



ASIA
 MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA; WEST ASIA; SOUTH ASIA; NORTH ASIA; EAST ASIA



AFRICA
 WEST AFRICA; EAST AFRICA & HORN OF AFRICA; CENTRAL AFRICA; SOUTH AFRICA



EUROAMERICA
 WEST EUROPE; EAST EUROPE; NORTH AMERICA; LATIN AMERICA



GLOBALIZED OPINION...



GLOBALIZED FINANCE...



GLOBALIZED ELECTIONS...

Trial Issue # 27
 Date: 25/06/10

Friday on the facebook

WEEKLY NEWS MONITOR OF OPINIONS & EVENTS IN A GLOBALIZED WORLD

Based on weekly reports produced by the project 'Globalized Business & Politics: a View from the Muslim World.'

Using a rich data-base of news reports and opinion polls from all over the world we analyze and compile papers on global trends and patterns in the sphere of economics, politics and society. These reports and analytical summaries are uploaded online for discussion and are accessible on the [BPM Blog Page](#).

WELCOME REMARKS for new readers What is FOF?

Dear Colleagues,

We are mailing to you the weekly e-letter of the project: Globalized Business and Politics: A View from the Muslim World". The e-letter is a snapshot of the detailed data gathering and analysis which our research team does each week.

Why should one add another e-letter to many similar exercises already underway? We have pondered this question and here is what we believe to be our possible contribution or *Competitive Advantage*.

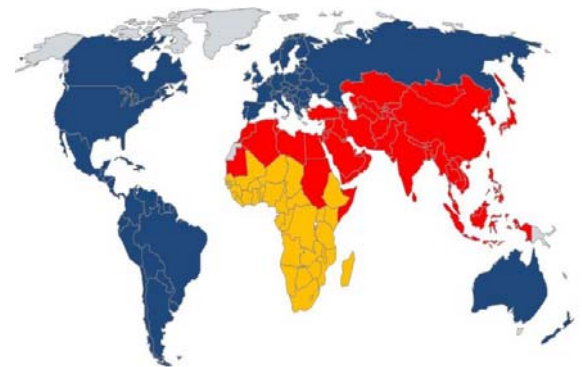
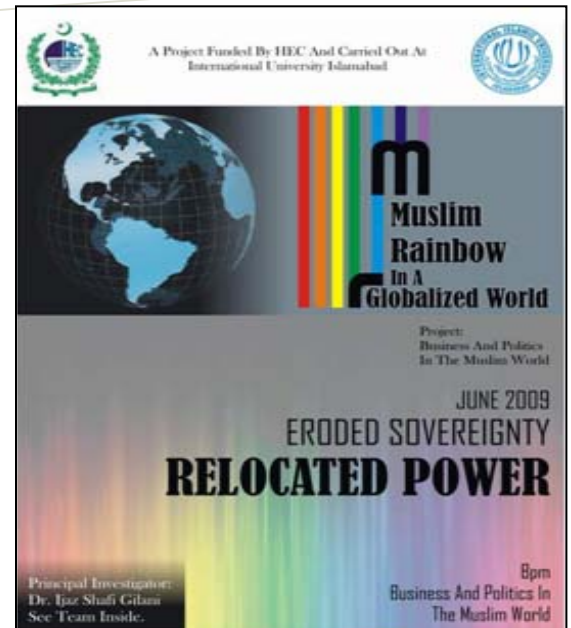
- ◆ We will make the e-letter a multi-layered presentation: in other words Friday on the Facebook will provide clicks to deeper levels of information; for comprehension (Maps and Data) as well as for elaboration



and analysis (complete weekly Events data, supplementary commentaries and related links).

- ◆ Our weekly e-letter will be grounded in a thorough Analytical framework of Relocation of Power in the 21st Century.
- ◆ Our weekly e-letter will be targeted to produce an annual synthesis of Global Trends. Each issue will serve as an input for the annual analysis.
- ◆ Our weekly e-letter will be designed to become a teaching tool for class-room instruction in courses dealing with global political sociology or related fields.
- ◆ Our weekly e-letter will also be designed to build a theoretically inclined community of political sociologists.

With best wishes and prayers we present our 'weekly e-letter: *Friday on the Facebook*. - A Weekly Monitor of *Global Opinions and Events*. §



Business and Politics in the Muslim World (BPM) refers to a study funded by the Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan, and is conducted at the International Islamic University (IIU), Islamabad.



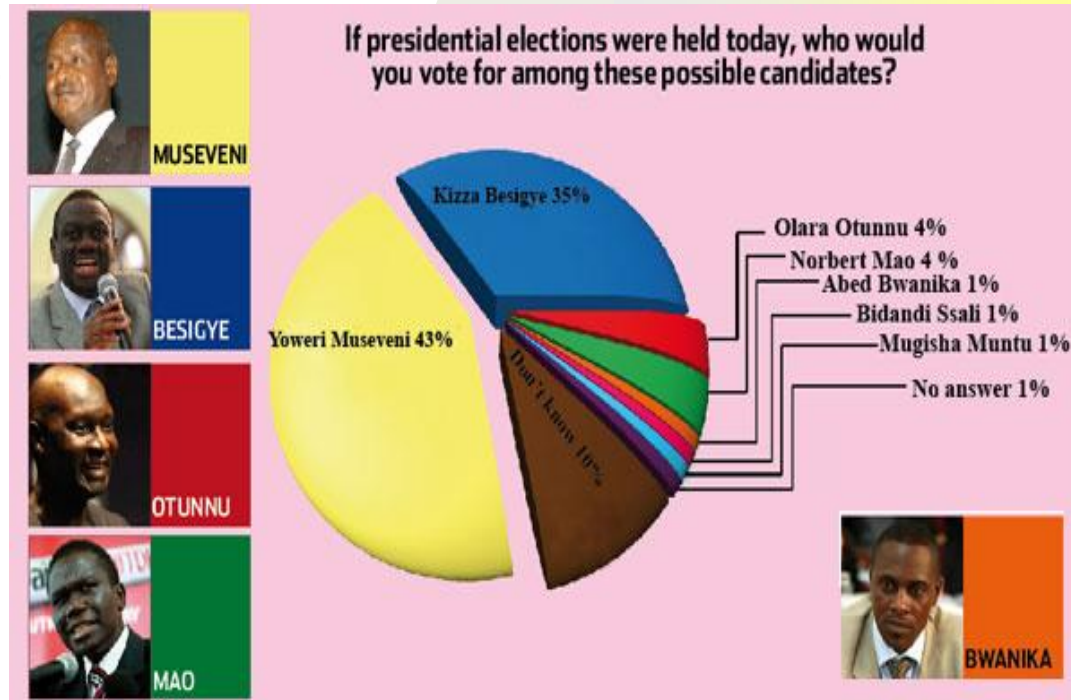
Globalized Opinions

This week's report consists of **26** surveys. **One** of these is a multi-country survey of **Sub Saharan Africa**. **7** polling organizations have been represented.

