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	DIAS-00	H-00	TEDE-00	IO-00	LAB-01	L-00	ARMY-00
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 NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE
 HQ USCENCOM 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, KPAO, OIIP, OPRC, PGOV, PREL, PK
 SUBJECT: PAKISTAN MEDIA REACTION: APRIL 27, 2010

Summary: Local political developments dominated headlines in all newspapers on Tuesday. All major dailies highlighted the likely meeting on Wednesday between the Pakistani and Indian premiers on the sidelines of the SAARC summit in Bhutan. Newspapers also ran a 'Washington Post' story suggesting that the "U.S. CIA is now using smaller missiles in Pakistan tribal areas in order to minimize civilian casualties." Reports on the provision of missile frigates to Pakistan Navy by the U.S. also figured prominently. In a front-page story, the English daily, "Dawn," noted that the "government is facing a formidable challenge to deal with the militant leaders in North Waziristan."

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER
 DATE/CASE ID: 23 JUN 2011 201000373

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In an editorial titled "The Economic Cost" the English daily, "Dawn," noted that "Pakistan's internal security problems have worsened in the aftermath of 9/11.... Our economic woes will not go away unless fresh investments are made in the power and manufacturing sectors for job generation and sustainable growth. Another English daily, "The Nation," in its editorial on the situation in Afghanistan lamented that "more disturbing is the continuing U.S. effort to involve India in Afghanistan. There can be no ambiguity in this message that India is the United States' partner in policy in Pakistan and Afghanistan." End Summary.

TOP STORIES

News Story: Gilani, Singh Likely To Meet In Bhutan - "Dawn" (04/27)

"Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan are likely to hold talks on the sidelines of the SAARC Summit in Bhutan, a top Indian official said on Monday, indicating signs of a possible thaw between the two South Asian neighbors. India's External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna said a meeting later this week between Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and his Pakistani counterpart, Yousuf Raza Gilani, 'could not be ruled out,' the Press Trust of India news agency reported."

News Story: PM Gilani Leaves To Attend SAARC Summit - "Dawn" (04/27)

"Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani emphasized the need for food security for the region and said leaders will take up the matter during the SAARC summit. The Prime Minister was speaking to the media while travelling to Bhutan for the summit on Monday."

News Story: Backdoor Diplomacy On To Resolve Issues With India: PM - "The Nation" (04/27)

"Talking to newsmen on board his special aircraft before reaching Kathmandu on his way to Bhutan to attend the 16th SAARC Summit, he said for the first time in its history, the PPP government enjoyed the support of the establishment that was clear from the progress of the government in war against terror and at the international level.... Replying to a question regarding talks with India, Prime Minister said efforts were being made through normal diplomatic and backdoor channels to resolve all the issues."

News Story: U.S. Drones Using Smaller Missiles: Report - "Dawn" (04/27)

"The U.S. Central Intelligence Agency is now using smaller missiles

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in Pakistan's tribal areas in the hope of ~~reducing~~ reducing civilian casualties, the US media reported on Monday. The Washington Post reported that the new missiles are equipped with advanced surveillance gadgets that may help sharply reduce civilian casualties."

News Story: U.S. To Provide Pak Navy With Missile Frigate - "Dawn"
(04/27)

"The United States is all set to provide Pakistan with a 64.77 million dollar guided missile frigate. The USS McInerney will be given to Pakistan under Foreign Military Funding. A spokesman for the Pakistan Navy says that a contract has been signed between the United States and Pakistan, which will allow the transfer of the ship. He said that it is important to mention that Pakistan will not have to pay a single dollar for the guided missile frigate. According to his statement, the spokesman says that the United States will not only hand over the ship, but will also refurbish the vessel, provide ammunition and train the ship's crew."

News Story: North Waziristan Poses A Formidable Challenge - "Dawn"
(04/27)

"A steady escalation in attacks on security forces in South Waziristan and Mehsud tribesmen's reluctance to return home has thrown up a formidable challenge to the government to deal with militant leaders in neighboring North Waziristan Agency - the real bastion of Tehrik-i-Taliban."

