

ACTION INR-00

INFO	LOG-00	EEB-00	AF-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	A-00	
	INL-00	DOTE-00	PDI-00	DS-00	EAP-00	DHSE-00	EUR-00
	OIGO-00	FAAE-00	UTED-00	VCI-00	DIAS-00	H-00	TEDE-00
	IO-00	LAB-01	L-00	ARMY-00	MOFM-00	MOF-00	M-00
	VCIE-00	DCP-00	NSAE-00	ISN-00	OIC-00	OIG-00	OMB-00
	NIMA-00	EPAU-00	PM-00	GIWI-00	P-00	ISNE-00	DOHS-00
	IRM-00	NCTC-00	FMP-00	BBG-00	R-00	EPAE-00	ECA-00
	IIP-00	SCRS-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-00	G-00
	SCA-00	CARC-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00	FA-00	SRAP-00	SWCI-00
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E.O. 12958: N/A  
 TAGS: KMDR, KPAO, OIIP, OPRC, PGOV, PREL, PK  
 SUBJECT: PAKISTAN MEDIA REACTION: APRIL 23, 2010

Summary: The GOP's announcement of an energy conservation strategy to cut widespread and prolonged power outages dominated media on Friday morning. Several major newspapers highlighted Assistant Secretary PJ Crowley's remarks terming former ISI chief Hamid Gul's allegations "outrageous" and "baseless" that the U.S. was involved in Benazir Bhutto's assassination. Media highlighted a report that President Obama will host a summit next week to boost economic development in Muslim regions to "mend ties with the Islamic world." Secretary Clinton's remarks pledging "unwavering commitment" to NATO allies, and that the "U.S. can maintain Kyrgyz air base" were also reported. "Daily Times," recycled a WP story that the Pak military is holding thousands of suspected militants in indefinite detention,

arguing that the civilian justice system is dysfunctional and cannot prevent suspects from walking free. "Pakistan Observer" reported that the diplomats from Pakistan and the U.S. are feeling the heat over differences between the two countries regarding visas. Reports of killing of 20 militants in fierce clashes with security forces in Orakzai Agency, and, that extremists blew up a health facility, a shrine and six houses in the same area also received prominent display. Newspapers reported that the captors of former ISI officials have released fresh video footage of Khalid Khawaja confessing that he was working for both the ISI and the CIA. End Summary.

TOP STORIES

News Story: Sweeping Measures To Save Electricity - "Dawn" (04/23)

"As widely expected, the government on Thursday announced a raft of measures ranging from a five-day week in government organizations (for at least three months) to closure of shops by 8pm as part of an initiative to conserve electricity and reduce scheduled outages by 33 per cent, Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani announced at a press conference."

News Story: Pakistan Seeks Outside Help To End Energy Shortfall - "Dawn" (04/23)

"The United States has accepted a Pakistani request to divert funds from the Kerry-Lugar aid package to energy, water and agricultural sectors, diplomatic sources told 'Dawn.' The Kerry-Lugar bill is essentially a non-military aid package the U.S. granted last year to help Pakistan deal with its precarious economic conditions and to upset the negative effects of the war on terror on the Pakistani economy.... Pakistani diplomats in Washington say that they have already submitted various proposals to the World Bank and the U.S. Agency for International Development for encouraging foreign investments. Islamabad has also sent similar proposals to the Asian Development Bank.... Recently, U.S. Special Representative for Pakistan and Afghanistan Richard Holbrooke identified the energy crisis as Pakistan's number one problem and said that the U.S. was working with the International Monetary Fund to 'make sure that standby agreements are extended.' The U.S. is also urging the Friends of Pakistan group to start fulfilling the pledges it made to Pakistan at the Tokyo conference two years ago."