ASIA zone-2 national polls & **2** Multi National poll:
South Asia: India, Bangladesh
Northeast Asia: China, Japan
Southeast Asia: Malaysia, Philippines, Vietnam,

AFRICA zone- 1 national polls:
West Africa: Nigeria, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal,
Central Africa: Uganda, Chad, Burundi, Rwanda, Congo Kinshasa, Cameroon,
Eastern Africa: Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda
Southern Africa: Malawi, South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe

EURO-AMERICAS zone-14 national polls & **4** Multi national polls:
East Europe- Russia, Ukraine, Greece
West Europe- UK, Spain, Sweden, Netherlands,
North America- U.S.A
Latin America- Brazil, México, Colombia,
Australasia: Australia



Commentary: Museveni Faces a New Challenge in Uganda

June 07, 2010

(Angus Reid Global Monitor) - Yoweri Museveni will seek to extend his long tenure as **Uganda's** president next year, but the public is currently not as eager to back the incumbent head of state as in years past.

In a survey carried out by *TNS/Research International* in May 2010 commissioned by the *Daily Monitor* in **Uganda**, **43 %** of respondents said they would cast a ballot for **Museveni** in the election that is tentatively scheduled for February 2011. The main opposition leader in the African nation—**Kizza Besigye** of the Forum for Democratic Change (FDC)—is second with **35 %**.

When he has had to face the electorate, Museveni has always secured a victory with a majority of the vote in the first round. The latest survey suggests that the opposition may have the potential to force a run-off.

Democratic processes in **Uganda** have usually been less than perfect. The 2006 election, where **Museveni** defeated **Besigye** with **59.2 %** of the vote, was criticized by the United Nations (UN) for lacking "an even playing field" and ended with the Supreme Court's admission that, although irregularities had indeed taken place in the ballot, they were not enough to dispute Museveni's victory.

While Museveni's arrival to the political scene—as the leader of the rebel National Resistance Army (NRA)—was originally greeted with hope by the international community, feelings towards Uganda have changed, particularly after several constitutional amendments effectively allowed Museveni to run for president at will.

Besigye has less than a year to pull together an opposition coalition to seek to dethrone a man who first took power when Ronald Reagan was still in the White House.

http://www.angus-reid.com/polls/view/museveni_faces_a_new_challenge_in_uganda/
<http://www.monitor.co.ug/News/National/-/688334/929098/-/item/1/-/5cnn6mz/-/index.html>

SUMMARY OF POLLS

Zone 1- ASIA

NORTHEAST ASIA

Multi Country poll- Top desired Destinations for Potential Migrants: ([Click for Details](#))



SOUTHEAST ASIA

Malaysian voters have mixed views on government KPIs – survey ([Click for Details](#))

Peninsular [Malaysia](#) voters showed wide-ranging views on the government's key result areas but at the same time the Prime Minister's approval rating remained steady in positive territory in a recent opinion poll released by [Merdeka Centre Malaysia](#).

June 08, 2010

AFRICA:

SUB SAHARAN AFRICA

Museveni Faces a New Challenge in Uganda ([Click for Details](#))

Yoweri Museveni will seek to extend his long tenure as [Uganda's](#) president next year, but the public is currently not as eager to back the incumbent head of state as in years past. [Angus Reid Global Monitor](#)

June 07, 2010

Regional poll- Sub-Saharan Africans Bank on Family for Business Loans ([Click for Details](#))

[Sub-Saharan Africans](#) would most likely turn to their families if they needed money to start a business, according to [Gallup](#) surveys of 18 countries in the region. Forty-two % of respondents spontaneously named "family" as their primary source for funds, while banks (16%) and friends (15%) were a distant second. Despite the emphasis on microfinance in recent years in sub-Saharan Africa, 4% mentioned these institutions.

June 11, 2010

Multi Country poll- Top desired Destinations for Potential Migrants: ([Click for Details](#))

Zone 3- EURO-AMERICAS

EAST EUROPE

The Best Is Yet To Come: Russians About The Present And The Future ([Click for Details](#))

[Russian Public Opinion Research Center \(VCIOM\)](#) presents the data concerning what [Russians](#) expect the next 12 months will be like, this shows that Russians are very optimistic about their future and believe that the worst is past.

May 18, 2010

Sevastopol Agreement: Who Benefited More: Russia Or Ukraine? ([Click for Details](#))

Almost half of [Russians](#) (47%) believe that the agreement between *Russian* and *Ukraine* to extend the Black Sea fleet lease in Sevastopol is mutually beneficial for both countries. But those who have negative views of U.S, (41%) youth aged (18-24) (37%) and residents of Urals Federal District (49%) think that *Ukraine* benefits more from this agreement. [Russian Public Opinion Research Center \(VCIOM\)](#)

May 17, 2010

Ukrainians Ponder Performance of New Government ([Click for Details](#))

One-in-four [Ukrainians](#) believe the country's situation has improved under the new government, according to a poll by

[Research & Branding Group](#). 26 % of respondents think the socio-economic situation in Ukraine has become better, while 56 % say it has not changed substantially.

June 10, 2010

WEST EUROPE

Few Britons Upbeat about Economic Standing ([Click for Details](#))

Despite a change of government, people in [Britain](#) remain disappointed with the state of their domestic economy, according to a poll by [Angus Reid Public Opinion](#). 83 % of respondents rate the economic conditions in the United

Kingdom as poor or very poor.

June 11, 2010

Rutte Could Form Next Dutch Government ([Click for Details](#))

The [Dutch](#) legislative election, forced by a disagreement on the future of the *Afghanistan* mission, might bring a change at the helm for the first time in almost eight years. [Angus Reid Global Monitor](#)

June 08, 2010

Swedes Join Chorus of Anti-Euro Voices ([Click for Details](#))

People in [Sweden](#) are turning their backs on the idea of joining the *Eurozone*, and with a legislative election due in September, politicians are steering clear of any discussions on whether the *krona* should be abandoned. [Angus Reid](#)

[Global Monitor](#)

June 07, 2010

Popular Party Overtakes Socialists in Spain ([Click for Details](#))

A new [Angus Reid Global Monitor](#) poll suggests that [Spain's](#) opposition conservative Popular Party (PP) would defeat the governing Socialist Workers' Party (PSOE) in the next general election. In addition, the PP has found strength in areas of the European country that have historically voted left, including five autonomous communities where it currently sits in opposition.

