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Articles from subscriber only sites are available on request. Révolutionnaire is edited by Ong Weichong, with contributions from Bernard Loo and Joshua Ho. The Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies (IDSS) is a key research component of the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS). It focuses on security research to serve national needs. IDSS' faculty and research staff conduct both academic and policy-oriented research on security-related issues and developments affecting Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific. Its research agenda presently comprises the following programmes: Maritime Security, the Revolution in Military Affairs, Multilateralism and Regionalism, Contemporary Islam, Indonesia and China.

## CONTEMPORARY CONFLICT

### Pakistanis flee into Afghanistan

BBC – 29 September

The UN says 20,000 people have fled Pakistan's tribal area of Bajaur for Afghanistan amid fighting between troops and militants in recent months. The UN's refugee agency says almost 4,000 families have crossed north-west into Afghanistan's Kunar province. The army began a sustained campaign against militants in Bajaur nearly two months ago. Some 300,000 others have fled east within Pakistan in recent weeks with many of them living in temporary camps. The military says it has killed more than 2,000 militants in the fighting.

The UN's High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) believes that the majority of the refugees who have fled into Afghanistan will return home after the fighting stops in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (Fata). Announcing its estimates of the numbers of people who have crossed the border into Afghanistan, the UNHCR in Afghanistan said in the last two weeks alone, more than 600 families had left Pakistan for Kunar.

A spokesman said the organisation would look out for the welfare of the displaced if they were unable to return home before winter sets in. "It's very difficult to predict the security situation on the other side of the border but what we hope is that the security gets better and people will be able to go back," Nadir Farhad told Reuters news agency. "But if it continues, we will definitely provide them with... assistance... so we can get them through the winter months." "They have mainly been provided accommodation by relatives and friends but some 200 families are already living without shelter" he said.

The UNHCR says around 70% of the families are from Pakistan but the rest are Afghans who have been living in Pakistan. In the past, Afghan refugees have crossed the border the other way, around four million escaping violence and seeking refuge in Pakistan in the 1980s and 1990s, but more than half have since returned to Afghanistan. Recently the UNHCR asked donors for more than \$17m (39.4m) in aid to help about 250,000 people displaced by fighting and floods in north-western Pakistan. They said money was needed to provide relief items like tents, blankets and plastic sheets.

Pakistan's army is engaged in a fierce campaign against militants in the north-west of the country. Attempts by the government in Islamabad to negotiate with militants in areas along the border with Afghanistan appear to have failed, correspondents say. The country has been hit by a spate of recent suicide bombings widely blamed on militants - including a devastating attack this month on the Marriott hotel in Islamabad. The bombing killed more than 50 people, most of them Pakistanis.

Militants use the tribal areas as a base for operations in Pakistan and across the border in Afghanistan. The Taliban and al-Qaeda are believed to operate in these border areas after being pushed out of Afghanistan. Their presence in the border regions have prompted a number of US attacks inside Pakistan. Those attacks have angered Pakistan's government,

and there have been incidents around the border involving Pakistani troops firing warning shots at US helicopters.

### [Arroyo seeks boost to Philippine military budget](#)

*ABC* – 29 September

The Philippine's President Gloria Arroyo she will ask Congress to boost the military budget to combat the country's growing Muslim insurgency. ilitary chief of staff General Alexander Yano says the military wants to raise the \$US 1.6 billion already earmarked in the 2009 budget which is being debated in Congress.

General Yano says funds are needed for fuel and ammunition to increase the tempo of operations against rebels. The Muslim separatist rebellion on Mindanao flared last month when hardline Moro Islamic Liberation Front factions pillaged a series of villages.

This came after the Supreme Court blocked a draft peace accord that would have given the minority Muslims control over vast areas of the south. The latest fighting has claimed nearly 200 lives and according to international relief agencies also displaced about half a million people.

### [Maoist blast kills four Chhattisgarh during President's visit](#)

*Reuters* – 29 September

Suspected Maoist insurgents killed four policemen with a landmine blast on Monday in Chhattisgarh where Pratibha Patil was holidaying, police said. Patil who was near a waterfall in Bastar, about 27 km from the blast site, was safe, police officer Girdhari Nayak said.

Chhattisgarh, one of several where Maoist rebels say they are fighting for the rights of poor farmers and landless labourers. Three policemen were wounded in the latest explosion which took place in the forests of Bastar, Nayak said.

Thousands of people have been killed in the insurgency, which began in the late 1960s and stretches through the countryside across a swathe of eastern and central India. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has described the insurgency as the gravest threat to India's internal security.

### [U.N. aid enters Sri Lanka war zone, Tiger HQ hit](#)

*Reuters* – 02 October

A U.N. convoy carrying food for 200,000 people trapped by fighting entered Sri Lanka's war zone on Thursday, and the air force bombed the headquarters of the Tamil Tiger rebels. The strike in Kilinochchi town, 330 km (200 miles) north of the capital Colombo, against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) separatists came as the military said its troops had closed to within 3.5 km of the rebel's de facto capital.

"Jets engaged the LTTE's main headquarters in Kilinochchi," air force spokesman Wing Commander Janaka Nanayakkara said. The rebels confirmed the strike hit their Peace Secretariat, political head office and nearby homes. "In this attack, which took place around 12.45 pm (0715 GMT), two civilians were killed and another five injured while they were passing the nearby road," the LTTE said in an emailed statement.

President Mahinda Rajapaksa has vowed to militarily wipe out the LTTE, which is on U.S., E.U. and Indian terrorism lists and has since 1983 fought for a homeland for Sri Lanka's minority Tamils against governments led by the Sinhalese majority.

On Thursday, the government signalled no letup in the war next year, publishing a proposed budget increase that would see defence spending rise 6.4 percent to 177.1 billion rupees (\$1.64 billion) in 2009.

Relentless daily air strikes are accompanying a ground push into Kilinochchi and other rebel-controlled areas across the front that spans the north of the Indian Ocean island country. Fighting on Wednesday killed at least 35 Tamil Tigers and wounded 42, while 10 soldiers were wounded, the military said.

A U.N. convoy of 51 vehicles carrying 800 metric tonnes of food aid crossed the Omanthai checkpoint, to the north of which is LTTE-held territory, on Thursday and was due to deliver food to four areas east of Kilinochchi where most of the refugees are. It originally had 60 trucks, but the number was reduced after the military had found explosives and other contraband in nine of the vehicles, the U.N. said. The U.N. said it "condemned the attempt by persons unknown to disrupt the aid effort" by placing the illegal cargo on trucks provided by the government.

Sri Lanka's government and military routinely accuse aid groups of assisting the rebels, which the humanitarian community denies. The government last month ordered nearly all aid agencies out of the war zone last, saying it could not guarantee their safety. But diplomats pressed the government to allow the food in, saying too many people were at risk.

### [Suicide blast hits Sri Lanka town](#)

*BBC* – 06 October

A suicide blast in the Sri Lankan town of Anuradhapura has killed at least 27 people, including a former senior general, according to the army. Maj Gen Janaka Perera, a controversial commander in the Jaffna peninsula in the 1990s, died alongside his wife. More than 80 people were injured when a suicide bomber blew himself up inside the United National Party office near a bus depot, officials said. They blamed the attack on separatist Tamil Tiger rebels.

Gen Perera was the provincial leader of the United National Party (UNP), the country's main opposition party, and a critic of President Mahinda Rajapaksa's government. Government offensive The UNP has accused the government of ignoring repeated requests for a stronger security detail for Gen Perera.

"The government must take full responsibility," said party official Tissa Attanayake. "They did not give him adequate security for political reasons." Three opposition provincial councillors are among the dead, a military spokesman said. The attack comes as the Sri Lankan military continues to close in on the Tamil Tigers' northern stronghold of Kilinochchi.

The head of the army says his troops are within 2km (1.25 miles) of the Tigers' administrative headquarters in the town. Journalists are not allowed access to the fighting to verify such claims. However, the progress of the government offensive has raised fears that the Tigers will step up suicide attacks. Analysts warn that the Tigers' ability to carry out such attacks cannot be ignored.

Gen Perera was one of Sri Lanka's most prominent army officers and held the command of government forces in the Jaffna peninsula, a Tiger stronghold, in the mid-1990s. The Tamil community accused him of being responsible for hundreds of deaths and the torture of Tamils in the region during the period. The human rights group Amnesty International raised similar concerns.

After retiring from the army, Gen Perera served as Sri Lanka's high commissioner to Australia and ambassador to Indonesia. His appointment as the envoy to Australia in June 2001 sparked protest demonstrations in Sydney. More than 300 Tamils protested outside the Australian parliament accusing Gen Perera of "war crimes". The Tamil Tiger rebels have been fighting for a separate homeland for a quarter of a century and about 70,000 people have been killed in the violence.

[Sources: Taliban split with al Qaeda, seek peace](#)

*CNN* – 06 October

Taliban leaders are holding Saudi-brokered talks with the Afghan government to end the country's bloody conflict -- and are severing their ties with al Qaeda, sources close to the historic discussions have told CNN. King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia hosted meetings between the Afghan government and the Taliban, a source says.

The militia, which has been intensifying its attacks on the U.S.-led coalition that toppled it from power in 2001 for harboring Osama bin Laden's terrorist network, has been involved in four days of talks hosted by Saudi Arabia's King Abdullah, says the source. The talks -- the first of their kind aimed at resolving the lengthy conflict in Afghanistan -- mark a significant move by the Saudi leadership to take a direct role in Afghanistan, hosting delegates who have until recently been their enemies.

They also mark a sidestepping of key "war on terror" ally Pakistan, frequently accused of not doing enough to tackle militants sheltering on its territory, which has previously been a conduit for talks between the Saudis and Afghanistan.

According to the source, fugitive Taliban leader Mullah Mohammed Omar -- high on the U.S. military's most-wanted list -- was not present, but his representatives were keen to stress the reclusive cleric is no longer allied to al Qaeda. Details of the Taliban leader's split with al Qaeda have never been made public before, but the new claims confirm what another source with an intimate knowledge of the militia and Mullah Omar has told CNN in the past.

The current round of talks, said to have been taken two years of intense behind-the-scenes negotiations to come to fruition, is anticipated to be the first step in a long process to secure a negotiated end to the conflict. But U.S.- and Europe-friendly Saudi Arabia's involvement has been propelled by a mounting death toll among coalition troops amid a worsening violence that has also claimed many civilian casualties.

A Saudi source familiar with the talks confirmed that they happened and said the Saudis take seriously their role in facilitating discussions between parties to the conflict. A second round of talks is scheduled to take place in two months, the Saudi source said. The Afghan government believes the Taliban cannot be defeated militarily, and the Taliban believe that they can't win a war against the U.S.-led coalition in Afghanistan, the Saudi source said.

The involvement of the Saudis is also seen as an expression of fear that Iran could take advantage of U.S. failings in Afghanistan, as it is seen to be doing in Iraq. Several Afghan sources familiar with Iranian activities in Afghanistan have said Iranian officials and diplomats who are investing in business and building education facilities are lobbying politicians in Kabul. Learn more about King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia » The Afghan sources wish to remain anonymous due to their political roles. Coalition commanders regularly accuse Iran of arming the Taliban, and Western diplomats privately suggest that Iran is working against U.S. interests in Afghanistan, making it harder to bring peace. Saudi sources say perceived Iranian expansionism is one of Saudi Arabia's biggest concerns.

More troops needed quickly in Afghanistan, general says Deadly fighting in Afghanistan claims more lives The talks in Mecca took place between September 24 and 27 and involved 11 Taliban delegates, two Afghan government officials, a representative of former mujahadeen commander and U.S. foe Gulbadin Hekmatyar, and three others.

King Abdullah broke fast during the Eid al-Fitr holiday with the 17-member Afghan delegation -- an act intended to show his commitment to ending the conflict. Eid al-Fitr marks the end of Ramadan, the Muslim holy month of fasting. Saudi Arabia was one of only three countries that recognized the Taliban leadership during its rule over Afghanistan in the 1990s, but that relationship was severed over Mullah Omar's refusal to hand over bin Laden.

During the talks, described as an ice breaker, all parties agreed that the only solution to Afghanistan's conflict is through dialogue, not fighting. Further talks are expected in Saudi Arabia involving this core group and others.

[Fury over Zardari Kashmir comment](#)

*BBC* – 06 October

A group of Muslim protesters in Indian-administered Kashmir has defied a curfew to denounce Pakistani President Asif Zardari and burn his effigy. Mr Zardari has provoked outrage after being reported as saying that Islamic militants fighting Indian rule in Kashmir were "terrorists". Leading Kashmir separatists have also denounced Mr Zardari. Pakistan has supported anti-Indian militants and fought two wars with India over Kashmir.

Many Kashmiris and Pakistanis regard militant groups fighting Indian rule in Kashmir as freedom fighters. Mr Zardari made his controversial reference to them as "terrorists" in an interview with the *Wall Street Journal*. Protesters took to the streets of the town of Baramullah on Monday, close to the Line of Control that separates Indian and Pakistan-administered Kashmir, despite a curfew imposed by Indian security forces in Muslim-majority areas of the Kashmir Valley.

The BBC's Altaf Hussain in Srinagar says it is the first time that a Pakistani leader's effigy has been burnt in Indian-administered Kashmir where anti-India protests have often been marked by pro-Pakistan slogans. Prominent politicians fighting for an end to Indian rule in Kashmir joined in the condemnation of Mr Zardari. Syed Ali Shah Geelani told the BBC that "Zardari has made these remarks to please the Americans".

"Zardari fears India and would do anything to please that country even at the cost of Pakistan's dignity," Mr Geelani said. "Kashmiri youths have been fighting for a just cause." India maintains a huge security presence in Kashmir and the military and police, as well as the militants, have frequently been accused of human rights abuses. "In reality," Mr Gilani said, "the people of Kashmir have been victims of state terrorism." 'Just cause'

In Pakistan itself, Information Minister Sherry Rehman of Mr Zardari's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) sought to clarify Mr Zardari's comments. "The president has made it very clear that the just cause of Kashmir and its struggle for self-determination has been a consistent central position of the PPP for 40 years now," she told the BBC Urdu service. "There is no change in that policy. He has never called the legitimate aspirations of Kashmiris an expression of terrorism, nor has he undermined the sufferings of the Kashmiri people." However she offered no explicit support for the use of violence to oust Indian forces from Kashmir.

