

# THE WEEK IN REVIEW

June 3-9, (2), 2013

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## I. COUNTRY REVIEWS

### A. South Asia

#### Sri Lanka

- **Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Jayalalitha raises objections to training being given to Sri Lankan Defence personnel at Wellington; Twenty four Indian fishermen arrested by Sri Lankan Navy; US grants waivers to Sri Lanka and eight other nations for another six months on Iranian oil sanctions; Ambassador Prasad Kariyawasam re-elected to the UN Committee on Migrant Workers; Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni meets President Rajapaksa during his stopover in Sri Lanka en route from a trip to East Asia; New Zealand supports Sri Lanka to conduct CHOGM**

According to reports, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Jayalalitha on June 9, criticised the Centre for being “insensitive” on the issue of training being given to Sri Lankan defence personnel in India and asked the central government not to train them until Colombo takes satisfactory and credible action to end human rights violations against Tamils. In a letter to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, she said two Lankan officers – Wing Commander MS Bandara Dassanayke and Major CS Harishchandra Hettiarachchige – were undergoing training at Wellington, which, she said, was a matter of “grave import that greatly offends the sensitivities and sentiments of people of Tamil Nadu.”<sup>1</sup>

In another development, reports noted that a group of twenty four Indian fishermen have been arrested by the Sri Lankan Navy along with five fishing Trawler on June 5 and were handed over to Talaimannar Police for further action.<sup>2</sup>

According to reports, the United States’ State Department announced on June 5, that it will grant waivers to Sri Lanka and eight other nations for another six months on Iranian oil sanctions. As a result, sanctions will not apply to the financial institutions of those countries for a potentially renewable period of 180 days.<sup>3</sup>

Reports noted that Ambassador Prasad Kariyawasam, Sri Lanka’s High Commissioner in India, was re-elected to the UN Committee on Migrant Workers (CMW), at the election held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on 30 May.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> “Jaya slams Centre for training SL military”, *The Daily Mirror*, June 9, 2013 at <http://www.dailymirror.lk/news/30616-jaya-slams-centre-for-training-sl-military.html>

<sup>2</sup> “Another group of Indian fishermen arrested”, *The Daily Mirror*, June 6, 2013 at <http://www.dailymirror.lk/news/30478-another-group-of-indian-fishermen-arrested.html>.

<sup>3</sup> “U.S. exempts Sri Lanka from Iran oil sanctions for another six months”, *The Colombo Page*, June 6, 2013 at [http://www.colombopage.com/archive\\_13A/Jun06\\_1370494871CH.php](http://www.colombopage.com/archive_13A/Jun06_1370494871CH.php).

<sup>4</sup> “Sri Lanka’s candidate re-elected to UN Committee on Migrant Workers”, *The Sri Lankan Government Official Website*, June 03, 2013 at [http://www.priu.gov.lk/news\\_update/Current\\_Affairs/ca201306/20130603sl\\_candidate\\_re\\_elected\\_un\\_committee\\_migrant\\_workers.htm](http://www.priu.gov.lk/news_update/Current_Affairs/ca201306/20130603sl_candidate_re_elected_un_committee_migrant_workers.htm).

In other developments, reports noted that President Mahinda Rajapaksa welcomed and hosted a lunch for Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni when he stopped over in Sri Lanka on June 4 en route from a trip to East Asia.<sup>5</sup>

The New Zealand Foreign Minister Murray McCully called on President Mahinda Rajapaksa on June 5 at Temple Trees. During the discussion, Mr. McCully reaffirmed his country's support for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) that will take place in Sri Lanka in November this year.<sup>6</sup>

## Maldives

- **Audit Report of the Ministry of Finance: Maldivian government incurred a loss of \$150,000 due to its agreement with India's Apollo Hospital; Global Hospitals Group, India opens an Information and Assistance Centre in Maldives; Former President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom visits India; Maldives-China signs road project agreement; Prime Minister of Thailand visits Maldives; President Dr. Waheed visits Palestine and Jordan**

