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	H-00	TEDE-00	IO-00	LAB-01	ARMY-00	MOFM-00	MOF-00	
	M-00	CDC-00	VCIE-00	NEA-00	DCP-00	NSAE-00	ISN-00	
	OIC-00	OIG-00	NIMA-00	EPAU-00	PM-00	GIWI-00	ISNE-00	
	DOHS-00	IRM-00	NCTC-00	FMP-00	BBG-00	R-00	EPAE-00	
	ECA-00	IIP-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-00	G-00	
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 SECDEF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
 USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
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 NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE
 HQ USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL//CCPA// IMMEDIATE
 JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
 DIA WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
 AMEMBASSY LONDON
 AMEMBASSY PARIS
 AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
 HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI

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SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A
 TAGS: KMDR, KPAA, OIIP, OPRC, PGOV, PREL, PK
 SUBJECT: PAKISTAN MEDIA REACTION: APRIL 01, 2010

Summary: Coverage of a visiting Congressional delegation's meeting with a select group of journalists, and their remarks that "2 billion dollar CSF fund will be released soon in order to take the relationship to the next level of sustainable cooperation," received extensive coverage on Thursday morning. White House spokesman Gibbs' remarks that "President Obama is devoting considerable time to U.S. relations with Pakistan, Afghanistan and India" were also reported. The mass-circulated Urdu daily, "Jang," and its sister English language daily, "The News," in an exclusive report attributed a statement to Ambassador Patterson that "the door to provide civilian nuclear technology to Pakistan is not shut." Media highlighted remarks of a senior Pentagon official that "Pakistan

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also needs to be enlisted in any effort to seek reconciliation with the Afghan militants, although the process has to be led and managed by Kabul." The issue of enhanced screening at U.S. airports made a come-back as newspapers quoted Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Ammad as saying that the "U.S. citizens should be treated in exactly the same manner as the Obama administration is treating Pakistanis at U.S. airports." Reports that the militants blew up five schools and a health facility in Orakzai, and that 25 Taliban and six soldiers were killed in Khyber and Mohmand regions received prominent display. On the domestic front, approval of the draft of 18th Constitutional Amendment by the parliamentary committee to restore the Parliament's sovereignty; transfer most of the powers from the president to prime minister; rename NWFP as Khyber Pakhtunkhwa; and a proper system to appoint judges in Supreme Court dominated headlines in all newspapers. The issue of Swiss money-laundering cases against President Zardari also continued to generate coverage in media. Commenting on the recent U.S.-Pak strategic talks, a leading columnist wrote in "Daily Times," that "Washington's deepening engagement with the army does not necessarily mean that the centrality of the civilian set-up to its interests in Pakistan has now become secondary." End Summary.

TOP STORIES

News Story: \$2bn CSF Fund To Be Released Soon: U.S. - "Dawn"
(04/01)

"The disbursement of coalition support fund (CSF) and civil and military assistance to Pakistan was an obligation and the United States would honor it soon in order to take the relationship to the next level of sustainable cooperation, a U.S. congressional delegation said here on Wednesday. 'The CSF disbursement to Pakistan is an obligation on the U.S. government. An amount of \$2 billion is earmarked in the current year budget under the Kerry-Lugar Act and will be released soon,' said Congressman David Price, who is Chairman of the House Democracy Partnership Initiative, during an interaction with reporters."

News Story: Understanding Deficit' Exists With Pak: U.S. Mission -
"Daily Times" (04/01)

"A U.S. Congressional delegation on Wednesday rejected the impression of a trust deficit between Islamabad and Washington, however, they admitted to an 'understanding deficit' between the two countries. They also hinted that the U.S. is actively considering the disbursement of arrears of the Coalition Support Fund to Pakistan with positive movement of aid from the Kerry Lugar law this summer. The delegation, led by House Democracy Partnership Chairman David Price who is also a member of the U.S. Congress Appropriation Committee, told reporters that their visit was aimed at formally

launching their parliamentary partnership. UNCLASSIFIED

News Story: U.S. Should Emerge As Credible Ally Of Pakistan - "The News" (04/01)

"The Chairpersons of various Senate committees on Wednesday urged the United States to emerge as a dependable friend and credible ally of Pakistan by making conscious efforts to address the genuine concerns of the government and the people. The Senators exchanged these views at a meeting with the U.S. Congressional delegation, headed by House Democracy Partnership (HDP) Chairman David Price, at the Parliament House in Islamabad."

