup> "Australia rejects calls to boycott Sri Lanka meet", *The Daily Mirror*, April 27, 2013 at <http://www.dailymirror.lk/news/28668-australia-rejects-calls-to-boycott-sri-lanka-meet.html>.

<sup>16</sup> "Canada attacks 'evil' of Sri Lanka hosting Commonwealth summit", *The Daily Mirror*, April 27, 2013 at <http://www.dailymirror.lk/news/28666-canada-attacks-evil-of-sri-lanka-hosting-commonwealth-summit.html>.



Reports noted that two Japanese naval ships, “Akebono” and “Hamagiri” arrived at the Port of Colombo for logistics requirements on April 25, 2013. “Akebono” is a destroyer with two helicopters onboard. It is 151 meters in length. It consists of a complement of 190 naval personnel and has a displacement of 4,550 tons. “Hamagiri” is also a destroyer with a helicopter onboard. It is 137 meters in length and has a displacement of 3,550 tons. It consists of a complement of 220 naval personnel. The ships were en route for Counter Piracy Operations off the Coast of Somaliya and in the Gulf of Aden. Head of the team, Commander Escort Division 6, Captain Tsutomu Iwasawa and other visiting officers paid a courtesy call on Commander Western Naval Area, Rear Admiral Sirimevan Ranasinghe of the Sri Lanka Navy at the Western Naval Command Headquarters in Colombo.<sup>17</sup>

In other developments, reports noted that the Special Task Force (STF) of Sri Lanka conducted a VIP training for a group of 30 Maldivian police officers for a period of six weeks.<sup>18</sup>

According to reports, Sri Lanka’s Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva Ambassador Ravinatha Aryasinha has called for the total elimination of nuclear weapons from the world claiming it is the only possible way for the survival of humanity. Ambassador Aryasinha made these observations when he addressed the Second Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) on its opening day. The Session on from 22 April–3 May 2013 in Geneva, was chaired by Ambassador Cornel Feruta of Romania.<sup>19</sup>

### (April 29- May 5)

- **US expresses its concerns about threats to freedom of expression in Sri Lanka; Fifth Technical Level Meeting on Pakistan-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement (PSFTA) held in Islamabad; Agreement between Aitken Spence PLC and the government of Fiji signed; Deputy Prime Minister of Japan visits Colombo; A delegation of Sri Lanka Human Rights Commission met with the Commonwealth Secretary-General; Australia’s Minister for Immigration and Citizenship made a three-day visit to Colombo; Sri Lanka rejects a United States grant of US\$ 3.5 million for judicial reform; Third Sri Lanka-Thailand Joint Commission meeting held in Colombo**

According to reports, the United States said it remains extremely concerned about threats to freedom of expression in Sri Lanka and urged the Sri Lankan authorities to conduct thorough investigations into all attacks and killings of journalists and to bring the perpetrators to justice.<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> “Japanese warships in Colombo”, *The Daily Mirror*, April 26, 2013 at <http://www.dailymirror.lk/news/28620-japanese-warships-in-colombo.html>.

<sup>18</sup> “STF training Maldivian police”, *The Daily Mirror*, April 23, 2013 at <http://www.dailymirror.lk/news/28482-stf-training-maldivian-police.html>.

<sup>19</sup> “SL calls for total elimination of nuclear weapons”, *The Daily Mirror*, April 23, 2013 at <http://www.dailymirror.lk/news/28466-sl-calls-for-total-elimination-of-nuclear-weapons.html>.

<sup>20</sup> “U.S. calls for Sri Lanka to investigate attacks on press”, *The Colombo Page*, May 1, 2013 at [http://www.colombopage.com/archive\\_13A/May01\\_1367382462CH.php](http://www.colombopage.com/archive_13A/May01_1367382462CH.php).

In another development, according to reports, at the fifth Technical Level Meeting on Pakistan-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement (PSFTA) held in Islamabad from April 29-30, the two countries agreed to enhance the existing level of trade and commerce through greater interaction. The meeting was co-chaired by the Secretary of the Pakistan Ministry of Commerce Munir Qureshi and his Sri Lankan counterpart Anura Siriwardena, Secretary to the Ministry of Industry and Commerce. Both countries agree that bilateral trade between Pakistan and Sri Lanka has the potential to increase much more than the current volume of US\$ 400 million and aim to expand the bilateral trade to reach US\$ 2 billion in the next three years.<sup>21</sup>

