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	OMB-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
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SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A  
 TAGS: KMDR, KPAO, OIIP, OPRC, PGOV, PREL, PK  
 SUBJECT: PAKISTAN MEDIA REACTION: FEBRUARY 03, 2010

Summary: Summary: Coverage of drone strikes in Dattakhel village, North Waziristan Agency (NWA) dominated media on Wednesday morning. "Dawn" highlighted a report from its Washington-based correspondent that the "U.S. defense budget for 2011 seeks more funds to enhance drone operations by 75 percent." Admiral Mullen's statement on Pakistan's reversal of Taliban gains, and his remarks that the "U.S. must welcome 'back-door' negotiations between Pakistan and India on Kashmir" received prominent display. Reports of advancement of Pakistani security forces on the Taliban stronghold in Bajaur Agency also made front-page news. Media reported detained American nationals' allegation of torture by the FBI and Pakistani police. Papers also carried the police and the Embassy spokesperson's denial

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

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of these allegations. A Lahore-based newspaper "The Dawn" published a report claiming that a "U.S. diplomat" was found dead at Qasim Air Base in Baluchistan. Coverage of the row between the provincial ministers of PPP and the Muthidda Quami Movement (MQM) in the Sindh Assembly also made front-page headlines in several major dailies.  
End Summary.

#### TOP STORIES

News Story: 17 Die As Drones Rain 18 Missiles On NWA - "The News" (02/03)

"In the biggest attack so far by the American spy planes in the Pakistani tribal areas, the US drones on Tuesday rained a barrage of missiles on different locations of Dattakhel Tehsil of North Waziristan Agency (NWA), killing 17 people, including militants, and injuring several others. Government officials in Miramshah, the main town of North Waziristan, said nine spy planes took part in the brazen attack, firing 18 missiles and causing heavy human loss."

News Story: U.S. Plans 75pc Increase In Drone Operations - "Dawn" (02/03)

"The U.S. defence budget for 2011 seeks more funds to enhance drone operations by 75 per cent, citing its success in targeting militants in Afghanistan and Pakistan's tribal belt. 'With this funding, we will increase the unmanned Predator and Reaper orbits from 37 to 65, while enhancing our ability to process, exploit and disseminate information gathered by this game-changing technology,' said Chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff Admiral Mike Mullen."

News Story: Pakistan Has Reversed Taliban Gains: Mullen - "The News" (02/03)

"Pakistan has reversed the Taliban territorial gains through a series of military operations, Chairman U.S. Joint Chiefs Staff Admiral Mike Mullen said on Tuesday at a Congressional hearing, where he also advocated Washington's help towards resolving the Indo-Pak tensions for South Asian stability."

News Story: U.S. Must Welcome 'Back-Door' Negotiations On Kashmir: Mullen - "The News" (02/03)

"The Obama administration should welcome all steps that Pakistan and India take to regenerate 'back-door' negotiations on the Kashmir dispute, U.S. Joint Chiefs Staff Chairman Mike Mullen said on Tuesday. Talking at a congressional hearing, he called for supporting moves to improve trust between the two South Asian nuclear powers."

News Story: More Efforts Needed To Defeat Taliban U.S. - "Dawn"  
(02/03)

"The U.S. military chief told a congressional panel on Tuesday that defeating the Taliban would mean 'more sacrifice and more bloodshed.' Admiral Mike Mullen, however, warned that the U.S. could not afford to lose this war as 'the stakes are too high for failure.' Appearing with Defence Secretary Robert Gates before Senate Armed Services Committee, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chief of Staff warned that the Taliban had a growing influence across Afghanistan and Pakistan's tribal belt remained an epicenter of global terrorism. Admiral Mullen warned that the next 18 months would be critical in the fight against the Taliban."

News Story: Terror Suspects Complain Of Torture In Custody -  
"Dawn," "The News," "The Nation," "Daily Times" (02/03)

"Five Americans accused by Pakistan of links to Al-Qaeda or linked groups pleaded their innocence on Tuesday, saying they were being set-up and tortured by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) of United States and the Pakistani police. As they arrived for a remand hearing at an anti-terrorism court in Sargodha, one of the suspects tossed a scrap of toilet paper scrawled with writing from the window of the police van, an AFP reporter said."