News Story: Gul's Remarks Outrageous: U.S. - "Dawn," "The News," "Nawa-i-Waqt," "Islam," "Mashriq," "Ausaf" (04/23)

"The Obama Administration on Thursday termed 'outrageous' and 'baseless' the allegation of former ISI Chief Hamid Gul that the

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U.S. was involved in Benazir Bhutto's assassination. 'That is outrageous. He is a frequent commentator on television, and certainly has an anti-American agenda,' P. J. Crowley, Assistant Secretary of State for Public Affairs, told reporters in Washington."

News Story: Strategic Partnership: U.S. Encouraged By Trend In Pakistani Public Opinion - "Business Recorder," "The Nation," "The News" (04/23)

"The United States has been encouraged by the recent trends in Pakistani public opinion recognizing the importance of U.S.-Pakistan strategic partnership, which takes into account the needs of the key regional anti-terrorism ally, Assistant Secretary of State P. J. Crowley, said. Many people in Pakistan recognize the 'positive tone and substance' in the U.S.-Pakistan relationship, the spokesman added at the daily briefing, rejecting suggestions that the U.S. was somehow responsible for a recent terrorist attack on a rally in Pakistan. 'Our strategic partnership involves working together to

address the needs of the Pakistani people and the security of Pakistan and the region,' Crowley stated."

News Story: Obama To Host Muslim Business Leaders - "The Nation," "The News" (04/23)

"President Barack Obama will lay a key plank of his strategy to mend ties with the Islamic world next week when he hosts a summit to boost economic development in Muslim nations. In a step the White House hopes will help shift relations beyond decades of talk about terrorism and conflict. A senior official said Obama will bring entrepreneurs from 50 countries to Washington on Monday and Tuesday to spur economic ties."

News Story: Hillary Clinton Pledges 'Unwavering Support to NATO Allies' - "The News" (04/23)

"Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on Thursday pledged unwavering U.S. commitment to fellow NATO members' security before setting out principles for the future of the alliance's nuclear deterrence. NATO Chief Anders Fogh Rasmussen and host Estonia then opened talks which could hear calls from Germany and others for the withdrawal of some 200 U.S. tactical nuclear weapons from Europe and Turkey. Although U.S. President Barack Obama's administration has set a course for eliminating nuclear weapons worldwide, the appeals could split the 28-member alliance as some members may demand similar withdrawals by Russia."

News Story: Army Holding Thousands In Indefinite Detention: Officials - "Daily Times" (04/23)

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"The Pakistani military is holding thousands of suspected militants in indefinite detention, arguing that the nation's dysfunctional civilian justice system cannot be trusted to prevent them from walking free, reported an American publication while citing U.S. and Pakistani officials. According to the Washington Post, a majority of detainees have been held for nearly a year and have been allowed no contact with family members, lawyers or humanitarian groups. Top U.S. officials have raised concern about the detentions with Pakistani leaders, fearing that the issue could undermine American domestic and congressional support for the U.S.-backed counterinsurgency campaign in Pakistan and jeopardize billions of dollars in U.S. assistance."

News Story: Biden Announces \$452 Ramp-Up Awards - "Pakistan Observer" (04/23)

"U.S. Vice-President Joseph Biden as part of Earth Day celebrations has announced \$452 million ramp-up awards on Thursday to help make energy efficiency affordable for thousands of homeowners and businesses. This was stated in his special message the text of which was emailed to 'Pakistan Observer' on Thursday. We've been celebrating Earth Day for 40 years now, but the truth is that tomorrow may be the first one when we are truly able to say that we have started down the road to a real clean energy economy - and a better world for our kids. Today I am kicking off the Administration's celebration of Earth Day in advance by announcing \$452 million in Recovery Act 'Retrofit Ramp-Up' awards. These awards will help make energy efficiency affordable for hundreds of thousands of homeowners and businesses, and are expected to create tens of thousands of jobs in the process."

