

ACTION INR-00

INFO	LOG-00	EEB-00	AF-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	A-00	
	INL-00	DNI-00	DOFE-00	PDI-00	DS-00	EAP-00	DHSE-00
	EUR-00	OIGO-00	FAAE-00	UTED-00	VCI-00	DIAS-00	HHS-00
	H-00	TEDE-00	IO-00	LAB-01	ARMY-00	MOFM-00	MOF-00
	M-00	VCIE-00	DCP-00	NSAE-00	ISN-00	OIC-00	OIG-00
	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
	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
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E.O. 12958: N/A  
 TAGS: KMDR, KPAO, OIIP, OPRC, PGOV, PREL, PK  
 SUBJECT: PAKISTAN MEDIA REACTION: APRIL 28, 2010

Summary: President Zardari's statement that "those who were granted refuge 30 years ago killed Benazir Bhutto" dominated headlines in media on Wednesday morning. Major dailies reported that Ambassador Patterson joined President Zardari and other senior Pakistani officials to inaugurate the \$25 million Peshawar Ring Road reconstruction project. Coverage of the Presidential Summit on Entrepreneurship in Washington also received prominent display. In an exclusive story, "The News," reported that Financial Adviser to the Prime Minister, Hafeez Sheikh, deplores the lack of U.S. interest in bailing out Pakistan. Media also reported that the U.S. administration has issued red warrants for five American nationals arrested in Sargodha under terrorism charges, and "The Nation"

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carried Interior Minister Malik's statement "U.S. has not so far asked Pakistan to give custody of these Americans." All major dailies highlighted the arrest of a female diplomat working in the Indian Embassy in Islamabad on charges of spying for Pakistan. Newspapers continued to cover military operations in the restive tribal areas, reporting that eleven militants were killed and their four hideouts destroyed in Orakzai Agency. Commenting on the security situation in the tribal areas, "Dawn" noted that "South Waziristan is heating up again - and it's because the Pakistani state has still not figured out its game plan in North Waziristan Agency." All newspapers reported a bomb blast at a police check-post on the outskirts of Peshawar on Wednesday morning that left four police officers dead and injured several others. End Summary.

#### TOP STORIES

News Story: Those Given Refuge 30 Years Ago Killed BB - "The News" (04/28)

"President Asif Ali Zardari on Tuesday said that those who were granted refuge 30 years ago killed Benazir Bhutto. The refugees turned out to be bitter enemies in the end as they were the people who killed their hosts and their families and led to the destruction of their property, he said. He said the nation ought to get united to defeat killers of Benazir Bhutto."

News Story: U.S. Inaugurates \$25 Million Peshawar Ring Road - "Daily Times," "Statesman," "The News," "Jang," "Pakistan," "Jinnah," "Ausaf" (04/28)

"At a ceremony on Tuesday in Peshawar, Ambassador Anne W. Patterson joined Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Owais Ahmed Ghani, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Amir Haider Khan Hoti in inaugurating a project to reconstruct 25 kilometers of the Peshawar Southern By-Pass (Ring Road). The U.S. financed project will provide Rs. 2.10 billion (\$25,000,000) in upgrades to the important provincial thoroughfare for the purpose of strengthening security and increasing economic development."

News Story: President Zardari Increases FATA Budget to Rs21b - "The Statesman" (04/28)

"President Asif Ali Zardari Tuesday increased annual budget for FATA from Rs13 billion to Rs21 billion and promised to visit FATA soon. Addressing tribal elders at Governor House during a day-long visit to the City, he said that menace of terrorism could be eliminated from the country with the assistance of tribal people. He urged the people of province not to let outsiders enter their ranks and unite to protect their motherland against all challenges... The Ring Road

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will be upgraded through a grant of UNCLASSIFIED from the United States."

News Story: Obama Cites Pakistani Entrepreneur's Success - "Daily Times," "The News," "The Nation," "Business Recorder" (04/28)

"U.S. President Barack Obama has vowed to build an economic development partnership with Pakistan, Afghanistan and other Muslim countries as part of his administration's unprecedented outreach to the Islamic world aimed at fostering relations on the basis of mutual trust and respect.... 'As President, I've worked to ensure that America once again meets its responsibilities, especially when it comes to the security and political issues that have often been a source of tension,' he said at the Presidential Entrepreneurship Summit."

