

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

May 13-19, (3), 2013

Editor: Sanjeev Kumar Shrivastav

Contributors

Gulbin Sultana
Rajorshi Roy
Gunjan Singh
Pranamita Baruah
Amit Kumar
Shristi Pukhrem
Keerthi Kumar

Sri Lanka, Maldives, Bangladesh
Russia
China
Japan, South Korea, North Korea
Defence Review
Internal Security Review
UN Review

Review Adviser: S. Kalyanaraman

Follow IDSA



Facebook



Twitter



INSTITUTE FOR DEFENCE
STUDIES & ANALYSES

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

CONTENTS

In This Issue	Page
I. COUNTRY REVIEWS	
A. South Asia	2-4
B. East Asia	4-7
C. Russia	8-9
II. DEFENCE REVIEW	9-10
III. INTERNAL SECURITY REVIEW	10-12
IV. UN REVIEW	12-14

I. COUNTRY REVIEWS

A. SOUTH ASIA

Bangladesh

- **UN Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs visits Bangladesh; UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon reiterates his call to all major political parties in Bangladesh to engage in a dialogue for creating a congenial atmosphere to hold credible polls**

According to reports, five member delegation led by UN Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs Oscar Fernández-Taranco visited Bangladesh on May 10. During their visit, the delegation met Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia, Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad, Foreign Minister Dipu Moni, three-member team from the Jamaat-e-Islami and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's Foreign Affairs Adviser Gowher Rizvi and LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Syed Ashraful Islam.¹

In another development, according to reports, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has reiterated his call to all major political parties in Bangladesh to engage in a dialogue for creating a congenial atmosphere to hold credible polls as scheduled. He expressed his optimism over Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's offer of dialogue with the opposition on the modalities for an interim government to oversee the next general election. The UN chief made the call during a meeting with Foreign Minister Dipu Moni at his office in New York on May 13. Dipu Moni attended the UN high-level meeting on the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons which was held in New York on May 13-14.²

Sri Lanka

- **Reconstructed railway track from Medawchchiya to Madhu under Indian credit facility commissioned; PNS SAIF made a good will visit to Sri Lanka; President congratulates Pakistan's PML (N) leader Nawaz Sharif; Second Round of political consultations between Sri Lanka and Viet Nam; New Sri Lankan High Commission in Uganda; Beijing based company to fund water project in Sri Lanka; Sri Lanka lifts its ban on fact-finding visits by IBAHRI; Project 'Blue Sky 2020', to minimize emission of greenhouse gases; Celebration of fourth anniversary of the victory over the terrorist**

According to reports, reconstructed railway track from Medawchchiya to Madhu was commissioned by Minister of economic Development Basil Rajapaksa along with the High Commissioner of India in Colombo Ashok Kantha on May 15. The 43-kilometer Medawchchiya

¹ "POLITICAL IMPASSE: Busy day for UN team", *The Daily Star*, May 13, 2013 at <http://www.thedailystar.net/beta2/news/busy-day-for-un-team/>

² "UN chief calls for dialogue", *The Daily Star*, May 15, 2013 at <http://www.thedailystar.net/beta2/news/un-chief-calls-for-dialogue/>

to Madhu segment of the 106 kilometer long Medawchchiya - Thalaimannar line was laid at a cost of US\$ 81.3 million under the first phase of the Northern Railway Project. The Indian Railway Construction Company Limited (IRCON) carried out the construction work which is being financed under a US\$ 425 million credit facility from India.³

Reports noted that Pakistan Navy Ship SAIF was on a goodwill visit to the Trincomalee port from May 14-17 2013.⁴

President Mahinda Rajapaksa has telephoned and congratulated Nawaz Sharif over his victory at Pakistan's Parliamentary election.⁵

The Second Round of Political Consultations between Sri Lanka and Viet Nam was held in Hanoi.⁶

According to reports, President Mahinda Rajapaksa and Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni opened the new Sri Lankan High Commission in Kampala, Uganda on May 13. The new Sri Lankan High Commission in Uganda is the 62nd Sri Lankan diplomatic mission abroad and the 6th in the African continent.⁷

According to reports, the Beijing-based China Machinery Engineering Corporation (CMEC) announced that it entered into a master construction contract worth the US\$ 229.5 million for the Gampaha, Attanagalla and Minuwangoda Integrated Water Supply Scheme with the National Water Supply & Drainage Board of Sri Lanka.⁸

The Sri Lankan government has lifted its ban on fact-finding visits by the International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute (IBAHRI).⁹

The Central Environmental Authority (CEA) of Sri Lanka has implemented an integrated air quality management project, 'Blue Sky 2020', to minimize emission of greenhouse gases and resulting adverse climatic changes.¹⁰

³ "Madhu rail track opens", *Government of Sri Lanka Website*, May 16, 2013 at http://www.priu.gov.lk/news_update/Current_Affairs/ca201305/20130516madhu_rail_track_opens.htm.