News Story: U.S. Diplomat Found Dead In Balochistan - "The Post"  
(02/03)

"A U.S. diplomat was found dead at Qasim Air Base in Balochistan province on January 31, highly placed sources told 'The Post' on Tuesday. According to sources, the U.S. Embassy sent the dead body of the diplomat back to U.S. without mentioning any cause of death. When 'The Post' contacted with the U.S. Embassy spokesman, he confirmed the death of the diplomat in Balochistan."

#### TERRORISM/MILITARY ISSUES

News Story: Security Forces Advance On Damadola - "Dawn" (02/03)

"Security forces are advancing on the Taliban stronghold of Damadola in Bajaur tribal region and have inflicted heavy casualties on militants in gun-battles since Monday, security officials told journalists."

News Story: U.S. Trainers In Sihala To Be Shifted To Simli Dam -  
"Ausaf" (02/03)

"The process of shifting the U.S. trainers, providing anti-terrorism training to the Punjab Police, to Simli Dam Training Center is being

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finalized. It will be pertinent to mention that after threats from different organizations including the lawyers' community, the government has decided to shift the U.S. trainers to the Simli Dam Training facility due to the ideal location and congenial environment of this place. Strict security arrangements have been made at this training center."

News Story: Odd Travel Timing Of NATO Oil Tankers Being Investigated  
- "Dawn" (02/03)

"Investigators are probing as to why the bombed oil tankers carrying fuel for NATO forces across the border travelled before sunrise and without escort by a private security company as per the directives, a source confided to 'The News.' The authorities are now looking into the option of transporting goods for NATO forces in Afghanistan via Gwadar Port, a relatively much secure route. A meeting is likely to take place next month to discuss the issue."

News Story: Offensive Kills Up To 80 Militants: Military - "Dawn"  
(02/03)

"A Pakistani military commander said Tuesday a new air and ground offensive had killed up to 80 militants in the northern extremity of the lawless tribal belt on the Afghan border."

News Story: Troops Kill 3 Militants In First Swabi Operation -  
"Dawn" (02/03)

"Three militants were killed and eight persons, including four soldiers, sustained injuries during an operation in Malikabad area of Swabi district on Tuesday, officials said. They said that four militants surrendered and laid down arms during the first-ever operation in the district, jointly launched by army and police in Malikabad near Gadoon Amazai industrial zone."

News Story: Defence Team Wants Facts In Aafia Case - "Dawn" (02/03)

"As a 12-member jury in the trial of Pakistani neuroscientist Dr Aafia Siddiqui resumed deliberations on Tuesday morning, the lead defence lawyer called for taking into account facts of the case rather than fears created about her. Attorney Charles Swift said in a press statement: 'There is no physical evidence that Aafia Siddiqui picked up the gun and fired. At the time of incident she was 100 lbs, fighting soldiers weighing 180 lbs, the way prosecutors portrayed her as if she was a Special Forces soldier. She could not have fired M4 at them.'"

POLITICAL ISSUES

News Story: President, PM Step In To Save A Sindh Coalition - "Dawn"

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(02/03)

"The federal government stepped in to prevent the Sindh coalition government from unraveling following bitter recriminations between key ministers belonging to the Pakistan People's Party and the Muttahida Qaumi Movement on Tuesday. As the provincial leadership of the PPP and the MQM, locked in what is viewed as a marriage of convenience in Sindh, took swipes at each other, the wave of violence continued unabated on a fourth consecutive day in Karachi and left at least 12 people dead."

News Story: Army Asked To Take Over Karachi - "The Nation" (02/03)

"Sindh Home Minister Dr Zulfiqar Mirza on Tuesday called upon the Army to play its due role and take over Karachi as Swat-like law and order situation is developing in the metropolis. In his hard-hitting speech on the floor of the Sindh Assembly, in response to a personal explanation of PML-Q member Shaharyar Mehar, the Home Minister admitted that law and order situation in the province was not satisfactory."

News Story: Malik Vows Action Against Disruptive Elements - "Dawn" (02/03)

"Taking steps to crush elements involved in target killing, the government is reportedly going to empower Rangers under Anti-Terrorist Act to control law and order situation in Karachi, source in the Interior Ministry told."

