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E.O. 12958: N/A
 TAGS: KMDR, KPAO, OIIP, OPRC, PGOV, PREL, PK
 SUBJECT: PAKISTAN MEDIA REACTION: JUNE 12-14, 2010

Summary: Coverage of the ethnic violence and riots in Kyrgyzstan, which killed a Pakistani student, and the signing of a \$7.5b gas pipeline deal between Pakistan and Iran dominated headlines in almost all major newspapers on Monday morning. Several major newspapers also highlighted a London School of Economics' report that claimed the "Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) provides funding, training and sanctuary to the Taliban in Afghanistan on a scale far greater than previously believed." Maj-Gen Athar Abbas, the Pakistan Army's spokesperson, rejected the report by labeling it "a malicious campaign against the Pakistan Army and the ISI." "Dawn" published remarks from the U.S. Senior Adviser to President

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
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Obama, Mr. David Axelrod. Mr. Axelrod's NBC interview that "ultimately if the Taliban are willing to lay down arms and participate in a peaceful way that would be part of the solution." Both "The News" and the Urdu daily "Jang" reported on their front pages that a "well-known" U.S. website declared "President Zardari [is] a U.S. citizen." A New York Times' report that "the U.S. intelligence [is] focusing on Afghan corruption" was reprinted in several newspapers. "The Nation" claimed kidnappers killed an abducted employee of Mercy Corps, a U.S. based NGO. The same paper also published a front-page article titled, "Shadowy activities of U.S. operatives in Quetta." The Sunday edition of "Dawn" reported that the Obama administration will set up a separate auditing office in Islamabad to monitor U.S. financial assistance to Pakistan. Ambassador Patterson's remarks in Boston that "Pakistan is a safer state than many other countries for investment" also received prominent coverage over the weekend. The weekend editions of several mainstream newspapers and TV networks carried a U.S. Embassy's press release that a Pakistan Air Force (PAF) cadet has been selected to attend the U.S. Air Force Academy.

Discussing the 2010 Anti-Terrorism (Amendment) Ordinance in its editorial "Of lapses and incompetence," "Daily Times" argued that "Pakistan is fighting a war against terrorism for its very survival. The government needs to get its act together if it wants to counter terrorism." In "Anti-terrorism laws," "Dawn" raised the question: "why not have parliament draw up a comprehensive framework that deals adequately with 21st century challenges of militancy and terrorism?" But then the article concluded, "Though that would only be possible if the [Pakistani] government were to evince more concern first." Commenting on a recent London School of Economics (LSE) report in "Pak targeted again," "The Nation" wrote in the editorial, "Every time the U.S. wants to pressure Pakistan or conduct a campaign targeting it, the media complies. So just when we in Pakistan became aware of the Indo-U.S. plan to use Bagram detainees against Pakistan, the British media came up with the same mantra of Pakistan's ISI pulling the strings behind the Taliban in Afghanistan." In an op-ed titled "A Request From Senator John Kerry" in the Urdu daily "Jang," Dr. Mujahid Mansoori wrote that the "Americans' concern about the all-pervasive corruption in our government system are fully justified, but, perhaps, they do not know that the Pakistani ministers consider it their birth-right to plunder the national exchequer. The Pakistani masses fear that the U.S. aid under the Kerry-Lugar Bill will also meet the same fate." End Summary.

TOP STORIES

News Story: Kyrgyz 'Genocide' Spreads, 113 Killed - "Daily Times"
(06/14)

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"Russia sent hundreds of paratroopers on Sunday to protect its military facilities as ethnic clashes spread across the state, bringing the death toll from days of fighting to 113 and leaving more than 1,200 injured."

News Story: Pak Student Killed In Kyrgyzstan Riots - "The News"
(06/14)

"Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi said on Sunday around 15 Pakistanis had reportedly been taken hostage in Kyrgyzstan's riot-stricken southern city of Osh. 'One student has been killed and there are reports that 15 have been taken hostage for ransom. We are trying to confirm these reports,' Qureshi said."