News Story: U.S. Will Never Waver In Pursuit Of Palestinian State: Obama - "Dawn" (04/28)

"'So long as I am President, the United States will never waver in pursuit of a two-state solution that ensures the rights of both Israelis and Palestinians,' declared Barack Obama, ignoring warnings that such pronouncements could annoy the powerful Israeli lobby in North America. In his address to Muslim entrepreneurs in Washington on Monday evening, Mr. Obama also highlighted America's partnership with Pakistan and Afghanistan for combating terrorists."

News Story: Hafeez Deplores Lack Of U.S. Interest In Bailing Out Pakistan - "Dawn" (04/28)

"'We love U.S. but have nothing to show for our love for Washington,' Dr. Hafeez A Sheikh, Adviser to prime minister on Finance and Revenue, currently on a visit to U.S., has been quoted as saying to the decision makers of the world's most powerful country. According to the sources in the Finance Ministry, who are close to the adviser, Dr. Sheikh expressed his views at a high level-meeting held in Washington, which was mainly attended by influential U.S. officials including Hillary Clinton. The Adviser was referring to Pakistan's role in the war against terror and Washington's inability to clear the war bills amounting to \$1.3 billion, which have now swelled to \$2 billion. So far America has given only \$349 million to Pakistan. The U.S. is supposed to clear this huge amount under the head of Coalition Support Fund (CSF). So much so, the U.S. even refused to bail out Pakistan by not influencing the IMF to give waiver in VAT implementation from July 1 and power tariff raise from April 1, 2010."

News Story: U.S. Issues Warrants For 5 Men Arrested In Sargodha - "Daily Times" (04/28)

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"The U.S. administration has issued warrants for five American nationals arrested in Sargodha under terrorism charges, a private TV channel reported on Tuesday. An official of the U.S. Embassy submitted the warrants to the Anti-Terrorist Court set up in Sargodha district jail during the case's hearing on Tuesday. The warrants demanded the handover of the arrested men to the U.S. after completion of legal proceedings in Pakistan."

News Story: U.S. Not Yet Requested Americans' Custody: Malik "The Nation" (04/28)

"Federal Interior Minister Rehman Malik has said the U.S. has not so far asked Pakistan to give custody of Americans arrested from Sargodha, and if they receive any request in this regard, they would abide by the extradition treaty signed by the both countries. He made a brief statement to this effect to the media in Lahore on Tuesday."

News Story: Hearing Adjourned In Case Against Five U.S. Nationals - "Dawn" (04/28)

"An Anti-Terrorist Court on Tuesday adjourned the hearing of the case against five U.S. nationals arrested from Sargodha till May 6. The hearing was held at the Sargodha jail due to security concerns."

News Story: India Nabs Diplomat On Charge Of Spying For Pakistan - "Dawn" (04/28)

"India said on Tuesday it has arrested a woman working as a diplomat in its Islamabad embassy on charges of spying for Pakistan. Madhuri Gupta, 53, is a second secretary in the high commission in the press and information section.... Indian officials said Ms Gupta was suspected of handing over classified documents to Pakistan's ISI intelligence service."

News Story: Thirteen Militant Suspects Killed In Orakzai - "Dawn" (04/28)

"Officials say Pakistani troops have killed 13 suspected insurgents in the Orakzai tribal region near Afghanistan. Five alleged militants were also arrested in the Feroz Khel area. Two intelligence officials confirmed the account on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to media."

News Story: U.S. And Musharraf Involved In Benazir's Killing: Brig. (Retired) Imtiaz - "Khabrain" (04/28)

"Expressing his views in a private television channel program, retired Brig Imtiaz said that the U.S. and Pervez Musharraf are

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involved in Benazir's killing.... While retired Gen Hamid Gul has said that the deals made in Abu Dhabi must be brought to the fore. He said that the U.S., Britain, Pervez Musharraf and Benazir were party to the agreement. [He added that] Benazir had adopted the path of rebellion, hence the U.S. is involved in her killing. He said that the government should appoint a judicial commission if it is serious in investigating the assassination."

