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 TAGS: KMDR, KPAO, OIIP, OPRC, PGOV, PREL, PK  
 SUBJECT: PAKISTAN MEDIA REACTION: JUNE 11, 2010

Summary: The coverage of the Supreme Court's hearing of cases against the 18th Constitutional Amendment and the National Reconciliation Ordinance (NRO) review petition dominated headlines in all major newspapers on Friday morning. The second round of the U.S.-Pakistan Strategic Dialogue in Islamabad remained a dominant theme in both electronic and print news stories. Newspapers reported that the United States and Pakistan have agreed "to bridge the trust deficit." "The Nation," in a front-page article, claimed the "U.S. fails to address Pakistan's concern about India." Pakistan's Foreign Office Spokesman Abdul Basit's remarks that "the UN sanctions would not affect the \$7.6 billion Iran-Pakistan gas

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

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pipeline project" were carried in several newspapers. The Amnesty International's latest report, which stated that "nearly four million Pakistanis live under Taliban rule in the tribal belt, where they suffer human rights abuses from both militants and the army," received extensive coverage. Reports that a Pakistani-American has been sentenced to 15 years in prison on charges of helping an Al Qaeda conduit while living in London in 2004 also received prominent coverage. A bomb blast in Karachi that killed a Pakistan Naval Policeman also made headlines. According to media reports, "Lashkar-e-Balochistan," a nationalist radical Baloch group, claimed responsibility for the explosion in Karachi. A suspected U.S. drone strike in North Waziristan that reportedly killed three people was also covered in all dailies.

All newspapers wrote editorial comments on the latest UN sanctions on Iran. In its editorial titled, "More sanctions," "Dawn" wrote "President Obama will lose the goodwill of many," and "the American move is being seen as having come as a result of pressure from the Israel lobby and the big arms manufacturers who want to see Iran defanged." "Daily Times," in its article "Sanctions on Iran," noted that "It was hoped that the Obama administration would approach the Iran issue differently than his predecessor and send out a message of reconciliation, rather than confrontation, to the world. The UN Security Council Resolution has belied all those hopes." "The Nation," in the editorial "Targeting Muslim Iran," observed that "In fact the U.S. approach towards Iran accentuates the anti-Muslim-state bias underlying U.S. and EU nuclear policies." The mass-circulated Urdu daily, "Jang," in its opinion piece titled "Pak-Iran Gas Pipeline Project May Also Be Affected," argued "The new sanctions imposed on Tehran will also affect the recently-signed Pak-Iran Gas Pipeline project. Under the new circumstances, no international donor agency will be ready to give loans to Pakistan to complete this project." End Summary.

#### TOP STORIES

News Story: Parliament Should Have Debated 18th Amendment: CJ -  
"The News" (06/11)

"The Chief Justice of Pakistan, Justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry, on Thursday observed that the judiciary should not be entangled in politics as its primary function is to interpret the Constitution, not to be adrift in politics. A 17-member larger bench of the apex court, headed by Chief Justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry, was hearing identical petitions, challenging various provisions of the 18th Amendment.

News Story: Implementation of NRO Verdict; SC Summons Acting Law Secretary - "Daily Times" (06/11)

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"A five-member larger bench of the ~~UNCLASSIFIED~~ Thursday summoned the acting law secretary for appearance today (Friday) to present the summary sent to the Prime Minister regarding the implementation on the verdict on the National Reconciliation Ordinance (NRO) 2007."

News Story: Pakistan, U.S. Agree To Bridge 'Trust Deficit' - "Daily Times" (06/11)

"Pakistan and the United States have stepped forward, under the strategic dialogue, to overcome the 'trust deficit' between the two countries, U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary on Defence for Afghanistan, Pakistan and Central Asia David Samuel Sedney said on Thursday. 'We are improving our big trust deficit and we have discussion on military-to-military relationship and other areas,' Sedney said during a roundtable discussion at the residence of the U.S. Ambassador in Islamabad."

