

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

September 3-9, 9(1), 2012

Editor: Sanjeev Kumar Shrivastav

Contributors

Anwesha Roy Chaudhuri

Gulbin Sultana

Pranamita Baruah

Rahul Mishra

Gunajn Singh

Rajorshi Roy

Prashnat Pradhan

Amit Kumar

Shristi Pukhrem

Keerthi Kumar

Afghanistan, Pakistan

Sri Lanka, Maldives, Bangladesh

Japan, North Korea

South East Asia

China

Central Asia & Russia

Saudi Arabia, Yemen & UAE

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	2-8
B. East Asia	8-12
C. Central Asia & Russia	12-15
D. West Asia	15-17
E. Africa	17-18
II. DEFENCE REVIEW	18-19
III. INTERNAL SECURITY REVIEW	20-23
IV. UN REVIEW	23

I. COUNTRY REVIEWS

A. South Asia

Afghanistan

- **At least 25 civilians killed in a suicide attack in Nangarhar province; Afghan government expects to take full control of Bagram prison from next week; Hundreds of Afghan soldiers have been arrested or expelled over a rising number of attacks on NATO colleagues**

According to reports, a suicide bomber has attacked a funeral ceremony in the eastern Afghan province of Nangarhar, killing at least 25 civilians including the son of a district governor. Several hundred villagers and officials were attending the funeral of an influential tribal elder in the remote border district of Dur Baba. The district governor Hamesha Gul was among 30 people injured.¹

In another development, according to reports, the Afghan government, on September 4, said that it expected to take full control next week from the United States of the controversial Bagram prison, which numbers Taliban fighters among its 3,000 inmates. President Hamid Karzai's office made the announcement following talks with some of Afghanistan's most senior justice, defence and intelligence officials. "The transition of Bagram prison to Afghan authority is a great success for Afghanistan therefore a splendid ceremony has to take place on September 10 for its full handover," the palace announced.²

In other development, reports noted that hundreds of Afghan soldiers have been arrested or expelled over a rising number of attacks on NATO colleagues, the Afghanistan's defence ministry said September 5, 2011. On more than 30 occasions so far this year, members of the Afghan security forces have opened fire on their Western allies, killing at least 45 foreign troops, the majority of them American. Defence ministry spokesman General Zahir Azimi told a news conference that the attacks were "a matter of concern" for the Afghan government.³

Pakistan

- **India, Pakistan sign new visa agreement; Foreign Minister Khar: Stability in Afghanistan important for Pakistan; China tacitly confirms taking over of Gwadar Port; Pakistani Army Chief to visit Moscow**

In a significant development, according to reports, during the Indian Foreign Minister S M Krishna's visit to Pakistan, much-awaited liberalised visa agreement between India and Pakistan

¹ "Afghan funeral bomb: Suicide attacker kills 25 in East", BBC, September 4, 2012 at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-19478496>

² "US to handover Bagram Prison next week: Kabul", Dawn, September 4, 2012 at <http://dawn.com/2012/09/04/us-to-hand-over-bagram-prison-next-week-kabul/>

³ "Afghan arrests hundreds over insider attacks", Dawn, September 5, 2012 at <http://dawn.com/2012/09/05/afghan-army-arrests-hundreds-over-insider-attacks/>

was signed by Interior Minister Rehman Malik and EAM Krishna on September 9, 2012, introducing additional visa categories for nationals of both countries. "This is a sign of friendship," Malik declared after signing the agreement. The agreement not only adds new visa categories, it also eases restrictions for bona fide businessmen, pilgrims and senior citizens. For the first time in their bilateral history, citizens of either country, above the age of 65, will be given a 45-day, single entry visa on arrival at the Attari/Wagah check-post. This visa will be non-extendable and non-convertible.⁴

In another development, according to reports, Foreign Minister Hina Rabbani Khar has reiterated that Pakistan, in its core national interest, is irrevocably committed in achieving stability in Afghanistan through an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned reconciliation process. Speaking at the "Changing Global Environment: Pakistan's Perspective," hosted by the German council on foreign relations in Berlin, Khar said that Afghans themselves need to define the contours of the reconciliation process. The program was attended by political, social, business and academic representatives of Germany. Pakistan's foreign minister, on a three day official visit to Germany, dilated upon the Afghan situation, Pak-US relations and the various reforms introduced by the present government to strengthen democracy and the civil society in Pakistan. She emphasised that a stable and a peaceful Afghanistan was an absolute imperative for the prosperity of Pakistan.⁵

According to reports, ahead of Pakistan Premier Raja Pervez Ashraf's visit to Beijing, China tacitly confirmed reports that it was taking over the strategic Gwadar deep water port in Balochistan, which it may convert into an oil pipeline hub to augment its energy supplies from the Gulf. Asked about Pakistan Shipping Minister Babar Khan Ghauri's remarks that China may take over the port operations with USD 10 billion investment following pullout of Singapore Port Authority (SPA), Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei said both countries are engaged in cooperation to build infrastructure projects. He stated, "Such cooperation is also beneficial to regional stability and development," without directly referring to Babar's comments.⁶

In other developments, reports noted that Pakistani Army Chief General Kayani is scheduled to make a trip to Moscow. This will take place in second week of September. He is the first Pakistani Army Chief to undertake this kind of a state visit. This shows a shift in relation between the two countries.⁷

Bangladesh

- **Advisors to Bangladesh PM visit New Delhi; Dipu Moni visits US and China; Top US diplomat visits Dhaka to promote policies on women's issues as well as peace and security in Bangladesh; Hasina urges Singaporean Government to recruit more skilled and semi-skilled workers from Bangladesh; Bangladesh ranks 118 in the Global Competitiveness**

⁴ "Greater Interaction: Neighbours sign new liberal visa regime", *The Express Tribune*, September 9, 2012 at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/433820/greater-interaction-neighbours-sign-new-liberal-visa-regime/>

⁵ "Stability in Afghanistan vital for Pakistan: Khar", *The Express Tribune*, September 4, 2012 at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/431001/stability-in-afghanistan-is-vital-for-pakistan-khar/>

⁶ "China confirms takeover of Pak's Gwadar port", *The Times of India*, September 4, 2012 at http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2012-09-04/china/33580715_1_china-and-pakistan-tianjin-hong-lei

⁷ "Shift in Policy? Army Chief to make "historic" Moscow trip", *The Express Tribune*, September 3, 2012 at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/430434/shift-in-policy-army-chief-to-make-historic-moscow-trip/>

Index (GCI) 2012-13; Food inflation increased in August 2012; Tk 62 crore to fight impacts of climate change

According to reports, Teesta river water-sharing, Tipaimukh power project and implementation of land boundary accord were among a range of bilateral issues which figured in discussions between Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's advisers and four federal Indian ministers including, Power Minister M Veerappa Moily, Water Resources Minister Pawan Kumar Bansal, Home Minister Sushilkumar Shinde and Rural Development Minister Jairam Ramesh on September 6 in New Delhi. National Security Adviser Shivshankar Menon was also present during the meeting. The advisers also called on Indian President Pranab Mukherjee and greeted him on his election as the head of state and also conveyed greetings from Bangladesh President Zillur Rahman and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.⁸

In another development, according to reports, reports noted that Foreign Minister Dipu Moni left the country on September 3 on a week-long visit to meet maritime experts and state department officials in the United States of America and attend an international fair in China.⁹

Meanwhile, Melanne S Verveer, a top US diplomat, arrived in Dhaka on September 6, 2012 on a five-day visit as part of the Obama administration's efforts to promote policies on women's issues and peace and security in Bangladesh.¹⁰

In other developments, according to reports, Bangladesh has the recorded steepest fall in its competitiveness since 2003-04 in a global survey due to a weakening of public sector institutions' performances, poor infrastructure, deteriorating economic stability and financial sector efficacy. The country lost 10 positions to touch 118 out of 144 countries in the Global Competitiveness Index (GCI) 2012-13, said the World Economic Forum (WEF) in its annual Global Competitiveness Report published on September 5, 2012.¹¹

Reports noted that after a 12-month respite of declining food inflation, it went back up in August partly due to a rise in prices of essential commodities during Ramadan and Eid festival. Food inflation increased 0.80 percentage points to 7.1 percent in August, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics said in a statement on September 5, 2012. The rise is higher in rural areas than in urban areas.¹²

According to reports, the Climate Change Fund Trustee Board approved four projects of different government agencies involving Tk 62 crore to fight impacts of climate change. The trustee board approved these projects at a meeting at the environment and forests ministry.¹³

⁸ "2 advisers talk Teesta, Tipai with Indian ministers", *The Daily Star*, September 7, 2012 at <http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=248774>

⁹ "Dipu Moni leaves for US, China", *The Daily Star*, September 4, 2012 <http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=248350>.