News Story: Indian Influence In Afghanistan Matter Of Concern: Mukhtar - "Dawn" (02/03)

"Defence Minister Chaudhry Ahmad Mukhtar said on Tuesday Pakistan had serious concerns over the growing influence of India in Afghanistan during a meeting with United Kingdom's Naval Chief of Staff Admiral Sir Mark Stanhope, the Minister said."

News Story: Karzai In Riyadh For Talks With King On Taliban Issue - "Dawn" (02/03)

"Afghan President Hamid Karzai, who has called for Riyadh's help in restoring peace to his country, arrived on Tuesday for talks in Saudi Arabia, the official SPA news agency said."

#### ECONOMY/ENVIRONMENT

News Story: Economic Instability Imperils Pak's Future: Pentagon - "The News" (02/03)

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"Pakistan has an important role in the security and stability of the region, a Pentagon report says and identifies economic instability, resource scarcity, and illicit trafficking as factors that imperil the country's future. The Quadrennial Defence Review (QDR), which shapes the policy of the Pentagon for the next four years, says a secure and stable Pakistan is vital to U.S. national security, the region, and the world."

News Story: USAID Signs MoU For CNG Workers' Training - "Daily Times" (02/03)

"The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) through its 'Jobs Project' on Tuesday signed an agreement with Yasin Akram Associates (YAA) to train CNG workforce in the twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad. The project will improve employees and employer's income, safety of the CNG stations and customer service, said a press release issued in Islamabad."

News Story: U.S. Firm Offers Assistance For Harnessing Wind Energy - "Dawn" (02/03)

"U.S. public sector project financing agency, Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), and General Electric (GE) have expressed willingness to partner with Pakistani companies for developing wind energy sector in Pakistan. The OPIC has offered financing facilities and the GE will provide wind turbines to Pakistani investors, officials of the Alternative Energy Development Board said."

News Story: IMF Asks Govt. To Get Parliament's Nod On NEPRA Law - "Dawn" (02/03)

"The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has asked Pakistan to submit the draft of the amended law of NEPRA Act to parliament in order to get its nod on automatic electricity tariff adjustments on the basis of regulator's calculation. The Fund has also sought data of various sectors of the national economy on the basis of which both the sides will hold the next round of parleys from next week at Dubai."

News Story: Pakistan Identifies 80 Projects For FoDP Investors - "Daily Times" (02/03)

"Pakistan has identified at least 80 projects in the energy, infrastructure, agriculture, health and education sectors for potential investors from the Friends of Democratic Pakistan (FODP) forum under the Public-Private Partnership program, 'Daily Times' has learned."

MISCELLANEOUS

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News Story: U.S. Citizen, Pakistani Handed Over To Admin. - "The News" (02/03)

"The officials of the investigation team handed over the detained U.S. citizen and his Pakistani friend to the political authorities of Khyber Agency after a 24-hour interrogation on Tuesday. Official sources said U.S. citizen Barite Mathew and his Pakistani friend, Rafa Malik, resident of Abbotabad, were arrested from Wazirband area in Jamrud tehsil during routine patrol by the Khassadar Force on Monday."

News Story: Complaint Against U.S. Officials: Ministries Pass The Buck - "Dawn" (02/03)

"The interior ministry has told the Lahore High Court that the foreign affairs ministry is in a better position to explain the facts regarding a petition by a lady doctor alleging harassment and unlawful detention for two hours by the Federal Bureau of Investigation personnel at the U.S. consulate in Karachi.... The court had asked the ministries of interior and foreign affairs last month to respond to the petition within three weeks. The foreign affairs ministry is yet to file comments."

News Story: U.S. Probing Missile Test Failure In Pacific - "Dawn" (02/03)

"The U.S. military failed to shoot down a ballistic missile in a test resembling an Iranian or North Korean strike after a radar malfunctioned, a spokesman said on Monday. The test was carried out on Sunday at a U.S. Army site at the Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands but the target missile was not intercepted as planned, said Rick Lehner, spokesman for the Missile Defence Agency (MDA)."