News Story: U.S. Fails To Address Pak Concerns About India - "The Nation" (06/11)

"The U.S. high-level defence team, which concluded its four-day talks with Pakistani counterparts on Thursday, is understood to have failed in addressing Islamabad's specific concerns relating regional security especially Indian efforts to destabilize Pakistan by using Afghan soil. However, the U.S. defence team headed by David Ochmanek, U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defence for Force Development, and David Sedney, U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defence for Afghanistan, Pakistan and Central Asia, has assured to consider Pakistan's defence and military needs in countering terrorism. Well-placed sources informed 'The Nation' that U.S. team was reluctant to share its views whenever Pakistan's team led by Lt. Gen. (Retd) Athar Ali, Pakistan's Secretary of Defence, tried to highlight unabated Indian destabilizing efforts against Pakistan as one of the most serious challenges to Pakistan's national security."

News Story: Military Aid To Be Used Only For Defence, U.S. Told - "Dawn" (06/11)

"Pakistan has assured the United States that military aid given to it would be used only for defence purposes. 'In our talks today and a number of other discussions we had with Pakistani leaders, both civilian and military, the Pakistani government has assured us that the (military) assistance that the U'S' has provided would be used solely for defence purposes,' senior U.S. defence official David Sedney told reporters after a four-day bilateral talks held under the banner of Strategic Dialogue."

News Story: U.S. Provided \$1.3 Billion To Pakistan Under CSF -

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"United States provided \$1.3 billion to Pakistan on account of Coalition Support Fund (CFS) and the process is being streamlined to ensure timely reimbursement. This was stated by the visiting U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary for Afghanistan, Pakistan and Central Asia, David Samuel Sedney and Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defence for Forces Development, David A Ochmanek, here on Thursday on conclusion of their four days follow up visit on the strategic dialogue to discuss modalities for enhancing co-operation in defence."

News Story: Pakistan, U.S. Officials Review Defence Cooperation - "The News," "Jang," "Nawa-i-Waqt," "Express," "Khabrain," "Ausaf," "Jinnah," "Pakistan," "Aak-Kal" (06/11)

"Pakistani and the United States defence officials met from June 7-10 at Pakistan's Joint Staff Headquarters in Rawalpindi to discuss issues of common interest under the rubric of the strategic dialogue process. The Pakistan side was led by Lt. Gen. Athar Ali (Retd), Pakistan's Secretary of Defence, and the U.S. side was co-chaired by Mr. David Ochmanek, U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defence for Force Development; and Mr. David Sedney, U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defence for Afghanistan, Pakistan and Central Asia. Both sides were assisted by officers from relevant departments and ministries, says a press release issued by the U.S. Embassy on Thursday."

News Story: U.S. Doubles Training Aid For Pak Troops - "The Post" (06/11)

"U.S. announcing to double the training aid for the Pakistani troops has assured that all defense and military needs of the armed forces would be fulfilled however it would take time to remove the trust deficit between the two countries. These views were expressed by U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Force Development David Ochmanek and U.S. Deputy Asst Secretary of Defense for Afghanistan Pakistan and Central Asia David Samuel Sedney while talking to a group of senior journalists here at the U.S. Embassy at the conclusion of four days defense working group."

News Story: UN Curbs Won't Hit Iran Gasline: FO - "The News" (06/11)

"Replying to a question regarding UN Security Council's sanctions on Iran, the spokesman at the Foreign Office told the weekly media briefing that Pakistan had always called for a negotiated settlement of the issues including Iran's nuclear program. However, he made it very clear that UN sanctions on Iran would not affect IPI gas project. 'As far as our IPI gas project is concerned, it is a

commercial agreement to meet our energy needs and beyond the

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purview of this resolution,' he added.

News Story: Four Million Pakistanis Under Taliban Rule: Amnesty -  
"The News" (06/11)

"The Amnesty International (AI) said on Thursday that nearly four million people were effectively living under the Taliban rule in Fata and had been abandoned by the government. The 130-page report, entitled 'As if Hell Fell on Me: The Human Rights Crisis in Northwest Pakistan,' saw the government pledge improvements."