News Story: Pak-U.S. Diplomats At Variance; Row Over Visas - "Pakistan Observer" (04/23)

"Diplomats from Pakistan and U.S. are feeling the heat of the differences between the two countries over visa issue, as dozens of them have been waiting for months to get a positive response on the visa applications. The two sides ran into differences, as Pakistan showed reluctance to oblige a request by the U.S. side for visas to special auditors for verifying Pakistani claims regarding reimbursements under Coalition Support Fund (CSF). 'I am one of the victims of the differences between the two countries, as I have been waiting for visa for the last three months,' a Pakistani diplomat said on condition of anonymity.... If Pakistani diplomats suffer due to 'apathy' of the U.S. Government, their counterparts seeking Pakistani visas in Washington are equally disturbed by the 'attitude' and delaying tactics of Pakistani Embassy. Richard Snelsire, the spokesman of the U.S. Embassy, talking on visa issues said the problems faced by the U.S. officials were more complex as

their ordeal may not always end with UNCLASSIFIED." UNCLASSIFIED

News Story: 26 Taliban, 2 Soldiers Killed In Orakzai - "Daily Times" (04/23)

"Security forces on Thursday killed 26 Taliban, while two soldiers also died in clashes in Orakzai Agency. Troops used heavy artillery to target suspected insurgent bases in two villages in the agency, a Frontier Corps statement said."

News Story: Militants Blow Up Saint's Mausoleum - "Dawn" (04/23)

"Militants blew up a saint's mausoleum in Bara, killing in the process a man who tried to resist its destruction, sources told 'Dawn' on Thursday."

News Story: 'Jihadi Channels' Opened To Secure Release Of Former ISI Spies - "Daily Times" (04/23)

"'Jihadi' and 'other channels' have been opened to secure the safe return of two former ISI operatives, along with a British journalist, all of whom have been 'missing' since April 26 and are believed to have been abducted by a group linked to the Taliban in North Waziristan, officials and pro-Taliban sources said on Thursday. Former ISI officials Col Imam alias Sultan Amir Tarar and Khalid Khawaja and a British journalist of Pakistani origin, Asad Qureshi, were seen in a video provided to local and international media via email on Wednesday, with their captors - who identified themselves as 'Asian Tigers' - demanding 'freedom' for Taliban leaders Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, Mullah Mansoor Dadullah and Maulvi Kabir in exchange for the release of the former ISI officials. They also demanded a ransom of \$10 million to allow the journalist to 'walk into a free world.'"

News Story: U.S. Launches Gems Center for FATA - "Dawn," "Islam" (04/23)

"The U.S. in partnership with the NWFP University of Engineering and Technology and the Pakistan Gems and Jewelry Development Company launched a Rs. 50 million (\$600,000) FATA Center of Excellence for Gems and Jewelry to uplift the gem industry and create jobs for the people of the tribal region. 'The establishment of this Centre of Excellence will improve extraction techniques, cutting, polishing, and gemstone identification,' said U.S. Consul General in Peshawar Ms. E. Candace Putnam, says a press release."

#### TERRORISM/MILITARY ISSUES

News Story: Early Afghan Pullout Would Be Worse Than 9/11: Merkel - "Dawn," "The News" (04/23)

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"Leaving Afghanistan too soon would be "far more disastrous" than 9/11 due to the risk of extremists acquiring nuclear materials, Chancellor Angela Merkel said Thursday, defending an unpopular mission. 'The international community went in together, and we will pull out together. If we do not then the consequences, I am convinced, would be far more disastrous than the results of the September 11, 2001 attacks,' Merkel said."

News Story: On The Run, Terrorists Find New Haven In North Waziristan - "Daily Times" (04/23)

"They have not been routed, no matter what Pakistan claims. Instead, the Taliban and al Qaeda have merely relocated. Months after troops chased them from South Waziristan these terrorists have established a new base in North Waziristan under the protection of Gul Bahadar who has cut past deals with the Pakistan Army, according to residents, terrorists and reports."

News Story: JI Chief Ready To Act As Intermediary Between Taliban And Government - "Daily Times" (04/23)

"Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Chief Syed Munawar Hassan on Thursday offered his services for negotiations between the government and Taliban to curb terrorism in the country. During a press conference held at the party headquarters in Mansoorah, he strongly condemned the recent Peshawar bomb blast and demanded the government to conduct a judicial inquiry into the matter to sort out the facts behind the incident."