June 06, 2010

Greeks Blame Their Government, Not World, For Crisis ([Click for Details](#))

[Greece](#) has been a main focus of discussions related to the future of the European Union (EU). When Greeks are asked about the cause of the devastating crisis they are currently experiencing, they undoubtedly hold their own government responsible. [Angus Reid Global Monitor](#)

June 06, 2010

NORTH AMERICA

Party Lines Mark Debate Over Korea in U.S. ([Click for Details](#))

The possibility of a new war in the *Korean Peninsula* is a concern for many

[Americans](#), but following the recent military interventions in *Iraq* and *Afghanistan*, the public is not particularly supportive of a new "regime change" operation. [Angus Reid Global Monitor](#)

June 07, 2010

Registered Voters Evenly Divided on Vote for Congress ([Click for Details](#))

[Gallup's](#) latest update on the generic ballot shows registered [American](#) voters evenly divided in their current voting intentions for Congress, with **46%** saying they would vote for the Republican candidate in their district and **46%** for the Democratic candidate.

June 8, 2010

Fewer Americans Feeling Better About Their Financial Situation ([Click for Details](#))

Exactly half of [Americans](#) in May said they were feeling better about their financial situation -- a key measure of financial wellbeing. That's fewer than said so in April, and the deterioration is holding so far in June. [Gallup USA](#)

June 11, 2010

Doubts about Obama's Economic Policies Rose Over the Last Year ([Click for Details](#))

The [American](#) public increasingly sees Barack Obama's policies as having an impact on economic conditions and, for the first time, slightly more say the impact has been negative rather than positive. [Pew Research Center](#)

June 8, 2010

For Majority of Voters, National Issues Paramount in 2010 Vote ([Click for Details](#))

By **55%** to **39%**, more registered voters in [America](#) say a candidate's stand on national issues -- rather than his or her ability to help people at the district level -- is what matters more to them in voting for Congress. The percentage naming issues as the more important factor is the highest recorded on this measure in the nearly two-decade-long [Gallup](#) trend, although similar to that seen at points in the last two midterm election years.

June 9, 2010

Americans Lack Consensus on Desirability of Divided Gov't ([Click for Details](#))

A plurality of [Americans](#), **39%**, say it makes no difference whether Congress and the presidency are controlled by the same or different parties, while the remainder show nearly equal support for divided (**30%**) and unified (**27%**) party government. [Gallup USA](#)



June 10, 2010

Hispanic Voters' Preferences Unchanged Post-Arizona Law ([Click for Details](#))

Hispanic voters in [America](#) haven't shifted their congressional voting preferences since the signing of Arizona's new immigration law on April 23. Their preference for the Democratic candidate over the Republican candidate, **61% to 32%**, in April 23 to June 8 interviewing almost identically matches the **60% to 32%** margin recorded between March 1 and April 22. White voters and black voters also haven't changed their voting intentions. [Gallup USA](#)

June 11, 2010

The Typical Modern Mother: There Isn't One ([Click for Details](#))

In [America](#) today's mothers of newborns are more likely than their counterparts two decades earlier to be ages 35 and older, to have some college education, to be unmarried or to be nonwhite -- but not all at once. [Pew Research Center](#)

June 11, 2010



LATIN AMERICA

Multi Country poll- Top desired Destinations for Potential Migrants:

Roughly 6.2 Million Mexicans Express Desire to Move to U.S. ([Click for Details](#))

Amid an ongoing debate in the U.S. on immigration from [Mexico](#), [Gallup](#) estimates 6.2 million Mexican adults say they would like to move permanently to the United States if given the chance. That's close to half of the 14 million Mexicans -- or **19%** of the adult population -- who say they would like to resettle somewhere else; would-be migrants in [Mexico](#) choose *Canada* and *Spain* as their other top desired destinations.

June 7, 2010

Three-in-Four Brazilians Content with Lula ([Click for Details](#))

Public support for the [Brazilian](#) president remains impressive, according to a poll by [Ibope](#). **75 %** of respondents rate Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva's performance as good or very good.

June 09, 2010

Santos Would Defeat Mockus in Colombia ([Click for Details](#))

Juan Manuel Santos of the U Party (U), who came very close to winning the [Colombian](#) presidential election in the first round on May 30, holds a large lead over his rival as the South American country prepares for the run-off. [Angus Reid Global Monitor](#)

June 08, 2010

AUSTRALASIA

Australia Ponders Limits of Private Life Reporting ([Click for Details](#))

The resignation of a Member of Parliament following reports that he had led a double life as a gay man has prompted a debate in [Australia](#) over the boundaries of reporting on the personal lives of politicians. [Angus Reid Global Monitor](#)

June 06, 2010

CYBER WORLD

The Flotilla Furor Online ([Click for Details](#))

The May 31 clash in which [Israeli](#) soldiers killed nine people on a [Turkish](#) ship carrying supplies to the [Gaza Strip](#) triggered a passionate *blogosphere* response focused largely on who was to blame. [Pew Research Center](#)

June 10, 2010

Neighbors Online ([Click for Details](#))

[Americans](#) use a range of approaches to keep informed about what is happening in their communities and online activities have been added to the mix. Face-to-face encounters and phone calls remain the most frequent methods of interaction with neighbors. At the same time, internet tools are gaining ground in community-oriented communications. [Pew Research Center](#)

June 9, 2010

The Future of Cloud Computing ([Click for Details](#))

A solid majority of technology experts and stakeholders participating in the fourth Future of the Internet survey expect that by 2020 most people will access software applications online and share and access information through the use of remote server networks, rather than depending primarily on tools and information housed on their individual, personal computers. [Pew Research Center](#)

June 11, 2010 §

Zone 1- **Asia: Summary**

Asia, Middle East & North Africa

TURKEY

Political Front:

Opposition parties have criticized government's stance at the UNSC regarding *Iranian* nuclear program and emphasized that nuclear weapons should be eliminated from the world.

Turkish Parliament has passed a protection law for the safety of coal miners. The Constitutional Court has accepted an indictment filed by the main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP) against the government's referendum package passed in May.