⁴ "Pakistan naval ship in SL", *The Daily Mirror*, May 14, 2013 at <http://www.dailymirror.lk/news/29430-pakistan-naval-ship-in-sl.html>.

⁵ "MR congratulates Nawaz Sharif", *The Daily Mirror*, May 14, 2013 at <http://www.dailymirror.lk/news/29412-mr-congratulates-nawaz-sharif.html>.

⁶ "Political consultations between Sri Lanka and Viet Nam", *The Government of Sri Lanka Website*, May 13, 2013 at http://www.priu.gov.lk/news_update/Current_Affairs/ca201305/20130513political_consultations_between_sl_vietnam.htm.

⁷ "President declares open new Sri Lankan High Commission in Uganda", *The Government of Sri Lanka Website*, May 14, 2013 at http://www.priu.gov.lk/news_update/Current_Affairs/ca201305/20130514president_declares_open_new_sl_high_commission_in_uganda.htm.

⁸ "Chinese company signs US\$ 229.5 million contract for water project in Sri Lanka", *The Colombo Page*, May 16, 2013 at http://www.colombopage.com/archive_13A/May16_1368726839CH.php.

⁹ "Sri Lanka allows International Bar Association delegation to visit country", *The Colombo Page*, May 14, 2013 at http://www.colombopage.com/archive_13A/May14_1368478441CH.php.

¹⁰ "Sri Lanka implements a programme to minimize emission of greenhouse gases", *The Colombo Page*, May 18, 2013 at http://www.colombopage.com/archive_13A/May18_1368859455JV.php.

In other developments, Sri Lanka on May 18 staged an extravagant military parade at the Galle Face Green in Colombo to celebrate the fourth anniversary of the victory over the terrorist war waged by the Tamil Tiger rebels for three decades. Sri Lankan President as Commander in Chief was the Chief Guest at the occasion where over 13,000 Security Forces personnel of the Three Armed Forces, the Special Task Force (STF) and the Civil Defense Force took part in a grand parade.¹¹ However, according to reports, Tamil National Alliance defied the government's ban on commemorating the terrorists who died in the war and held a remembrance in Vavuniya for those who died in the final battle which also killed Tamil Tiger leader Velupillai Prabhakaran and his entire top leadership.¹²

Maldives

- **Maldives backs Sri Lanka; Delegation of the European Union Ambassadors in Colombo meets President; President congratulates Nawaz Sharif**

According to reports, speaking to a Sri Lankan newspaper "The Sunday Times" during a recent visit to the country, Maldives Foreign Minister Dr. Abdul Samad Abdulla said that he attended last month's CMAG meeting in London and that Maldives at this meeting strongly resisted the move by some Commonwealth nations to put Sri Lanka on the formal CMAG agenda.¹³

In other developments, according to reports, delegation of the European Union Ambassadors in Colombo paid a courtesy call on President Dr Mohamed Waheed.¹⁴

President Dr. Mohamed Waheed Hassan Manik has sent a message of congratulations to Nawaz Sharif who is likely to be sworn in as new Prime Minister of Pakistan soon.¹⁵

B. East Asia

China

- **President Xi to visit Latin America and the United States; Primere Li visits India, stresses upon developing mutual strategic trust; Tajikistan President visits China; China gains observer status in Arctic Council; Chinese government releases White Paper on Human Rights**

According to reports, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Qin Gang announced that Chinese

¹¹ "Sri Lanka celebrates 4th anniversary of war victory", *The Colombo Page*, May 18, 2013 at http://www.colombopage.com/archive_13A/May18_1368885449CH.php.