News Story: Pakistani-American Gets 15 Years In Jail - "Dawn"  
(06/11)

"An American citizen of Pakistani origin was sentenced to 15 years in prison on Wednesday for helping an Al Qaeda conduit while living in London in 2004. U.S. District Judge Loretta Preska in Manhattan sentenced Syed Hashmi to 180 months in prison to be followed by three years supervised release."

News Story: Blast Near Naval Base Kills 1, Injures 3 - "Daily Times"  
(06/11)

"A Pakistan Naval Police official was killed and three others injured when a bomb exploded at the main gate of the naval base on Hub River Road in Baldia Town on Thursday morning. According to sources, the Lashkar-e-Balochistan, linked with the Balochistan Liberation Army, has claimed responsibility of the attack."

News Story: Three Killed In Drone Attack - "Dawn" (06/11)

"Three people were killed when a suspected U.S. drone attacked a house in Eidek area of North Waziristan on Thursday. Sources said the people killed in the missile attack were standing near the house. Their names and nationalities could not be ascertained."

#### TERRORISM/MILITARY ISSUES

News Story: U.S. Drone Strikes Kill 14 Militants In North Waziristan  
- "Dawn" (06/11)

"US drone attacks killed at least 14 militants and destroyed hideouts in Pakistan's North Waziristan tribal region, officials said on Friday."

News Story: U.S. Special Forces Triple In Afghanistan: McChrystal -  
"Daily Times" (06/11)

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"General Stanley McChrystal, the Commander of the NATO forces in Afghanistan, on Thursday said that the U.S. special operations forces have nearly tripled in Afghanistan in the past year and have captured or killed 121 Taliban leaders. Talking to reporters in Brussels, General McChrystal said that the special forces - elite, highly-trained units - increasingly work in cooperation with Afghan troops and government authorities were briefed in advance of operations."

News Story: Kandahar Push Will Take Longer Than Planned, NATO Commander Warns - "The Nation" (06/11)

"The American commander of NATO-led forces in Afghanistan said more time was now needed to gain the backing of local people for the biggest operation of the war so far. Commanders have had to lower expectations for a speedy campaign in Kandahar after frustrating progress in neighboring Helmand following February's Operation Moshtarak. Gen. McChrystal also admitted it may be next year before commanders could tell if the Kandahar operation, which is the linchpin of NATO efforts this year, had succeeded. Speaking at a NATO meeting in Brussels, he said: I do think that it will happen more slowly than we had originally intended."

News Story: General Kayani Always In Contact With Pentagon: Daultana - "Daily Times" (06/11)

"Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Ashfaq Pervez Kayani is always in contact with the Pentagon and under these circumstances the country cannot stand on its own feet, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Member of National Assembly (MNA) Tehmina Daultana said on Thursday."

News Story: U.S. Accuses Pak Of Cross-Border Infiltration Into India - "The Nation" (06/11)

"While stating that the U.S. policy on Kashmir has not changed, the United States has urged Pakistan to first show progress in stopping cross-border infiltration into India and the trial of the Mumbai terror attack suspects. In a conversation the other day, Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia Robert Blake said there has been no change in Washington's longstanding policy on Kashmir that the dispute should be resolved through negotiations between India and Pakistan that must take into account the aspirations of the Kashmiri people."

News Story: Karzai Loses Faith In U.S. Strategy, Looking To Pakistan - "Dawn" (06/11)

"President Hamid Karzai has lost faith in the U.S. strategy in

Afghanistan and is increasingly looking to end the insurgency, according to those close to Afghanistan's former head of intelligence services. Amrullah Saleh, who resigned last weekend, believes the president lost confidence some time ago in the ability of NATO forces to defeat the Taliban."