According to the Audit Report of the Ministry of Finance published by the Auditor General on June 6, Maldivian government incurred a loss of \$150,000 due to its agreement with India's Apollo Hospital regarding the operation and development of Indira Gandhi Memorial hospital (IGMH), signed in 2010 by the government of former President Mohamed Nasheed. The Audit Report states that Nasheed's government later decided not to implement this agreement, and thus lost the advance payment made to Apollo hospital of \$150,000. The report states that this loss was incurred because former President Nasheed signed the agreement without prior research or planning, during an official visit to India.<sup>7</sup>

Meanwhile, reports noted that Global Hospitals Group, India, has opened an Information and Assistance Centre in the Maldives on June 5. The Information Centre was launched at a ceremony held at one of the oldest medical centres in Maldives, Azmee Naeem Medical and Diagnostic Centre (AMDC), by Indian High Commissioner to the Maldives Rajeev Shahare. Sri Lanka's Minister of State for Health Lubna Mohamed and CEO of Forte International Private Limited M.F.A. Riyaz attended this ceremony.<sup>8</sup>

Reports noted that former President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom visited India on June 3 after a

<sup>5</sup> "President hosts Ugandan President for lunch", The Sri Lankan Government Website, June 5, 2013 at [http://www.priu.gov.lk/news\\_update/Current\\_Affairs/ca201306/20130605president\\_hosts\\_ugandan\\_president\\_lunch.htm](http://www.priu.gov.lk/news_update/Current_Affairs/ca201306/20130605president_hosts_ugandan_president_lunch.htm).

<sup>6</sup> "New Zealand reaffirms support for CHOGM", *The Government of Sri Lanka Website*, June 6, 2013 at [http://www.priu.gov.lk/news\\_update/Current\\_Affairs/ca201306/20130606new\\_zealand\\_reaffirms\\_support\\_for\\_chogm.htm](http://www.priu.gov.lk/news_update/Current_Affairs/ca201306/20130606new_zealand_reaffirms_support_for_chogm.htm).

<sup>7</sup> "Maldives incurs MVR 2.3 million loss due to agreement with Apollo Hospital", *The Sun Online*, June 8, 2013 at <http://sun.mv/english/13247>

<sup>8</sup> "Global Hospitals opens Information Centre in Maldives", *The Sun Online*, June 5, 2013 at <http://sun.mv/english/13151>.

personal trip to Malaysia. He met Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and External Affairs Minister Salman Khurshid during the visit.<sup>9</sup>

According to reports, Maldives government has signed an agreement with the Government of China on a road development project for Laamu atoll on June 4. China has undertaken a number of developmental projects for the Maldives in the past, including the building of Foreign Ministry, the National Museum, and a number of Sinmale' housing flats.<sup>10</sup>

In other developments, according to reports, Prime Minister of Thailand, Yingluck Shinawatra visited Maldives from June 1-3. During the visit, she met with President Waheed and other state officials and discussed bilateral issues between Maldives and Thailand. According to the joint statement, issued on the occasion, the two leaders expressed satisfaction at the strong and growing trade relations between the two countries and agreed to double the trade volume between the two countries by the year 2018.<sup>11</sup>

Reports noted that President Dr. Mohamed Waheed Hassan Manik visited Palestine to officiate the 4th Islamic Conference of Bait Al Maqdis on June 5.<sup>12</sup> During the visit President Dr. Waheed met with Palestinian President Dr. Mahmoud Abbas. President Waheed also met with the King of Jordan Abdulla II during a stopover visit to Jordan en route to Palestine and discussed bilateral relations between the two countries.<sup>13</sup>

## B. East Asia

### Southeast Asia

- **Indian Defence Minister visits Australia, Singapore and Thailand; Naval hotline between China and Vietnam established; Indonesian government to grant China preferential treatment in handling horticultural import rules; Indian airlines allowed access to Myanmar; World Economic Forum on East Asia held in Myanmar**

Indian Defence Minister A K Antony is heading for a tour of Singapore, Thailand and Australia during a three-day tour starting June 3, 2013. The visit has come just days after Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's tour of Japan and Thailand where strategic relations and expanding of military ties were high on the agenda. Thailand has come into focus after Singh's visit and interest from Thailand for military cooperation and procurement of defence equipment.<sup>14</sup>

<sup>9</sup> "Former President Gayoom meets with Indian Prime Minister", *The Sun Online*, June 4, 2013 at <http://sun.mv/english/13117>.

