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	INL-00	DNI-00	DOTE-00	PDI-00	DS-00	EAP-00	DHSE-00
	EUR-00	OIGO-00	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	UTED-00	VCI-00	DIAS-00
	H-00	TEDE-00	IO-00	LAB-01	ARMY-00	MOFM-00	MOF-00
	M-00	VCIE-00	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
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 NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE
 HQ USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL//CCPA// IMMEDIATE
 JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
 DIA WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
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 HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI

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E.O. 12958: N/A
 TAGS: KMDR, KPAO, OIIP, OPRC, PGOV, PREL, PK
 SUBJECT: PAKISTAN MEDIA REACTION: APRIL 16, 2010

Summary: Coverage of the approval of the 18th Amendment by the Senate, cleansing the constitution of dictatorial infringements, and shifting power from the President to the Prime Minister of Pakistan dominated media on Friday morning. All newspapers highlighted a UN report about the Benazir Bhutto assassination holding the Musharraf administration responsible for not providing adequate security cover to the former Prime Minister. Media reported that the U.S. Treasury Department renewed its ban on two Pakistani charity groups, Al Rashid and Al Akhtar trusts. Newspapers quoted President Obama as saying in an interview with Australian TV that U.S. is making progress in Afghanistan. The issue of Dr. Aafia Siddiqui is back in the news, and the Supreme Court ruled that she is no longer a

missing person as she was convicted UNCLASSIFIED hence no further action is called for in this matter. Foreign Office spokesman's remarks that the "U.S. has assured Pakistan to help us in all possible ways to overcome our energy deficit" received prominent coverage "Daily Times," quoted some pro-government tribesmen as saying that an airstrike on suspected Taliban, which killed civilians, could alienate those the Pak Army needs most in its struggle to stabilize the country. Commenting on the recently concluded Nuclear Security Summit, "The Nation," observed that the "Pakistan government is so mesmerized by the U.S. leadership and its flirtations with individual Pakistani leaders, that it has lost all rationality in dealing with the multiple level threats not only to Pakistan's sovereignty (which has been lost in the drone attacks) but its very existence as an independent state." All TV networks reported Friday morning an explosion at the Civil Hospital in Quetta that left nine people dead, and others critically injured. End Summary.

TOP STORIES

News Story: 18th Amendment Bill Sails Through Senate - "The News" (04/16)

"The Senate on Thursday cleansed the Constitution of the dictatorial distortions by adopting the 18th Amendment with more than two-thirds majority and the epicenter of power would now be shifted from the Presidency to the Prime Minister's House. Though the 18th Amendment Bill got smooth sailing from the Senate, yet some opposition members showed a little resistance on two clauses relating to the renaming of the NWFP as 'Khyber-Pukhtunkhwa' and intra-party polls. But in the end, all their moves to block the bill came to naught."

News Story: Pakistan Also Offers Nuclear Security Skills To World - "Dawn" (04/16)

"In a policy paper presented to leaders from nearly 50 nations, Pakistan offered to share with other states its nuclear security skills, particularly in prevention, detection and response to illicit trafficking. In a similar document, presented at the Washington nuclear security summit, which ended on Tuesday, Pakistan declared that it had acquired advanced nuclear fuel cycle capability and can offer it to the rest of the world under IAEA safeguards."

News Story: UN Blames Musharraf Govt For Benazir Bhutto's Murder - "Dawn" (04/16)

"A three-member United Nations commission investigating the events and circumstances surrounding Benazir Bhutto's assassination has blamed the government of former president Pervez Musharraf for the

murder, saying it failed to provide adequate security cover to the former prime minister. Although no functionary of the former government has been accused of complicity in the murder, the 65-page report has blamed Pervez Musharraf's government, particularly its police and security network of negligence."

TERRORISM/MILITARY ISSUES

News Story: U.S. Renews Ban On Two Pakistani Charity Groups- "Dawn" (04/16)

"The US Department of the Treasury on Thursday renewed its ban on Al Rashid and Al Akhtar trusts. The department had first put the two trusts on its list of Specially Designated Global Terrorists on September 23, 2001, soon after the 9/11 attacks in New York and Virginia."