Reports noted that Sri Lanka's diversified conglomerate Aitken Spence PLC has entered into an agreement with the government of Fiji to operate the country's two biggest ports. In a stock filing disclosure to Colombo Stock Exchange, Aitken Spence said it has signed an agreement to form a Private Public Partnership agreement with Fiji Ports Corporation, a wholly owned entity of the Government of Fiji to manage the cargo handling activities at the ports of Suva and Lautoka on a concession period of 15 years. Under the agreement Aitken Spence will acquire 51 percent of the shares of Fiji Ports Terminal Ltd., a subsidiary of Fiji Ports Corporation, which will manage the operations. The investment of US\$ 6 million (FJD 10.5 million) will be subjected to the approval of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka and any other relevant regulatory authorities.<sup>22</sup>

Reports noted that Deputy Prime Minister of Japan, Taro Aso and Parliamentary Senior Vice Minister of Finance, Ms. Yuko Obuchi arrived in Colombo on May 1, 2013 on an official visit. The two-day visit on May 1-2 is a follow-up to the Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa's visit to Tokyo in March this year.<sup>23</sup>

According to reports, a delegation of Sri Lanka Human Rights Commission (HRC) led by its Chair Justice Priyantha R. P. Perera has met with the Commonwealth Secretary-General Kamalesh Sharma at the Marlborough House in London on May 1, 2013 and discussed ways to improve Sri Lanka's human rights record. The Commonwealth Secretariat and the HRC have agreed on two immediate areas of technical assistance, which are expected to be carried out over the next three to six months. The Commonwealth will assist to strengthen the capacity of the HRC on effective use of national inquiries as a means of human rights protection, and to take forward an agenda aimed at national reconciliation. The Sri Lanka HRC group is in London to take part in a Commonwealth roundtable on reconciliation, being held at the Commonwealth Secretariat from 1 to 3 May.<sup>24</sup>

Reports noted that Australia's Minister for Immigration and Citizenship Brendan O'Connor made a three-day visit to Colombo on May 3, 2013. The minister was accompanied by Department of

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<sup>21</sup> "Pakistan, Sri Lanka to enhance existing level of trade and commerce through greater interaction", *The Colombo Page*, May 1, 2013 at [http://www.colombopage.com/archive\\_13A/May01\\_1367385090CH.php](http://www.colombopage.com/archive_13A/May01_1367385090CH.php).

<sup>22</sup> "Sri Lanka's Aitken Spence to manage cargo handling at Fiji ports", *The Colombo Page*, May 1, 2013 at [http://www.colombopage.com/archive\\_13A/May01\\_1367428602CH.php](http://www.colombopage.com/archive_13A/May01_1367428602CH.php).

<sup>23</sup> "Japan's Deputy Prime Minister arrives in Sri Lanka", *The Colombo Page*, May 2, 2013 at [http://www.colombopage.com/archive\\_13A/May02\\_1367475361CH.php](http://www.colombopage.com/archive_13A/May02_1367475361CH.php).

<sup>24</sup> "Commonwealth Secretariat to provide technical assistance to strengthen Sri Lanka Human Rights Commission", *The Colombo Page*, May 2, 2013 at [http://www.colombopage.com/archive\\_13A/May02\\_1367478453CH.php](http://www.colombopage.com/archive_13A/May02_1367478453CH.php).



Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) secretary Martin Bowles, who co-chaired the inaugural meeting of the Sri Lanka- Australia Joint Working Group on People Smuggling and Transnational Crime in December last year.<sup>25</sup>

In other developments, according to reports, Sri Lanka has rejected a United States grant of US\$ 3.5 million for judicial reform because the conditions attached to it would infringe on the country's sovereignty. However, it does not elaborate the conditions. Media has speculated that the issue was the chairmanship of the Advisory Committee on the use of the grant. The government reportedly has insisted on having the current Chief Justice Mohan Peiris assuming the role but the U.S. still opposed to the impeachment of former chief justice is reportedly adamant on not recognizing Peiris as the Chief Justice. For the Lankan government, the US objection was reportedly untenable from the stand point of the sovereignty of Sri Lanka.<sup>26</sup>

Reports noted that under the framework of the Joint Commission Sri Lanka and Thailand are exploring the possibility of increasing trade volume up to the threshold of US\$ 1 billion within the next 3-5 years. Sri Lanka's external Affairs Minister Prof. G.L. Peiris at the conclusion of the 3rd Sri Lanka-Thailand Joint Commission Meeting on May 2, 2013 said the two countries have made a decision to accelerate the economic partnership as the increased volume of trade and inbound investment is paramount to uplift the livelihood of the people and to increase production within the country. Welcoming the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Thailand Surapong Tovichakchaikul to Sri Lanka, Minister Peiris said the Joint Commission meeting would provide a renewed interest to further the bilateral relations based on accruing opportunities for cooperation.<sup>27</sup>

## B. East Asia

### China

- **Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi: ASEAN and China capable of maintaining peace and stability; Palestinian visits China; Israeli Prime Minister to visit China from May 6-10, 2013**

According to reports, China and ASEAN members have reached consensus that the two sides are fully capable of maintaining peace and stability in the region, including on the South China Sea, visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on May 5 before wrapping up a five-day visit.<sup>28</sup>

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<sup>25</sup> "Australian Immigration Minister to arrive in Sri Lanka today", *The Colombo Page*, May 2, 2013 at [http://www.colombopage.com/archive\\_13A/May02\\_1367480475CH.php](http://www.colombopage.com/archive_13A/May02_1367480475CH.php).

