

ACTION INR-00

INFO	LOG-00	EEB-00	AF-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	A-00	
	INL-00	DNI-00	DOTE-00	PDI-00	DS-00	EAP-00	DHSE-00
	EUR-00	OIGO-00	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	UTED-00	VCI-00	DIAS-00
	H-00	TEDE-00	IO-00	LAB-01	ARMY-00	MOFM-00	MOF-00
	M-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	SCRS-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-00	G-00
	SCA-00	CARC-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00	FA-00	SRAP-00	SWCI-00
	PESU-00	SRND-00	SANA-00	/001W			

B3

-----2E3EE6 021020Z /38

O 021003Z MAR 10
 FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7637
 SECDEF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
 USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
 USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE
 THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
 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

UNCLAS ISLAMABAD 000486

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A
 TAGS: KMDR, KPAA, OIIP, OPRC, PGOV, PREL, PK
 SUBJECT: PAKISTAN MEDIA REACTION: MARCH 02, 2010

Summary: Coverage of Indian Prime Minister Singh's Saudi Arabia visit continued to dominate media coverage on Tuesday morning. Several newspapers highlighted reports that India and Saudi Arabia have agreed on a strategic partnership, and Mr. Singh sought Saudi "good offices" to urge Pakistan to "check cross-border terrorism targeting India." Reports of the killing in Swat of a key Taliban commander, Maulana Alam Binori, who has a 10 million Rupee reward on his head received wide coverage. The U.S. donation of 8 Armored Personnel Carriers (APCs) and surveillance equipment to the NWFPP elite force received extensive coverage. Both print and electronic media reported the U.S. government's decision to form a "Quick Reaction Force (QRF) to provide protection to its diplomats in

Pakistan. The issue of bulletproof vests was highlighted to garner media coverage on the fourth consecutive day, as "Dawn," cited it as "one of the glaring examples of official lethargy and inefficiency..". The same paper published findings of a think-tank, New America Foundation, that "one out of three killed by U.S. drones in Pakistan is a civilian." Media carried a NYT report revealing that President Obama is making final decisions on a new nuclear strategy that will permanently reduce the U.S. nuclear arsenal by thousands of weapons. By and large, all newspapers ran editorials on the possible impact of Indian PM Singh's Saudi Arabia visit on Pakistan and the region. However, "The News," editorialized a "significant and far-reaching shift" of perception of the Pakistani "ruling establishment" on the Pakistani and Afghan Taliban, and observed that "today, there is a recognition - somewhat belated but no less welcome for all of that - that both the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and the Quetta Shura Taliban (QST) are essentially one and the same. Their core objective is the overthrow of the state of Pakistan as well as Afghanistan." End Summary.

TOP STORIES

News Story: Indian PM, Saudi Monarch Seal Ties With Riyadh Declaration - "The News" (03/02)

"Saudi Arabia and India signed the Riyadh Declaration late on Sunday night to put their seal of approval on rapidly growing ties that are moving towards a strategic partnership covering security, economic, defence, technology and political areas and including joint combat of terrorism. The 'Riyadh Declaration - A New Era of Strategic Partnership' was signed by King Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz and visiting Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh."

News Story: 'Pakistan-Based Terrorism': India Seeks Saudi 'Good Offices' - "Dawn" (03/02)

"Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said on Monday that he had asked Saudi King Abdullah to use his 'good offices' with Pakistan to urge it to check cross-border terrorism targeting India. Speaking to Indian journalists on his way back from Riyadh, Dr. Singh sought to stress the point that India had not asked for mediation."

News Story: Ready To Go 'Extra Mile' If Pakistan Acts Against Terror - "Daily Times" (03/02)

"India will go the extra mile to improve relations with Pakistan if Islamabad acts decisively on terrorism, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said on Monday during a visit to Saudi Arabia."

News Story: Senior Taliban Commander Killed In Swat Clash - "Dawn" (03/02)

UNCLASSIFIED

"A senior Taliban commander Mohammad Alam Binouri, who had a 10-million-rupee (117,000-dollar) reward on his head has been killed in a clash with security forces in Pakistan's Swat valley, where the military claims to have quelled an uprising, officials said Monday."