Pakistan and India have fought three fully-fledged wars since independence in 1947. They came close to another war in 2002 after militants stormed the Indian parliament in Delhi in December, 2001. The BBC's Barbara Plett in Islamabad says Pakistan's powerful military has long-defined India as a threat to Pakistan's existence and in the past it has given covert backing to the militants in Kashmir.

But Mr Zardari told the Wall Street Journal that "India has never been a threat to Pakistan" and that "I, for one, and our democratic government is not scared of Indian influence abroad." He also said that Pakistan had to develop strong economic ties with India. "There is no other economic survival for nations like us. We have to trade with our neighbours first." He also appeared to acknowledge that his government had given consent to US air strikes in Pakistan.

Pakistan and India took part in a faltering peace process under the former President Pervez Musharraf. But suspicions always ran deep, and relations have soured recently. Our Islamabad correspondent says Mr Zardari's comments mark a radical break with the past. More reaction is expected in Pakistan after the country returns to normal working following the Eid festival holiday.

### [Russian troops quit Georgia areas](#)

*BBC* – 08 October

Russian troops have left their self-imposed buffer zones around Georgia's breakaway regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia ahead of a Friday deadline. Both Georgia and Russia confirmed the move which leaves Russian troops only inside the two regions, which recently declared independence from Georgia. Moscow plans to keep nearly 8,000 soldiers stationed there. It fought a brief war to repel Georgian troops trying to regain control of South Ossetia by force in August.

Russia's foreign minister said an EU mission monitoring the pull-out would be excluded from both territories. Russia recognised the regions as independent states - a move which drew strong condemnation from Georgia and Western leaders. Georgia's interior ministry spokesman Shota Utiashvili said: "We can confirm that from the so-called buffer zones the withdrawal is complete."

The head of Russian peacekeepers in South Ossetia, Maj-Gen Marat Kulakhmetov, later confirmed the withdrawal. "During the day we withdrew all six peacekeeping observation posts along with the personnel, arms, hardware and materiel from the southern border of the security zone," he said. "By so doing we performed our obligations for the withdrawal of the posts that was supposed to be completed by 10 October."

Speaking earlier at an international security conference in France, Russian President Dmitry Medvedev said Russia wanted some 200 EU observers in the area to "act as guarantors" to prevent any further hostilities. On the sidelines of the gathering, French President Nicolas Sarkozy said his Russian counterpart had "kept his word" over Georgia. Mr Sarkozy, who brokered the peace deal in early August, warned that both Russia and Georgia "must now refrain from any provocation on the ground". Russia's Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov told the BBC that Russia "trusted" that the EU monitors would ensure security in the buffer zones.

However, Mr Lavrov said that EU monitors - deployed last week - would not be allowed into the two breakaway regions where Russia plans to maintain a 7,600-strong force.

The BBC's James Rodgers, who has been travelling around Georgia, says journalists were brought from both the South Ossetian and Georgian sides to witness the Russian withdrawal. He described it as a media event as well as a military operation. In the Georgian village of Karaleti, he says, the withdrawal went according to plan. A bulldozer levelled the land where a Russian position had stood and the soil was then carefully swept with metal detectors to lessen the risk of some deadly remnant of war, he says.

Our correspondent says he was then taken to watch the withdrawing columns pass - tanks, armoured personnel carriers and lorries carrying troops. The BBC's Mark Mardell, who is in Gori in Georgia, said that as soon as the Russians were gone the Georgians came in - one man and his boy put a Georgian flag up on the post where they had been. One Georgian man told Reuters news agency: "We will return to our homes as there will be nothing to be scared of... our army and police will be there. Everything will be fine."

The fighting in the region began on 7 August when Georgia tried to retake South Ossetia by force after a series of lower-level clashes with Russian-backed rebels. Russia launched a counter-attack and the Georgian troops were ejected from both South Ossetia and Abkhazia days later.

## **TERRORISM & COUNTER-TERRORISM**

### [US military reiterates support to RP anti-terror campaign](#)

*GMA News* – 26 September

The US military reiterated on Friday its support for the Philippines' campaign against terrorism not only in southern Philippines but in the entire country. US Pacific Command Commander Admiral Timothy Keating said this during the 50th year commemoration of the Philippine-US military partnership at the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

"The Armed Forces of the United States will support the Armed Forces of the Philippines on operations against violent extremism and violent extremists throughout the Philippines," Keating said in reaction to the US Army's role in the ongoing hostilities in Mindanao.

Keating stressed that curbing "violent extremism" was a top national priority both of the Philippine and the US. "The terrorists are indiscriminate, they are ruthless and they are relentless and we have pledged to support the Armed Forces of the Philippines in every way we can. We will continue to win this very important struggle for both of our countries," Keating added.

During the annual celebration, Keating and AFP chief General Alexander Yano went into a meeting to discuss mutual security concerns between the two countries and draw up a set of military activities that both military forces plan to carry out jointly until 2009. "All of (the activities) would serve not just to sustain but enhance the very strong alliance that

we enjoy with the Armed Forces of the Philippines," Keating said.

The event was a twin celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Mutual Defense Board and the 3rd Security Engagement Board. Aside from joint exercises, military concerns were also discussed in the meeting including counter-terrorism operations, maritime security, civil military operations and personal exchanges. "We made a lot of breakthroughs in terms of the past years in our cooperation in combating terrorism, humanitarian assistance and other non-traditional threats particularly in the south," Yano said.

While the top officials of both countries' Armed Forces convened inside the Army headquarters, a protest rally was staged outside with militants torching down a US flag in objection of the RP-US Visiting Forces Agreement. A brief tension erupted after a military dispersal team engaged the militants in a shoving match and chased them away. Traffic in the area was disrupted during the picket where the militants blamed the VFA for US soldiers' presence and supposed meddling in the conflict in Mindanao.

### [Several killed in Damascus bombing](#)

*Al Jazeera – 27 September*

At least 17 people have been killed and at least 14 injured in a car bomb attack in the Syrian capital Damascus. The car bomb, which Syrian public television said contained about 200kg of explosives, went off in a southern suburb of the capital at about 8am [0500 GMT] on Saturday. All of the victims are believed to be civilians.

The bombing occurred at an intersection leading to Saydah Zeinab, a holy shrine for Shia Muslims that is visited by Iranian and Iraqi pilgrims. The blast site is close to a security post in the Sidi Qada district near the airport road, Abdul Hameed Tawfiq, Al Jazeera's correspondent in Damascus, reported. The area is a densely populated area of Damascus, he said. Security forces have sealed off the site of the blast and an investigation has been launched by counter-terrorism officers, he said.

No group or individual has so far claimed responsibility for the attack. Bassam Abdul-Majid, Syria's interior minister, said that the bombing was a "terrorist act", but declined to say who was suspected of involvement in the attack. "We cannot accuse any party," he told state television. "There are ongoing investigations that will lead us to those who carried it out."

Ziad Haider, a freelance journalist in Damascus, told Al Jazeera that it is still not certain what the motive was for the attack. "The security post [near to where the bomb detonated] is not a very important or significant security site; it is for petrol for security patrols," he said. "It is very near the Saydah Zeinab shrine. At this time of year during Ramadan, it is very significant. Pilgrims come from Lebanon, Iraq and Iran to visit the shrine. "The security post has not been harmed. The explosion took place quite a way from it. Either the [attack] has not been planned very well, the bombs went off before they reached the site, or there was another target we do not know of."

The bombing is the first in the Syrian capital since February, when Imad Moghanyah, the senior military commander of Lebanese Shia Muslim group Hezbollah, was killed by a car bomb. Israel was blamed for the attack on Moghanyah by Damascus and Hezbollah, which has close ties to Syria, but Tel Aviv denies involvement. Saturday's attack comes days after authorities from Lebanon said that Syria had sent security forces to the international border between the two neighbours. Damascus said the deployment was made for internal security reasons.

In August, Syria said that Mohamed Sleiman, a senior Syrian general, had been assassinated. He was often described by the Arab media as the Syrian government's liaison officer with Hezbollah. Syria has been accused by the US of providing logistical support to Hezbollah, particularly after Damascus pulled its troops and security apparatus out of Lebanon in April 2005.

The redeployment of Syrian forces from Lebanon followed massive anti-Syrian protests in Lebanon in the wake of the assassination of Rafiq al-Hariri, a former Lebanese prime minister. A series of other attacks in Syria in recent years have been blamed on Sunni Muslim fighters opposed to the country's secular government.

### [Suicide car bomb kills at least 3 soldiers, wounds 6 in Algeria](#)

*Xinhua* – 29 September

A car bomb killed at least three people and wounded six others Sunday evening near a northern Algerian town about 100 km east of the capital Algiers, the official APS news agency reported. The deadly attack occurred near Dellys, a small port in the northern province of Boumerdes.

According to other local media, the suicide attacker had attempted to ram his vehicle into a barrack near Dellys, before being shot dead by security guards. The car bomb then exploded and killed at least 3 soldiers. The injured are in a stable condition, APS quoted the local security and hospital sources as saying.

No one has claimed responsibility for the attack. Algeria suffers regular attacks blamed on Islamist extremist groups linked to al-Qaeda's north African wing, although the security situation in the country has improved in recent years.

### [U.S. raids hurt terrorism fight-Pakistan minister](#)

*Reuters* – 02 October

U.S. military raids against militants inside Pakistan threaten to hurt progress being made against them by Pakistani forces and are an intrusion on Pakistan's sovereignty, the country's new foreign minister said on Wednesday.

Shah Mehmood Qureshi said recent attacks by U.S. forces on Taliban and Al Qaeda insurgents in tribal areas on the Pakistan side of its border with Afghanistan may set back

the government's efforts to fight terrorism there. "I'm afraid that a relatively recent element in this already difficult war threatens to undo what we have already achieved," Qureshi said in a speech at Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School. "I am referring to U.S. attacks in Pakistani territory."

Relations between the United States and Pakistan have been strained since the attacks. U.S. officials say Taliban and Al Qaeda-linked fighters use the tribal regions as a base to launch attacks into Afghanistan. The U.S. actions risk further alienating the population of the tribal areas and the wider populace, Qureshi said.

"The Pakistan public rightly sees such attacks as a violation of Pakistan's sovereignty," he said. "We must not take any action that hardens the resolve of those already committed to violence." He said Pakistan's fight against terrorism has been further damaged because the raids have been carried out by its ally. "It hurts us even more when the transgressor is our friend and ally, the U.S.," he said. "If there are actions to be taken, those actions will be taken by Pakistan."

He said Pakistani government forces have been fighting militants in the remote and rugged border areas since 2004 and suffered hundreds of casualties. But he said military force alone cannot win the war there or in Afghanistan where governments, including the United States, must win support of the people through other means. "Force must be complemented by political, economic and social engagement," Qureshi said. "Force alone is an insufficient objective to win the hearts and minds of the populace."

Qureshi said he was "bewildered" that Pakistan is seen by some Americans as a source of terrorism rather than a partner in the war against it. He acknowledged the presence of Taliban and Al Qaeda fighters in the border areas but rejected that there were safe havens there. The minister called on the United States to provide more night-time fighting equipment, and urged Afghanistan to add hundreds more military posts along its side of the border to match those installed by Pakistan.

### [U.S. military says al Qaeda in Iraq mastermind dead](#)

*CNN* – 04 October

Coalition forces in Baghdad have killed the man believed to be the mastermind of recent bombings in the Iraqi capital, the U.S. military said. Mahir Ahmad Mahmud Judu al-Zubaydi, also known as Abu Rami and Abu Assad, was believed to be the leader of one of al Qaeda in Iraq's Baghdad networks, the military said in a statement issued Friday. The military said intelligence reports led coalition forces to a building in Baghdad's Adhamiya neighborhood Friday. They surrounded the building and called on the occupants to surrender but were engaged by small arms fire, the military said.

The forces returned fire and killed two people, Abu Rami and a female, the military said. "Sadly, here again is a case where [al Qaeda in Iraq] has put innocent lives in danger in order to protect themselves and shield their terrorist efforts," said Rear Adm. Patrick Driscoll, a spokesman for the Multi-National Force in Iraq. Coalition forces had

evacuated several children from the building before they detonated ordnance inside, the military said. The house caught fire, the military said, and the local fire department was called in for assistance.

The U.S. military blames Abu Rami for masterminding numerous car bombings, including an October 2 suicide car bombing that killed eight people and wounded more than 30. The attack happened outside a Shiite mosque in Baghdad just as worshippers left early-morning prayers marking the end of Ramadan. Among the victims of that attack were several Iraqi soldiers who were part of an army patrol providing security for worshippers, Iraqi and U.S. officials said.

Abu Rami was also responsible for numerous car bombings and mortar attacks in Baghdad's Sadr City neighborhood in 2006 and 2007, including a car bombing in November 2006 that killed more than 200 people, the military said. That attack, which targeted Shiites, was one of the worst attacks in Iraq since the war began in 2003. Abu Rami was also believed to be a planner and participant in kidnappings and videotaped executions, the military said. A video from June 2006 shows Abu Rami shooting one of four Russian diplomats. The diplomats were taken hostage weeks before an al Qaeda-linked group said it had beheaded three of them and shot the fourth to death. Abu Rami also is said to have ordered and directed a car bombing May 1 that killed eight Iraqis and a U.S. soldier, the military said.

Abu Rami was originally a member of the terrorist group Ansar al-Islam and joined al Qaeda in Iraq in 2004, the military said. He became the military "emir" of Baghdad's Rusafa district last year before taking over all terrorist operations there, the military said. Meanwhile Saturday, Poland ended its military presence in Iraq with a ceremony for its approximately 900 troops at Camp Echo in Qadasiyah Province.

"We can say the goals of the mission have been largely accomplished. Over the past five years, we have fulfilled our commitment," Polish Defense Minister Bogdan Klich said, according to a news release issued by coalition forces. The Polish army commanded Multi-National Division - Center South, which operated throughout Qadasiyah Province. Polish forces completed 10 rotations in Iraq, which ended October 1, and commanded 10 national contingents, including Armenia, Latvia, Mongolia, Romania, Ukraine, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

"You came not to conquer but to liberate. You sought not personal gain but liberty, and you build not an empire but a sovereign nation. You created hope where terror reigned, and you have made history," said Gen. Ray Odierno, commander of Multi-National Force - Iraq. The operating area was transferred to the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division.