¹² "Sri Lanka Police release Tamils arrested during commemoration of dead in the war", *The Colombo Page*, May 19, 2013 at http://www.colombopage.com/archive_13A/May19_1368983799CH.php.

¹³ "Maldives saved Sri Lanka from being placed on CMAG's agenda: Foreign Minister Samad", *The Sun Online*, May 19, 2013 at <http://sun.mv/english/12604>.

¹⁴ "EU delegation calls on president", *The Sun Online*, May 15, 2013 at <http://sun.mv/english/12509>.

¹⁵ "President Waheed congratulates Pakistani Prime Minister-elect Nawaz Sharif", *The Sun online*, May 14, 2013 at <http://sun.mv/english/12461>.

President Xi Jinping will be visiting Trinidad and Tobago, Costa Rica and Mexico from May 31 to June 6. He will then visit the United States from June 7 to 8 and meet US President Barack Obama.¹⁶

According to reports, on May 20, during his visit to India which was the first foreign trip by him since assuming office, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang said that China is ready to work with India to promote exchanges between the two countries' parliaments and political parties so as to further consolidate bilateral relations.¹⁷ He further added that the most important outcome of his talks with Indian leaders is that they reached strategic consensus and deepened strategic trust.¹⁸

In other developments, reports noted that Tajik President Emomali Rakhmon arrived in Beijing on May 19, 2013 starting his China visit. During his visit he is scheduled to meet Xi Jinping and other top Chinese legislators.¹⁹

In other developments, reports noted that China has been granted observer status in the Arctic Council. Even though this does not allow China to have a vote it does help give legitimacy to Chinese activities in the region.²⁰

According to reports, the Chinese government on May 14 released a white paper detailing the progress made in human rights in 2012, stressing its achievements in improving living standards and increasing room for citizens to express their opinions.²¹

Japan

- **Japanese govt's special adviser to the cabinet visits North Korea; Two Japanese maritime SDF vessels are to make port call in Myanmar; The LDP insists on strengthening the role of the Japanese SDF**

According to reports, Isao Ijima, a special adviser to the Japanese Cabinet, made a four-day long trip to North Korea. He returned home on May 18. During his visit, Ijima met with several key North Korean officials. He reportedly urged Pyongyang to conduct full investigation of the abduction of Japanese citizens by North Korean agents a few decades ago and hand over the suspects. Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, in the meantime, has expressed strong determination to resolve the abduction issue with the North during his current tenure.²²

¹⁶ "President Xi to visit Latin America, meet Obama" *China Daily*, May 21, 2013 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2013-05/21/content_16514122.htm

¹⁷ "Li calls for more political exchanges with India" *China Daily*, May 21, 2013 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2013-05/21/content_16513673.htm

¹⁸ "China, India reach strategic consensus" *China Daily*, May 20, 2013 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2013-05/20/content_16513553.htm

¹⁹ "Tajik president arrives for China visit" *China Daily*, May 19, 2013 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2013-05/19/content_16510433.htm

²⁰ "New AC status guarantees China's rights" *China Daily*, May 16, 2013 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2013-05/16/content_16505255.htm

²¹ "China issues white paper on human rights" *China Daily*, May 14, 2013 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2013-05/14/content_16497385.htm

²² "Ijima returns home after visit to North Korea", *The Daily Yomiuri*, May 19, 2013, at <http://the-japan-news.com/news/article/0000238209>

In another development, according to reports, two of Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force (MSDF) training vessels, namely Kashima and Shirayuki, along with an escort destroyer, as part of their round-the-world voyage, are to make a port call in Myanmar soon. Around 700 MSDF members, including about 180 cadets will be aboard the three vessels. This will be the first port call by an MSDF vessel to Myanmar. It is intended to enhance Japan's presence in the Southeast Asia region and to curb the maritime ambitions of the Chinese there.²³

In other developments, according to reports, Japanese ruling party-the LDP, in its recent draft for a ten-year defense outline, has called for a greater role to be played by the Japanese Self Defense Force (SDF) in protecting Japan and fulfilling the nation's responsibility as a security ally of the US. The party's Defense and Security Committee, in fact, suggests that the SDF should have more capabilities similar to the US Marine Corps, introduce more amphibious vehicles and should be equipped with the controversial Osprey transport aircraft.²⁴