News Story: Obama Renews Vow Of "New Beginning" With Muslims -
"Dawn," "The News" (04/27)

"President Barack Obama on Monday renewed his commitment to a 'new beginning' with the Muslim world, vowing no let-up in U.S. efforts to promote Middle East peace, curb militant violence and boost economic development, reports Reuters."

News Story: Obama Hosts Muslim Entrepreneurs - "Business Recorder"
(04/27)

"U.S. President Barack Obama laid a key plank of his strategy to mend ties with the Islamic world on Monday hosting 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, Obama brought entrepreneurs from 50 countries to Washington for two days to spur economic ties. Opening the meeting, Commerce Secretary Gary Locke said boosting Muslim business would not only help the Islamic world, but would also help U.S. security and trade."

News Story: Military Operation Launched In Khyber Agency - "Dawn"
(04/27)

"Security forces launched an operation to root out militants from the Bara Tehsil of the Khyber Agency on Monday. Officials said that so far, 12 suspected militants had been taken into custody."

News Story: Eight Killed In North Waziristan Drone Strike - "Dawn"
(04/27)

"A U.S. missile attack destroyed a suspected Taliban-linked hideout in Pakistan's northwest tribal belt on Monday and killed at least eight militants, local security officials said."

News Story: Bullet-Proof Wall to be Built Around U.S. Consulate -
"The Nation" (04/27)

"Construction work at the U.S. Consulate, damaged in a recent bomb blast, has got underway while a concrete and bullet-proof boundary wall is being constructed around the premises.... On the other hand, no outsider is allowed to visit the premises during construction work."

News Story: Decision to Expel Non-Local Imams from Peshawar
Withdrawn - "The Nation" (04/27)

"The provincial capital has withdrawn the decision to expel all non-local Ulema serving in different mosques of Peshawar. In wake of law and order situation in the province, the government of Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa had announced to expel all Afghan Imams from the district and had also directed to make a list of Afghan Imams."

News Story: India Offers Strong Support To Afghan President -
"Dawn" (04/27)

"India offered its unambiguous support to Afghan President Hamid Karzai on Monday as the embattled Afghan leader comes under increasing international pressure over his plan to include some Taliban leaders in reconciliation talks to end the nearly nine-year-old war in Afghanistan. Although India has deep reservations about what have come to be known as the differentiation between 'good Taliban' and 'bad Taliban,' Prime Minister Manmohan Singh assured Karzai about India's support."

News Story: First Probe Against A Serving General Begins - "Dawn"
(04/27)

"In the first-ever probe of its kind into the possible role of a

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senior serving army officer in elimination of a serious

crime, the three-member committee constituted to determine whether the then Director General of Military Intelligence (MI), Major General Nadeem Ijaz, gave orders for hosing down of Ms Benazir Bhutto's assassination site, has started preliminary work. 'We have started preliminary work and will submit a report to the Prime Minister in the stipulated time,' cabinet secretary Abdul Rauf Chaudhry, who heads the fact-finding committee, told 'Dawn' on Monday."

News Story: Six Key Swat Taliban Commanders Killed - "Daily Times" (04/27)

"Six key Taliban commanders were killed in clashes with security forces in Swat, security officials said on Monday. The officials told 'Daily Times' that troops also recovered a large cache of arms from the Taliban hideouts."

POLITICAL ISSUES

News Story: U.K. Withdraws Musharraf's Protocol - "The News" (04/27)

"The British government has decided to withdraw expensive security contingent containing 3-4 Scotland Yard officers, an armored car and any protocol to the former President, Pervez Musharraf, 'The News' has learned. The British government's decision follows the release of United Nations inquiry report on the assassination of Benazir Bhutto in December 2007 in a bomb attack in Rawalpindi."