Also Saturday, Deputy U.S. Secretary of State John Negroponte met with Iraqi President Jalal Talabani at his residence in northern Iraq, about 100 kilometers west of Kirkuk. The meeting focused on the "strategic framework" between Iraq and the United States to safeguard the Iraq's independence, Talabani said in a statement Saturday.

"During the meeting everyone discussed the political, economic and security issues and both sides addressed the most important developments related to the political process, national reconciliation and the aimed efforts to the success of this process from all aspects and at all levels," Talabani said.

Earlier, Negroponte met with Arab representatives in Kirkuk to discuss a Kurdish-Arab dispute over the city's ethnic tensions. The Kurds want to incorporate oil-rich Kirkuk into their semiautonomous region. His visit comes at a time of growing tensions between the central government of Nuri al-Maliki and the Kurdistan Regional Government in the country's autonomous northern region.

In August, Iraqi forces entered Khanaqin, a territory disputed between Arabs and Kurds that is secured by the Kurdish peshmerga forces. The crisis was resolved on a political level, but tensions remain high in the area and relations between the Shiite-dominated government and the KRG remain strained. Like Khanaqin, Kirkuk is disputed territory. Legislators overcame an impasse over a key provincial elections law last month by setting the problem of Kirkuk aside and deciding to exclude the province from a vote expected early next year.

### [Islamabad police complex attacked](#)

*BBC* – 09 October

At least eight people have been wounded in a suicide bomb attack inside the main police complex in Pakistan's capital, Islamabad, police have said. Police said the attacker managed to drive into the Police Lines compound before blowing himself up inside an office of the anti-terrorist squad. One police official told the BBC that at least one person had been killed.

The attack comes just over two weeks after more than 50 people died in a suicide bombing at the Marriott hotel. It also happened as parliament met in a special joint session for a second day for a classified security briefing on Pakistan's internal security situation. The joint session of parliament was called to try to help form a national consensus on how to tackle Islamic militancy and the recent surge in suicide bombings.

The inspector-general of Islamabad Police, Asghar Raza Gardezi, told the BBC the bomber had driven a green vehicle into the Police Lines complex shortly before midday and parked outside a three-storey building that houses the police's anti-terrorist wing. He then got out of the car and entered the building, where he put a bag of sweets he claimed to be selling on the desk of a policeman, Mr Gardezi added.

Moments later, there was a large explosion which destroyed a corner of the building and left a large crater. Shoes were strewn among the rubble. Amanat Khan, who was about 500m away from the blast when it happened, told the BBC that it caused panic on the streets. "Everybody started running away from where the sound came. I saw black smoke rising and the sound of a building crashing down," he said. "It was a huge blast, just like an earthquake."

As well as housing the anti-terrorism building which was attacked, the Police Lines complex contains accommodation and training facilities for police. Senior police officials are based elsewhere. Mr Gardezi said the authorities would be looking into why a civilian vehicle was allowed into the police compound in the first place, and how the bomber evaded security checks at the entrance. Another police officer told the BBC that it had been fortunate that many of the officers stationed in the building had been guarding parliament and other areas of Islamabad at the time of the blast.

## **DIPLOMACY & DEFENCE STRATEGY**

### [Aso tells U.N. Japan committed on antiterrorism, climate change, N Korea issues](#)

*Japan Today* – 26 September

New Japanese Prime Minister Taro Aso told a U.N. meeting Thursday that Japan will continue to commit itself to tackling global and regional issues such as terrorism, climate change and North Korea. In a U.N. General Assembly speech that marked his foreign debut after taking premiership the previous day, Aso also said he will do his utmost to turn around the flagging Japanese economy believing a stronger domestic economy would help stabilize the world economy and expedite U.N. efforts to embark on tasks such as African development.

“Japan’s primary responsibility lies in invigorating its own economy,” he said. “In light of the size of the Japanese economy, the second-largest in the world, certainly this would be the most effective contribution that Japan can deliver.” Aso promised Japan will do its utmost to create by the end of 2009 an “effective” U.N. framework on addressing climate change that involves all major economies, in line with an agreement struck in the Group of Eight summit Japan hosted in July.

“Japan has from the start been committed to reconstruction assistance to Afghanistan and we have maintained our refueling activities in the Indian Ocean,” Aso said, referring to Japan’s mission in support of U.S.-led antiterrorism operations in and near Afghanistan. “Japan will continue into the future to stand side by side with the international community and participate proactively in the fight against terrorism,” Aso said.

But whether Japan can continue to engage in refueling of foreign vessels operating in the Indian Ocean to crack down on terrorism activities is uncertain in view of fluid political conditions toward a general election lawmakers and pundits say could be called soon. Japan has dispatched no ground troops to Afghanistan as the use of arms is strictly limited under the pacifist Japanese Constitution.

On the Korean Peninsula, Aso said, “I will also continue to pursue the abandonment of North Korea’s nuclear capabilities and its nuclear weapons through the framework of the six-party talks.” The talks on denuclearizing North Korea among North and South Korea, the United States, China, Japan and Russia have been deadlocked over the proposed

regime to verify the North's declaration of nuclear facilities.

In the speech to the 63rd General Assembly that convened Tuesday, Aso expressed his resolve to settle North Korea's decades-old abduction of Japanese nationals while pledging efforts to improve ties between the two countries in the absence of diplomatic relations in the postwar era. "I am prepared to take actions toward the resolution of the outstanding issues of concern between Japan and North Korea and the settlement of the unfortunate past between us, moving Japan-North Korea relations forward," he said.

On Africa, Aso said, "Making a 'vibrant Africa' even more vibrant, or ending global environmental degradation through the efforts of all nations—both of these have an important premise: the stability of the global economy."

On the United Nations, Aso said the Security Council needs to be reformed "through an expansion of both permanent and non-permanent membership." Japan has long been seeking to gain a permanent seat on the council. Aso also sought support for Japan's candidacy in an election next month of new non-permanent members of the council. He noted the importance his government attaches to the United Nations, saying he was appointed prime minister by the emperor barely 24 hours ago and addressing the U.N. General Assembly is his "first engagement since assuming office."

Aso, 68, became the first Japanese prime minister since 2005 to address the U.N. General Assembly. Aso, accompanied by new Foreign Minister Hirofumi Nakasone, will stay in the city for only half a day. He will return home quickly to embark on a host of tasks as new prime minister, including preparations for a policy speech he will deliver to parliament Monday. Later Thursday, Aso met separately with U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki Moon, Iraqi President Jalal Talabani and Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, Chief Cabinet Secretary Takeo Kawamura said.

### [Medvedev Promises New Subs](#)

*Moscow Times* – 26 September

President Dmitry Medvedev said Thursday that plans to modernize its armed forces will not be affected by the current financial crisis. "Regardless of any crisis, we should build new submarines, should simply deal with the modernization of the armed forces," Medvedev told the crew of St. George the Victor nuclear submarine during a visit to its Pacific home base at Kamchatka Peninsula. "Our country has means and resources for that," he said in comments shown on national television.

Medvedev has said the war in Georgia showed that Russia needed to equip its army with more up to date weapons. His predecessor, Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, has said the military budget will grow by 28 percent next year. As opposed to Putin, who has flown a supersonic jet, made a short underwater trip on a nuclear submarine and appeared publicly in military uniform, Medvedev has previously stuck to a more civilian style during his visits to military installations. On Thursday, the 43-year-old former corporate lawyer, known as a keen Internet user and a yoga fan, appeared at the Vilyuchinsk navy

base in a navy uniform.

Medvedev, accompanied by Defense Minister Anatoly Serdyukov and top brass, toured the submarine built in 1978 and armed with intercontinental missiles capable of carrying nuclear warheads and joined the crew for a tea party. He told the sailors that the government was committed to providing them with better social conditions, including housing. "We are talking about tens of billions of rubles," Medvedev told the sailors. "I think we will finally solve the problem of proper housing for the military."

Medvedev said neither Western pressure nor economic woes could affect Russia's commitment to having strong armed forces. "As far as other global problems are concerned, we have a sustainable economy," he said. "We have enough material and intellectual resources not to depend on anyone."

Addressing a meeting of local officials and several top ministers earlier Thursday, Medvedev said Russia could not function if all power was concentrated in the Kremlin, signaling a departure from Putin's hands-on style. "It is too bad when all decisions, including those on operational issues, are made by the president," Medvedev said in the capital of the easternmost Kamchatka region. "That means we do not have a system of management." "We simply cannot work. We need to act faster, make ... reasonable management decisions," he said. "Otherwise, we shall simply feel ashamed about the missed opportunities."

Putin's eight years in office were characterized by a concentration of power in the Kremlin, drawing criticism from the West. Major decisions were made by the president, while the government and parliament found their role drastically curtailed. Putin has argued that this approach -- known in Russian as "manual control" -- was essential to restoring order in the vast and sometimes unruly country.

But officials in Medvedev's entourage say that if Russia does not switch to a more systematic approach to governance, based on clear rules and institutions, economic growth could start to splutter and Russia will not be globally competitive. The Kremlin has set the target of making Russia one of the world's leading economies by 2020.

### [Russia Proposes New European Security Pact](#)

VOA – 28 September

Sergei Lavrov said the crisis that erupted in August between Russia and Georgia over the breakaway Georgian provinces of South Ossetia and Abkhazia demonstrated that new security mechanisms are needed to provide equal security for all states.

Mr. Larov went to on to state, "it is a process involving all participants who would reaffirm their commitment to fundamental principles of the international law, such as non-use of force and peaceful settlement of disputes, sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-interference in the internal affairs, and inadmissibility of strengthening one's own security by infringing upon the security of others."He said such a treaty should fit

naturally into the legal framework of the U.N. Charter and its principles of collective security.

On the subject of the military conflict between Russia and Georgia he said, "this problem has now been closed" because Moscow has recognized the independence of the two pro-Russian breakaway provinces. "The recognition of independence of South Ossetia and Abkhazia by Russia was the only possible measure to ensure their security and the very survival of their peoples," he continued.

Lavrov also said the implementation of the peace agreement negotiated by President Nicolas Sarkozy of France would help stabilize the situation. The United States and some European countries consider Russia in violation of that agreement because the Russians have not entirely withdrawn to their pre-conflict positions.

Also speaking Saturday was Azerbaijan's Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov. He called the Caucasus crisis "worrisome" and said simmering regional conflicts endanger peace and security. "The Georgian case has also proved that the protracted conflicts existing in the Georgia-Ukraine-Azerbaijan-Moldova (GUAM) area, including the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, remain a major source of instability and a fragile cease-fire regime cannot be a substitute for a lasting and durable peace in the region," Mr' Mammadyarov stated.

North Korea's Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, Pak Kil Yon told the delegates that denuclearization of the Korean peninsula is President Kim Il Sung's "lifetime instruction" and that Pyongyang has honored its commitments under the Six Party Talks. But in August, North Korea stopped work to disable its main Yongbyon nuclear reactor, saying the United States had not honored its promise to remove it from a list of state sponsors of terrorism. He said, "this is little short of admitting that the list is not related to terrorism in actuality." Washington says it will remove North Korea as soon as it agrees to a verification program.

Also Saturday, the Assembly heard from ministers from the Arab countries of Egypt, Oman, Algeria, Tunisia, Bahrain, Syria and the United Arab Emirates. In a statement that was circulated but not read at the General Assembly, Saudi Arabia spoke of its grave concern over the global financial crisis and called for effective action to re-stabilize markets. But the world's largest oil producer did not mention rising fuel prices that have caused a global crisis. The annual debate concludes on Monday, when diplomats from South Africa, Jordan, Ethiopia and Nigeria are among those scheduled to speak.

### [S. Korea, Russia agree on gas pipeline project involving N. Korea](#)

*Yonhap News Agency – 29 September*

South Korean President Lee Myung-bak and his Russian counterpart, Dmitry Medvedev, agreed at a Kremlin summit Monday to accelerate two-way cooperation in energy, resources and industrial technologies, upgrading their bilateral relations from a comprehensive partnership to a strategic partnership, Lee's aides said. In the first tangible

and unprecedented three-nation project, the two leaders agreed to send Russian natural gas through a pipeline to South Korea via North Korea starting in 2015.

Under the contract signed between Korea Gas Corp. and Russia's Gazprom, the Russian side is to send at least 7.5 million tons of natural gas annually for a period of 30 years through a long-distance pipeline running from Vladivostok in the Russian Far East to South Korea through North Korea. The volume of 7.5 million tons represents an estimated 20 percent of South Korea's annual natural gas consumption.

"Korea Gas Corp. and Gazprom will soon start a joint study on the construction of a Russian-South Korean natural gas pipeline that passes across North Korea," said Lee's office in a press statement. "South Korea and Russia will also seek various other tripartite economic cooperation projects involving North Korea through the gas pipeline project, providing fresh momentum for inter-Korean economic cooperation," said the statement.

Following the Kremlin summit, meanwhile, South Korea and Russia issued a 10-point joint statement calling for promoting strategic partnership across the board, including politics, diplomacy, security, defense, energy and economy. Both sides also agreed to regularly hold vice minister-level strategic talks to boost exchanges in military and defense fields, in particular. With the agreement, South Korea-Russia ties will be on par with Seoul's relations with China. A strategic partnership calls for expanding the scope and depth of exchanges in politics, military, foreign affairs, security and other sensitive fields.

Lee, accompanied by first lady Kim Yoon-ok and 14 official and special delegates, arrived in Moscow on Sunday for a three-day official visit, becoming the first South Korean president to travel to Russia in his inaugural year. Lee and Medvedev already met on the sidelines of the Group of Eight summit in Japan in July.

Following the summit, Lee and Medvedev observed their Cabinet ministers sign a total of 13 MOUs calling for strategic partnership in the fields of energy, resources, investment, industrial technology and information technology. The MOUs covered joint exploration of petroleum, uranium and other natural resources, construction of a Korea-only industrial complex near Moscow and exchanges between science and technology institutions of both sides.

Specifically, South Korean and Russian ministries in charge of energy policy agreed to hold regular meetings for strategic cooperation in the development of Russian natural resources, while the Korea National Oil Corp. will conduct a joint feasibility study on mines in the Russian Republic of Kalmykia.

