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	TEDE-00	IO-00	LAB-01	L-00	ARMY-00	MOFM-00	MOF-00
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 SECDEF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
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E.O. 12958: N/A
 TAGS: KMDR, KPAO, OIIP, OPRC, PGOV, PREL, PK
 SUBJECT: PAKISTAN MEDIA REACTION: MARCH 20-22, 2010

Summary: Coverage of the up-coming U.S.-Pak Strategic Dialogue dominated headlines in major newspapers and TV networks on Monday morning. Newspapers highlighted Prime Minister Gilani's statement, emphasizing that "the government will take important decision on the report of the Pakistani delegation." Media reported that Pakistan will seek U.S. funding for energy projects. Several mainstream papers reported that the U.S. is touting the talks as a "major intensification of partnership," whereas, "The Nation," in its usual anti-U.S. slant, claimed that the talks are "unlikely to make any major headway largely because of the U.S.' bias in addressing Pakistan's national security concerns." Weekend and Sunday editions of nearly all newspapers reported Ambassador Holbrooke's press

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briefing in Washington on the talks, saying the dialogue had a "broad and complex agenda" received wide coverage. Ambassador Patterson's meetings with Prime Minister Gilani, Financial Adviser Dr. Hafeez Sheikh, and Minister of State for Finance Hina Khar were widely reported. Commenting on U.S.-Pak talks, the Lahore-based Urdu daily, "Khabrain," maintained that "Afghanistan has become a trap for America; it wants to leave Afghanistan but does not have an honorable exit strategy. The United States has realized that Pakistan can arrange its honorable exit, hence this dialogue between senior leaders of the two countries." Coverage of the ongoing military operation in border tribal areas also received prominent display. All dailies reported that at least 25 militants were killed in air strikes in Kurram and Orakzai regions, and eight died in drone attack in North Waziristan Agency. Reports that the Taliban militants have beheaded four tribesmen on charges of spying for the U.S. forces, received prominent coverage. The bomb blast in Quetta that killed three people including two policemen was also reported. End Summary.

TOP STORIES

News Story: Vital Decisions To Follow Pak-U.S. Talks: Gilani - "The News" (03/22)

"Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani said on Sunday that the government would take important decisions on the report of the Pakistani delegation, which would hold the strategic dialogue with the United States. Talking to journalists in Multan, he said the Pakistani delegation, headed by Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi, would inform the U.S. government about its stance and brief the U.S. officials on all issues, including terrorism.

News Story: Pakistan To Seek U.S. Funding For Energy Projects - "The News" (03/22)

"Pakistan is to seek a number of economic concessions from the U.S. in the upcoming talks in Washington. These include payment of its CSF dues on time, investment in the power and agriculture sectors and for the U.S. to use its leading role to persuade the major global trading blocs to extend preferential treatment in trade to the country that is paying a huge price in the ongoing war against militancy," a senior official of Ministry of Foreign Affairs revealed to 'The News.'"

News Story: Pak-U.S. Strategic Talks Agenda Withheld \$1.5 Billion Of CSF Payment To Be Crucial Item - "The News" (03/22)

"Although, Pakistan and the U.S. are scheduled to hold crucial strategic dialogue this week, yet the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad has withheld military expenditure bills incurred on mobilization of

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troops for fighting against the militants in the tribal areas in the shape of the Coalition Support Fund (CSF) worth \$1.5 billion for the period of January 2009 to Dec 2009. The U.S. authorities are using the CSF amount as leverage to get maximum visas for their nationals apparently in the name of auditors. Official sources confirmed that the US authorities were conveying to them during informal talks that the release of the CSF amount was linked to the resolution of visa controversy despite the fact that Pakistan had granted visas to around 200 to 300 auditors in recent months."

News Story: Pakistan Will Get Fair Hearing On Civil Nuclear Deal
Request: U.S. - "The News" (03/21)

"Though Pakistani and US officials are optimistic about the strategic dialogue being held here next week, some of them are warning about overblown expectations. 'Pakistan will get a fair hearing of its requests, ranging from civil nuclear deal to simplification of the Coalition Support Fund delivery and market access. But all of these will require a process and will not happen overnight,' said a U.S. official."

News Story: US' Bias May Undermine Talks' Strategic Value - "The Nation" (03/22)

"The crucial strategic dialogue, which will begin between Washington and Islamabad on March 24, is unlikely to make any major headway largely because of the United States' bias in addressing Pakistan's national security concerns. Background interviews and discussions with credible diplomatic and military sources revealed to 'The Nation' that the United States' diplomatic posturing ahead of the high caliber strategic dialogue suggested that the United States' bias towards Pakistan vis-a-vis India would not let the talks to obtain some strategic value. 'The strategic dialogue process would be of no meaning, as the U.S. authorities failed to address Pakistan's national security concerns relating to India,' military sources said."

