

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

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I. COUNTRY REVIEWS

A. South Asia

Bangladesh

(September 16-22)

- **India and Bangladesh are jointly working on riverbank protection; FBCCI urges the Russian government to grant duty-free market benefits to Bangladeshi products; Flag of a new infantry division of Bangladesh Army was raised; Bangladesh welcomes the agreement between the US and Russia on elimination of Syrian chemical weapons; United States hands over six metal shark boats to Bangladesh Coastguard; Bangladesh excels in the reduction of child mortality rate; PM leaves for UNGA summit**

According to reports, even though the deals on sharing waters of Teesta and Feni rivers remain non-starters, Bangladesh and India are working in right earnest on riverbank protection and dredging of 54 common rivers which is expected to go a long way in providing respite from floods and bank erosion. According to an update provided by the Water Resources Ministry to National Security Advisor Shivshankar Menon at a meeting at the Prime Minister's Office, dredging work on the Ichamati river to restore navigability and prevent flooding in West Bengal and Bangladesh is almost complete. Dhaka and New Delhi had agreed to dredge the river on the Bangladesh side as well as the Indian side as a shoal or a sandbank had been causing floods on both sides.¹

In another development, according to report, the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) urged the Russian government to grant duty-free market benefits to Bangladeshi products to narrow the bilateral trade gap. The present trade volume between the two countries is around \$543.59 million, with the balance of trade being in favour of Russia. In fiscal 2012-13, the country's import from Russia stood at \$335.30 million against the export of \$208.29 million. The call for the trade benefits came at a meeting with Yuri Slyusar, Russia's deputy minister of industry and trade, at the FBCCI office in Dhaka.²

Reports noted that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has raised the flag of a new infantry division of Bangladesh Army at a ceremony in Jalalabad Cantonment, Sylhet on September 17, 2013. The new "17 Infantry Division" will have a brigade and two battalions while one brigade from 33 Infantry Division will be placed under its operational and administrative command.³

¹ "Dhaka, Delhi dredging 54 common rivers", *The Daily Star*, September 18, 2013 at <http://www.thedailystar.net/beta2/news/dhaka-delhi-to-dredge-common-rivers/>

² "FBCCI seeks duty-free benefits from Russia", *The Daily Star*, September 18, 2013 at <http://www.thedailystar.net/beta2/news/fbcci-seeks-duty-free-benefits-from-russia/>.

³ "PM raises new infantry division flag", *The Daily Star*, September 19, 2013 at <http://www.thedailystar.net/beta2/news/pm-raises-new-infantry-division-flag/>.

In other developments, according to reports, Bangladesh welcomed the agreement between the United States and the Russian Federation on elimination of Syrian chemical weapons.⁴

The US government handed over six metal shark boats to Bangladesh Coast Guard on September 19, 2013 to enhance its capability in safeguarding the country's coast and maritime area.⁵

According to a report jointly released by the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef), the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Bank and the United Nations Population Division, Bangladesh has outshone all its South Asian neighbours save the small island nation the Maldives in terms of reduction in child mortality. By slashing 89 percent between 1990 and 2012, the Maldives topped child mortality reduction chart in South Asia followed by Bangladesh (72 percent) while India and Pakistan remain among the biggest contributors to global child mortality, said the report titled "Levels & Trends in Child Mortality".⁶

Reports noted that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina left Dhaka on September 22, 2013 on an eight-day official visit to New York to attend the 68th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). She will address the UNGA on September 27 and attend several high level side events and bilateral talks.⁷

Sri Lanka

(September 16-22)

- **Provincial Council elections held in North, North-Western and Central Province; Tamil National Alliance (TNA) wins in North; United People's Freedom Alliance (UPFA) wins in North-Western & Central Province; President Rajapaksa leaves for UNGA summit; China-Sri Lanka to sign FTA; Sri Lanka's economy grew by 6.8 percent in the second quarter of 2013**

According to reports, provincial council elections were held in the Northern, North-Western and Central Province of Sri Lanka on September 21, 2013. Tamil National Alliance (TNA) has won the first ever provincial council elections in Northern Province. The party won all five districts in the Province and secured 30 of the 38 seats for the newly formed Council. The UPFA has secured seven seats and the Sri Lanka Muslim Congress (SLMC) got one seat in the Council. In North Western Province, The UPFA won 34, UNP secured 12 seats, The Democratic Party won 3 seats, the SLMC 2 and JVP secured 1 seat out of 50 seats. The UPFA also secured a sweeping victory in

⁴ "Syria Crisis: Bangladesh welcomes US-Russia agreement", *The Daily Star*, September 19, 2013 at <http://www.thedailystar.net/beta2/news/bangladesh-welcomes-us-russia-agreement/>.

⁵ "US hands over six patrol boats to Coast Guard", *The Daily Star*, September 20, 2013 at <http://www.thedailystar.net/beta2/news/us-hands-over-six-patrol-boats-to-coast-guard/>.

⁶ Ahmad, Reaz, "Child death cut by 72pc: Report shows Bangladesh's outstanding success over 22 years", *The Daily Star*, September 22, 2013 at <http://www.thedailystar.net/beta2/news/child-death-cut-by-72pc/>.