In addition, a consortium of Korea Electric Power Corp., Korea Resources Corp. and LG International will participate in uranium mine development projects to be carried out by a subsidiary of the Russian entity AtomRed-MetZoloto, known as ARMZ. Seoul's Knowledge Economy Ministry signed an MOU with the Moscow State Government on the creation of a Korea-only industrial park on the outskirts of the Russian capital, which

will house about 30 Korean plants in the initial phase.

Two-way trade between South Korea and Russia surged from US\$4.18 billion in 2003 to \$15.06 billion in 2007, representing annual average growth of 38 percent. South Korea's investment in Russia as of June this year totaled \$1.5 billion, or 1 percent of the aggregate foreign investment in Russia. The investment has been rapidly growing in recent years, with a 3.6-fold increase reported last year.

Lee asked the Russian leaders to play a bigger role in promoting peace in Northeast Asia, as well as in the shaky six-nation talks on disabling North Korea's nuclear weapons program. Russia's stance on North Korea draws strong interest, as the communist North is now on the brink of restarting its nuclear weapons program shut down in July last year under a landmark disarmament deal with South Korea, the U.S., China, Russia and Japan.

### [US deploys powerful radar to Israel: Pentagon](#)

*AFP – 29 September*

The United States has deployed a powerful missile defense radar to Israel a year earlier than scheduled to enhance regional defenses against ballistic missiles, a Pentagon spokesman said Monday. "The system has arrived in Israel," Lieutenant Colonel Patrick Ryder told AFP, who said that about 120 US military personnel also were involved in the deployment.

It comes amid growing US and international concern about Iran's missile and nuclear programs and statements by Iran's leaders threatening Israel with extinction. "The radar will enhance and extend missile defense capabilities in the region, and function as a deterrent to attack," said Ryder. The Pentagon had previously scheduled to deploy the radar to Israel in the fall of 2009 for an exercise with the Israelis, but moved it up a year following high level talks in Washington.

The United States deployed a similar radar to Japan in 2006 in response to a North Korean missile test. Also known as an X-Band radar, the AN/TPY2 radar is designed to track ballistic missile warheads through space and provide ground-based missiles with the targeting data needed to intercept them.

Ryder said it "is one of the most powerful systems available to track medium to long-range missiles." Data from the system will be provided to Israel's missile defense system, but the radar will remain owned and operated by the United States, Ryder said. A crew of about 40 is required to operate and maintain the radar. Ryder would not say where it has been put, but reports have said it was being assembled in the Negev Desert.

### [Jitters Over China's Military Muscle](#)

*Sydney Morning Herald – 30 September*

CHINA is developing a modern military that will be the equal of Western armies, say defence analysts. A conference in London heard that within the next decade China will

possess an army second only to America's, a fact that could "embolden" it to military action.

The analysts, from Jane's Information Group, believe the Communist Party can only continue to rule if it maintains economic growth at more than 10 per cent. Therefore the rapid growth of its navy is matched by its desire to expand into the Indian Ocean and South China Sea to feed resources into its voracious economy.

"China is developing a modern, highly manoeuvrable force able to operate anywhere as well if not better than Western armies," said Christopher Foss, editor of Jane's Armour and Artillery, who added that in the last 10 years China had made "dramatic progress". During that time China's army has been substantially slimmed down into a leaner fighting force with new tanks and armoured vehicles. But its growing naval might poses the greatest threat.

By 2015, China is expected to have six Jin class submarines capable of firing the JL2 ballistic nuclear missile that could threaten both the west and east coasts of America, acting as deterrent to any intervention by Washington should China begin hostilities against Taiwan.

The conference heard that China's nuclear attack submarine force is expanding "quite considerably". Within the next year the first navy pilots will also begin training for aircraft carrier operations, while new air-to-air refuelling planes are being delivered that will double the range of its air force's increasingly modern fighters.

The editor of Jane's Intelligence Review, Christian Le Miere, said China would have less to fear from America if it had the threat of nuclear weapons off US waters allied to a "very capable military to back up diplomatic moves". However, he said the Chinese navy was still a considerable distance from its US counterpart, which spends 10 times China's budget building twice the number of vessels.

### [New Pakistan spy chief appointed](#)

*BBC* – 30 September

The military in Pakistan has appointed a new head of the powerful Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) agency. Lt Gen Ahmed Shujaa Pasha is a former head of military operations who launched recent offensives against militants near the Afghan border. He takes over amid mounting US pressure on Pakistan to do more to combat the Taleban and al-Qaeda. Gen Pasha's appointment is among several changes announced as part of a shake-up in the army's top command.

The BBC's Barbara Plett in Islamabad says the reshuffle will be closely scrutinised by the United States and Afghanistan, which have questioned the ISI's reliability in fighting the "war on terror". Pakistani observers say the move appears to be an effort by army chief Gen Ashfaq Kayani - who was himself ISI chief until a year ago - to consolidate his control over the military.

Our correspondent says Gen Pasha has been described as a modern professional soldier. As head of military operations, he was in charge of offensives which troops began last year against pro-Taliban militants in Swat, Waziristan and other areas of north-west Pakistan. Gen Pasha replaces Lt Gen Nadeem Taj, a loyalist of former President Pervez Musharraf who was appointed less than a year ago.

Observers say it is rare for an ISI chief to spend so short a time in his post. "These were the changes due over a period of time. This is how the system works in the army," chief military spokesman Maj Gen Athar Abbas told the AFP news agency. Security analyst and former general Talat Masood told AFP that Gen Kayani had now "completed a team of his choice". "He will be able to now lead the army with greater confidence." Gen Kayani has also changed four of nine corps commanders and named a new chief of the general staff.

The ISI has helped kill or capture a number of senior al-Qaeda figures since 2001. But it has long been accused of collaborating with militants, despite government assurances the agency has been reformed. The ISI had a key role in funding the Afghan mujahideen and critics say some of its agents still play a double game, viewing certain militant groups as assets to use in Afghanistan and in the dispute with India over Kashmir.

Earlier this year, Pakistan said its intelligence agents had been accused by the US of alerting al-Qaeda-linked militants before the US launched missile attacks against them. The ISI was also accused of involvement in the bombing of the Indian embassy in Kabul in July. Islamabad denied the allegation.

Gen Pasha's appointment also comes after a major stand-off between the Pakistani government and the army chief, who resisted attempts to put the ISI under civilian control. But whether his reshuffle will lead to policy changes or reform in the ISI remains to be seen, our correspondent says.

Pakistan's powerful military has ruled the country for about half of its 61 years of independence. Gen Kayani has indicated he wants to keep the military out of politics but he has shown a tough streak, strongly condemning recent US cross-border raids into north-west Pakistan.

### [Russia plans to raise defense expenditure by 50% in 3 years](#)

*Ria Novosti* – 30 September

Russia is planning to increase its spending on defense by 50% in the next three years, a senior MP said Tuesday. Russia's defense budget is believed to be less than a tenth of the United States', but the country's military expenditure has been steadily growing in the past few years.

"According to a draft federal budget for 2009-2011, expenditure on national defense will increase in 2009 by 25.7% from 1.02 trillion rubles (\$40 billion) to 1.28 trillion rubles (\$51.3 billion) and would account for 14% of total budget spending," said Viktor Zavarzin, chairman of the Defense Committee in Russia's lower house of parliament. He also said that by 2011 the total defense expenditures would increase by 45.6% compared with 2008.

A large portion of additional expenditures would go toward raising salaries and improving the living conditions of military personnel, he added. Russia is soon to adopt a new military doctrine that aims to transform the Armed Forces into a mobile and effective military force. Their structures will be "optimized" through the use of combined arms units performing similar tasks.

President Dmitry Medvedev said last week that Russia would make the modernization of its nuclear deterrent and Armed Forces a priority in the decade up to 2020. "We must ensure air superiority, precision strikes at land and sea targets, and timely deployment of troops," Medvedev said. "We are planning to launch large-scale production of warships, primarily, nuclear submarines with cruise missiles and multi-purpose attack submarines."

Russia's Defense Ministry earlier said it would spend around 1 trillion rubles (\$40 billion) of federal budget funds in 2008, 20% more than in 2007, and that in 2008-10 military spending would account for 15.5-16% of total federal budget spending.

### [Taiwan arms deal sours U.S.-China relations](#)

*Christian Science Monitor* – 06 October

Washington's approval of nearly \$6.5 billion in arms sales to Taiwan Friday drew a relieved "thank you" from the self-governed island nation, but sharp rebukes from Beijing. The Bush administration on Friday notified Congress of the deal, after an unusually long delay that had led some to question the strength of the US security commitment to Taiwan.

Taiwan has not yet purchased the weapons. But a Congressional notification is the point in the arms sales process that triggers a storm of official Chinese diplomatic protests, said Mark Stokes, a former top Pentagon official dealing with China and Taiwan, in a talk to the Taiwan Foreign Correspondents Club earlier this year.

China typically summons top US diplomats in Beijing and elsewhere for a sharp dressing-down immediately after such notifications, Mr. Stokes said. According to Xinhua, China's state-controlled news agency, the foreign ministry this time summoned the US embassy's charge d'affaires in Beijing. The report cited a statement on China's foreign ministry website.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao said the Chinese government and people firmly opposed this action which seriously damaged China's interests and the Sino-US

relations. ... "It is only natural that this move would stir up strong indignation of the Chinese government and people," he said.

Meanwhile, the Associated Press (AP) reported that Taipei welcomed the news. Taiwan's president, Ma Ying-jeou, took power in May on a platform of improved commercial ties with China. But he also wants to maintain a robust defense in order to counter China's military buildup across the Taiwan Strait. On Saturday, Taiwan's Presidential Office spokesman Wang Yu-chi thanked the U.S. and said the government wants to maintain a strong defense against any threat from China while seeking improvement in cross-strait relations. "President Ma Ying-jeou would like to express gratitude to the U.S. for the arms package," said Wang. "A strong defense and peace in the Taiwan Strait are necessary for Taiwan's prosperity."

China views Taiwan as rebel territory and vehemently opposes any US arms sales to the island. The US is bound by domestic law to make available to Taiwan sufficient weapons for its self-defense. Further complicating the issue, Taiwanese themselves cannot agree on the nature and extent of the threat from China. Their bickering held up Taipei's arms request for several years, amid legislative gridlock.

Some of the arms approved for sale Friday were initially offered by the Bush administration in 2001. Taiwan purchased and received several of those systems, notably four Kidd-class destroyers. The approved weapons are only about half of what Taiwan requested, in dollar terms. Washington gave the green light Friday to sales of Apache attack helicopters, Patriot missile batteries and other air defense systems, and fighter jet spare parts. But it reduced the number of Patriot batteries and missiles offered, and continues to sit on a request for Black Hawk helicopters and a submarine feasibility study.

The US also continues to ignore a separate request by Taiwan for 66 advanced F-16 fighter jets. Security analysts say Taiwan urgently needs those jets in order to maintain a balance of air power over the Taiwan Strait. One such analyst was quoted by Singapore's Straits Times in July: Professor Lin Chong-pin of Tamkang University, who was formerly Taiwan's vice-defence minister, told The Straits Times that with the rapid modernisation of China's People's Liberation Army (PLA), 'Taiwan's last remaining edge in air supremacy would be gone if the F-16s are not coming'.

The weapons cleared for sale Friday represent a massive layout, even if they fell short of Taiwan's wish list. Citing US government statistics, Bloomberg noted that Taiwan received \$18.3 billion in weapons under the US Foreign Military Sales program in the entire period of 1950 to 2006. The arms deal is likely to draw far more attention in China than in the US. Last year, a survey on public attitudes toward US-China relations found that Taiwan was the No. 1 concern for the Chinese public. For Americans, however, the top worry was job losses to China – showing the gap in priorities and perceptions between the two big powers.

Chinese Communist Party propaganda has reinforced popular sentiment that Taiwan is an inalienable part of China that must one day be returned to the "motherland," by force if

need be. That reunification is seen as a last bit of unfinished business in China's transformation from humiliated victim of colonial predations to global power. Meanwhile, Taiwan continues to consolidate its young democracy under the shadow of China's military threat. Numerous polls, including those published by the Election Study Center at Taipei's National Chengchi University show that a solid majority of Taiwanese want to maintain the island's political autonomy.

### [Israeli PM gets no promises on Russian arms sales](#)

*Washington Post* – 07 October

Israel's prime minister said Tuesday he received assurances that Russia would not allow Israel's security to be threatened, but offered no indication he won the concrete promises he sought on Russian arms sales or sanctions on Iran. Israel is concerned that Russia could sell its enemies, Iran and Syria, advanced S-300 anti-aircraft missile systems. That would make any strike at Iran's first nuclear power plant which Russia is helping to build more difficult. Iran's president has vowed that Israel should be "wiped off the map" \_ and Israel fears that the nuclear program Iran says is to produce power is actually meant to manufacture weapons.

"We dealt with weapons sales, or the possibility of weapons sales," Ehud Olmert told reporters after a Kremlin meeting with Russian President Dmitry Medvedev. "The highest levels of Russian government understand well the Israeli position and are aware of the ramifications that such sales would have on stability in the region." Olmert said Israel and Russia agreed to set up a forum to "upgrade their strategic dialogue" and discuss potential Russian arms sales. But he gave no indication that Medvedev had offered anything more concrete.

Russia has been against imposing more U.N. sanctions on Iran, and Olmert did not say that had changed. Medvedev said "he opposes a nuclear Iran" and expressed "sharp criticism" of Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's fiery rhetoric toward Israel, Olmert said. "He said Russian policy will continue to be one that will never, in any circumstances, hurt Israel's security," Olmert said.

Olmert came to Russia with little time remaining in office and little clout. Plagued by corruption charges, he has announced he will step down as soon as his successor, Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni, forms a new government or elections are held. Underscoring Olmert's lame-duck status, he and Medvedev did not hold a joint news conference and Prime Minister Vladimir Putin did not bother to meet with him. Officially, Olmert's office was told that Putin would be in his hometown of St. Petersburg celebrating his birthday.

The Kremlin put out a cursory statement after the talks, saying Medvedev had praised the "economic cooperation between the two countries." In recent months Israel has done its best to make Russia happy. It has distanced itself from Georgia, announcing even before Georgia's August war with Russia that it was cutting weapons sales to Tbilisi. Israel later further restricted defense contacts and even instructed defense consultants not to visit the Caucasus nation.