News Story: Pak-U.S. Strategic Dialogue To Be Complex: Holbrooke -
"The News" (03/20)

"U.S. Special Representative for Pakistan and Afghanistan Richard Holbrooke has said the strategic dialogue between Pakistan and the United States of America had a broad and complex agenda. However, the focus will be to strengthen democratic institutions in Pakistan, eliminating terrorism, ending poverty and finding solutions for the power crisis, he told reporters at a briefing at the State Department on Friday."

News Story: Fourth Round Of Pak-U.S. Talks Will Be Successful: PM -

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"Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani on Saturday expressed the hope that the fourth session of the Pakistan-U.S. Strategic Dialogue scheduled for next week in Washington would be successful in achieving concrete results and tangible goals, set forth by both the sides. In a meeting with U.S. Ambassador Anne W Patterson, who called on him at the PM House, the prime minister identified power generation, water conservation, education, strengthening of the capacity of Pakistan's law-enforcement agencies through training and provision of equipment besides fast-tracking of the economic assistance committed through the Kerry-Lugar Act, the Coalition Support Fund and foreign military funding as the areas in which progress can be made in the forthcoming round of talks."

News Story: Pak-U.S. Dialogue Touted As 'Intensification' Of Partnership - "Daily Times" (03/22)

"The U.S. is touting high-level and wide-ranging talks on Wednesday with Pakistan as a 'major intensification of our partnership.' U.S. President Barack Obama's administration has promised to engage more deeply with Pakistan, which has long seen Washington as interested only in securing its military cooperation in the fight against the Taliban and al Qaeda. The talks chaired by U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi will cover not just security, but also economic development, water and energy, education, communications and public diplomacy, and agriculture, U.S. officials said."

News Story: Pakistani delegation Receives Extraordinary Protocol in U.S. - "The News" (03/22)

"Extraordinary protocol was given to Pakistani delegation at New York airport as the immigration process was done in the plane, while a special plane was granted to Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Ashfaq Parvez Kayani for going to Timpaley, sources told Online on Sunday."

News Story: Qureshi Arrives In Washington for Strategic Talks - "The News" (03/22)

"Foreign Minister shah Mahmood Qureshi flew into Washington on Saturday evening for a five-day visit during which he will co-chair U.S.-Pakistan Strategic dialogue with U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton as Pakistan seeks greater American cooperation for development in wide-ranging areas."

News Story: 25 Militants Killed In Kurram, Orakzai - "The News" (03/22)

"Twenty-five militants were killed in a military gunship

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helicopters and PAF fighter jets in Kurram and Orakzai tribal regions, tribal and official sources said on Sunday."

News Story: Four Killed On Charges Of Spying For U.S. - "The News" (03/22)

"Bodies of four persons accused of spying for the U.S. were found dumped near Isori Adda on the Mir Ali-Thall Road, in North Waziristan, local sources said on Sunday. A letter was also found near the bodies that read: 'Those spying for the U.S. will meet the same fate.' However, no group or individual claimed responsibility for the killings."

News Story: Two Cops Among Three Killed In Quetta Blast - "The News" (03/22)

"Three persons, including two policemen, were killed and 16 others sustained injuries when a powerful bomb went off near a police mobile van on the Quarry Road in Quetta on Sunday."

TERRORISM/MILITARY ISSUES

News Story: CIA's Drone Attacks Rise Under New Chief - "The News" (03/22)

"The plan was a standard one in the CIA's war against extremists in Pakistan: The agency was using a Predator drone to monitor a residential compound; a Taliban leader was expected to arrive shortly; a CIA missile would kill him. On the morning of Aug. 5, CIA Director Leon Panetta was informed that Baitullah Mehsud was about to reach his father-in-law's home. Mehsud would be in the open, minimizing the risk that civilians would be injured or killed. Panetta authorized the strike, according to a senior intelligence official who described the sequence of events."

News Story: Pakistan Backs Afghan Reconciliation: Gilani - "Daily Times" (03/22)

"Pakistan will provide complete support to the reconciliation strategy of Afghan President Hamid Karzai, Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani said on Sunday, while talking about Karzai's recent visit to Pakistan. He was talking to reporters in Multan on Sunday."