<sup>26</sup> "Sri Lanka turns down US grant for law reform", *The Colombo Page*, May 2, 2013, at [http://www.colombopage.com/archive\\_13A/May02\\_1367511249CH.php](http://www.colombopage.com/archive_13A/May02_1367511249CH.php).

<sup>27</sup> "Sri Lanka, Thailand to expand bilateral trade to US\$ 1 billion", *The Colombo Page*, May 3, 2013, at [http://www.colombopage.com/archive\\_13A/May03\\_1367587408CH.php](http://www.colombopage.com/archive_13A/May03_1367587408CH.php).

<sup>28</sup> "China, ASEAN capable of safeguarding peace" *China Daily*, May 5, 2013 at [http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2013-05/05/content\\_16477399.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2013-05/05/content_16477399.htm)

In another development, according to reports, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas reached Beijing on May 5 to begin his state visit. He will be in China from May 5-7, 2013. He will be discussing bilateral ties and regional issues of concern.<sup>29</sup>

In other developments, according to reports, at the invitation of his Chinese counterpart Li Keqiang, Netanyahu is scheduled to visit China on May 6-10. It will be his first visit abroad since he took office for a third term in late March.<sup>30</sup>

## South East Asia

- **General Elections held in Malaysia; Najib Rajak led coalition retains power in Malaysia; Attack on Myanmar Embassy foiled in Indonesia; Philippines and Russia sign customs mutual administrative agreement; Chinese ship damages centuries-old Philippine reefs; Thailand imposes safeguard duty on Indian steel firms**

In the General Elections, held on May 5, 2013, the ruling National Front Coalition has emerged victorious. Results have certainly verified the leadership of Prime Minister Najib Rajak, the leader of the National front Coalition. His coalition captured 122 of Malaysia's 222 parliamentary seats to win a simple majority. Opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim's three-party alliance seized 57 seats. However, the opposition leader Anwar signalled the opposition might dispute the results, saying irregularities cost his alliance numerous seats with narrow margins. Within minutes of the National Front's declaration of victory, thousands of Malaysian opposition supporters replaced their Facebook profile photos with black boxes in a coordinated sign of dismay. The Election Commission estimated more than 10 million voted for a record turnout of 80 per cent of 13 million registered voters. They were also voting to fill vacancies in 12 of Malaysia's 13 state legislatures.<sup>31</sup> During the elections, eighty per cent of the 12.99 million registered voters cast their votes at all 8,245 voting centers across the country.<sup>32</sup>

In another development, in Jakarta, the Indonesian police arrested two men for an alleged plot to bomb the embassy of Myanmar to protest how the country treats Muslims. The incident is indicative of the fact that Myanmar's sectarian unrest has spread outside the country and could further encourage extremists. Hundreds of Indonesian police were deployed around Myanmar's embassy in Jakarta on May 3, 2013 after they stopped what could have been a deadly attack. An elite anti-terror squad on May 2, 2013 arrested two men armed with explosives and alleged ties to terrorist networks and recent attacks on police.<sup>33</sup>

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<sup>29</sup> "Palestinian president starts China visit" *China Daily*, May 5, 2013 at [http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/world/2013-05/05/content\\_16477334.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/world/2013-05/05/content_16477334.htm)

<sup>30</sup> "Israeli PM's China visit to strengthen ties: spokesman" *China Daily*, May 2, 2013 at [http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2013-05/02/content\\_16466634.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2013-05/02/content_16466634.htm)

<sup>31</sup> 'Malaysia's ruling coalition hangs on to power', *The Hindu*, May 5, 2013, <http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/world/voting-begins-in-tight-malaysian-national-election/article4685906.ece>

<sup>32</sup> 'Malaysians vote in closely-contested elections', *Deccan Herald*, May 5, 2013, <http://www.deccanherald.com/content/330488/malaysians-vote-closely-contested-election.html>

<sup>33</sup> 'Indonesia foils terror attack on Burmese Embassy', *VOA News*, May 3, 2013, <http://www.voanews.com/content/indonesia-foils-terrorist-attack-on-burmese-embassy/1653753.html>