¹⁰ "Top US diplomat arrives in Dhaka", *The Daily Star*, September 7, 2012 at <http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=248735>

¹¹ "Global Competitiveness Index: Bangladesh slips 10 slots down", *The Daily Star*, September 6, 2012 at <http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=248540>.

¹² "Food inflation balloons on Ramadan, Eid", *The Daily Star*, September 6, 2012 at <http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=248616>.

¹³ "Climate Change Fund Trustee Board: Tk 62cr project approved to fight climate change", *The Daily Star*, September 5, 2012 at <http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=248462>.

Sri Lanka

- Sri Lanka issues travel warning against those visiting Tamil Nadu; Defence cooperation discussed between Sri Lanka and Pakistan; 58th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Annual Conference 2012 opened in Sri Lanka; Commonwealth could offer partnership in capacity-building to Sri Lanka to implement LLRC; High profile South African business delegation arrives in Sri Lanka; Sri Lanka's gross official reserves increased to US\$ 7.099 billion by the end of July 2012; Australian Defence Minister Stephen Smith labels the federal opposition's call to deport all Sri Lankan asylum seekers as "extraordinary" and "hypocritical; Under the instruction of Defence Secretary Gotabhaya Rajapaksa Sri Lanka organises a defence programme to minimize outward threats to the country; Sri Lanka to start an aerial survey of its mineral resources; Cairn India to enter the second phase of oil exploration in Mannar basin

Reports noted that the Sri Lankan government has issued a travel warning against those visiting Tamil Nadu in India, in the wake of recent events of intimidation towards Sri Lankan nationals visiting the Southern Indian state for religious and tourist purposes. However, the Ministry said travel to all other states in India was safe for Sri Lankans.¹⁴ Meanwhile, reacting to the travel warning, the Tamil Nadu Chamber of Commerce and Industry (TNCCI) in Madurai has urged the Indian government to check the attack on visiting Sri Lankan pilgrims since the travel advisory issued by Sri Lanka will seriously affect the tourism and trade to the state. Business, trade and tourism between Sri Lanka and Tamil Nadu will suffer, the TNCCI warned. The Chamber said it is taking a 50-member trade delegation "on the first flight to Colombo to meet our counterparts to improve bilateral trade and investment."¹⁵

Meanwhile, according to reports, the government of India will continue to take measures to ensure the safety of all Sri Lankans visiting that country, the Indian Ministry of External Affairs said on September 4, 2012 in response to the travel warning issued by Sri Lanka against its nationals visiting the state of Tamil Nadu.¹⁶ On the other hand, speaking to the state-run radio government spokesman Minister Keheliya Rambukwella said the friendship between Sri Lanka and India will not be affected as a result of the activities of state governments and India has already taken measures to safeguard the cordial relations.¹⁷ In the mean time, Sri Lanka police have taken measures to provide special security to the Indian Deputy High Commission office in Kandy in view of possible repercussions to the attack on Sri Lankan pilgrims in Tamil Nadu.¹⁸

According to reports, during a meeting between Pakistan's Secretary Defence Production, Lieutenant General Shahid Iqbal and the visiting Sri Lankan Brigadier TN Jayasooriya in Islamabad,

¹⁴ "Travel warning against Lankans visiting TN", *The Daily Mirror*, September 3, 2012 at <http://www.dailymirror.lk/news/21637-travel-warning-against-lankans-visiting-tn.html>.

¹⁵ "Tamil Nadu Chamber of Commerce concerned over attack on Sri Lankans", *Colombo Page*, September 8, 2012 at http://www.colombopage.com/archive_12A/Sep08_1347073510CH.php.

¹⁶ "India says will continue to take measures to ensure safety of Sri Lankan visitors", *Colombo Page*, September 4, 2012 at http://www.colombopage.com/archive_12A/Sep04_1346768590CH.php.

¹⁷ "Indo-Lanka relationship not affected by the state government actions, Sri Lanka asserts", *Colombo Page*, September 5, 2012 at http://www.colombopage.com/archive_12A/Sep05_1346852074CH.php.

¹⁸ "Sri Lanka police provides special security to Indians visiting Kandy city", *Colombo Page*, September 5, 2012 at http://www.colombopage.com/archive_12A/Sep05_1346855984KA.php.

Sri Lanka and Pakistan have underscored the need for maintaining and promoting closer cooperation particularly in the area of defence production. The meeting also emphasized the need for developing military to military cooperation at all levels and agreed to enhance cooperation in the area of military training exercises and intelligence sharing so as to contain and counter the growing threat of terrorism.¹⁹

Reports noted that the 58th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Annual Conference 2012 opened in the Sri Lankan capital of Colombo on September 7, 2012. The apex event of the CPA will be held from 7th to 15th September in Colombo with the participation of approximately 800 members of parliament and Speakers representing 179 regions of 54 commonwealth countries. Sri Lanka is hosting the CPA conference for the third time. Colombo has hosted the CPA Conference in 1974 and 1995.²⁰ Meanwhile, according to reports, Commonwealth Secretary-General Kamalesh Sharma has said that in reference to the implementation of the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission (LLRC) report, the Commonwealth could offer partnership in capacity-building to Sri Lanka. Sharma issued a statement prior to his arrival in Colombo to attend the 58th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association conference.²¹

Reports noted that a large high-profile South African business delegation arrived in Sri Lanka on September 5, 2012 on a four-day visit to explore investment opportunities. The delegation comprising about 30 members of the Progressive Business Forum of African National Congress (ANC-PBF), the ruling ANC's influential business collective, was led by the South African Deputy Minister of Economic Development, Prof. Hlengiwe Mkhize.²²

Reports noted that Sri Lanka's gross official reserves increased to US\$ 7.099 billion by the end of July 2012, the Central Bank said in a release on September 5. The reserves, rose from US\$ 6.045 billion in the previous month, is equivalent to 4.2 months of imports.²³

According to reports, Australian Defence Minister Stephen Smith has labelled the federal opposition's call to deport all Sri Lankan asylum seekers "extraordinary" and "hypocritical". The opposition on September 2, 2012 urged the federal government to reach an agreement with Sri Lanka for the immediate return of people intercepted en route to Australia. The call came after Australian authorities intercepted a boat carrying 81 suspected asylum seekers apparently from Sri Lanka, north-northwest of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands.²⁴

¹⁹ "Sri Lanka, Pakistan agree to closer defence cooperation", *Colombo Page*, September 7, 2012 at http://www.colombopage.com/archive_12A/Sep07_1346958766CH.php.

²⁰ "Commonwealth Parliamentary conference opens in Sri Lanka", *Colombo Page*, September 7, 2012 at http://www.colombopage.com/archive_12A/Sep07_1347030722CH.php.

²¹ "Commonwealth ready to offer Sri Lanka partnership in capacity building to implement LLRC", *Colombo Page*, September 9, 2012 at http://www.colombopage.com/archive_12A/Sep09_1347206290JR.php.

²² "South African business delegation arrives in Sri Lanka", *Colombo Page*, September 6, 2012 at http://www.colombopage.com/archive_12A/Sep06_1346914076CH.php.

²³ "Sri Lanka gross official reserves at US\$7 billion", *Colombo Page*, September 5, 2012, at http://www.colombopage.com/archive_12A/Sep05_1346868924CH.php.

²⁴ "Oppn 'hypocritical' on SL-Australia", *The Daily Mirror*, September 3, 2012 at <http://www.dailymirror.lk/news/21636-oppn-hypocritical-on-sl-australia.html>.