Meanwhile **Turkish** military launched air strikes against bases of the terrorist Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) in northern *Iraq*.

Geo-strategic Front:

Russian PM has pledged to support **Turkey** in raising the issue of the May 31 Israeli attack on a Gaza-bound humanitarian aid convoy which led to the deaths of nine activists. **Turkey** has also asked Arab countries to get united in order to respond to the *Israeli* attack in an effective manner.

A **Turkish** 'no' vote over the issue of sanctions against *Iran* has brought a new dynamics to **US-Turkey-Iran** ties. Meanwhile a group of *Israelis* have announced to visit *Cyprus* in order to protest '*Turkish* occupation' of the region.

Turkish energy Minister said that they would willingly sign nuclear energy agreement with *South Korea*. **Turkey** has signed various agreements of cooperation with *Thailand* at various fronts as well.

Economic Front:

Lebanese Prime Minister Saad Hariri while addressing the opening of **Turkish-Arab Cooperation Forum** said that **Turkey** and Arab countries might establish an integrated economic structure which will foster power of Arabs and **Turkey** at the economic and political platforms as well as the international arena.

The government has recently decided to resume livestock and red meat imports through the state-owned Meat and Fish Institution (EBK). Previously these institutions had been banned for eight-years following the mad cow disease scare.

Turkey and *Russia* signed a nuclear cooperation deal during the third summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA).

GCC

Geo-strategic Front:

GCC has been trying to diversify its relations with key international actors. They have entered in dialogue with *Europe* and *US* on one hand and with *China*, *Russia*, *ASEAN* and other Asian countries on the other hand. Meanwhile all GCC members have been engaged in further strengthening their mutual collaboration.

Meanwhile **UAE** has requested UN to carry impartial investigation of Israeli aggression against Palestine and release full report then. **Qatar** too is pushing to take *Israel* to the International Court of Justice. **GCC** held an Arab Parliament's urgent session and decided to send a delegation to Gaza in yet another attempt to break the four-year-old siege on the Strip. They also called for lifting the siege imposed on Gaza by *Israel* without conditions or limitations.

Economic Front:



Arab countries have been attracting important investors for the region following recovery from the global economic crisis.

Social Front:

The **Abu Dhabi** Education Council has unveiled its Higher Education Strategic Plan to achieve the aims of the emirate's plan of economic diversification and establishing a knowledge-based economy. Meanwhile the **Kuwaiti** government recently approved a well received amendment in labor law.

CENTRAL ASIA

Political Front:

The **Azerbaijani** Parliament with participation of MPs and local and international experts held hearings on the Constitutional Law "On normative legal acts".

At least four people were injured when a grenade exploded in northern city of **Kyrgyzstan**. Meanwhile at least 50 people have died and more than 600 have been injured in clashes between ethnic **Kyrgyz** and **Uzbek** youth versus security forces in the southern city of Osh.

The US has called for sensitivity to ethnic issues and the inclusion of all ethnic groups in the development in **Azerbaijan**.

More than 20 journalists protested outside the **Uzbek** Embassy in the **Tajik** capital and asked **Uzbekistan** to open the economic blockade against **Tajikistan**. Also at least 20 **Tajik** students gathered on June 4th near **Uzbekistan's** embassy in Washington urging the **Uzbek** government to remove the transport blockade.

Meanwhile **Tajik** independent journalists and analysts have condemned Liberal Democratic Party Leader for calling **Tajikistan** to be a failed state.

The *Majilis* of **Turkmenistan** has passed a resolution setting the date of elections to the regional, district and city people's councils. President of **Uzbekistan** Islam Karimov signed the law on legal expertise on 1 June. The document regulates relations in the field of legal expertise in the country.

Geo-strategic Front:

U.S. President has promised **Azerbaijan** in a letter that Washington would treat its dispute with **Armenia** as a top priority. The US Secretary of State has also a paid visit to **Azerbaijan**.

A *British* humanitarian organization assured that it has cleared land mines and unexploded ordnance from the bulk of **Nagorno-Karabakh's** war-affected territory.

Meanwhile despite **Azeri** criticism the new parliament in **Nagorno-Karabakh** held its first session and appointed their leadership.

The **Azeri** President held meeting with his *Turkish* counterpart and appreciated friendly ties between the two countries. **Azerbaijan** has agreed to ship more gas to Europe via *Turkey*. Meanwhile the *United States* has started talks with **Azerbaijan** about fuel supplies for its operations at *Manas* air base.

Turkmen President was in **Uzbekistan** earlier this month for participation as a guest in the session of the Council of heads of states of the *Shanghai Cooperation Organization*, hosted by *Tashkent* along with Presidents from *Russia, Afghanistan, Pakistan* and other Central Asian Republics.

Economic Front:

China and **Azerbaijan** have decided to create a joint venture in July to build the *Beyneu-Bozoy-Akbulak* gas pipeline.

The **Kyrgyz** GDP has increased by **9.7%** according to recent figures.

Gazprom-Neft-Tajikistan, which controls some **60%** of the gasoline market in **Tajikistan**, has announced a retail price hike of over **25%**. Meanwhile farmers and businessmen in **Tajikistan's** northern province of *Sughd* have been desperately seeking new markets following a ban by *Russia* on the import of dried fruit and nuts from **Tajikistan**.

Social Front:

The *US* has signed a narcotics control agreement with **Turkmenistan**.

EAST ASIA

Political Front:

Indonesia's Golkar Party has said that it would continue to fight for higher parliamentary threshold of **5%** to reduce the number of political parties at the House of Representatives. Ruling Party's leader has denied allegation that the higher parliamentary threshold aimed to bar small parties from getting seats at the House. He further added that even the current big political parties might not be able to pass the **5%** threshold.

In the **Philippines** several groups have urged president-elect Benigno Aquino III to certify as urgent the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act after members of the 14th Congress failed to ratify the measure due to infighting and lack of quorum.





Rights group Amnesty International has called on **Thailand's** prime minister to ensure an independent and impartial investigation into recent unrest and to lift a state of emergency immediately. In response Premier *Abhisit Vejjajiva* has commissioned an inquiry led by a former attorney general into the loss of **90** lives after recent clashes between armed troops and anti-government "Red Shirt" demonstrators.

Geo-strategic Front:

Indonesia has announced its plan to increase the number of its submarines over the next two years to defend its territory as well as protecting

international shipping lanes. The country has further planned to boost its defense spending up to **1.5%** of the country's gross domestic product by 2014 from about **0.7-0.8 %** in 2010, among the lowest in the region.