According to the Philippine information agency report published on May 4, 2013, the Philippines and Russia has signed a historic Customs Mutual Administrative Assistance Agreement in Manila on April 24, 2013. The country's campaign against border security breaches and transnational crimes, including smuggling, got a big boost with the signing of the agreement. The landmark agreement establishes the connectivity of the two customs administrations in strengthening cooperation to fight transnational crimes, commercial fraud and the prevention of customs offenses. The cooperation also prevents breaches of customs laws to protect the economic, fiscal, social and commercial interests of both countries, including the assurance for appropriate and efficient customs duty collection.<sup>34</sup>

In other developments, according to reports, Thailand has imposed a provisional safeguard duty on import of Indian rolled flat steel products of a certain specification, a major export from India. The move comes close on the heels of the Indonesian government deciding to continue anti-dumping duty against two leading Indian steel firms – JSW Steel and Essar Steel. The 33.11 per cent duty, which has been imposed by Thailand's Department of Foreign Trade (DFT) from February 27, would continue to be in effect till the first week of August. This is expected to adversely impact the fortunes of India's steel industry. The duty imposed by Thailand would be in effect against imports from other nations too.<sup>35</sup>

According to reports, a Chinese fishing vessel crashed into one of the Philippines' most famous reefs. Around 3,902 square metres of coral was destroyed after the boat became stranded in the Tubbataha marine park - a UNESCO World Heritage-listed coral reef - the park management said on May 4, 2013.<sup>36</sup>

## C. Russia

### Russia

- **President Putin discusses the current developments in Middle East with the Israeli Prime Minister; Russia to spend more than US\$ 31 billion through to 2015 for developing atomic energy; Prime Minister Medvedev approves of new natural resources fields in the Barents Sea for exploitation by Gazprom; Foreign Minister Lavrov: Russia is ready for talks with the Syrian opposition; Russia and Japan instruct their foreign ministries to intensify contacts on signing of a peace treaty; Russia to induct upto 20 new ships in its Black Sea Fleet in the near future; Russia's concern on ABM still persist despite the Russia-US talks on this issue;**

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<sup>34</sup> 'Philippines- Russia sign customs mutual administrative assistance agreement', *PIA*, May 4, 2013, <http://www.pia.gov.ph/news/index.php?article=1781367657315>

<sup>35</sup> 'Thailand slaps anti-dumping duty on steel imports', *The Indian Express*, May 5, 2013, <http://www.indianexpress.com/news/thailand-slaps-antidumping-duty-on-steel-imports/1111575/>

<sup>36</sup> 'Chinese boat damages Philippine reef', *The Australian*, May 4, 2013 <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/breaking-news/chinese-boat-damages-philippine-reef/story-fn3dxix6-1226635228142>

**Foreign Minister Lavrov: Rumours of a crisis in Russia-EU relations is being exaggerated; US President Obama to visit Russia in September**

Reports noted that President Putin held telephonic discussion with the Israeli Prime Minister Mr. Benjamin Netanyahu on the current developments in Middle East.<sup>37</sup>

According to reports, Russia will spend more than US\$ 31 billion through to 2015 for developing its nuclear power industry. The next-generation nuclear power plants will include double reactor containment, passive heat removal systems, and specialized cooling units.<sup>38</sup>

Reports noted that Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev has approved of new natural resources fields in the Barents Sea for exploitation by Gazprom, which will be used without competitions or auctions. These include the Demidovsky, Medvezhy and Fersmanovsky fields in the Barents Sea and the Ledovoye condensate deposit.<sup>39</sup>

Foreign Minister Lavrov has said that Russia is ready for talks with all groups of the Syrian opposition.<sup>40</sup>

In other developments, according to reports, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe instructed the foreign ministries of their countries to intensify the work over a peace treaty between two nations.<sup>41</sup>

Russia will induct up to 20 new ships in its Black Sea Fleet in the near future. The air force of the Black Sea Fleet will also receive new aircraft, including Su-24M bombers.<sup>42</sup>

Deputy Defence Minister Anatoly Antonov has said that Russia's concerns over America's missile defence plans remain despite a meeting on this issue with his US counterpart Jim Miller.<sup>43</sup>

Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov has said that rumours of a crisis between Russia and the EU relations is exaggerated.<sup>44</sup>

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<sup>37</sup> "Putin, Netanyahu discuss situation in Middle East", Itar-Tass, May 5, 2013, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/728417.html>

<sup>38</sup> "Russia to spend more than \$ 31 billion through to 2015 for atomic energy", Itar-Tass, May 1, 2013, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/725350.html>

<sup>39</sup> "Medvedev approves new natural resources fields in Barents Sea for Gazprom", Itar-Tass, May 3, 2013, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/726373.html>

<sup>40</sup> "Moscow is ready for talks with any groups of Syrian opposition – Lavrov", Itar-Tass, May 3, 2013, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/726489.html>