News Story: Obama Focusing On Ties With Pakistan, India, Afghanistan - "Daily Times" (04/01)

"President Barack Obama is devoting considerable time to U.S. relations with Pakistan, Afghanistan and India in order to strengthen security and advance mutual goals in the vitally important region, White House spokesman Robert Gibbs said on Tuesday."

News Story: N-Tech Door Not Shut: U.S. - "The News" (04/01)

"The United States Ambassador to Pakistan Anne W. Patterson said on Wednesday that the door to provide civilian nuclear technology to Pakistan is not shut. Answering a question by the 'The News' on providing nuclear processing plant to India by the U.S., she said there was the option of availability of civilian nuclear technology of America for Pakistan. Anne W. Patterson said a special working group will hold talks with Pakistani official within three months on this important issue."

News Story: Pakistan Has Role In Afghan Reconciliation: U.S. - "The News" (04/01)

"The Pentagon has said that Pakistan also needs to be enlisted in any effort to seek reconciliation with the Afghan militants, although the process has to be led and managed by Kabul. A senior U.S. defence official, while briefing journalists in Washington, recalled that Pakistan had offered assistance to Afghanistan in the reconciliation process and the offer needed to be considered 'because of the tribal region and the nature of it.' 'Under those terms, then, I think, you know, probably helping enlistment of Pakistan in that as well as - in that framework' for reconciliation would be useful, the official said."

News Story: State Minister Suggests 'Tit For Tat' Response To U.S. Screening Laws - "Daily Times" (04/01)

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"Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Malik Ammad on Wednesday advocated a 'tit for tat' response towards the new U.S. screening laws. Speaking in Senate, Ammad said U.S. citizens should be treated in exactly the same manner as the Obama administration was treating Pakistanis at U.S. airports.... Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi told the House in a written reply that Pakistani authorities were engaged with the U.S. over its screening laws, adding that he hopes that the issue would be resolved at the earliest."

News Story: Pak Won't Raise U.S. Body Search Issue Thru OIC - "The Nation" (04/01)

"Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Malik Ammad Khan Wednesday told the Upper House that the government had no intention to raise the issue of extensive body search of Pakistani passengers at U.S. airports through the OIC platform. The Minister expected the issue could be resolved more speedily thorough bilateral engagements, Malik Ammad maintained while responding to a question during the Question Hour."

News Story: Five Schools Blown Up, 8 Militants Killed In Orakzai - "Dawn" (04/01)

"Militants set on fire five schools and a basic health centre in Utmankhel area of Orakzai on Wednesday while eight militants were killed in attacks by helicopter gunships, according to reports."

News Story: 6 Security Men, 20 Militants Killed In Bara - "Dawn" (04/01)

"At least six security personnel were killed and 15 others injured in a suicide blast which followed an attack by militants on a checkpoint in Bara area of Khyber Agency on Wednesday. According to a security official in Jamrud, security forces killed at least 20 militants and injured 30 others in a clash after the attack."

TERRORISM/MILITARY ISSUES

News Story: Taliban Mock Obama's 'Night Trip' To Afghanistan - "Daily Times" (04/01)

"The Taliban mocked U.S. President Barack Obama on Wednesday for visiting Afghanistan like a "thief" in the night, saying the world leader was too frightened to arrive during the day because of the threat from insurgents."

News Story: Trial Of Five Americans Charged With Terror Begins - "Daily Times" (04/01)

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"A court on Wednesday formally opened the trial of five Americans charged with terrorism and plotting attacks, which could see them jailed for life, lawyers said. The five men aged 19 to 25 have denied the charges. The prosecution brought witnesses to the anti-terrorism court convened under tight security at a jail in Sargodha, where they were arrested in December. 'The formal trial has begun,' defence lawyer Hassan Katchela told AFP."

News Story: Drone Strike Kills Six In N. Waziristan - "Daily Times" (04/01)

"U.S. drones fired three missiles, killing six Taliban and destroyed a compound in North Waziristan Agency early on Wednesday, security officials said."