Meanwhile, Navy Commander Vice Admiral Somathilaka Dissanayake has told the state-run radio SLBC that under the instruction of Defence Secretary Gotabhaya Rajapaksa, a defence programme has been organized to minimize outward threats to the country. Under the program the number of navy bases and jetties has been increased and modern technology and radar systems are being used at maximum level.²⁵

In other developments, according to reports, following the successful completion of the first phase oil exploration in Sri Lanka's Mannar basin, Cairn India, has announced that it prepares to enter the second phase in the first quarter of 2013.²⁶

Maldives

- **President Waheed visits to China; Indian government urges Maldivian government to consider ways to resolve the problems faced by GMR Group; Australia calls on all party leaders to take part in discussions which pave the way to free and fair elections in the Maldives; Envoy of Commonwealth Secretary General visits Maldives; Amnesty International demands a prompt and independent probe into alleged rights violations in the Maldives**

According to reports, President Dr Mohamed Waheed and First Lady Madam Ilham Hussain recently visited China and arrived back in Male' on September 7, 2012. According to the President, the visit had enabled further strengthening of bilateral cooperation between the Maldives and China, and highlighted the agreements that were signed between the two countries. An agreement of 100 Million Yuan, as part of the bilateral assistance from China was signed between the two countries, as well as a framework agreement of 150 million dollars on housing and infrastructure assistance was signed between the Maldives and the EXIM Bank of China. Further, President Waheed said that Premier Wen Jiabao of China had assured of China's full cooperation in areas like transport, road construction and shipping in the Maldives. The President also met with the local business community of China, noting that efforts were made to secure investments from China in the Maldives.²⁷

In another development, the Indian government has asked the Maldivian government, to consider ways to resolve the problems faced by GMR Group, which has been given the contract to develop Ibrahim Nasir Male' International Airport. Since the change of government, GMR has faced pressure from the current government, which was on the opposition previously. According to GMR, their efforts to develop the airport are being denied regardless of the fact that the agreement between the Maldivian government and GMR remains intact; which results in serious losses for the company.²⁸

Reports noted that Australia has called on all party leaders to take part in discussions which

²⁵ "Sri Lanka Navy implements an extensive program for territorial protection", *Colombo Page*, September 4, 2012 at http://www.colombopage.com/archive_12A/Sep04_1346778544CH.php.

²⁶ "Cairn to begin second phase of oil exploration in Sri Lanka in first quarter of 2013", *Colombo Page*, September 9, 2012 at http://www.colombopage.com/archive_12A/Sep09_1347146628CH.php.

²⁷ "President and First Lady arrive in Male' following the conclusion of their visit to China", *The President's Office, Republic of Maldives*, September 7, 2012 at <http://www.presidencymaldives.gov.mv/Index.aspx?lid=11&dcid=7881>.

²⁸ "India asks Maldivian government for ways to resolve GMR problems", *Sun online*, September 5, 2012 at <http://sun.mv/english/5503>.

pave the way to free and fair elections in the Maldives. Australia's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senator Bob Carr said this in a short statement issued on September 4, 2012, to note the release of the report of the Commission of National Inquiry (CNI), established by the Government of Maldives to inquire into the transfer of power on 7 February 2012.²⁹

In other developments, reports noted that Commonwealth Secretary General's Special Envoy to the Maldives Sir Donald McKinnon visited the Maldives on September 8, 2012.³⁰ Meanwhile, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dhunya Maumoon has urged all countries in the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG) to remove Maldives from the agenda of CMAG.³¹

According to reports, Amnesty International has demanded a prompt and independent probe into alleged rights violations in the Maldives, accusing security forces of abusing their power since the transfer of presidential power in the Indian Ocean archipelago. The report, released on September 4, documents targeted attacks on opposition supporters as well as bystanders at demonstrations.³²

B. East Asia

South East Asia

- **Indonesia to purchase electricity from Malaysia; Singapore reiterates supports to Philippines on South China Sea issue; Myanmar passes foreign investment law; All the judges of Myanmar's Constitutional Tribunal resigned; six injured in a bomb blast in Indonesia; forty-six parties registered for 214 polls in Indonesia; Bilateral trade between Malaysia and China are guaranteed to exceed US\$100 billion**

Reports noted that Indonesia's state-owned electricity provider PLN signed a deal to purchase electricity from the Malaysian state of Sarawak to power some regions in West Kalimantan for five years. The deal which was signed on September 5 2012, will cover shortages until three power plants currently under construction are completed. It is also believed that purchases will be made between 2014 and 2019. PLN is currently building three new power plants in the province, including two in Bengkayang. The company agreed to sell 600 megawatts of power to the Malaysian peninsula.³³

In another development, Prime Minister of Singapore Lee Hsien Loong, on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meeting, reiterated that Singapore supports the United

²⁹ "Australia urges all political party leaders to participate in discussions", *Sun Online*, September 4, 2012 - <http://sun.mv/english/5480>.

³⁰ "Sir Don McKinnon arrives in Maldives", *Sun Online*, September 9, 2012 at <http://sun.mv/english/5601>.

³¹ "We urge all countries to remove Maldives from CMAG's agenda: Dhunya", *Sun Online*, September 5, 2012 at <http://sun.mv/english/5511>.

³² "Group decries alleged rights abuses in Maldives", *Sun Online*, September 5, 2012 at <http://sun.mv/english/5508>.

³³ "Indonesia's PNG signs deal to purchase electricity from Malaysia", *Jakarta Globe*, September 7, 2012, <http://www.thejakartaglobe.com/business/indonesias-pln-signs-deal-to-purchase-electricity-from-malaysia/543023>

States and the Philippines on the South China Sea issue. Prime Minister Lee met with President Benigno Aquino of the Philippines, and United States Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in a series of back-to-back bilateral meetings on September 8, 2012, on the sidelines of the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting. While Singapore Prime Minister Lee, while reiterating its position said that while "we do not have a claim in the South China Sea, we do have an interest in preserving the peace and stability, as well as freedom of navigation in the area," a statement from the Prime Minister's Office said. PM Lee again urged "moderation and restraint" while pushing for ASEAN to be at the heart of the discussions.³⁴

According to reports, the Parliament of Myanmar, On September 7, 2012, adopted the foreign direct investment law that is crucial to the government's ambitious plans for economic expansion in the country. The law drops several provisions in the original draft that had raised fears it could deter investors. The law was seen as one of Parliament's most urgent tasks and was passed on the last day of its current session. One proposal dropped from the law would have required a \$5 million minimum initial investment outlay. The final version also allows foreign parties to hold a 50 per cent stake in joint ventures rather than limiting them to a proposed 49 per cent. Another progressive aspect of the new law allows foreign investors to lease land for an initial period of 50 years with an option to renew, compared to 35 years under old rules.³⁵

Reports noted that all the judges of Myanmar's Constitutional Tribunal have resigned en masse "of their own accord," after parliament voted to impeach them. The resignation of the nine-member bench was approved by President Thein Sein.

Their resignation followed a vote of 408 out of 429 representatives in the lower house of parliament to impeach the judges for a ruling they made in March that parliamentary commissions were not "Union level," with power over the executive branch. Thein Sein had asked for the tribunal's ruling as cabinet members did not want to be obliged to attend every parliamentary commission session that requested their presence, effectively placing the executive body under the legislative one, according to political insiders. Nobel laureate and democracy champion Aung San Suu Kyi, who became the leader of a new parliamentary rule of law commission last month, voted in favour of the judges' impeachment, members of her National League for Democracy party confirmed.³⁶

Six people were injured when a homemade bomb exploded in a house reportedly used as an orphanage in Depok, West Java, on September 7, 2012. The explosion rattled windows in Beji, North Depok and damaged a home on Jalan Nusantara. According to eyewitnesses, two men fled from the house. A banner for the Pondok Bidara orphanage foundation was hung on the front of the home. Eight people have been questioned in connection with the blast, including four people

³⁴ "PM Lee reiterates S'pore's stand on South China sea to US, Philippines", *Straits Times*, September 8, 2012, <http://www.straitstimes.com/breaking-news/singapore/story/pm-lee-reiterates-spores-stand-south-china-sea-us-philippines-20120908>

³⁵ "Myanmar passes foreign investment law", *The Washington Post*, September 8, 2012, http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia_pacific/myanmars-parliament-adopts-foreign-investment-law-toning-down-some-limitations/2012/09/07/e4943306-f94d-11e1-a93b-7185e3f88849_story.html