Olmert said he discussed Georgia with Medvedev, but offered few details, saying only that Medvedev said he "appreciates Israel's careful and responsible stance during the Caucasus crisis." Before Olmert's trip, the Israeli government announced it was returning a czarist-era Jerusalem building \_ the Sergei Courtyard\_ to Russian ownership. The two nations also recently mutually dropped visa requirements for travelers.

## **DEFENCE ACQUISITION AND TECHNOLOGY**

### [RP to launch bids for combat helicopters](#)

*ABS CBN – 28 September*

The Philippines will seek bids for eight new combat helicopters next month, part of a nearly \$100 million purchase of 24 helicopters this year to upgrade its Vietnam War-era air force, a defence official said on Friday. The Philippines has set aside about 5 billion pesos (\$107.8 million) each year from 2006 on top of the annual defence budget to fund a modernisation programme to catch up with neighbours in Southeast Asia.

"We're ready to open bids next month for eight brand-new combat utility helicopters worth about 3 billion pesos," Roberto Feliciano, an assistant defence secretary, told Reuters in an interview, adding three or four top manufacturers have submitted offers. The bidding scheduled for October 9 is the second attempt to procure the helicopters. An earlier tender this month failed when only one bidder, Agusta Westland, applied and was declared ineligible due to a technicality, another defence official said.

Feliciano, who also heads the defence department's bid and awards committee, said he was working on approval and implementation of about 50 modernisation projects worth close to 20 billion pesos (\$430 million). His committee is to upgrade the military's ships, aircraft, armoured vehicles, trucks, rifles, ammunitions, radio sets and other equipment to improve soldiers' ability to move, shoot and communicate.

Feliciano said the defence department had identified a local company, Prime Tech Aerospace, and its Montana-based partner, Rotorcraft Service Center LLC, to supply 10 second-hand UH-1H Huey helicopters at a contract price of 373 million pesos. "We have not awarded the contract for the Hueys," he said, adding the Philippine Air Force was sending pilots and engineers to conduct tests in Montana before the deal could be signed.

The military was also re-bidding six night-capable attack helicopters worth 1.2 billion pesos after the defence department scrapped an earlier deal with a local partner of a U.S.-based helicopter manufacturer due to alleged irregularities. Feliciano said the three helicopter projects worth nearly \$100 million were in the government's priority list because of the military's efforts to defeat Muslim and communist rebels.

Currently, the Philippines has 85 Vietnam War-era UH-1H choppers and 22 MD520 attack helicopters, but only about half of them are in flying conditions. Most of the choppers were donated by the United States as part of military aid to fight rebels. "Our

hands are full. We're rushing all these projects because our military has a deadline to beat in carrying out its mission to end internal security threats," Feliciano said.

### [Russia to start MiG fighter deliveries to India in spring 2009](#)

*Ria Novosti* – 29 September

Russia will start deliveries of MiG-29K Fulcrum-D carrier fighters to India in the spring of 2009, the aircraft manufacturer's marketing director said Monday. Russia and India signed a contract on January 20, 2004, stipulating the delivery of 12 single-seat MiG-29K and four two-seat MiG-29KUB by 2009, to be deployed on the Admiral Gorshkov, currently being retrofitted in Russia for the Indian Navy.

"The first four MiG-29K aircraft will be delivered to India in the spring of 2009," Mikhail Globenko said, adding that the remaining 12 jets would be delivered "by the fall." The MiG official said there was an option in the contract to supply an additional 30 fighters by 2015 and the company was in talks with the Indian navy on exercising this option. "We are ready [to exercise this option] and it all now depends on the Indian side," Globenko said.

He also said that Indian pilots started Monday a five-month training course for MiG-29K in Russia and technical personnel had already been training in Russia for two months. "By the time the first aircraft arrive in India, their pilots and technicians will be ready," the Russian official said.

### [India to buy battle tanks from Russia, extends deal](#)

*Reuters* – 29 September

India will buy 347 T-90 battle tanks from Russia and build 1,000 more locally with Russian help, the defence minister said on Monday, as the two nations decided to iron out differences that had delayed several arms deals. India, one of the world's biggest arms buyers and Russia, a long time supplier, also agreed to speed up delivery of an aircraft carrier that has been slated for delivery in 2012, a defence official said.

The announcement came after a meeting between Russian Defence Minister Anatoly Serdyukov and India's Defence Minister A.K. Antony, who said the two countries had also decided to extend a defence cooperation deal by another 10 years. India is moving closer to the West in a challenge to traditional ally and supplier Russia. European and U.S. firms are bidding for India's \$10 billion deal to buy 126 fighter jets, one of the biggest arms contracts in the world.

In 2004, India and Russia had signed a \$1.6 billion deal to bring the Admiral Gorshkov to India by 2008. India may now have to pay an extra \$1.2 billion for the carrier's refitting costs. "The Indian side has considered the Russian demand for an escalation in price....the same has been considered and would be placed before the cabinet for consideration," Antony said in a statement on Monday.

India plans to spend \$30 billion over the next four years to modernise its largely Soviet-era arms. The two countries agreed to speed up pending projects, including delivery of Sukhoi-30MKI fighters, battle tanks, stealth frigates and missile destroyers, officials said.

While analysts say Russia was delaying some arms deliveries because it was uneasy about India's growing ties with the United States and France to buy more weapons, India says Russia was still their tried and tested friend. "A major part of our defence inventory is of Russian origin, and continues to remain so even now," Antony said. The defence deal between the two countries is over \$35 billion since they started a partnership in the 1960s, officials said.

### [India, Russia to develop 2 versions of 5th-generation fighter](#)

*Ria Novosti* – 29 September

Russia and India will jointly develop two versions of a new fifth-generation fighter, the head of an Indian defense company said on Monday. A Russian-Indian advanced multirole fighter is being developed by Sukhoi, which is part of Russia's United Aircraft Corporation (UAC), along with India's Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), under an intergovernmental agreement signed in October 2007.

"The aircraft will have different wings, electronics and radars," HAL Chairman Ashok K. Baweja said after a meeting of the Russian-Indian intergovernmental commission on military technical cooperation in New Delhi. He also said India will develop a two-seat version to meet the requirements of the Indian air superiority doctrine, while Russia will develop a single-seat fighter.

Russia's Sukhoi aircraft maker earlier said it had started the construction of a prototype of the fifth-generation fighter, which will feature high maneuverability and stealth to ensure air superiority and precision in destroying ground and sea targets. The Russian version will be built at the Komsomolsk-on-Amur aircraft-manufacturing plant in Russia's Far East. Flight tests of the fifth-generation fighter will begin as early as 2009, and mass production of the aircraft may start by 2015, Sukhoi said.

Russia's military cooperation with India goes back nearly half a century, and the country accounts for about 40% of Russian arms exports. Russian-Indian intergovernmental commission sessions are held annually and alternate between New Delhi and Moscow. The previous meeting took place in the Russian capital in October 2007.

### [Israel switches from U.S. cluster bombs, buys local](#)

*Reuters* – 30 September

Israel has cut purchases of U.S.-made cluster bombs, defense officials said Tuesday, stocking up on supplies from a state-owned Israeli company rather than heeding calls for an outright ban. Israel's armed forces want to avoid a repeat of civilian casualties from cluster bombs during and after the 2006 Lebanon war, the officials said. More than 100

countries have banned the bombs because they can kill indiscriminately. Cluster bombs have a relatively high failure rate compared to more conventional explosive munitions, but are favored by armies as a way of hitting enemy combatants in areas where no precise targets can be located.

The Israeli air force and artillery showered south Lebanon with cluster shells, each containing dozens or hundreds of grenade-size bomblets, during the 34-day war against Hezbollah guerrillas two years ago. Between 30 percent and 40 percent of the bombs failed to explode on impact, according to the United Nations Mine Action Coordination Center (UNMACC). Many of these were later detonated by accident, killing 20 civilians and wounding 195, it said. Israeli defense officials disputed the UNMACC's findings, putting the "dud rate" at less than 15 percent.

"But we recognize that this was a problem, caused by the fact that in the first week and half of the war we were relying, pretty much exclusively, on an arsenal of American ordnance that was likely to produce duds, either because of design faults or the fact it had been on the shelf so long," one official said. "We were cognizant of the civilian costs of the war in Lebanon and the lessons learned from the cluster-bomb issue received especially close attention."

While no army wants to fire dud bombs in conflict, failed devices that later maim and kill civilians have created diplomatic pressures that Israel wants to limit. The officials said Israel has since begun switching to the M85 cluster bomb made by Israel Military Industries' (IMI), which says its the weapon includes a self-destruct fuse designed to blow up unexploded ordnance. IMI claims a less than 1 percent dud-rate. A 2007 report on the M85 by Norwegian People's Aid, one of several groups campaigning for a ban on cluster munitions, rated it at more like 10 percent.

Critics say cluster bomb reliability can be impaired by tough terrain or by bomb container shells that fail to open properly -- factors not always simulated in laboratory tests. The Norwegian study confirmed that American cluster munitions used by Israel in Lebanon were less reliable. "By far the most widely used bomblets were the older U.S.-produced. These bomblets are known to be unreliable and, not surprisingly, a high proportion failed to function and were left unexploded across large areas of land," it said.

The United States, along with Israel and other major military powers such as China and Russia, has declined to join a global drive to ban the cluster bomb. But the Pentagon said in July that it would require better safety standards in U.S.-made cluster munitions.

### [U.S. Coast Guard Chooses New Patrol Boat](#)

*Defense News* – 30 September

Years after Congress urged the U.S. Coast Guard to speed up its patrol boat replacement program, the service finally picked a design and a shipbuilder for its new cutters. The winner: Bollinger Shipyards, with a proven design from Dutch shipbuilder and ship designer Damen.

"It's imperative that we get this program under way," Adm. Thad Allen, commandant of the Coast Guard, told reporters gathered Sept. 29 at service headquarters in Washington. The \$88 million contract announced Sept. 26 is for the design and construction of the first Sentinel-class patrol boat. The firm fixed-price contract includes six option periods which, if exercised, would add up to 34 new cutters at an ultimate price of \$1.5 billion. The average unit price of the new ships, once the program kicks into production, should be \$45 million to \$50 million, said Rear Adm. Gary Blore, the Coast Guard's top acquisition official.

The service has a need for 58 new Fast Response Cutters (FRC) to replace the aging 110-foot Island class cutters that have reached the end of their service lives. The FRC is the smallest of three new cutter types envisioned under the Deepwater program to upgrade the Coast Guard's ships, aircraft and systems.

The first of the largest new ships, the National Security Cutter, entered service in August, while construction of the medium-sized cutters has yet to begin. For budget reasons the service had wanted to put off buying new FRC patrol boats for some years and as a stopgap measure rebuild the Island class to become 123-footers, but the conversions failed and the modernization program was halted at eight ships.

Coast Guard engineers also balked at Northrop Grumman's proposal to build a new class of patrol boats using composite construction techniques, and in the spring of 2007 the service announced it was "taking back" management of the patrol boat program to produce an "FRC-B" alternative to the original plan. The FRC-B would come from an existing patrol boat design, and the service began a worldwide search for an acceptable ship.

"This marks a new era in how we do acquisitions," Allen declared of the service's effort to eliminate middlemen. "This is a cradle-to-grave Coast Guard program." Earlier this year, the service winnowed down proposals from six shipbuilders to a final list of three, from which "Bollinger had by far the best proposal," Blore said. Citing federal regulations, the service would not reveal what companies submitted competing proposals, but industry sources said the other two finalists were General Dynamics Bath Iron Works and Marinette Marine.

The choice of Bollinger continues a long-standing relationship between the Louisiana shipbuilder and the Coast Guard. "We're very pleased," Bollinger CEO officer Donald "Boysie" Bollinger told Defense News on Sept. 30. "We have built every patrol boat they own." While Bollinger also carried out the failed 123-foot conversions, Bollinger said the new contract showed the service still had faith in the shipbuilder. "We searched all the patrol boats around the world and came up with that design as best fitting the Coast Guard requirements," Bollinger said. Bollinger said the shipyard would deliver a new cutter every eight weeks starting with the fifth hull.

The Sentinels will be built at the company's shipyard in Lockport, La., Bollinger said - the same yard that built the 110-footers in the 1980s and now is finishing up the last of 73 87-footers for the Coast Guard and Navy. Bollinger also had planned to build its Littoral Combat Ships (LCS) at Lockport if the Navy awards prime contractor Lockheed Martin enough new LCS contracts. While that hasn't yet happened, Bollinger said the new Coast Guard contract means the company now will build the LCS at its shipyard in Amelia, La., west of Lockport and closer to the Gulf of Mexico.

The 153-and-a-half foot-long Sentinels are based on the Damen 4708 design for the South African Coast Guard's three Lilian Ngoyi-class patrol boats. Those ships were built at Cape Town and entered service in 2004 and 2005. Similar craft include Jamaica's three Cornwall-class and three Leonard C. Banfield-class patrol boats for Barbados, all built in Damen's Gorinchem shipyard in the Netherlands, and Britain's four Seeker-class patrol vessels for the Revenue and Customs Maritime Branch.

The Sentinel design, Blore said, features a pilot house with 360-degree all-around visibility set near-amidships to minimize motion. The craft will be fitted with active fin stabilizers and a bow thruster, and Bollinger added a stern ramp with the same 12-degree angle found on the 87-footers. The ramp can accommodate rigid hull inflatable boats (RHIBs) up to 7.9 meters in length, but Blore noted the choice of an RHIB for the craft has yet to be made. The Damen design's controllable-pitch propellers were changed to fixed-pitch on the U.S. version, eliminating some complexity and saving weight without giving up much maneuverability. Coast Guard officials liked the large mess area, able to hold the vessel's entire 22-person crew at the same time, as well as the cozy berthing arrangements, where the largest berthing space has 4 bunks.

The Sentinels will be armed by an automatic, stabilized, remotely operated 25mm chain gun mounted far forward and four crew-served .50-caliber machine guns. The craft will be powered by two 20-cylinder, 4,300 kilowatt MTU diesel engines providing a top speed of 28 knots - better than the 23.8-knot-speed of the South African patrol boats, but short, Blore noted, of the 30-knot requirement the Coast Guard had wanted. Only one other requirement isn't met by the Sentinels - they don't have the limited chemical-biological-radiological protection of the original Fast Response Cutter requirement, Blore said. The ships will be able to stay at sea for at least five days and be underway for 2,500 hours per year.