⁷ "PM flies to NY today", *The Daily Star*, September 22, 2013 at <http://www.thedailystar.net/beta2/news/pm-flies-to-ny-today/>.

the elections to the Central Provincial Council. The UPFA won 36 out of the total 56 seats, the UNP won 16 seats while the Democratic Party and CWC secured 2 seats each. The UCPF and SLMC managed to win just 1 seat each in the Central Provincial Council.⁸

Reports noted that President Mahinda Rajapaksa, along with First Lady Shiranthi Wickramasinghe Rajapaksa, left on a five-day visit to New York during which he will address the 68th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), taking place at the UN headquarters in New York City. The Minister of External Affairs Prof. G.L. Peiris, Minister of Irrigation and Water Resources Management Mr. Nimal Siripala de Silva, Minister of Youth Affairs and Skills Development Mr. Dullas Alahapperuma, Monitoring MP of the Ministry of External Affairs Sajin De Vaas Gunawardene, Member of Parliament Mr. Lohan Ratwatte and Secretary to the President Mr. Lalith Weeratunga are accompanying President Rajapaksa on the visit.⁹

In other developments, according to reports, for the first time in Asia, China will sign a Free Trade Agreement with Sri Lanka. This would be implemented from November this year. Minister of Investment Promotion Lakshman Yapa Abeywardena said that this FTA would allow selected Sri Lankan items to be exported to China on 100% zero duty.¹⁰

Reports noted that Sri Lanka's economy grew by 6.8 percent in the second quarter of 2013. According to Department of Census and Statistics, the industry sector grew by 10.1 percent and services by 6.6 percent while agriculture sector shrunk by 1.1 percent. In agriculture, tea had contracted 0.5 percent, rubber had grown 2.0 percent, coconut had shrunk 25.4 percent and paddy was 2.1 percent.¹¹

Maldives

(September 16-22)

- **Leader of Jumhoory Party (JP) Gasim Ibrahim meets with the Indian High Commissioner; The Maldivian government reaffirms its support to United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights**

Reports noted that leader of Jumhoory Party (JP), Gasim Ibrahim met with the Indian High Commissioner to the Maldives, Mr. Rajeev Shahare on September 21, 2013. Speaking to Sun in front of the Indian High Commission moments ago, Gasim Ibrahim said that the purpose of the meeting was to "discuss a number of things," including the alleged irregularities surrounding

⁸ "UPFA wins NWP and CP, TNA Northern PC", *The Official Website of Government of Sri Lanka*, September 22, 2013 at http://www.priu.gov.lk/news_update/Current_Affairs/ca201309/201309224fa_wins.htm.

⁹ "President leaves for UNGA", *The Official Website of Government of Sri Lanka*, September 22, 2013 at http://www.priu.gov.lk/news_update/Current_Affairs/ca201309/20130922resident_leaves.htm.

¹⁰ "China - Lanka FTA from November", *The Official Website of Government of Sri Lanka*, September 18, 2013 at http://www.priu.gov.lk/news_update/Current_Affairs/ca201309/20130918china_lanka_fta_from_november.htm

¹¹ "Economy grows at 6.8% in Q2", *The Official Website of Government of Sri Lanka*, September 16, 2013 http://www.priu.gov.lk/news_update/Current_Affairs/ca201309/20130916economy_grows.htm.

the September 7th presidential election, the Indian restrictions on the export of river sand and aggregate to the Maldives and difficulties faced by Maldivians in obtaining visas to the country.¹²

In another development, the Maldivian government has reaffirmed its support to United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms Navi Pillay, in carrying out her mandate. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement that the Maldives participated in the 24th Session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva.¹³

B. East Asia

China

(September 23-29)

- **Chinese President Xi Jinping will visit Indonesia and Malaysia; China welcomes UNSC Resolution on Syria; Chinese Foreign Minister calls for early resumption of six-party talks; China and Brazil decide to strengthen bilateral cooperation; Chinese Foreign Minister states that China will continue on the path of peace development; China-Laos decide to strengthen cooperation; China appoints five new ambassadors; China and India to conduct border talks in Beijing; China and UK to resume high level visits and dialogue soon; China negates claim of trying to hack the US drone technology; China urges for peaceful use of Space; China and Uzbekistan agree to increase military ties; China and Mongolian defence ministers conclude talks on bilateral ties**

President Xi Jinping will be attending the 21st Economic Leaders' Meeting of Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum in Indonesia from October 2 to 8, 2013. This was announced by the Chinese Foreign Ministry. He will also be visiting Malaysia. At the forum, Xi will deliver a speech on China's Policy on the Southeast Asian region.¹⁴

China has welcomed the United Nations Security Council unanimous decision to adopt the Resolution 2118 aiming at removing chemical weapons from Syria. The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) has finalized a plan to destroy the stockpile of Syrian chemical weapons by the mid-2014.¹⁵

On the sidelines of the UN General Assembly meeting, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi urged the South Korean Foreign Minister Yun Byung-se to resume the Six-Party talks at the earliest.

¹² "Gasim meets Indian High Commissioner Rajeev Shahare", *The Sun Online*, September 21, 2013 at <http://www.sun.mv/english/16126>.

¹³ "Maldives reaffirms support to UN Human Rights High Commissioner", *The Sun Online*, September 18, 2013 at <http://www.sun.mv/english/16045>.

¹⁴ "President Xi to visit Indonesia, Malaysia" *China Daily*, September 30, 2013 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2013-09/30/content_17003730.htm

¹⁵ "China welcomes adoption of Security Council resolution on Syria" *China Daily*, September 28, 2013 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2013-09/28/content_17001698.htm

China urged that the early resumption of the talks will benefit all the sides.¹⁶ In addition to this Chinese Foreign Minister also met his Brazilian counterpart Luiz Alberto Figueired. Both sides agreed to promote bilateral cooperation.¹⁷

During his speech at the general debate of the 68th UN General Assembly the Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said that, "As China has enjoyed fast development over the years, some people are concerned that China may repeat a beaten track that a country will inevitably become arrogant and seek hegemony when it grows in strength and becomes powerful; and various versions of the China threat have surface." He added, "However, what happened in the past cannot be applied indiscriminately to today's China". He further said that, "China will stay firmly on the path of peaceful development".¹⁸ This was aimed at pacifying fears that China may become hegemonic with increase in economic and military capabilities.

