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RELEASED IN PART **A62**  
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ACTION INR-00

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	INL-00	DNI-00	DOTE-00	PDI-00	DS-00	EAP-00	DHSE-00
	EUR-00	OIGO-00	FAAE-00	UTED-00	VCI-00	DIAS-00	OBO-00
	H-00	TEDE-00	IO-00	L-00	ARMY-00	MOFM-00	MOF-00
	M-00	VCIE-00	NEA-00	DCP-00	NSAE-00	ISN-00	OIC-00
	OIG-00	NIMA-00	EPAU-00	GIWI-00	ISNE-00	DOHS-00	IRM-00
	NCTC-00	FMP-00	BBG-00	R-00	EPAE-00	ECA-00	IIP-00
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 JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE  
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E.O. 12958: N/A  
 TAGS: KMDR, KPAO, OIIP, OPRC, PGOV, PREL, PK  
 SUBJECT: PAKISTAN MEDIA REACTION: MARCH 11, 2010

Summary: Coverage of Afghan President Karzai's Islamabad visit, along with President Zardari's statement that "Pakistan and Afghanistan need a Marshall Plan for the region to curb militancy" dominated headlines in several major newspapers on Thursday morning. Newspapers highlighted reports that the U.S. drone strikes killed 14 people at Dattakhel in North Waziristan Agency (NWA). DCM Feierstein's interview with Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) received extensive coverage both in English as well as Urdu language dailies. Media reported that the U.S. is validating claims of \$2.1 billion submitted by Pakistan under Coalition Support Fund (CSF), and assured of their early release. "Dawn," reported from Washington that U.S. Lt. General Kearney informed the Senate Committee that

militants may trigger India-Pakistan war. Several major dailies published U.S. Mission's news-release contradicting some media reports claiming the National Data Registration Authority (NADRA) had provided the USG with sensitive data about Pakistani citizens. Papers also reported that the U.S. Mission has announced a U.S.-Pakistan business matching service to promote trade between the two countries. Most major Urdu language newspapers ran editorials on local political issues including constitutional amendments. However English language dailies opted to focus on GOP's decision to extend the tenure of ISI chief General Pasha for one-year. "The News," observed that "the purpose seems to be to ensure that the military effort against militancy which is currently underway continues without any disruption." Similarly, "Daily Times," also noted that "it does not make much sense to change horses midstream when we are embarked on such an important mission." On the contrary, "Dawn," raised a question that "Gen Pasha may be an exemplary spymaster and he may deserve the nation's gratitude for services rendered but is he really indispensable?" End Summary.

## TOP STORIES

News Story: Fight Against Militancy; Zardari Seeks Marshal Plan for Region - "The News" (03/11)

"President Asif Ali Zardari on Wednesday said Pakistan and Afghanistan should stand together and persuade the international community to devise a Marshal Plan for the region to get rid of militancy and its effects. 'The two countries need to speak the same language at international forums because both suffer from the same malaise caused by the same mindset of militancy and extremism,' the President said while talking to Afghan President Hamid Karzai at the bilateral talks."

News Story: Pakistan, Afghanistan Agree To Revive Jirga Process - "Dawn" (03/11)

"Pakistan and Afghanistan agreed on Wednesday to revive the joint grand Jirga process for evolving a common strategy on furthering Kabul's 'reintegration and reconciliation' plan. The decision was taken at a meeting between President Asif Ali Zardari and Afghan President Hamid Karzai."

News Story: U.S. Drones Kill 14 in NWA - "The News" (03/11)

"Fourteen people were killed in U.S. drone attacks on Ziarat village of Datta Khel Tehsil, 45 kilometers west of Miramshah, North Waziristan, on Wednesday evening.... According to sources, the drones fired five missiles at the vehicle and one of them hit the pick-up, splitting it into pieces. The sources added that all the six men on board were killed on the spot. A security official based

in the troubled tribal region said on condition of anonymity that those killed in the first attack on the pickup truck were foreigners but he didn't provide further details about their nationality and identity."

News Story: U.S. Assures Release Of Funds Under CSF - "The Nation," "The News," (03/11)

"The United States is validating the claims of \$2.1 billion submitted by Pakistan for year 2009 under Coalition Support Fund (CSF) and assured to release the funds at the earliest. 'The U.S. has paid dollars 350 million to Pakistan two weeks ago, as last installment completing all the validated claims provided by government of Pakistan for the year 2008 under CSF,' said General M. Feierstein, Deputy Chief of Mission, U.S. Embassy in Islamabad on Wednesday while talking to APP. He said so far all the claims under CSF for 2008 amounting to \$1.1 billion has been cleared by the U.S. administration. He said the claims for 2009 amounting to \$2.1 billion are on the table and are being scrutinized and evaluated by

the U.S. auditors and expressed the hope that after completing the process, funds would be released as soon as possible."