³⁶ "Myanmar constitutional tribunal judges resign en masse", *The Nation*, September 7, 2012, <http://www.nationmultimedia.com/breakingnews/Myanmar-constitutional-tribunal-judges-resign-en-m-30189950.html>

found in the home. Police are investigating whether this explosion has any connection to a recent string of terrorist attacks on police in Solo, Central Java, or a plot to set off bombs in Jakarta.³⁷

According to the Indonesian General Election Commission (KPU), 46 political parties have registered to contest in the 2014 polls. The announcement was made after the commission closed the registration process on September 7, 2012. Commissioner Hadar Nafis Gumay said the parties include new parties such as the Independent Peoples Union Party (SRI) and National Democratic Party (Nasdem). The commission will now examine if the 46 parties have completed the 17 administrative documents requested by the commission up until September 29, 2012. This will then be followed by a factual verification process due to be completed by January 6 next year. In 2009, the poll body cleared 34 political parties to enable them to participate in the national general election.³⁸

Bilateral trade between Malaysia and China are guaranteed to exceed US\$100 billion despite economic slowdown in China and uncertainty in the global environment, said minister in the Prime Minister's Department Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon on September 8, 2012. "For the first six months of this year, total trade between both nations amounted to US\$88 billion, nearly what we achieved last year of US\$90 billion." "This upward performance is expected to continue into the second half of this year and I'm optimistic we will surpass last year's record although the Chinese are facing volatility in their market currently," he added. He said this at the media briefing on the sidelines of the Malaysia-China Entrepreneur Conference 2012 (MCEC), jointly organised by the Malaysia-China Chamber of Commerce (MCCC) and TNT Express Malaysia on September 8, 2012.³⁹

China

- **Wu Bangguo kick starts four nation tour; Beijing-Toronto sign cooperation accord; Beijing plans to host the 2014 APEC meeting; Hu Jintao attends APEC meeting in Vladivostok; Diaoyu row continues; Clinton states that China-US relations are strong; Beijing does not support military intervention or use of chemical weapons against Syria; Beijing announces digitalization of civil air defence by 2020**

Reports noted that China's top legislator Wu Bangguo started a two week tour to Iran, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Fiji. The primary aim is to consolidate economic and political ties.⁴⁰

In another important development, China and Canada have signed a foreign investment promotion and protection accord. This was signed on the final day of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit.⁴¹ Meanwhile, President Hu Jintao also announced that the Asia-Pacific leaders meeting

³⁷ "Six injured in homemade bomb blast in Depok", *Jakarta Globe*, September 9, 2012, <http://www.thejakartaglobe.com/news/six-injured-in-homemade-bomb-blast-in-depok/543284>

³⁸ "46 parties registered for Indonesia's 2014 polls", *Bernama*, September 8, 2012, <http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v6/newsworld.php?id=693140>

³⁹ "Malaysia- China trade to exceed US\$ 100bn despite slowdown", *Sinchew*, September 8, 2012, <http://www.mysinchew.com/node/77406>

⁴⁰ "Top Chinese official starts 4-nation tour" *China Daily*, September 10, 2012 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2012-09/10/content_15746022.htm

⁴¹ "China, Canada sign investment promotion accord" *China Daily*, September 9, 2012 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2012huapec/2012-09/09/content_15745534.htm

would be hosted by China in 2014.⁴² The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit 2012 was organized in Vladivostok. The leaders discussed collective actions which can help in stable economic growth of the region.⁴³

According to reports, the Diaoyu Island issue continues to hurt the China-Japan relations. President Hu Jintao urged the Japanese government to stop its plans of 'nationalization' of the Island. He also stated that Beijing will not recognize the 'purchase' of the Island.⁴⁴

US Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton said that China and United States relationship is now based on a strong and solid basis. She said this during her meeting with President Hu Jintao.⁴⁵

Meanwhile, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hong Lei said stated that Beijing is opposed to any use of chemical weapons or military intervention in Syria..⁴⁶

In other developments, Beijing has announced that it will successfully finish the construction of a digital managing system of its civil air defense by 2020.⁴⁷

Japan

- **Japanese government to purchase three of the Senakau Islands as early as September 11, 2012; The ruling DPJ proposes zero reliance on nuclear energy by the 2030s**

Reports noted that Japanese government has decided to sign a contract to purchase three of the Senkaku Islands (Uotsurijima, Kita-kojima and minami kojima) in the Okinawa Prefecture from their private owner as early as September 11, 2012. The nationalization of the islets will take effect at the time of the signing of the contract. The Noda administration is keen to complete the nationalization process as soon as possible to minimize backlash from China, who claims its own sovereignty over those islets.⁴⁸

In another development, the ruling Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) has recently proposed for Japan to aim for zero reliance on nuclear energy by the 2030s. This proposal is to be included in the new energy policies that the government will finalize next week. However, to achieve the proposed target, the government will not only have to strictly adhere to its policy of shutting

⁴² "Hu: China to host 2014 APEC economic leaders' meeting" *China Daily*, September 8, 2012 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2012huapec/2012-09/08/content_15745221.htm

⁴³ "Hu attends APEC meeting in Vladivostok", *China Daily*, September 8, 2012 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2012-09/08/content_15745199.htm

⁴⁴ "Tokyo 'must realize this is serious'" *China Daily*, September 10, 2012 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2012-09/10/content_15745952.htm

⁴⁵ "Clinton: China-US relations strong and solid" *China Daily*, September 5, 2012 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2012-09/05/content_15735251.htm

⁴⁶ "China opposes chemical weapons, military intervention in Syria" *China Daily*, September 4, 2012 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2012-09/04/content_15733675.htm

⁴⁷ "China to digitalize civil air defense by 2020" *China Daily*, September 3, 2012 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2012-09/03/content_15730534.htm

⁴⁸ "Govt to sign Senkaku contract/Islands' purchase scheduled to be inalize as early Tuesday", *Yomiuri Daily*, September 8, 2012, at <http://www.yomiuri.co.jp/dy/national/T120907003242.htm>

down nuclear reactors after 40 years of operation, but also abandon any plans to build additional nuclear power plants.⁴⁹

South Korea

- **South Korea conducts defense drills near Dokdo; Seoul keen to offer food aid to North Korea**

South Korea on September 7, conducted defence drills near Dokdo Island despite continued diplomatic stand off with Japan who also claims sovereignty over the island. South Korean Army, Navy and Coast Guard jointly carried out the drills. The exercise was reportedly conducted under the scenario in which Coast guards took the leading role in foiling foreign citizens' invasion on the territorial waters near Dokdo or their any effort to land illegally in Dokdo.⁵⁰

North Korea

- **North Korea shifts control of its economic projects from the military to the cabinet**

As part of its efforts to bring about far reaching economic reforms in North Korea, the new leadership of the communist regime under Kim Jong-un recently decided to shift control of its economic projects from the rigid and conservative military to the cabinet. Pyongyang is currently leading an economic reform programme known as "June 28 new economy management system" which insists on several reforms, including abandoning its rationing system.⁵¹

C. Central Asia & Russia

Central Asia

- **South Korea to loan Uzbekistan US \$595 million for medical upgrades; Turkmenistan-Belarusian trade expected to be around \$400M in 2012; Kazakhstan rises 21 slots in global competitiveness survey; Turkmenistan holds naval exercises in Caspian; Tajikistan is not yet ready to join the Customs Union; Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan Presidents discuss trade and anti-terror measures in Astana; Pakistan and Tajikistan have agreed to settle their differences concerning the sugar deal.**

According to reports, the South Korean government has provisionally agreed to extend loans totalling \$595 million to Uzbekistan for high-tech upgrades of its media outlets and medical facilities among other initiative.⁵²

⁴⁹ "DPJ sets zero-nuclear power goal", Yomiuri Daily, September 8, 2012, at <http://www.yomiuri.co.jp/dy/national/T120906004354.htm>

⁵⁰ "Korea holds defense drills near Dokdo", Korea Herald, September 7, 2012, at <http://view.koreaherald.com/kh/view.php?ud=20120907000661>

⁵¹ "N.K shifting military's economic control to cabinet", Korea Herald, September 4, 2012, at <http://view.koreaherald.com/kh/view.php?ud=20120904001285>

