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	OIGO-00	FAAE-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	SCA-00	CARC-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 USCENCOM 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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E.O. 12958: N/A
 TAGS: KMDR, KPAO, OIIP, OPRC, PGOV, PREL, PK
 SUBJECT: PAKISTAN MEDIA REACTION: MARCH 19, 2010

Summary: Coverage of the upcoming U.S.-Pakistan Strategic Dialogue dominated media on Friday morning. All newspapers highlighted reports of a high level meeting of the political and military leadership that was held at President House to "fine-tune the Pakistani stance" for the talks. Foreign Minister Qureshi's statement, made at a briefing on the forthcoming talks, that "Pakistan has done a lot, it's time for U.S. to deliver," received front-page display. Media also highlighted the State Department's remarks that "the partnership between the United States and Pakistan 'goes far beyond security.'" Reports of the killing of 21 militants in Kurram Agency, and six militants in Darra Adam Khel when security forces repulsed an attack on security check-post also received

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coverage. Several major dailies highlighted that General McChrystal visited Pakistan and discussed ISAF's operations in Afghanistan with Pak Army Chief General Kayani. Visa's for U.S. auditors is back in the news as the Foreign Office confirmed that 300 visas were granted to U.S. accountants, auditors and inspectors in February. Media recycled a Washington Post report, quoting CIA Director Panetta as saying that "Al Qaeda is in disarray because of aggressive strategy." Commenting on the Strategic Dialogue, the Islamabad-based daily, "Pakistan Observer," noted that the "'strategic relationship' seems to be one-sided as the United States is squeezing maximum benefits from Pakistan yet not ready to address issues of Pakistani concern or provide the country with economic and military assistance that it should receive because of its deeper plunge into the war against terror and the resultant losses of huge dimensions." End Summary.

TOP STORIES

News Story: No Compromise On National Issues: Troika - "The News" (03/19)

"The top political and military leadership on Thursday resolved not to make any compromise on strategic national issues and decided the forthcoming Pak-U.S. strategic dialogue needs to cover the full spectrum of relationship to establish the confidence of the people. The decision was taken at a meeting of the troika - President Asif Zardari, Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani and Chief of Army Staff Gen Ashfaq Parvez Kayani - along with Foreign Minister Shah Mehmud Qureshi here at the Presidency in which matters relating to strategic dialogue with the U.S. and issues relating to the war against militants were discussed."

News Story: We Have Done A Lot, It's Time For U.S. To Deliver: Qureshi - "The News" (03/19)

"Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi heads Pakistan's delegation to Washington for the strategic dialogue on March 24, in what is being seen as a 'make' or 'break' situation for the entire region in the year 2010. Amongst others in Qureshi's delegation will be Foreign Secretary Salman Bashir, COAS General Kayani and DG ISI General Pasha. The foreign minister, interacting for two hours with the media at the Foreign Office, declared: 'We have done too much and no other nation has paid the human price that we in Pakistan have. Now you (U.S.) deliver. Innocent Pakistanis have paid with their lives. We have delivered and now it is your turn.' I will engage with more confidence as all this (fight against terror and successful military operations) has given us more strength. We have delivered and parliament is behind my voice,' said the Minister."

News Story: Ties With Pakistan Go Far Beyond Security, Says U.S. -

"Dawn," "Express," "Ausaf" (03/19) UNCLASSIFIED

"The partnership between the United States and Pakistan "goes far beyond security", said the U.S. State Department while announcing the first ministerial level strategic dialogue between the two countries. 'High-level officials from both governments will come to the table to discuss issues of common concern and shared responsibility,' the State Department said."

News Story: PM Chairs Meeting Over Pak-U.S. Strategic Dialogue - "The News" (03/19)

"Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani Thursday said that the forthcoming Pakistan-USA Strategic Dialogue need to cover full spectrum of relationship to establish confidence of the people. He asked for mutually developing a periodic review mechanism/regime to monitor the decisions taken in the strategic dialogue so that there is visible impact in areas of relevance to ordinary people as well as efforts to fight terrorism. The Prime Minister was addressing the

second session of the high level meeting to develop a comprehensive, coherent and well coordinated approach for the forthcoming Pakistan-U.S. strategic dialogue scheduled on March 24 in Washington."