News Story: Obama Says US Making Progress In Afghanistan - "The News" (04/16)

"President Barack Obama hit back at claims the United States had stalled in Afghanistan and vowed foreign forces would not be needed "in perpetuity", in a rare Australian TV interview aired on Thursday. Obama, speaking to public broadcaster ABC's 7.30 Report in Washington, also backed President Hamid Karzai, dismissing recent controversies. "I would dispute the notion that it's not getting better. I do think that what we've seen is a blunting of the momentum of the Taliban which had been building up in the year prior to me taking office," Obama said."

News Story: Aafia Siddiqui No Longer A Missing Person: SC - "The News" (04/16)

"The Supreme Court on Thursday ruled that Dr Aafia Siddiqui was no longer a missing person as she was convicted by a US Court. Hence no further action is called for in the matter, the court ruled in its order after her counsel Hashmat Habib had requested the court to direct the government to take up the Aafia issue with the US government. A three-member bench of the apex court headed by Justice Javed Iqbal was hearing petitions of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) and former Pakistan People's Party Senator Farhatullah Babar and many other individual complaints, filed by the relatives of missing persons."

News Story: Civilian Deaths Hurt Pakistan Army's Anti-Taliban Campaign - "Daily Times" (04/16)

"An airstrike on suspected Taliban, which killed civilians in a village, could alienate those army needs most in its struggle to stabilize the country - pro-government tribesmen. . . . Villagers

and local government officials said ~~UNCLASSIFIED~~ killed. The military initially denied civilian deaths in strike but later admitted the strikes killed 30 terrorists and then another assault killed up to 20 civilians who had gathered afterwards at the site and were mistaken for Taliban fighters."

News Story: Lashkar-E-Islam Ready For Talks With Govt- "The Nation" (04/16)

"Banned militant group Lashkar-e-Islam agreed on Thursday to hold talks with government after a nine-month silence. The group's spokesman Zarr Khan appealed to the government to stop the ongoing military operation in Bara tribal region and said the group is willing to hold talks. Speaking from an unknown location, Khan told a private TV channel that Lashkar-e-Islam has not challenged the writ of the govt and should therefore not be attacked by the military."

POLITICAL ISSUES

News Story: NWFP Officially Renamed As Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa- "Dawn" (04/16)

"Pakistan's North West Frontier Province was officially renamed as Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa on Thursday. After getting the National Assembly's nod of approval earlier this week, the bill has now been passed by the Senate. Eighty senators voted in favor of the new name, while just 12 opposed it. An amendment which had been moved by the PML-Q against the province's renaming was rejected by the upper house."

News Story: President Greeted Nation - "The News" (04/16)

"President Asif Ali Zardari on Thursday felicitated parliament, the political parties and the nation on the occasion of the passage of the 18th Constitutional Amendment Bill, 2010, in both the Houses of parliament on Thursday. Spokesman for the President Farhatullah Babar said the president in a message said history would remember the current political leadership of the country in golden words for demonstrating extraordinary political unity in restoring the 1973 Constitution."

News Story: It's Time To Deliver: PM- "Daily Times" (04/16)

"Amid praises over the passage of the 18th Amendment Bill in the Senate, Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani said on Thursday his government will now focus on resolving the 'real issues' confronting the people, and promised he would deliver to the best of his abilities. Addressing the lawmakers from the floor of the Upper House that unanimously passed the 18th Amendment, Gilani asked the

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chairman of the constitutional reforms committee, Raza Rabbani, to head a 'cell' to formulate a mechanism for the implementation of 18th Amendment and the Balochistan package."

News Story: Normality Returns To Hazara- "Dawn" (04/16)

"After several days of violent protests against the renaming of the NWFP as Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, there was calm in most Hazara areas on Thursday. In Abbottabad, business activities resumed and shops reopened. Trucks loaded with fruit and vegetable reached markets after six days."