<sup>10</sup> "Government signs Laamu atoll road development project with China", *The Sun Online*, June 4, 2013 at <http://sun.mv/english/13101>.

<sup>11</sup> "Thai Prime Minister concludes visit to Maldives", *The Sun Online*, June 3, 2013 at <http://sun.mv/english/13065>.

<sup>12</sup> "President departs to Palestine", *The Sun Online*, June 3, 2013 at <http://sun.mv/english/13062>.

<sup>13</sup> "President Waheed meets with President of Palestine", *The Sun Online*, June 5, 2013 at <http://sun.mv/english/13135>.

<sup>14</sup> "Before China, Antony to visit Singapore, Australia and Thailand", *The Indian Express*, June 3, 2013, <http://www.indianexpress.com/news/before-china-antony-to-visit-singapore-australia-thailand/1124128/>

According to reports, China and Vietnam have agreed to set up a Hotline between their navies amid escalating maritime tensions over the disputed South China Sea islands. The Defence Ministries of China and Vietnam have agreed to establish a naval hotline. The move came at time when the two countries experienced tensions over the disputed islands in South China Sea over which China has already started exercising its control with heavy deployment of its maritime vessels.<sup>15</sup>

Reports noted that the Indonesian government is planning to grant China preferential treatment in coping with Indonesian horticultural import rules, in return for a reopening of the Chinese market for Indonesian products that have been barred from the East Asian country. The plan to give special import treatment to China emerged last week with the signing of a protocol on plant quarantine requirements for the export of snake fruit. The protocol was hailed by Suswono and China's General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine Minister Zhi Suping during the latter's visit.<sup>16</sup>

In other developments, according to reports, Indian airlines can now operate flights to Myanmar as the country has granted traffic rights to India-based carriers paving the way for air connectivity between the nations. The fifth freedom rights allow airline carry revenue traffic between countries as a part of services connecting the airline's own country. At present, there is no direct air connectivity between India and Myanmar. Indian private carrier SpiceJet has expressed interest to fly from Delhi to Dhaka, continuing on to Yangon.<sup>17</sup>

Reports noted that the World Economic Forum on East Asia took place on June 6, in the Myanmar's administrative capital Naypyitaw. The leaders of Myanmar, Vietnam and Laos joined Klaus Schwab, founder and executive chairman of the World Economic Forum, to open the Asian edition of the prestigious forum.<sup>18</sup>

## C. Russia

- **Russia remains committed to peaceful settlement in Syria; Foreign Minister Lavrov and UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon discuss ways to settle the Syrian crisis; President Putin: S-300 systems have not been delivered to Syria till date; Russia has said that there are close to 200 militants who are involved in hostilities in Syria under Al-Qaeda flag; Russia to contribute an additional US\$ 10 million to UN to help solve Syrian refugee problems; President Putin:**

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<sup>15</sup> "China, Vietnam set up naval hotline to ease SCS tensions", *Business Standard*, June 7, 2013, [http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/china-vietnam-set-up-naval-hotline-to-ease-scs-tensions-113060700168\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/china-vietnam-set-up-naval-hotline-to-ease-scs-tensions-113060700168_1.html)

<sup>16</sup> "RI proposes Chinese export ban trade-off", *The Jakarta Post*, June 7, 2013, <http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2013/06/07/ri-proposes-chinese-export-ban-trade.html>

<sup>17</sup> "Myanmar allows access to Indian airlines", *The Hindu*, June 9, 2013, <http://www.thehindu.com/business/Industry/myanmar-allows-access-to-indian-airlines/article4797333.ece>

<sup>18</sup> "World Economic Forum on East Asia officially opens in Myanmar", *Global Post*, June 6, 2013, <http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/kyodo-news-international/130606/world-economic-forum-east-asia-officially-opens-myanmar>

**Russia is ready to replace Austrian peacekeepers on Golan Heights; President Putin calls for establishing CSTO-NATO anti-drug cooperation; Prime Minister Medvedev: Russia's goals in Euro-Arctic region are peaceful and pragmatic**

