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that "an Al Qaeda leader, Hussein Al-Nemri, was apparently killed in a missile strike last week." Likewise, papers also reported another drone attack that resulted in the killing of 10 insurgents in North Waziristan. Several major dailies reported that an anti-terrorism court has indicted the five detained Americans for plotting terror attacks in Pakistan. Six mainstream newspapers published a U.S. Mission press-release highlighting that the "U.S. will provide Cobra helicopter spare parts to Pakistan for its helicopter fleet." Prime Minister Gilani's remarks that the government is 'not in a rush' to launch a new offensive in the country's border areas" also received prominent display. All newspapers reported that the electricity shortfall rose to a staggering 4,500 Megawatt forcing the government to resort to a massive power outage across the country." Commenting on the reports that President Zardari, during his meeting with National Intelligence Director Blair, sought U.S. civilian nuclear cooperation, "The News," observed that "if America truly wants to see Pakistan stable and productive as well as a shedding of some of the mistrust that has grown between us, then it could do little better than helping us to resolve our perennial power deficits." "The Nation," reported that the local administration at the Pak-Afghan border in Torkham did not detain a U.S. national for entering without a valid visa. End Summary.

TOP STORIES

News Story: New Approach In Ties With U.S. - "Dawn" (03/18)

"In a qualitative difference in Pakistan's approach to the United States, Islamabad will, at the renewed Strategic Dialogue with Washington, seek 'tangible deliverances' particularly on its strategic concerns and wouldn't settle for short-term relief measures. The fourth round of the Strategic Dialogue on March 24, being dubbed by Pakistan's foreign policy gurus as the 'renewed process', is expected to be one of the most intense diplomatic engagements the two countries had in the recent past. Major politico-security stakeholders, including several federal ministers, army chief, director-general of ISI, and a number of federal secretaries will leave for Washington on Saturday to attend the meeting. The U.S. representation at the dialogue, upgraded to ministerial level, will be equally strong. The team will be headed by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. Other members will be National Security Adviser James Jones, Special Envoy for Afghanistan and Pakistan Richard Holbrooke and a number of other top officials of the Obama administration."

News Story: Pak-U.S. To Discuss Water, Energy, Education Issues
"The News" (03/18)

"U.S. State Department, hailing Pakistan's unshaken efforts in war

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on terrorism, has vowed continuation of militant militancy along Indo-Pak's cooperation, Geo news reported. Pakistan and United States are due to hold strategic dialogue on March 24 in Washington DC, featuring issues pertaining to economic growth in Pakistan, development in education sector, alleviation of water scarcity, development in communication sector, elimination of energy crisis and agriculture. This was stated by U.S. State Department's Acting Deputy spokesman Mark C. Toner during a routine media briefing on Wednesday."

News Story: FBI Cannot Act Independently In Pakistan: Official - "Daily Times" (03/18)

"David Johnson, in-charge violent crimes wing of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has said that even if Osama Bin Laden is hiding in Pakistan, the FBI has no choice but to depend on the Pakistani law enforcement agencies to arrest him. Giving an exclusive interview to The News/Jang here on Tuesday afternoon Mr. Johnson said that the FBI does not have any investigative or arrest authority in foreign countries including Pakistan."

News Story: Al-Qaeda Leader 'Killed In Drone Strike' - "Dawn" (03/18)

"A senior U.S. official says an Al-Qaeda leader Hussein Al-Yemeni, who is believed to have played a key role in the bombing of a CIA post in Afghanistan in December was apparently killed in a missile strike in Miramshah, North Waziristan last week. The official spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive information."

News Story: 10 More Killed In NWA Drone Attacks - "The News" (03/18)

"Ten more militants were killed and two others sustained injuries in two separate U.S. drone attacks on Hamzoni and Mezar villages in North Waziristan on Wednesday. Official and tribal sources said the CIA-operated drones first fired three missiles at a car reportedly carrying some militants from the Hamzoni village to the nearby Khattey Killay."

News Story: American Terror Accused Indicted - "The News" (03/18)

"Five Americans, who were arrested on the charge of plotting terrorist attacks in Pakistan, were indicted on Wednesday. The alleged terrorists -- Ramzi Zamzam, Umar Farooq, Waqar Hussain, Ahmed Abdullah Mini and Aman Hussain Yamir -- were produced before special judge Anti-Terrorist Court Mian Anwar Nazir, who held hearing at the Sargodha District Jail amid tight security."