News Story: Gilani-Singh Meeting In Bhutan Not Yet Planned' - "The News" (04/16)

"Hopes have once again arisen that Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani and his Indian counterpart, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, could meet on the sidelines of the Saarc summit in Bhutan at the end of this month. . . . The issue was raised at the weekly media briefing at the Foreign Office, where the spokesman said: "As far as a formal meeting in Bhutan is concerned, it has not yet been pencilled in. Nevertheless, given that our road map also provided for a summit meeting in Bhutan, we look forward to a meaningful engagement with India. Let me also underline that engaging in meaningful and result-oriented talks is in our mutual interest and in the interest of the region. It is not a favor by Pakistan to India or vice versa."

ECONOMY/ENVIRONMENT

News Story: US To Help Pakistan Overcome Energy Crisis, Says FO - "Daily Times" (04/16)

"The US has assured Pakistan of helping it in every possible way to overcome the energy deficit and the two countries would be working closely on this issue in the near future, Foreign Office Spokesman Abdul Basit said on Thursday while addressing a weekly briefing at his office."

News Story: IMF Assured Of Steps To Control Expenditure- "Dawn" (04/16)

"The government has assured the International Monetary Fund that it will introduce a number of administrative measures to improve tax collection and control expenditure. Sources said the government had conceded during recent talks with the IMF there were fears that both tax and non-tax revenues could be lower than expected, but it planned to take steps for eliminating the possibility."

News Story: IMF To Release Fifth Tranche Assurance From WB,
ADB - "The News" (04/16)

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"The IMF has linked the release of the fifth tranche worth \$1.2 billion under the Standby Arrangement (SBA) program for Pakistan with the issuance of Letter of Comfort (LoC) from the World Bank (WB) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in which both lending institutions will have to express 'satisfaction' over Islamabad's commitment for abiding by its agreed steps for tackling the lingering controversy over power differential subsidy as well as the monster of circular debt."

EDITORIALS/OPINIONS

Editorial: Sidelineing The Pak State, an editorial in the center-right national English daily "The Nation" (cir. 20,000) (04/16)

"First there was news that the US is upping its military involvement in FATA, which many in Pakistan already knew to be the case; now a more sinister design is coming to the surface. This is the US intent of setting up a parallel Ministry of Border and Tribes in Afghanistan. Clearly, the mission is to intrude directly into FATA not only militarily but also politically and economically. According to sources cited in this paper, this Ministry will be responsible for operations on both sides of the Pakistan-Afghan international border and the personnel will be especially trained in intelligence operations and will work directly with tribal elders on both sides of the border. There is also going to be massive amounts of funds that will be disbursed on both sides, with no government of Pakistan check on where and how these will be spent. In fact, the US intent is to form a parallel structure to the Pakistani state in Pakistan's

territory and delink the tribes further from the state of Pakistan. . . . Yet the Pakistan government is so mesmerised by the US leadership and its flirtations with individual Pakistani leaders, that it has lost all rationality in dealing with the multiple level threats not only to Pakistan's sovereignty (which has been lost in the drone attacks) but its very existence as an independent state."

Editorial: What Is The Outcome Of Prime Minister's U.S. Visit, an editorial in the Karachi-based, pro-Taliban Jihadi Urdu daily "Islam" (cir. 15,000) (04/16)

"People were expecting that, during his visit, Prime Minister Gilani would explicitly tell the Americans to play their role in resolving the Pak-India water conflict, release Dr. Aafia Siddiqui, stop drone attacks, and compensate for the financial losses we have suffered in the war against terrorism. But what has precipitated reveals that either Mr. Gilani failed to raise these issues during his meetings

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with top U.S. officials, or no serious talks took place to address Pakistan's concerns in this regard. In fact, the real outcome of the prime minister's visit can be better gauged by the synchronization of his press conference in Washington and a drone attack in North Waziristan, in which 10 people were killed."