News Story: ISPR Rejects Link Between David Headley and Pak Army, ISI - "Daily Times" (04/01)

"An Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) spokesman on Wednesday denied the contents of a news report that David Headley, a suspect in the Mumbai attacks, had named three officers of the Pakistan Army and the Inter-Services Intelligence for their direct involvement in the attacks in Mumbai."

News Story: Afghan Peace Talks End With No Headway - "The News" (04/01)

"A guerrilla group has met Afghan President Hamid Karzai a second time, bringing an initial round of peace talks to a close with no breakthrough but with a commitment to continue, a member of the team said on Wednesday. Afghan officials said last week that Karzai met a senior delegation from Hezb-e-Islami, his first confirmed talks with the group which in some ways rivals the Taliban. Although the talks were preliminary, the public acknowledgement of the meeting was itself a milestone after many months of furtive efforts by Karzai to reach out to militants."

POLITICAL ISSUES

News Story: Obama Wants UN Sanctions On Iran In Weeks - "Daily Times" (04/01)

"U.S. President Barack Obama said on Tuesday he wanted tougher UN sanctions in weeks against Iran over its nuclear program, and the world's leading industrial nations expressed optimism that China will agree on possible next steps. Obama and French President Nicolas Sarkozy presented a united front on Iran at a joint White House news conference."

News Story: More Talks Needed to Cement PAA Files - "The News"
(04/01)

"Expert on South Asian affairs, Walter Anderson of John Hopkins University has said Pakistan and the United States have recently concluded their strategic dialogue but it will take time to overcome the trust deficit between the two countries. Talking to Voice of America, he said first phase of these talks was part of efforts to remove the trust deficit between the two countries."

News Story: Parties Strike Accord On 18th Amendment - "Dawn"
(04/01)

"The Parliamentary Committee on Constitutional Reforms achieved on Wednesday a historic consensus on the draft 18th Amendment by overcoming all contentious issues ranging from the renaming of NWFP to the appointment of superior courts judges. Members of the Committee, headed by Senator Raza Rabbani, signed the draft document at a ceremony held at Committee Room No 2 of the Parliament House."

News Story: President, PM Hails Signing Of Amendment Draft - "Dawn"
(04/01)

"President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani have hailed the signing of the Constitutional Amendment Bill as historic. In a statement the president said that this is a great victory of democratic forces over the dictators' amendments. He said this unanimous signing is a great gift for democracy and the people of Pakistan."

News Story: Khyber-Pakhtoonkhwa New Name For NWFP: Consensus At Last
- "Daily Times" (04/01)

"In Wednesday's deliberations, the Awami National Party and the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz agreed to rename the NWFP Khyber-Pakhtoonkhwa. However, the PML-Q and the PPP-Sherpao wrote a "note of reiteration" over the clause and vowed to vote against it whenever the draft is moved in parliament for approval."

News Story: NAB Asks Swiss Govt To Reopen Zardari Cases - "Daily Times" (04/01)

"Facing contempt charges, the bosses of National Accountability Bureau sent letters to Swiss authorities on Wednesday requesting them to revive legal assistance in investigating \$60 million graft cases allegedly involving President Asif Ali Zardari. In the light of the March 30 directives of the Supreme Court on revival and reopening of Swiss cases, NAB has initiated the process by

requesting foreign authorities for UNCLASSIFIED request for mutual legal assistance in the related matter,' the bureau's counsel Abid Zuberi told a bench hearing suo motu contempt cases against its Chairman and Deputy Chairman."

EDITORIALS/OPINIONS

Editorial: Dreadful Signs, an editorial in the center-right national English daily "The Nation" (cir. 20,000) (04/01)

"It is a pity that no serious steps like the installation of IPPs, or import of electricity, or the construction of large reservoirs have been taken. Iran is ready to supply power to us at reasonable rates, and its import can, no doubt, ease the pressure; our cold response to the offer under U.S. pressure is simply unacceptable.... Import of electricity from Iran and the construction of big reservoirs should be the top priority."