During the visit of the President of Laos to China, both sides agreed towards a closer coordination on ASEAN and international affairs. The President of Laos was on a five day visit to China. Chinese President Xi Jinping and Laotian President Choummaly Saygnasone made the remarks at the Great Hall of the People.¹⁹

Reports noted that in accordance to the decision of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC), the Chinese President Xi Jinping has appointed five new ambassadors. Qiu Xiaoqi was appointed ambassador to the United Mexican States, replacing Zeng Gang. Bian Yanhua was appointed ambassador to the Republic of Tunisia, replacing Huo Zhengde. Yue Bin was appointed ambassador to Georgia, replacing Chen Jianfu. Wei Jinghua was appointed ambassador to the Republic of Bulgaria, replacing Guo Yezhou. Deng Xijun was appointed ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, replacing Xu Feihong.²⁰

According to the Chinese foreign ministry, China and India are scheduled to hold a two day meeting in Beijing to discuss the border affairs. The fourth Meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination over the China-India Border affairs is scheduled to take place from September 29-30, 2013.²¹

The Chinese ambassador to UK, Liu Xiaoming said that, "The prospects of China-UK relations are good after going through some difficulties over the past year". China and UK will be soon resuming dialogue and high-level visits. According to the Chinese Ambassador, both sides are at

¹⁶ "FM urges early resumption of six-party talks" *China Daily*, September 28, 2013 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/world/2013-09/28/content_17001575.htm

¹⁷ "China, Brazil agree to further bilateral cooperation" *China Daily*, September 28, 2013 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/world/2013-09/28/content_17001296.htm

¹⁸ "China to stick to peaceful development" *China Daily*, September 28, 2013 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2013-09/28/content_17001008.htm

¹⁹ "Xi vows strong cooperation with Laos" *China Daily*, September 27, 2013 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2013-09/27/content_16997886.htm

²⁰ "Chinese president appoints five new ambassadors" *China Daily*, September 26, 2013 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2013-09/26/content_16997778.htm

²¹ "China, India to hold border talks in Beijing" *China Daily*, September 26, 2013 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2013-09/26/content_16997718.htm

the moment preparing for high level talks like the China-UK Economic and Financial Dialogue, cultural and educational exchanges and a summit meeting.²²

In other developments, China negated the claims which were suggesting that it may be hiring hackers to steal the US drone technology. China stated that such claims are “groundless” and “inconducive” to the China-US cyber security efforts.²³

While addressing the opening ceremony of the 64th International Astronautical Congress (IAC 2013) the Chinese Vice President, Li Yuanchao said there should be peaceful exploration and use of space as it serves the interests of the people and countries all over the world.²⁴

Chinese defence minister Chang Wanquan met his Uzbekistan counterpart Kabul Berdiev. Both sides agreed to strengthen the military to military cooperation. China said that it highly values its pragmatic relationship with Uzbekistan and also values its cooperation between the armed forces.²⁵ The Chinese defence minister also met his Mongolian counterpart Dashdemberel Bat-Erdene in Beijing. The Chinese defence minister said that China is in favour of developing military ties with Mongolia. Such a relationship will also help in maintaining regional peace and stability.²⁶

C. West Asia

Iran

(September 16-22)

- **US Secretary of State welcomes Rouhani's comments regarding Iran's nuclear programme; White House spokesman: Possibility of a meeting between Obama and Rouhani**

According to reports, US Secretary of State John Kerry has said that Rouhani's recent comments, including the one that his country will not develop nuclear weapons, have been “very positive” but everything needs to be put to “the test.” Kerry also mentioned that “we'll see where we go.” I think Rouhani's comments have been very positive, but everything needs to be put to the test,” Kerry told reporters at the State Department headquarters, when asked about the new statements coming from Tehran. In an interview to the NBC news channel aired, Rouhani said “under no circumstances would we seek any weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons, nor

²² “China, UK set to resume high-level dialogue” *China Daily*, September 26, 2013 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2013-09/26/content_16994761.htm

²³ “China refutes hacking, drone technology theft claims” *China Daily*, September 24, 2013 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2013-09/24/content_16991415.htm

²⁴ “Chinese VP stresses peaceful use of space” *China Daily*, September 23, 2013 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2013-09/23/content_16988361.htm

²⁵ “China, Uzbekistan to strengthen military ties” *China Daily*, September 22, 2013 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2013-09/22/content_16984641.htm

²⁶ “Chinese, Mongolian defense ministers hold talks on ties” *China Daily*, September 18, 2013 at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2013-09/18/content_16980267.htm

will we ever.” He further clarified that “what we wish for in this region is rule by the will of the people. We believe in the ballot box. We do not seek war with any country. We seek peace and friendship among the nations of the region.”²⁷

Meanwhile, according to reports, the White House said it was possible that President Barack Obama would meet with Hassan Rouhani in New York next week if Tehran signalled it was serious about resolving the dispute over its nuclear program. Obama and Rouhani will be in New York to attend the United Nations General Assembly, and speculation has grown that the two leaders might have an encounter of some type. White House spokesman Jay Carney has deflected questions all week about whether the two leaders would meet during the UN gathering. He acknowledged a change in tone between Iran and the West since Rouhani took office and said a meeting was possible, though one was not scheduled. “It’s possible, but it has always been possible,” Carney said. “The extended hand has been there from the moment the president was sworn in.” When Obama first ran for president in 2008, he said he would hold direct negotiations with Iran under certain conditions. Carney said Obama still holds that position.²⁸

Iraq

(September 16-22)

- **Iraq’s Kurds exercised their political rights in their first election**

According to reports, Iraq’s Kurds on September 21, voted in their first election in four years as their autonomous region grapples with disputes. The Kurds are spread across a number of neighbouring states, where they have long faced hostile governments but have found increasing space to pursue their aspirations to run their own affairs. About 2.8 million Kurds are eligible to vote across the three-province region of northern Iraq. The main agendas of the parties were calls for more to be done to fight corruption and improve the delivery of basic services, as well as on how the energy-rich region’s oil revenues should be spent. The election, the first since July 2009, sees three main parties jostling for position in the 111-seat Kurdish parliament, with implications beyond Iraq. The Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) of regional president Massud Barzani is widely expected to win the largest number of seats, although it is unlikely to obtain a majority on its own. “Today is a historic day in the history of the Kurdish people,” said regional Prime Minister Nechirvan Barzani, the president’s nephew. The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), which is in government with the KDP, however faces a challenge from the Goran movement in its Sulaimaniyah province stronghold. The challenge has been heightened by leadership questions as the party’s veteran leader, Iraqi President Jalal Talabani, recuperates in Germany from a stroke. Internationally, the focus is likely to be on the region’s drive for greater economic independence from the federal government, with which it is locked in multiple disputes. The region has sought to establish a pipeline that would give it access to international energy markets. It has also