### TERRORISM/MILITARY ISSUES

News Story: 4 Policemen Killed, 11 Injured In Pir Bala Suicide Attack - "The Nation" (04/28)

"A suicide car bomb attack hit a police check-point on the outskirts of Peshawar before dawn Wednesday, killing four police and wounding 11 people, including a woman and a cleric. Wednesday's attacker struck the checkpoint in Pir Bala village, on the main road from Peshawar."

News Story: Army Committed To Protect Every Inch Of Country: Kayani - "The Nation" (04/28)

"Pakistan's Armed Forces are committed to secure every inch of the country. These remarks were made by Chief of Army Staff, General Ashfaq Pavez Kayani while addressing the troops taking part in the second phase of Exercise Azm-e-Nau 111 on Tuesday."

News Story: Government Focusing on Economic Revival of Tribal Areas: Owais - "The Nation" (04/28)

"Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Owais Ahmed Ghani said significant successes had been achieved against militancy in FATA and now the government was focused on economic revival in the tribal areas."

News Story: Elimination Of Terrorism Pakistan's Primary Job - "Daily Times" (04/28)

"Elimination of terrorism from South Asia and beyond has remained and will continue to be Pakistan's primary occupation, Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said on Tuesday, while addressing the 32nd Session of the SAARC Council of Ministers in Thimphu."

News Story: 2,000 Containers with ISAF Goods Still Missing - "The News" (04/28)

"Sources report that over 2,000 containers carrying goods imported for the Afghanistan-based International Security Assistance Force are still missing."

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News Story: 5 terrorists Killed, 18 Arrested in Bara Operation -  
"Daily Times" (04/28)

"Security forces killed five terrorists, including two commanders, and arrested another 18 during an operation in tehsil Bara of Khyber Agency, sources said on Tuesday."

News Story: Aid Must Follow Military Gains: UN - "Dawn" (04/28)

"Pakistan and its Western backers should swiftly pour money into former Taliban bastions to ensure that military successes were not lost and the population remained on the government's side, a UN envoy said. Jean-Maurice Ripert, the UN Secretary General's special envoy for assistance to Pakistan, said it was now essential to build on military gains by getting displaced people home and improving their economic plight to eradicate conditions that breed militancy."

News Story: Another Son Of Sufi Mohammad Arrested - "Dawn" (04/28)

"The law enforcement agencies arrested Matiul Haq another son of the jailed chief of Tanzim Nifaz Sharait-i-Muhammadi, Maulana Sufi Mohammad, during a raid at a house in Timergara on Tuesday, Sources said."

News Story: Four Policemen Killed in Peshawar Blast - "Dawn" (04/28)

"Police said a suicide car bomb attack targeted a police check post on the outskirts of Peshawar early Wednesday, killing four policemen and wounding six other people."

News Story: Former MI Chief Faces Investigators Today - "Dawn"  
(04/28)

"Maj-Gen Nadeem Ijaz, a former Director-General of the Military Intelligence (MI), will appear on Wednesday before a three-member fact-finding committee investigating the hosing down of the site of Benazir Bhutto's assassination."

News Story: BLA Claims Responsibility: Woman Varsity Professor Shot Dead In Quetta - "Dawn" (04/28)

"Nazima Talib, a woman professor of Balochistan University was gunned down in Quetta on Tuesday. CCPO Shabbir Sheikh said it was probably a case of target killing. A spokesman for Baloch Liberation Army claimed responsibility for Ms. Nazima's killing. He told reporters on phone that it was a reaction to the killing of two Baloch women in Quetta and Pasni and torturing of women political

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POLITICAL ISSUES

News Story: Qureshi Unsure About Gilani-Singh Meeting - "The News"  
(04/28)

"Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi is not sure about the meeting between Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani with his Indian counterpart Dr. Manmohan Singh today (Wednesday) on the sidelines of 16th South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Summit commencing in Thimphu. The Indian diplomatic sources are certain about the meeting soon after the first day's proceedings."