South Korea

- **South Korea expresses concern over Japanese delegation's recent visit to North Korea; US naval Chief visits South Korea; South Korea-US joint naval exercises take off involving the USS Nimitz; South Korea joins the Arctic Council as a permanent observer**

According to reports, South Korean government has expressed serious concern over the Japanese delegation's recent visit to North Korea, as it could undermine the ongoing efforts in forging a coordinated approach among the concerned states in dealing with the North's belligerency. Many in Seoul seem to argue that by making such a step, Tokyo is trying to mend its ties with Pyongyang in the wake of the former's heightened territorial disputes with Beijing.²⁵

Meanwhile, US Naval Chief Adm. Jonathan W. Greenert, on May 16, arrived at South Korea on a two-day long trip. He discussed with his South Korean counterpart Choi Yoon-hee, regarding the bilateral naval cooperation and exchanges with a view to prevent North Korean provocations more adequately in the future.²⁶

According to reports, on May 13, South Korea and the US began their joint naval exercises of the east coast. The two-day long exercises involved the nuclear-powered US aircraft carrier-the USS Nimitz. The Strike Group of the Nimitz consists of the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz (CVN 68), guided missile destroyers as well as cruisers. South Korea's Aegis-equipped destroyer King Sejong and DDH-II class destroyer Chungmugong Yi Sunshin participated in the exercises. Pyongyang

²³ "MSDF visit to Myanmar set", The Daily Yomiuri, May 14, 2013, at <http://the-japan-news.com/news/article/0000221911>

²⁴ "LDP wants more might for SDF and Ospreys", The Japan Times, May 18, 2013, at <http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2013/05/18/national/ldp-wants-more-might-for-sdf-and-ospreys/#.UZoa5qJHKDk>

²⁵ "S.Korea calls Japanese delegation's visit to N.Korea 'Unexpected'", The Korea Herald, May 15, 2013, at <http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20130515000848>

²⁶ "US navy chief visits Korea", The Korea Herald, May 19, 2013, at <http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20130519000241>

however denounced the arrival of the USS Nimitz while describing it as “an open threat and blackmail against the DPRK (North Korea) , and a grave military provocation to unleash a nuclear war against it at any cost on the Korean Peninsula.”²⁷

In other developments, on May 15, South Korea joined the Arctic Council along with India, China, Japan, Italy and Singapore as permanent observer. The Group already has the UK, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Poland and Spain as member states.²⁸

North Korea

- **North Korea launches four short-range guided missiles; North Korea slams South Korea’s critical stance on Japanese delegation’s recent Pyongyang visit; North Korean regime appoints a new defense minister**

According to reports, North Korea, on May 18 and 19, launched four short-range guided missiles into the East Sea, raising nuclear tension in the Korean Peninsula once again. It has been argued that by testing those missiles, Pyongyang intended to express its discontent over the recently concluded Washington-Seoul Summit in which both the alliance partners reiterated their commitment not to tolerate the former’s belligerent behaviour. South Korea, in the meantime, has denounced the missile launches by the North and urged it to behave responsibly as a member of the international community.²⁹

Meanwhile, North Korea expressed its anger at South Korea’s critical stance on Japanese delegation’s recent visit to Pyongyang. In a statement, the North stated that as officials’ trip is a common phenomenon in international arena, a third party should not intervene in such matters.³⁰

In other developments, North Korean regime has recently appointed army commander Jang Jong-nam, as the new defense minister of the country. He has replaced hawkish commander Kim Kyok-sik who was involved in a number of provocative activities against South Korea, including the sinking of the Cheonan and shelling of Yeonpyoengdo Island in 2010. This appointment seems to indicate the continued shake up of top military brass in order to strengthen Kim-Jong un regime’s control over the armed forces.³¹

²⁷ “S. Korea, US Hold naval exercises involving nuclear-powered flattop”, The Korea Herald, May 13, 2013, at <http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20130513000463>

²⁸ “Korea, China, Japan become permanent observers to Arctic Council”, The Korea Herald, May 16, at <http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20130516000694>

²⁹ “N.K ratches up tension again”, The Korea Herald, May 19, at <http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20130519000334>

³⁰ “N.K. bashes Seoul for negative comments on Japan official’s Pyongyang Visit”, The Korea Herald, May 19, at <http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20130519000059>

³¹ “N.K replaces hawkish defense chief with younger, little known general”, The Korea Herald, May 13, at <http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20130513000403>