News Story: Investigators Fail To Probe Aafia's Missing Case - "The Nation" (04/23)

"Investigators have failed to probe into Aafia's missing case registered after six years of her alleged disappearance on March 30, 2003. According to the reports, Dr. Aafia Siddique was neither arrested nor went missing before she was captured in July 17, 2008 from Afghanistan. Investigators who went through the missing case of Dr. Aafia and her three children disclosed on condition of anonymity that there is no evidence to prove that Dr. Aafia and her children were abducted on March 30, 2003 from Karachi."

### POLITICAL ISSUES

News Story: Diplomatic Tug Of War With A Difference - "Dawn" (04/23)

"With many of the country's contractual ambassadorial postings ending some time or the other this year, the battle for securing the most coveted of the posts is heating up. Career diplomats hoping to

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get the plum postings are sharpening the claws against the 'political appointees' who are filling most of the important ambassadorial posts. The latter, too, have launched a counter-attack in a bid to hang on to their jobs."

News Story: No India-Pakistan PM Talks Planned In Bhutan: Official - "Dawn" (04/23)

"No meeting is slated so far between the premiers of India and Pakistan on the margins of a South Asian summit to be held next week in Bhutan, a senior Indian official said Thursday, Indian foreign secretary Nirupama Rao told reporters in New Dehli."

#### ECONOMY/ENVIRONMENT

News Story: USAID Concludes \$23m Project In AJK - "Dawn" (04/23)

"United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has completed projects of worth \$23 million in earthquake-affected areas of AJK. Revitalizing, Innovating and Strengthening Education (RISE) project was implemented under American Institute for Research (AIR) in Muzaffarabad, Bagh and Poonch districts of AJK and Mansehra district of Khyber Pakthunkhwa to improve education system.... Prime Minister Raja Farooq Hadier Khan while addressing the ceremony said that the projects played a significant role in improvement of education quality in AJK after the devastating earthquake of October 2005. He urged the USAID not to wind up the project and extend to other areas of the state too. Sardar Attique acknowledged international support to the masses of Kashmir when after the earthquake and wished that the USAID should stay in the area for a tremendous rehabilitation. The Economic Affairs Coordinator of U.S. Embassy, Islamabad, Robin Raphel, said that USAID would continue the support for development and improvement of the education. She said that she had witnessed the benefits and impact of RISE projects."

News Story: Provinces Differ On Ways Of Ending Power Crisis - "Dawn" (04/23)

"With Pakistan's per capita water availability on a continuous decline, provinces have developed divergent views over the proposals to utilize water and coal resources for power generation. Informed sources told 'Dawn' that during the course of discussions on the energy crisis at a three-day energy conference the Sindh government presented a strong case for the development of Thar coal reserves on a priority basis for permanent and sustainable solution to most of the energy problems."

News Story: Karachi Traders Reject Energy Saving Plan - "Business Recorder" (04/23)

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"Traders on Thursday rejected the government's energy conservation, saying that it would cripple the trade and business activities by 50 percent. In an spontaneous reaction, they also appealed to Chief Justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry to take suo motu action against the government for its move of cutting 300 MW of electricity from Karachi's power share. Talking to Business Recorder on Thursday, Chairman Alliance of Market Associations [AMA] Muhammad Atiq Mir said, 'traders will not close markets by 8pm and will continue business activities as usual.' He said the government has failed to sort out ways from getting out of the persistent energy crisis and therefore announced an anti-trade and business plan of two weekly holidays for government offices and markets closure by 8pm."

News Story: Talks With IMF - "The News" (04/23)

"The possibility of a breakdown in the Pakistan-IMF talks on the imposition of Value Added Tax (VAT) is quite serious and the government is already preparing for alternate tough measures, including an increase in duties and taxes on imported cars and tractors, a senior FBR executive has confirmed. 'There would be little choice other than to go for such tough measures. We would have to go for alternate taxation in the budget in case the IMF respirator is removed from the country's economy,' said Federal Board of Revenue Chairman Sohail Ahmed in reply to a query about the government's alternate taxation plan if the IMF talks failed."