News Story: Anti-China Terrorist Killed In U.S. Drone Strike In Pakistan - "Daily Times" (03/02)

"An al Qaeda-linked terrorist who had called for attacks on China over its treatment of Muslims has been killed in a U.S. missile strike in Pakistan, Pakistani intelligence and Taliban officials said on Monday."

News Story: U.S. Donates Vehicles, Equipment To NWFP Police - "Daily Times," "Dawn," "The News," "Jang," "Express," "Islam," "Aaj Kal" (03/02)

"The United States on Monday handed over eight armored personnel carriers worth Rs 125.8 million along with surveillance equipment for the NWFP police force, including binoculars, global positioning systems, night-vision binoculars and monoculars, and solar panels, worth Rs 13.6 million. The handover ceremony was held at the Peshawar Central Police Office and NWFP Inspector General Malik Naveed received the equipment from Peshawar-based U.S. Consul General Candace Putnam, according to a statement by the U.S. Consulate."

News Story: U.S. To Form Quick Reaction Force in Pakistan - "Dawn" (03/02)

"The U.S. government has decided to establish a Quick Reaction Force for the protection of its diplomatic missions in Pakistan. The step has been taken in order to meet the increased terrorist threats to U.S. personnel in Pakistan. 'DawnNews' has learnt that the U.S. Congress has been requested to allocate U.S.\$ 22.9 million for the program. The Quick Reaction Force will be comprised of specially trained Pakistani personnel, who would be deployed at the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad and its Consulate in Karachi. As part of the program, U.S. will deploy 25 additional special protective specialists and 4 diplomatic security agents at its missions in Pakistan."

News Story: Bullet-Proof Jackets Await Clearance At Airport: Official Lethargy Costing Police Lives - "Dawn" (03/02)

"What could easily be cited as one of the glaring examples of official lethargy and inefficiency, thousands of bullet-proof jackets are lying in the warehouse for want of clearance from the

federal government, as the brave Frontline lay down their lives on almost daily basis, officials said. These officials said 3,320 bullet-proof jackets gifted by the U.S. government to the NWFP police were lying in the warehouse of Benazir Bhutto International Airport, Islamabad, since arrival on December 29 last."

News Story: One Out Of Three Killed By Drones Is A Civilian, Says Study - "Dawn" (03/02)

"One out of every three killed by U.S. drone in Pakistan is a civilian, says a report by the New America Foundation. The Washington-based think-tank had issued a similar report in October last year, which showed these strikes were decimating the militants, killing their leaders as well as low-level activists."

News Story: U.S. Plans Massive Cut In N-Weapons - "Dawn" (03/02)

"President Obama's proposed nuclear strategy will seek to permanently reduce America's arsenal by thousands of weapons, but his administration has rejected proposals that the United States declare it would never be the first to use nuclear weapons, the New York Times reported on Monday."

News Story: U.S. Will Have To Sign Nuclear Deal With Pakistan - "Daily Times" (03/02)

"Pakistan has complete command and control over its nuclear weapons and the U.S. will have to sign a nuclear pact with the country, Pakistan's Ambassador to the U.S., Hussain Haqqani said while talking to Shahzeb Khanzada in his program Newslines Plus on Monday."

News Story: U.S. Civil Rights Movement Revisited - "Dawn" (03/02)

"Despite the fact that there is a black President in the White House and the head of the Republican Party is also an African American, many unresolved issues need to be addressed in the United States concerning the rights of blacks as well as other disadvantaged groups. American scholar Dr. Clarence Lusane said this during a media roundtable discussion held at a local hotel in Karachi on Monday. Dr. Lusane is associate professor of political science and international relations at the American University's School of International Service in Washington DC. He was speaking on the 'Role of religion in the struggle for civil rights in America.'"

TERRORISM/MILITARY ISSUES

News Story: Sipah-e-Sihaba, TTP Involved In Spreading Terrorism - "Dawn" (03/02)

UNCLASSIFIED
"Interior Minister Rehman Malik said Monday that both, the banned sectarian outfit Sipah-e-Sihaba Pakistan along with Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan, were involved in terrorist activities in Pakistan and the government had taken notice of the fact."