Economic Front:

Finance ministers from the **Group of 20** countries ended a two-day meeting to review progress on a string of initiatives agreed last year to make the financial system safer and protect taxpayers from having to pay for bank rescues again.

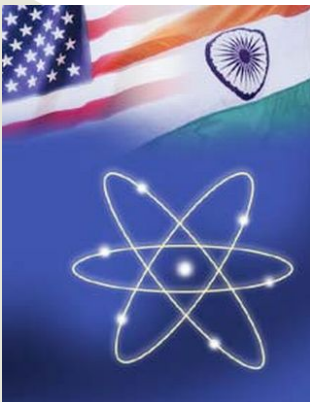
Meanwhile the **Malaysian** Prime Minister has set out a five-year plan to cut subsidies and accelerate investment but outlined few measures to boost competitiveness, reinforcing doubts about his reform agenda.

A new survey has found that **Singapore** and **Hong Kong** have the least complex, most consistent and predictable tax policies in the region. **Japanese** investors have started focusing on **Philippines** as an alternative to **China** and **Vietnam**. Donors have pledged US\$1.1 billion in aid for this year - up from last year's \$950 million - during a two-day conference earlier this month.

Twelve global companies have joined with the Government of **Vietnam** to launch a public-private task force to advance sustainable agricultural growth in the country.

Social Front:

Government troops have mounted an offensive in Basilan, a predominantly Muslim island province of the



Philippines amid intelligence reports that a number of militants allied with the *Southeast Asian* militant network *Jemaah Islamiyah* have taken refuge in Abu Sayyaf encampments.

INDIA

Political Front:

BJP and Leftist parties have asked government to reconsider the nuclear legislation. BJP has dismissed reports of differences in the party on the inclusion of caste in census; despite the fact that few of the leaders have expressed support for inclusion on the basis of caste however some others have come up with opposite opinion. During latest meeting between the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and MPs representing the worst Naxal-

affected regions, MPs claimed that military operation should not be launched to counter Maoist insurgency.

15 people were injured in clashes between the police and stone-throwing youths protesting against an alleged blasphemous depiction of the holy city of *Madina* on some products, which disrupted life in parts of *Srinagar* and *Baramulla* in north **Kashmir**.

Geo-strategic Front:

India has strongly condemned *Israeli* inhuman attack against *Freedom Flotilla*.

Economic Front:

Gold prices have remarkably increased in **Indian** markets. Meanwhile industrial production has also grown.

Social Front:

Ministry of Minority Affairs has recently released figures that indicate a **3%** increase in job opportunities for minority communities in the last three years. Meanwhile **India** has been ranked at 128th position on this year's Global Peace Index (GPI), having slipped six positions.

Most parts of north **India** received moderate to heavy rainfall, causing the mercury to dip sharply as flash

floods triggered by Cyclone *Phet* inundated low-level areas of Rajasthan. Almost 35 lakh people live below poverty line in *Kerala*. Meanwhile State energy minister Saurabh Patel has strongly objected to Planning Commission member's remarks about the plight of minorities in *Gujarat*, saying Muslims here were in a better position than anywhere else in the country.

SOUTH ASIA

Political Front:

Bangladeshi key opposition parties have decided to launch a joint movement against ruling party because of its anti-national policies. Meanwhile the **Nepali** PM has agreed to resign on a condition that *Maoists* should give up arms. The condition was accepted along with a 5 day ultimatum for the PM to resign. Political deadlock however continues in the country.

Geo-strategic Front:

Growing **Chinese** relations with *Bangladesh* remained significant.

Economic Front:

Bangladesh is to sign a Free Trade Agreement with **India** in order to narrow the huge trade gap between the two countries. Meanwhile the **Sri Lankan** economy has improved, recording better results and showing **6%** economic growth in the first quarter.

Social Front:

Government of **Bangladesh** has been criticized for curbing freedom of expression.

AFGHANISTAN

Political Front:

Afghanistan's President *Hamid Karzai* has ordered a review of all suspected Taliban fighters imprisoned in **Afghan** jails and said those held for dubious reasons should be freed.

Afghanistan's interior minister and the head of the National Directorate of Security have both resigned over attacks that marred the opening day of the peace jirga. Hamid Karzai however faced criticism for accepting resignation of these two officials. Meanwhile *Taliban* have rejected the three days peace jirga on the ground that it did not come up with any new proposal. An Afghan and international operation to clear **Taliban** from two districts of southern *Ghazni* province has begun.

Geo-strategic Front:

Afghan President has called for greater coordination between regional countries in the war on terror. *Russia* has rolled out a global initiative to stem **Afghan** drug trafficking to include a comprehensive crackdown on opium poppy growth, but the *United States* gave a cool reception to the plan.

The *British* Prime Minister has ruled out sending any more troops to **Afghanistan**, emphasizing the need to bolster **Afghan** forces to pave the way for the withdrawal of foreign troops. Meanwhile *Japan* has announced to

provide \$422 million to **Afghanistan** over next six months through *United Nations* agencies.

Economic Front:

Afghanistan has been making efforts to draw up a law to regulate Islamic banking in the country.

Social Front:

According to a top health official about 3,000 people lose their lives every year in *Kabul* due to pollution-related diseases.

JAPAN

Political Front:

Japan's new PM Kan has helped his party get people's favorability. Various surveys have indicated growing popularity of his party among the public.



**Japanese Prime Minister
Kan Naoto**

Geo-strategic Front:

A Senior *US* security official has appreciated **Japan's** PM's opinion to honor the latest bilateral agreement on the *Futenma* airfield relocation within Okinawa Prefecture.

Economic Front:

Economists have expressed positive hopes about **Japan's** economic growth during Kan's era. **Japanese** corporate bankruptcies fell for a 10th month in May, extending the longest streak of declines in five years, as the nation's economic recovery helped more firms stay afloat.

Meanwhile Aluminum buyers in **Japan** have won a reduction in the fee charged by producers for a second straight quarter as Asian supplies increased on shipments from China and the **Middle East**.

Social Front:

Japanese Health minister has dropped the idea of increasing the child allowance to 26,000 yen (about \$280) per month in fiscal year 2011. The total cost at that rate would be about 5.4 trillion yen a year.

KOREA

Political Front:

United States has started considering new options to punish **North Korea** beyond UN over the issue of allegedly sinking a **South Korean** ship.