#### EDITORIALS/OPINIONS

Editorial: Nuclear Treaties, an editorial in the Karachi-based center-left independent national English daily "Dawn" (cir. 55,000) (04/23)

"The U.S. Under-Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security, Ellen Tauscher, has declined to insist that Pakistan, and India, sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. In its present form, there is simply no way Pakistan can sign the treaty.... Recognizing the impossibility of convincing Pakistan or India or even Israel in the present circumstances, the U.S. has backed off, as Ms. Tauscher's comments suggest.... But experts outside the nuclear establishment are not convinced the position is straightforward, nor that Pakistan is taking the best route advisable. Thus far the Obama administration has generally held back from putting pressure on Pakistan on nuclear issues. International isolation is not in Pakistan's interest, and the nuclear establishment must keep this in mind going forward on the FMCT negotiations."

Editorial: Holbrooke's Baloney, an editorial in the Peshawar-based, independent regional daily "The Frontier Post" (cir. 7,000) (04/23)

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"Either President Barack Obama's Af-Pak special envoy Richard Holbrooke thinks that the people are too stupid or that he is too clever to be caught for parading a patent baloney that he has peddled so implausibly. He says the Taliban insurgency carries out its attacks on the American and NATO forces in Afghanistan from sanctuaries inside Pakistan 's tribal region. If that be it, who are the fighters the American commanders are pride-fully blaring of having vanquished in Marja, and who are the fighters they are now planning to take on in Kandahar? The Afghan Taliban; isn't it what the American commanders are themselves saying? And aren't they saying publicly again and again that they are now working on a new strategy in occupied Afghanistan to capture and hold the populated centers to give civic services to local populations in order to woo them over and dissociate them from militants? Isn't it a clear admission that the resistance to the U.S.-led coalition forces actually lies inside Afghanistan and fighters who attack the coalition forces too are based in Afghanistan? Where does then stand this preposterous talk of Holbrooke? His discourse is in fact a trite and obsolete talk that has lost all its credence for being demonstrably so untruthful in the face of damning ground realities.... The Afghan Taliban were then in fact entrenching freely to become strong and stronger in their havens inside Afghanistan where they have grown into such a formidable insurmountable fighting force. Holbrooke would do well to keep his bunk to himself, as it is now too odious to endure, especially to Pakistani ears, even as there are still CIA's fairly palmed-off minds here to say the things that Western listeners would crave to hear."

Editorial: Where Terrorists Walk Free, an editorial in the Lahore-based liberal English language daily "Daily Times" (cir. 10,000) (04/23)

"If Pakistan is to rid itself of terrorists, it has to revamp its justice system. When cases against terrorists are brought to court, the reason many witnesses do not venture forth is due to fear. Pakistan needs a proper witness protection program. The police, the prosecutors, the judges and the witnesses in such cases need state protection. The next step would be to deal with the lacunae in the prosecution process, which cannot be done overnight.... We also need proper forensic labs to collect and scrutinize evidence. When the courts are unable to convict these terrorists, it is mostly because

the prosecution fails to prove its case beyond reasonable doubt. We have seen this in Hafiz Saeed's case. There should be a special law for terrorism-related cases whereby it can be ensured that these monsters are not let loose on society and wreak havoc all over again. The hydra of terrorism has to be quashed or else this country

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will see many more cold-blooded murderers ~~UNCLASSIFIED~~ innocent citizens."