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News Story: U.S. To Provide Cobra Helicopters To Pakistan - "Daily Times," "Jang," "Express," "Ausaf," "Jinnah," "Pakistan" (03/18)

"The U.S. will provide 13 AH-1F Cobra helicopters to Pakistan for use as spare parts in its helicopter fleet, the U.S. Embassy said on Wednesday. The helicopters will be shipped from a U.S. facility in Alabama later this year."

News Story: PM Warns Against Launching New Military Operations - "Daily Times" (03/18)

"The government is "not in a rush" to launch new offensives in the country's border areas, Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani said on Wednesday, adding that Islamabad's focus will first be on holding on to the territory it had reclaimed from the terrorists, the PM said to a question regarding the next steps in the war against terrorism in an interview with the Financial Times."

News Story: Electricity Shortfall Rises To 4,500MW: Ten Hours Of Loadshedding Tests Nation's Patience - "Dawn" (03/18)

"Electricity shortfall rose to a staggering 4,500MW on Wednesday, forcing the Pakistan Electric Power Company to resort to a massive 10-hour unscheduled load-shedding across the country. Karachi suffered eight to 10 hours of power shutdown."

TERRORISM/MILITARY ISSUES

News Story: U.S. Operations Have Already Started In Kandahar - "Daily Times" (03/18)

"U.S. operations to push back Taliban forces around Kandahar have 'already begun' and will steadily increase in the coming months, NATO Commander General Stanley McChrystal said on Wednesday. Talking to reporters, he said the U.S.-led offensive on the Taliban's heartland had started with initial military and political efforts, including operations designed to secure key roads and districts surrounding Kandahar."

News Story: Petraeus Urges Sustained Commitment To Pakistan Security "The News" (03/18)

"Head of the U.S. Central Command General David Petraeus has urged "substantial, sustained" commitment to Pakistan's security and development as he highlighted the efficacy of the South Asian ally's anti-militancy actions in an appearance on the Capitol Hill. He also underscored the need for continuation in Pakistan-India peace talks to reduce strategic tensions, saying any major escalation in tensions on Islamabad's eastern border can adversely affect Pakistani gains made in northwestern and tribal areas along the

Afghan border. Testifying before Senate Armed Services Committee, UNCLASSIFIED

Petraeus cited Pakistan's impressive counterinsurgency operations in Swat and South Waziristan."

News Story: Another Attack To Reignite Indo-Pak Tensions: Petraeus - "Dawn" (03/18)

"Another terrorist attack in India could reignite India-Pakistan tensions in 2010, increasing the risk of miscalculation between two nuclear states, warns commander of the U.S. Central Command, Gen. David Petraeus. In a testimony before the House Armed Services Committee on Tuesday afternoon, Gen. Petraeus noted that Indo-Pakistani tensions had eased since 2008, but warned that 'they could easily reignite in 2010, particularly in the event of another significant terrorist attack in India.'"

News Story: Govt. To Launch Operation Against Banned Outfits; Interior Minister claims 90 percent of terrorist activities carried out by SSP, Lashkar-e-Jhangvi - "Daily Times" (03/18)

"A decisive operation will be launched against banned sectarian outfits if they do not refrain from carrying out terrorist attacks in the country, Interior Minister Rehman Malik said on Wednesday. Malik made these comments at a joint-press briefing along with Information Minister Qamar Zaman Kaira after a special meeting of the federal cabinet, which was chaired by Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani. Malik claimed that the defunct Sipah-e-Sahaba Pakistan (SSP) and the Lashkar-e-Jhangvi were behind 90 percent of the terrorist attacks in Punjab."

News Story: Cabinet Reviews Counter-Insurgency Strategy: Law-Enforcement Forces' Capability To Be Enhanced - "Dawn" (03/18)

"The Federal Cabinet decided on Wednesday to re-evaluate the counter-insurgency strategy and enhance the capacity of law enforcement agencies of the four provinces, AJK and Gilgit-Baltistan by providing adequate equipment and training to them. A national plan with the aim of making cities and towns safe is in the works, a special meeting of the cabinet was told on Wednesday. The Prime Minister had called the meeting on the request of Punjab chief minister."

News Story: Five Security Men Killed In Attack On Check-Post - "Dawn" (03/18)

"Three Frontier Constabulary and two police personnel were killed and one policeman was injured in a pre-dawn attack by militants on a check-post on the Afridi Road in Badbher, a suburban area of

Peshawar, on Thursday."

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POLITICAL ISSUES

News Story: PM Terms Delay In Re-Instating Judges Biggest Mistake -
"The News" (03/18)

"Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani said his biggest mistake was not reinstating the judges at the beginning of his term in office. 'I should have restored the judiciary in the beginning,' he said, adding, 'That is my biggest mistake. Then we would not have wasted our energies on each other. It would have been better if we had concentrated on the people of Pakistan,' Gilani made these comments in an interview to the Financial Times."