Meanwhile **North Korea's** rubber-stamp parliament named leader Kim Jong-il's brother-in-law to the post of vice chairman of the National Defense Commission.

Geo-strategic Front:

A **South Korean** space rocket carrying a scientific satellite exploded two minutes into its flight in the second failure in two tries to put a payload in orbit.

North Korea has assured **China** that it would punish those responsible for shooting dead three *Chinese* nationals near the two countries' border and vowed to prevent any repeat.

Meanwhile **South Korea** and the *US* have confirmed that **North Korea** supplied *Iran* with submarines several years ago, showing that military exchanges between the two countries have reached a higher level.

Economic Front:

South Korea's unemployment rate declined in May to the lowest level since October 2008 as the nation's strengthening economy prompted companies to hire. Production at Hyundai Motor's (005380.KS) Indian plant was halted by a workers' strike for three days. Meanwhile, Indian carmakers asked government to intervene in order to resolve this issue. As a result strike ended and normal operations got resumed.

Social Front:

South Korea approved two shipments of baby formula for **North Korean** infants despite rising tensions between the neighbors after Seoul accused the North of sinking one of its naval vessels.



CHINA

Political Front:

Recently published White Paper on **Chinese** government's Internet Policy has created suitable conditions for public to assess government's performance.

Geo-strategic Front:

United States has asked **China** to release those being arrested at Tiananmen Square. In response China has asked *US* to abandon 'rude interference' in internal matters of **China** as it would spoil relations between the two countries. Meanwhile *US* arms sale to **Taiwan** has also been regarded as hindrance in the way of growing *Sino-US* ties.

Chinese collaboration with *Egypt, Vietnam, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Russia, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Turkey, Cyprus, Pakistan, Iceland* and *New Zealand* also remained significant.



China seems to be quite optimistic about growth of **Sino-Japan** relations. Meanwhile the nation has also urged the international community to resolve the **Iranian** nuclear issue through negotiations.

Economic Front:

Investors' confidence in **Chinese** markets has remarkably increased. **Chinese** exports have also witnessed considerable growth. In the meantime stock exchange remained fluctuating.

Employees at *Honda* Factory launched a protest for increase in

wages. Meanwhile *World Bank* has approved loans for sustainable development of **Chinese** rural areas.

Social Front:

China's central authorities have set down a more open policy to attract top-notch foreign talents to help promote the economic and social development and global competitiveness of the nation. Meanwhile an increase in **Chinese** labor strikes against companies being owned by foreigners has been observed.

Infectious diseases have widely spread in Mainland **China**.

Senior Chinese leader Zhou Yongkang has stated the need for sound and fast economic growth as well as social harmony and stability in **China's** ethnic minority areas.

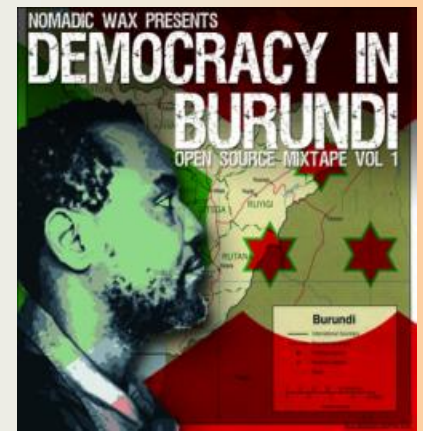
Also **Chinese** cabinet has approved guidelines to enhance forest protection and to curb river pollution. **Chinese** government has announced its plan to make internet accessible to **45%** of its population within next five years. Meanwhile computer crimes have remarkably increased in **China**. §

Zone 2- **Africa:**

Sub Saharan Africa

POLITICS OF SECURITY AND CONFLICT ISSUES

Central Africa: In **Burundi** the chairman of Independent Electoral Commission (CENI) said preparations are far advanced ahead of the presidential election scheduled for 28 June despite the opposition's decision to boycott the vote. Several opposition groups have accused the electoral body of failing to prevent



fraud in last month's district elections won by the ruling CNDD-FDD party with over 60 % of the votes, and are demanding a re-run. These allegations have cast a shadow over the country's democratic transition, prompting international calls for compromise rather than confrontation.

Roger Meece a US diplomat has been appointed to head the UN mission to the **Democratic Republic of the Congo** for his "in-depth knowledge of African issues."

HUMAN RIGHTS AND SOCIAL ISSUES IN DOMESTIC POLITICS

Southern Africa: World Cup kicked off in **South Africa** earlier this month. According to President Jacob Zuma the soccer World Cup is uniting **South Africa**, much like the 1995 world rugby victory helped break down racial barriers, and it will leave a legacy for decades to come. Meanwhile **South Africa** has launched Africa's first high-speed train in time for the football World Cup. The railway links the city's international airport to its financial district.

A **Zimbabwe** farmers' union says at least 16 farmers have been attacked across the country by people trying to seize their land.

African Union members have adopted plans to implement the Kampala convention on the protection of internally displaced people, including increasing their contributions to refugee and IDP funding and accelerating the convention's ratification, signature and domestication.

Meanwhile the *United Nations refugee agency* has expressed sadness after learning of the deaths of nine



Somali asylum-seekers who drowned while attempting to reach **Mozambique**, an increasingly popular route for **Somalis** trying to flee the violence and suffering in their homeland.

Central Africa: United Nations aid workers have reported that the notorious rebel group known as the *Lord's Resistance Army* (LRA) is carrying out ever more deadly attacks in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)** and also continues to abduct children to use as soldiers in its ranks.

Meanwhile an official with the U.N. Peacekeeping Mission in the **Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUC)** said the group will be launching an investigation into the deaths of at least 28 people allegedly killed by the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of Congo, or FARDC. Also a court in the **DRC** has sentenced two former *Norwegian* soldiers to death over murder and espionage charges. The military tribunal condemned Joshua French, 28, and Tjostolv Moland, 29, to death after finding them guilty of killing their driver and spying for *Norway*.

A group of United Nations experts have welcomed the suspension of the chief of the national police of **the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)** and the arrest of several officers in the investigation into last week's murder of a prominent human rights defender. They joined Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and other senior UN officials in calling for a prompt and rigorous probe into the killing of *Floribert Chebeya Bahizire*, whose body was found on the outskirts of the capital, *Kinshasa*, last week, one day after he was summoned to a police station.