²⁷ “Rouhani’s comments have been very positive: Kerry,” *Mehr News Agency*, September 21, 2013, at <http://old.mehrnews.com/en/newsdetail.aspx?NewsID=1828109>

²⁸ “U.S. says Obama open to meeting with Rouhani,” *Mehr News Agency*, September 21, 2013, at <http://old.mehrnews.com/en/newsdetail.aspx?NewsID=1828101>

capitalised on its reputation for greater safety and stability, as well as a faster-growing economy than the rest of Iraq, to solicit investment independent of the federal government.²⁹

D. Central Asia & Russia

Central Asia

(September 16-22)

- **Kazakhstan to get \$100 million from China for a wind power plant project; The Presidents of China and Kyrgyzstan sign several bilateral agreements**

According to a deal signed by the Chinese President Xi Jinping with his counterpart Nursultan Nazarbayev, the Pavlodar region in Northern Kazakhstan will get a \$100 million funding from China to construct a wind power plant. The deal was signed during the Kazakhstan-Chinese Business Council meeting held at Astana on September 7, 2013. The 50MW wind power plant will be constructed in the Pavlodar province of Kazakhstan.³⁰

In another development, the Chinese President Xi Jinping met his Kyrgyz counterpart, Almazbek Atambayev in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan on September 11, 2013. During the meeting several bilateral agreements were signed which were mainly related to technical and economic cooperation, cooperation in construction and operation of the gas pipeline Kyrgyz – China, construction of the highway connecting the north and south in Kyrgyzstan, cooperation on Kyrgyz refinery with capacity of 800,000 tons per year. A Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation between the Ministry of Health and the State Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine in Traditional Chinese Medicine was also signed during the meeting. In the end a joint declaration of the Kyrgyz Republic and China was signed to establish a strategic partnership between the nations.³¹

Russia

(September 16-22)

- **Russia ready to allocate its military and police for security of UN experts in Syria; Russia may change its position on Syria if Assad deceives; Russia and Syria discuss Russia's**

²⁹ "Iraq's Kurds vote amid rows, regional tensions," *Khaleej Times*, September 21, 2013, at http://www.khaleejtimes.com/kt-article-display-1.asp?xfile=data/international/2013/September/international_September540.xml§ion=international

³⁰ "China to fund construction of a wind power plant in Kazakhstan", *The Times of Central Asia* September 10, 2013 at <http://www.timesca.com/index.php/m-news-by-category/economy-finance-and-investment-news/11646-china-to-fund-construction-of-a-wind-power-plant-in-kazakhstan> "China to fund construction of wind power station in Kazakhstan's Pavlodar oblast" *Tengri News* September 9, 2013 at <http://en.tengrinews.kz/markets/China-to-fund-construction-of-wind-power-station-in-Kazakhstans-Pavlodar-oblast-22490/>

³¹ "Kyrgyzstan and China signed a number of agreements", *Kabar* September 11, 2013 at <http://www.kabar.kg/eng/politics/full/8174>

agreement with US on Syrian chemical weaponry arsenal; Russia and China to further coordinate their positions on Syria; Russia prepared to receive Syrian national opposition coalition for talks; Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister meets with the Syrian opposition in Damascus; Russia ready to assist Egypt in political process resumption; Russia and US sign an agreement on atomic energy; Rosatom to open a nuclear information center in Bangladesh

According to reports, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov has said that Russia is ready to allocate its military and police for assuring security of the UN experts working in Syria who will be involved in elimination of chemical weapons.³²

Russia's Presidential Administration Chief of Staff Sergei Ivanov has said that Russia may change its position on Syria if Syrian President Bashar Assad is found to fall back on his promises.³³

Russia and Syria have discussed the practical steps on the Russian-American agreement regarding Syrian chemical weaponry arsenal. The discussion was held in Moscow on September 17, 2013 and was attended by Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Bogdanov and the Syrian ambassador to Russia HE Riyadh Haddad.³⁴

According to reports, following a telephone conversation between Russian and Chinese foreign ministers Sergei Lavrov and Wang Yi on September 17, the two countries plan to further coordinate their positions on the Syrian issue. Both ministers also welcomed Syria's decision to accede the Chemical Weapons Convention and called for the early implementation of the Russia-U.S. agreement reached in Geneva.³⁵

Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov has said that Russia is always prepared to receive the Syrian National Coalition of Opposition and Revolutionary Forces for talks.³⁶

Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov has met with representatives of the Syrian opposition in Damascus. This includes a meeting with Mr. Qadri Jamil who is the head of the Popular Front for Change and Liberation and leadership of the Syrian National Council.³⁷

In other developments, according to reports, foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov has said that Russia is ready to assist Egypt in resuming the political process in the country. Following his talks with his Egyptian counterpart Nabil Fahmy on September 17, Mr. Lavrov also mentioned that the

³² "Russia ready to allocate its military and police for security of UN experts in Syria – Lavrov", Itar-Tass, September 22, 2013, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/885288.html>

³³ "Sergei Ivanov: Russia may change its position on Syria if Assad deceives", Itar-Tass, September 21, 2013, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/884712.html>

³⁴ "Moscow, Damascus discuss practical steps on Russian - US agreement", Itar-Tass, September 17, 2013, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/879966.html>

³⁵ "Russia, China set to further coordinate stances on Syria", Itar-Tass, September 17, 2013, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/880129.html>

³⁶ "Russia prepared to receive Syrian national opposition coalition for talks", Itar-Tass, September 16, 2013, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/878227.html>

³⁷ "Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister meets Syrian opposition in Damascus", Itar-Tass, September 19, 2013, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/882239.html>

issue of development of military and technical cooperation between the two countries and activities of the bilateral intergovernmental commission came up for discussion.³⁸

Russia and US have signed an agreement on bilateral cooperation in the field of nuclear and energy research and development activities. This includes high technologies in the nuclear sphere, nuclear waste safe use and non-energy implementation of nuclear technologies, including those in the medical and research fields.³⁹