News Story: Eight Die In NWA Drone Attacks - "The News" (03/22)

"Eight people were killed and four others sustained injuries when the U.S. spy planes fired missiles on a house and a car in Lowara

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Mandi village of North Waziristan Agency on Sunday night, official sources said."

News Story: Taliban Hand Over 22 Hostages To Lashkar in Kurram - "The News" (03/22)

"The local Taliban, as a result of a pact with Masozai national Lashkar, handed over 22 hostages to the Lashkar in Kurram Agency. Under the agreement, the local Taliban released 22 hostages of Masozai clan and four vehicles."

News Story: Escalated Militant Activities Alarming: UN - "The News" (03/22)

"The United Nations has voiced concern over 'significant escalation of militant activities' in parts of the country in which 10 members of the humanitarian community were killed. It acknowledged that the UN missions were now gaining access to areas that were previously inaccessible. The UN described the current month as the 'worst' for the humanitarian community with regard to casualties in violence. 'Seven national staff members were killed in an attack by an unidentified militant group on the World Vision office in Mansehra district. Three aid workers from the national NGO Lasoona were killed in a bomb blast in Mingora,' a report by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN-OCHA) said."

News Story: Taliban Commanders Given Training In Iran: Report - "The News" (03/22)

"Hundreds of insurgents have been trained in Iran to kill NATO forces in Afghanistan two Taliban commanders told a British Sunday newspaper. The unnamed commanders told 'The Sunday Times' that Iranian officials paid them to attend three-month courses in desert training camps in southeast Iran. They were taught how to carry out complex ambushes and lay improvised explosive devices (IEDs), the roadside bombs which have been responsible for many of the deaths of British troops in Afghanistan."

News Story: PAF Successfully Employs Air-To-Air Refueling Skill - "The News" (03/22)

"The Pakistan Air Force (PAF) on Sunday employed an air-to-air refueling skill successfully, thus, attaining another milestone to prove itself. The attainment of the capability was part of the ongoing 'High-Mark 2010' exercises, which kicked off a week ago, an official said."

EDITORIALS/OPINIONS

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Editorial: Pak-America Dialogue: Golden Opportunity For Pakistan?, an editorial in the Lahore-based populist center-right Urdu daily "Khabrain" (cir. 50,000) (03/22)

"Afghanistan has become a trap for America; it wants to leave Afghanistan but does not have an honorable exit strategy. America has realized that Pakistan can arrange its honorable exit, hence this dialogue between senior leaders of the two countries."

Editorial: Will U.S. Now Solve Our Daily Problems?, an editorial in the Karachi-based, pro-Taliban Jihadi Urdu daily "Islam" (cir. 15,000) (03/22)

"The production of electricity, education, water security, and capacity-building of our law enforcement agencies, are purely the internal and routine issues of Pakistan, which we need to solve on our own. Will the U.S. solve all these problems without receiving anything in return? Has the country been leased out to Washington to protect the personal interests of a few people? We think that the nation need to refrain from pinning much hope in the Pak-U.S. Strategic Dialogue."

Editorial: When Will U.S. Stop Mistrusting Pakistan?, an editorial in the leading mass circulation populist, often sensational Urdu daily "Jang" (cir. 300,000) (03/22)

"Since the very first day of its independence, Pakistan has been a U.S. ally and supported the latter in its cold war against the Soviet Union. But instead of recognizing our sacrifices, U.S. officials have always adopted a negative attitude towards Pakistan. A recent statement by Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Chief, Leon Panetta, that mistrust between Islamabad and Washington still exists and will take time to vanish completely, is another example of the U.S. policymakers' mindset. This biased and negative thinking has provided an opportunity to civil society and religious parties in Pakistan to exert pressure on the government to review its pro-U.S. policy."

Editorial: America Wants To Entrap Pakistan Further, an editorial in the second-largest, nationalist Urdu daily "Nawa-i-Waqt" (cir. 150,000) (03/22)

"Pakistan Army Chief of Staff General Ashfaq Kayani has left for Washington to participate in the Pak-America strategic dialogue.... America wants to runaway from Afghanistan and is desirous of deploying Pakistan Army in Afghanistan. America can pressure Pakistan in this respect.... Pakistan should distance itself from this entrapment by America."

Editorial: U.S.-Pak Strategic Dialogue and Ambassador Holbrooke's

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Remarks, an editorial in liberal Urdu daily "The Press" (cir. 25,000)
(03/21)

"The U.S. must understand that Pakistan has been playing the role of a frontline state in the war on terrorism, but it is not the responsibility of Pakistan alone to deal with the menace of terrorism. Pakistan is facing serious financial crisis owing to this war on terror. U.S. should also help resolve this economic crisis as part of its strategy in this part of the world. If our leaders succeed in convincing the U.S. about Pakistan's stand, we may look forward to enduring peace in this region."