In **Rwanda** the Committee to Protect Journalists called on authorities to provide information as to why the Web site of a leading private newspaper *Umuvugizi*, known for its critical coverage of the government, is unreachable on the networks of the country's only Internet service providers. Editor John Bosco Gasasira, launched *Umuvugizi* online in May after **Rwanda's** Media High Council suspended the newspaper in April for six months.

HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND DOMESTIC POLITICS

Southern Africa: A failure to implement power sharing agreements has led the European Union to continue its suspension of development aid to **Madagascar** that continues suffering from both political and weather-related problems leading to water shortage and food insecurity. Similar action has come from the AU and the **Southern African Development Community or SADC**.

POLITICAL ECONOMY

Central Africa: According to the **Rwandan** Minister of Finance and Economic Planning, John Rwangombwa the nation's economy is expected to grow by seven percent this financial year, up from the six percent registered last year. §



Zone 3- Euro-America: *Transatlantic Community*

WESTERN EUROPE

The *United Nations* Security Council passed its fourth and toughest sanctions on *Iran* last week but was rejected by **Brazil** and **Turkey** while *Lebanon* abstained, all are non-permanent UNSC members. **Iran** rejected the sanctions and it is yet unknown if what the previous three sanctions could not achieve, the new sanctions will.

The draft proposal of the recent Bonn Climate summit in **Germany** is being criticized to have mentioned all issues relevant to climate change but having left all the major sticking points unresolved and believed to be developed world oriented.



Bart De Wever of the centrist *New Flemish Alliance* expected to garnered enough votes to make his party the largest in the parliament, is attempting to actualize a separation between the Flanders (Dutch speaking) and Wallonia (French speaking) region. Such separation could create a domino effect within the neighborhood for other separatist movements and could be hideous for **Belgium's** EU status.

In the recent **Dutch** election the pro-business VVD Party got (31) Labour (30), anti Islam Freedom party (24) and the incumbent (21). VVD is expected to form a coalition government very soon.

Immigration issue resonates across Europe as governments want strict immigration laws that will keep at bay unwanted immigrants. Learning local European languages is becoming an integral part of the immigration requirements. In **Britain** the new government believes being able to speak English should be a prerequisite for anyone who wants to settle in the country.

Meanwhile the **British** government last week acknowledged historical administrative errors, and misuse of counterterrorism powers by law enforcement officers (police) across **UK**. Power was granted for such activity under **Britain's** 2000 Terrorism Act, which allows police to "stop and search" people at sensitive areas.

CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

Republika Srpska (RS) Prime Minister Milorad Dodik rejected a statement by **Kosovo** Foreign Minister Skender Hyseni, who said **BiH** will soon recognize **Kosovo's** independence.

Meanwhile **Kosovo** will have to intensify its reform to accelerate its EU integration. Pristina needs to speed up its judiciary reform. EULEX overseeing the country's institutional development has extended its **Kosovo's** mandate, thus having the prerogative to investigate corrupt practices in **Kosovo** educational system as was done in the other sectors.

There was consensus in the **Croat's** parliament over constitutional amendment towards reforming the country's labour law. **Croatian** government has offered labour union leaders negotiating hand in the negotiations; the labour leaders are interested in retaining collective bargaining as opposed to government favored 'one on one' bargaining between employer and employee.

The Democratic Union of Integration (DUI), a partner in **Macedonia's** ruling coalition, marked the eighth anniversary of its establishment with a ceremony in the town of Gostivar. DUI has reiterated its pledge to work towards resolving name dispute and facilitating **Macedonia-EU** integration.

Romanian government still faces opposition from the people for its austerity plans tailored according to IMF likings. Last week the cabinet submitted two bills to the parliament to this effect. Meanwhile, **Romanian** Constitutional Court rejected the newly passed lustration law as unconstitutional. *Lustration law* bans senior officials during the communist-era regime from holding ranking public posts.

Since its establishment in 1993, the *U.N. war crimes* tribunals on the Balkan wars made its toughest and landmark ruling as two Bosnia Serbs were given life sentences and few other longer jail terms for genocide and war crimes respectively. In the same vein, **Croatian** authorities extradited **Slovenian** national Franc Kos to **Bosnia and Herzegovina** for suspected genocide committed in *Srebrenica* in 1995. Meanwhile **Montenegrin** law enforcement also apprehended Marin Krivosic, 45, Serb wanted by **Croatia** for war crimes committed in 1991.

At the environmental front **Croatian** government is expected to expend more than 100m Euro for

reconstruction process after the country was hit by flood from overflowing river.

According to the criteria of *NATO's* membership **Albania** is expected to invest about 3 billion euros in its defence sector by 2020. *Tirana* had to double defence spending from about 9m euros in 2005 to about 19m euros in 2009.

Serbia's participation in the on-going *South Africa World Cup tournament* is expected to bring ethnic enmity to a pause in the deeply divided nation.



With a fairly good turnout in the last **Slovenian** referendum, the country has agreed to have international arbitration over the border dispute between **Slovenia** and **Croatia**.

Hungary's Presidential election is expected by June 29 and parties have agreed to present their nominations by noon on June 25.

The *United States* has extended sanctions against **Belarus** aimed at pressuring democratic reform. The White House said the sanctions target specific officials and citizens who have undermined democratic institutions, committed human rights abuses or benefited from corruption.

The meeting of *Syrian* President Bashar al-Assad and **Belarusian** Foreign Minister Sergei Martynov showed the determination of the two countries to exchange mutual cooperation in industry, trade and education.

Estonia's and **Latvia's** Prime Ministers Andrus Ansip and Valdis Dombrovskis respectively have met to assess report that detailed 65 possible areas for future economic, political and cultural collaboration.

The **Polish** economy is showing some glimpse of growth as joblessness continues to drop, according to latest report, unemployment declines by **12 %**.

Polish energy giant hopes to sell as much as 3 billion zloty (\$879 million) of bonds as the company begins raising funds for exploration and production, and to expand into electricity. Subsequently, a **South Korean** electronics components manufacturer is investing nearly €10m to build a new plant in **Poland** to turn out semi-finished products for multinational groups.

Meanwhile, exports and a slight pickup in domestic demand fueled growth in **Hungary** and the **Czech Republic** in the first quarter, though analysts said fiscal tightening in the euro zone will slow the pace of recovery later this year.

As **Ukraine** awaits \$19 billion loan from IMF, Kiev received a loan of \$2 billion from its new bed fellow *Russia*. **Ukraine** may seek more bilateral loans from *Russia* and other countries if the International Monetary Fund turns down its request. Kiev is eyeing an extended economic relation with *Turkey* and *Greece*.

