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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	FBIE-00	UTED-00	VCI-00	DIAS-00
	H-00	TEDE-00	IO-00	LAB-01	L-00	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	P-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
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 SECDEF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
 USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
 USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE
 THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
 NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE
 HQ USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL//CCPA// IMMEDIATE
 JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
 DIA WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
 AMEMBASSY LONDON
 AMEMBASSY PARIS
 AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
 HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI

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SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A
 TAGS: KMDR, KPAO, OIIP, OPRC, PGOV, PREL, PK
 SUBJECT: PAKISTAN MEDIA REACTION: APRIL 24-26, 2010

Summary: Senator Kerry's statement that the "4 billion dollar cut in the U.S. international affairs budget will have a negative impact on the U.S. efforts to defeat extremists in Afghanistan and Pakistan" received extensive coverage both in Urdu and English language newspapers. Newspapers and TV networks reported over the weekend that Ambassador Patterson inaugurated the 7th Annual Conference of Fulbright and Humphrey Alumni in Islamabad. Report that Pakistan handed over six Mumbai terrorism case dossiers to India, urging it to send suspects or magistrates to record testimony in the trial of seven planners, dominated headlines in all mainstream newspapers on Monday morning. Killing by Security forces' of 15 militants in clashes and air attacks in Orakzai Agency

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
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was also displayed prominently. All newspapers highlighted reports on Sunday that militants torched 12 NATO containers in Talagang (Punjab) that resulted in the killing of four policemen. Commenting on the subject, "The Nation," observed that the attack on NATO containers "not only brought the war on terror into the Punjab, which is not normally thought of as being one of its battlegrounds, but also threw into relief not just the aid the Pakistan and Punjab governments are giving the war, but the whole direction the war is moving in, and why the West is positioning itself to lose." Media also reported that an enraged mob attacked a police station in Sheikupura (Punjab) when police turned down demands to hand over a man allegedly involved in desecration of the Koran. End Summary.

TOP STORIES

News Story: U.S. Budget Cut To Hurt Efforts Against Terror, Says Kerry - "Dawn" (04/25)

"A \$4 billion cut in the U.S. international affairs budget will have a negative impact on U.S. efforts to defeat extremists in Afghanistan and Pakistan, warns Senator John Kerry, chairman of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee. He cautioned that the cut which was passed by the Senate Budget Committee for FY 2011 on Friday afternoon would jeopardize key foreign policy and national security priorities."

News Story: 'Fulbright' U.S. Investment For Long-Term Ties, Says Patterson - "Daily Times" (04/24)

"U.S. Ambassador Anne W. Patterson inaugurated the 7th Annual Conference of Fulbright and Humphrey Alumni at Quaid-e-Azam University (QAU) on Friday.... Patterson said during the past 60 years, nearly 4,000 Pakistanis and Americans had participated in Fulbright exchanges administered by the USEFP. The more we see Pakistanis on our campuses, the better Americans will understand Pakistan and South Asia - a region with which America's long-term future is closely interwoven, she said."

News Story: Six Dossiers On Mumbai Case Handed Over: India Urged To Send Suspects Or Magistrates And Probe Official - "Dawn" (04/26)

"Despite last-minute efforts by Pakistan to convince India of actions it has taken against alleged Mumbai attackers, uncertainty about a meeting between Prime Ministers Yousuf Raza Gilani and Manmohan Singh on the sidelines of the SAARC summit in Bhutan continues. 'We are keeping our fingers crossed. No meeting has been scheduled yet,' a senior Pakistani diplomat, who is in the Bhutanese capital Thimphu for SAARC meetings, told 'Dawn' on telephone on Sunday. Meanwhile, Director of India desk at Foreign Office Khalil

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Hashmi handed over six dossiers to Indian High Commissioner Rahul Kulshreshth in Islamabad.... Indian External Affairs Secretary Nirupama Rao has alleged that there had neither been any progress in the Mumbai trial since the February meeting in Delhi nor had Pakistan replied to the dossiers given to it."

News Story: 15 Militants Killed - "Dawn" (04/26)

"Security forces claimed to have killed 15 militants and injured nine others in clashes and air attacks in the Orakzai tribal region on Sunday. Officials also claimed that three hideouts of militants were destroyed in the attacks."

News Story: 12 NATO Tankers Gutted; 4 Cops Dead - "The Nation" (04/25)

"Four policemen were killed Saturday in Talagang in a fight with Taliban militants who destroyed 12 tankers carrying oil supplies for the NATO-led international troops in landlocked Afghanistan. The attack took place at a petrol pump in Talagang, located some 90 kilometers south of Islamabad."