<sup>41</sup> "Putin, Abe instruct foreign ministries to intensify contacts on peace treaty", Itar-Tass, April 29, 2013, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/723275.html>

<sup>42</sup> "Up to 20 new ships, boats to join Black Sea Fleet in near future", Itar-Tass, April 29, 2013, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/722728.html>

<sup>43</sup> "Russian-US talks on ABM not remove Russia's concerns", Itar-Tass, April 30, 2013, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/724781.html>

<sup>44</sup> "Rumours about crisis in Russian-EU relations exaggerated – Lavrov", Itar-Tass, May 2, 2013, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/726019.html>

According to reports, US President Barack Obama will visit Russia before the G20 summit to be held in St. Petersburg in early September, 2013.<sup>45</sup>

## D. West Asia

### Iran

- **Iranian Ambassador to India Gholamreza Ansari: Iran, India agrees to sign six memorandums of understanding; Iran planned to build eight types of under-surface systems in cooperation with universities**

According to reports, Iranian ambassador to India Gholamreza Ansari announced that Iran and India will hold a joint economic meeting in Tehran in the upcoming days. During the meeting both countries will sign six memorandums of understanding. The meeting will be chaired by Iranian foreign minister Ali-Akbar Salehi and his Indian counterpart Salman Khurshid. Ambassador Gholamreza Ansari also told that the issue of exporting Iranian gas via the Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline to India will be also discussed. The two countries plan to reach \$25 billion in annual bilateral trade in the next four years.<sup>46</sup>

In another development, according to reports, Mohammad Ali Badri, Director of National Project for Internalizing Subsea Systems said that Isfahan Industrial University has planned and built eight types of under-surface systems in cooperation with three other universities. He also told that subsea rocket-launchers and unmanned smart ships were among the produced types. Badri also said that the Project predicted production of 550 needed technologies for subsea facilities. "To achieve this objective, we have divided the technologies in red, yellow, and green categories, and on this premise, we examined the potential capabilities of the country." These systems include rocket-launcher submarines, deep-floating submarines (recreation, tourist, AUV systems, unmanned smart ships), and cabling systems.<sup>47</sup>

### Iraq

- **Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri Al Maliki's coalition emerges on top in provincial elections but need alliances to hold onto senior provincial posts**

According to reports, Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri Al Maliki's coalition came top in provincial elections however, failed to win a majority in any district, meaning it will need alliances to hold onto senior provincial posts. Maliki's State of Law won the most seats in seven out of 12 provinces, in a vote that was the biggest test of Iraqi democracy since US troops pulled out in December

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<sup>45</sup> "Obama to visit Russia before G20 summit in early September in Petersburg", Itar-Tass, April 29, 2013, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/723640.html>

<sup>46</sup> "Iran, India set to ink economic co-op MOUs," *Mehr News Agency*, April 30, 2013, at <http://old.mehrnews.com/en/newsdetail.aspx?NewsID=1820947>

<sup>47</sup> "Iran develops rocket-launcher submarine, smart ships," *Mehr News Agency*, April 28, 2013, at <http://old.mehrnews.com/en/newsdetail.aspx?NewsID=1820855>



2011. Maliki's State of Law received the most votes in the capital Baghdad, where it took 20 of the 58 available seats. Iraqi politics are deeply split along sectarian lines, with Maliki's power-sharing government mired in crisis over how to share power among Shias, Sunni Muslims and ethnic Kurds who run their own autonomous region in the north. Months of Sunni unrest have come to a head since security forces raided a protest camp on April 23, three days after the provincial elections. Clashes swiftly spread to other Sunni areas, pushing the monthly civilian death count to 712, the highest since 2009, according to the United Nations. Voting in two Sunni-majority provinces was put off until July due to concerns about security. The cabinet said the date could be postponed again unless the situation improved. The Kurdistan region has its own timetable for provincial elections in its three governorates.<sup>48</sup>

## II. DEFENCE REVIEW

### National

- **Eighteen Indian Soldiers killed on UN Peacekeeping Missions since 2010; Defence Minister: No decision by government of India to debar Agusta Westland from procurement process**

Reports noted that in a written reply in the Lok Sabha on April 29, Defence Minister Shri AK Antony has provided the details of Indian soldiers deployed in UN Mission and the number of casualties which have taken place there during the last few years. A total of 7,121 Indian soldiers have been deployed in the UN missions and 18 troops have been killed in various operations there since 2010. On steps taken to ensure security of soldiers in these missions, Defence Minister noted, "Soldiers deployed on peacekeeping missions are equipped with personal protection kit. Infantry Combat Vehicles are also deployed in the Mission as per the operational necessity." On the assistance provided to the next of kin of the soldiers killed, the minister informed, USD 70,000 is paid to the next of kin of the deceased from UN HQ through Permanent Mission of India, New York. In addition, the Government of India and the state governments also pay the next of kin of the deceased all benefits and entitlements.<sup>49</sup>