### EDITORIALS/OPINIONS

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

"Any help we can get to pay for the war we are fighting is welcome, and President Obama has proposed helping us with the cost of bullets by dipping into the American pocket to the tune of \$1.2 billion in fiscal 2011 to support the training and equipping of our security forces. The Pakistan Counterinsurgency Capability Fund allocated \$700 million in 2009 for the same purpose. So the increase is considerable by any standard. President Obama has also requested \$1.322 billion from the Economic Support Fund (ESF) which is designed to promote economic and political stability in countries where the U.S. has a strategic interest. Again, this is an increase,

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by almost a third, over funding in the Great Deal and is consistent with the American commitment to increase economic aid to Pakistan. There is more - the U.S. administration has asked Congress to approve \$296 million for us under a program called Foreign Military Financing which disburses grants for the purchase of American military equipment, services and training. And all this before we receive a single cent of the money that should be coming our way via the Kerry-Lugar Bill. Like it or not - and many of us don't - America is our biggest donor and will be for the foreseeable future."

Editorial: Pakistan's Point Of View On Afghanistan, an editorial in the liberal Urdu daily "Express" (cir. 25,000) (02/03)

"The views expressed by Gen. Kayani before the foreign media are a reality that can be ignored only at the cost of the international efforts in the war on terror. This is not something that concerns just Pakistan or Afghanistan - it is a universal truth that neighboring countries are deeply affected by events going on next door.... According to a news report, President Obama has presented the 2010 budget to the Congress and proposed \$1.2 billion for the Pakistan Army. This proposal is a positive reflection of the U.S. administration's confidence on the army's performance. Implementation of this proposal would help Pakistan organize itself better against terrorism. However, it is also important that the U.S. and its allies also try to remove Pakistan's misgivings on their Afghan policy."

Editorial: Alleged Elimination Of Terrorism; National Interests Or A War To Get Dollars? Call A Session Of The Parliament To Discuss This Sensitive Issue, an editorial in the second-largest, nationalist Urdu daily "Nawa-i-Waqt" (cir. 150,000) (02/03)

"Gen. Kayani's statement makes it seem as if he is intent on continuing the war on terror just to get U.S. dollars, instead of safeguarding national interests, because his remarks came at a time when President Obama was proposing to the Congress to provide \$1.2 billion to the Pakistan Army to fight the Taliban. This must undoubtedly have created an impression in the nation's mind that the Army is being involved in a war of American interests not for national interests but to get dollars in return.... The Army Chief should avoid making any statement on the government's policy and focus his attention on fulfilling his professional duties."

Editorial: America Should Look After Pakistan's Interests, an editorial in the Lahore-based populist center-right Urdu daily "Khabrain" (cir. 50,000) (02/03)

"Other countries will leave the region after meeting their objectives, but Pakistan will still be here. Hence, while making

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decisions on Afghanistan, the international community must take care that these decisions do not harm Pakistan's interests. It is also a fact that the road to success in Afghanistan goes through Pakistan. No power can protect its interests in Afghanistan without Pakistan's cooperation. Hence, the international community must pay attention to Pakistan's suggestions."

Editorial: No Peace In Afghanistan Sans Pakistan's Cooperation, an editorial in the leading mass circulation populist, often sensational Urdu daily "Jang" (cir. 300,000) (02/03)

"Army Chief General Ashfaq Kayani has said that Pakistan does not want to control Afghanistan. He said that the huge losses suffered in the war on terror could not shake our determination. On the other hand, the U.S. policies regarding Afghanistan are contradictory to the interests of Pakistan. But Washington's relentless patronage of the anti-Pakistan forces in Afghanistan will no longer be acceptable to the political parties, religious circles and the Pakistani masses. We think that it is high time for Kabul and Islamabad to join hands to promote their mutual cooperation with a view to safeguard their own interests."

Opinion: Targeting Cuba in Pakistan, an op-ed by Shireen M. Mazari in the center-right national English daily "The Nation" (cir. 20,000) (02/03)

"After all, who would target Cuba and seek to destroy its relations with Pakistan? The answer requires little contemplation. The U.S. has been trying to undermine the Castro regime since the success of the Revolution.... Nothing is too petty for the U.S. when it comes to Cuba, especially when it concerns a state like Pakistan that the U.S. feels should be solely within its sphere of influence and loyal to its agendas. Pakistan is having to pay a hefty price for this alliance with the U.S., and the Cuban issue is simply one small part of the larger game plan."