Editorial: Indian Army Chief's Threats; The Need To Remain Alert For The Country's Defense, an editorial in the second-largest, nationalist Urdu daily "Nawa-i-Waqt" (cir. 150,000) (04/23)

"Indian Army Chief General V.K. Singh has stressed on his forces to remain on high alert on the borders with China and Pakistan and to focus on operational preparations to counter challenges to the army in the region... In view of the Indian Army Chief's statement, Pakistan should also focus entirely on its borders with India. The satanic triumvirate of India-Israel-U.S. wants to see the Pakistan Army embroiled with its own compatriots in the tribal areas. Wisdom demands that we extricate troops from the American war and deploy them along the Indian border. We must tell the U.S. that Pakistan has fought its war long enough, now it [the U.S.] should fight its own war and it [America] can fight this war anywhere but Pakistan."

Opinion: Has Bajaur Been Cleared Of The Taliban?, an op-ed by Farhat Taj in the Karachi-based English daily, "The Express Tribune, partnering with International Herald Tribune" (04/23)

"For the first time in history Pakistan's flag was raised on Damadola, the Taliban stronghold in Bajaur. The Pakistani media showed images of people in Bajaur celebrating the success of the security forces. The people of Bajaur, however, inform us that not much has changed on the ground... Residents of Bajaur inform that, following the daily surrender of Taliban members, they are set free again on the Jirga's 'guarantees, who feel pressurized by both the Taliban and the military authorities. The state authorities do not suspect these Taliban members following their 'surrender'. If caught again in acts of terrorism, the Taliban show the surrender letter given to them by military authorities and are allowed go free. The people of Bajaur complain that now the Taliban have a state-given clean chit and nobody asks them about their past atrocities against innocent tribesmen and women. They ask how can the state give them such a clean chit without accountability!"

Opinion: U.S. On Its Declining Edge, an op-ed by Ijaz Khan Yousufzai in the Islamabad-based rightist English daily "Pakistan Observer" (cir. 5,000) (04/23)

"During the recent talks with Pakistani high profile delegation in Washington, U.S. officials has been expressed its wishes to further strengthen the bilateral relations with Pakistan. And of course, Pakistan should realize the said U.S. offer but the main apprehension that had been in the past and in the present as well, was the assurance of its security and sovereignty which has been

violated over the period of last seven years when U.S. predators were aiming the so-called terrorists in the tribal region killing more than 90% innocent tribal including mostly children and women.. U.S. along with Pakistan have done much in 'countering' terrorism in the region but now the limited resources of Pakistan doesn't permit it to do more in this regard. Now it's the U.S. turn to invest in Pakistan's agricultural, militarily, and energy sectors and there must be free trade agreements with Pakistan and to make more facilitated the American trade market for Pakistani products and to discontinue the drone attacks in Pakistan. So, in this way bilateral relations could be made strengthen further otherwise Pakistan will give more preference to the every other option."

Opinion: The Imminent Destruction, an op-ed by Saleem Safi in the leading mass circulation populist, often sensational Urdu daily "Jang" (cir. 300,000) (04/23)

"Military operations in Swat and Waziristan have proved counterproductive because the extremists have melted away, from their safe havens in the tribal areas, into big cities all over Pakistan. After the elimination of their top leadership, major terrorist organizations have been broken up into small, but more lethal, groups which are working independently across the country. I think that the hectic efforts undertaken by the U.S. to kill Osama Bin Laden and Mullah Omer, and Pakistan's relentless attempts to eliminate Hakimullah Mehsud is a wrong policy because the killing of

these influential leaders will make it impossible, for both Washington and Islamabad, to politically engage the Afghan and Pakistani Taliban. In fact, the meteoric rise of extremism is the logical outcome of our government's ill-conceived policies in its relationship with the U.S., Afghanistan, and India. I think that it is high time for us to sit with these enraged people on the negotiating table and try to address their genuine grievances."

Editorial: Energy Roadmap, an editorial in the center-right national English daily "The Nation" (cir. 20,000) (04/23)

"Prime Minister has announced some important measures to grapple with the situation. First of all, his statement that the government will inject Rs 116 billion in the power sector, especially in making the payments to the IPPs, is a step in the right direction. If all the IPPs are working in full gear, there is no doubt that the production would be enhanced considerably."

(All circulation figures are based on estimation)  
Patterson

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