According to reports, the Anglo-Italian defence firm AgustaWestland has participated in bids to procure choppers for Indian Navy and Coast Guard, since no decision has been taken by the government to debar it from the procurement process. The Defence Minister A K Antony informed the Lok Sabha on April 29. He said that the Request for Proposal (RFP) for procurement of the Naval Utility Helicopter (NUH), in which the Agusta Westland has also participated, was issued before commencement of CBI inquiry in the VVIP helicopter case. "Since no decision to debar the

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<sup>48</sup> "Iraq PM's coalition emerges as strongest force in local vote," *Khaleej Times*, May 5, 2013, at [http://www.khaleejtimes.com/kt-article-display-1.asp?xfile=/data/middleeast/2013/May/middleeast\\_May40.xml&section=middleeast](http://www.khaleejtimes.com/kt-article-display-1.asp?xfile=/data/middleeast/2013/May/middleeast_May40.xml&section=middleeast)

<sup>49</sup> "Soldiers on UN Peacekeeping Missions," PIB, April 29, 2013, at <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/erelease.aspx?relid=95277>



said company (AgustaWestland) from participation in the procurement process has so far been taken, the bids are under process,” the Defence Minister said.<sup>50</sup>

## International

- **French M51 ballistic missile test fails; US must increase its intelligence- gathering capacity in Africa to counter Islamists’ and pirates’ threat**

According to reports, a French test of an M51 submarine-launched ballistic missile failed on May 5 as it self-destructed off the coast of Brittany. The missile was test fired, without a nuclear warhead, from the Vigilant – a strategic nuclear submarine – from the Bay of Audierne at 0730 GMT and had been due to go down in the isolated north Atlantic. The French defense ministry said in a statement that it “was destroyed shortly after launch, over the ocean,” without providing further details. The M51, which has a range of 8,000 kilometers (5,000 miles), was put into operation in 2010 following five successful test launches.<sup>51</sup>

According to reports, US Army Gen. David Rodriguez, after paying his first visit to the African continent as head of US Africa Command (AFRICOM) this month, has said that the US must increase its intelligence- gathering capacity in Africa 15-fold in the short term to counter the threat posed by regional Islamic extremist groups and maritime piracy, particularly in the Gulf of Guinea. The General’s visit came as the US, Britain and some European partners consider plans to increase anti-piracy operations in the Gulf of Guinea while ramping up the training and equipping of West African partner armies to crack down more effectively on the maritime piracy crisis. There is growing concern among security analysts of a possible link between piracy in the Gulf of Guinea and the financing of regional Islamist terrorist groups such as al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), Ansar Al Dine, Movement for Oneness and Jihad in West Africa (MUJAO).<sup>52</sup>

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<sup>50</sup> “No decision by govt to debar AgustaWestland from procurement, says A K Antony,” The Indian Express, April 29, 2013, at <http://www.indianexpress.com/news/no-decision-by-govt-to-debar-agustawestland-from-procurement-says-a-k-antony/1109214/>

<sup>51</sup> “French M51 Ballistic Missile Self-Destructs in Failed Test,” Defense News, May 5, 2013, at <http://www.defensenews.com/article/20130505/DEFREG01/305050005/French-M51-Ballistic-Missile-Self-Destructs-Failed-Test>

<sup>52</sup> “Pirate Threat Grows Worse off West Africa,” Defense News, May 3, 2013, at <http://www.defensenews.com/article/20130503/DEFREG04/304290023/Pirate-Threat-Grows-Worse-off-West-Africa>

### III. INTERNAL SECURITY REVIEW

#### Jammu & Kashmir

- **More tents set up in Ladakh; Ex-militants of Kashmir return via Nepal; Livelihood program norms for J&K relaxed by Centre; Elaborate security arrangements as Durbar opens in Srinagar**

According to reports, showing no signs of withdrawing from the Indian territory after their incursion in Ladakh two weeks ago, Chinese troops have erected an additional tent in the Daulat Beg Oldi (DBO) sector raising to five the number of such structures in the area. The additional tent has come up after three failed Flag meetings between Indian and Chinese Armies at Chashul.<sup>53</sup>

According to reports, over 260 ex-militants have returned to Jammu and Kashmir via Nepal under a special surrender and rehabilitation policy. Minister of State for Home, RPN Singh, said as per report of Jammu and Kashmir Police, since 2010 and till April 10, 2013, about 262 ex-militants have returned via Nepal. Jammu and Kashmir government has received a total of 1094 application on behalf of prospective returnees under the policy and out of these, 422 applications have been cleared by all agencies and recommended by a Committee according to the Minister.<sup>54</sup>