News Story: 21 Killed in Kurrum Militant Infight - "The News" (03/19)

"Twenty-one militants were killed when two rival groups exchanged fire during a Jirga in Barizoon Nika Ziarat area in the central part of Kurram Agency, tribal sources said on Thursday."

News Story: McChrystal Briefs Kayani Over Afghan Offensive - "The Nation," "Dawn," "Daily Times," "Pakistan Observer," "The Post," "The Frontier Post," "Jang," "Nawa-i-Waqt," "Express," "Ausaf," "Islam," "Khabrain," "Jinnah," "Pakistan" (03/19)

"The U.S. Commander for International Security Assistance Forces (ISAF), General Stanley McChrystal on Thursday commended Pakistan's efforts against violent extremists and honored the sacrifices rendered by the country. Well-placed military and diplomatic sources informed 'The Nation' that the ISAF Commander made these remarks while talking to the Chief of Army Staff General Ashfaq Parvez Kayani during a meeting at the GHQ of Pakistan Army."

News Story: 300 Visas Granted To U.S. - "The News" (03/19)

"Three hundred visas were granted to U.S. accountants, auditors and inspectors in the last month of February, according to the Foreign Office.... A private TV channel quoting Foreign Office sources said

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that the U.S. State Department still funded more visas urgently but it could not be done swiftly even though the matter was related to the controversial arrival of U.S. marines."

News Story: Al Qaeda On The Run, Says CIA Chief - "Dawn" (03/19)

"Attacks in Pakistan have driven Osama bin Laden and other leaders underground and reduced Al Qaeda's ability to plan attacks, CIA Director Leon Panetta said. He told The Washington Post in an interview that Bin Laden and other Al Qaeda leaders had gone into hiding. The CIA Chief said the setbacks for Al Qaeda resulted from an accelerated number of drone strikes and improved coordination with Pakistan in what he called 'the most aggressive operation that CIA has been involved in our history.'"

TERRORISM/MILITARY ISSUES

News Story: Osama, Deputy Hiding In Pakistan: CIA Chief - "The Nation" (03/19)

"The U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) believes Osama bin Laden and his top deputy, Ayman al-Zawahiri, are inside Pakistan though it does not know precisely where. The agency officials believe the two are hiding, 'either in the northern tribal areas or in North Waziristan, or somewhere in that vicinity,' CIA Director Leon Panetta told 'The Washington Post' in an interview published on Thursday."

News Story: Americans Have Direct Access To Mullah Baradar: Officials - "Daily Times" (03/19)

"U.S. investigators have recently been given more regular direct access to Pakistani-led interrogations of the Afghan Taliban's No 2 leader, U.S. officials said on Wednesday, a month after his arrest was announced. Pakistani limitations on U.S. access to Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar have been a source of tension since he was captured in Karachi. It was unclear whether the 'direct U.S. access' was yielding useful intelligence. 'There is direct access to him,' a U.S. official said on condition of anonymity."

News Story: NATO Plans Northern Afghanistan Offensive - "The News" (03/19)

"The NATO military alliance is planning a large-scale offensive in northern Afghanistan this year against Taliban insurgents, a senior German general was quoted as saying on Thursday. "There will definitely be an operation up there in Kunduz (province)," General Bruno Kasdorf, chief of staff in the NATO-led International Security and Assistance Force (ISAF) in Kabul, told the German ARD public radio."

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News Story: Pakistan Unable To Confirm Death Of Terrorist - "The News" (03/19)

"Though U.S. military authorities are claiming that one of the 13 people killed in a drone attack in Miramshah in North Waziristan on March 8 was a senior al-Qaeda operative Hussain al-Yemeni, Pakistan security officials in the area said they were unable to confirm the claim due to lack of details about those slain in the missile strike, Pakistani security officials based in Miramshah, the principal town of militancy-hit North Waziristan, said."