News Story: PM Takes Note Of Attack On NATO Terminal - "Daily Times" (06/11)

"Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani Thursday took serious note of the terrorist attack on a NATO cargo terminal and sought a detailed report from the Interior Ministry. The Prime Minister said the terrorists would not be able to defeat the will and determination of the people who stand committed to eliminate such elements and desire to see a peaceful and progressive Pakistan, a statement from the PM House said."

News Story: NATO Convoy Attacked - "Daily Times" (06/11)

"Unidentified armed men opened fire at a NATO convoy on Thursday near Wadh (Quetta) injuring three people and damaging a car. According to sources, the assailants managed to flee."

News Story: Islamabad Unfazed By Taliban Attack - "Daily Times" (06/11)

"A brazen Taliban attack on NATO supplies near Islamabad indicates the militants' growing confidence, but analysts say improved security in recent months has limited their ability to strike the capital itself. Western allies of Pakistan are concerned about a Taliban insurgency in the northwest, but attacks in Islamabad evoke worries of a return to the violence that drove out many aid workers and diplomats in recent years."

News Story: Pak To Support Afghan Peace Efforts: FO - "Daily Times" (06/11)

"Pakistan on Thursday said that it would continue to support Afghanistan's efforts towards reintegration and reconciliation while the outcome of the peace Jirga should be given due consideration at the Kabul conference, Foreign Office (FO) spokesman Abdul Basit said in a weekly briefing."

News Story: Punjab Won't Allow Military Operation In Province: Sanallah - "Daily Times" (06/11)

"The Punjab government will strongly oppose any 'Rahe-e-Nijat style' military operation against extremists in the province, Punjab Law Minister Rana Sanallah said on Thursday. Talking to reporters at the Punjab Assembly's Press Gallery, the law minister said search

operations of law enforcement agencies underway in the area, and therefore there was no need for a military operation." UNCLASSIFIED

News Story: Reports Reveal Terrorist-Criminal Nexus In City -  
"Daily Times" (06/11)

"Personnel of intelligence agencies have forwarded information that terrorists in Punjab, especially in the provincial capital, have direct links with local criminal networks, sources told 'Daily Times' on Thursday. According to sources, the information claimed that terrorists were aiding criminals in their activities, especially kidnapping for ransom and robberies, in order to generate funds that would eventually help in carrying out terrorist attacks."

News Story: 64 Terrorists, Including Five Commanders, Surrender -  
"Daily Times" (06/11)

"As many as 64 militants, including five commanders, denounced militancy and surrendered to security forces during a Jirga of Mamond tribesmen in Bajaur Agency. Assistant Political Agent of Nawagai Muhammad Jamil Khan and political Tehsildar were also present in the Jirga held in Mamond tehsil."

News Story: Ten Militants Killed in Orakzai Offensive - "Dawn"  
(06/11)

"Pakistani troops backed by helicopter gunships bombed and destroyed several militant hideouts in Orakzai, killing ten militants and wounding eighteen others."

News Story: No Criminal Charge Filed Against Pakistani: U.S. -  
"Daily Times" (06/11)

"A Pakistan national who was arrested in Massachusetts on immigration charges last month as part of the investigation into the attempted bombing in the Times Square is expected to testify before a New York federal grand jury probing the botched May 1 incident, according to media reports."

News Story: Pakistan Govt. Can Bring Aafia Back, Says U.S. Lawyer -  
"The News" (06/11)

"The American lawyer of Dr. Aafia Siddiqui has claimed that if the government of Pakistan decides that it wants Dr. Siddiqui back, she will be repatriated to Pakistan the very next day. The lawyer, Tina Foster, also accused the U.S. government of misleading the people and the government of Pakistan that Dr. Siddiqui could not be repatriated before her sentencing by the court."

News Story: Body Set Up To Deal With Afghan Refugees' Problems -

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"The News" (06/11)

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"The Federal Government has constituted a high powered body/committee at the provincial level to address the problems of the Afghan refugees, 'The News' has learned."