C. Russia

Russia

- **President Putin and Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu have agreed to continue to have discussions on the peaceful settlement of Syrian crisis; Russia insists that Syrian neighbours participate in international conference on Syria; Russia seeks to resume negotiations in the Arab-Israeli conflict; Russia to build a nuclear power plant in Vietnam; Rosneft and Petro Vietnam sign an MoU for joint projects in Russia and Vietnam; Russia expresses regret over the new spy scandal with CIA agent detention in Moscow; Rosneft plans to produce 206 million tons of oil in 2013; Russia seeks a visa free deal across Latin America**

Reports noted that President Putin and Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu have agreed to continue to have discussions on the peaceful settlement of Syrian crisis.³²

In another development, according to Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov, Russia has insisted that Syria's neighbours like Iran and Saudi Arabia participate in international conference on Syria.³³

Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov has said that Russia is trying to resume negotiations on the Arab-Israeli settlement within the framework of the Middle East peace "quartet".³⁴

According to reports, Russia will build the safest and most advanced nuclear power plant in Vietnam. As part of Vietnamese Prime Minister's visit to Moscow, the plant should be commissioned by 2020.³⁵

Reports noted that Rosneft and Petro Vietnam have signed an MoU for joint projects in Russia and Vietnam. These include projects in Eastern Siberia, Yakutia, Irkutsk Region and Krasnoyarsk Territory. They have also signed a production sharing agreement for the development of the offshore license area 0.5.3.11 in Vietnam.³⁶

According to reports, the Kremlin has expressed regret over the news about a new spy scandal which involved the arrest of a CIA operative in Moscow, who was working under the guise of a diplomat and tried to recruit an officer of a Russian secret service.³⁷

³² "Putin, Netanyahu agreed to continue contacts for peaceful settlement of Syrian crisis", Itar-Tass, may 14, 2013, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/735355.html>

³³ "Moscow insists that Syrian neighbors participate in international conference on Syria", Itar-Tass, May 16, 2013, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/738632.html>

³⁴ "Russia seeks to resume negotiations in the Arab-Israeli conflict - Lavrov", Itar-Tass, May 16, 2013, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/738802.html>

³⁵ "Russia to build safest modern NPP in Vietnam - Rosatom head", Itar-Tass, May 15, 2013, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/737187.html>

³⁶ "Rosneft and PetroVietnam sign MoU", Itar-Tass, May 15, 2013, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/736936.html>

³⁷ "Kremlin expresses regret over new spy scandal with CIA agent detention in Moscow - Dmitry Peskov", Itar-Tass, May 15, 2013, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/736173.html>

In other developments, according to reports, Rosneft CEO Igor Sechin has said that the company plans to produce 206 million tons of oil in 2013.³⁸

According to reports, Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov has said that Russia hopes to agree on a visa-free travel regime with all Latin American countries in the next few years. Russia has already signed visa-free entry agreements with a number of South American nations, including Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guiana, Peru and Venezuela. Russia has also simplified its visa regime with Surinam and Bolivia, where Russian nationals get entry visas upon arrival at the border.³⁹

Reports noted that Peru is interested in buying 700 Kamaz trucks and a new batch of Mi-8/17 helicopters from Russia, as well as testing the T-90S tanks.⁴⁰

II. DEFENCE REVIEW

National

- **Antony calls upon navy and coast guard to ensure timely implementation of measures envisaged under Coastal Security Plan Phase-II; Arrival of P-8I aircraft is expected to greatly enhance India's maritime surveillance capability**

Reports noted that Defence Minister Shri A.K. Antony on May 14 called upon the top brass of Indian Navy and Indian Coast Guard to ensure timely implementation of measures envisaged under Phase - II of Coastal Security Plan. Addressing the Naval Commanders' Conference, Antony said the National Command Control, Communication and Intelligence Network Project is to become operational later this year. He expressed confidence that this real-time link between the Operations Rooms of the Navy and the Coast Guard will surely synergise coastal security operations. The Defence Minister reiterated that funds will never be a constraint for capital acquisition and will be made available. He, however, said funds must be utilized in the most judicious manner to achieve national goals. The Navy Chief in his address highlighted the constant need for synergy and coordination amongst various agencies and the role of Navy in maintaining optimal maritime security.⁴¹