Coast Guard officials have not yet traveled to South Africa to see the 4708 parent craft for themselves, but said that with the contract award they "probably" would talk with the South African Coast Guard about the ships' concept of operations, and visit Damen to discuss potential design modifications. Having chosen a new patrol boat, Coast Guard officials are eager to see the new ship in action. The service will be evaluating the design once it enters service, and could re-compete the remainder of the total of 58 new patrol boats that are needed. "We may look at a different patrol boat a few years from now if it doesn't meet all our criteria," Blore added.

### Israel Asks to Buy F-35s: Pentagon

*Defense News* – 30 September

Israel has asked to buy up to 75 F-35 Joint Strike Fighters in a deal worth as much as \$15.2 billion if all options are exercised, the Pentagon said Sept. 30. The Defense Security Cooperation Agency said the sale initially would be for 25 fighters designed for conventional take off and landing.

But Israel would have the option of buying another 50 of the aircraft, either designed for conventional take off and landing or for short take off and vertical landing, the agency said. "The total value, if all options are exercised, could be as high as 15.2 billion dollars," it said in a statement.

The F-35 is a stealthy new multi-role fighter built by Lockheed Martin that is intended to replace the F-16. Israeli officials have said they plan to buy 100 fighters over the next decade. It was unclear how soon delivery of the aircraft might begin.

The DSCA disclosed the proposed sale in a notification to Congress, which has 30 days to raise any objections to the sale. A deal would then have to be concluded with the Israelis. "It is vital to the U.S. national interest to assist Israel to develop and maintain a strong and ready self-defense capability. This proposed sale is consistent with those objectives," the DSCA said. "Israel needs these aircraft to augment its present operational inventory and to enhance its air-to-air and air-to-ground self-defense capability," it said.

### Russia to deploy new nuclear missile

*Reuters* – 02 October

Russia hopes to deploy a new nuclear missile next year designed to penetrate anti-missile defenses and will build eight submarines to carry it, defense officials said on Thursday. The latest statements underline Moscow's determination to upgrade its nuclear strike forces on land, sea and air. They are regarded by Russian commanders as the cornerstone of the country's defenses.

Colonel-General Vladimir Popovkin, head of armaments for the Russian armed forces, told the Defense Ministry newspaper "Red Star" that Russia's recent war with Georgia "compels us to rethink the current state of the armed forces and how they should develop further."

President Dmitry Medvedev and Prime Minister Vladimir Putin have both pledged to extend Russia's recent military build-up with extra funds to buy new, high-tech arms. On Wednesday, Putin announced an extra \$3.1 billion of spending next year, partly to replace equipment lost in the Georgia war. Despite the billions of dollars spent on them since Putin came to power as president in 2000, Russia's 1 million-strong armed forces remain poorly equipped, badly paid and reliant on a large proportion of unwilling conscripts.

The deputy commander in chief of the Russian navy, Admiral Alexander Tatarinov, said on Thursday that by 2015 Moscow would build a fleet of nuclear-powered submarines to carry a new, nuclear-capable strategic missile. "The navy has gone over to building ships and nuclear submarines by the batch," Tatarinov told Interfax news agency. "A new state armaments program includes a plan to build a batch of eight nuclear submarines that would be armed with new Bulava strategic missiles."

Defense analysts based in Moscow say much of the extra spending has not reached the front line because of corruption or mismanagement and many weapons programs are running late. One of these is the Bulava, a submarine-launched long-range nuclear missile which Putin says will be capable of penetrating any missile defenses -- a reference to Washington's plans for a new global system to shoot down hostile rockets. The Bulava, a modified version of the land-based Topol-M, has had a checkered history with several test launch failures and is running at least two years late. The navy pronounced the latest Bulava exercise on September 18 a success, saying the missile flew from the White Sea across Russia to the Far East.

Popovkin, who is also deputy defense minister, said he hoped the armed forces would accept the Bulava for service next year. Upgrading Russia's strategic nuclear forces remained a priority because they were the cornerstone of its defenses, he said. "As long as we are a nuclear power, no hotheads will venture to attack our country," Popovkin said in the interview. " ... We have already this year started fitting out strategic nuclear forces with the Topol-M missile," he added.

Russia also plans to modernize its nuclear-capable Tupolev TU-160 supersonic strategic bombers and to fully commission the first nuclear-powered submarine to carry the Bulava missile, he added. The submarine, the Yuri Dolgoruky, was launched in February, six years after its original scheduled date, though it still lacks the missiles it was designed to carry.

### [US Congress notified of possible US\\$6.5b Taiwan arms sales](#)

*Channel News Asia* – 04 October

The Pentagon notified Congress Friday of 6.5 billion dollars in possible arms sales to Taiwan that would include advanced interceptor missiles, Apache attack helicopters and submarine-launched missiles. The Defence Security and Cooperation Agency said the proposed sales were aimed at improving Taiwan's defences and would not alter the basic military balance in the region.

It would end a year-long lull in US arms sales to Taipei, which has enjoyed improved relations between China since President Ma Ying-jeou was elected earlier this year on a platform of easing tensions with the mainland.

"All foreign military sales are discussed and approved (based on) long established inter agency procedure, and we only recently finished that procedure with regard to these notifications for Taiwan," a State Department official said.

The proposed sales would involve 330 Patriot Advanced Capability (PAC-3) missiles worth up to 3.1 billion dollars, and 30 AH-64D Apache Longbow helicopters worth 2.5 billion dollars. Taiwan has also asked to buy 31 UGM-84L submarine launched Harpoon anti-ship missiles valued at up to 200 million dollars. It also requested 182 Javelin guided missiles with 20 Javelin command launch units worth 47 million dollars. Other proposed sales call for upgrading four E-2 Hawkeye aircraft and supplies of spare parts for fighter aircraft, transport planes, radar and communications equipment.

"The proposed sale will help improve the security of the recipient and assist in maintaining political stability, military balance, and economic progress in the region," the DSCA said. Congress has 30 days to raise objections to the proposed sales, which are likely to face criticism from China.

It would be the first time that the United States has sold Taiwan PAC-3 missiles, a system designed to intercept incoming ballistic missiles near the end of their trajectory. The missiles would come with four radar sets, two tactical command stations, 24 launching stations, four engagement control stations and other equipment.

The attack helicopters would be equipped with more advanced targeting systems and 1,000 Hellfire missiles, it said. The Apaches would "upgrade the anti-armour day/night missile capability, provide for the defence of vital installations, and provide close air support for the military ground forces," it said.

It would also be the first time Taiwan would get submarine-launched Harpoon missiles. "The recipient has previously purchased both air- and surface-launched Harpoon missiles and will be able to absorb and effectively utilize these submarine-launched missiles," the agency said. The Javelins, which are portable anti-tank weapons, would improve the ability of Taiwanese ground forces to attack armoured vehicles, buildings and field fortifications, the agency said.

The announcements followed a visit to the United States this week by Taiwanese defence minister, Chen Chao-min, the first of its kind since 2002. Taiwan and the mainland have been governed separately since they split in 1949 at the end of a civil war, but Beijing sees the island as part of its territory awaiting reunification, by force if necessary. China has repeatedly threatened to invade Taiwan should the island declare formal independence.

### [Carriers to be electric powered](#)

*BBC* – 06 October

A £235m contract to build two electrically-powered Royal Navy aircraft carriers has been signed. The Ministry of Defence (MoD) says HMS Queen Elizabeth and Prince of Wales will be more fuel efficient compared to older ships. The 280-metre long "super carriers" will cost around £4bn, and should be operating within six to eight years.

The Navy says the ships' design represents a "step change" in the way warships are powered. The carriers will carry more than 8,500 tonnes of fuel and have diesel and gas turbine driven generators.

An MoD spokesman said: "Using electrical transmission, it will only be necessary for the two aircraft carriers to run sufficient generating capacity to meet immediate needs. "Less fuel will be used overall so the environmental impact will be greatly reduced. The future aircraft carriers' engines will also comply with all current emissions legislation." The £235m-worth of contracts signed in Fareham are for gas turbines and generators, motors and propellers, as well as rudders and stabilisers.

Thales UK, the UK's second largest defence company, will be responsible for the procurement, systems design and overall systems integration of the power and propulsion of the warships. The equipment will be integrated into the ships in the most cost effective way, according to Rear Admiral Bob Love, director general of the Navy's defence equipment and support division.

He said, "The new carriers represent a series of firsts for the Fleet and this latest propulsion technology has not yet been seen in the Royal Navy on this scale." "This is a step change in the way our ships are powered and, as well as boosting capacity, will significantly improve fuel efficiency enabling uninterrupted long distance deployments and reducing running costs." Two gas turbines for the ships will be built in Bristol and the generators will be built in Rugby.

Electricity will be used to power the ships, enable the launch and recovery of aircraft and provide lighting, cooking and heating for the crews. The MoD believes there will be enough energy to supply a town "the size of Swindon" to power the largest ships ever sailed by the Navy.

Housing 1,450 Royal Navy and RAF personnel, the carriers will have flight-decks as big as 49 tennis courts and be capable of carrying up to 40 aircraft. They are being constructed in shipyards at Portsmouth and Barrow-in-Furness, Glasgow, with final assembly at Babcock's Rosyth. The MoD estimates that the design and build the vessels will involve the work of 10,000 people.

## **NON-TRADITIONAL SECURITY**

### [Russia sends warship to fight piracy near Somalia](#)

*Ria Novosti* – 26 September

Russia's Navy has sent a missile frigate to waters off the Somali coast to fight piracy in the region, a Navy spokesman said on Friday. "The Neustrashimy (Fearless) frigate from the Baltic Fleet left the main naval base in Russia's Baltic exclave of Kaliningrad on Wednesday to ensure security in several regions of the world oceans," Capt. 1st Rank Igor Dygalo said. He added that Russia had decided to periodically send its warships to regions plagued by sea piracy to protect its citizens and commercial vessels.

Pirates are increasingly active in the waters off Somalia, which has no effective government and no navy to police its coastline. The International Maritime Bureau said more than 30 incidents of piracy were registered in the region in 2007. According to UN data, 26 attacks have been committed so far this year off the coast of the East African nation.

Russian nationals are frequently among the crews of civilian ships hijacked by pirates off the Somalia coast. In the most recent case pirates off the coast of Somalia seized a Ukrainian ship en route to Kenya with three Russian, 17 Ukrainian and one Latvian national on board.

"We are planning to participate in international efforts to fight piracy off the Somalia coast, but the Russian warships will conduct operations on their own," Adm. Vladimir Vysotsky earlier said. At the beginning of June, the UN Security Council passed a resolution permitting countries to enter Somalia's territorial waters to combat "acts of piracy and armed robbery at sea."

The Neustrashimy is the only Project 1154 Yastreb class missile frigate in active service with the Russian Navy to have been built before the collapse of the Soviet Union. It is designed as a general purpose ASW ship to follow on from the Krivak class frigates and incorporates some 'stealth' technology. The ship's armament includes SS-N-25 Switchblade anti-ship missiles, SA-N-9 Gauntlet SAM, a 100-mm gun, torpedoes and depth charges. The frigate also carries a Ka-27 ASW helicopter.

### [Chinese police smash criminal network linked to milk crisis](#)

ABC – 30 September

Police in northern China say they have detained 22 people after smashing a network that made and sold the industrial chemical melamine and added it to milk. Nineteen of those detained in Hebei province are managers of farms and milk purchasing stations. Xinhua news agency reports the detentions came after more than 800 police raided 41 sites in the city of Shijiazhuang, seizing over 200 kilogrammes of melamine.

It says according to police, the melamine was produced in secret plants and then sold to the dairy industry. Shijiazhuang is the headquarters of San Lu Group, the company at the centre of a tainted dairy product scandal in which 53,000 children have fallen ill and four have died.

British confectionery group Cadbury is withdrawing all of its 11 chocolate products made in Beijing on concern over the possibility of contamination with melamine in its Chinese plant. The London-based group said its products, including Dairy Milk chocolate, were being recalled from mainland China and the export markets of Taiwan, Hong Kong and Australia as a precautionary step pending further supply of fresh product.

A growing list of Chinese milk and milk-related products have been taken off shelves

around the world in recent weeks after it came to light that some milk had been contaminated with melamine which led to thousands affected and four deaths.

Melamine is a relatively cheap industrial chemical that can be used to cheat protein quality checks in milk and a week ago the Chinese health ministry said 104 people were seriously ill and close to 40,000 others were affected by contaminated milk.

### [Pirates off Somalia get \\$18-30 million ransoms: report](#)

*Reuters* – 01 October

Piracy in the Gulf of Aden has cost shippers between \$18-30 million so far this year in ransoms and is threatening global business, British think-tank Chatham House said on Thursday. Pirates have hijacked more than 30 ships off Somalia this year, making the country's 3,300 km (2,060 mile) coastline one of the most dangerous in the world and threatening an important shipping lane between Europe and Asia.

"Total ransom payments for 2008 probably lie in the range of \$18-30 million. Inflation of ransom demands makes this an ever more lucrative business," a Chatham House report said. The gangs have received ransoms between \$500,000 and \$2 million for each ship taken this year, according to the report titled: Threatening Global Trade, Feeding Local Wars.

Chatham House says the piracy was likely to divert shipping away from the major global sea artery used by about 20,000 vessels each year, increasing operating costs and end prices. Risk insurance premiums have risen tenfold this year, the report said. Shippers are considering avoiding the Gulf of Aden for a longer route to Europe and North America around the Cape of Good Hope, Chatham House said.

"Extra weeks of travel and fuel consumption would add considerably to the cost of transporting goods. At a time when the price of oil is a major concern, anything that could contribute to a further rise in prices must be considered very serious indeed." The pirates are getting more sophisticated and brazen as little is done to counter their activity, the report said.

In the latest hijacking, Somali pirates captured a Ukrainian ship carrying 33 tanks and have demanded a \$20 million ransom. The pirates are said to be using MANPADS (Man Portable Air Defense Systems) and rocket propelled grenades during their attacks. They also have GPS systems and satellite phones.