### POLITICAL ISSUES

News Story: Pakistan Offers Mediation To Settle Iran N-Conflict -  
"The News" (06/11)

"As Iran finds itself with very few supporters, and none who have condemned the UN Security Council sanctions, Pakistan on Thursday said it was ready to play a role in seeing the world powers settle 'differences' with Tehran diplomatically, the spokesman at the Foreign Office told the weekly media briefing."

News Story: Pakistan Urges Talks On Iran's Nuclear Issue - "Dawn"  
(06/11)

"Pakistan on Thursday said it favored a negotiated settlement of the dispute over Iran's nuclear program, but avoided denouncing the fourth round of UN sanctions against Tehran, Foreign Office spokesman Abdul Basit said at his weekly press briefing on Thursday."

News Story: Iran Sanctions Good For Obama, Won't Stop Iran - "Daily Times" (06/11)

"The Security Council's approval of a fourth round of UN sanctions on Iran on Wednesday is a key victory for the Obama administration but the steps are unlikely to halt Tehran's nuclear program, David Albright, head of the Washington-based Institute for Science and International Security (ISIS), told Reuters."

News Story: Iran Sanctions Mistake, Deepens Arab Ties: Turkey -  
"Dawn" (06/11)

"Turkey called the imposition of UN sanctions on Iran a 'mistake' on Thursday and said that it and Brazil would continue to seek a diplomatic solution to remove concerns over Iran's nuclear program. In a speech to an Arab and Turkish ministerial forum, Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan also announced plans to form a regional free trade zone with three Arab states - Jordan, Lebanon and Syria."

News Story: PML-N To Support 18th Amendment In SC, Says Nawaz -  
"Daily Times" (06/11)

"Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) Chief Nawaz Sharif said on Thursday that his party would defend the 18th Constitutional

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Amendment in the Supreme Court (SC) UNCLASSIFIED favor the National Reconciliation Order, a private television channel said."

ECONOMY/ENVIRONMENT

News Story: IMF, WB Policies 'To Ruin Pakistan' - "The News" (06/11)

"Terming present economic policies a dictate of international financial institutions, speakers at a protest rally on Thursday said that Pakistan spends around 70 per cent of its budget on defence and debt servicing and was eventually serving the interests of capitalists rather than the working people. They were addressing a large gathering of people from all walks of life who marched through Aabpara Market to protest against the negative impact of recently announced budget on the masses."

News Story: Provinces To Collect CVT On Property: FBR Chief - "The News" (06/11)

"Provinces, not the Federation, will collect the Capital Value Tax (CVT) in future. Withholding tax will be imposed on cash, and pay order/draft. Imposition of Value Added Tax (VAT) with the consent of provinces is expected from 1st of October. These views were expressed by Chairman Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) Sohail Ahmad in a special interview with The News the other day."

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Editorials/Op-eds  
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Editorial: More Sanctions, an editorial in the Karachi-based center-left independent national English daily "Dawn" (cir. 55,000) (06/11)

"The fourth round of sanctions imposed by the UN Security Council on Iran on Wednesday is bound to trigger a new Tehran-centered nuclear crisis.... Given Iran's hard-line stance it is unlikely that the new sanctions will achieve their goal of making Tehran suspend uranium enrichment. What is worse is that the polarization in the world community is bound to intensify, with many countries viewing Iran as a means to address their energy concerns.... The only way of pre-empting Iran's acquisition of nuclear weapons - that is if that intention indeed exists - is to engage with Tehran on the issue of uranium enrichment.... President Obama will lose the goodwill of many.... The American move is being seen as having come as a result of pressure from the Israel lobby and the big arms manufacturers who want to see Iran defanged. But caught in a dilemma - China and Russia do not see eye to eye with America - President Obama needs to do some clear thinking on Iran. Meanwhile, Iran would do well to

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assuage the fears of many countries regarding its nuclear ambitions by being more transparent about its atomic program."