⁵² "Korea to loan Uzbekistan \$595M for medical upgrades, media outlets", Universal Newswires, September 6, 2012, <http://www.universalnewswires.com/centralasia/viewstory.aspx?id=12756>

In another development, trade between Turkmenistan and Belarus is expected to reach \$400 million by the end of this year. Turkmenistan's exports to Belarus include cotton yarn, fabric, fleece, as well as bed sheets and tablecloths while it imports tractors, road machinery, construction machinery, and medications.⁵³

Reports noted that Kazakhstan rose 21 places to 51st in the Global Competitiveness Report, an annual index compiled by the Switzerland-based World Economic Forum (WEF) which measures how well countries are able to provide prosperity to its citizens. Tajikistan is ranked at 100th, Kyrgyzstan at 127th. Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan were not considered in the survey.⁵⁴

According to reports, Turkmenistan has begun naval drills in the Caspian Sea near the port city of Turkmenbashi, and this move can be seen as a warning to other nations not to interfere in the country's attempts to sell Caspian gas to other states. Russia has openly opposed Turkmenistan's intent to provide gas for Europe, arguing that because the Caspian Sea has yet to be delineated, Turkmenistan cannot export the gas without the express consent of all five littoral states: Iran, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, and Russia.⁵⁵

In other developments, reports noted that Tajikistan is not yet economically prepared to join the customs union shared by Kazakhstan, Belarus and Kazakhstan. Tajikistan has trouble containing inflation and maintaining food price levels which its residents can afford. The country is the poorest to have emerged from the Soviet Union and is particularly vulnerable to steep price increases in food commodities.⁵⁶

As part of Uzbek President Islam Karimov's state visit to Kazakhstan, the two sides have discussed trade and the rising threat of terrorism as a result of the impending NATO troops withdrawal in Afghanistan. Talks between the two leaders also included water, electricity, transport and border issues.⁵⁷

Pakistan has agreed to pay the freight costs of delivering 30,000 tons of sugar to Tajikistan. The question of which side should pay the transportation costs of the sugar had kept the deal on hold for around two weeks. Pakistan had earlier agreed to sell the sugar to Tajikistan at a \$20 per ton discount below the international rate of \$248 per ton.⁵⁸

⁵³ "Turkmen-Belarusian trade expected to hit \$400M mark this year", Universal Newswires, September 6, 2012, <http://www.universalnewswires.com/centralasia/viewstory.aspx?id=12761>

⁵⁴ "Kazakhstan rises 21 slots in global competitiveness survey", Universal Newswires, September 5, 2012, <http://www.universalnewswires.com/centralasia/viewstory.aspx?id=12752>

⁵⁵ "Turkmenistan holds naval exercises in Caspian", Universal Newswires, September 5, 2012, <http://www.universalnewswires.com/centralasia/viewstory.aspx?id=12749>

⁵⁶ "Tajikistan unprepared to join customs union, ambassador says", Universal Newswires, September 7, 2012, <http://www.universalnewswires.com/centralasia/viewstory.aspx?id=12767>

⁵⁷ "Nazarbayev, Karimov discuss trade, anti-terrorism in Astana meeting", Universal Newswires, September 7, 2012, <http://www.universalnewswires.com/centralasia/viewstory.aspx?id=12762>

⁵⁸ "Pakistan saves bittersweet sugar deal with Tajikistan", Universal Newswires, September 5, 2012, 2012, <http://www.universalnewswires.com/centralasia/viewstory.aspx?id=12746>

Russia

- **Russia plans to shift the emphasis in its foreign trade towards the Asia-Pacific Region; President Putin calls on APEC leaders to continue efforts to liberalize trade and develop integration; APEC economies aim to formulate a technology partnership; Russia declares its intention to settle all history-rooted problems in its relations with Japan; Russia-US agreement to simplify visa formalities comes into force; Gazprom may face 10 billion Euro fine in European Commission anti-dumping inquiry; Rosneft and Exxon Mobil plan exploratory drilling on Kara Sea shelf; Russia expects 0.2-0.3% budget deficit in 2012; First unit of Bushehr nuclear power plant to be handed over to Iran in December; Russian and US foreign Ministers sign a memorandum on cooperation in Antarctica and a joint statement on strengthening Russian-US inter-regional cooperation; Chile to be invited to the G-20 summit in Russia in 2013**

According to reports, First Deputy Prime Minister Igor Shuvalov has said that Russia plans to shift the emphasis in its foreign trade towards the Asia-Pacific Region and hoped that its trade with APEC economies will be more than its trade with Europe in the next 5-10 years.⁵⁹

In another development, President Vladimir Putin has called on the leaders of the APEC economies to continue efforts to liberalize trade and promote integration processes in the Asia Pacific region. This statement was made during the APEC summit being held in Vladivostok and is seen as an attempt by Russia to play a more pro-active role in the Asia Pacific region.⁶⁰

In the backdrop of the APEC summit being held at Vladivostok, leaders of APEC countries have discussed ways to create a technology sharing partnership. The promotion of technology innovation initiatives can be looked upon as an effective mechanism for accelerating Russia's development.⁶¹

President Putin has declared that he would like to settle all the history-rooted problems in relations between Russia and Japan. Putin had said that Japan is a key partner for Russia in the region and economic relations must be given priority.⁶²

The Russian-US agreement on the mutual simplification of visa formalities has come into force from September 9, 2012. As per the agreement, three-year visas will be issued to allow Russian and U.S. citizens to visit each other's country several times and stay for six months after the arrival. Russia will issue business, private, humanitarian and tourist visas when direct invitations from citizens and organizations are received, and the United States will issue visas of the B1/B2 category (business/tourism). Visas will be issued as a rule within 15 days after the application is received.⁶³

⁵⁹ "Russia's trade with APEC to exceed that of Europe in 5-10 years", ITAR-TASS, September 7, 2012, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/513965.html>

⁶⁰ "Putin calls on APEC leaders to continue efforts to liberalize trade and develop integration", ITAR-TASS, September 8, 2012, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/515282.html>

⁶¹ "APEC economies to create technology partnership", ITAR-TASS, September, 2012, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/512562.html>

⁶² "Putin wants to settle all history-rooted problems in relations with Japan", ITAR-TASS, September 9, 2012, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/515643.html>

⁶³ "Russia-US agreement to simplify visa formalities comes into force", ITAR-TASS, September 9, 2012, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/515486.html>

According to reports, the European Commission will check whether Gazprom has abused its dominant position on the gas markets of Central and East European countries relating to the division of markets and impediments to the free flow of gas to Europe; impeded diversification of energy supplies to the European Union; and push for high gas prices (disproportionate to the price of crude) on its clients. If Gazprom found guilty, it could be fined up to 10% of its annual turnover- roughly 10 billion Euros.⁶⁴

In other developments, according to reports, Exxon Mobil Corporation and Rosneft Company are planning to start exploratory drilling on the shelf of Kara Sea during the year 2014-15. Exploratory drilling will also be launched on the Black Sea shelf within the same period.⁶⁵

Russian Finance Minister Anton Siluanov has said that budget deficit in Russia in 2012 may be 0.2-0.3%.⁶⁶

The Russian company Atomstrojexport is planning to hand over the first power unit of the Bushehr nuclear power plant Iran towards the end of December.⁶⁷

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton have signed an inter-governmental memorandum on mutual understanding in cooperation in Antarctica and a joint statement on strengthening Russian-US inter-regional cooperation. The memorandum provides for regular consultations between the Russian Foreign Ministry and the US Department of State on the implementation of the Antarctic Treaty of 1959 and implies closer coordination by the countries at international forums.⁶⁸

President Putin has said that Chile will be invited to the G-20 summit in Russia in 2013.⁶⁹

D. West Asia

Saudi Arabia

- **Saudi Interior Minister: No “large scale” money laundering in Saudi Arabia**

According to reports, Saudi Interior Minister, Prince Ahmed Bin Abdulaziz, affirmed that no “large scale” money laundering is taking place within the Kingdom which is leading to financing

⁶⁴ “Gazprom may face 10 bln euro fine in European Commission anti-dumping inquiry”, ITAR-TASS, September 5, 2012, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/511595.html>

⁶⁵ “Rosneft, Exxon Mobil plan exploratory drilling on Kara Sea shelf”, ITAR-TASS, September 6, 2012, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/513217.html>