News Story: 6 NATO Troops Killed In Afghan Attacks - "Dawn" (03/02)

"Six NATO service members died on Monday in separate attacks across Afghanistan, including a suicide car bomb that targeted an international military convey as it crossed a bridge in the Taliban-dominated south, the coalition said. Nine Afghan civilians also died in four bombings in the south, officials said."

News Story: Troops Torch Houses Of 15 Taliban Leaders In Bajaur Agency - "Daily Times" (03/02)

"Security forces set the houses of 15 militant commanders on fire on Monday, in the Charmang valley of Nawagai tehsil in Bajaur Agency, sources told 'Daily Times.'"

News Story: NATO Oil Tanker Blown Up Near Peshawar - "Daily Times" (03/02)

"Suspected Taliban blew up a tanker carrying fuel for NATO troops based in Afghanistan on Monday, a police official of the Chamkani Police Station, Peshawar said."

News Story: Two Soldiers Among Three Killed In North Waziristan - "Dawn" (03/02)

"Three persons including two paramilitary soldiers were killed and three injured in a clash with militants near Miramshah, the headquarters of North Waziristan Agency, on Monday, sources said."

POLITICAL ISSUES

News Story: Pakistan-India Heads Of State Meeting Expected In U.S. - "The News" (03/02)

"Pakistani and Indian heads may meet on the sidelines of a summit called over nuclear security by U.S. President Barack Obama to be held in Washington on April 12 in which more than 70 heads of state are expected to participate, reports a private TV channel, quoting Foreign Office sources."

News Story: All Agree That Zardari's Powers Should Go - "The News" (03/02)

"It has now been finally and unanimously agreed by the Raza Rabbani

UNCLASSIFIED
constitutional reforms committee that all extraordinary powers of the president of Pakistan will be transferred to the Prime Minister to make his office the real source of political power, committee member told 'The News.'

ECONOMY/ENVIRONMENT

News Story: NA Body Recommends Installation Of 8 RPPs - "Daily Times" (03/02)

"The National Assembly Standing Committee on Water and Power on Monday, recommended the government to go ahead with eight Rental Power Plants (RPPs), which would help to minimize the sufferings of people in the summers. The government had made commitments for these projects, even before the report on RPPs by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) came to light."

News Story: Iran Reopens Border For Trade - "Dawn" (03/02)

"Iran reopened its border with Pakistan for trade on Monday more than four months after it closed the frontier following a suicide bombing in southeastern Iran that killed 42 people, an official said. 'Iran has reopened border at zero point formally today,' Home Secretary Akbar Hussain Durrani told 'Dawn,' adding that security had been increased on both sides to check illegal cross-border movements and drug smuggling."

MISCELLANEOUS

News Story: IAEA Accuses Iran Of Not Cooperating On Nuclear Plans - "Daily Times" (03/02)

"The new chief of the UN atomic watchdog, Yukiya Amano, accused Iran on Monday of not cooperating sufficiently with an investigation into its contested nuclear activities. In an opening address to an International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) board of governors meeting, Amano also said a UN-brokered deal to supply Iran with fuel for a nuclear research reactor was however still on table."

EDITORIALS/OPINIONS

Editorial: A Crucial Shift, an editorial in the populist, often sensational national English daily "The News" (cir. 55,000) (03/02)

"There are significant and far-reaching shifts in the way in which the ruling establishment perceives and interact with the Pakistani Taliban and the Afghan Taliban.... Today, there is a recognition - somewhat belated but no less welcome for all of that - that both the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and the Quetta Shura Taliban (QST)

are essentially one and the same; Jihadi Organizations which have the overthrow of the state of Pakistan as well as Afghanistan as their core objective....When viewed together the TTP (Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan) and the QS (Quetta Shura) are a large, flexible, adaptive, resourceful and well-equipped single entity that has the capacity to inflict death and destruction to a wide range of targets. Together, they are now seen to represent an institutional threat to our country. They have the ability to terrorize and destabilize large parts of our sovereign territory, and to threaten our infant democracy. That we today recognize this is not just because the Americans have demanded it, but because we have recognized that it is no longer in our best interests to maintain this dubious dark alliance. Other regional players, closer friends than Uncle Sam, have had a role in our rethinking of the concept of strategic depth."