Editorial: Sanctions on Iran, an editorial in the Lahore-based liberal English language daily "Daily Times" (cir. 10,000) (06/11)

"Nuclear proliferation is indeed a source of concern. However, various manifestations of U.S. aggression in different parts of the world, particularly Iraq, since the fall of the Soviet Union, has convinced smaller nations that conventional military capability is no guarantee to security. It was hoped that the Obama administration would approach the Iran issue differently than his predecessor and send out a message of reconciliation, rather than confrontation, to the world. The UN Security Council Resolution has belied all those hopes."

Editorial: Targeting Muslim Iran, an editorial in the center-right national English daily "The Nation" (cir. 20,000) (06/11)

"As for the U.S., it is hardly in a position to enforce nonproliferation, after its nuclear deal with India which directly accelerates India's nuclear weapons capabilities. In fact the U.S. approach towards Iran accentuates the anti-Muslim-state bias underlying U.S. and EU nuclear policies. Clearly, like the earlier sanctions, these will also not work. However, it is time Muslim states like Pakistan made their opposition to such discriminatory

sanctions clear. Surely it cannot go along with an approach that sanctifies India and Israel's nuclear programs, but seeks to deny Muslim states the right even to gain self-sufficiency in the peaceful nuclear fuel cycle."

Editorial: Pak-Iran Gas Pipeline Project May Also Be Affected, an editorial in the leading mass circulation populist, often sensational Urdu daily "Jang" (cir. 300,000) (06/11)

"The new sanctions imposed on Tehran will also affect the recently-signed Pak-Iran Gas Pipeline project. Under the new circumstances, no international donor agency will be ready to give loans to Pakistan to complete this project. It means that we must get prepared to face a more severe energy crisis in the country. However, a recent offer by the U.S. to help Pakistan to exploit alternative resources to resolve the energy crisis. We think that the U.S. cooperation in the form of civil nuclear deal with Pakistan can help reduce our difficulties."

Editorial: New UN Sanctions On Iran: Muslim Ummah Should Unite And Support Iran, an editorial in the second-largest, nationalist Urdu daily "Nawa-i-Waqt" (cir. 150,000) (06/11)

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"All Muslim countries should strongly support the sanctions on Iran and stand by the country. The Muslim countries should also compensate the possible loss the sanctions would inflict on Iran. If Pakistan and Iran are not given loans by IFIs for Pak-Iran gas pipeline project due to the sanctions than the project should be completed with the mutual cooperation of all the Muslim countries."

Editorial: New Sanctions on Iran, an editorial in the center-right Urdu daily "Pakistan" (cir. 10,000) (06/11)

"America should hold talks with Iran. American President rightly said that the doors for talks are not closed. However, the sanctions have created such difficulties that the talks seem elusive. Iran should also adopt reconciliatory attitude towards international community. If Iran is enriching uranium for peaceful purposes then it should facilitate IAEA inspection of its nuclear installations."

Editorial: Sanctions On Iran: Another Evidence Of U.S. Aggression, an editorial in the Lahore-based populist center-right Urdu daily "Khabrain" (cir. 50,000) (06/11)

"The circumstances have proved that UN is an auxiliary organization of the U.S. administration, the sanctions on Iran being the reflection of the U.S. policy.... One reason for making Iran heed to America is to not let it compete with Israel.... America should desist from aggression against Islamic countries by using UN."

Editorial: UN Resolution To Increase Sanctions On Iran, an editorial in liberal Urdu daily "Express" (cir. 25,000) (06/11)

"It would have been better if America-Iran issues were resolved through dialogue. In our view the path taken by Turkey and Brazil should have been the way to resolve the conflict.... The Foreign Officer has given an encouraging statement that the sanctions would not impact Pak-Iran gas pipeline project."