Editorial: Ensure Economic And Defense Stability, an editorial in the leading mass circulation populist, often sensational Urdu daily "Jang" (cir. 300,000) (04/01)

"Pakistan is passing through a very critical phase of its history. The buildup of several internal as well as external factors poses an existential threat to the country. This precarious situation necessitates the utilization of all available resources to make the defense of the country impregnable. At the same time, a prudent economic planning should also be undertaken in order to resolve all the crises facing Pakistan at the moment. Meanwhile, the international community, particularly the United States, needs to come forward, and use its clout to resolve our water dispute with India, and the lingering Kashmir issue. Such an endeavor will surely provide some breathing space to the Pakistani nation."

Editorial: Water Talks Run Dry, an editorial in the Lahore-based liberal English language daily "Daily Times" (cir. 10,000) (04/01)

"Just like the water in the Mangla and Tarbela Dams, the recent round of talks between the Indus Water Commissions of Pakistan and India have reached dead level.... However, Pakistan has made some headway in getting India to agree to the setting up of a telemetry system to ensure the measurement of actual river flows, so as to quell doubts about India's alleged aim to hold back water. The outcome has come to the sorry stalemate that if, in the proposed May deliberations, Pakistan and India fail to arrive at any conclusions, the World Bank may have to act as third party arbitrator to sort out the conundrum. Seeing that this guarantor has been the mediator for the occurrence of these talks in the first place, in its presence some sort of reconciliatory possibilities are perceived.... Rational

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solutions ought to be sought instead of playing the blame game. We are living in an era of unpredictable climate change where the only way to battle the elements is to increase cooperation and mutual acknowledgment of a common problem."

Editorial: Water Reservoir Issue And Indian Intransigence; Don't Go For Talks, Go To The International Court Of Justice, an editorial in the second-largest, nationalist Urdu daily "Nawa-i-Waqt" (cir. 150,000) (04/01)

"Pakistan-India Indus Commission's three day meeting ended without producing any results. They have agreed to hold the next round of water talks in New Delhi in May.... Pakistan's Indus Water Commissioner has hinted at moving the International Court Of Justice

(ICJ) in order to resolve water reservoir disputes with India, which is the right kind of decision.... Pakistan is willing to do anything for the acquisition of its rights, even to the extent of firing missiles on illegally constructed Indian dams. The water problem is actually an issue of our national security and we can't compromise our security by ignoring the problem."

Opinion: The Game Plays You, an op-ed by Syed Talat Hussain in the Lahore-based liberal English language daily "Daily Times" (cir. 10,000) (04/01)

"Washington's deepening engagement with the army does not necessarily mean that the centrality of the civilian set-up to its interests in Pakistan has now become secondary. Public representatives hold the key to managing a whole range of critical sectors, including the economy, without which this country cannot stay stable. What it means is that the U.S. has effectively divided its engagement with Pakistan into two categories: first is high and immediate interest, and the other is not-so-pressing, but long-term interest. In the first, Washington is happily hunting with the army, and in the second it is just as pleased running with the civilians. It does not require super mathematical skills to figure out whose interests get served in an equation like this. The tragedy is that neither the civilians nor the army realize that in their rush to win the high seat in Washington they are getting played against each other. And that is what the game is.

Opinion: Obama's Focus Is On Iran, Not Pakistan, an op-ed by Miranda Husain in the Lahore-based liberal English language daily "Daily Times" (cir. 10,000) (04/01)

"Any U.S. efforts failing to stabilize Afghanistan and Iraq before the end of his presidency could feasibly be blamed on their having been inherited from the previous regime. By direct contrast, however, the nuclearization of Iran would not only derail any Obama

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re-election bid, it would, from a UNCLASSIFIED perspective represent the biggest American foreign policy blunder of this century. Meaning thereby that history would be quick to judge Obama as the man under whose watch an increased risk of war in the Middle East became a reality, under whose watch regional proliferation concerns were unleashed, regarding both state and non-state actors. In short, the man under whose watch the Middle East was reshaped in terms neither amenable to Tel Aviv nor to Washington."