Russia's state-run nuclear power corporation Rosatom will open an overseas nuclear information centre in Dhaka on October 2. Its objective is to raise awareness of civil nuclear power and promote positive image of Russia's nuclear industry.⁴⁰

E. United States of America (USA)

(September 16-22)

- **US Deputy Secretary of Defence Ashton B Carter holds a series of meetings with Indian officials in New Delhi ahead of India's Prime Minister Dr. Singh's visit to the United States; Carter: India and the US are destined to be partners on the world stage; Indian Foreign Secretary: Proposed immigration Bill being discussed in the US Congress will hurt Indian information technology (IT) companies; India's National Security Adviser dismisses notions that India-US ties are drifting apart; United States and Russia unveil plan to eliminate Syria's chemical weapons by mid-2014; US President Barack Obama welcomes the deal reached on Syria; US special representative on Afghanistan and Pakistan James Dobbins: United States still hopes to talk directly with the Taliban to support an Afghan peace deal; The United States and Russia sign a joint agreement to significantly expand cooperation on nuclear energy, research and security projects; Brazilian President postpones an official visit to the United States in protest at the spying activities of the US National Security Agency**

Reports noted that ahead of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's trip to Washington and New York next week, visiting US Deputy Secretary of Defence Ashton B Carter held a series of meetings with national security advisor (NSA) Shiv Shankar Menon, foreign secretary Sujatha Singh and defence secretary R K Mathur to push for several co-production and co-development military projects as a cornerstone to the bilateral strategic partnership. From offering joint manufacturing facilities for the next-generation of Javelin anti-tank guided missiles to C-130J "Super Hercules" aircraft, Carter said the US was looking to partner with India across "the entire spectrum" of defence capabilities with "no boundaries" being set. "This is the new way for India and US. We

³⁸ "Russia ready to assist Egypt in political process resumption", Itar-Tass, September 17, 2013, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/878949.html>

³⁹ "Russia, US sign agreement on atomic energy R & D interaction", Itar-Tass, September 16, 2013, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/878569.html>

⁴⁰ "Rosatom to open its nuclear information center in Bangladesh October 2", Itar-Tass, September 20, 2013, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/884166.html>

do not have the history that Russia does. We are trying to replicate it," he said, referring to Indo-Russian joint ventures like the one manufacturing BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles.⁴¹

Meanwhile, according to reports, India and the US are destined to be partners on the world stage because of shared values and outlooks, a top US official told Indian officials ahead of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's visit to the US. US Deputy Defence Secretary Ashton Carter conveyed this message to India during his just concluded visit to India in preparation of Manmohan Singh's Sep 27 meeting here with President Barack Obama, according to Pentagon Press Secretary George Little.⁴²

According to reports, as Prime Minister Manmohan Singh prepares to leave for his bilateral meeting with US President Barack Obama, New Delhi has reiterated that the proposed immigration Bill being discussed in the US Congress will hurt Indian information technology (IT) companies by adversely impacting visas for highly skilled non-immigrant workers. Foreign secretary Sujatha Singh said Indian IT companies have a certain business model and that the procedures that are being discussed in the US Congress would make it difficult this business model to be continued successfully.⁴³

Meanwhile, according to reports, India's National Security Adviser Shivshankar Menon on September 20 dismissed notions that bilateral ties were drifting apart and emphasised that the two sides were partnering on a broad spectrum of strategic issues, including energy, defence, counter-terror and cyber and space security. Pointing out that the India-US relations have come a long way in the last decade, Menon said, "From a time when we dealt with each other formally, sometimes warily, we today have a full spectrum relationship, between our governments, our peoples and our institutions."⁴⁴

Reports noted that the United States and Russia unveiled an ambitious plan to eliminate Syria's chemical weapons by mid-2014, sparking a diplomatic drive on September 15 to secure broad international backing for the deal. The landmark agreement, announced in Geneva on September 14, left the door open to unspecified sanctions if Damascus fails to comply, and was swiftly hailed by the West. However it was equally swiftly rejected by Syrian rebels who warned it would not halt the bloodshed in the conflict that has killed more than 110,000 people and displaced millions in two and a half years. Under the accord struck in three days of talks in Geneva between US Secretary of State John Kerry and his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov, Syrian President Bashar

⁴¹ "US promises to supply high-end military tech, demolish all barriers", The Times of India, September 19, 2013 at http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2013-09-19/india/42216824_1_defence-capabilities-largest-defence-supplier-cismoa

⁴² "India, US Destined to be Partners on World Stage", The Pioneer, September 19, 2013 at <http://www.dailypioneer.com/top-stories/india-us-destined-to-be-partners-on-world-stage.html>

⁴³ "US immigration bill to hurt Indian IT, ITES firms' interests", The Times of India, September 22, 2013 at http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2013-09-22/outsourcing/42291815_1_1-employment-visas-business-model-sujatha-singh

⁴⁴ "India, US ties have come a long way: Shivshankar Menon", The Economic Times, September 22, 2013 at http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2013-09-21/news/42272653_1_bilateral-ties-relationship-space-security

al-Assad now has a week to hand over details of his regime's stockpile. Kerry said Assad's regime must also provide "immediate and unfettered" access to inspectors from the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)."⁴⁵

According to reports, US President Barack Obama has welcomed the deal reached on September 14 to strip Syria of chemical weapons but said much remains to be done and warned Damascus to comply with the accord. In a statement, Obama said that if the regime of President Bashar al-Assad does not live up to the deal Washington reached with Syria's ally Russia, "the United States remains prepared to act."⁴⁶

According to reports, the US special representative on Afghanistan and Pakistan, James Dobbins on September 16 said that Washington still hoped to talk directly with the Taliban to support an Afghan peace deal but that the militants seemed unwilling to do so. The Taliban opened an office in the Qatari capital Doha in June aimed at talking to the United States ahead of next year's withdrawal of most American troops, but diplomacy collapsed before it even began. "We would still like to see that dialogue initiated, a dialogue that would involve the US and Taliban directly but would also involve the Afghan government or its High Peace Council," said Dobbins.⁴⁷