Editorial: Balancing Iran, an editorial in the populist, often sensational national English daily "The News" (cir. 55,000) (06/11)

"Historically, sanctions against Iran have not worked and have mostly served to heighten the sense of grievance felt by Iranians and their supporters. There is no reason to think that the new sanctions are going to be any more effective than the last round. The Iranian sense of isolation will increase and the polarities of politics between it and its neighbors and enemies will widen.... It is hard to accuse the Iranians of paranoia when there is abundant evidence that their fears are grounded in reality. Against this are

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concerns about nuclear proliferation and stopping a nuclear arms race in the Middle East - a not-impossible scenario if Iran were successful in obtaining a nuclear weapon."

Editorial: Iran Has Capacity To Resist, an editorial in the Islamabad-based rightist English daily "Pakistan Observer" (cir. 5,000) (06/11)

"We are of the opinion that slapping of punitive sanctions after sanctions amount to pushing Iran to the wall and that is why President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad rejected the new move saying that these should be thrown in the dustbin. He also indicated that Iranian nuclear program, which the country says is peaceful, would continue, meaning thereby that tensions would mount in the months to come. This reaffirms Iranian resolve to resist undue foreign pressure that impinges on its national sovereignty. Its people are fully united on the issue and the leadership is facing the challenge with strong nerves.... We believe that it is not era of sanctions and embargoes, rather issues should be resolved through discussions and dialogue and the United States should discard the much-tried but ineffective weapon of sanctions as these cannot browbeat a nation that is fully resolved to protect its interests."

Editorial: Iran Sanctions, an editorial in the Lahore-based liberal English daily "The Post" (cir. 5,000) (06/11)

"The sanctions against Iran make little sense when no such action is being taken against Israel, which has its own secret nuclear arms program. The sanctions, by damaging the Iranian economy, will inflame the Iranian public opinion and anti-Americanism will further grow. If the West is serious about stopping the nuclear race in the region, first of all, open-ended support to Israel has to be abandoned and its atomic program brought under international regime. Israel is wreaking havoc on innocent lives of Palestinians, Lebanese and others and is the biggest threat to the security of the region."

Editorial: UN Sanctions on Iran, an editorial in the Peshawar-based, independent regional daily "The Frontier Post" (cir. 7,000) (06/11)

"At long last the United States has succeeded in manipulating the UN Security Council to clamp down on Iran a fourth round of sanctions that it and its western sidekicks were arrogantly hungering for bloodthirstily. And instantly has gone to town President Barack Obama, yelling that it is an 'unmistakable message' of the international community to the Islamic Republic. He is wrong. It is a message of not the international community but of a select league of certain western powers headed by the United States.... And regardless of what truly is its nuclear pursuit's nature, they want a complete surrender of Iran to them on the issue, which probably is

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hard to come by as the Iranian program carries public support and commitment that cuts across their entire national spectrum."

Editorial: West Must Avoid Opening New Fronts, lead editorial in the leading mass circulation populist, often sensational Urdu daily "Jang" (cir. 300,000) (06/11)

"The entire world was expecting that U.S., the western countries, and the UN would take some concrete steps against Israel for its aggressive and inhuman attitude towards the Palestinian people, the blockade of the Gaza Strip, and threatening the neighboring states. But, instead of holding Tel Aviv accountable for its highhandedness, the western powers have succeeded in building a consensus at the UN forum to impose more sanctions on Iran, which are a clear demonstration of west's double standards in dealing with the Muslim world and Israel. Iran is our brotherly Muslim country, therefore the government needs to devise a strategy to activate the Organization of the Muslim Countries (OIC) so that it can be made clear on the U.S. and other western powers that dialogue is the only and the best option to reduce tension with Tehran."