News Story: Pakistan, Iran Sign \$7.5 Bn Gas Pipeline Project - "The News" (06/14)

"Pakistan and Iran on Sunday finalized the \$7.5 billion gas project dubbed as a "peace pipeline" to start the supply of natural gas to Islamabad from 2014. The landmark agreement was signed by the

managing director of the National Iranian Gas Export Company Reza Kasaeizadeh, and his Pakistani counterpart from Inter State Gas Limited, Mohammad Naeem Sharafat."

News Story: ISI Accused Of Funding, Training Afghan Taliban - "Dawn" (06/14)

"A study conducted by the London School of Economics has alleged that the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) provides funding, training and sanctuary to the Taliban in Afghanistan on a 'scale far greater than previously believed.' The ISI appears to exert 'significant influence' on strategic decision-making and field operations of the Taliban and controls the most violent guerilla units, wrote author Matt Waldman, a fellow at Harvard University."

News Story: ISI, Zardari Join Forces To Back Taliban! - "The News" (06/14)

"The ISI intelligence agency provides funding, training and sanctuary to the Taliban in Afghanistan on a scale far greater than previously believed, a study claimed on Sunday. However, the Pakistani military dismissed the report for the London School of Economics (LSE) as 'malicious and baseless.'... The study drew an angry reaction from the Pakistani military. 'It is a part of a malicious campaign against the Pakistan Army and the ISI,' Army spokesman Major General Athar Abbas told AFP."

News Story: Report Termed Malicious - "Dawn" (06/14)

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"The government on Sunday dismissed the report as 'baseless' and 'absolutely spurious' the report issued by the London School of Economics alleging that ISI provides funding, training and sanctuary to the Taliban in Afghanistan, Maj-Gen Athar Abbas, Chief of the ISPR, said."

News Story: Taliban Could Become Part Of Afghan Set-Up: Obama Aide
- "Dawn" (06/14)

"A senior White House official said on Sunday that involving Taliban militants in a future set-up in Afghanistan could be a part of the solution to the present conflict in that country. David Axelrod, a senior adviser to the U.S. president, also said that President Barack Obama was committed to starting withdrawing troops from Afghanistan from July next year. 'And ultimately if the Taliban are willing to lay down arms and participate in a peaceful way, that would be part of the solution,' Mr. Axelrod told a U.S. television channel, NBC."

News Story: Website Declares Zardari U.S. Citizen - "The News"
(06/14)

"A well-known U.S. website, which contains the record of 36,000 prominent figures of the world, has declared President Asif Ali Zardari a US citizen, and said that he suffers from depression and is a diabetes patient. The revelation of 'Notable Names Database,' the U.S. website established in 2002, may create further problems for President Zardari and his comrades."

News Story: U.S. Intelligence Zeroes-In On Afghan Corruption: Report
- "Daily Times" (06/14)

"U.S. military intelligence in Afghanistan is increasingly focused on uncovering corruption among members of the Afghan government, security forces and contractors, the New York Times reported on Sunday. A key goal to the U.S.-led counter-insurgency campaign is to persuade the population to support the Kabul-based government rather than the Taliban - so the anti-corruption efforts are just as important as battling insurgents, unnamed senior U.S. officials told the newspaper."

News Story: Abducted NGO Employee Slaughtered - "The Nation"
(06/14)

"Kidnappers have killed one of the abducted employees of a U.S.-based NGO, Mercy Corps, reliable sources told 'The Nation' late Sunday night. Unidentified gunmen had kidnapped four Pakistani employees of Mercy Corps, including Islamabad-based Dr. Asif, provincial coordinator Iftikhar Shafiq, Assistant Program Officer Bebarq Suleman and Habibullah, driver, as they were heading towards

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Qilla Saifullah from Zhob in February. According to the sources, the abductors had slaughtered Habibullah and dispatched a

video footage to the families of the victim and other three officials, warning them if the ransom was not paid within next few days, the remaining three would also be killed."