News Story: TTP Threatens More Attacks - "The News" (03/19)

"The Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) has threatened more attacks across the country in response to the growing U.S. drone attacks in the tribal areas. The TTP also announced a ban on dealings in U.S. currency in South Waziristan and warned violators of stern action, TTP spokesman Azam Tariq called 'The News' from an undisclosed location on Thursday."

News Story: Six Militants Killed In Darra Attack - "The News" (03/19)

"Six militants were killed and five security personnel sustained injuries when the forces repulsed an attack on the Spina Thana camp in Darra Adamkhel early on Thursday, official sources said."

News Story: Suspected TTP Member Arrested In Karachi - "Dawn" (03/19)

"Suspected member of Tehreek-e-Taliban, Ismail Mehsud has been arrested from Sohrab Goth area of Karachi, security forces told 'DawnNews.' Security Agency claim to have recovered arms and ammunitions in his possession."

News Story: Terror Cache Recovery Causes Security Concern - "Dawn" (03/19)

"The recovery of 4,500 kilo explosives, hand-grenades, suicide vests, sophisticated weapons and thousands of bullets dumped in two locked shops in Mehran Block of Allama Iqbal Town has raised questions about the effectiveness of much-trumpeted 'security measures' and the government's counter-terrorism strategy. So far the government's security measures like search and sweeping, checking of vehicles at pickets and check-posts and extensive patrolling seem to have failed to check the apparently free movement of terrorists, their networking with local facilitators and dumping of huge quantity of explosives and weapons in the city."

News Story: Six Power Plants: U.S. To Extend \$125 Million For Rehabilitation - "Business Recorder" (03/19)

"United State (U.S.) has agreed to extend \$125 million to energy-starved Pakistan for rehabilitation of six hydro and thermal power plants, official sources told 'Business Recorder.' The sources said U.S. is expected to provide fund for repair and maintenance of units 1, 3 and 4 of Terbela Dam at an estimated cost of \$16.5 million that would increase generation by 80 MW."

News Story: Sectoral Engagement: Pakistan To Propose Ten Tracks To U.S. - "Business Recorder" (03/19)

"Pakistan would propose a new framework to the U.S. for cementing institutional relations between the two countries by enhancing co-operation in economic, social and defence sectors. Addressing the weekly press briefing here on Thursday, Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi said he would propose ten tracks for sectoral engagement between the two countries for bilateral co-operation completely different from previous three engagements between the two countries.... These tracks are economy, energy, education, defence, science and technology, strategic stability and non-proliferation, counter-terrorism, agriculture, health and communication and public diplomacy."

News Story: U.S. See Little Change In Pak's Perception About It - "The Nation" (03/19)

"In spite of having pumped billions of dollars into Pakistan as assistance, U.S. officials have said they see little change in

Pakistani's perception about America. According to western media, the trust deficit remains despite several steps taken and aid and assistance given through the Kerry-Lugar-Berman bill signed into law last year, U.S. officials said in a testimony before a Congressional committee."

News Story: Senate Panel Asks Govt. To Defer VAT For One Year - "The News" (03/19)

"The government's commitment to the IMF to enforce 15 per cent Value Added Tax (VAT) from July 1, 2010 suffered a severe blow Thursday as the Senate standing committee on finance has recommended to the government to defer the imposition of VAT for one year, scale down the rate from 15 to 12.5 per cent and abolish the powers of tax officers to recover arrears from the relatives of tax defaulters. Members of the committee who met in Islamabad at the Parliament House on Thursday under the chairmanship of Senator Ahmed Ali were

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unanimous on the point that it was UNCLASSIFIED ment the new law without proper consultation with the business tycoons."