News Story: U.S. Worries Militants May Trigger India-Pakistan War - "Dawn" (03/11)

"The United States continues to worry that groups like Lashkar-e-Taiba can cause a war between India and Pakistan, a senior U.S. Military Commander told a congressional panel on Wednesday. Lt-Gen Francis Kearney, Deputy Commander, U.S. Special Operations Command, told the Senate Committee on Armed Services that while the United States was taking steps to prevent a terrorist attack in the homeland, it also worried about terrorists stirring troubles elsewhere."

News Story: U.S. Embassy Clarifies - "The News," "Jang," "Express," "Khabrain," "Islam," "Ausaf" (03/11)

"The U.S. Embassy on Wednesday denied that United States had received any sensitive data from National Date Registration Authority (NADRA) concerning Pakistani citizens. This allegation is entirely false. 'The government of the United States neither requested nor received any such information from NADRA, the Embassy statement said in response to media reports published in several dailies."

News Story: Wire Service Apologizes Story Concerning NADRA (National Database and Registration Authority) - "Jang" (03/11)

"Pakistan Press International (PPI) has apologized on its Urdu

Service story on March 9 in which it was said that Interior Ministry provides NADRA database to the American Embassy. The PPI is in the process of taking action against those responsible for the story. UNCLASSIFIED  
It will be ensured that such mistake is not repeated... Meanwhile, NADRA Deputy Chairman Tariq Malik said that the NADRA record is a national trust and it is impossible for any unauthorized person to have access to the database."

News Story: \$5m For Feasibility Studies: U.S. To Help Businessmen Find Partners Abroad - "Dawn," "The News," "Pakistan Observer," "The Statesman," "Jang," "Express," "Pakistan," "Aaj Kal" (03/11)

"The United States would spend \$5 million on different projects designed to link Pakistani companies with their counterparts abroad, a U.S. official said on Wednesday. 'U.S. cooperation on economic front is growing and it will be supplemented with different initiatives in days to come,' said William Centre, Commercial Counselor at the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad. Mr. Centre was in Peshawar to apprise the business community about different initiatives being taken, to facilitate the local companies develop linkages with U.S. entrepreneurs looking for joint ventures and other business opportunity in Pakistan."

#### TERRORISM/MILITARY ISSUES

News Story: High-Level Pak-U.S. Dialogue Begins On 18th - "The News" (03/11)

"The U.S. capital, always a hub of political activity, is set to witness intense rounds of high-stake dialogue between Pakistani and U.S. officials which will commence with the arrival of Pakistan navy chief, Admiral Noman Bashir on March 17. Admiral Noman Bashir will begin top-level negotiations with the U.S. officials in the Pentagon on March 18. Only days after the arrival of Admiral Bashir, chief of army staff Gen Ashfaq Parvez Kayani is reaching Washington to hold very important dialogue with the U.S. officials on the issue of regional security. Gen. Kayani is expected to meet, among others, the U.S. national security advisor Gen James Jones, secretary defence Robert Gates, secretary of state Hillary Clinton, Admiral Mullen and ambassador Holbrooke. ISI Chief Gen. Shuja Pasha is also expected to join Gen. Kayani in the dialogue with the top U.S. officials. In the last week of March foreign minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi will be in Washington with a high-level delegation to lead Pak-U.S. strategic dialogue. The U.S. side is expected to be led by secretary of state Hillary Clinton."

News Story: U.S. Congress Plans Hearing On LeT - "Dawn" (03/11)

"The U.S. Congress is holding a hearing on Lashkar-e-Taiba on Thursday, focusing on its alleged role in terrorist attacks inside

India and exploring views within the Pakistan Army about the group.

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The group's association with Al Qaeda will also be highlighted. An announcement by the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Middle East and South Asia, describes the hearing's title as 'Bad Company: Lashkar-e-Taiba and the growing ambition of Islamist militancy in Pakistan.'

News Story: Militants Blow Up Charity's Office; Kill Six - "Dawn" (03/11)

"Six aid workers, two of them women, of a U.S.-based charity organisation were killed and eight others wounded in an attack in a remote village of Mansehra on Wednesday. Hazara Commissioner Waqar Ayub told 'Dawn' from Abbotabad that a group of 12 to 13 gunmen stormed the offices of World Vision in Oghi, put all employees in one room and started shooting."

News Story: U.S. Condemns Terrorist Attack In Mansehra - "Jang," "Express," "Islam" (03/11)

"The U.S. Embassy in Pakistan strongly condemned the terrorist attack on Wednesday targeting the World Vision office in the North West Frontier Province district of Mansehra. We extend our deepest sympathy to the injured and our condolences to the families and friends of those who lost their lives."