News Story: Shadowy activities of U.S. operatives in Quetta - "The Nation" (06/14)

"Shadowy activities of foreign nationals continued to be witnessed in the provincial capital of Balochistan and they are stated to have rented several houses in posh residential areas of Quetta for their operations, 'The Nation' has learned.... When contacted, senior JUI-F leader Hafiz Hussain Ahmad, who hails from Balochistan, endorsed the information of this scribe about the foreigners' activities and renting of houses in Quetta, asserting that they could be members of notorious Blackwater, as the Americans had already intensified their covert activities through the stated organisation in Islamabad, Peshawar, Karachi and Lahore. Hafiz Hussain said that the process of renting houses by foreigners, especially the Americans, had started three months back but it gained momentum last month, while they were also making security arrangements in the surroundings of the houses similar to those in Islamabad. He said the US administration was definitely planning its presence in Balochistan, keeping in view its borders with Iran and Afghanistan."

News Story: U.S. Plans Audit Office In Islamabad To Monitor Aid - "Dawn" (06/13)

"The Obama administration would set up a separate auditing office in Islamabad to monitor financial assistance provided to Pakistan, diplomatic sources told 'Dawn.' The office will monitor all assistance programs under the Kerry-Lugar-Berman Bill, the Coalition Support Fund (CSF) and the Pakistan Counter-Insurgency Capability Fund (PCCF). The office will report to the Office of Inspector General in Washington and would employ two auditors, program analysts and the local staff recruited in Islamabad. The Obama administration has set up a similar office for Afghanistan as well."

News Story: Red Flags Raised By U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee - "The News" (06/12)

"On the eve of billions of dollars of Kerry-Lugar money beginning to flow to the PPP government, Senator John Kerry, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, has raised several red flags, asking critical questions about accountability and almost warning that significant portions may end up in accounts of the corrupt

elite. In a strong indictment of the present system in Pakistan, Senator Kerry has written a long seven-page letter to special U.S. envoy Richard Holbrooke dated May 25, 2010. Kerry says: 'The danger is much greater than merely the possibility of a portion of the funds being poorly spent.'

News Story: Pakistan Safe Country For Investment: Pak-India Partnership Vital To Win Afghan War: U.S. Ambassador Anne W. Patterson "Aaj Kal, Express" (06/13)

"U.S. Ambassador Anne W. Patterson has said that Pakistan is safer as compared to several other countries for investment. She further said that Pak-India partnership is vital to win the war in Afghanistan. Addressing a gathering of Pakistani traders and businessmen in Boston on Saturday she said that the facts and figures shows that Mexico, Columbia, and Guatemala are much more plagued by the menace of terrorism than Pakistan. Hence, she continued, the American entrepreneurs should invest their money in Pakistan. Patterson said that investment in private sector could solve the core economic issues of Pakistan. She also emphasized the need of the completion of the constitutional term of the present democratic government of Pakistan." (English version not available online)

News Story: PAF Cadet Selected For USAF Academy - "The News," "Daily Times," "The Statesman," "Business Recorder," "Pakistan Observer," "Nawa-i-Waqt," "Express," "Jinnah," "Ausaf" (06/12)

"Aviation Cadet Mahhad Nayyer of the Pakistan Air Force Academy, Risalpur, became one of the 19 international cadets selected worldwide to attend the U.S. Air Force (USAF) Academy. Mahhad received an appointment to the USAF Academy class of 2014 during a presentation ceremony held at the U.S. Embassy, Islamabad. U.S. Navy Vice Admiral Michael LeFever, U.S. Defense Representative to

Pakistan, presented Aviation Cadet Nayyer with his appointment letter and congratulated him on his outstanding achievement."

