

Important Events In The Neighbourhood

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Nepal

03 February 2011 - Step taken towards ending 7-month political deadlock as Constituent Assembly elected Jhalanath Khanal of UML party as new PM, but Khanal still unable to form new govt. Maoist leader Prachandra had earlier agreed to support UML, rescind own candidacy.

22 January 2011 - Maoist party formally agreed to place its 19,000 ex-combatants under control of cross-party committee headed by interim PM Madhav Nepal; UN praised as major step forward in peace process. No agreement yet on integration of combatants into state security forces. All parties agreed on new voting procedure to break 7-month political deadlock and elect new PM, making it mandatory for MPs to vote; Constituent Assembly scheduled first round of new PM elections for 03 February.

15 January 2011 - UNMIN ended four year mission in Nepal.

Myanmar

16 February 2011 - U.S. State Dept voiced concern for opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi's safety after threats against her published in state media for her support of sanctions.

07 February 2011 - Suu Kyi's NLD party called on West to maintain sanctions.

04 February 2011 - Parliament elected ex-PM Thein Sein new President, two high-ranking ex-military officials as VPs; all 3 members of junta proxy party USDP.

28 January 2011 - Supreme Court upheld dissolution of Aung San Suu Kyi's NLD party.

21 January 2011 - Junta named 388 officers to fill 25% of seats allocated to military in upper and lower house and regional, state parliaments.

16 January 2011 - ASEAN FMs called for international sanctions on Myanmar to be lifted, followed earlier similar joint request from main ethnic parties; NDE, DP parties echoed call on 20 January.

13 December 2010 - UN human rights expert on Myanmar called on govt to release estimated 2,200 remaining political prisoners; followed 08 December death of imprisoned monk, 145th prisoner to die in captivity since 1988.

26 November 2010 - Junta introduced laws restricting free speech and banning protest in parliament.

12 November 2010 - Opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi released from house arrest: called for unity among pro-democracy groups, said open to talks with junta, willing to moderate her opposition to sanctions. 7 Nov elections criticised as fraudulent amidst widespread reports of manipulation, including advance voting, intimidation, fraud during count. Junta proxy party USDP won 80% of seats in Upper and Lower Houses, but claimed marginally less votes in ethnic regions than in heartland.

Bangladesh

07 February 2011 - Govt deployed 10,000 riot police across country after opposition BNP called national strike to protest govt handling of economy; dozens injured as protesters clashed with police in Dhaka. Police raided BNP headquarters, arrested several activists.

16 December 2010 - Influential opposition BNP party MP Salauddin Quader Chowdhury charged with war crimes during 1971 independence war, arrested on unrelated murder charges; BNP claimed politically motivated.

13 November 2010 - Violent demonstrations erupted across country after govt evicted opposition BNP party leader Khaleda Zia from her home. At least 100 injured as protesters clashed with police; 3 killed in Khustia suicide attack on ruling AL party MP Afaz Uddin's residence, but Uddin unharmed.

Sri Lanka

18 February 2011 – The UN said some 5,000 suspected LTTE members still held in camps without access to lawyers or ICRC.

08 February 2011 - UNSG Ban Ki-Moon said panel of experts advising him on accountability options for alleged war crimes will visit Sri Lanka, but no sign trip would happen as panel reached end of month reporting deadline. Thousands rallied in Colombo on 8 February to mark 1-year anniversary of detention of

opposition leader Sarath Fonseka; similar opposition protests had attacked by govt supporters on 04 February 2011.

01 February 2011 - UN panel advising on possible war crimes investigation yet to visit Sri Lanka after failing to agree terms with govt; deadline for panel's report extended to end Feb.

07 December 2010 - UN said most of some 300,000 displaced during end of civil war now resettled, but some 20,000 remain in camps in north.

14 November 2010 - Rajapaksa said all 70,000 Muslims expelled from north by LTTE in 1990 will be resettled; rights groups raised concerns over reports govt settling ethnic Sinhalese in majority Tamil areas in north.

09 November 2010 - Govt extended term of own panel investigating civil war by six months; panel early Nov submitted "interim report", urging govt to address some grievances of Tamils.

19 October 2010 - Govt announced 6% increase in defense spending for 2011 budget.

16 October 2010 - Govt claimed some 4,500 of 11,000 suspected LTTE fighters detained after 2009 end of civil war had been released and "reintegrated into society".

Source: Reuters & Associated Press reports; International Crisis Group.

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