Most attacks have been in the Gulf of Aden between Yemen and north Somalia, a major route leading to the Suez canal linking Europe and Asia. Despite U.S. and French military bases in the area and the U.N. Security Council having promised to take steps against the pirates, the Chatham House report said international action was lacking.

The U.S. Navy said last month allied warships in an international force in the region had stopped 12 attacks since May and were doing all they could and that shipping companies

should take measures to protect their vessels and crews. Russia said last month it had sent a warship to Somalia's coast to combat pirates and German Defense Minister Franz Josef Jung said on Wednesday European Union states planned to deploy three frigates, a supply ship and three surveillance ships.

## **MILITARY / PEACEKEEPING / HUMANITARIAN OPERATIONS**

### [Myanmar on the cyber-offensive](#)

*Asia Times* – 01 October

The distributed denial of service attacks, or DDoS, that hit and disabled several exile media websites between September 17 to 19, are widely held to be the latest attempt by Myanmar's military regime to silence its legion of critics.

The cyber-attacks, which flood a website with information requests which block regular traffic and eventually overload and crash it, coincided with the run-up to last year's "Saffron" revolution, in which soldiers opened fire and killed Buddhist monks and anti-government demonstrators. But the junta's cyber-warfare specialists appear to have wider designs than just censoring an uncomfortable anniversary and they are receiving plenty of foreign assistance in upgrading their political dissent-quashing capabilities.

The Defense Services Computer Directorate (DSCD) was set up by the War Office in around 1990, originally with the aim of modernizing the military's communications and administration systems. By the mid-1990s, however, the center had become much more focused on Information Warfare operations, according to a signals intelligence expert who spoke with *Asia Times Online*.

The center became responsible for monitoring telephone calls, faxes, e-mails and other forms of electronic data exchange. Another computer center was later set up at the Directorate of Defense Services Intelligence (DDSI), Myanmar's main military intelligence service. The DSCD is aimed more at military communications, while the intelligence service's computer center is more politically focused, including monitoring opposition groups both within and outside Myanmar.

The service was disbanded in 2004 after the arrest of former prime minister and intelligence chief General Khin Nyunt. It was later reformed as the Military Affairs Security (MAS), which has also presumably taken over cyber-warfare functions, and its capabilities have reportedly substantially improved in recent years.

Singapore has been the military's main partner in bolstering those capabilities. The DSCD was originally set up with computers from Singapore and the city-state has been heavily involved in the cyber-units technological evolution, including upgrades to the regime's computerized information systems hardware and training, says the signals intelligence expert. The intelligence service's center was also set up with Singapore-provided assistance.

Several opposition media sources, including The Irrawaddy magazine and Democratic Voice of Burma satellite television station, have said they received information that the most recent attacks on their Websites may have been conducted by Myanmar military officers trained or undergoing training in Russia and China. A longtime analyst of Myanmar's signals intelligence capabilities noted that many of the officers who have undergone training in Russia and China have taken courses in computing and information technology. While China has been heavily involved in improvements to the Myanmar military's radio communications and, together with Singapore, connecting major military commands with fiber-optic cable, it apparently has been less involved in developing the regime's cyber-warfare capabilities, experts say.

The opposition movement has become noted for its extensive usage of the Internet to send and receive information, reports and news the regime has tried to suppress. As activists and underground journalists have become more tech-savvy, the intelligence service has become more determined to counter the outflow of information. Much of this has taken the form of harassment and more recently DDoS attacks. Long-running media list server, BurmaNet News, has been a target of Myanmar's junta, which is known to have posted misleading and often inaccurate information to discredit the pro-democracy movement. In 2000, a wave of e-mail messages were received by activists with attachments containing a virus that many suspected came from the regime.

Exile-run political groups, human-rights groups and non-governmental organizations have all repeatedly accused the regime of launching viruses, and Trojan horses, defacing websites, sending waves of spam e-mail and even purchasing domain names with political significance. Although it is difficult to prove who exactly is behind the waves of cyber-harassment, the sheer volume of the attacks points to the regime's trained cyber-specialists, experts say. Last year, the day after the regime's violent crackdown on street protesters, the Thailand-based Burmese media organization The Irrawaddy was hit by a virus that also infected visitors to their site. The timing of the attack raised suspicions of the junta's involvement.

In July 2008, the websites of the exile-run, Oslo-based Democratic Voice of Burma (DVB) and New Delhi-based Mizzima News were hit by DDoS attacks that shut down their websites for several days. The attacks followed both news organizations' extensive reporting on the junta's inept and some say corrupt response to the Cyclone Nargis disaster. On September 17, another wave of DDoS attacks was launched, this time against The Irrawaddy, DVB and the Bangkok-based New Era Journal. Two community forums, Mystery Zillion and Planet Myanmar, were disabled and shut down by similar attacks in August. Although not political in nature, both websites provided information and instruction on how to circumvent the regime's tough Internet controls and firewalls, which include blocks on internationally hosted e-mail services gmail and Yahoo!.

Analysts say the cyber-attacks have notably ramped up during the anniversaries of the August 1988 pro-democracy uprising and military repression, and the September 2007 crackdown. Servers involved in the most recent attacks have apparently been situated in Russia and China - however, experts say this may have been done by hackers trying to

cover their tracks.

According to communications security expert and Australian National University Professor Desmond Ball, DDoS attacks are relatively simple and can be engineered without the aid of powerful computers or an advanced computer science degree. Similar attacks, he says, have been carried out against Taiwan and Japan for years by young nationalistic Chinese hackers. DDoS attacks, redirection and defacing of websites are all overt forms of cyber-harassment, but the real essence of cyber-warfare, says Ball, lies in the ability to penetrate a computer or a network, cover your tracks to avoid detection on the way in and out and steal information or disrupt systems without the target knowing that they have been hacked.

The military regime's capabilities in this regard may be where the real danger lies, he says. So far there is little known about the ability of Myanmar's government cyber-warriors to carry out these attacks, partly because the nature of these kinds of attacks is to remain undetected. Internet security among computer users worldwide is notoriously lax and this includes Burmese exile political and media organizations. Without firewalls and anti-virus programs configured properly and IT specialists monitoring computer systems - an expensive proposition for most exile groups - they are at a distinct disadvantage against the junta.

Domestically, the regime has spent considerable effort to block the flow of information into the country through the use of filtering software that block certain media, human rights and political sites, as well as gambling, pornography and other sites deemed socially unacceptable. Through the use of proxy servers and encrypted webmail services, many of Myanmar's citizens have been able to circumvent some of these controls.

Their tech savvy was shown to the world in September 2007, when graphic images and video of the military's brutal crackdown on protesters were broadcast from an instant army of citizen reporters, who sent their files to outside news organizations over the Internet. In Myanmar's heavily controlled communications environment, there are only a handful of Internet service providers (ISPs), all of them either state-owned or with strong government ties, and thus easy for the regime to disconnect.

Exile groups and much of the media pointed to the three-day period between the beginning of the crackdown in late September 2007 and the shutdown of the Internet as evidence of the junta's lack of technical expertise. Ball, however, contends that the opposite is true. The generals were willing to endure some international criticism in order to monitor who was communicating with whom before shutting the system down altogether. This information would likely have fueled their post-demonstration manhunts, where thousands were put behind bars, he says.

Myanmar's original ISP is the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications, which was later joined by Bagan Cybertech, a private communications company established by the son of former intelligence chief Khin Nyunt. Following his arrest, the company was partially taken over by the government and renamed BaganNet/Myanmar Teleport. A third ISP

was reportedly set up by the government-supported mass organization the Union Solidarity and Development Association (USDA) in 2007 and is known as Information Technology Central Services. In July 2008, a fourth ISP was launched called Hanthawaddy National Gateway.

Established with technical assistance from China's Alcatel Shanghai Bell, the service is currently only available to military officers, but is expected to eventually expand throughout the country. Alcatel Shanghai Bell is represented locally by Myanmar tycoon Tay Za, a close associate to the country's leader Senior General Than Shwe and other senior officers. Speculation as to the extent of the regime's cyber-warfare capabilities comes during a fast expansion of Internet access across the country. In addition to two new ISP providers, the generals are pushing local and foreign investment in its Yadanabon Cyber City project, located east of Mandalay.

Over one-fifth of the 4,500 hectare city is slated for computer hardware and software factories and is expected to have modern Internet services available through ADSL, CATV, Triple Play and Wi Max. In July, 12 local and foreign companies, including CBOSS of Russia, agreed to invest US\$22 million in the development of the city. Although ostensibly a civilian initiative, much of the technology to be developed, built and used there would have dual use capabilities, experts say.

### [Four Russian warships to stop in Libya](#)

*CNN* – 01 October

The four warships that Russia is sending to Venezuela in its first deployment of military power to the Western Hemisphere since the Cold War also will visit Libya and several other Mediterranean countries, the navy said Wednesday. The announcement appeared to be the latest sign of Russia displaying what it regards as its growing military strength on the world stage.

Since defeating Georgia in August in a war over the breakaway republic of South Ossetia, the Kremlin has vowed to send its military on regular maneuvers worldwide and moved to intensify contacts with Venezuela, Cuba and other Latin American nations amid increasingly strained relations with Washington.

The Peter the Great nuclear-powered missile cruiser and three accompanying ships -- which left the Northern Fleet's base of Severomorsk on Sept. 22 -- will sail through the Strait of Gibraltar into the Mediterranean on Sunday, navy spokesman Capt. Igor Dygalo said in a statement on Wednesday. Dygalo said the Russian ships will call at the Libyan port of Tripoli and also visit several other unspecified Mediterranean ports before heading to Venezuela.

Russian news reports have said the squadron was expected to visit a Syrian port of Tartus. Russian officials have said that Tartus, which hosted Soviet ships during the Cold War, was being renovated to provide a foothold for a planned permanent Russian navy

presence in the Mediterranean. Dygalo said Wednesday that the ships would also perform training in various areas of the Mediterranean.

In a separate move, Russia has also dispatched a missile frigate to waters off Somalia where pirates seized a Ukrainian vessel carrying over 30 Soviet-designed tanks. The Kremlin's decision to send warships to the Caribbean for joint maneuvers with the Venezuelan navy follows a weeklong visit to Venezuela by a pair of Russian strategic bombers last month.

During the Cold War, Latin America was an ideological battleground between the Soviet Union and the United States. The intensifying contacts with Venezuela appear to be a response to the U.S. dispatch of warships to deliver aid to Georgia, which angered the Kremlin. Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, an unbridled critic of the U.S. foreign policy, said that Latin America needed a strong friendship with Russia to help reduce U.S. influence and keep peace in the region.

Russia has signed weapons contracts worth more than US\$4 billion with Venezuela since 2005 to supply fighter jets, helicopters, and 100,000 Kalashnikov assault rifles, and Moscow and Caracas are now negotiating new weapons deals. Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin last week offered Chavez help to develop nuclear energy -- a move likely to add to U.S. concerns about the Kremlin's intentions in the region.

### [Russian warships, submarines, aircraft participate in FE exercises](#)

*ITAR-TASS* – 03 October

More than ten ships and submarines and also aircraft and marines of the Russian Pacific Fleet participate in the strategic command and staff exercises Stability-2008. Fleet forces participate in the exercises together with units of the Far East Military District from October 3 to 5, the fleet information and public relations service said.

One of the main operations will be landing of "the navy-coloured" -- Pacific marines -- at the training ground on the Klerk peninsula, the Primorsky territory, on October 4. They are to break the defence of "the red", the role of which will be played by units of the Far East Military District, the information service said.

Then, the exercises will continue at Kamchatka, where ships and submarines will set out for sea operations. Air Force and Air Defence fighters and anti-submarine aircraft will support the navy from the air.

The Stability-2008 exercises are held beginning September 22 to October 21 in accordance with the plan for the Russian Armed Forces' training. The exercises are conducted to master organisation of deployment of units and carry out tasks for the use of troops to stop armed conflicts and terrorist activities, to deal with natural and technological disasters, for strategic restraint and to ensure security of the United State of Russia and Belarus.

## NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

### [India won't support Iran's nuke ambitions: PM](#)

*Times of India* – 30 September

On the verge of wrapping up paradigm-altering civil nuclear energy agreements with US and France, India has stepped up opposition to Iran's nuclear weapons programme, in a coincidence which is loaded with implications for the country's diplomacy as well as domestic politics.

"We don't support the nuclear weapons aspirations of Iran," PM Manmohan Singh said, stepping beyond the position government had so far followed on the issue. This is a more hardline position on Iran's nuclear ambitions than has been exhibited thus far by the Indian government. It is in line with expectation that US would expect greater convergence on Iran after the nuclear deal.

Singh was talking to reporters along with French President Nicolas Sarkozy and head of the European Council Jose Manuel Barroso after the India-EU Summit here where the European body emphasised the need to deter Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons.

Asked whether India and EU were on the same page on Iran, the PM said, "We don't support the emergence of a nuclear weapon state in our region." In fact, in the aftermath of India's new nuclear status, India is now showing a more strident non-proliferation side. He also repeated that Iran, as a signatory to NPT, was entitled to get all the assistance it needed to develop its civil nuclear energy programme. However, as a NPT signatory it was also expected to abide by its rules.

The remarks appeared to be bolder than the position so far taken by a government which has struggled to balance concerns about Iran's bid to develop a nuclear arsenal with the fear that stating these might cost it politically and invite charges of surrender to the US and West. The toughening of India's stance comes in the wake of IAEA's September 15 report that Iran was likely to achieve "virtual" nuclear weapons status. The report said Iran had acquired a stockpile of low-enriched uranium, big enough for a bomb.

Addressing reporters, France, which helped India get the waiver from the NSG, came out strongly in support of India's efforts to dismantle the nuclear apartheid and the technology denial regime it has faced. India's stand on Iran formed a crucial part of the political discourse over the nuclear deal in both India and US, with the Opposition Left and BJP alleging that America — in return for not so reliable assurance of civil nuclear energy cooperation — forced India to toe its line on Iran.

The joint press communique issued after the India-EU meeting stressed the growing convergence between the two sides on Iran. "They expressed their concern over the Iranian nuclear issue and called on Iran to take steps to re-establish confidence in the nature of nuclear programme, as required by the IAEA Board of Governors," the communique said.