In another development, according to reports, Indian Naval Aviation received a major boost with the arrival of the first of eight Boeing P-8I Long Range Maritime Reconnaissance and Anti

³⁸ "Rosneft CEO tells journalists about immediate plans", Itar-Tass, May 14, 2013, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/735946.html>

³⁹ "Moscow seeks visa-free deal across Latin America", Rianovosti, May 13, 2013, http://indrus.in/news/2013/05/13/moscow_seeks_visa-free_deal_across_latin_america_24939.html

⁴⁰ "Peru mulls deals to buy Russian helicopters, tanks - Rostec", Rianovosti, May 18, 2013, http://indrus.in/news/2013/05/18/peru_mulls_deals_to_buy_russian_helicopters_tanks_-_rostec_25097.html

⁴¹ "Coastal Security Plan Phase - II - Must Be Finished On Time: Antony," PIB, May 14, 2013, at <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/erelease.aspx?relid=95975>

Submarine Warfare (LRMRASW) aircraft at Naval Air Station Rajali (Arakkonam) on 15 May 2013. The remaining seven aircrafts would be delivered over the next two years.

These LRMRASW aircraft have been procured under the contract signed in 2009.

The aircraft is equipped with foreign & indigenous sensors for maritime reconnaissance, anti submarine operations and electronic intelligence missions. The aircraft is fully integrated with state of the art sensors and highly potent anti surface and anti submarine weapons. The P-8I aircraft is expected to greatly enhance India's maritime surveillance capability in the Indian Ocean Region.⁴²

International

- **North Korea test-fires fourth short-range missile in a span of two days; Number of US SEAL platoons in Afghanistan to be cut to half by December 2012**

According to reports, North Korea on May 19 test-fired a short-range missile off its east coast, its fourth in two days, despite pleas from South Korea and the UN chief to halt the launches at a time of high tensions. The guided missile was fired into the East Sea (Sea of Japan). The United Nations and the United States have urged North Korea to exercise restraint and not to conduct further tests.⁴³

Meanwhile, according to reports, one of the most important components of US Special Forces serving in Afghanistan – SEAL will see a cut in its strength by December this year. Rear Adm. Sean Pybus, Head of the U.S. Navy's Special Operations Command said, "Our SEALs have been fighting two land wars for the last decade, and there's plenty of work back in the maritime environment". He added that by December this year the number of SEAL platoons in Afghanistan will be reduced to half its current strength. They are likely to be deployed to the Pacific, as well as to conduct operations in the Mediterranean, the Gulf of Guinea and the Persian Gulf.⁴⁴

III. INTERNAL SECURITY REVIEW

Jammu & Kashmir

- **Doda and Baderwah rocked by protests; Former Hizb militant Liyaqat Shah granted bail; An Army officer and soldier attacked by militants at Kupwara; Chief Minister J&K meets Prime Minister**

According to reports, protests rocked Doda and Baderwah for the second consecutive day on May 16 as the quake-hit people alleged failure of the Jammu and Kashmir government to provide

⁴² "Arrival of First Indian Naval P-8I LRMRASW Aircraft at INS Rajali," PIB, May 15, 2013, at <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/erelease.aspx?relid=96013>

⁴³ "N. Korea Test-Fires Another Short-Range Missile," Defense News, May 19, 2013, at <http://www.defensenews.com/article/20130519/DEFREG03/305190006/N-Korea-Test-Fires-Another-Short-Range-Missile>

⁴⁴ "Number of SEAL Platoons in Afghanistan To Be Cut," Defense News, May 15, 2013, at <http://www.defensenews.com/article/20130515/DEFREG02/305150023/Number-SEAL-Platoons-Afghanistan-Cut>

relief and demanded immediate tented accommodations. The agitated mob blocked roads in Bhaderwah, Doda and Thathri areas and held anti-government slogans in protest against the government's failure to provide them relief and rehabilitation on account of damage caused to their houses due to earthquake and aftershocks.⁴⁵

In another development, according to reports, former Hizb militant Liyaqat Shah on May 17 was granted bail by a Delhi court. The NIA's investigation had confirmed that there is no substantial linkage regarding his involvement in the conspiracy to carry out terror attacks in New Delhi. Liyaqat was arrested on March 20 by the special cell of Delhi Police while crossing the Indo-Nepal border in Gorakhpur with his family. Delhi Police, which arrested him soon after he had crossed the border, had alleged that Liyaqat was involved in the conspiracy to carry out terror attacks on vital installations in the capital. The Home Ministry had on March 28 issued a notification facilitating NIA to take over the case after his arrest had generated conflicting versions from Delhi and J&K Police.⁴⁶