News Story: 3rd Round Of Pak-U.S. Talks From June 24 - "The Express Tribune," "The Post" (06/14)

"Pakistan and the U.S. will hold the third round of their strategic dialogue in Islamabad from June 24, diplomatic sources told The Express Tribune on Sunday. U.S. Coordinator on Counter-Terrorism and Ambassador-at-Large Daniel Benjamin will lead the American team and, following the dialogue, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton will visit Pakistan on July 21 to assess progress on the talks, the sources said."

TERRORISM/MILITARY ISSUES

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News Story: Pakistan Buying Time In North Waziristan - "Daily Times" (06/14)

"Pakistan is buying time in North Waziristan - gathering intelligence, building alliances and insisting any assault into the Taliban and al Qaeda fortress take place at its own time and choosing. Part of the tribal belt on the Afghan border, North Waziristan is home to 350,000 people but considered a stronghold for the most dangerous terrorists in the world and largely impenetrable. It is also a rumored hiding place of al Qaeda chief Osama Bin Laden. Commanders are walking a tightrope, balancing U.S. pressure for action against fears that a major push into the hornet's nest would make enemies they cannot beat and drag Pakistan into a new wave of violence."

News Story: PAF To Get F-16s With Tough Stipulations - "The News" (06/14)

"Despite being a key ally in the war against terrorism in which Pakistan have rendered innumerable sacrifices, the United States is extending military assistance to Islamabad under strict conditions and stipulations, reflecting the nature of relations between the two countries. According to sources, Washington will deliver 18 F-16 fighter jets to Pakistan Air Force (PAF) by the end of this month under a series of conditions including an assurance from Pakistan that aircraft would not be used in any conflict with India."

News Story: Karzai Appeals For Support In Kandahar - "The News" (06/14)

"Afghan President Hamid Karzai Sunday appealed to hundreds of tribal and religious leaders to support a major operation in their southern province, the heartland of a Taliban insurgency. Karzai, accompanied by top NATO commander U.S. General Stanley McChrystal, spoke to representatives and residents in Kandahar about renewed efforts to bring stability to the war-weary province."

News Story: Karzai Woos Taliban, Pak After Losing Faith In US: Ex-Afghan Intel Chief - "The News" (06/14)

"A former head of the Afghan intelligence service has told a leading American newspaper that he believes President Hamid Karzai is trying to make a deal with the Taliban and Pakistan, as Karzai has lost confidence in U.S. strategy against the insurgency in his country, Amrullah Saleh, the ex-intelligence chief, said in an interview with The New York Times."

News Story: Insurgents Kill Eight Afghan Policemen, Four Civilians - "Dawn" (06/14)

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"Taliban militants attacked a police post in central Afghanistan, sparking a day-long battle Sunday which killed eight policemen, four civilians and nine militants, a provincial governor said."

News Story: 3 Militants Killed In Swat Encounter - "Dawn" (06/14)

"Security forces killed three suspected militants during an encounter in Tali Gram area of Swat district on Sunday, officials said."

News Story: Sectarian Killings Part Of Talibanization: Sattar - "Dawn" (06/14)

"MQM leader and MNA Dr Farooq Sattar has said that the killing of doctors, engineers and political party workers in Karachi must be stopped. After a holding a party meeting, Dr Farooq Sattar told local journalists that sectarian killings is another phase of growing Talibanization in the city."

News Story: Sindh Home Dept's Efforts To End Violence In City; List Of 175 Men Of Banned Religious Outfits Prepared - "Daily Times" (06/14)

"To control the ongoing targeted killings and sectarian violence in the metropolis, Sindh Home Department has prepared a list of 175 activists of banned religious organizations, sources said. According to details, these activists, who have been involved in several heinous crimes, have been recently released from the prisons."

News Story: U.S. Calls for Int'l Probe Into Flotilla Attack - "The Nation" (06/14)

"The U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, Susan Rice says there should be international participation in Israel's investigation into its deadly attack on aid ships trying to deliver aid goods people strapped in Gaza."