ECONOMY/ENVIRONMENT

News Story: U.S. To Be Presented 20 Energy Projects For Funding -
"Business Recorder" (03/18)

"During Pak-U.S. strategic dialogue, to be held on March 28, Islamabad will present to Washington for financing 20 new energy sector projects of about \$6 billion, official sources told Business Recorder. However, Pakistan is requesting the U.S. to provide financing \$6 billion for these projects, sources added. Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani will chair a meeting on Thursday to finalize the agenda of the strategic dialogue."

News Story: 20 Pakistani Organizations Screened To Receive U.S. Aid -
"The Statesman" (03/18)

"The \$7.5 billion the U.S. government has pledged to spend on civilian assistance in Pakistan over the next five years is slowly making its way to the troubled country, after months of debate over

how the money should be spent and how to ensure that it is properly used. About 20 Pakistani organizations and government agencies have been screened as potential recipients, U.S. deputy special representative for Pakistan Dan Feldman, said Tuesday at a hearing called by U.S. Representative John F. Tierney, who chairs the House subcommittee on national security and foreign affairs. About 50 more organizations are expected to be declared eligible, according to The Boston Globe."

News Story: Nothing Comes Into Pak Kitty; \$125 Million U.S. Promised Aid -
"Pakistan Observer" (03/18)

"Pakistan has received nothing so far from U.S. out of \$125 million announced by Hillary Clinton during her visit to Pakistan in October, 2009 to bailout the country from power crisis on short term basis. 'Since then we have received nothing for the overhauling of

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the Terbela dam's turbines, four electric power generation companies (GENCOS) and 11000 tube well motors,' a senior official at Ministry of Water and Power told 'Pakistan Observer.' However, the official said, We have received some positive indications from U.S. administration that it is going to table the Energy bill amounting to \$1 billion for Pakistan in U. S. Congress."

News Story: Finance Ministry Opposes PSDP Hike To Rs300bn - "Dawn" (03/18)

"With Pakistan and International Monetary Fund yet to sign a memorandum of understanding for the next \$1.2 billion tranche, the finance ministry is insisting that it would not be possible to increase the size of current year's development program to Rs300 billion. Sources told Dawn on Wednesday that Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani would be briefed on the country's tight fiscal position during his visit to the ministry on Friday."

EDITORIALS/OPINIONS

Editorial: Nuclear Needs, an editorial in the populist, often sensational national English daily "The News" (cir. 55,000) (03/18)

"As the country is engulfed once again by a wave of power cuts that are leaving some parts bereft of electricity for up to eighteen hours a day, President Asif Ali Zardari has called for the US to help us with the development of civilian nuclear technologies. Of all the myriad crises that we face it is that in the power sector (which links to the problems with water) which is the greatest threat to our continued existence. If America truly wants to see Pakistan stable and productive as well as a shedding of some of the mistrust that has grown between us, then it could do little better than helping us to resolve our perennial power deficits..... There needs to be a separation of the strands of thinking - military and civilian - in terms of the assistance we need to enhance our civilian nuclear assets. Nuclear power may be one of our salvations - and hydropower never will be, neither power derived from alternate energy generators. We may develop coal power from local resources but with the downside of increased carbon emissions. Put your money where your mouth is, Uncle Sam, and let's see if your words of support can be turned into kilowatts of (nuclear) power."

Editorial: War Cannot Be Won Sans Economic Stability,, an editorial in the leading mass circulation populist, often sensational Urdu daily "Jang" (cir. 300,000) (03/18)

"When President Asif Zardari urges the U.S. to provide civilian nuclear technology to Pakistan, he actually means such a good gesture will not only help Pakistan to overcome its energy crisis

and maintain the pace of its economic growth but will also remove the trust deficit that mars the mutual ties between the two countries. We advise the government to reach out to influential U.S. Congressmen, members of powerful think-tanks, and opinion-making circles, through diplomatic and other channels, in order to convince them that the provision of civilian nuclear technology to Islamabad would boost Pakistan's economy which is a prerequisite to win the war against terrorism."

Editorial: Guns for Hire, an editorial in the country's premier business newspaper, "Business Recorder" (cir. 25,000) (03/18)

"Ambassador Patterson is absolutely justified in asking the government to ensure the security of American nationals in Pakistan. But do spies also enjoy the right of protection? The truth is that

in Pakistan, there is no dearth of people who absolve the Taliban and militants of the ongoing incidents of violence and insist that a 'foreign hand' is involved and who knows this hand may be the Furlong's. This is nothing short of official confirmation that U.S. military has been using covert spies in pursuance of objectives which fall out of the agreed parameters of co-operative arrangements between Pakistan and the United States. On this we would welcome clarification, if any, by the U.S. Embassy."