⁶⁶ “Russia expects 0,2-0,3 prc budget deficit in 2012”, ITAR-TASS, September 5, 2012, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/512468.html>

⁶⁷ “First unit of Bushehr nuclear power plant to be handed over to customers in December”, ITAR-TASS, September 5, 2012, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/512461.html>

⁶⁸ “Lavrov, Clinton sign Antarctica memorandum”, ITAR-TASS, September 8, 2012, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/515004.html>

⁶⁹ “Chile to be invited to G-20 summit in Russia in 2013 – Putin”, ITAR-TASS, September 8, 2012, v

terrorism.⁷⁰ Prince Ahmed denied large-scale money laundering in the Kingdom and stated that no funds were going out of the Kingdom to finance terrorism and efforts were exerted to curb such crimes. He stated that, "Money laundering emerged mainly from invalid funds and fighting it has become a necessity. The security bodies are developing mechanisms to anticipate the occurrence of crimes". He said combating terror-related crimes has become an international responsibility, which necessitates cooperation of the international community. The exchange of expertise and studies dealing with the dimensions of such crimes and the provision of proper solutions on how to minimize risks associated with these crimes and the prevention of their recurrence would support that responsibility.⁷¹

Yemen

- **International donors pledge \$ 6.396 billion for Yemen**

Reports noted that International donors pledged \$ 6.396 billion in a conference in Riyadh on September 4, 2012, in cumulative aid to Yemen to help the country rebuild after it has been hit by internal political unrest and terrorism. The new figure is up from US\$ 4 billion pledged to Yemen at a meeting of the Friends of Yemen in May this year. Saudi Arabia alone had promised US\$ 3.25 billion of the US\$ 4 billion raised in May. Inger Andersen, the World Bank's Vice President for the Middle East and North Africa announced that the World Bank gave "a grant of US\$ 400 million on top of existing US\$ 700 million, of which US\$ 200 million have been dispersed." Among others, the USA has pledged a total of US\$ 846 million, the Arab Development Fund US\$ 510 million and the Arab Monetary Fund US\$ 380 million. Similarly, the EU has pledged US\$ 214 million, while the UK has promised US\$ 311 million, Germany US\$ 158 million and the Netherlands US\$ 100 million. Yemen's Planning and International Cooperation Minister Mohammed Al-Saadi told the donors meeting that the country needs almost \$ 12 billion in the short term.⁷²

UAE

- **Arab League reaffirms UAE's sovereignty over islands dispute with Iran**

According to reports, the Arab League's Ministerial Council has reaffirmed the UAE's sovereignty over its three disputed islands of Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa in the Gulf. It has also expressed support to all peaceful measures being taken by the UAE to regain its sovereignty over the islands. In a resolution issued on September 5, 2012, the Arab Foreign Ministers condemned Iranian government's step to perpetuate occupation of the islands and violation of the UAE sovereignty in a way that destabilises regional and international peace and security. They strongly criticised the recent actions of Iran, including construction of settlements for Iranian citizens on the UAE's three islands and conducting military exercises covering the islands, the territorial waters, the airspace and the economic region belonging to the three islands. The council asked Iran to stop such violations and provocative actions which are considered interference in

⁷⁰ No "large scale" money laundering in Saudi – official, *Asharq al Awsat*, September 9, 2012, at <http://www.asharq-e.com/news.asp?section=1&id=31002>

⁷¹ "No funds going out of KSA to finance terror", *Arab News*, September 10, 2012, at <http://arabnews.com/no-funds-going-out-ksa-finance-terror>

⁷² Global donors pledge \$ 6.4 bn for Yemen", *Arab News*, September 5, 2012, at <http://arabnews.com/global-donors-pledge-64-bn-yemen>

the internal affairs of an independent, sovereign state. They noted that such actions will never promote mutual trust as they threaten peace and security in the region, and expose the safety of territorial and international navigation in the Arabian Gulf to danger.⁷³

E. Africa

- **Border talks resumed between Sudan and South Sudan; Nigerian Navy rescues crew of hijacked ship off Lagos port; Sudan calls for cooperation on African space agency; Egypt pledges reforms to attract foreign investment; Roger Lumbala, a Congolese MP, seeks asylum in the South African embassy in Bujumbura**

According to reports, Sudan and South Sudan resumed border talks in Ethiopia with the intention of reaching a deal on 1,800-km long joint border so that the oil exports could be restarted. The talks were held between Deng Alor, a senior member of South Sudan's delegation and the head of Khartoum's delegation. Oil used to provide over half of state revenues in Sudan and accounted for about 98 percent of government income in South Sudan. Following the shutdown, both countries faced soaring inflation and shortage of foreign currency needed to pay for food imports. The U.N. Security Council already fixed September 22 deadline for the two sides to solve their issues or face sanctions.⁷⁴

In another development, the oil vessel, MT Abu Dhabi Star that was hijacked on September 4, 2012 by pirates off the Nigerian coast around 14 nautical miles from the Lagos port, was rescued by the Nigerian Navy. All the crew members, including 22 Indian sailors, were reported safe and were taken to a safe port. Piracy offshore of Nigeria and other countries in West Africa's oil-rich Gulf of Guinea has been on increase in recent years, and the region is second only to the waters off Somalia for the risk of pirate attacks.⁷⁵

Addressing a regional conference of communication ministers in Khartoum, Sudanese president Omar al-Bashir called for co-operation on an African space agency, which, he said, would "liberate Africa from the technological domination". As per the working document, the agency called 'AfriSpace', would enable co-operation among African states in space research and technology and their applications. It adds that AfriSpace would implement a long-term African space policy, recommend "space objectives" to member states and co-ordinate space resources.⁷⁶

During his meeting with US corporate executives, Egypt's president Mohammed Morsi vowed to carry out tough structural reforms to overhaul his country's ailing economy and create a better

⁷³ "Arab League's Ministerial Council reaffirms UAE's sovereignty over its three islands", WAM, September 5, 2012, at <http://www.wam.org.ae/servletSatellite?c=WamLocEnews&cid=1290000617975&p=1135099400228&pagename=WAM%2FWamLocEnews%2FW T-LEN-FullNews>

⁷⁴ Aaron Maasho (2012), "Sudan, S. Sudan resume border talks with eye to oil", *The Daily Star*, September 4, 2012, at <http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2012/Sep-04/186725-sudan-s-sudan-resume-border-talks-with-eye-to-oil.ashx#axzz263MpYp1F>

⁷⁵ "Nigeria: Hijacked ship with 22 Indians sailors aboard freed", *IBN Live*, September 5, 2012, at <http://ibnlive.in.com/news/nigeria-hijacked-ship-with-indians-aboard-freed/288751-2.html>

⁷⁶ "Sudanese president calls for African space agency", *The Guardian*, September 6, 2012, at <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2012/sep/06/sudanese-president-african-space-agency?newsfeed=true>

environment for business and investment. US Deputy Secretary of State Thomas Nides opined that Morsi laid out a broad vision for Egypt that was “wholesome” and “focused”. However, no substantial plan was discussed as to how the economy would be restructured.⁷⁷

In other developments, according to reports, Lambert Mende, the spokesman for the Congolese government, announced that Roger Lumbala, a Congolese MP and former rebel who was wanted by the government on charges of treason, was seeking asylum in the South African embassy in Bujumbura, the Burundian capital. The Congolese government accuses Lumbala of helping Rwanda in supporting a rebellion in eastern Congo that deepened political divisions in the capital Kinshasa. The worsening political chaos undermined President Joseph Kabila’s efforts to push reforms in the country.⁷⁸

II. DEFENCE REVIEW

National

- **DRDO to provide Indian military with a range of indigenous tactical missiles; India likely to sign the \$11 billion MMRCA deal with French Rafale by the end of this month-end or next month**

According to reports, three Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) laboratories will, for the first time, provide the military with a range of indigenous tactical missiles. The Director of the pivotal Defence R&D Laboratory (DRDL), A K Chakrabarti, confirmed that the Indian Air Force (IAF) and Army had already placed orders worth Rs 24,000 crore for Akash surface-to-air missiles. He said the navy had ordered Long Range-Surface to Air Missiles (LR-SAMs) worth more than Rs 2,600 crore for the navy’s destroyers and frigates that were under construction. In addition to this, Subir Kumar Chaudhary, the director of DRDL’s sister laboratory, Research Centre Imarat (RCI), revealed the air force had ordered Rs 8,600 crore worth of Medium Range-Surface to Air Missiles (MR-SAMs).⁷⁹