News Story: Govt. Neglect Sees Law Against Terror Lapse - "Dawn" (06/13)

"Due to sheer negligence of the government, the Anti-Terrorism (Amendment) Ordinance 2010 has lapsed after completing its constitutional life earlier this month, putting Islamabad in a bind vis-à-vis its anti-terror fight, 'Dawn' has learned. It means all amendments made in the Anti-Terrorism Act of 1997 authorizing the government to catch and try suspects involved in aiding and abetting terrorists have gone, putting a question mark on the legality of a large number of cases pending before anti-terrorism courts."

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News Story: Obama, Cameron 'Reaffirm' Commitment To Afghan Mission
- "Daily Times" (06/13)

"U.S. President Barack Obama and British Prime Minister David Cameron 'reaffirmed' their commitment to the war in Afghanistan during a phone call on Saturday, the White House said."

News Story: Taliban Planned To Target Cameron's Plane - "The News"
(06/13)

"The Taliban on Saturday said they had planned to shoot down the British prime minister's aircraft during his visit to Nad Ali district in Afghanistan's southern Helmand province. In an interview with the Afghan Islamic Press (AIP), Taliban spokesman Qari Muhammad Yousuf Ahmadi said they had been tipped off two days prior to British Prime Minister David Cameron's visit to Helmand and about his engagements, including a trip to Shoraab area."

News Story: PM Rules Out Army Operation In S. Punjab, For Now -
"Dawn" (06/13)

"Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani ruled out on Saturday the possibility of an immediate military operation in south Punjab. 'I do not think there is a need to launch an operation at the moment,' Mr. Gilani said while talking to journalists at the King Edward Medical University."

News Story: Drone Attack Kills 13 In Waziristan - "Dawn" (06/13)

"Thirteen people were killed and five others injured when a U.S. drone fired two missiles at the house of a suspected militant in Maizar Madakhel village of North Waziristan on Friday."

News Story: How Many More NATO Terminals Stay Unseen, Yet! - "Daily Times" (06/13)

"Right under the long nose of the Capital police and just a few miles away from where the all-powerful Interior Minister sits, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) had discreetly set up a transit terminal for its supplies aimed for Afghanistan. That the police remained unaware of it until it was blown up gives logical minds out to a conclusion that many more such terminals, run by NATO or somewhere else, would have been dotting the city: of course hidden by all-seeing police eyes."

News Story: U.S. And NATO Urge Patience With Slow Afghan Progress -
"Daily Times" (06/12)

"The U.S. and its NATO allies acknowledged on Friday that progress

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in the war in Afghanistan was tentative and that success in the nearly nine-year-old war was not yet assured, appealing for patience. U.S. Defence Secretary Robert Gates said the U.S. and NATO commander in Afghanistan, General Stanley McChrystal, had told alliance ministers at a closed-door meeting in Brussels that he was confident he would be able to show progress by year's end. But Gates told a news conference that ministers also realized the road ahead would be 'long and hard.' "

POLITICAL ISSUES

News Story: U.S. Congressmen Assure To Support Pak In The Congress For Political Stability - "The Nation" (06/12)

"Two U.S. Influential Congressmen have assured that they would play their role in the congress for political stability in Pakistan and for civil military aid. According to Capitol Hill sources, Pakistan ambassador to U.S. Hussain Haqqani met with two U.S. influential congressmen Michael McCaul the member of the Homeland Security Intelligence Committee and Sylvester Reyes Chairman of House Armed Services Committee and Intelligence Committee and exchanged views on bilateral ties and Pakistan's role in fighting the war on terror."

News Story: U.S. Wants Peaceful Solution to Kashmir - "The Post" (06/14)

"The United States has urged Pakistan and India to resolve Kashmir issue peacefully for establishing durable peace in the region, says a spokesman for the U.S. State Department." (Link not available)

News Story: Democracy Can't Flourish Without Independent Judiciary: CJ - "Dawn" (06/14)

"Chief Justice of Pakistan Iftikhar Mohammad Chaudhry has said that democracy can only flourish in countries having independent judicial systems, while speaking at a dinner hosted by Balochistan Bar Association (BBA) in his honor on Saturday night."