News Story: Musharraf's Protocol To Stay - "Dawn" (04/27)

"The government has decided not to withdraw the official protocol being provided to former president Gen. (Retd) Pervez Musharraf. 'Being a former President it is his right to get official security and protocol,' Interior Minister Rehman Malik told a private TV channel on Monday."

ECONOMY/ENVIRONMENT

News Story: Parliament Approve VAT Before Budget - "The News" (04/27)

"The government is committed to the IMF for getting approval of the Parliament on Value Added Tax (VAT) bill by May 31, 2010 much prior to the approval of the Budget 2010-2011 in a bid to avoid any slippages on this crucial condition imposed by the Fund."

News Story: Energy Saving Plan Fails To Deliver - "The News"

(04/27)

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"There is hardly any impact of closure of government offices for two days because residents of Rawalpindi are facing the problem of power outages as usual. All Pakistan Traders Association President Sheikh Muhammad Siddique said all businesses have gone to the dogs due to long hours of load-shedding. People are facing load-shedding as usual, he said adding that there is no electricity in the country while the government is creating more difficulties for traders as well as public."

News Story: Electricity Shortfall Feared To Worsen - "Dawn" (04/27)

"With little signs of improvement in river flows, the country may face difficulties in cotton sowing and a surge in electricity shortfalls over the next few days, sources in the Indus River System Authority told 'Dawn' on Monday."

EDITORIALS/OPINIONS

Editorial: The Economic Cost, an editorial in the Karachi-based center-left independent national English daily "Dawn" (cir. 55,000) (04/27)

"Pakistan's internal security problems have worsened in the aftermath of 9/11. It has experienced more violence, particularly acts of terrorism, in recent years than elsewhere in the region.... Islamabad has paid a huge economic price for its role in the war on terror. The direct costs of economic disruptions include rapid increases in internal and external security spending at the expense of education and health. Thousands have lost their lives or suffered permanent or temporary destruction of property. Indirect costs

include a slowdown in economic growth and manufactured exports. The country's image has suffered enormously. Foreign buyers are reluctant to travel here and investors have lost confidence in the country. A government estimate puts the direct and indirect costs incurred by the national economy from 2002-2008, because of the war on terror, at just below \$5bn.... What we need is investment in our energy sector and manufacturing. We need market access in developed countries for our exports. Our economic woes will not go away unless fresh investments are made in the power and manufacturing sectors for job generation and sustainable growth."

Editorial: India in Kabul, an editorial in the center-right national English daily "The Nation" (cir. 20,000) (04/27)

"Pakistan's offer to the Afghan government and NATO to train the Afghan Army has not even merited a response from these entities."

Pakistan had even invited the Afghan ^{UNCLASSIFIED} to visit Pakistan and assess its capability to train the Afghan Army but there was no positive response. Clearly the friendship and cooperation being offered is all one way so far. However, more disturbing is the continuing U.S. effort to involve India in Afghanistan. Last week, General Petraeus declared once again that the U.S. was working with India on the Af-Pak region. As he explained, even though India is not 'in the title of Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan Richard Holbrooke, but he has certainly had a lot of activity with our Indian partners.' Now there can be no ambiguity in this message - that India is the United States' partner in policy in Pakistan and Afghanistan. In this connection it has already been reported that India has begun training Afghan law enforcement personnel and Special Forces - even though the Americans have tried to keep the 'army' nomenclature out of it, with the clear intent of deceiving Pakistan into thinking India is not involved in any military training in Afghanistan."

Editorial: Pricing Power, an editorial in the populist, often sensational national English daily "The News" (cir. 55,000) (04/27)

"The reality of the IMF-dictated terms is now becoming plain. Indeed the IMF is set to demand a further cut in power subsidies that the government has vowed to resist at least until load-shedding is decreased. Practically speaking we do not know if this will be possible. We have seen a repeated caving in to demands made by the IMF. To some extent this is inevitable.... But the government must also realize it should find ways to give top-most priority to the interests of people."