In the same vein, **Slovakia** is geared at improving bilateral trade relations with *Indonesia* to increasing rubber imports and to offer advanced machinery for rubber-based products.

The European Commission has authorized, under EU State aid rules, a measure adopted by **Latvia** to limit the adverse impact of the current financial crisis on exporting firms. International Monetary Fund on the other hand had reached an agreement with **Latvia** that could free more of its international rescue fund.



Meanwhile **Lithuania's** economic recovery is said to remain fragile, though the Baltic state has managed to withstand the threat of financial collapse.

Despite its small size, **Estonia** is not hesitant to contest with France in becoming the new EU IT agency host state. IT-savvy **Estonia**, which already hosts NATO's cyber-defence centre, is also keen to become the European Union's future IT agency.

President of the **Czech Republic** Václav Klaus committed his country's support for *India's* bid for United Nations Security

Council membership during his meeting with the *Indian* Vice-President, Hamid Ansari.

RUSSIA

Russia and *Germany* have enjoyed sound trade ties but the global financial crisis led to a sharp fall of trade last year, *German* imports from **Russia** fell by **30%**, to €20.4 billion, or \$25 billion; *German* exports to **Russia** fell by **36%**, to €25.8 billion.



Russian economic growth continues to show great prospect as companies continued hiring and domestic demand accelerated. Meanwhile, *Moscow* is struggling to gain a footing as one of the world largest wheat exporters, especially to *Egypt*, a major importer of U.S wheat. Meanwhile **Russia**, *Kazakhstan* and *Belarus* inked agreement on custom union which will make them joint partners for the membership of **WTO**.

Hundreds of ethnic *Circassians* gathered last week to call on federal authorities to allow their ethnic group to split off from the *Karachayevo-Cherkessia* republic to form their own autonomous region within the **Russian Federation**.

Following its endorsement of the new sanctions against *Iran*, **Russia** is now to take the decision whether or not to proceed in selling missile defense systems to *Iran* a deal that was halted in 2007.

Russia-Iran impasse is further complicated by the recent remark of **Russian** Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov at SCO summit saying that *Iran* having an observer status cannot join SCO because of the new round of UN Security Council sanctions over its nuclear programme.

US/CANADA

President Obama lashed out at the Congress for the supposedly biased and disproportionate assessment of his management of the *Gulf of Mexico* oil spill. Obama said Congress and few unmentioned politicians were same people accusing his government of big-government and now they are expecting him to do more, which if attempted few months back it would be seen as overreach of federal government.

Meanwhile the *British* Petroleum Company (BP) is under a lot of pressure that is not faring well for its stockholders, particularly British shareholders angry over what they perceive as an unsatisfactory and over politicized manner of dealing with the issue.

On the other end world markets are reported to have picked up after Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke said the **U.S.** recovery is on track and the European debt crisis would not prove too damaging to the world's largest economy.

Meanwhile Obama's government is trying to persuade Congress to extend emergency health care assistance for unemployed workers that expired May 31st. The unwilling Congress believes the nation is still unsettled after the passage of \$1 trillion insurance overhaul and adding billions more to the deficit in a treacherous election year is unwelcoming.

Ms. Helen Thomas, a revered and longtime *White House* correspondent has resigned from the media house she worked with and more likely could be refused reception at White House press briefings. After the flotilla incident, she was reported to have said Jews should "get the hell out of Palestine" and go home "to Poland, Germany and America." The statement irked many **American** Jews and politicians.

U.S Defense Secretary Robert Gate has criticized the *EU* for its policy towards Ankara, which according to Gate is shifting *Turkey* from pro-West to pro-East and Arab centered. According to Gate Ankara's foreign policy, particularly its increasingly strained ties with *Israel* are a





"matter of concern" for the **United States**.

The **Canadian** opposition last week disapproved the proposed \$1 billion expenditure for hosting G8 and G20. It also scorned the proposal to spend \$2 million to build a media centre that includes an artificial lake with canoes, trees, deck chairs and a fake dock, saying it would belittle **Canada's** natural scenery.

LATIN AMERICA

According to polls, support for the **Argentine** President *Fernandez* surged due to a modified economic policy. This can pave the way for a return of her husband, Nestor Kirchner in the next election.

Brazilian election polling forecast puts support for Lula's favorite (Mrs. Rousseff) and top contestant Mr. Serra on the same note, they both command 37 points. The election is expected to be tight, and run up to the election is

punctuated with accusations.

Brazilian president during his weekly radio show announced the introduction of Bolsa Familia plan which will provide job opportunities for the masses. The plan is expected to provide about 13 million families 200 reais or \$108 U.S. monthly aid.

Also in **Brazil**, the Catholic majority country accounts for almost 200,000 women seeking unsafe abortions. The figure provided by a survey conducted by *Times* is worrisome for the present government.

The plan by the **Brazilian** government to build a new dam that will cater for the country's energy need has been met with resistance from native inhabitants around the river who believe it to be an affront to their existence and environment.

China's Sinopec has lent 20 billion dollars to **Brazil's** Petrobras and in exchange it will explore oil in the country. Both countries are exploring all avenues to boost their economic ties.

Chilean finance minister has said more economic growth is expected in this year which will help the reconstruction of infrastructure which was damaged by the earthquake.

Illegal killing continues at the *Mexican-U.S* border where last week, a 14 years old boy was killed at the **Mexican** border side with accusing figure being raised towards **U.S** custom officers. Mexico has urged **US** authorities for free and fair investigation into the matter.

Argentine and **Uruguayan** government have reached agreement to strengthen their strategic ties through cooperation on nuclear technology and defence related issues.

AUSTRALASIA

Australian voters served PM Kevin Rudd a political threat last week for his troubling policies which more likely could give conservative opposition leader Tony Abbott edge in the forthcoming election. Voters are disenchanted with Rudd because he shelved a carbon trading scheme and a programme to provide free home insulation, and unveiled a **40 %** tax on the mining industry which is heavily invested by shareholders and pension funds.

Although Internet giant Google acknowledged it erred, but the **Australian** government is undone with it over privacy breach. Google has been accused of collecting private wireless data while taking pictures for its 'Street View' mapping service, for which it will be facing litigation. Google faces similar plight in *Europe* where, the *German* and *British* government accused it of a similar breach. §



Business and Politics in the Muslim World (BPM) refers to a study funded by the Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan, and is conducted at the International Islamic University (IIU), Islamabad.

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BPM- Business & Politics
In the Muslim World