EDITORIALS/OPINIONS

Editorial: Imperatives Of Strategic Dialogue With The U.S., an editorial in the Islamabad-based rightist English daily "Pakistan Observer" (cir. 5,000) (03/19)

"Pakistan-U.S. relationship has always been marked by periods of cooperation and discord but Washington claims that the nature of the ties has been transformed into strategic one in the wake of 9/11 developments thus inclusion of Pakistan as a key ally in the counter-terrorism campaign. This 'strategic relationship' seems to be one-sided as the United States is squeezing maximum benefits from Pakistan yet not ready to address issues of Pakistani concern or provide the country with economic and military assistance that it should receive because of its deeper plunge into the war against terror and the resultant losses of huge dimensions.... We hope that our policy-makers would raise these and other related issues with all seriousness during the forthcoming strategic dialogue with the United States."

Editorial: Federal Secretaries Meeting At The GHQ, an editorial in the country's premier business newspaper, "Business Recorder" (cir. 25,000) (03/19)

"A report tells of COAS Kayani having presided over a meeting of five federal secretaries at the GHQ. The meeting was apparently related to the forthcoming US-Pakistan strategic dialogue and the deliberations would have been important. One wonders, however, if it was exactly in line with the protocol in a democracy for the COAS to chair the meeting, attended by federal secretaries for finance, foreign affairs, commerce and agriculture, along with the secretary in charge of information technology and petroleum. We are told the meeting was part of a consultative process between the civil and military bureaucracy to forge a consensus on key security and economic issues confronting the nation amid ongoing efforts against militancy and for strategic relations with the key world powers. In a democratic set-up one expects a meeting of the sort to be chaired by one of the federal ministers, in his office, considering that the GHQ, NHQ and AHQ are under the ministry of defence, whose principal accounting officer is the defence secretary. It is highly unusual for the military chief to be called upon to co-ordinate matters related to the civilian departments and the army. The message that it could convey is that the civilian government is yielding its turf to the army. It could also indicate to others that the military is extending its influence beyond its legitimate sphere.... The event assumes extra importance, as these talks would be the first under the aegis of the upgraded strategic dialogue led by Secretary

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Clinton from the U.S. side and Foreign Minister Inayatullah Khan from Pakistan's side. As the dialogue will encompass issues related to Pakistan's energy needs, economic issues, and defence-related matters, there is a need on the part of various ministries to provide inputs to Pakistan's negotiating team."

Editorial: Moderate And Careful Strategy On Important National Issues, an editorial in the Karachi-based, pro-Taliban Jihadi Urdu daily "Islam" (cir. 15,000) (03/19)

"Prime Minister Gilani's interview to foreign journalists on Wednesday clearly demonstrated that he has adopted a very cautious and moderate policy on the issues of national interests. In the present political scenario of the country, the successes and

failures of the government depend largely on the restoration of peace and the economic development. We think that Interior Minister Rehman Malik's controversial statements, such the one about the presence of 'Punjabi Taliban' may prove dangerous for Pakistan's security in future."

Opinion: For Attention of Negotiators Participating In Pak-U.S. Strategic Dialogue, an op-ed by Nusrat Mirza in the leading mass circulation populist, often sensational Urdu daily "Jang" (cir. 300,000) (03/19)

"The upcoming Pak-U.S. Strategic Dialogue are of utmost importance as far as future relations between the two countries. It seems that Washington wants to get rid of the Afghan quagmire leaving Islamabad to clear the mess Americans have created during eight years of war. Meanwhile, a cold war has already ensued between the U.S. and China, the time-tested and all-weather friend of Pakistan, over their diverging interests in the region. Under these circumstances, we need to utilize all channels to convince the Obama administration to consider our national interests. Our negotiators should demand their American counterparts to sign a civil nuclear deal with Pakistan as they had done with India; hand over their military hardware in Afghanistan to us before withdrawal; put pressure on India to resolve water issue with Pakistan; share intelligence with the ISI, and stop doing so with the RAW; and the U.S. should stop interfering in Balochistan and also urge its British and Indian allies to do so."