Editorial: The SAARC Summit, an editorial in the Karachi-based center-left independent national English daily "Dawn" (cir. 55,000) (04/27)

"It is important that India and Pakistan understand their part in making SAARC an ineffective body. Initially each had feared that the other would use the rest of the members as a tool to promote its own interests in South Asian affairs. Mercifully that did not happen. But by allowing their frustration with each other to be reflected in the working of SAARC they have done a great disservice to the regional body. It is time Islamabad and New Delhi kept their bilateral dealings out of SAARC's way so that cooperation on trade and socio-cultural issues is allowed to grow. In fact, this could pave the way for better bilateral ties."

Editorial: SAARC Conference And Back Channel Diplomacy, an editorial in the second-largest, nationalist Urdu daily "Nawa-i-Waqt" (cir. 150,000) (04/27)

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"Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gillani attend the SAARC Summit. The Indian lobby has already leaked to the press the possibility of a meeting between Pakistan and India premiers.... Prime Minister Gillani should convey to all the SAARC countries that unless India resolves the Kashmir dispute in keeping with the UN resolutions, regional and international peace cannot be guaranteed."

Editorial: Indo-Pakistan Issues, an editorial in the center-right national English daily "The Nation" (cir. 20,000) (04/27)

"There is hardly anything to feel euphoric about the likelihood of an informal meeting between the Prime Ministers of Pakistan and India on the sidelines of the SAARC Summit at Thimphu (Bhutan), since New Delhi has given no indication that it has, after all, realized the urgency of resolving bilateral disputes. And, unless its mindset undergoes a radical change and it starts thinking that dragging the disputes on is harming not only Pakistan but also India, there is little justification for optimism.... Inevitably, lack of progress towards their solution has been casting a dark and lengthening shadow over the objective, shared also by the SAARC, to improve the lot of the teeming millions through social and economic development of the two countries and the region as a whole."

Editorial: Regional Approach To Water, an editorial in the Lahore-based liberal English language daily "Daily Times" (cir. 10,000) (04/27)

"The issue of water distribution is the bone of contention between upper and lower riparian countries in the region. Voices of protest against India pilfering Pakistan's share of water are growing louder. Besides Pakistan, India has had problems with Bangladesh on the waters of River Ganges that forms its delta in Bangladesh. These are issues dictated by nature, which is no respecter of political boundaries. Without a cross-border and region-wise cooperation, these issues cannot be settled to the satisfaction of all parties."

Editorial: Pakistan's Objections To The Kishen-Ganga Project, an editorial in the liberal Urdu daily "Express" (circ. 25,000) (04/27)

"As far as the Kishen-Ganga Dam goes, Pakistan has decided to go to the World Bank when a lot of water has already flowed under the bridge. A similar delay was seen in the case of Baglihar dam, creating an outcome that is now before us. The need is not only to resolve our water disputes with India but also to pave the way for building a major dam in Pakistan because even if all our water disputes with India are resolved, we would still need a reservoir to

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meet our water and power needs." UNCLASSIFIED

Opinion: Is America Playing Double Game?, an op-ed by Mohammad Jamil in the Islamabad-based rightist English daily "Pakistan Observer" (cir. 5,000) (04/27)

"On one hand, members of Obama administration assure Pakistan that it will address Pakistan's concerns about excessive Indian presence in Afghanistan, and on the other hand it is reassuring India through its ambassador in India that the U.S. not only appreciates the role India has played, but would also like to give India a greater role in Afghanistan. 'India's role has been a great success. The U.S. is looking for additional role for India in Afghanistan. It may include civil services and anti-corruption projects,' U.S. Ambassador Tim Roemer told reporters in New Delhi.... Meanwhile, India has increased its propaganda and lobbying against Pakistan army getting sophisticated weapons from the U.S., which reportedly are being turned against India. Tim Roemer said that the U.S. took these allegations seriously and Pakistan could face a range of actions including sanctions. 'There are allegations of misuse of weapons given to Pakistan for other purposes. We will investigate it, Congress will take the issue seriously,' he said. The question is whether U.S. Ambassador has the mandate to say all these things, and give categorical statements? Is he issuing statements at the behest of the Obama administration or it is diplomatic talk just to pacify India, because its leadership was disturbed over the change of American policy towards Pakistan. Anyhow, it is unwarranted for U.S. Ambassador in India to convey an impression that there is truth in Indian allegations against Pakistan."