Opinion: Real Cause of Terrorism, an op-ed by Dr. Inayatullah Faizi in the Peshawar-based Urdu-language daily "Mashriq" (cir. 55,000) (03/02)

"The blatant U.S. interference into our internal affairs is the basic and sole reason for the sharp rise in terrorist attacks in Pakistan. The massive influx of dollars coupled with bad governance have created an ideal situation for terrorists to wreak havoc in our cities. Recently, the U.S. has elevated its Peshawar Consulate to the status of Consulate General, and increased the number of its diplomats there from 65 to 400. On the eve of Eid Miladu'l Nabi, an explosives-laden diplomatic vehicle was impounded in front of a religious seminary in Dera Ismael Khan in the NWFP province. It is now an open secret that as many as 3,000 vehicles owned by the U.S. Mission in Pakistan are swarming our cities and they have been exempted from any checking under an agreement our government has signed. These mysterious vehicles are the real and sole cause of terrorism in Pakistan. Peace will be restored in our country within a month if our rulers cancel all secret deals struck with Washington during the dictatorial regimes of Zia-ul-Haq and Pervez Musharraf."

Opinion: Striking Where They're Least Expected, an op-ed by Rahimullah Yusufzai in the populist, often sensational national English daily "The News" (cir. 55,000) (03/02)

"There seems to be no end to the violence in the North-West Frontier Province (NWFP) even though the situation has generally improved and hope has been rekindled about a relatively peaceful future. However, there have been certain dangerous trends that are causing concern and reinforcing uncertainty. One matter of concern is the fact that violence resulting from militancy is moving to new areas hitherto considered safe. Suicide bombings in Mansehra and Karak districts in recent days showed that no place is safe any longer and that the

UNCLASSIFIED
militants are trying to strike where UNCLASSIFIED are least expected. The general slackness of the law-enforcement agencies in such previously secure places is also a reason for the militants to exploit the opportunity and launch surprise attacks."

Opinion: A 'Friendly' Afghanistan?, an op-ed by Shahid Ilyas in the Lahore-based liberal English language daily "Daily Times" (cir. 10,000) (03/02)

"Pakistan indeed needs to have a friendly Afghanistan, just as Afghanistan needs a friendly Pakistan. The two countries are dependent on each other for their national security, economic development, peace and social cohesion. Pakistan serves as a trade route for Afghanistan, and Afghanistan is crucial for the fulfillment of Pakistan's ambitions of becoming an energy corridor for Central Asian oil and gas.... Developing friendly relations with an existing government is different from installing a friendly government. The basis of Pakistan's policy has been to install a friendly government in Kabul at any cost rather than working towards establishing friendly relations with the existing government....The risk of failure and backfiring are much higher in trying to install a friendly government in a foreign country than in attempts to develop friendly relations with an incumbent government. The failure of Pakistan's Afghan policy is a glaring example in this regard."

Opinion: Why Has Kabul Changed Its Attitude Towards Pakistan?, an op-ed by Saleem Safi in the leading mass circulation populist, often sensational Urdu daily "Jang" (cir. 300,000) (02/03)

"For the first time during this decade, Pakistan has differed with the U.S. policy on Afghanistan, and adopted an independent stance during the previous Afghan presidential elections. Washington and its allies wanted to get rid of Hamid Karzai and backed his rival Abdullah Abdullah, whereas Pakistan supported the incumbent Afghan President. Similarly, Iran and India also supported Abdullah Abdullah. Understandably, Karzai owes much to Islamabad's support for his victory, and as a result, has softened his anti-Pakistan rhetoric. Meanwhile, Pakistan also did its level best to bring powerful leaders of northern and central Afghanistan, closer to each other. They are now allies of President Hamid Karzai. These factors played a pivotal role in creating pro-Pakistan thinking in the Afghan ruling establishment, and this approach can be advanced further provided the two sides avoid committing any folly. Both Pakistan and Afghanistan need to settle their differences through direct interaction, and must not allow any other country, especially the U.S., to interfere or dictate their mutual relations."