According to reports, Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Alexander Lukashevich has said that Russia remains committed to a peaceful settlement in Syria. This comes in the backdrop of Russia having blocked the British draft statement on events in Al-Qusayr in the U.N. Security Council.<sup>19</sup>

In another development, According to reports, Foreign Minister Lavrov and UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon have discussed ways to settle the Syrian crisis over a telephonic conversation.<sup>20</sup>

President Putin has said that the S-300 systems have not been delivered to Syria till date since Russia does not want to upset the balance of forces in the region.<sup>21</sup>

Russian president's special representative for the Middle East and Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Bogdanov has said that it is important for Iran to participate in the proposed Syria conference.<sup>22</sup>

Russia's federal security service FSB Alexander Bortnikov has said that close to 200 militants are involved in the fighting in Syria under the al-Qaeda flag.<sup>23</sup>

In other developments, according to reports, Russian Foreign Ministry has said that the government has made the decision to contribute an additional 10 million U.S. dollars to the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees to help Jordan and Libya address the problems of Syrian refugees.<sup>24</sup>

President Putin has said that Russia is ready to replace Austrian peacekeepers on the Golan Heights with approval from the United Nations and if the regional states show interest in the Russian proposal. This comes in the backdrop of Austria's decision to withdraw peacekeepers from the Syrian-Israeli border wherein Syrian insurgents had seized a border checkpoint in Qunteira which Austria used to rotate and sustain its peacekeepers.<sup>25</sup>

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<sup>19</sup> "Russia remains committed to peaceful settlement in Syria", Itar-Tass, June 3, 2013, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/759089.html>

<sup>20</sup> "Lavrov, Ban Ki-moon call for deflating Syrian crisis", Itar-Tass, June 3, 2013, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/758447.html>

<sup>21</sup> "Contract for delivers of S-300 to Syria has not yet been implemented - Putin", Itar-Tass, June 4, 2013, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/759720.html>

<sup>22</sup> "Iran's participation in Syria conference crucial for Russia - FM", Itar-Tass, June 5, 2013, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/761823.html>

<sup>23</sup> "Some 200 militants involved in hostilities in Syria under Al-Qaeda flag - FSB director", Itar-Tass, June 6, 2013, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/763273.html>

<sup>24</sup> "Russia to contribute USD 10 M to UN to help solve Syrian refugees' problems", Itar-Tass, June 8, 2013, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/765241.html>

<sup>25</sup> "Russia is ready to replace Austrian peacekeepers on Golan Heights - Putin", Itar-Tass, June 7, 2013, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/764413.html>

President Putin has called for establishing CSTO-NATO anti-drug cooperation.<sup>26</sup>

Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev has said that Russia pursues only “peaceful and pragmatic” goals in the Euro-Arctic region and matters relating to the Arctic should be the domain of only Arctic powers.<sup>27</sup>

## D. West Asia

### Yemen

- **At least seven people killed and several injured as Houthi rebels try to storm National Security Agency building**

Reports noted that at least seven people were killed and at least thirty others were injured as a group of Houthi rebels tried to storm the National Security Agency building in the capital Sanaa. The incident took place on June 9 when the Houthi rebels attacked the National Security Agency building with automatic weapons and grenades. The protesters were reportedly demanding the release of political detainees belonging to their community. Meanwhile, Ali al-Bokhayti, a Houthi leader, has said that five members of the group have been killed in the incident.<sup>28</sup>

### UAE

- **UAE and Saudi Arabia raise safety concerns of Iranian nuclear plants**

According to reports, the UAE and Saudi Arabia have sought reassurances from Iran over the safety of its nuclear programme after reports that its nuclear facility may have been damaged during recent earthquakes that struck the country. During a meeting of the Board of Governors of the UN’s International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna on June 7, 2013, both UAE and Saudi Arabia have raised safety concerns about the Bushehr nuclear plant in Iran. The concern of the Gulf States arises because of the fear that they could also be the victims in any potential nuclear incident in Iran because of the geographical proximity. Both countries also urged Iran to join the Convention on Nuclear Safety, negotiated in 1978 after the nuclear disaster at Chernobyl. It would be worth noting that Iran is the only country in the world that does not belong to the convention and operates a nuclear reactor.<sup>29</sup>