Opinion: Strategic dialogue with America, an op-ed by Gp Capt Rab Nawaz Ch (R) in the Islamabad-based rightist English daily "Pakistan Observer" (cir. 5,000) (04/01)

"To me strategic dialogues are basically a cunning exchange of views between political friends with new promises. It amounts to point scoring over one another and repairing cracks on quality of trust or to bridge the gap occurred since the last meeting. America and Pakistan have been striving to develop some such understanding in fighting terrorism in Afghanistan, tribal areas bordering Pakistan/Afghanistan and its spread deep inside Pakistan. People in Pakistan are keenly watching its outcome to a new plan of action to deal with the situation. I am sure the people of United States are also watching the development in the same spirit. Many more such dialogues would be planned in future till some final settlement is reached.... Whosoever has initiated these strategic dialogues, it might be able to clarify some issues and straighten a few futuristic plans between friends. Let us hope the new dialogues help us change the cunning exchange of views into honest intentions to work together to end this operation and any future conflict in the best interest of American, Pakistan, and Afghanistan."

Opinion: For Keeping U.S. Safe, an op-ed by I.M. Mohsin in the center-right national English daily "The Nation" (cir. 20,000) (04/01)

"Despite Obama's statesmanship and political acumen, the fact remains that the situation in Afghanistan is generally murky. The much-vaunted operation Mushtariq in Marjah and Helmand is pretty much on hold. The stories coming out of the area indicate that there is a lull in the fighting which is prompted by the U.S. forces doling out money to the people most generously. The same, reportedly, is true of the northern provinces wherein the private contractors are paying 'goodwill money' to the local Taliban to make sure that their supplies for the U.S./NATO forces keep going through unhindered.... Considering the ground realities, the war looks a bad one for the U.S. troops. This has been so, particularly since the

surge of troops was ordered by President Obama last July. It must be rather discouraging that the Taliban threatened and increased attacks on the foreign troops. No wonder the casualties of the

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foreign troops mounted along with those among the locals. But the Taliban tend to treat the casualties as a non-issue since they consider it to be the outcome of a jihad against foreign troops. Perhaps, the U.S. wants to cut its losses by eliminating direct engagement with the Taliban while proclaiming not to abandon Af-Pak. Nevertheless, political sagacity demands calling it to keep the U.S. 'safe and secure.'"

Opinion: U.S. Should Practically Help Pakistan, an op-ed by Mohammad Jamil in the Lahore-based liberal English daily "The Post" (cir. 5,000) (04/01)

"As regards the recent pledges, the real test of American cooperation will start after November 2010 elections in the U.S.... The positive change in American attitude should be looked at from another angle. President Obama has made a commitment to his nation that he would withdraw forces from Afghanistan in 2011. And to win public support he has to prove that would adhere to the schedule, as elections to the House of Representatives and some Senate seats are to be held in November this year. He has been able to get the healthcare bill passed, but he needs support in the Congress to get other bills passed without hassle and also to win his election for the next term. For Pakistan the redeeming feature is that the U.S. has tried to address Pakistan's concerns and implicitly acknowledged that Pakistan's desire to see a friendly government next door is logical and reasonable.... Despite tall promises, America has yet to reimburse around \$2 billion in regard to Coalition Support Fund. And only last week Defence Secretary Robert Gates has admitted that Pakistan has given more sacrifices while fighting war on terror than any other country of the world. Holbrooke had shown repentance that the U.S. had made mistakes and suffered loss for not listening to Pakistan. But instead of paying tributes to Pakistan, they should give practical demonstration of their noble sentiments."

OTHER STORIES

News Story: PEMRA Bans Foreign Bulletins On Radio Stations -
"The News" (04/01)

"On the directive of the federal government, the Pakistan Electronics Regulatory Authority (PEMRA), has issued a notification to all private radio stations not to air foreign Urdu service without prior permission, sources told 'The News.' Chairman, PEMRA, Malik Mushtaq, has said the Authority also issued show cause notices to radio stations to immediately halt foreign bulletins or stern action will be taken against the violators. Sources disclosed that over 30 radio stations aired foreign news bulletins for five minutes after each hour via satellite against millions of rupees received."

News Story: Iranian N-Scientist Defects To U.S. - "The News" (04/01)

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"An Iranian nuclear scientist, who has been missing since June, has defected to the United States and is helping the CIA, ABC news reported on Tuesday. Citing unnamed sources briefed on the defection, the network said Shahram Amiri, a nuclear physicist in his early 30s, defected as part of a long-planned operation to get him to leave Iran and resettle in the United States. A CIA spokeswoman declined to comment."

(All circulation figures are based on estimation)
Patterson

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