Editorial: Arrival of U.S. Cobra Helicopters, an editorial in the Karachi-based, pro-Taliban Jihadi Urdu daily "Islam" (cir. 15,000) (03/18)

"No doubt, the government can, and should, make every possible effort to make the defense of the country impregnable. But it should not be done at the cost of our national interests. According to media reports, the Cobra helicopters provided by the U.S. to Pakistan would also be used in military operations against the "terrorists." It seems that Washington wants to continue using us in this war."

Editorial: Explosive Situation, an editorial in the Lahore-based liberal English language daily "Daily Times" (cir. 10,000) (03/18)

"Lahore has been saved from an explosive situation, literally. On Monday, 1,500 kilogram's of explosives and suicide vests were confiscated from Allama Iqbal Town. Then on Tuesday, over 3,000 kilogram's of explosives and other lethal ammunition was recovered from Allama Iqbal Town again. The recovery of such a large amount of explosives, arms and ammunition within two days is laudable on the one hand but on the other hand it highlights a terrorizing aspect.... This leads to another, even more important matter. Can we be sanguine after the recovery of the explosives, arms and

ammunition? Have we covered all of Lahore and the country as a whole?
This is just the tip of a very large iceberg."

Opinion: Pakistan's New Afghanistan Outlook, an op-ed by Syed Talat Hussain in the Lahore-based liberal English language daily "Daily Times" (cir. 10,000) (03/18)

"The upcoming visit to the U.S. by Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Ashfaq Parvez Kayani - only partly related to the strategic dialogue process that the Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi is heading - will afford him the opportunity to most comprehensively detail Pakistan's security interests before the entire spectrum of the U.S. leadership.... It is this determination that actual control of a situation brings which is informing the new confidence General Kayani and his military assistants have as they set out for Washington. They think they can make things happen and can prevent things from happening far more directly and decisively than before in the northwest of Pakistan. But still they will have a lot of talking to do in the U.S. The country's media elite is caught in a time warp. Farid Zakaria of Newsweek and CNN fame proved last week that the best selling is not always factually the most compelling. In his opening remarks to the interview of Richard Holbrooke, United States' ageing czar on Afghanistan and Pakistan, he admitted that there is a "shift in the approach of the Pakistani military". But he leveled the admission to the ground with the second part of his sentence. "How big a shift, we don't know, but it is a shift. Unfortunately, analysts like him who sit thousands of miles away from the subjects and areas they build their expertise and fame on, are still determining the discourse in the U.S. about Pakistan's policy in this region, which, in essence and in form, has changed much more than the world realizes."

Opinion: The Strategic Dialogue, an op-ed by Ikram Sehgal in the populist, often sensational national English daily "The News" (cir. 55,000) (03/18)

"In a few days Pakistan and the U.S. will be engaged in a strategic dialogue having far-reaching consequence for the region and its peoples. Pakistan's battlefield successes in Swat and South Waziristan changed the dynamics of the geopolitical equation from what it was less than a year ago. U.S. vice-president Joseph Biden was the first as a U.S. senator to recognize the rank injustice done to Pakistan over the years and the need to have a more pragmatic even-handed policy. Once President Obama took office and carried out a thorough review, U.S. decision-makers, including Hillary Clinton, Gen. James Jones, Admiral Mike Mullen and Gen. Petraeus-joined by the battlefield commander in Afghanistan, Gen. Stanley McChrystal - are now unanimous in recognizing Pakistan's crucial role as the centre of gravity to resolve the biggest U.S. headache at present,

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Afghanistan.... The U.S. is supporting it generously. Unfortunately it is not enough, neither economically and certainly not in military aid. In key areas of economy, agriculture, power sector, communications and telecommunications, health, etc we require massive injection of funds. Above all, we need to be brought in from the nuclear cold to overcome our dire energy deficiencies. Vital to U.S. success in Afghanistan, Pakistan is getting only a fraction of what it should get, comparatively others get much more for doing much less. The strategic dialogue should be a joint national security strategy session for a comprehensive review of all relevant factors encompassing mutual interests in geo-politics and economics. The strategic dialogue is crucial for the region's stability, as well as for peace and prosperity in Pakistan."