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<sup>26</sup> “President Putin has called for establishing CSTO-NATO anti-drug cooperation”, Itar-Tass, June 5, 2013, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/761250.html>

<sup>27</sup> “Russia’s goals in Euro-Arctic region are peaceful and pragmatic - Prime Minister Medvedev”, Itar-Tass, June 4, 2013, <http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c32/760204.html>

<sup>28</sup> “Several killed at Yemeni security branch”, *Al Jazeera*, June 10, 2013, at <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/06/201369123237258677.html>

<sup>29</sup> “UAE and Saudi Arabia call on Iran to allay nuclear plant fears”, *The National*, June 7, 2013, at <http://www.thenational.ae/news/world/middle-east/uae-and-saudi-arabia-call-on-iran-to-allay-nuclear-plant-fears>



## Turkey

- **Turkish PM Erdogan calls for immediate end to protests; Kurdish rebel leader voices support for protests**

According to reports, the protests that took over Turkey's Taksim Square late last month have now spread to other parts of Istanbul. Protesters comprising mainly the young, secular and religious, middle-class have set up camps in Taksim Square and Gezi Park, the location of the development project that sparked the protests. Meanwhile, the country's Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan has demanded an immediate end to the anti-government unrest, and has said that the protests have been based on "terrible disinformation" and a "campaign of lies". Erdogan has acknowledged that police may have used excessive force against demonstrations last week, in response to criticism from Western governments about police heavy handedness. He also said that the government had held consultations on the Gezi Park project as early as 2011, and nobody had reacted to it until now. The protests have gathered momentum after a broad array of people joined it angered by what they view as Erdogan's increasingly authoritarian hold over power, and his intervention in the private lives of Turks, including attempts to curtail sale of alcohol, and commenting on how women should dress. Meanwhile, the jailed Kurdish rebel leader Abdullah Ocalan has voiced support for the anti-government protests, stating that "To me the resistance movement makes a lot of sense and I salute it". He warned protesters who are calling for an end to Erdogan's ten-year rule not to let their movement be taken over by Turkish nationalists.<sup>30</sup>

## II. INTERNAL SECURITY REVIEW

### Jammu & Kashmir

- **Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh: The security situation in Jammu and Kashmir has shown a marked improvement during last year with various steps being taken by the Government; Police detain youths in connection with Sherbagh blast; A top Jaish-e-Muhammad militant killed an encounter with security forces in Pulwama**

Reports noted that Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the Chief Minister's Conference on Internal Security has said that the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir has shown a marked improvement during last year with various steps being taken by the Government showing results on the ground. The Prime Minister and Home Minister Sushil Kumar Shinde focused on the

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<sup>30</sup> "Stop now, Prime Minister Erdogan tells Turkish protesters", *The Daily Star*, June 7, 2013 at <http://dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2013/Jun-07/219698-eu-urges-turkey-to-probe-excessive-use-of-police-force.ashx#axzz2Vmkwm5nh>; Also see "Jailed Kurdish rebel chief backs Turkey protests", *The Daily Star*, June 8, 2013 at <http://dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2013/Jun-08/219778-jailed-kurdish-rebel-chief-backs-turkey-protests.ashx#axzz2Vmkwm5nh>, and "Turkish prime minister convenes party leadership", *The Daily Star*, June 8, 2013 at <http://dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2013/Jun-08/219792-turkeys-pm-to-convene-party-leadership.ashx#axzz2Vmkwm5nh>

prevailing situation in the state during the Chief Ministers' conference on internal security held in New Delhi. Dr Singh said the strategy to prevent cross-border infiltration by militants and intelligence based counter-militancy operations in the state have resulted in a decline in the level of violence by about one-third in 2012 as compared to 2011. Violence parameters in 2012 have been the lowest since the upsurge in militant activities two decades ago. The record inflow of tourists and pilgrims during 2012 also points to an improved security situation in the state. He assured the states of Centre's full support to tackle militancy.<sup>31</sup>