In other developments, reports noted that the United States and Russia have signed a joint agreement to significantly expand cooperation on nuclear energy, research and security projects, building on a long-standing history of working on such areas together, energy leaders for the two countries said in statements this week. "This Agreement supports President Obama's nonproliferation and climate priorities by providing a venue for scientific collaboration and relationship-building between the US and Russian research and technical communities," said US Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz, who signed the agreement on September 16 in Vienna, where he was attending an international atomic energy conference.⁴⁸

According to reports, Brazilian president, Dilma Rousseff, on September 17, postponed an official visit to Washington in protest at the spying activities of the US National Security Agency. The row between the biggest economies in North and South America was the latest diplomatic fallout from the top-secret documents leaked by US whistleblower Edward Snowden. In August, Obama announced he was pulling out of a bilateral meeting with the Russian president, Vladimir Putin, over Moscow's decision to grant asylum to Snowden.⁴⁹

⁴⁵ "US, Russia seal landmark deal on Syria weapons", The Economic Times, September 15, 2013 at http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2013-09-15/news/42083736_1_chemical-weapons-assad-syria-weapons

⁴⁶ "US remains prepared to act on Syria if diplomacy fails: Barack Obama", The Economic Times, September 15, 2013 at http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2013-09-15/news/42083632_1_chemical-weapons-syria-crisis-assad

⁴⁷ "America still hopes for Taliban talks: US envoy", The Frontier Post, September 17, 2013 at <http://www.thefrontierpost.com/article/41686/>

⁴⁸ "US, Russia Sign Nuclear Energy Agreement", Ria Novosti, September 17, 2013 at <http://en.ria.ru/world/20130917/183530510/US-Russia-Sign-Nuclear-Energy-Agreement.html>

⁴⁹ "Brazilian president postpones Washington visit over NSA spying", The Guardian, September 17, 2013 at <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/sep/17/brazil-president-snub-us-nsa>

(September 23-29)

- **India's Prime Minister Manmohan Singh leaves for a five-day visit to the United States; Prime Minister Singh to meet his Pakistan counterpart Nawaz Sharif in New York; Prime Minister Singh: India needs United States on its side; US Senate unanimously passes a resolution welcoming Prime Minister Singh's visit to the United States; Prime Minister Singh holds summit meeting with US President Obama at the White House; A joint statement and a joint declaration on defence cooperation issued after the meeting; US Secretary of State John Kerry meets with his Iranian counterpart Javad Zarif; UNSC reaches an agreement to push through a resolution calling for the swift elimination of Syria's chemical weapons stockpile; President Obama addresses UNGA, mainly focuses on issues related to Middle East; US Secretary of State John Kerry to visit Japan and Indonesia; United States signs Arms Trade Treaty**

According to reports, India's Prime Minister Manmohan Singh leaves New Delhi on September 25 on a five-day visit to the US during which he will hold summit talks with President Barack Obama as well as address the UN General Assembly. The prime minister will travel to New York to address the UNGA September 28. A meeting between Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and his Pakistan counterpart is likely on September 29 on the sidelines of the UNGA. Manmohan Singh's meeting with Obama in Washington on September 27 which is his third summit meeting with the US President, is expected to focus on implementation of the landmark India-US civil nuclear deal, enhancing defence cooperation and the situation in the region, including Afghanistan with the US-led forces to drawdown next year.⁵⁰

In another development, according to reports, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh September 25 said he will be meeting his Pakistan counterpart Nawaz Sharif in New York on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly (UNGA), setting at rest all speculations about the meeting. "During my visit to New York, I also look forward to bilateral meetings with the leaders of some of our neighbouring countries, including Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan," the prime minister said in his statement.⁵¹

According to reports, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh arrived in Washington DC on September 26 for a Summit meeting with President Barack Obama, and noted that India needs United States on its side at a time when added thrust is being given to developmental programmes back home. Singh and Obama will review the status of the relationship and chart a course for the future, particularly in the areas of defence, security, trade and investment and civil nuclear cooperation. India's concerns over the proposed changes in the US visa norms will be flagged by the Prime Minister as these are going to hurt the Indian IT persons.⁵²

⁵⁰ "PM heads to US for third summit meeting with Obama, UNGA address", India Today, September 25, 2013 at <http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/manmohan-singh-barack-obama-un-unga-meet-unga-un-general-assembly-nawaz-sharifsheikh-hasina/1/311544.html>

⁵¹ "PM to meet Sharif, have summit with Obama in US", Deccan Herald, Septemebr 25, 2013 at <http://www.deccanherald.com/content/359244/manmohan-meet-sharif-york.html>

⁵² "India Needs US on Its Side: Manmohan Singh", Outlook, September 26, 2013 at <http://news.outlookindia.com/items.aspx?artid=811660>

Reports noted that the US Senate has unanimously passed a resolution welcoming Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to the US and underlined that enhanced economic, defence and security ties with India is critical to improve bilateral relations. The resolution, passed on September 26, calls for deepened US engagement with India and implementation of policies such as the Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT), US-India civil nuclear agreement and continued liberalisation of Foreign Direct investment (FDI) regulations. Introduced by the co-chairs of the Senate India Caucus, Senators Mark Warner and John Cornyn, the resolution was sponsored by Senator Robert Menendez, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee among others.⁵³

According to reports, the India-US Joint statement issued on September 27 noted that the Prime Minister of India Dr. Manmohan Singh and the President of the United States of America Barack Obama met this morning followed by a working luncheon at the White House. Marking their third bilateral summit, the two leaders reflected proudly on the transformation of United States-India relations during the last decade, affirming that the partnership between the two democratic nations is stronger today than at any point in their 67-year history. Rooted in common democratic values and strong people to people ties, the United States and India have developed a comprehensive global strategic partnership, both in name and in substance that has made their citizens safer and more prosperous. President Obama and Prime Minister Singh pledged to make the next decade equally as transformative, challenging their governments to reach the full potential of this partnership, particularly in the areas of security cooperation, bilateral trade and investment, energy and environment, higher education, and global architecture. The Leaders called for expanding security cooperation between the United States and India to address 21st century challenges in the areas of counter-terrorism, cyber, space, and global health security.⁵⁴