Reports noted that Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on May 18 met Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh in New Delhi and discussed various matters pertaining to the peace and development in the State. The focus of the discussion was recent earthquake which hit various parts of Doda, Kishtwar and Ramban district. The Chief Minister while giving resume of the damages caused by the earthquake to the large number of public and private property including essential public service infrastructure demanded the package of relief for the affected people on the pattern, the Union Government had sanctioned for Leh cloud burst survivors.⁴⁷

In other developments, according to reports, an Army officer was killed and a soldier injured after an infiltration bid by militants was foiled at the Line of Control (LoC) in Machil sector of frontier district Kupwara on May 18. According to army officials, it is the first infiltration bid foiled this year. The gun-fight continued for an hour while militants managed to flee the spot. Pertinently, Machil, Keran, Uri, Nowgam are said to be the traditional routes in north Kashmir used by militants for the past two decades for infiltration purposes.⁴⁸

North East India

● **Army Chief Gen Bikram Singh for an early decision to raise Strike Corps in North-East; Meet on border haats between India and Bangladesh put off**

According to reports, against the backdrop of recent Chinese incursion, Army Chief Gen Bikram Singh is understood to have pressed the government for an early decision on a proposal to raise a Strike Corps in the Northeast to meet any security threat in the eastern sector. This issue is

⁴⁵ "Protests rock Doda, Bhaderwah", *Greater Kashmir*, May 16, 2013 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2013/May/17/protests-rock-doda-bhaderwah-42.asp>

⁴⁶ "Liyaqat bailed out as NIA fails to make out case", *Greater Kashmir*, May 17, 2013 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2013/May/18/liyaqat-bailed-out-as-nia-fails-to-make-out-case-85.asp>

⁴⁷ "Omar meets PM", *Greater Kashmir*, May 18, 2013 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2013/May/19/omar-meets-pm-43.asp>

⁴⁸ "JCO killed, soldier injured in Kupwara", *Greater Kashmir*, May 18, 2013 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2013/May/19/jco-killed-soldier-injured-in-kupwara-37.asp>

believed to have figured when the Army Chief briefed Defence Minister AK Antony on the prevailing security situation along the Line of Actual Control in the wake of the recent incursion by Chinese troops in Ladakh. The meeting was also attended by top security brass of the country, including National Security Advisor Shivshankar Menon and Defence Secretary Shashikant Sharma.⁴⁹

Reports noted that a high-level India-Bangladesh meeting on setting up of Border Haats (border markets) along the frontier in Tripura has been postponed due to cyclonic storm 'Mahasen'. It would be worth noting that to enhance trade, Bangladesh and India have agreed to set up a number of Border Haats along the frontier which is expected to witness bilateral trade worth Rs.108 crore (\$20 million) every year. India and Bangladesh set up the first such Border Haat at Kalaichar in Meghalaya's West Garo Hills district in 2011. Dhaka and New Delhi are keen to set up eight more border markets along the 1,880-km-long India-Bangladesh border stretching across the four northeastern states of Tripura, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Assam.⁵⁰

In other developments, according to reports, the tussle between Ministry of Home Affairs and Defence Ministry over operational control of Assam Rifles continues, with Union Home Minister, Sushil Kumar Shinde on May 15 clarifying that a final decision on the issue has yet to be taken. The clash between the two Central Ministries over control of Assam Rifles, country's oldest paramilitary regiment has been on since 2010. It would be worth noting that Assam Rifles is under administrative control of Home Ministry but under operational control of Defence Ministry.⁵¹

Ministry of Home Affairs News

● Union Home Minister to attend Homeland Security Dialogue to be held in the United States

Reports noted that on invitation from Secretary, Department of Homeland Security Ms Janet Napolitano, Union Home Minister Shri Sushilkumar Shinde is leading a high level delegation to USA from May 19-23, 2013 to attend India- United States Homeland Security Dialogue.⁵²