It also reflected India's position that role of diplomacy to persuade Iran to abandon its clandestine nuclear weapons programme has not been exhausted yet. The shift in position is sure to give fresh fodder to Left which had kicked off its anti-deal campaign by organising rallies to express solidarity with Iran — a move that was seen by many as a ploy to "communalise" the deal by playing upon Muslim sensitivities towards Tehran and antipathy towards US. CPM and its allies may pounce upon it to say that their charge of a "quid pro quo" had been validated.

Talking to reporters, both Singh and Sarkozy expressed confidence of the two countries signing the civil nuclear energy agreement in Paris on Tuesday. The French President, in fact, came strongly in support of the India's quest for nuclear energy. "How can India, which in the next 2-3 decades, is going to be the world's biggest country in terms of population, be kept away from nuclear energy if the world has to fight the challenge of global challenge," he said.

The India-EU joint press communique also touched upon cooperation in the field of civil nuclear energy, saying the two sides "noted that joint cooperation in the framework of the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor remains a priority".

### [IAEA chief: Nuclear states set example for others](#)

*Washington Post* – 30 September

The chief U.N. atomic inspector suggested Tuesday that nuclear weapons states bore some blame for other countries seeking such arms, because they are modernizing arsenals rather than scrapping them. Mohamed ElBaradei, the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, spoke on the sidelines of a 145-nation IAEA meeting that has focused partly on proliferation concerns exemplified by North Korea and Iran.

North Korea, which set off a test nuclear blast two years ago, has frozen its disarmament efforts and is moving toward resupplying its plutonium producing reprocessing plant. Iran has defied U.N. Security Council demands that it stop uranium enrichment while stonewalling an IAEA probe into allegations it worked on a nuclear weapons program in the past.

The U.S. France and Britain \_ three nuclear weapons states that have ratified the Nonproliferation Treaty \_ are particularly critical of Iran. Although ElBaradei focused on "all" nuclear weapons states, his comments appeared to be a particular challenge to those three to set an example. "How can I go with a straight face to the non-nuclear-weapon states and tell them nuclear weapons are no good for you, while the weapon states continue to modernize and to say 'we absolutely need nuclear weapons,'" ElBaradei said. Still, he said the "number one security threat" was not proliferation but the possibility of terrorists getting a nuclear weapon or the material to make a dirty bomb.

Speakers during the first two days of the meeting have been united in praise for ElBaradei and his agency's work. But a proxy battle reflecting a wider struggle between

the U.S. and its critics was shaping up beneath the surface over whether Syria or Afghanistan should fill one of the rotating seats on the IAEA's 35-nation board. The board is the IAEA's decision making organization; membership on it gives nations a voice in shaping IAEA policy and actions, including probes of nations suspected of breaching nonproliferation commitments.

Syria, along with its ally Iran, is the focus of such investigations. The United States and its allies argue that Syria should not be considered for a seat until it is given a clean bill of health by the IAEA. But Syria is a favorite for the Middle East and South Asia group, which has a right to fill a rotating board seat this year. "There is near consensus in our group for us," Mohammad Badi Khattag, Syria's chief representative to the IAEA, told The Associated Press.

Another diplomat familiar with the issue said, however that \_ while Syria was favored \_ Afghanistan had the backing of at least three Middle East and South Asia members. He demanded anonymity for divulging confidential information. If the group remains split on its choice, the full meeting will decide by secret ballot, forcing a showdown in a forum that usually works by consensus.

A Western diplomat at the meeting \_ who also asked to remain unnamed for divulging confidential information \_ said Tuesday that most, if not all, European nations were ready to back Afghanistan, along with the U.S., Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Korea and Japan. On the other side of the fence were most Islamic nations and many other developing countries traditionally voting against Washington on nuclear-related issues. Wahid Monawar, Afghanistan's deputy representative to the meeting, said his country was ready to put its candidacy to a full vote.

"I believe we are the better candidate because we will bring understanding between the East and West," he told the AP. "We will be the bridge to understanding. "Afghanistan is not under an investigation by the agency. The sole interest of Afghanistan is to bring peaceful technology to its people," Monawar said, alluding to rival Syria and suspicions about its nuclear aims.

### [Rice hails approval of India nuclear deal](#)

*CNN* – 02 October

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice on Thursday praised Congress' approval of a controversial nuclear deal with India, saying it "bolsters our partnership with the world's largest democracy and a growing economic power." The initiative will help India's population of more than one billion to meet its rapidly increasing energy needs in an environmentally responsible way while reducing the growth of carbon emissions," Rice said in a written statement.

The Senate overwhelmingly approved the measure on Wednesday evening, clearing the way for the United States to export nuclear know-how to New Delhi after a ban lasting decades. The vote was 86-13. The House of Representatives passed the bill without

debate on Saturday, meaning the next step is for President Bush to sign it into law. Bush has been a strong advocate of the deal. Rice will head to India on Friday to discuss the measure with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and other Indian officials.

Sen. Chris Dodd, a Connecticut Democrat, said the deal would not only "set the stage for a stronger U.S.-India relationship" but would promote stability in India's troubled neighborhood. "This agreement is indicative of a new era in Indian foreign policy," Dodd said Wednesday. "An era in which India will see all the world's powers as potential partners in efforts to address its own needs and the needs of others. ... I believe that this new era will bring increased stability and progress in South Asia."

India and Pakistan have fought several wars since they became independent in 1947, and both countries have tested nuclear weapons. Before the vote, Sen. Tom Harkin, an Iowa Democrat, spoke out against what he called the "flawed" legislation. "If we pass this legislation, we will reward India for flouting the most important arms control agreement in history, the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, and we will gravely undermine our case against hostile nations that seek to do the same," he said.

He also said Congress had not debated the bill properly. "It was hustled through (the House of Representatives) without any hearings and without a vote in the House Foreign Affairs Committee. Here in the Senate, the Foreign Relations Committee held just one hearing with just one witness who spoke in support of the agreement." Harkin then voted against the bill.

The two presidential candidates, Sens. Barack Obama and John McCain, both voted for the bill. President Bush urged the Senate to pass the bill in a statement released before the vote, saying it "represents a major milestone in the transformation of our nation's important relationship with India." One senator had anonymously been preventing the bill from coming to a vote, but the leaders of the Senate announced Tuesday night that the vote would go ahead.

The Indian nuclear market is a rich prize, and the agreement could potentially open the way for U.S. companies to earn billions of dollars building nuclear power plants in India. The French government clinched its own nuclear trade deal with India on Wednesday when President Nicolas Sarkozy signed an agreement in Paris. That now puts French companies in the running for some of the same contracts U.S. companies want. In exchange for access to U.S. nuclear technology, India would allow international inspections of its civilian -- but not military -- nuclear power plants. It would also promise not to resume testing of nuclear weapons.

The U.S. banned nuclear trade with India after India detonated a nuclear device in 1974 and refused to sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Now India has agreed to give access to international inspectors at some of its reactors. And in an informal agreement between the two nations, the United States says it would halt any nuclear cooperation should India resume testing.

### Pakistan demands US nuclear deal

*BBC – 02 October*

Pakistan has said that India's civilian nuclear trade agreement with the US should open the way for a similar deal with Islamabad. Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani told reporters that Washington should not discriminate between South Asia's two nuclear armed nations.

Pakistan has long opposed efforts by the US administration to push through the deal with India. Critics warned that approving it could lead to a regional nuclear arms race. The US deal with India, which was approved by the US on Thursday, allows Delhi access to US civilian nuclear technology and fuel in return for inspections of its civilian, but not military, nuclear facilities.

"Now Pakistan also has the right to demand a civilian nuclear agreement with America," Mr Gilani said. "We want there to be no discrimination. Pakistan will also strive for a nuclear deal and we think they will have to accommodate us." Pakistan developed its atomic weapons programme to counter the alleged nuclear threat from India, its regional rival.

The BBC's Barbara Plett in Islamabad says Pakistan has been very concerned by US support for India's civilian nuclear programme. Now that the deal has been passed, Mr Gilani told reporters that Pakistan would be justified to ask for a similar agreement. However, Washington has already indicated that Pakistan's track record of nuclear proliferation disqualifies it from such an arrangement. In 2004, the top Pakistani nuclear scientist AQ Khan admitted to passing on nuclear secrets to Libya, Iran and North Korea. He retracted his confession in 2008.

Newspaper reports have suggested that Pakistan's leaders might now turn to China for help with civilian nuclear technology. Pakistan became a nuclear power in 1998 after testing devices in response to underground tests done by India.

### Inter-Korean talks end with no progress

*Channel News Asia – 02 October*

North and South Korean officials held talks Thursday after months of frosty relations but the meeting ended early with little progress, pool reports from the venue said. The working-level military meeting at the border village of Panmunjom was the first official one of any kind between the two sides since Seoul's conservative government came to power in February and relations soured.

"The meeting ended but there was little progress made," an unidentified Seoul official said, according to the reports carried by Yonhap news agency. The North's chief delegate Pak Rim-Su said the South was "not ready to solve problems." The South's defence ministry confirmed the talks had ended several hours before schedule but gave no immediate details.

The North had proposed the military talks, the first since January, despite a deadlock in an international nuclear disarmament deal. South Korean Prime Minister Han Seung-Soo has said he hoped it would help thaw relations. But the meeting at the village inside the Demilitarised Zone got off to a rocky start. Discussions were delayed by nearly an hour when the North Koreans demanded the entire meeting be open to the media, Yonhap reported.

Seoul protested, saying no previous inter-Korean dialogue had been fully open to the media and that the North was trying to turn the talks into a venue for its propaganda. "What your side is demanding sounds like you are interested in announcing what you want to say rather than finding ways to solve the problems at hand," Colonel Lee Sang-Cheol told his North Korean counterpart, Colonel Pak.

Pak noted the importance of the meeting but did not disclose his proposed agenda. "How we proceed with today's talks will have a great influence on the overall North-South relationship in the future," he said, describing ties as in "very serious condition." Lee agreed with Pak that people on both sides have high hopes for the meeting. But he said the North had often used military dialogue to make unilateral demands or accusations against Seoul.

Pyongyang suspended government-to-government contacts after President Lee Myung-Bak took office with promises of a tougher North Korea policy. Ties soured further after soldiers in July shot dead a Seoul tourist who strayed into a restricted zone at a North Korean resort. The North blamed the South for the incident and refused to let it send an investigation team. Seoul cancelled tours to the resort.

As he left, Pak said Thursday's meeting was called to raise the issue of Seoul's spreading of "propaganda leaflets" throughout his communist homeland. The last military talks in January also ended without agreement. The two nations have remained technically at war since their 1950-1953 war ended with an armistice and not a peace pact.

### [Missile Launch Preparations Underway](#)

*The Daily NK* – 02 October

It has been confirmed and reported in *The Dong-A Ilbo* today that North Korea is renovating its Musudan-ri missile test facility, located in North Hamkyung Province, and is preparing to test a new long-range missile, an improved version of the Taepodong-2.

According to the *Dong-A Ilbo*, North Korea recently began renovating its old launching facility for Taepodong missiles in the Musudan-ri missile test facility by replacing old equipment and upgrading other parts. North Korea test-fired a long-range missile, believed to have been a Taepodong-2, from the Musudan-ri missile test facility on July 5, 2006. The missile failed and landed in the East Sea 42 seconds after the launch.

A government source stated that, North Korea is improving its missile propulsion system and is in the process of improving launch safety by replacing the tower crane that supports the current launch pad. We have also obtained information that North Korea is extending its facilities for pre-launch missile assembly and final inspection. The source also stated that, It is being assumed that North Korea is replacing old systems with ones that automatically provide propellant to missiles, because they want to either conceal missile launch preparations or to shorten preparation time.

Intelligence authorities have reportedly confirmed that North Korea is putting a concerted effort into developing long-range ballistic missiles that can reach as far as 10,000km, an extensively improved version of the previous Taepodong-2 missile. It has also been confirmed that North Korea recently replaced the second-level engine of the Taepodong-2 with an upgrade.

The source also confirmed that North Korea has conducted a missile engine ignition test of what appears to be a Taepodong-2 missile at a new long-range missile test facility that is currently being built in Tongchang-ri, North Pyongan Province. The article finally reported that intelligence authorities thus presume that North Korea is taking steps towards testing a new long-range ballistic missile, an improved version of the Taepodong-2.

### [US, North Korea seek compromise in nuclear deadlock](#)

*Boston Herald* – 07 October

The United States and North Korea are being flexible in their effort to reach a compromise to resolve the dispute in the North's nuclear disarmament process, South Korea's foreign minister said Tuesday.

The North stopped disabling its main nuclear facilities in mid-August, rejecting a U.S. insistence that the regime should undergo a thorough inspection of its declaration of nuclear programs. Washington's top nuclear envoy visited Pyongyang last week to resolve the impasse, but it was unclear whether it produced any breakthrough.

But on Tuesday, Foreign Minister Yu Myung-hwan told a South Korean parliamentary committee that Washington and Pyongyang were trying to strike a compromise by exerting "flexibility" and "considerably reflecting each other's position. However, Yu said he believes the U.S. would not make any substantial change in its demand for a rigorous nuclear verification. He did not elaborate.

Yu said the nuclear talks were at an "important crossroad" as it would be U.S. President George W. Bush's last chance to resolve the issue before he leaves office in January. But he said the North's suspension of disablement work posed "a serious obstacle." Yu also said the U.S., South Korea and other countries involved in the disarmament talks were expected to announce their positions on the latest dispute in a few days, after reviewing details of U.S. envoy Christopher Hill's trip to the North.

In Beijing, Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang said Tuesday that China — the North's key ally and aid provider — supports continuous contacts between Washington and Pyongyang, adding Hill's trip to the North was "helpful."

"China supports the continuous communication and contact between the U.S. and DPRK and we believe Mr. Hill's visit is helpful," Qin told reporters. DPRK stands for Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the North's official name. Upon returning from Pyongyang, Hill briefed South Korean and Chinese officials about his North Korea trip before flying back to Washington.

North Korea began disabling its main nuclear complex north of Pyongyang last November as part of an aid-for-disarmament pact with the U.S., South Korea, China, Russia and Japan. The North, however, stopped the disablement work and began reassembling the facilities in protest at Washington's refusal to remove it from a blacklist of state sponsors of terrorism.

The U.S. pledged to remove the North from the blacklist after the regime submitted a long-delayed account of its nuclear programs in June. The U.S. later insisted the North would only be taken off the list after it agreed to an international inspection of its nuclear declaration.