According to reports, the India-US Joint Declaration on Defence Cooperation which was issued on September 27 noted that India-United States defence cooperation and engagement has increased significantly over the past decade, in step with the overall deepening of India-US relations. The United States and India share common security interests and place each other at the same level as their closest partners. This principle will apply with respect to defence technology transfer, trade, research, co-development and co-production for defence articles and services, including the most advanced and sophisticated technology. They will work to improve licensing processes, and, where applicable, follow expedited license approval processes to facilitate this cooperation. The U.S and India are also committed to protecting each other's sensitive technology and information. The U.S. continues to fully support India's full membership in the four international export control regimes, which would further facilitate technology sharing.⁵⁵

⁵³ "US Senate says Indo-US ties critical", Business Standard, September 27, 2013 at http://www.business-standard.com/article/international/us-senate-says-indo-us-ties-critical-113092700289_1.html

⁵⁴ "Joint Statement on Manmohan Singh's Summit Meeting with US President Obama in Washington", The Hindu, September 28, 2013 at <http://www.thehindu.com/news/resources/joint-statement-on-manmohan-singhs-summit-meeting-with-us-president-obama-in-washington/article5176700.ece>

⁵⁵ "India-US Joint Declaration on Defence Cooperation", Public Information Bureau, September 28, 2013 at <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/erelease.aspx?relid=99735>

Reports noted that the US Secretary of State John Kerry, along with fellow diplomats, met briefly on September 26 with his Iranian counterpart, marking the highest-level meeting between the two countries since the Iranian revolution of 1979. EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton later described the talks as “substantial” and said they had set the stage for a new round of negotiations over Iran’s nuclear program Oct. 15-16 in Geneva. Speaking to reporters later, Kerry warned there was still “a lot of work to be done” but added he welcomed the “change in tone.” Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif said he was “satisfied with this first step.” Kerry sat next to Zarif at the meeting, the Associated Press reported. Others, who attended the meeting, were the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council and Germany. The diplomats met on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly in New York, amid mixed signals about how serious Iran was about coming back to the negotiating table over its nuclear program.⁵⁶

Reports noted that the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council reached an agreement on September 26 to push through a resolution calling for the swift elimination of Syria’s chemical weapons stockpile, a key development in fast-paced day of diplomacy that also featured the highest-level U.S.-Iranian meeting in years. While questions remained Thursday night about specific language the Security Council will adopt toward Syria, the Obama administration said there had been a “breakthrough” after “hard-fought diplomacy” geared toward bolstering the deal struck between the U.S. and Russia to persuade embattled Syrian President Bashar Assad to give up his chemical weapons stockpile.⁵⁷

According to reports, US President Obama while addressing United Nations General Assembly on September 24, said that he will use the remainder of his term to pursue better relations with Iran in the hope of resolving the controversy surrounding its nuclear program, pledging an activist U.S. agenda in the Middle East and beyond despite growing isolationist pressure at home. In a 50-minute address, Obama said he will devote his diplomatic efforts in the region to securing an Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement, hopeful that talks now underway through American encouragement may end the long conflict. He said that “real breakthroughs” on those two issues would “have a profound and positive impact on the entire Middle East and North Africa.”⁵⁸

In other developments, US Secretary of State John Kerry will visit Japan and Indonesia next week to renew US efforts to build ties in Asia amid his focus on the Middle East, officials said Thursday. Kerry will join Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel for security talks with close US ally Japan on October 2-3 in Tokyo, State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said. Kerry will then head to the Indonesian island of Bali for talks of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, joining President Barack Obama at a summit.⁵⁹

⁵⁶ “Kerry and Iranian counterpart meet, set stage for new round of nuclear negotiations”, Fox News, September 26, 2013 at <http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2013/09/26/kerry-and-iranian-counterpart-meet-set-stage-for-new-round-nuclear-negotiations/>

⁵⁷ “U.N. reaches deal to eliminate Syria’s chemical weapons; U.S. and Iran open talks”, The Washington Times, September 26, 2013 at <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2013/sep/26/un-reaches-deal-to-eliminate-syrias-chemical-weapo/?page=all>

⁵⁸ “Obama, Iranian president open door to better relations”, The Washington Post, September 24, 2013 at http://articles.washingtonpost.com/2013-09-24/politics/42340302_1_hassan-rouhani-president-obama-iranian-leader

⁵⁹ “Kerry to visit Japan, Indonesia”, Antara, September 27, 2013 at <http://www.antara.co.id/en/news/90885/kerry-to-visit-japan-indonesia>

The United States, the world's largest arms dealer, has joined more than 90 other nations in signing a treaty that regulates global arms trading, but there is strong resistance in the Senate, which must ratify it. Secretary of State John Kerry, who signed the Arms Trade Treaty on Wednesday, said it was a "significant step" in keeping the world safe and preventing terrorists and others from obtaining conventional weapons."⁶⁰

II. DEFENCE REVIEW

National

(September 16-22)

- **Ninth edition of the bilateral Indian Navy-Royal Omani Navy biennial exercise begins in the North Arabian Sea**

According to reports, the ninth edition of the bilateral Indian Navy-Royal Omani Navy biennial exercise "Naseem Al Bahr" begins on September 23rd in the North Arabian Sea. In this bilateral exercise Indian Naval Ships Mysore (guided missile destroyer), Tarkash and Tabar (stealth frigates) and Aditya (fleet tanker) are participating. The Royal Omani Navy is being represented by Royal Navy of Oman Vessels (RNOV) missile and gun vessels, Al Muazzar, Al Mussandam, Al Naja and a Landing ship RNOV Tamsah, along with Royal Air Force of Oman aircraft F-16, Hawks and Jaguars amongst others. The first Indian Navy-Royal Navy of Oman exercise was conducted in 1993.⁶¹

(September 23-29)

- **Indian army has ordered Court of inquiry (CoI) into the militant attack on army camp in Samba; Indian Navy has received the first of 17 Hawk Advanced Jet Trainers**