IV. UNITED NATIONS (UN) REVIEW

● UN General Assembly passes resolution on Syria, India abstains; UN Security Council condemns attacks in Turkish-Syrian border and Benghazi; UNSC condemns temporary

⁴⁹ "Army Chief for early decision on raising Strike Corps in NE", *The Assam Tribune*, May 13, 2013 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=may1413/at094>

⁵⁰ "Indo-Bangla meet on border haats put off", *The Assam Tribune*, May 16, 2013 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=may1613/at047>

⁵¹ "Home, Defence ministry tussle over Assam Rifles Operational control", *The Assam Tribune*, May 15, 2013 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=may1613/at094>

⁵² "Union Home Minister Leaves for USA to Attend Homeland Security Dialogue", *Press Information Bureau, Govt. Of India*, May 19, 2013 at <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/erelease.aspx?relid=96067>

detention of peacekeepers in Golan Heights; Indian Police Unit in DRC receives UN Peacekeeping medal; Public service initiative of Dhanbad receives UN award

According to reports, an Arab-backed resolution calling for a political transition in Syria was approved by the UN General Assembly by a vote of 107-12 with 59 abstentions. The resolution welcomes the establishment of the Syrian National Coalition “as effective interlocutors needed for a political transition”. While the United States said that the resolution would promote a political solution, Russia voted against the resolution, saying that it was “counterproductive and irresponsible” to promote a one-sided resolution. India joined 58 other countries that abstained on the resolution.⁵³ The Indian Ambassador to the UN, Asoke Kumar Mukerji cautioned the members of the General Assembly that unilateral action of any kind would not resolve the crisis. India added that the legitimate representative of the Syrian people can be determined only by the Syrian people and not the Assembly.⁵⁴

In another development, according to reports, the UN Security Council condemned attacks near the Turkish-Syrian border that killed at least 46 people. The Council expressed its condolences to the families of those killed in the attack and reiterated that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security.⁵⁵ Meanwhile, the Council also condemned attacks in the city of Benghazi and stressed the support of the international community to Libya’s democratic transition. It urged the authorities to bring the perpetrators of “reprehensible acts of terrorism” to justice.⁵⁶

In other developments, according to reports, the UN Security Council condemned the looting of a UN observation post in the Golan Heights and the temporary detention of three peacekeepers from UNTSO’s Observer Group Golan for several hours.⁵⁷

Reports noted that an 135 Indian Formed Police Unit in the Democratic Republic of Congo was honoured with the UN Peacekeeping Medal for its “high level of commitment” towards fighting criminals and maintaining peace in Goma/ North Kivu. The Indian unit has served in the country since 2005.⁵⁸

⁵³ “UN General Assembly approves Syria resolution”, *Times of India*, May 16, 2013 at http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2013-05-16/middle-east/39309119_1_syria-resolution-political-transition-alexander-pankin

⁵⁴ “India abstains from voting on Syria resolution in UN General Assembly”, *IBN Live.com*, May 16, 2013 at <http://ibnlive.in.com/news/india-abstains-from-voting-on-syria-resolution-in-un-general-assembly/391953-2.html>

⁵⁵ “Security Council strongly condemns deadly attacks near Turkish-Syrian border”, *UN News Centre*, May 13, 2013 at http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=44896&Cr=turkey&Cr1=syria#.UZm_BqLe4y4

⁵⁶ “Security Council condemns deadly attack near hospital in Benghazi”, *UN News Centre*, May 14, 2013 at <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=44909&Cr=libya&Cr1=#.UZm-0KLe4y4>

⁵⁷ “UN Security Council temporary detention of peacekeepers, looting in Golan”, *UN News Centre*, May 17, 2013 at <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=44936&Cr=golan&Cr1=#.UZm-IKLe4y4>

⁵⁸ “Indian Police unit in Congo gets UN medal”, *NDTV.com*, May 18, 2013 at <http://www.ndtv.com/article/india/indian-police-unit-in-congo-gets-un-medal-368347>

Meanwhile, reports noted that an initiative introduced by the district administration of Dhanbad called Swavalamban bagged the prestigious UN Public Service Award -2013. The initiative was selected for improving the delivery of public service in the Dhanbad.⁵⁹

⁵⁹ "Pension portal bags UN award", *The Times of India*, May 19, 2013 at http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2013-05-19/ranchi/39369119_1_nations-public-service-award-swavalamban-dhanbad