Opinion: Defeat On The Cards?, an op-ed by Asad Hashim in the Karachi-based center-left independent national English daily "Dawn"

"it is becoming increasingly clear that the U.S.-led coalition cannot win the war against the Taliban outright as things stand. Indeed, cognizant of this, where several years ago policymakers in Washington DC were talking about talks with the 'evil Taliban terrorists' being simply out of the question, there is now the suggestion, from both military officials and civilian policymakers, that negotiations are not so much desirable as inevitable. This is not just U.S. President Obama's hope-and-change approach to government (as opposed to former President Bush's shock-and-awe doctrine) - this is a reflection of facts on the battlefield. Without compromise, there will be no peace; and there is no surrender on the cards in this war. The Afghan Taliban are too well-entrenched (both militarily and socially), and western forces are unable to gain, hold and secure significant ground across the country. In fact, their very presence is probably doing more to propel Taliban recruitment than any propaganda drive on the part of the insurgents."

Editorial: U.S. Emphatic No To Nuclear Cooperation With Pakistan, an editorial in the Islamabad-based rightist English daily "Pakistan Observer" (cir. 5,000) (03/02)

"The United States has once again reiterated its position that it will not enter into any India-like deal with Pakistan to provide any atomic power plant or civilian nuclear cooperation. Briefing Indian journalists in Washington, a senior official of the Obama administration said the nuclear power was not currently part of the discussions with Pakistan.... This selected approach deepens the impression in Pakistan that it is being discriminated because of the Western bias against the Islamic world. It is because of this that the country's nuclear program has remained all along a favorite target of the Western agencies and media while they never spoke any word of concern about Indian nuclear program or that of Israel. There are also fears that India would divert the technology and resources to upgrade and strengthen its military nuclear program, which would trigger arms race in the region."

Editorial: Saudi Connection, an editorial in the Karachi-based center-left independent national English daily "Dawn" (cir. 55,000) (03/02)

"Saudi Arabia has been in the news lately and much of it for reasons that may unsettle some here. But a closer look at the goings-on and speculation suggests that the perceived 'negative' impact on Pakistan may be an exaggeration.... The other big speculation doing the rounds is that the Saudis have leaned on Pakistan in recent weeks to move against the Afghan Taliban leaders scattered across

UNCLASSIFIED

the country here. But this too seems ~~unlike~~ while there certainly appears to have been a 'shift' in Pakistan's policy on the Afghan Taliban, two other elements have probably played a bigger role in making that shift possible: renewed American pressure on Pakistan, coinciding with the start of the 'surge' in southern Afghanistan, and the Pakistan Army's internal perceptions of the threat that the Afghan Taliban pose to this country. Only time will tell if the shift in policy is permanent: the army may have decided that enhanced tactical cooperation at this time is merited even though its broader strategic calculations remain the same. Either way, Saudi intervention, if it has in fact occurred, is unlikely to have been decisive."

Editorial: Saudi Doublespeak, an editorial in the Lahore-based liberal English language daily "Daily Times" (cir. 10,000) (03/02)

"Saudi Arabia's advice to the Pakistani leaders to unite against the extremists is well taken. The Saudis have already dealt with a fundamentalist movement inside the Kingdom either by force or through a rehabilitation program. By taking a clear 180 degree turn, the Saudis were able to thwart extremism while Pakistan is suffering the consequences of a 90 degree turn. To assuage the Americans, we hunted down al Qaeda but preserved the Afghan Taliban. Now the chickens are coming home to roost. The Pakistanis would do well to learn from their Saudi brethren. On another note, Manmohan Singh's visit to Riyadh will ease tensions in the South Asian region and bring India and Pakistan back to a rational dialogue. The Saudis should also exert whatever influence they have on the Taliban to bring them to the negotiating table as per Afghan President Hamid Karzai's request. Peace in South Asia will ultimately translate into worldwide peace."