ECONOMY/ENVIRONMENT

News Story: World Bank Cancels \$750,000 Unutilized Grant - "Dawn" (06/13)

"The World Bank has cancelled its \$750,000 technical grant because of government's inability to use it for strengthening mineral sector institutions despite a one-year extension in the contract period."

MISCELLANEOUS

News Story: Hit Another Pakistani Car; Buy Escape - "The Nation"

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"Following the countrymen, another American national, Robitson Philipono hit a wagon of Pakistani in the Federal Capital. The accident took place here on Sunday at Khaban Chowk in the limits of Kohsar Police Station.... When contacted, the U.S. Embassy's spokesman showed ignorance about the Robitson's nationality. Despite frequent attempts, the spokesman of British HC could not be approached. It is relevant to note here that it was the fourth accident took place in the Capital by Americans during the last 15 days and every time they were found guilty."

Editorials/Op-eds

Editorial: Of Lapses And Incompetence, an editorial in the Lahore-based liberal English language daily "Daily Times" (cir. 10,000) (06/14)

"According to reports in the media, the Anti-Terrorism (Amendment) Ordinance 2010 has lapsed due to the government's negligence.... Pakistan is fighting a war against terrorism for its very survival. The government needs to get its act together if it wants to counter terrorism. Military operations alone will not serve the purpose. We need proper laws to counter this menace. Due to lack of evidence or insufficient evidence, many a time the courts have had to let known terrorists go scot-free.... The hydra of terrorism cannot be quashed so easily. If we want to win this war, the government must get

serious and crush the terrorist networks operating from our soil."

Anti-Terrorism Laws, an editorial in the Karachi-based center-left independent national English daily "Dawn" (cir. 55,000) (06/14)

"It is axiomatic: a counter-insurgency will not succeed and counter-terrorism measures will not achieve much success unless and until the civilian arm of the state is actively participating in the process. Yet, it has emerged that for some inexplicable reason the federal government has allowed an ordinance amending the Anti Terrorism Act, 1997 to lapse without moving parliament. It seems the government is content with limiting its role in the counter-insurgency to that of a cheerleader of the security forces, standing on the sidelines while others do all the heavy lifting. Yet, if there is one area in which the civilian government has the ability to make a substantive contribution to the fight against militancy, it is in the area of legislation.... The best course of action right now may be to start afresh. Since the ordinance amending the ATA 1997 will have to become an act of parliament in order to achieve permanence, why not have Parliament draw up a

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comprehensive new anti-terrorism framework that deals adequately with 21st-century challenges of militancy and terrorism? Though that would only be possible if the government were to evince more concern first."

Editorial: Pak Targeted Again, an editorial in the center-right national English daily "The Nation" (cir. 20,000) (06/14)

"Every time the U.S. wants to pressure Pakistan or conduct a campaign targeting it, the media complies. So just when we in Pakistan became aware of the Indo-U.S. plan to use Bagram detainees against Pakistan, the British media came up with the same mantra of Pakistan's ISI pulling the strings behind the Taliban in Afghanistan.... The timing of the Taliban-Pakistan nexus, which also cited an LSE report by a Harvard scholar, is also interesting because it coincides with this Indo-U.S. plan to exploit the Bagram prisoner against Pakistan. There is certainly a double game going on here but it is being played rather skillfully by the U.S. and India with NATO a compliant partner. Of course, since these players are all playing covert games that directly target Pakistan, it is in Pakistan's interests to keep all its Afghan options open. And it is certainly time to realize the harsh truth that the U.S. is against us, not with us!"

Editorial: America-India Collusion And Pakistan's Negligence, an editorial in the second-largest, nationalist Urdu daily "Nawa-i-Waqt" (cir. 150,000) (06/14)

"According to a press report, India is fully active inside Afghanistan and there is likelihood that Bagram jail prisoners might be used against Pakistan.... America-India collusion in Afghanistan is dangerous. America will always appease India while we continue to tolerate America on our soil despite having suffered all kind of losses.... Our government and military leaderships should see whether the frontline ally status served our interest or caused irreparable loss to the country."