News Story: Five U.S. Nationals Case - "The News" (03/11)

"An anti-terrorism court in Sargodha again failed on Wednesday to frame charges against five Americans accused of plotting attacks with Al Qaeda-linked groups, lawyers said. The U.S. citizens facing trial in Sargodha were arrested in December 2009."

News Story: Militancy Will Be Uprooted From SWA At All Cost - "Daily Times" (03/11)

"The government has shut all doors on talks with the Taliban and militancy will be uprooted from South Waziristan at all cost, a senior official told a grand Jirga of the Mehsud tribes on Wednesday. 'The government will not hold any talks with the Taliban and peace will be restored only with the elimination of militants,' South Waziristan political agent Shahab Ali Shah said while addressing a 400-member Jirga of the Mehsud tribes."

News Story: Lashkar Torch 13 Houses Of Militants In Bajaur - "Dawn" (03/11)

"The Mamond Qaumi Lashkar torched 13 houses of suspected militants and recovered a huge cache of arms during a search operation in the

Bajaur Agency on Wednesday. Sources said the Lashkar, backed by the political administration, launched action against militants in different areas of the Mamond tehsil, once a stronghold of the Taliban."

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News Story: Two 'Bombers' Among 60 Held In Hangu - "The News" (03/11)

"Law-enforcement agencies claimed to have arrested 60 militants, including two would-be suicide bombers, in a week-long operation, official sources said in Hangu on Wednesday."

#### POLITICAL ISSUES

News Story: Senate Panel Seeks End To Body Scan - "Dawn" (03/11)

"Members of the Senate's Standing Committee on interior has expressed 'serious concern' over body scanning of Pakistanis at European and U.S. airports and termed it against the cultural norms of the country.... The Committee called upon the western countries to stop body scan of Pakistani passengers and adopt a dignified procedure for security check."

News Story: Promotion of 29 Brigadiers To Rank Of Maj-General - "Dawn" (03/11)

"Twenty-nine brigadiers have been promoted to the rank of Major General and a major reshuffle in the army's top brass is reported to be on the cards after expected promotion of at least seven officers to three-star generals over the next few weeks. The decision was taken at a meeting of the selection board presided over by Chief of the Army Staff General Ashfaq Parvez Kayani on Wednesday."

News Story: Judges' Appointment Proposal May Divide PBC - "Dawn" (03/11)

"The hotly debated recommendations made by the Parliamentary Committee on constitutional reforms on the procedure for appointment of judges may divide the 21-member Pakistan Bar Council (PBC) when it meets on Saturday to discuss different proposals on the issue."

#### ECONOMY/ENVIRONMENT

News Story: New CEOs For Eight Largest Public Sector Enterprises - "The News" (03/11)

"The Cabinet, which met with Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani in the chair, on Wednesday approved the restructuring of major eight Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs), which gobbled up more than Rs250 billion annually, with a view to bringing about financial

discipline, revival and good governance."

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News Story: Pakistan, Iran To Sign Gas Accords On March 16 -  
"Dawn" (03/11)

"Pakistan and Iran will sign on March 16 three agreements for supplying about 750 million cubic feet a day (MMCFD) of Iran gas to Pakistan by 2014. The agreements will be signed in Turkey. Ejaz Chaudhry, Additional Secretary of Petroleum and Natural Resources, told the National Assembly's Standing Committee on Petroleum on Wednesday."

News Story: \$1.18 bn ADB Investment Plan In Jeopardy "The News"  
(03/11)

"A \$1.18 billion, 10-year investment program, offered by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Agence Francaise de Development (French Development Agency or AFD) for different projects to overcome the energy crisis, is in jeopardy because of bureaucratic hurdles, official sources said in Islamabad on Wednesday."

#### EDITORIALS/OPINIONS

Editorial: Continuing Mission, an editorial in the populist, often sensational national English daily "The News" (cir. 55,000) (03/11)

"The ISI Chief Lt-Gen Shuja Pasha has been given a year's extension as a three-star general. He is expected to continue at his present post.... The purpose seems to be to ensure that the military effort against militancy which is currently underway continues without any disruption. This is sensible, given that in the past there has been doubt over the degree of military commitment to the battle against the Taliban.... There is now, perhaps for the first time, conviction in the country that the military does truly mean business. This is vital to injecting hope in a nation where there has been far too much despondency. For the first time we can see before us the possibility of an all-out defeat for the militants. We must hope the decision will ensure that there is no going back in the effort against militancy.... The extension granted in service is therefore a wise step. It is important that the team we have assembled to fight militancy be kept intact till the final target is achieved."