Reports noted that the Union Cabinet has drastically relaxed norms under the Government of India-funded livelihood program – National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) – for J&K, paving way for enrolment of two-third of rural women in the State. The project has been named as ‘Umeed’ for J&K. The Cabinet, in its meeting at New Delhi, has cleared enhancing the financial assistance under the project to the State as a special case. The Umeed was rolled out by the State Government in December 2012 for which the Union Ministry earmarked Rs 17 crore last year. The objective of the Mission is to reduce poverty among rural BPL by promoting gainful self-employment and wage employment opportunities.<sup>55</sup>

In other developments, according to reports, the authorities have put in place elaborate security arrangements in view of re-opening of biannual Durbar move offices on May 6. The security at the Civil Secretariat here has been tightened to fend off any disruption during the reopening of the Durbar in the summer capital. In the wake of recent spurt in militant activities, authorities have chalked out a comprehensive plan to ensure security around vital installations including the civil secretariat.<sup>56</sup>

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<sup>53</sup> “Chinese troops set up more tents in Ladakh”, *Greater Kashmir*, April 29, 2013 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2013/Apr/30/chinese-troops-set-up-more-tents-in-ladakh-29.asp>

<sup>54</sup> “262 former militants returned via Nepal: Centre”, *Greater Kashmir*, April 30, 2013 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2013/May/1/262-former-militants-returned-via-nepal-centre-73.asp>

<sup>55</sup> “Umeed: Centre relaxes norms for JK”, *Greater Kashmir*, May 3, 2013 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2013/May/4/-umeed-centre-relaxes-norms-for-jk-47.asp>

<sup>56</sup> “Durbar opens today amid tight security”, *Greater Kashmir*, May 5, 2013 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2013/May/6/durbar-opens-today-amid-tight-security-20.asp>

## North East India

- **ULFA faction of Paresh Barua changes name; State Maoists trained in Jharkhand and Arunachal Pradesh; Tension continued in Assam-Nagaland border; Asian Development Bank (ADB) calls for better North East India-South East Asia connectivity; National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB) cadres arrested**

According to reports, the hardline faction of the United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) has changed its name and now the outfit will be known as the ULFA (Independent). In a release e-mailed to the media on April 30, the hardline faction ULFA chairman Dr Abhijit Asom said that the central executive committee meeting of the organization was held from April 2 to 5 and the decision to rename the organization as ULFA(I) was taken in the meeting to maintain the distinct identity of the organization. The release said that the ULFA (I) would remain a revolutionary organization fighting for the Independence of Assam. On the issue of talks with the Government for political solution of the issues, the ULFA (I) chairman said that talks on the issue of sovereignty of Assam can be held in a third country in presence of representatives of the United Nations.<sup>57</sup>

In another development, according to reports, armed cadres of the Maoist rebels of Assam received training in handling of weapons in Jharkhand and jungles of Arunachal Pradesh and efforts are on by the rebels to spread their bases to other parts of the North East region. According to sources in the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), though the threat to the security of the North East region by the Maoist rebels cannot be considered very serious, the threat should not be overlooked as setting up of armed wing proved that the Maoists have reasonably strong bases in the State. The Maoist rebels normally start establishing roots in any area by working among the people and the creation of armed wing is the last stage of their movement.<sup>58</sup>

According to reports, tension continued to simmer along Assam-Nagaland border following the April 17 incident in the border area in which three persons belonging to the tea tribes of Assam were injured after they were allegedly beaten up by suspected armed Naga miscreants. One of them reportedly suffered bullet injury. The All Assam Tea Tribes Students Association (AATTSA) has asked the authorities concerned to fulfil its demands to book the culprits responsible for the incident and pay compensation to the injured victims by May 5 failing which it has threatened to re-launch its agitation. Following this, the Border Peace Coordination Committee (Assam-Nagaland) has advised commuters not to use the Mariani-Nakachari-Amguri-Dhodar Ali route from May 6 onwards till such time the impasse is settled.<sup>59</sup>

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<sup>57</sup> "Paresh faction changes name to ULFA (I), *The Assam Tribune*, April 30, 2013 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=may0113/state05>

<sup>58</sup> "State Maoists trained in Jharkhand, Arunachal", *The Assam Tribune*, May 1, 2013 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=may0213/at07>

<sup>59</sup> "Tension continues in Assam-Nagaland border", *The Assam Tribune*, May 4, 2013 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=may0513/oth05>

In other developments, “Connecting South Asia and Southeast Asia,” a study interim report by the ADB and ADB Institute (ADBI), has noted that South and Southeast Asian economies have grown rapidly during an era of fragile world economic growth beset by risks. However, integration of trade and investment between the two sub-regions, while having made progress, has been relatively limited, hindered by various bottlenecks in trade infrastructure, residual trade barriers and insufficient regional cooperation.<sup>60</sup>