News Story: Pakistan Offers India Talks Through' Third Party -  
"Business Recorder" (04/28)

"Pakistan on Tuesday offered India third-party talks to resolve the disputes between the two neighbor and nuclear countries. Talking to newsmen in Thimphu, Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said that Pakistan agreed to resume talks with India on any issue and at any level, however, India is using delaying tactics due to some internal political reasons."

News Story: 24 FM Radios Not Allowed To Broadcast BBC News - "The Nation" (04/28)

"Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) has declined to allow 24 out of 34 FM Radios to broadcast BBC Urdu news, 'The Nation' has learnt reliably."

ECONOMY/ENVIRONMENT

News Story: World Bank Approves New Development Fund: IMF To Release \$1.3 Billion In May, Says Hafeez - "Business Recorder," "Daily Times" (04/28)

"The World Bank will administer a new multi-donor fund, with an initial commitment of \$110 million, from donors for development in border regions of federally administered tribal areas, Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa and Balochistan, Advisor to PM on Finance, Dr. Abdul Hafeez Shaikh said. Wrapping up a series of meetings with top World Bank and International Monetary Fund leaders, he said that the country's program with the IMF remains on track and that the next tranche, of \$1.3 billion, would be forthcoming after the Fund's review meeting scheduled for May 14."

EDITORIALS/OPINIONS

Editorial: Game Plan?, an editorial in the Karachi-based center-left

"According to media reports, South Waziristan is heating up again - and it's because the Pakistani state has still not figured out its game plan in North Waziristan Agency. What exactly is going on in the agency is hard to discern from afar, not least because the area is largely an intelligence 'black hole.' But at least two things are apparent. First, the Pakistan Army must overcome what is suspected to be a case of extreme uncertainty, perhaps even paralysis, in the face of the unfolding American plan in Afghanistan. Seasoned observers of national security believe that the wait-and-see approach of the army high command is allowing the situation in North Waziristan to fester longer than it should be allowed to. The army's

logic appears to be as follows. The Americans have given themselves until the middle of next year to see if Gen. McChrystal can dent the Taliban insurgency before adjusting their game plan accordingly. Pakistan isn't very sure exactly how successful the counter-insurgency will be (indeed, no side is). In this atmosphere of uncertainty, the army is hesitant to act forcefully and emphatically in North Waziristan for fear of stirring up a hornet's nest (the agency has become a hub of militancy that pushes out in all directions)."

Editorial: Thank You CIA!, an editorial in the Islamabad-based rightist English daily "Pakistan Observer" (cir. 5,000) (04/28)

"According to a report by Washington Post, the CIA has magnanimously changed its tactics of killing people through the dreaded drone attacks. It reportedly is using new, smaller missiles and advanced surveillance techniques to 'minimize civilian casualties in its targeted killings of people in Pakistan's tribal areas'. We are thankful to the American intelligence agency for its humane, considerate and caring view of its mission to kill innocent people. Shouldn't this show that ultimately the CIA has started thinking about the woes of the people and has come out with a perfect mechanism for precision killing of terrorists and militants?"

Editorial: Finding Fazlullah, an editorial in the populist, often sensational national English daily "The News" (cir. 55,000) (04/28)

"Recent reports from the Swat area have spoken of targeted killings aimed at eliminating anti-Taliban elements, including those who raised a 'Lashkar' against them. It is significant too that despite the announcement of a significant sum in head-money for key Taliban figures that include Fazlullah, they have not been given away. If indeed the militant leader is present in the area, as his spokesman has indicated, there must be people who are aware of his whereabouts. Their unwillingness to give him - or other wanted men -



away indicates that the terror of the Taliban remains in place. This is an ominous sign. The authorities need the support of people to vanquish militants. This can come only if dread disappears."