Editorial: Power Crisis, an editorial in the Karachi-based center-left independent national English daily "Dawn" (cir. 55,000) (03/19)

"As if it were not enough that Pakistanis have to deal with a deepening power crisis with each passing season, it now appears that they have to grapple with mysterious discrepancies in the data

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proffered by the various players in the power sector. Amazingly, PEPCO, WAPDA and distribution companies are now sparring over how much electricity is being supplied throughout the country. How is this even possible? PEPCO, which was created to manage 'the transition of WAPDA from a bureaucratic structure to a corporate, commercially viable and productive entity,' is now openly being accused of playing politics and fudging numbers to downplay the extent of the power crisis. It seems that the vehicle created to stem the rot in the power sector has itself been infected."

Editorial: Summer of Suffering, an editorial in the populist, often sensational national English daily "The News" (cir. 55,000) (03/19)

"We are told that due to a massive 4,500 MW shortage of power, load-shedding of up to ten hours a day can be expected countrywide. Karachi seems likely to be the worst-affected city, although all the urban centers seem set to suffer. Smaller towns - and rural areas - can of course expect far harder times. Many experienced power cuts of up to 16 or 20 hours a day last year. To add to the confusion, there is the discrepancy over quite how acute the shortfall is. WAPDA and PEPCO vary in the figures they give out, with WAPDA maintaining it is producing more power through hydel generation than PEPCO is stating. As in so many other aspects of life, the manufacturing of figures seems to have become a part of our power crisis as well. The constant suspicion is that the situation is exaggerated in order to ease the way for the rental power projects favored by some powerful individuals who run the affairs of state."

Editorial: The Term 'Punjabi Taliban': Interior Minister Should Not Play Politics At The Country's Cost, an editorial in the second-largest, nationalist Urdu daily "Nawa-i-Waqt" (cir. 150,000) (03/19)

"Interior Minister Rehman Malik is on record as having said after the blasts in Model Town and R.A. Bazar, Lahore, that there is evidence of Indian involvement in these attacks.... It is then incomprehensible why the Interior Minister changed his stance and heaped the blame for this terrorism on the so called Punjabi Taliban while the Punjab government out-rightly rejects the existence of Punjabi Taliban.... If today, the term of Punjabi Taliban is used, tomorrow we will hear about the Sindhi Taliban, thereby creating a justification for operations in Karachi and other areas of Sindh as well. This situation is tantamount to throwing the country into a fire lit by our enemy. Our rulers should see reason and should not cause more devastation in the country just to score political points."

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Editorial: Punjabi Taliban, an editorial in the Lahore-based independent Urdu daily "Din" (cir.5000) (03/19)

"The U.S. is pushing this war into Pakistan's settled areas according to a plan.... The Interior Minister should have exercised caution before using this term [Punjabi Taliban]. He should also have kept in mind the U.S. pressure that will emerge as a result of his statement. The explosive material used in all the blasts in Lahore is material that only the U.S., India or Israel have. The government must admit that it is helpless before U.S. pressure.... Saying that 'Punjabi Taliban' are involved in Lahore blasts only confirms reservations by the movers of Kerry-Lugar bill and shows that U.S. drones can now rain missiles on Punjab also, just like Waziristan."

Editorial: President Zardari's Organs And The Pakistani Nation, an editorial in the center-right Urdu daily "Pakistan" (cir. 10,000) (03/19)

"President Zardari has done a praiseworthy act by donating all of his organs after his death. However, he should focus all his energies on the country and nation's betterment while he is alive.... After a person's death, his organs can improve the lives of only a few people, but doing good deeds when you're living can help millions lead better lives."

Editorial: Israel's Aggressive Designs And U.S. Policies, in the liberal Urdu daily "Express" (cir. 25, 000) (03/19)

"American officials' hue and cry over Israel's activities is nothing but an eye-wash, and this time even the UN Secretary General has chimed in. Otherwise, if Iraq and Afghanistan can be attacked under false allegations, how is it possible that Israel cannot be penalized for its actions and aggression? The fact is that America and its allies have always played a double game in the Israel-Palestine dispute. If the UN and the U.S. really want to straighten out Israel, they only need to stop its aid, and all issues would be resolved automatically."

(All circulation figures are based on estimation)
Patterson

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