According to reports, police have arrested fifteen newly recruited cadres of the NDFB (Songbijit) faction from Assam-Nagaland border in Sivasagar district when they were on their way to Myanmar for arms training. The ASP Lamhao Donguel, in collaboration with a team of Namtola Police arrested the NDFB cadres from a night super bus on May 2 when they were moving from Kohima to Mon. Meanwhile, police have intensified operations against militant outfits along Assam-Nagaland border.<sup>61</sup>

## Ministry of Home Affairs News

### ● Rehabilitation of surrendered militants in J&K; MHA concerned over increase in infiltration in J&K

As per report of J&K Police, in the past three years, from 2010 to 2012 and the current year upto 10.04.2013, about 262 ex-militants have returned via Nepal. The Govt. of J&K had notified the Policy Procedure for return of ex-militants from PoK/Pakistan to Jammu and Kashmir vide Order No. Home 1376 (ISA) of 2010 dated 23.11.2010. As per this policy, Joint Check Post (JCP) at Wagah (Attari), Salamabad, Chakan-da Bagh crossing on the LoC besides, Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi have been designated as routes for ex-militants of J&K who had crossed over to PoK/Pakistan but have given up militant activities due to change of heart and are willing to return to the State. Govt. of J&K has received a total of 1094 application on behalf of prospective returnees under the Policy. Out of these 422 applications have been cleared by all the agencies and recommended by the Committee.<sup>62</sup>

According to reports, Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) said in its annual report that Jammu and Kashmir was free from any law and order problem in 2012, however there has been an increase in infiltration attempts by militants. The report prepared by Department of Internal Security and Jammu and Kashmir Affairs, MHA, would be presented in current session of Parliament. Giving the break-up, in 2005 there were 597 infiltration attempts, which came down to 573 in 2006, 535 in 2007 and 342 in 2008, 485 in 2009 and 489 in 2010. A senior MHA officer said that Centre, in tandem with the J&K Government, has adopted a multi-pronged approach to contain cross-border infiltration.<sup>63</sup>

<sup>60</sup> “Call to boost NE-SE Asia links”, *The Assam Tribune*, May 5, 2013 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=may0613/at06>

<sup>61</sup> “15 NDFB cadres held in Sivasagar”, *The Assam Tribune*, May 5, 2013 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=may0613/state05>

<sup>62</sup> “Rehabilitation of Surrendered Militants”, *Press Information Bureau, Govt. Of India*, April 30, 2013 at <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/erelease.aspx?relid=95351>

<sup>63</sup> “MHA concerned over increase in infiltration”, *Greater Kashmir*, May 1, 2013 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2013/May/2/mha-concerned-over-increase-in-infiltration-82.asp>

## IV. UNITED NATIONS (UN) REVIEW

- **India elected to governing body of UN Statistical Institute; UNSC establishes assistance mission in Somalia; UN Rapporteur laments the failure of legislation to address systemic gender inequalities in India**

Reports noted that India was elected to the governing council of one of the most active organs of the UN, the prestigious Statistical Institute of Asia Pacific. Sixteen of the forty one members vied for eight seats on the council. India and Australia were tied at thirty votes each.<sup>64</sup>

In another development, according to reports, the UN Security Council unanimously voted to establish the UN Assistance Mission in Somalia that will be based in Mogadishu for a 12-month period beginning on June 3, 2013. The mission will provide UN 'good offices' functions to support peace and reconciliation, assist the government and existing African Union peacekeeping force, AMISOM with advice on peace building and state-building among other provisions of the mandate.<sup>65</sup>

In other developments, according to reports, the UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women who was on a ten day visit to India, noted that though the reforms in the country were commendable, they did not fully reflect the recommendations in the report produced by the Verma Committee and lamented that the legislation failed to address systemic gender inequalities in Indian society.<sup>66</sup>

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<sup>64</sup> "India elected to governing council of UN statistical institute", *Business Line*, April 30, 2013 at <http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/international/india-elected-to-governing-council-of-un-statistical-institute/article4669690.ece>

<sup>65</sup> "Security Council unanimously approves new UN political mission in Somalia", *UN News Centre*, May 02, 2013 at <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=44810&Cr=somalia&Cr1=#.UYimDKLe4y4>

<sup>66</sup> "Opportunity lost" as new anti-rape laws in India fail to address root causes – UN expert", *UN News Centre*, May 03, 2013 at [http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=44818&Cr=sexual+violence&Cr1=#.UYij\\_qLe4y4](http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=44818&Cr=sexual+violence&Cr1=#.UYij_qLe4y4)