Opinion: A Useless Summit?, an op-ed by Rizwan Asghar in the populist, often sensational national English daily "The News" (cir. 55,000) (02/03)

"As expected earlier, the long-awaited London Conference, convened by the British Prime Minister Gordon Brown, has failed to find a concrete solution to the problems faced by Afghanistan. However, it has very successfully laid down a map for foreign occupants over Afghanistan for many years to come.... The Taliban have rejected all

kind of negotiations until the withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan. They have already announced that from spring onwards there would be more attacks on foreign troops.... The role of the regional stakeholders has been relatively ignored.... The U.S. has

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no concrete plan for the betterment of the Afghan people and the tall claims made by the Obama administration of bringing 'change' and withdrawing troops from June 2011 seem quite preposterous. Instead the U.S. continues to play havoc with the lives of people in pursuit of its imperialistic designs.... It seems that having failed to subdue Afghanistan by force, the U.S. is also failing to find a political solution to the problems. The only service the U.S. can do to the Afghan people is to withdraw its forces from their land as soon as possible."

Editorial: COAS On War On Terror, an editorial in the center-right national English daily "The Nation" (cir. 20,000) (02/03)

"COAS General Kayani has brought out in comprehensive terms the Pakistan government's current position with regard to the war on terror, which he had explained at a recent conference of NATO commanders in Brussels.... He was also right in highlighting the fact that our economic losses were the maximum. It is a pity that neither the U.S., which dragged us into the war, nor other Western countries supporting it, have come forward with anything close to compensating the damage we have suffered.... However, General Kayani's delineation of Pakistan's strategic paradigm and underlining the need for friendly relations with Afghanistan for peace and harmony to prevail in the region, are the most apt and must be welcomed. And, in this context, he explained what ought to be understood when Pakistan talked of 'strategic depth'. It 'does not imply controlling Afghanistan,' but he rightly added, 'If Afghanistan was peaceful, stable and friendly we have our strategic depth because our western borders are secure. You are not looking both ways.'"

Editorial: This Resoluteness Is Our Asset, an editorial in the Peshawar-based Urdu-language daily "Mashriq" (cir. 55,000) (02/03)

"Army Chief General Ashfaq Pervaiz Kayani has said that Pakistan is fully capable of doing anything, therefore the international community must trust our country. It seems that after failing to defeat the Taliban, the U.S. and its allies are planning to withdraw their forces from Afghanistan and leave Pakistan alone to clean up the mess they have created there. We think that it is the primary responsibility of Washington and its allies to normalize the situation in Afghanistan. But this goal will remain elusive until these countries withdraw their troops from Afghanistan and hand over the power to the elected representatives of the Afghan masses."

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

"He (Army Chief) stressed that the reduction in attacks on NATO

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forces in Afghanistan was an outcome of the Pakistan military on its side of the border. This, of course, makes sense. The General's suggestion that the Pakistan army be involved in training its Afghan counterpart is also a sound one. It is indeed imperative that these two work effectively together. Any involvement of the Indians in Afghanistan, as has been suggested, would only add to Pakistan's sense of insecurity.... The COAS has also made it clear how important it is to consider the region as a whole in the efforts against terrorism. Certainly, it is crucial that all those involved in the battle consider this issue. The motives behind terrorism that run through the Pak-Afghan area, and countries that border them, are intricately inter-twined. It is important to consider this realistically and to devise a strategy accordingly. A failure to do so would tilt the balance in favor of the militants who continue to pose a terrible threat to nations across the world and the people who inhabit them."

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

"Gen. Ashfaq Kayani has reiterated the army's position on Afghanistan: Pakistan wants a 'peaceful, friendly and stable' Afghanistan; strategic depth isn't about 'controlling' Afghanistan but about ensuring Pakistan doesn't have a long-term security problem on its western border... It is significant that the Army Chief's statement comes against the backdrop of calls from

Washington and other western capitals for the Pakistan Army to move against militant bastions in North Waziristan.... Here, too, what the Pakistan Army can achieve appears to be limited. Pakistan is hugely disliked by the non-Taliban, non-Pakhtun forces in Afghanistan, while its ability to influence the Taliban and the broader Pakhtun community may be in question. What, then, are Pakistan's options? Gen. Kayani called on the U.S. and NATO to come out with a clear strategy on Afghanistan; we can only hope he has told his Pakistani strategists the same thing."