Editorial: Strategic Dialogue: U.S. Plan To Sabotage Maldives Plan, an editorial in the second-largest, nationalist Urdu daily "Nawa-i-Waqt" (cir. 150,000) (03/21)

"The agenda of the Strategic Dialogue is to implement the new U.S. Afghan policy; however Pakistan should ensure its own security, integrity and stability. Pakistan has supported the U.S., but got nothing except destruction, distrust, and widespread bloodshed. We have been following the U.S. agenda since 1980s which has tremendously weakened the social fabric of Pakistan. Now, the U.S. wants to quit Afghanistan, and is planning to exploit Pak Army against Taliban militants. If the government of Pakistan follows this U.S. strategy, it will be a step towards total annihilation."

Editorial: Strategic Dialogue, an editorial in the populist, often sensational national English daily "The News" (cir. 55,000) (03/20)

"There has been no improvement in the power-supply situation despite assurances that assistance would be offered in this sphere; and it is indeed clear that the war on terror will continue for some time yet with the militants remaining entrenched in some areas. It is, however, also important that Pakistan deliver a clear message to the U.S.. We need to tell Washington exactly what we need and stress that people are unwilling to wait indefinitely. An aid initiative in education and development is one possibility. But we need to take matters into our own hands. Islamabad must lay out its vision for the future and quit merely following orders. We must say what our longer-term plan to defeat terrorism is and what assistance we need in this. It is indeed somewhat unclear why funds already available to Pakistan have not been used for development in conflict-hit areas. Such matters need to be sorted out. Pakistan must have a blueprint for success that it can implement."

Editorial: Go To Washington With Clear Agenda, an editorial in the leading mass circulation populist, often sensational Urdu daily "Jang" (cir. 300,000) (03/20)

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"If Pakistan presents its case with proper arguments, U.S. officials will definitely consider it seriously. Time and circumstances are changing fast; we will have to use this opportunity in our national interest. However, Pakistan has to define its objectives and goals precisely. We look forward a positive outcome of the upcoming U.S.-Pak strategic dialogue."

Editorial: FM Qureshi Must Talk With U.S. Decisively, an editorial in the second-largest, nationalist Urdu daily "Nawa-i-Waqt" (cir. 150,000) (03/20)

"Foreign Minister Qureshi must talk with U.S. officials on the drone attacks issue, and inform them in plain words that the U.S. will have to discontinue these strikes right away, or else Pakistan will shoot them down. These drone strikes are compelling tribesmen to launch suicide attacks across Pakistan. Likewise, if the U.S. wants to help out Pakistan, it must help us resolve water and Kashmir issues with India."

Editorial: A High-Risk Game, an editorial in the Lahore-based liberal English language daily "Daily Times" (cir. 10,000) (03/22)

"The U.S. has changed its attitude towards the Taliban. The Karzai government did not even wait for the surge in troops and, bypassing Pakistan, opened negotiations with different resistance groups through Saudi mediation and offered them incentives on the condition that they renounce militancy, cut off ties with al Qaeda and accept the Afghan constitution. In view of the fast-changing ground realities, Pakistan too has come to terms with the fact that the set-up in Afghanistan post-U.S. withdrawal will not be controlled exclusively by the Taliban, as it had hoped in the beginning. Analysts had argued that the arrest of top Taliban leaders by Pakistan seemed like an attempt to reinsert itself in the scheme of things in Afghanistan. The statement of the former UN envoy to Afghanistan, Kai Eide, that the arrest of these leaders has "halted" the secret talks being led by the Afghan government through the UN and the Karzai government official's confirming of this statement, apparently, corroborate this argument, despite Pakistan and the Taliban's denial in this regard. The Taliban have denied any talks with the UN. Given the critical situation, this jockeying for influence in Afghanistan is very dangerous for the entire region. The spillover of the war that is being fought inside Pakistan can be clearly felt in Afghanistan as well. Therefore, it is imperative for all parties involved to step back, take a deep breath, and come to a semblance of sanity for the sake of peace in Afghanistan and the entire region."

Editorial: Practical Steps Needed to Eliminate Terrorism, an

editorial in the popular rightist Urdu-language daily "Ausaf" (cir. 10,000) (08/11)

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"Nobody can differ with Punjab Chief Minister, Shahbaz Sharif, when he says that the elimination of the real causes of terrorism is a prerequisite to make Pakistan a strong and prosperous country. In fact, Pakistan has suffered more losses than the U.S., NATO, and Afghanistan, in the ongoing war against terrorism, which has shaken our country to its very foundations. It is time to give up the policy of taking dictation from others, and get united to fight our enemy?"