Editorial: Refusal To Launch Operation In South Punjab, an editorial in the center-right Urdu daily "Pakistan" (cir. 10,000) (06/14)

"Speaking with journalists in Lahore on Saturday, Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani said that the government will take action wherever its writ would be challenged, but there is no need for an operation in South Punjab.... It may be mentioned that South Punjab is not such a region of Pakistan where the military cannot enter or where a need of heavy weapons transportation arises.... We consider the Prime Minister's statement as prudent wherein he said that if the government could establish its writ then there could not be a justification for any military operation."

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Editorial: Mass Despondency, an editorial in the populist, often sensational national English daily "The News" (cir. 55,000) (06/14)

"The issue of despondency is one that comes up every now and then in our country. Surveys suggest every fourth or fifth citizen suffers depression in some form... The brainwashed young bombers who break into places of worship or detonate the jackets at bazaars are the products of such despondency. Extremist ideas and a willingness to throw in one's lot with groups such as the Taliban are rooted in the notion that there is no hope, no opportunity in the country. To

unleash this potential, and dispel despondency, we need education and the creation of opportunity. The two of course go side by side."

Editorial: PM's Misplaced Optimism, an editorial in the Islamabad-based rightist English daily "Pakistan Observer" (cir. 5,000) (06/14)

"Though the Indian Prime Minister agreed to resume talks with Pakistan at the Foreign Ministers level under U.S. pressure yet it should be kept in view that New Delhi is refusing to accept these talks as continuation of Composite Dialogue... While we strongly support that the two countries should resolve their decades old disputes through dialogue so that their meager resources are diverted for welfare of the downtrodden people and peace and stability in South Asia, we doubt the Indians are as sincere to achieve these objectives as the Pakistani leadership aspire."

Editorial: SCO Opens Up New Avenues, an editorial in the Lahore-based liberal English language daily "Daily Times" (cir. 10,000) (06/14)

"The 10th annual summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) was held in Tashkent recently where the leaders of the member countries pledged to 'build an effective and open multilateral organisation dedicated to regional peace, stability and prosperity.'... In a world where economic deprivation has led many people to be seduced by terrorist networks, the SCO can play an integral role by opening up new avenues for trade. All in all the SCO may just be the perfect prescription for the economic progress of the region, and additionally a strong factor to resolve the global balance of power equation."

Editorial: Kerry's Warning, an editorial in the populist, often sensational national English daily "The News" (cir. 55,000) (06/13)

"As the Kerry-Lugar Bill prepares to make its way through the U.S.

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Senate, the main author of the bill Senator John Kerry, has issued a detailed letter spelling out a rather dire warning. He has said that with 50 per cent of the fund to be handed over to the Pakistan government, there was a very real danger of funds being misappropriated and of corruption which goes far beyond the issue of the misuse of the money. U.S. Special Envoy John Holbrooke has been informed of these apprehensions. What all this says about Pakistan and its governance is bleak. It is hardly comforting to know that our government is so widely believed to be incapable of using money intended for the betterment of its people with so little responsibility and so little concern.... We lack any meaningful system of accountability that can safeguard the use of funds intended for public use. There is also far too little transparency. But there is a still more central problem. This concerns the basic issue of goodwill and the willingness of those who hold political power to work in favor of people. Their lack of commitment to these people is in fact terrifying to behold."

Editorial: Drone Deaths Again, an editorial in the populist, often sensational national English daily "The News" (cir. 55,000) (06/12)

"We have news of further drone strikes in North Waziristan. Fourteen people are reported dead. It is assumed the attack falls in line with U.S. thinking about North Waziristan now being a key hotbed for Al Qaeda and Taliban activities. Revelations from the Times Square bomber, Faisal Shahzad, appear to have strengthened U.S. convictions on this count. The terrorists apprehended after the attack on Ahmedis in Lahore had also pointed to North Waziristan as their training site. The fact though is that the drone strikes almost inevitably inflict damage on innocent people. They also add to anti-U.S. sentiments that appear to be driving on the militancy that takes so huge a toll on our country. The question to be asked is what the government of Pakistan and its military are doing to counter this situation."