News Story: PM Gilani Orders Probe Into NATO Tankers Attack - "The News" (04/25)

"The fire erupted on NATO oil supply tankers during attack from unknown miscreants has been brought under control after six hours of rescue efforts, 'Geo news' reported. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani has ordered investigation into incident."

News Story: 'Desecration': Angry Mob Attacks Police Station - "Dawn" (04/26)

"Enraged mob on Sunday night opened fire on a police station in Farooqabad, Sheikhpura, when officials turned down their demand of handing over a man whom they alleged had torn down the pages of the Holy Quran. Some people caught Anwer and handed him over to the police after what they claimed saw him tearing pages of the Holy Quran in the bazaar."

TERRORISM/MILITARY ISSUES

News Story: Pak Offer To Train Afghan Army Bears No Fruit - "The Nation" (04/26)

"Pakistan's offer to help train the Afghan Army has not borne any fruit because of indifferent policies of Afghan government as well as NATO, sources informed on Sunday. Well-placed sources informed 'The Nation' that Pakistan had made the offer to the incumbent

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Afghan Army Chief General Bismillah Khan (by A.S. F) has made several offers and had invited him to visit Pakistan to assess its capability but he never responded positive."

News Story: Afghan, Indian Leaders To Hold Delhi Talks Today -
"Dawn" (04/26)

"Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Afghan President Hamid Karzai were set to meet in New Delhi on Monday to discuss a relationship seen as key to regional stability, reports AFP."

News Story: Afghanistan Needs Time To Take Over Security - "Dawn"
(04/26)

"Afghanistan's security forces will need four to five years before they are fully capable of taking over responsibility for the country's security, its Defence Ministry said on Sunday. NATO foreign ministers agreed at a meeting in Tallinn, Estonia, last week on a plan to begin turning over responsibility for security in some provinces to Afghan troops over the course of the next year so that western troops can begin to withdraw."

News Story: People Asked To Vacate Village Ahead Of Army Operation - "Dawn" (04/26)

"People of the village of Tootkas, said to be a hub of militants in Hangu district, were asked to leave the area by Monday because a military operation was to be launched there. Security forces decided to get the area vacated after local people expressed their inability to form a lashkar against militants hiding in their area, officials said."

News Story: Inquiry On Ex-MI Chief's Role In Erasure Of Benazir's Crime Scene - "Dawn" (04/26)

"Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani on Saturday constituted a three-member committee to pinpoint responsibility for hosing down of the crime scene after the assassination of Benazir Bhutto on Dec 27, 2007. Cabinet Secretary Abdul Rauf Chaudhry will head the body. Other members will be the Deputy Chief of General Staff, Maj-Gen Sajjad Ghani, and Additional Chief Secretary (Home) for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Fayyaz Tooru. The committee has been tasked with finding out whether the then director-general of Military Intelligence (MI), Maj-Gen Nadeem Ijaz, ordered police officials to hose down the crime scene."

News Story: Extremists in Pakistan Fighting Back: Petraeus - "The Nation" (04/25)

"The extremists in Pakistan are killing innocent civilians as they

are trying to fight back against a ~~successful~~ UNCLASSIFIED government campaign to

uproot them, says the U.S. Military Commander for the Afghan and Iraq wars. In an interview to PBS, Gen David Petraeus also observed that while he would be careful in describing U.S. military gains in Afghanistan as 'real success,' in Pakistan the government-led campaign against the militants had shown 'considerable progress.'"

News Story: U.S. Drone Kills 9 in North Waziristan - "The Nation" (04/25)

"A U.S. drone fired three missiles into an alleged militant compound in North Waziristan on Saturday, killing nine militants, security officials said."

News Story: Taliban Give Media 'Last Warning' - "Daily Times" (04/24)

"A Taliban spokesman warned the media for 'the last time' on Friday against 'ignoring' his group's viewpoint, and claimed newspapers and TV channels were 'hiding the truth.' The warning by Muhammad Umar - a 'spokesman for the Taliban Media Centre' in North Waziristan - was emailed to the media hours after a deadly attack targeted an army convoy in North Waziristan. 'Why is the media only conveying the army's point of view? Is this proof that the media is also working as an ally for the government and the army? Or they are being forced to hide the truth?' reads the email. This email should be considered a last warning for the media of Pakistan."

News Story: Mechanism To Prevent Indo-Pak Nuclear War Urged - "Dawn" (04/24)

"A U.S. bipartisan commission has urged Congress to help develop a mechanism for preventing an accidental nuclear war between India and Pakistan, warning that Kashmir could become a nuclear flashpoint. The commission includes members of both Republican and Democratic parties and is supported by the U.S. Congress. Bob Graham, a former senator, who now heads the commission, described various scenarios for this possibility, arguing that a war in Kashmir could cause Pakistan also to hand over nuclear weapons to the Taliban."