Editorial: Backdoor Diplomacy?, an editorial in the center-right national English daily "The Nation" (cir. 20,000) (04/28)

"There are very strong apprehensions in the public mind that the equanimity with which the present political set-up has been continuing with the status quo on Kashmir, while the Indian security forces are relentlessly committing human rights abuses there, and accepting India's blatant theft of Pakistan's share of water, suggests that the government might have struck a secret, sell-out deal with the Indians or might be in the process of doing so. What the leaders fail to realize is that any solution that does not respond to the aspirations of the people of Kashmir and, of course, of Pakistan would have no lasting value. Not only that. It would be unjust to the people of the occupied state and contrary to the legitimate interests of Pakistan. It would stand no chance at all of bringing peace to the troubled subcontinent and would be, in fact, a recipe for greater discontent and conflicts. Only open diplomacy is the need of the hour."

Editorial: Back Channel Diplomacy: PM's Wishful Thinking And Indian Designs, an editorial in the second-largest, nationalist Urdu daily "Nawa-i-Waqt" (cir. 150,000) (04/28)

"When India does not want to talk with us on Kashmir dispute and it did not let Kashmir come on the SAARC agenda then what would be the purpose of Prime Minister Gilani's meeting with his counterpart Singh.... If India does not want to talk about Kashmir dispute on any international and regional forum then Pakistan should use the language of force."

Editorial: SAARC Summit, an editorial in the country's premier business newspaper, "Business Recorder" (cir. 25,000) (04/28)

"One of the vital issues in the region is that of water, which is the lifeblood of these countries, where hundreds of millions of people depend on agriculture. Among the long-term problems is the climate change and its devastating impact on South Asia in the coming decades.... The Plan, however, continues to gather dust and nothing has been done to implement it. A number of short-term actions that are needed to be undertaken, have also been ignored. There is a perception among smaller countries that the organisation

has failed to become active, like other regional bodies, on account of the unending differences between two of its major members, India and Pakistan. There is a need, under the circumstances, for both India and Pakistan to realize the urgency of the situation and

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restart the Composite Dialogue aimed at resolving major disputes....  
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Indian leadership has to realize that delay in talks with Pakistan  
would harm not only the two neighboring countries, but also the  
entire region."

Opinion: Our Rulers' Deep-Seated Malaise, an op-ed by Shireen M.  
Mazari in the center-right national English daily "The Nation" (cir.  
20,000) (04/28)

"Moving forward to the so-called strategic dialogue, despite Foreign  
Minister Qureshi's spin, in terms of substantive matters, there was  
not much that Pakistan gained - apart from the usual promises to add  
to the unfulfilled ones of the past. Even the access to U.S. markets  
has not actually happened. As for any access to nuclear energy on  
the style of the Indo-U.S. agreement, for the umpteenth time we were  
told a categorical 'No' but shamelessly our leaders continue to  
bleat on that count. In contrast, the U.S. managed to get what it  
was seeking from us once again unilaterally.... So clearly we have  
made neither any strategic achievements nor gained any tactical  
advantage from the present subservient relationship with the U.S.  
All that has happened is that the U.S. has gained an incredible  
access into Pakistan, including in our civil society. Money is  
pouring in, to purchase segments of all groups in Pakistan, from  
students to scholars to media point persons including film makers -  
the leadership already loyal beyond doubt. Is there any check or  
regulation at all on this growing U.S. intrusion into Pakistan? But  
this present passion for the U.S. amongst our ruling elite is merely  
a symptom of a far larger disease. As a very wise scholar remarked:  
'our leaders are unable to deal on an equal level with people, so  
they are uncomfortable dealing with non-westerners, because they  
have not been able to rid themselves of a colonized mindset which  
provides them with a comfort level when dealing with Westerners.'  
Therein lies our problem today as it lay yesterday and the day  
before."

Opinion: Background Of War On Terror And Our Line Of Action, an  
op-ed by Jamaat-i-Islami Ameer, Syed Munawwar Hassan, in the popular  
rightist Urdu-language daily "Ausaf" (cir. 10,000) (04/28)

"The United States and its allies have imposed a full-scale war on  
the Muslim world because the Muslims refuse to accept the new global  
order and the dominance of the western civilization. Despite the  
machinations of the puppet rulers of the Muslim countries, dozens of  
the movements are working to mould their societies according to the  
teachings of Islam. Hence hectic efforts are underway to get rid of  
the activists of these organizations, and create an atmosphere in  
these countries under which the secularism can flourish there."