Editorial: U.S. Vote Of Confidence On Pakistan's Nuclear Program, an editorial in the liberal Urdu daily "Express" (circ. 25,000) (04/16)

"The American President and Indian PM's acceptance of invitation to visit Pakistan can also be termed as a positive development. This would not only improve our relations with the U.S. but also bring our ties with India towards normalcy. If there is a real change in the Indian attitude towards Pakistan, it should be demonstrated through resumption of the stalled composite dialogue. Now that the international community has expressed its trust in the safety of Pakistan's nuclear program, it should also strive to stop the publication of baseless reports in western media that say otherwise; as such reports damage Pakistan's credibility."

Opinion: The Summit, an op-ed by M. A. Niazi in the center-right national English daily "The Nation" (cir. 20,000) (04/16)

". . . The Summit did nothing towards solving the problem of the 'limbo' nuclear powers, who may or may not be accommodated, but who undoubtedly exist. When the NPT (Non-Proliferation Treaty) was brought in, much was made of the promise of the nuclear powers to give up these weapons. However, they did not. And this was not pursued at the Summit, which the USA not only had the effrontery to attend as a nuclear power, but which it convened as the leader of the nuclear haves. Without some adjustment of the new nuclear powers, who are now almost as many as the original nuclear club, there will be no real purpose to such Summits."

Editorial: American Plan Of Creating A Parallel Ministry, an editorial in the second-largest, nationalist Urdu daily "Nawa-i-Waqt" (cir. 150,000) (04/16)

"The U.S. is planning to set up a parallel Ministry of Border and Tribes in Afghanistan to support its dubious operations on both sides of the [Pak-Afghan] border... The setting up of this ministry is another act of not trusting Pakistan. If this ministry is used for interference in Pakistan, it would be detrimental for the country's security and stability... Pakistan should secure its border before the U.S. interferes in Pakistani areas... No matter what Pakistan does, the U.S. will never trust it. Would it not be better for Pakistan to bid farewell to this war [on terror] before it faces a major loss; then the army would also be able to

concentrate wholly on the border with India instead of confronting its own people." UNCLASSIFIED

Editorial: American And Russian Operations And Increasing Extremism, an editorial note in the liberal Urdu daily "Express" (circ. 25,000) (04/16)

"According to a news report, Russian security forces have started a major operation against militants in Daghestan... This operation is a positive step if this extremist group has links with Al Qaeda, Taliban or other outfits striving for global supremacy. If these groups have links with Al Qaeda or Taliban, it proves that such outfits exist in other parts of the world also, not just in Pakistan and Afghanistan, and that they need to be eliminated... However,

Russia should adopt the path of talks if this is a freedom struggle against Russia, because independence movements cannot be suppressed through force."

Opinion: Collective Sickness , an op-ed by Gulmina Bilal Ahmad in the Lahore-based liberal English language daily "Daily Times" (cir. 10,000) (04/16)

". . . . When we see the brutal face of alleged Islamic practices of the Taliban that subjugates insults, terrorises and finally kills, we shake our heads in disbelief. We are collectively as a nation in denial Both denial and blame games are detrimental to us because both are defence mechanisms that keep us cocooned in our comfort zones, weaved through selective understanding of information. The sooner we realise this, the better. For this realisation would enable us to try to cure the disease. For a cure, it is important that we first admit that we are sick."

Opinion: Defiance Iranian Style, an op-ed by M Saeed Khalid in the populist, often sensational national English daily "The News" (cir. 55,000) (04/16)

"Diplomatic manoeuvres around Iran's nuclear programme have gathered pace in recent weeks, creating suspense and anxiety about a looming showdown between Iran and the United States. Washington's efforts to bring greater political and economic pressure to bear on Iran could reduce the short-term risk of a military clash, which could result in an uncontrollable hike in oil prices, with frightening consequences for the global economy. Even limited strikes on Iran's nuclear sites are bound to draw retaliation from Iran's considerable missile defence system. The US is, therefore, trying extra hard to carry along the four other permanent members of the Security Council and Germany in devising a new set of UN sanctions on Iran. Top emissaries are logging extra air miles to power centres like Brussels and Beijing to find a formula which can satisfy Iran's

national pride while fulfilling non-proliferation goals set by the
leading powers. . . ."

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(All circulation figures are based on estimation)

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