Editorial: Pakistan Losing Space, an editorial in the center-right national English daily "The Nation" (cir. 20,000) (03/02)

"While the Pakistani ruling elite is busy in internecine warfare and embroiled in corruption controversies, it is losing space amongst its old time allies as a result of hard Indian diplomacy. Where once there was almost no Indian presence, today Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's visit to Saudi Arabia has brought into light the shifts taking place in that country's relations with its south Asian neighborhood.... Equally important is the Saudi commitment to double the crude oil supply to India and to move towards an energy partnership with India - a major goal of the Indians. Also, it was unfortunate that the Saudis chose to discuss Pakistan's internal politics while hosting the Indian Prime Minister.... Clearly, there has been a shift in the Saudi direction in south Asia and Pakistan must take note to reassert its special relationship with Saudi Arabia."

UNCLASSIFIED
Editorial: India Plays Foreign Policy Cards in an editorial in the Islamabad-based rightist English daily "Pakistan Observer" (cir. 5,000) (03/02)

"After bullying its small neighbors like Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bhutan, India then moved ahead to have a foothold in the backyard of Pakistan by establishing its effective diplomatic, commercial and military presence and influence in Afghanistan as well as in the Central Asian Republics. And now Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh has embarked upon a major foreign policy initiative by visiting Saudi Arabia, which is the most trusted friend of Pakistan.... One can, therefore, say that India is playing its foreign policy cards well, at least, as far as Pakistan is concerned and this should be a source of anxiety for those sitting in the former Shehrzad Hotel on the Constitution Avenue. Same is the situation vis-`-vis other countries where Indians are effectively projecting their faulty and wrong point of view in a positive manner. Pakistan is a frontline State in the war against terror but the U.S. and the U.K. are doling out more favors to New Delhi and are even encouraging India to gain a firm hold in Kabul to the disadvantage of Pakistan."

Editorial: Need For Saudi Cooperation To Resolve Indo-Pak Relations, an editorial in the liberal Urdu daily "Express" (cir. 25,000) (03/02)

"Political analysts are terming Manmohan Singh's trip to Saudi Arabia a part of the ongoing efforts for South Asian security and stability. Saudi Arabia is our brotherly state and a well-wisher. We feel that it can play a decisive role in the resumption of the disrupted composite dialogue between India and Pakistan."

Opinion: The Indo-Pak Highway, an op-ed by Shandana Khan Mohmand in the Karachi-based center-left independent national English daily "Dawn" (cir. 55,000) (03/02)

"India and Pakistan sat down to talks again last week. This wasn't the first time, nor will it be the last. And these talks will come to nothing too. The problem lies with both. At India's end, there appears to be a single-minded focus on insisting that Pakistan curb terrorism first. For a nation hit harder by terrorism than any other in recent history, it comes as no surprise that this insistence by India leaves a bad taste in Pakistani mouths.... At Pakistan's end it seems inconceivable that any amount of reassurance by India will stop its India-obsessed army and intelligence from thinking of the eastern neighbor as the main threat. As its army chief, Gen Kayani, admitted recently, the Pakistan Army is, and will remain, 'India-centric' until further notice, and that its 'frame of reference' for addressing issues even within the country is defined by its concerns vis-`-vis India.... It appears that there is a

UNCLASSIFIED
deadlock here. It requires one of the two Asian nations to back down first from its demands regarding the sequence of requisite actions. Adding to this quagmire is the fact that everyone knows these talks were held under U.S. pressure, and not because either nation was absolutely itching for a good chat over a cup of tea."

Opinion: Deadlock In Pakistan-India Talks, an op-ed by Javid Husain in the center-right national English daily "The Nation" (cir. 20,000) (03/02)

"Once again Pakistan-India talks have become the victim of a deadlock as is quite apparent from the result of our foreign secretary's visit to India last week. A deadlock in Pakistan-India talks is nothing extraordinary. In fact, if one looks at the history of Pakistan-India relations, it has been a common feature of this complex and difficult relationship. The only thing which is different this time is that the bilateral talks in substantive terms have been deadlocked even before they could begin. This speaks volumes about the current status of Pakistan-India relations mired as they are in mutual mistrust, grievances and animosity.... The future prospects of Pakistan-India relations remain uncertain considering the high level of mutual mistrust, the historical baggage of mutual grievances, the complexity of the outstanding issues like Kashmir and the clash of the strategic interests of the two countries in South Asia."

(All circulation figures are based on estimation)
Feierstein

NNNN