Opinion: The Kidnapped, an op-ed by Rahimullah Yusufzai in the populist, often sensational national English daily "The News" (cir. 55,000) (04/27)

"The U.S. pressure on Pakistan Army to move into North Waziristan in a big way is mounting as it is keen that foreign militants, particularly the Haqqani network, is denied the use of Pakistani space for launching attacks in Afghanistan. Eventually, the Pakistani military would have to do something about North Waziristan to deny its use as a sanctuary for militants. For now, though, this cannot happen as 150,000 soldiers are still busy fighting a difficult battle in the tribal areas and trying to stabilize the situation in places like Swat. There seems to be shortage of troops and resources even to rid Orakzai and Khyber tribal regions of militants or maintain a sustained presence in South Waziristan. The battle for North Waziristan would have to wait. And even if it is won there is no guarantee that militancy would be overcome to win durable peace."

Opinion: Iran Crosses the Rubicon, ~~an op-ed by Fayid Hussain~~ Hussain in the center-right national English daily "The Nation" (cir. 20,000) (04/27)

"The only logical conclusion one can draw is that it is all right for a country to acquire uranium enrichment technology if it is friendly with the U.S. but a cardinal sin if it loses Washington's favor. Even if one admits for the sake of argument that Iran's uranium enrichment program is driven by security considerations, it is illogical for the U.S. to expect it to discontinue that program while accentuating Tehran's feeling of insecurity by attempting to destabilize the Iranian government, keeping open the option of military strikes against it, and hinting in the latest U.S. nuclear policy statement the possibility of the use of even nuclear weapons against Iran because of its alleged non-compliance with the NPT.... What is needed is a fundamental review of the U.S. policy towards Iran with the main objective of engaging Iran in the quest for a new security architecture in the Persian Gulf region and the Middle East instead of continuing the past failed policy of containing Iran and subjecting it to threats and sanctions."

Opinion: Questions, More Questions, an op-ed by Kamran Shafi in the Karachi-based center-left independent national English daily "Dawn" (cir. 55,000) (04/27)

"So then, the UN report is out, setting many cats on many dovecotes (or is it mongooses on snake pits?), even hitherto forbidden dovecotes. Good I say, and bully for the UN Commission to say out loud what needed to be said, particularly outing the term 'the establishment.' Felicitations to it too for so methodically laying out the quite glaring facts gleaned, no doubt, after months of painstaking work ferreting out the truth from a bureaucracy trained all its life to obfuscate matters if not lie outright to protect itself and its bosses. So unnerved are the denizens of these snake pits that the 'ghairat (honor) brigade' is marching once again, this time to denounce the report as yet another Kerry-Lugar bill-like attempt (of the Israeli/Indian/American/Jewish/Hindu/Christian confederacy of course) to undermine Pakistan's 'sovereignty.' Of course, in their blind (and deaf) zeal to protect the establishment, they completely overlook the fact that whilst the wording of the Kerry-Lugar bill is exactly as it always was, the establishment goes on unashamedly receiving U.S. aid: weapons, equipment, cash, whatever. Its 'fury' was just for show, mere posturing.... The establishment has learnt no lessons from this country's sad history, my friends - we are in for very great trouble unless the political parties continue to face down the establishment jointly. I continue to believe that Benazir was killed by a bullet - the professional stance of the shooter, his close proximity to his target, the flying dupatta (headscarf), and the fact that she fell down before the bomb exploded all point to this theory. Indeed, is the dupatta

(headscarf) missing because it has a bullet hole in it? Questions, questions."

(All circulation figures are based on estimation)
Patterson

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