Opinion: Limits Of Military Power, an op-ed by Yousuf Nazar in the Karachi-based center-left independent national English daily "Dawn" (cir. 55,000) (03/22)

"Today Pakistan faces a more crucial challenge than the Taliban. It must find a way to transform itself from a dysfunctional client national-security state to a modern democracy with a sustainable economic development model which is appropriate for a country with one of the world's largest, fastest growing, and youngest populations. It cannot hope to move towards that goal unless it disengages itself from overt and covert conflicts, realigns its foreign and economic policy focus from the West to the East, and empowers its people. Disengagement, realignment and empowerment are the essential pre-conditions for the process of institution-building and economic development to start and take root in a meaningful sense. Otherwise the country's progress will remain a mirage with a higher and growing risk of failure as a state. Peace, independent foreign policy and a plural democracy have to be the pillars of a modern Pakistan that is not a client, debt-ridden security state with a large, illiterate and impoverished population."

Opinion: The Dialogue Delusion, an op-ed by Khalid Iqbal in the populist, often sensational national English daily "The News" (cir. 55,000) (03/22)

"Pakistan-U.S. relations are marked by mistrust. Both sides realize that their bilateral relations are mutually beneficial. It is in this backdrop that droves of American visitors keep landing in Islamabad. When some of them go back and testify before congressional committees, their perception of the problems being faced by Pakistan is remarkably accurate. Yet, the solutions that emerge are often hopeless and hence disappointing. Despite high-sounding words like strategic partnership and strategic dialogue, the bilateral relations are mired in a cumulative trust deficit, and are unable to go beyond routine and tactical matters. Rhetoric exists, the substance is missing. This fiasco created frustration at a number of places in America as well. The U.S. government and Congress were let down because they expected that the

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bill will receive laurels. One can UNCLASSIFIED
to tighten the screws around an already suffocating economic
straitjacket imposed on Pakistan. The delay in the payment of the
arrears of the Coalition Support Fund is just one example. Such
actions contribute towards weakening Pakistanis' goodwill towards
America. Extremists are thriving financially as U.S. dollars are
reaching them indirectly, through security companies engaged in
protecting American convoys moving in Afghanistan."

Improbable Even As Fiction, an op-ed by Zafar Hilaly in the
populist, often sensational national English daily "The News" (cir.
55,000) (03/22)

"Once India responds in the "swift and decisive" manner that
Chidambaram has promised against the targets Antony has identified,
events thereafter will either take the form of a Greek tragedy-in
which we know the end but are powerless to prevent it-or that of
sub-continental power-plays, where violence begets violence and
peace is little more than the drudge of violence. But what the
violence against Pakistan will not hide will be India's impotence to
seek out and punish the real perpetrators of terror. Striking at,
and diverting the attention of, the one force that could defeat the
terrorists-the Pakistani army-is so obviously self-defeating that
one suspects that the two Indian ministers must have developed
halitosis of the intellect, if they have one. It also shows that
while Pakistan is trying to deal with terrorism perhaps clumsily,
but bravely, India has given up. It is taking the easy way out. For
it the Pakistani nation is the culprit. The Indian defence minister

said as much when he remarked that India expected nothing from
foreign-secretary-level talks, when and if they are held, and that,
"barring a miracle," they will fail. In other words, further
negotiations are mere eyewash and India lays no great store by them.
Left unsaid, but implied, was that by visiting further violence
against a neighbor, already reeling under terror attacks, India will
somehow be able to keep the terrorists out of India, which talking
with Pakistan will not. As delusions go, this must be the mother of
them all. It is improbable even as fiction."

Opinion: General In The 'Hood', an op-ed by Indrani Bagchi in the
populist, often sensational national English daily "The News" (cir.
55,000) (03/22)

"Those who know him say he is a brooder. But those who know him well
will tell you that's just one of the layers to the deeply
complicated and thinking mind of Pakistan army chief Ashfaq Parvez
Kayani. The bluster that marked Musharraf has been dumped for quiet
gravitas as the man from Rawalpindi goes about turning friends like
the U.S. and Britain into closer allies and outmaneuvering
not-so-friendly neighbors like India and Afghanistan at

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international fora. In a country brought to its knees by terror, corruption and an inept political system, the former ISI chief is putting up a masterly show as he calls the shots."

(All circulation figures are based on estimation)
Feierstein

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