POLITICAL ISSUES

News Story: Call For Joint SAARC Action On Water Crisis - "Dawn" (04/26)

"Foreign Secretary Salman Bashir said on Sunday that South Asia needed a regional approach to effectively tackle water issues. Addressing the 37th session of the standing committee of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) in Thimphu

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(Bhutan), he said South Asia had become a neglected region and should adopt a regional, cooperative approach to address the issues of glaciers, water management and pollution on an urgent basis."

News Story: MQM Begins Punjab Move - "Daily Times" (04/26)

"Muttahida Qaumi Movement chief Altaf Hussain has said that the people of Punjab will see that politics are free of feudalism and brutality with the entry of his party in the province's mainstream politics. During a telephonic address from London to the first-ever convention of the MQM that was simultaneously held in Lahore, Multan and Rawalpindi, Altaf said the party had entered Punjab's politics to deal with the feudal lords, adding that all of them would now be held accountable for their cruelty against the deprived masses of the country."

ECONOMY/ENVIRONMENT

News Story: U.S. Agrees On Power Shift In World Bank - "Dawn" (04/26)

"U.S. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner said on Sunday that World Bank members had agreed to give emerging nations more say in how the bank is run and how its funds are disbursed. 'The new formula will better reflect the weight of the developing and transition countries in the global economy, while protecting the voice of the smallest and poorest countries,' he said."

News Story: Uncertainty And War Mar Pakistan's Progress: WB - "Dawn" (04/26)

"Political uncertainty and fighting continue to disrupt economic activity in Pakistan while other South Asian nations are expected to emerge stronger from the current global crisis, says a World Bank in its Global Monitoring Report for 2010"

News Story: Commitment With IMF Stops Govt. From Passing On Benefit To People: Fuel Cost Declines But Power Tariff Cut Unlikely - "Dawn" (04/26)

"It may be possible to reduce the power tariff on May 1 by at least 65 paise per unit on account of declining fuel costs, but the government is not likely to pass on this benefit to consumers because of a commitment made to the International Monetary Fund."

News Story: Pakistan Seeks IMF Waiver On Fiscal Deficit Target - "The News" (04/26)

"The cost overrun in security expenditure as well as massive

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shortfall in both tax and non-tax revenue has been forced Islamabad to request the IMF executive board to grant it waiver from achieving the fiscal deficit target of 0.4 per cent of the GDP till March 31, 2010. If the IMF executive board approves the waiver to Pakistan in its meeting, to be held after May 11 in Washington, DC, it will pave the way for releasing the fifth tranche, worth \$1.2 billion, under the \$11.3 billion Standby Arrangement Program, probably by the middle of the next month."

News Story: U.S. To Help Pakistan On Market Access, ROZs - "Daily Times," "The Nation," "Dawn" (04/25)

"Pakistan looked forward to concrete progress towards getting greater market access to U.S. markets, including the realization of the Reconstruction Opportunity Zones (ROZ) program, as Washington and Islamabad concluded high-level talks on Friday evening on spurring trade and economic cooperation. Finance Adviser Dr. Abdul Hafeez Shaikh and U.S. Trade Representative Ron Kirk emerged from the day-long meeting of the U.S.-Pakistan Trade and Investment Council, with the agreement to support Islamabad's efforts for market access to major economic powers in Europe and Asia and advance bilateral trade and economic ties under the strategic partnership."

EDITORIALS/OPINIONS

Editorial: War On Terror, an editorial in the center-right national English daily "The Nation" (cir. 20,000) (04/26)

"The attack on a convoy of 12 NATO tankers, of which six were destroyed, at a petrol pump on the Mianwali-Talagang Road, not only brought the war on terror into the Punjab, which is not normally thought of as being one of its battlegrounds, but also threw into relief not just the aid the Pakistan and Punjab governments are giving the war, but the whole direction the war is moving in, and why the West is positioning itself to lose.... There is an impression that the war does not affect the bulk of Pakistan, and is confined to its tribal areas, apart from terrorist blasts that can occur anywhere in the country, provided the security agencies relax their guard."

Editorial: Petraeus On 'Real Success' And 'Considerable Success', an editorial in the Islamabad-based rightist English daily "Pakistan Observer" (cir. 5,000) (04/26)

"U.S. CENTCOM Chief General David Petraeus in a recent interview was reluctant to describe the breakthrough of U.S. and NATO forces in Afghanistan as real success. He however described the Pakistan Army's operation against the militants as of considerable success.... At this point of time when General Petraeus and world is

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recognizing our achievements and sacrifices. We have two recommendations to make. First: Time has come that Pakistan should start thinking of winding up of the operations and handing over the security of the area to the civilian law enforcement agencies while the military should back them as and when needed. Second: Urge the U.S. and international community forcefully to implement, what the President and the Prime Minister have been calling 'Marshal Plan' in the militancy hit but now secured areas to stabilize them."