In another development, according to reports, India plans to sign the \$11 billion MMRCA (Medium Multi-Role Combat Aircraft) deal with French Rafale by the end of this month-end or next month, according to a senior Indian Air Force official. Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Training Command, IAF, Air Marshal Rajinder Singh said, “I find no reason why it shouldn’t be signed by the end of this month or next month.” He indicated that negotiations are currently on with regard to pricing for the 126-aircraft deal. “There is money....this thing here and there (pricing being

⁷⁷ “Egypt’s president meets with US executives and vows big reforms in bid to attract investment”, *The Washington Post*, September 9, 2012, at http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle_east/meeting-participant-egypts-morsi-tells-us-trade-delegates-he-will-respect-treaty-with-israel/2012/09/09/a90a7a2c-fa9a-11e1-a65a-d6e62f9f2a5a_story.html

⁷⁸ Jonny Hogg (2012), “Top DRC opposition figure seeks asylum from S.Africa in Burundi”, *Reuters*, September 9, 2012, at <http://in.reuters.com/article/2012/09/09/congo-democratic-lumbala-idINDEE88800T20120909>

⁷⁹ “Military to buy DRDO missiles worth Rs 1 lakh cr in 10 yrs,” *Business Standard*, September 04, 2012, at <http://www.business-standard.com/india/news/military-to-buy-drdo-missiles-worth-rs-1-lakh-cr-in-10-yrs/485293/>

finalised)". The Air Marshal admitted to "some problems" (on pricing) but asserted that it's not unusual in such big deals. "It should come through", he said, adding that the first aircraft under the MMRCa deal would start "flowing in" in 2017. Significantly, the Air Marshal dismissed reports quoting Russian and German officials who had claimed that the deal is not final yet and that it's still up in the air. "Nothing of that sort", he said, pointing out India had already declared the lowest bidder — Rafale — for the MMRCa deal.⁸⁰

International

- **German military leaders criticize ongoing restructuring of the Bundeswehr; Tension rises over China's controversial territorial claim**

According to reports, more than 46 percent of the German officers and sergeants recently surveyed had negative reactions toward the implementation of the ongoing restructuring of the Bundeswehr. This study was carried out between June 26 and July 31 by the Technical University of Chemnitz on behalf of the German Bundeswehr Association. At its presentation on September 7 in Berlin, the federal chairman of the lobby association, Col. Ulrich Kirsch, stated, "If the politics do not readjust now, the realignment is on the verge of toppling." Of the 1,768 officers and sergeants who took part in this survey, 27.3 percent described the plan itself to reform the Bundeswehr as bad or very bad. However, 88.1 percent of them also say that the process would not last and soon would need corrections. Also, 76.2 percent said it was extremely difficult for them to actively take part in the process and introduce their own ideas. A spokesman of the German Defense Ministry said, "In general, the survey corresponds with our own picture of the current situation." A feeling of insecurity among soldiers, civil servants and their families would come along with this reform, the spokesman said. The German military is undergoing a restructuring process, including large cuts in military and civil personnel, closing of bases or ending of conscription.⁸¹

In another development, reports noted that China's controversial territorial claim is at the heart of a simmering dispute among the nations that ring the South China Sea. That dispute was on full display last week, after China rejected calls by U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to find agreement on the maritime borders. Also last week, representatives from the Philippines, Vietnam, Taiwan, China, Indonesia and Malaysia voiced their markedly different perspectives on the situation at the Conference on the Practices of the UNCLOS and the Resolution of South China Sea Disputes. UNCLOS refers to the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. At the conference held on September 3-4, 2012, speakers and delegates from the Asian countries dragged out ancient maps and cited international laws and agreements to justify their claims over the same rocks.⁸²

⁸⁰ "India to ink \$11 billion MMRCa deal with Rafale by next month: Indian Air Force official," The Economic Times, September 8, 2012, at http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2012-09-08/news/33696640_1_eurofighter-typhoon-french-rafale-mmrc-a-tender

⁸¹ "German Military Leaders Criticize Bundeswehr Reform," Defence News, September 7, 2012, at <http://www.defensenews.com/article/20120907/DEFREG01/309070006/German-Military-Leaders-Criticize-Bundeswehr-Reform?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE>

⁸² "Tension Rises Over China's Disputed Sea Claims," September 8, 2012 <http://www.defensenews.com/article/20120908/DEFREG03/309080001/Tension-Rises-Over-China-8217-s-Disputed-Sea-Claims?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE>

III. INTERNAL SECURITY REVIEW

Jammu & Kashmir

- **Normal life affected in valley due to shutdown; Operation in Ganderbal continues; Gunfight left a militant and soldier killed in Tanghdar, North Kashmir; Sepratists asked by Centre to be more accommodative; SPO killed and soldier left injured by gunmen**

Reports noted that searches in Chattergul forests of north Kashmir's Ganderbal district entered into fifth day on September 4, while militant outfit Hizbul Mujahideen identified one of the militants killed in the encounter as its commander. The search operation started August 31 morning after personnel of Special Operation Group of Jammu and Kashmir Police (JKP) and columns of 24 Rashtriya Rifles (RR) cordoned off a vast area of Chattergul forests in Kangan. Initially the joint party of forces killed an unidentified militant inside a hideout in the forest. Recovery of shoes and logistics indicated presence of some more militants which extended the operation.⁸³

In another development, according to reports, an unidentified militant and a soldier were killed in an encounter on September 4 on the Line of Control (LoC) in Tanghdar Sector of Kupwara district of north Kashmir. This is the first infiltration bid that was foiled in Tanghdar Sector this year and Army has started combing operation in the area.⁸⁴

Meanwhile according to reports, apparently nudging the separatist groups in Jammu and Kashmir towards electoral politics, the Centre on September 6 asked them to show spirit of accommodation and meet people's aspirations democratically. Union Home Minister Sushilkumar Shinde said while delivering the inaugural speech at the three-day annual meet of police directors general and inspectors general from states and central police forces at Srinagar that there are still sections of society in the state, albeit small ones with limited influence, which have grievances. Such groups should realize that spirit of accommodation can create the backdrop for democratic aspirations of the people to be achieved.⁸⁵

Reports noted that unidentified gunmen shot dead a Special Police Officer and injured a soldier of Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry (JAKLI) in north Kashmir's Sopore area on September 8. A senior police officer said the duo was on way to Saidapora when the gunmen intercepted them.⁸⁶

In other developments, according to reports, life in Srinagar and other parts of the Kashmir valley was affected on September 4 due to a shutdown called by Hurriyat Conference (G) Chairman, Syed Ali Shah Geelani, against what he called "religious, social, cultural and environmental

⁸³ "Ganderbal operation on", *Greater Kashmir*, September 4, 2012 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2012/Sep/5/ganderbal-operation-on-27.asp>

⁸⁴ "Militant, soldier killed in Tanghdar gunfight", *Greater Kashmir*, September 5, 2012 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2012/Sep/6/militant-soldier-killed-in-tanghdar-gunfight-63.asp>

⁸⁵ "Centre asks separatists to be accommodative", *Greater Kashmir*, September 6, 2012 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2012/Sep/7/centre-asks-separatists-to-be-accomodative-64.asp>

⁸⁶ "Gunmen kill SPO, injure soldier in Sopore", *Greater Kashmir*, September 8, 2012 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2012/Sep/9/gunmen-kill-spo-injure-soldier-in-sopore-29.asp>

aggression" by New Delhi. The strike call was supported by United Jihad Council (UJC) Chairman Syed Salahuddin, High Court Bar Association (HCBA) and others. Shops and business establishments remained closed in major districts, including Srinagar, while public transport remained off the roads.⁸⁷

North East India

- **Fact finding team appointed to probe Dimapur incident; More illegal migrants pushed out from Manipur; IED blast in Imphal; PLA rebel arrested in Meghalaya; Normal life disrupted in Northeast due to bandh; Group of Ministers (GoM) and Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) meeting held; Tension grips Dhubri; Heavy gunfire exchanged between NSCN factions in Dimapur; One killed and five injured in grenade blast in Guwahati; ULFA anti-talk faction takes responsibility for Guwahati blast**