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

"Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Ashfaq Parvez Kayani, in a rare press briefing, said, 'We want a strategic depth in Afghanistan but do not want to control it.' These words underlie the fact that the Pakistan Army has still not given up on the idea of 'strategic depth' in Afghanistan - a policy that has proved to be disastrous for Pakistan in the past few decades. If one reads between the lines, General Kayani's statement is also indicative that though Pakistan may not want to control Afghanistan, it wants a government of its own choice in place to control the war-torn country.... GHQ

should revisit the infection in the United States of Jihadi sympathizers. A nightmare scenario is looming if we do not give up the idea of 'strategic depth', which may eventually turn out to be 'strategic death.'"

Editorial: Peace in Afghanistan, an editorial in the Lahore-based liberal English daily "The Post" (cir. 5,000) (02/03)

"Chief of Army Staff Gen. Ashfaq Kayani has denied that Pakistan wants a 'Talibanized' Afghanistan, and said his country has no interest in controlling Afghanistan.... Being a frontline state against terrorism, Pakistan cannot be ignored when it comes to maintaining peace and stability in Afghanistan and that Pakistan has no hidden agenda against its neighbors, particularly Afghanistan.... For the regional stability and prosperity, Pakistan understands its responsibility and never shuns from it.... The international community should consider the concerns, challenges, contributions and constraints of Pakistan in the fight against the terrorists as shared by Gen Kayani with NATO commanders in Brussels for the success of war on terror."

Editorial: Kayani Talks Of His Vision Of Afghanistan, an editorial in the Islamabad-based rightist English daily "Pakistan Observer" (cir. 5,000) (02/03)

"During his candid talks with foreign journalists on Monday, COAS General Ashfaq Parvez Kayani crystallized Pakistan's traditional stand on Afghanistan and warmth towards people of that country. Speaking in the backdrop of his trip to Brussels, where he put across Pakistan's point of view on Afghan conflict, the COAS reflected sentiments of the nation by summarizing the country's interest in the well-being of the people of Afghanistan by saying 'We cannot wish for Afghanistan anything that we don't wish for Pakistan.' The historic remarks of the COAS once again re-affirmed Pakistan's oft-repeated assertion that its objective was to have peaceful, stable and friendly Afghanistan.... Similarly, the assessment of the Army Chief that support of the public opinion and media and resolve and capability of the Army turned the tide in the ongoing war against terror is also a clear message to the outside world that Pakistan is a peace loving country."

Editorial: Strategic Depth: General Kayani's Explanation, an editorial in the center-right Urdu daily "Pakistan" (cir. 10,000) (02/03)

"Generally, the term "strategic depth" is used to create an image of Pakistan's aggressive military might. It is also said that Pakistan supports certain militant groups in Afghanistan to gain strategic depth in Afghanistan. Gen. Kayani has very courageously expressed Pakistan's viewpoint and said that we do want to attain strategic

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depth, but it should not be construed as a desire to take control of Afghanistan.... The government must discuss this issue in the parliament and the starting point of this debate should be Gen. Kayani's bold statement."

Editorial: Indian Supplies To NATO Forces Via Pakistan, an editorial in the popular rightist Urdu-language daily "Ausaf" (cir. 10,000) (02/03)

"According to some media reports, India is using the Pakistani territory to supply various equipments to the NATO forces deployed in Afghanistan while the Pakistan Customs officials are not allowed to check such consignments. We demand the opposition leader to raise this issue in the Parliament and let the nation know the facts."

Opinion: How To End The War In Afghanistan, an op-ed by Ahmed Rashid in the Lahore-based liberal English daily "The Post" (cir. 5,000) (02/03)

"The London conference on Afghanistan was being billed as a dud - hastily conceived, under prepared and potentially a political face-saver for two unpopular leaders, Britain's Prime Minister Gordon Brown and Afghanistan's President Hamid Karzai.... Despite the London conference rhetoric of 'Afghan ownership' of the peace and development process, the last nine years has still not created real ownership for the Afghans. There is still no semblance of a working Afghan state with basic governance institutions such as a functioning bureaucracy, judiciary and police. NATO's job in this surge of commitment is to make sure that the Afghans do not just increase their dependency on the West, but actually take charge, become responsible and make themselves accountable for their actions. President Karzai should realize this is a tougher job than talking the Taliban."

(All circulation figures are based on estimation)  
Patterson

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