Editorial: Pak-U.S. Perceptual Mismatch, an editorial in the country's premier business newspaper, "Business Recorder" (cir. 25,000) (04/26)

"Conceded, the Pak-U.S. relationship is gradually acquiring a pronounced strategic dimension and the two sides are working

together in a variety of ways towards long-term co-operative engagements. Also, of late a series of productive contacts have materialized between them including Prime Minister Gilani's summit with President Barack Obama, and there is noticeable improvement in American take on Pakistan's nuclear program. So we are not surprised if the State Department's spokesman P. J. Crowley is 'encouraged by the recent trends in Pakistani public opinion that recognizes the value of the ongoing strategic dialogue and ever-improving co-operation between the United States and Pakistan.' But here in Pakistan the people are not on the same page; there is a wide chasm of perceptual mismatch between the official and public positions on relationship with the United States.... In fact, at times it seems Pakistan is left alone to contend with terrorists as Coalition forces vacate border posts facilitating insurgents' free movement criss-crossing the border, prompting Ambassador Hussain Haqqani to note that 'hammer and anvil don't seem to be working both ways.' Good if the State Department spokesman is encouraged by the positive note of the Pakistani public tone but conceding plurality of public opinion U.S. has no choice but to tolerate dissent howsoever opinionated."

Editorial: Beheadings Again, an editorial in the populist, often sensational national English daily "The News" (cir. 55,000) (04/26)

"The murder of four persons in the town of Mirali in North Waziristan indicates that the hold of the Taliban over the tribal areas remains more or less intact. According to reports, the men had been labeled 'U.S. spies.' Since they were given no opportunity to defend themselves or narrate their version of events, it is next to impossible to be sure if they were indeed engaged in such activities.... The latest beheadings show this has still to happen. The effort to do so must then be stepped up, so that we could have a return to normalcy."

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Editorial: America Is Engaging Pakistan In A War, an editorial in the second-largest, nationalist Urdu daily "Nawa-i-Waqt" (cir. 150,000) (04/26)

"There are reports that U.S. drones bombed a suspected Taliban compound in Orakzai agency, killing 9 alleged extremists. The drones also fired 3 missiles, killing several people of the Mehsud tribes. If the U.S. drones and gunship helicopters continue this indiscriminate firing and bombing, it will undoubtedly create a reaction that Pakistanis will have to face... America is pushing Pakistan into this war and Pakistani rulers, in their foolishness and greed for dollars, are continuing on this path towards death. The Pakistani nation is repeatedly urging the government to extricate itself from this war which is a path to destruction."

Editorial: Why Silence on Drone Attacks?, an editorial in the Karachi-based, pro-Taliban Jihadi Urdu daily "Islam" (cir. 15,000) (04/26)

"Enigmatically, after the return of two high-level Pakistani delegations from their recent visits to Washington, the government has given up even the hollow statements it has been issuing in protest over the U.S. drone attacks on our soil. The silence of our rulers on this issue gives rise to several questions. Is there a covert understanding on drone attacks, and the Pakistan government is receiving the price of this compromise? If it is not the case, then it is high time for our rulers to devise a strategy to prevent these drone attacks."

Editorial: Unlikely Conciliator, an editorial in the populist, often sensational national English daily "The News" (cir. 55,000) (04/26)

"Perceptions of the relationship that exists between India and Pakistan often pass through several filters before they become fully formed - and not all of the filters are conducive to a clearer image of reality. The role of the U.S. in the region, and particularly the nuances of its relationship with us and the Indians, came under scrutiny in a recent debate which was a part of the Aman ki Asha process. Prem Shankar Jha, a former editor of The Economic Times, The Financial Express and The Hindustan Times posited during the debate on the interesting notion that the U.S. had been playing both sides against the middle in order to maintain a kind of managed instability. The purpose, he said, was to prevent rapprochement between the two sides, because if we and India were closer and more united, one of the things we might be more united against would be the United States."

Opinion: Darkness At Noon, an op-ed UNCLASSIFIED
in the Karachi-based center-left independent national English daily "Dawn"
(cir. 55,000) (04/26)

"The Taliban have destroyed almost 1,000 schools - primarily girls' institutions - in FATA and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as part of their design to imbue the youth with militant values.... The future of 1.5 million students in FATA and Malakand division is bleak due to prolonged military operations and the militants' attacks. Many parents with resources have shifted their children to the cities. Those that remain will find it difficult not to fall into the militants' trap."

(All circulation figures are based on estimation)
Patterson

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