Opinion: USA's Wanton Woes, an op-ed by I.M. Mohsin in the center-right national English daily "The Nation" (cir. 20,000) (03/18)

"The payback for the atrocious policies pursued by the neo-cons appears to be on. General Stanley McChrystal's much-vaunted new strategy in Afghanistan is running into the throes of a crisis. Starting with a massive attack on Marjah in Helmand, which put up traditional resistance, the tactical retreat of the 'enemy' occasioned rather optimistic reactions from the U.S. high command. Perhaps playing to the gallery, the general announced that the whole of the southern part would be taken over by the U.S. forces to 'hold and build.'... It should be remembered that America's massive military presence in the area is supposed to provide security to the local people. However, when that gets breached due to its actions or the enemy's reaction, the Afghans are resentful.... One and half billion people cannot be conquered or wiped out; much less prompted to join the 'extremists' for the 'apocalypse' that is coming soon."

Opinion: Those Who Scream 'Death To America'?, an op-ed by Raees Fatima in the liberal Urdu daily "Express" (cir. 25, 000) (03/18)

"It has become very easy to become popular nowadays by screaming "Death to America;" hence the 6 Fata members 'upheld national honor' by refusing to be screened in Washington. I considered this entire episode to be a publicity stunt until I read in a newspaper that these respectable Fata members themselves requested for this trip and held several meetings with the Embassy officials to work out the details, their boarding and lodging expenses were also borne by the U.S. Embassy.... The screening incident took place after they had spent an entire week in the U.S. however the impression being created is that by refusing to be screened, these 6 Fata members have slapped the U.S.... I am surprised that even after the facts became known, none of our anchorpersons brought them before the nation.... This is our national character, whoever speaks the truth

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is immediately labeled as an American (Iranian) Indian agent, but those who fool the nation are treated as heroes on national TV channels.... Fact is those who chant "Death to America" are the ones who bow to it."

Opinion: Mian [Shahbaz Sharif] Sahib, Pay Attention To Southern Punjab First, an op-ed by Tanweer Qaiser Shahid in the liberal Urdu daily "Express" (cir. 25, 000) (03/18)

"The questions is: with the kind of good relations does Shahbaz Sharif have with all religious parties and Madarassa administrators and with the kind of classified information is he privy to in his capacity as the provincial chief executive - is he using those relations and that information to break terrorists' backs? Does Mian Shahbaz Sharif know that southern Punjab has become the hub for terrorists, extremists and Al Qaeda followers?... I would not be surprised if Mian Sahib and his Law Minister Rana Sana term this [information] as mere propaganda.... The public needs to know who are those people who start using the words 'maybe, that's why, therefore' while talking about the Taliban instead of condemning their bloody activities. In the same vein, daily Dawn has aptly editorialized that "there are many amongst us who know a lot about RAW and Blackwater; these people now need to be told what Lashkar-i-Jhangvi is, who are Jaish-i-Muhammad followers, what are the objectives of Ghazi Force or Abdullah Azaim Brigade and what havoc they want to wreak on Pakistan, where do they get their funds and who sponsors them?... The entire country will pray for Mian Nawaz Sharif if he sets out [to uproot these terror outfits].... How wonderful if he starts this good deed from southern Punjab."

Editorial: Pak-Iran Gas Pipeline, an editorial in the second-largest, nationalist Urdu daily "Nawa-i-Waqt" (cir. 150,000) (03/18)

"Pakistan and Iran have signed the gas pipeline project agreement.... This project will be completed in four year at the cost of \$7 billion and under the treaty Iran will supply Pakistan 70 million cubic feet gas daily.... India has run away from the gas pipeline project due to America's pressure. Now this agreement is between two brother Islamic countries, which is preferable.... Until Pakistan attains self-reliance in electricity production by building dams we should have another agreement for buying power from Iran."

Editorial: Gas Purchase Deal From Iran, an editorial in the center-right Urdu daily "Pakistan" (cir. 10,000) (03/18)

"Pakistan-Iran gas pipeline project negotiations have gone on for a long time. In the beginning India was willing to join the project, but backtracked due to American pressure.... By rejecting American

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pressure in this respect the government of Pakistan has safeguarded the country's interest, which is praiseworthy."

OTHER STORIES

News Story: Political Admin Lets Her Go Scot-Free; U.S. National Without Visa Enters Pak Border - "The Nation" (03/18)

"The Political administration at the Torkham Border on Saturday 13 March, let a U.S. national go scot free despite the fact that she did not have a valid visa. According to details, a burqa-clad woman entered Torkham Border in Khyber Agency and security officials on suspicion stopped her and took her to a room. When they removed her veil, she turned out to be an American national in shirt and trousers. It was also found that she had a U.S. passport. On the passport her name was given as Zohra Rehmati. Even though she did not have a Pakistani passport, she had succeeded in entering the Pak border illegally."

(All circulation figures are based on estimation)
Patterson

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