According to reports, the Indian Army on September 29 ordered a court of inquiry (CoI) into the militant attack on 16 Cavalry camp in Samba on September 26 in which its four personnel, including a Lt Col, were killed and two others, one of them a Colonel, injured. Defence spokesman S N Acharya said, "A Court of Inquiry has been ordered. A Colonel rank officer will head the CoI." The inquiry is part of the standard operating procedure maintained by the Army in such attacks. The CoI would be mandated to look into all aspects of the terror strike including security lapses, if any, in the unit.⁶²

⁶⁰ "U.S. signs treaty to regulate global arms trading", USA Today, September 25, 2013 at <http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2013/09/25/us-global-arms-trading/2869373/>

⁶¹ "20 Years of Indian Navy- Royal Omani Navy Partnership Ninth 'Naseem Al Bahr' Biennial Naval Exercise," PIB, September 22, 2013, at <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/erelease.aspx?relid=99552>

⁶² "Court of inquiry ordered into terror attack on army camp in Samba," TOI, September 29, 2013, at <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Court-of-inquiry-ordered-into-terror-attack-on-army-camp-in-Samba/articleshow/23267341.cms>

In another development, according to reports, the Indian Navy has received the first of 17 Hawk Advanced Jet Trainers, becoming the third naval operator of the Hawk along with the US Navy and the Royal Navy. The 17 Hawk aircraft ordered by the Indian Navy form part of a contract for 57 aircraft signed in 2010 of which 40 are for the Indian Air Force. Among its 18 customers worldwide, India is the largest operator of the Hawk Advanced Jet Trainer with 123 aircraft ordered to date, of which over 70 have been delivered to the Indian Air Force. Hawk trainers already in service with the Indian Air Force are performing well. Adding to the Indian Navy's fleet of aircraft, the Hawk provides the ideal platform for pilots to transition smoothly to the Navy's frontline aircraft. Hawk effectively integrates air and ground based elements offering the most efficient and cost-effective method of training pilots.⁶³

International

(September 16-22)

- **Naval chief of the elite Revolutionary Guards says that Iran has the capability to strike US warships in the Gulf; Taiwan's air force will be armed with smart munitions by the end of this year**

According to reports, Iran paraded 30 missiles with a range of 2,000 kilometers (1,250 miles) on September 22. This is for the first time that Iran has displayed its capacity to hit Israeli targets in such a massive show of strength. Iran displayed 12 Sejil and 18 Ghadr missiles at the annual parade. The stated range of both missiles would put not only Israel but also US bases in the Gulf within Iran's reach. Though, Iranian President Hassan Rowhani insisted the weaponry on show was for defensive purposes only, the naval chief of the elite Revolutionary Guards Admiral Ali Fadavi was quoted as saying that Iran has the capability to strike US warships in the Gulf. "We have the necessary equipment to destroy American aircraft carriers and warplanes in the Gulf," Fadavi reportedly said.⁶⁴

In another development, according to reports, Taiwan's air force will be armed with smart munitions by the end of this year. The new weaponry, developed under a project code named "Wan Chien" (Ten Thousand Swords), is scheduled to be carried by dozens of Taiwan's fighter jets. Taiwan began developing its own smart weapons after the United States, which is Taiwan's main arms supplier, refused to sell it guided bombs.⁶⁵

⁶³ "Indian Navy receives first Hawk Jet Trainer," Business Line, September 23, 2013, at <http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/indian-navy-receives-first-hawk-jet-trainer/article5160174.ece>

⁶⁴ "Iran Parades 30 Missiles With Range of 2,000km," Defense News, September 22, 2013, at <http://www.defensenews.com/article/20130922/DEFREG04/309220006/Iran-Parades-30-Missiles-Range-2-000km>

⁶⁵ "Taiwan Develops 'Smart' Munitions Against China: Report," Defense News, September 21, 2013, at <http://www.defensenews.com/article/20130921/DEFREG03/309210010/Taiwan-Develops-Smart-Munitions-Against-China-Report>

(September 23-29)

- **US Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel rules out any quick decision on extending US wartime command over South Korea troops; Britain is to set up a dedicated military unit to counter cyber-attacks**

According to reports, US Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel on September 28 ruled out any quick decision on extending US wartime command over South Korea troops. In case of war with North Korea, the alliance between USA and South Korea currently calls for the US military commander to lead the 28,500 US troops deployed to the country, as well as South Korea's 640,000 force. During peacetime however each side maintains operational command of their own troops. South Korea agreed to take over wartime operational command of all troops starting in 2015, a decision that was already delayed from the 2012 target date. Tensions with North Korea, however, have made Seoul cautious about that date, and the South has asked Washington to review the timing of the planned transition. The question of when operational control should be passed to the South Koreans will feature prominently in Hagel's talks with his counterpart and President Park Geun-Hye.⁶⁶

In another development, according to reports, Britain is to set up a dedicated military unit to counter cyber attacks, the defense secretary announced this on September 29 as he issued a call for tech-savvy new recruits. The UK Ministry of Defence is looking to recruit hundreds of computer experts to help defend Britain's national security. The "cyber reservists" would work alongside regular forces in the new Joint Cyber Reserve Unit in a bid to protect key computer networks and safeguard data. The new capability would be able to "counter-attack in cyber-space and, if necessary, to strike in cyber-space as part of Britain's full-spectrum military. UK's Defence Secretary Philip Hammond has reportedly said, "In response to the growing cyber threat, we are developing a full-spectrum military cyber capability, including a strike capability, to enhance the UK's range of military capabilities."⁶⁷

⁶⁶ "Hagel: No Decision On Extending US Wartime Command Of South Koreans," Defense News, September 29, 2013, at <http://www.defensenews.com/article/20130929/DEFREG02/309290010/Hagel-No-Decision-Extending-US-Wartime-Command-South-Koreans>

⁶⁷ "Britain Recruiting Cyber-warriors," Defense News, September 29, 2013, at <http://www.defensenews.com/article/20130929/DEFREG01/309290009/Britain-Recruiting-Cyber-warriors>