Opinion: A Request With Senator John Kerry, an op-ed by Dr. Mujahid Mansoori in the leading mass circulation populist, often sensational Urdu daily "Jang" (cir. 300,000) (06/14)

"In a letter to the U.S. Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, Richard Holbrooke, Senator John Kerry, has expressed his concerns that the major chunk of the American aid for Pakistan will

not be spent on the welfare of the Pakistani masses rather it will end up in the pockets of corrupt rulers of the country. If the U.S. government gives any importance to the Pakistani masses, then it also needs to understand the popular stand regarding the financial assistance Washington doles out Islamabad. In fact, the majority of the Pakistanis thinks that the U.S. is promoting and safeguarding

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its own interests at the cost of those of Pakistan. They know that almost all of the U.S. aid finds its way to the foreign currency accounts of their corrupt rulers instead of being spent on the public welfare projects. Americans' concern about the all-pervasive corruption in our government system are fully justified, but, perhaps, they do not know that the Pakistani ministers consider it their birth-right to plunder the national exchequer. The Pakistani masses fear that the U.S. aid under the Kerry-Lugar Bill will also meet the same fate. Hence, they have the every right to ask a question from the Americans that; how can the U.S. expect honesty and good governance from the NRO-stained politicians Washington itself has imposed on the Pakistani nation."

Opinion: Kandahar Operation Bound To Fail, an op-ed by Asif Haroon Raja in the Islamabad-based rightist English daily "Pakistan Observer" (cir. 5,000) (06/14)

"Rather than first holding talks and then resorting to fighting in case negotiations prove unproductive, the U.S. is putting the cart before the horse by fighting first and talking later. Many among coalition partners do not subscribe to this strategy. Even there are rumblings and dissent within U.S. administration. What if back of militancy is not broken after Kandahar operation? Presently U.S. policy makers are working on single hope of sufficiently weakening Taliban, which in their perception will propel Taliban fighters to reach out to Karzai and abandon their leaders and thus weaken the position of Mullah Omar and Haqqani. Like other imprudent plans this plan is also bound to fail."

Opinion: Opting To Strike Pakistan, an op-ed by Dr. Raja Muhammad Khan in the Islamabad-based rightist English daily "Pakistan Observer" (cir. 5,000) (06/14)

"As far as military operation in North Waziristan is concerned, Pakistan is sovereign country. Let us its leadership to decide, whether or not there is a need to launch such a military operation in that area. After all, why U.S should force Pakistan for killing its own people, once they have promised to live with peace without interfering anywhere outside the Pakistani borders. U.S. must give up this pressure tactics and deal with Pakistan on equal terms."

Opinion: Reforming the UN Security Council, an op-ed by Asif Ezdi in the populist, often sensational national English daily "The News" (cir. 55,000) (06/14)

"The unending debate on Security Council enlargement has firmly pitched the aspirants for permanent seats against the threshold countries. The positions of the two sides have now become so deeply entrenched that a compromise is virtually impossible. If new permanent members are created, it is hardly conceivable that the

threshold states (or most of them) ~~will be~~ **UNCLASSIFIED** being reduced to a third-class status. There is already a precedent."

Opinion: An Assault On Human Values!, an op-ed by Khalid Iqbal in the center-right national English daily "The Nation" (cir. 20,000) (06/14)

"As a matter of fact, the first step towards ensuring Israeli security is that the American need to change their perspective of the Middle East. The U.S. must build its credibility as an honest peace broker. Unfortunately, it is the unconditional U.S. support that has encouraged Israel to sustain a 'mad dog' posturing."

(All circulation figures are based on estimation)

Feierstein

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