Opinion: Let Them Know, an op-ed by Tayyab Siddiqui in the populist,  
often sensational national English daily "The News" (cir. 55,000)

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"Pakistan's involvement in the war on terror as a front-line state has, over the last eight years, played havoc with its economy which was already in a bad shape due to many factors including the Afghan war and the resultant influx of three million Afghan refugees. It had to bear, yet again, an awful burden. The war has cost Pakistan enormously and will have far-reaching consequences on its political and strategic future. The tragic part of the whole exercise is that neither the people of Pakistan have been taken into confidence with regard to the range and extent of their country's involvement in the war or the consequences thereof, nor the international community has been briefed on the magnitude of Pakistan's suffering.... Also, much hype was created about the strategic dialogue but regrettably none of Pakistan's request was given any tangible response except for announcing \$125 million for the energy sector. Pakistan must make it clear to the world in general, and to the U.S. and the European Union in particular, that it will continue its cooperation in fighting terrorism only if it is provided full international support on various fronts including the economic front. So far the government has failed miserably in letting the international community know the enormous price Pakistan has been paying to make the region terrorism-free and to promote global peace and security. If terrorism is a threat to world peace and security, as indeed it is, other countries must also come forward and take the strain in order to eradicate the menace of terrorism from this world."

Opinion: Obama Must Decide Whether To Talk To The Taliban, an op-ed by Ahmed Rashid in the Lahore-based liberal English language daily "Daily Times" (cir. 10,000) (04/28)

"Before President Hamid Karzai arrives in Washington next month, President Obama has to make clear key decisions on the course of war and peacemaking in Afghanistan. Neighboring countries and most Afghans believe that the endgame has begun for a post-U.S. Afghanistan. There are just 14 months for the U.S. military surge to show results while Washington simultaneously prepares to begin its July 2011 troop withdrawal and handover to the Afghan government. Already, efforts to jockey for future control of Afghanistan have been seen among Pakistan, India, Iran and even Russia. Several NATO countries eager to withdraw forces are frustrated. It is clear in the region that someone will have to mediate with the Taliban, but in the absence of U.S. leadership, a tug of war is taking place over who will do it, when, how and where.... The region and NATO countries are eager to hear from Washington on dealing with the Taliban. A U.S. decision is needed before regional tensions further escalate. The Obama administration must signal greater clarity about talking to the Taliban if the United States and NATO are to help the Afghans structure any future dialogue with the Taliban and if Afghans are not to feel abandoned once again to the whims of their

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Opinion" From War To Peace With Taliban, an op-ed by Hamid Alvi in the center-right national English daily "The Nation" (cir. 20,000) (04/28)

"The Pak-U.S. alliance has failed to have any positive impact on mutual military cooperation, economic development and on civil-nuclear agreement. The reason is that the U.S. keeps treating Pakistan as an errand boy, a role we have failed to question. The Pakistani Diaspora in the U.S. has been is regularly discriminated against. Failure to completely eliminate Taliban as President Bush had desired, has now forced the U.S. to find a negotiated settlement of the conflict. Feelers thrown out have received positive response from various quarters. Even some of the Taliban group such as the one led by Hikmatyar welcomed the possibility of peace talks. However, publicly all such developments were and still being denied. But evidently the main stakeholders are shifting positions from war to peace."