Editorial: A Dangerous Move, an editorial in the center-right national English daily "The Nation" (cir. 20,000) (06/11)

"The Foreign Minister's statement that a military operation in North Waziristan is the government's next priority only confirms political circles' apprehensions that weak and subservient to the U.S. as the present ruling classes are, they do not have the guts to ward off its pressure for long. That has been the practice in the past: first, timid attempts at refusal, seasoned with observations like 'peaceful means would prove more lasting', 'time is not ripe,' and in the case of North Waziristan, 'the army is yet in the process of consolidating its position in South Waziristan', and now Mr. Qureshi has plainly stated that North is 'the next priority.' Soon the army will be marching into a dangerous territory as he said, the army was moving towards an offensive in North Waziristan in a "calculated fashion". Sadly, the government has failed to learn from experience.... We must warn the authorities against expanding the operation into North Waziristan. It would be a dangerous escalation,

in every sense, not just in the sense of casualties the army would suffer. Dangerous also because of the tricky terrain and the loss of life of our nationals and its consequences. The road to lasting peace lies in peaceful means."

Editorial: Taliban Down NATO Copter, an editorial in the Islamabad-based rightist English daily "Pakistan Observer" (cir. 5,000) (06/11)

"Taliban shot down a NATO helicopter in southern Afghanistan on

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Wednesday killing four U.S. soldiers in escalating conflict so far this week.... These developments amply demonstrated that with the passage of time Taliban are gaining strength and also securing backing of local population in their bid to drive out the occupation forces from the motherland.... Taliban seem to be fully organized and have the means to acquire necessary weapons to fight back foreign troops that have every imaginable weapon and gadgetry at their disposal. Apart from supply of weapons and material from unknown sources, Taliban also get hold of NATO supplies, snatching arms and ammunition, communication equipment and food items. Local population also provides them necessary support to carry forward their mission and at times even Afghan soldiers sell their weapons to them. Under these conditions, the planned assault on Kandahar is unlikely to achieve its objective sans killing of innocent people and increase in the sufferings of the local inhabitants."

Editorial: Targeting NATO, an editorial in the Lahore-based liberal English daily "The Post" (cir. 5,000) (06/11)

"The assault underscores the need for more coordinated action to smash the network of terrorist cells still active in various parts of the country. The only way peace can prevail in this region is if the Taliban are rooted out completely. The Taliban activities in Pakistan pose a serious threat to Pakistan's security. The attack on NATO trucks should alert the government for more tough steps against the militants."

Opinion: Death From the Sky, an op-ed by Dr. Muzaffar Iqbal in the populist, often sensational national English daily "The News" (cir. 55,000) (06/11)

"This rekindled interest in looking into the legality of drone attacks raises certain fundamental issues for the governments of Pakistan and Afghanistan as well as all the political players in these two countries. By closing their eyes to the flagrant violation of their air space, these two governments are committed a crime against their own people.... Would it not be in the interest of the people of Pakistan as well as for the international legal community, to really hold accountable the aggressors in this unending war of terror which violates all international laws?... Death from the sky via drones should not be allowed on any grounds, as it opens horrific possibilities for the world."

Opinion: Anti-TTP Gains Not Consolidated Yet, an op-ed by Jan Assakzai in the Peshawar-based, independent regional daily "The Frontier Post" (cir. 7,000) (06/11)

"The Army operations in Swat, Malakand, South Waziristan and Orakzai seem to have weakened the TTP. With the Army hot on the heels of

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TTP, the incidents of suicide bombings and terrorism have subsided in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. However, it does not suggest the TTP is finished, or its operational ability crippled or it will not attempt to stage a comeback in future.... The army needs to supplement the short-term military operations with the long-term strategy: establishment of effective civilian authority and re-development of the cleared areas."

Opinion: Creating A Common Mindset, an op-ed by Shafqat Mahmood in the populist, often sensational national English daily "The News" (cir. 55,000) (06/11)

"The threshold of perceptions about us keeps getting lower. A US State Department report declares Pakistan the fifth most unstable country in the world. Is it any consolation that Israel is just a notch above us, and India not too far ahead? For once, it is difficult to indulge in our favorite pastime and label this as a Hindu-Jewish conspiracy. The standard-bearers of these religions find a place of dishonor fairly close to us. But should this be a source of satisfaction or a time to reflect and look within?"

(All circulation figures are based on estimation)  
Feierstein

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