In other developments, according to reports, a day after a grenade attack on Sherbagh Police Station at Islamabad in Anantnag, police on June 3 detained around a dozen youth during raids. The security in the town was also been beefed up.<sup>32</sup>

According to reports, a top Jaish-e-Muhammad militant was killed in a gunfight with forces in Kellar area of the South Kashmir district of Pulwama on June 5.<sup>33</sup>

## North East India

- **Firing at Assam-Nagaland border leaves one person dead; Imphal and Agartala to become international airports; Tripura reduces area under AFSPA; Transportation of food grains for Northeast via Bangladesh begins**

According to reports, five days after Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi assured of adequate security to the people in the clash-prone areas along the Assam-Nagaland border in Mariani, a farmer succumbed to bullet injuries in Naginijan area on June 3. The firing from Nagaland side continued till the miscreants faced retaliatory firing from Assam Police. More than thirty armed police personnel were deployed on the Assam side just after the incident had taken place. As the miscreants hid in the jungles of bordering Mokokchung district, none of them could be nabbed by police.<sup>34</sup>

Reports noted that Imphal airport in Manipur would soon be notified as an international airport while Agartala airport in Tripura would have international standards by 2015. The airports are being made international as part of India's Look East policy to boost the northeast region's connectivity and trade with Southeast Asia.<sup>35</sup>

In other developments, according to reports, with insurgency on the wane in Tripura, the State Government has reduced the areas under Armed Forces Special Powers Act, 1958 (AFSPA), which

<sup>31</sup> "JK situation has improved: PM", *Greater Kashmir*, June 5, 2013 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2013/Jun/6/jk-situation-has-improved-pm-25.asp>

<sup>32</sup> "Sherbagh blast: Police detain 12 youth", *Greater Kashmir*, June 3, 2013 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2013/Jun/4/sherbagh-blast-police-detain-12-youth-27.asp>

<sup>33</sup> "Another Encounter in Pulwama", *Greater Kashmir*, June 5, 2013 at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2013/Jun/6/another-encounter-in-pulwama-26.asp>

<sup>34</sup> "One killed in firing on Nagaland border", *The Assam Tribune*, June 3, 2013 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=jun0413/at05>

<sup>35</sup> "Imphal, Agartala airports to go international", *The Assam Tribune*, June 6, 2013 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=jun0613/at042>

gave ample powers to paramilitary forces to conduct search or arrest people in the name of insurgency. A notification issued by the government on June 5 said the matter was reviewed and after consideration of the overall law and order situation of the State, the areas were reduced.<sup>36</sup>

Reports noted that transportation of food grains for the mountainous North-Eastern States of India via Bangladesh began on June 9, and the first consignment is expected to reach Tripura within 10 to 15 days. Initially, the Bangladesh government has agreed to transport 10,000 tonnes of foodgrains for Tripura through its territory.<sup>37</sup>

## Ministry of Home Affairs(MHA) News

### ● Prime Minister to inaugurate Chief Ministers' conference on internal security

Reports noted that the Conference of Chief Ministers on Internal Security will be held in New Delhi on June 5. The day-long conference will be inaugurated by Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh. Union Home Minister, Shri Sushilkumar Shinde will deliver the opening address. The participants will review internal security situation in the country. Police Reforms, capacity building, strengthening of counter terrorism capabilities and intelligence apparatus, National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC) and focus on ongoing and new initiatives will be on the agenda. Other issues to be deliberated upon include Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & System (CCTNS), issues related to Left Wing Extremism (LWE), border management, coastal security and other Centre-State issues. A separate session will deal with LWE issues with the Chief Ministers of naxal affected states.<sup>38</sup>

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<sup>36</sup> "Tripura reduces area under AFSPA", *The Assam Tribune*, June 7, 2013 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=jun0813/oth06>

<sup>37</sup> "Transporting foodgrains for Northeast via Bangladesh begins", *The Assam Tribune*, June 9, 2013 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=jun0913/at04>

<sup>38</sup> "PM to inaugurate CMs Conference on Internal Security", *Press Information Bureau, Govt. Of India*, June 4, 2013 at <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/erelease.aspx?relid=96399>