Reports noted that the Nagaland Government has appointed a fact-finding committee to enquire into the incidents of mob violence and vandalism which took place in and around Dimapur and Chumukedima areas on September 1. The committee will enquire into the causes and circumstances leading to the incident, the person or group of persons responsible for the incident; whether the incident could have been avoided; whether there has been any instance of failure or dereliction of duty on the part of any public servant; and how such incidences may be avoided in future. The Committee will submit its report to the Government within 30 days from the date of issue of notification. The Chief Secretary informed that a high level damage assessment committee has also been constituted. The Committee will submit its report before September 10, 2012.⁸⁸

In another development, according to reports, as many as hundred illegal migrants, who attempted to trespass into Manipur through the Manipur-Assam border at Jiribam, have been turned back during the last two days. Forty illegal migrants with fictitious documents and identity cards who attempted to enter Manipur were turned back from the Jiribam border check post, about 222 km west of Imphal. Earlier on September 1, 60 illegal migrants were also pushed back from the check post. The police supported by security personnel, have been on a drive against infiltration in the State in the past few days with massive combing operations being launched at different places.⁸⁹

Meanwhile, reports noted that two security personnel were injured in a bomb blast triggered by suspected militants in the Manipur capital. A security alert has been sounded. The two Assam Rifles troopers were on routine patrolling on September 5 when the blast hit them in the Keisampat area, a few kilometres from the Manipur Police headquarters. Though no rebel group has claimed responsibility for the blasts, Manipur Police and intelligence officials said the blasts were carried out by rebels.⁹⁰

⁸⁷ "Strike hits normal life across valley", *Greater Kashmir*, September 4, 2012 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2012/Sep/5/strike-hits-normal-life-across-valley-31.asp>

⁸⁸ "Fact-finding panel to probe Dimapur incident", *The Assam Tribune*, September 3, 2012 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=sep0412/oth05>

⁸⁹ "Manipur pushes back more illegal migrants", *The Assam Tribune*, September 3, 2012 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=sep0412/oth07>

⁹⁰ "Blast in Imphal, two troopers injured", *The Assam Tribune*, September 5, 2012 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=sep0512/at043>

According to reports, a top rebel of the outlawed People's Liberation Army of Manipur was arrested from eastern Meghalaya near the Bangladesh border. Athokpam Surchandra Singh, who holds the rank of lieutenant and Area Secretary of Imphal (West) Division of the PLA, was arrested late September 4 from Dawki area in Meghalaya's East Khasi Hills district. The rebel was apprehended while trying to infiltrate into Bangladesh from the Dawki border. It would be worth noting that Meghalaya shares a 443-km border with Bangladesh, part of which is porous, hilly, unfenced and prone to frequent infiltration.⁹¹

Reports noted that normal life was disrupted in Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh due to a 12-hour bandh called by the North East Students' Organisation on September 6 to protest harassment of students from the region in other parts of the country and influx of illegal migrants. Shops, markets, business establishments, government and private offices, banks and education institutions were mostly closed in the four states due to the bandh.⁹²

According to reports, the Group of Ministers (GoM) and the Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC), in their joint meeting held at Kokrajhar on September 6, decided to identify the villages of the 11,066 valid patta (land ownership document) holder families who are hit by the ethnic clashes in the Bodoland Territorial Administrative Districts (BTAD). The GoM is led by Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Prithivi Majhi. The identification of the villages of these families would be done by the officers and after completion of this identification process, these families would be rehabilitated in their respective villages within the next 15 to 30 days' time.⁹³

Reports noted that on September 8, Police fired in the air to disperse a mob protesting the damage to a place of worship and theft of ornaments worth Rs two lakh from there in Assam's Dhubri district. Police fired six rounds in the air at R K Mission Road in Dhubri as locals blocked the road, protesting the desecration of the worship place on September 7 night when curfew was in place in the town.⁹⁴

In other developments, according to report, on September 6, the band called by North East Student Organisation (NESO) bandh turned violent in Dimapur when a fierce gun battle broke out between rival groups – NSCN (Khole-Kitovi) and NSCN (K) near Livingstone Higher Secondary School, Thahekhu village. In the heavy gun-battle that lasted for more than an hour, two NSCN (K) members sustained injuries.⁹⁵

Reports noted that unidentified miscreants lobbed a grenade at a CRPF patrol party in the busy Paltan Bazar area of Guwahati on September 8, killing a CRPF jawan and injuring five others. According to police sources, the incident took place near the Paltan Bazar Police Station when a

⁹¹ "Top PLA rebel arrested in Meghalaya", *The Assam Tribune*, September 5, 2012 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=sep0512/at048>

⁹² "Bandh disrupts normal life in Northeast", *The Assam Tribune*, September 6, 2012 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=sep0612/at0144>

⁹³ "GoM-BTC meeting: 11,066 families to be rehabilitated", *The Assam Tribune*, September 6, 2012 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=sep0712/at07>

⁹⁴ "Tension in Dhubri after desecration of place of worship", *The Assam Tribune*, September 8, 2012 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=sep0812/at043>

⁹⁵ "NSCN factions exchange gunfire in Dimapur", *The Assam Tribune*, September 7, 2012 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=sep0812/oth07>

CRPF patrol party was doing its round in this busy city area. Investigations into the incident are on and only after completion of the same the police is expected to reveal the identity of the people behind this incident.⁹⁶ Meanwhile, the hard-line faction of the ULFA has claimed the responsibility for the blast and warned that such attacks on security forces would continue. The ULFA also apologised for causing injury to innocent civilians in the blast.⁹⁷

IV. UNITED NATIONS (UN) REVIEW

● India calls on all parties in Syria to dissociate from terrorist groups; India stresses on uniform application of R2P principle; India: Decimating poverty should be key focus of the UNDP

With the Syrian crisis deteriorating, India has called on all parties in the country to dissociate themselves from terrorist groups that are exploiting the militarised conflict. India also urged the international community to send a united message to the Syrian parties. According to India, the only way to bring about a sustained cessation of violence in all its forms, was to urge the parties in Syria to recommit themselves to resolving the crisis peacefully through a Syrian-led inclusive political process.⁹⁸ Meanwhile, the UN reported that with the violence escalating, more than 100,000 Syrians sought refugee status in the month of August 2012. It is reported that UN agencies will come under pressure to revise up their \$193 million estimate of the cost to help the Syrian refugees this year.⁹⁹

In another development, speaking at the interactive dialogue on the report of the UN Secretary-General on the “Responsibility to Protect: Timely and decisive action”, India said that the UN Security Council Resolution 1973 was violated by the western air strikes on Libya. India’s Permanent Representative, H S Puri said that R2P cannot be used as a tool to legitimise big power intervention on the pretext of protecting populations from the violations of human rights and humanitarian law. India also called for uniform application of the principle to all parties to a conflict and making armed intervention a measure of last resort.¹⁰⁰

In other developments, at a session of the UNDP’s executive board, India stressed on the need to strengthen institutional capacity building in developing countries. With the UNDP preparing a strategic roadmap for the 2014-17 period, India said that decimating poverty should become the key focus area of the UNDP.¹⁰¹

⁹⁶ “One killed, five hurt in city grenade blast”, *The Assam Tribune*, September 8, 2012 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=sep0912/city05>

⁹⁷ “Anti-talk ULFA owns up city blast”, *The Assam Tribune*, September 9, 2012 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=sep1012/city06>

⁹⁸ “India calls on Syrian parties to dissociate from terror groups”, *The Times of India*, September 05, 2012 at http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2012-09-05/middle-east/33614612_1_terrorist-groups-syrian-parties-syrian-conflict

⁹⁹ “UN says 100,000 refugees fled Syria in August”, *The Times of India*, September 04, 2012 at http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2012-09-04/europe/33581510_1_refugee-agency-refugee-status-aleppo

¹⁰⁰ “Western air strikes on Libya violate UNSC resolution, says India”, *The Hindu*, September 07, 2012 at <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/article3867135.ece>

¹⁰¹ “Poverty should be focus of UN body: India”, *Deccan Herald*, September 06, 2012 at <http://www.deccanherald.com/content/277049/poverty-should-focus-un-body.html>