Opinion: War On Terror, Some Food For Thought, an op-ed by Khalid Saleem in the Islamabad-based rightist English daily "Pakistan Observer" (cir. 5,000) (04/28)

"Instead of declaring a unilateral 'war on terror,' it would perhaps have been more in the fitness of things to have created a universal 'coalition against terror'. What has the 'War on Terror' achieved this far? How many terrorists have been put out of business and how many fresh ones has the 'war' spawned? And what of the countless innocents cut down as 'collateral damage?' The only thing that the 'war on terror' has wrought is to give open license to fiefdoms around the world to fulfill their own petty agendas. The resulting tension has had the effect of spawning fresh genres of terrorists. Time may be opportune for the elders of the world to join their heads together to devise an integrated plan to tackle the root cause of terrorism. If this course were to be followed, the elders may well come to the conclusion that the remedy lies not in a 'war on terror' but rather on a course of conciliation. War against an unseen and unknown enemy can only lead to a blind alley. Let us not delude ourselves. The path that the powers that be have chosen might well be the very one the terrorists want them to adopt. The elders of the world have the duty to pause and ponder over what has gone wrong with the world all of a sudden. Why have all the right thinking people on earth lost their power of eloquence? Are we not concerned about the legacy that we will bequeath to our children? Surely the coming generations deserve better!"

Opinion: No Roadmap To Arrest Violence, an op-ed by Asif Haroon Raja in the Islamabad-based rightist English daily "Pakistan Observer" (cir. 5,000) (04/28)

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"When the U.S. decided to invade Afghanistan in October 2001, both Afghanistan and Pakistan were on very friendly terms. For the first time in Pakistan's history its western border had become safe. Within Pakistan, FATA and Balochistan were peaceful and people of the two regions were as patriotic as of any other region.... War on terror coined by George W. Bush led neo cons was neither Afghanistan nor Pakistan's war but U.S. war. It was started by the U.S. not to

eliminate or curb terrorism but to achieve mercantile and strategic interests. A huge intelligence infrastructure near Kabul was built in late 2001 to carryout covert operations against Pakistan, Iran, China, Russia and Central Asian States.... Notwithstanding the treacherous role of our detractors, major part of blame fall on the shoulders of our rulers who readily get lured for personal gains and fall into the trap. The civil society, security forces and the country as a whole are going through hell owing to myopic and self-seeking policies of our leaders who have no sense of making distinction between friend and foe.... Eight years have lapsed since Pakistan was pushed into the pool of terrorism, but we are still swimming against rough tides to stay afloat, not knowing when we will touch the shore. Well knowing that use of force will aggravate rather than solve the problem of extremism and terrorism, our rulers continue to rely on the instrument of force and feel satisfied with tactical battles won by the Army at a very high price. No road map has so far been made how to put an end to cycle of violence. Tactical victories provide temporary relief only but by no means cure the disease. Till such time root causes of terrorism are not addressed through wholesome socio-politico-economic package and foreign support to terrorists dry up, scourge of terrorism will not get cured."

Opinion: The Naivety About Nukes, an op-ed by ELF Habib in the Lahore-based liberal English language daily "Daily Times" (cir. 10,000) (04/28)

"The futility of nuclear weapons in settling ethnic, sectarian, ideological strife or inter-state or regional belligerencies is also equally evident. Israel, according to various reports, is known to have acquired about one hundred nuclear devices, while the Arabs who are challenging its existence and policies, have none. Yet Israel has not been able to extort peace or recognition for its existence and has been forced to live under a perpetual threat to the safety and routine of its citizens. India, similarly, despite its nuclear might, has not been able to swamp the struggle for freedom in Kashmir or in other turbulent regions. Likewise, nukes have not helped Pakistan to manage a pliable Indian stance on Kashmir or to stem the tide of terrorism, fend off fissiparous tendencies, avert Kargil or the standoff at Siachin. World leaders, not the nuclear mascot, had to intervene to cool off the post-Mumbai mordant Indian

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mo0d. Our nuclear weapons, thus, rather than being a protective shield for the nation, have become a liability and ruffled a global concern and speculation in the ambient matrix of terrorism. The inefficacy of nuclear weapons as a deterrent against regional tensions is made worse when viewed against the colossal health, socio-economic and ecological hazards inherent in their manufacturing, movement, maintenance, storage and detonation. The horrors of death, disease, destruction and suppurating social scars wrought by the Hiroshima and Nagasaki strikes have now been fairly well documented."

(All circulation figures are based on estimation)

Patterson

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