Editorial: Extraordinary Times, an editorial in the Lahore-based liberal English language daily "Daily Times" (cir. 10,000) (03/11)

"Normally such extensions are not considered a good idea as they block the elevation of others, but these are extraordinary times. Not only are we in the middle of a war inside the country, we are also a frontline ally of the U.S. in the war on terror. Thus there

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is some weight in the logic of giving an extension to Lieutenant-General Pasha. It does not make much sense to change horses midstream when we are embarked on such an important mission, i.e. to eliminate terrorist networks from Pakistani soil and make South Asia a peaceful region.... Pakistan must complete the critical task of eliminating terrorism."

Editorial: ISI Chief, an editorial in the Karachi-based center-left independent national English daily "Dawn" (cir. 55,000) (03/11)

"The speculation surrounding the future of the ISI Chief Gen. Pasha has been confirmed.... Gen. Pasha may be an exemplary spymaster and he may deserve the nation's gratitude for services rendered but is he really indispensable?... There is a further problem: the Pakistan

Army high command showed an astonishing lack of foresight when it appointed Gen Pasha.... Perhaps Gen. Kayani, who appointed Gen. Pasha, thought he would cross that bridge when he came to it. But ad-hocism of this sort cannot strengthen institutions. The army needs to accept that it must not act as a law unto itself."

Editorial: Service Extension For ISI Chief, an editorial in the country's premier business newspaper, "Business Recorder" (cir. 25,000) (03/11)

"Restoring peace and calm in the country is indeed a long-haul undertaking, and that too if perseverance and continuity underscore the policy and plan of action against the militancy. Continuity is the key to any plan or program against militancy and extremism. No fighting force would like to change horses midstream, and that's what Chief of Army Staff General Kayani seemed to have in mind when giving extensions to some three-star generals. Lieutenant General Ahmed Shuja Pasha, the incumbent Chief of Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) Directorate is the latest on that list. In war times, extension of service is an accepted norm; General Petraeus, who currently heads the U.S. Central Command for Middle East and Central Asia (CENTCOM), is on an extension granted to him in view of his service in Iraq."

Editorial: Oghi Attack, an editorial in the Karachi-based center-left independent national English daily "Dawn" (cir. 55,000) (03/11)

"Wednesday's attack on the office of an American charity in Oghi, in the NWFP's Mansehra district, reflects the insecure atmosphere in which foreign NGOs work in Pakistan.... This is not the first time foreign NGOs and aid agencies have been attacked in the country.... Last year the office of the United Nations' World Food Program in Islamabad was also targeted.... Though no group has as yet claimed responsibility for the Oghi attack, local police and observers



strongly believe the Taliban or allied extremists to be involved.... Religious extremists, in fact, bear particular animus towards foreign NGOs, especially faith-based charities.... the government must beef up security for these organizations lest they are forced to pack up and leave, which would have a negative impact on those underprivileged sections of society who benefit from their activities."

Opinion: What Jihadi Sentiment Is Behind Suicide Attacks?, a column by Afzal Rehan in the center-right Urdu daily "Pakistan" (cir. 10,000) (03/11)

"Lahore suicide attack once again shook the city.... There was a time when it was difficult to write even four words in our media against the Taliban, al-Qaeda, Usama bin Laden or Ameerul Momineen Mullah Omar and they were addressed with reverence.... The public sympathy for Bait Ullah Mehsud is now limited to some small religious sections. However, our devout religious sections still openly or secretly support the terrorism in Afghanistan, Iraq and elsewhere. Our media is tilted against Americans or allies; the entire argument is that the fire was initiated by America.... If America leaves Afghanistan without establishing a proper set up or without bringing stability then the ensuing bloodshed will be much more than what it was at time of the Soviet withdrawal and afterwards.... In our opinion the really condemnable are those who keep on giving justifications in favor of these terror attacks."

Opinion: A Review of Pakistan Assistance Strategy Paper, an op-ed by Jamal Hussain in the Lahore-based liberal English language daily "Daily Times" (cir. 10,000) (03/11)

"Any increase in the presence of U.S. citizens in Pakistan even for genuinely valid reasons will be portrayed in the media as a further effort to destabilize the state. The bogey of Blackwater personnel undoing the country and neutralizing our nuclear deterrence through subversion will be raised. If a few hundred Blackwater workers, or an increase of about a hundred U.S. Marines in Islamabad, have the ability to defang us of our nuclear assets despite the presence of over half a million combat-tested military, we deserve to be disarmed and should voluntarily give up our crown jewels. The real threat to our 'strategic assets' does not emanate from these directions. A responsible and mature behavior by us will put the world at ease and it will eventually learn to live with our nuclear status. However, if we act irrationally, the very survival of Pakistan as a nation state will be in jeopardy.... The U.S. administration and their superior military commanders now appear to have a much better understanding of our position. This has come

about because: first, Pakistan has finally recognized the threat trying to appease the non-state actors poses; and second, there has been a rapid learning curve by the U.S. military commanders and

Opinion: New Solutions For Afghanistan?, an op-ed by Zeenia Satti in the populist, often sensational national English daily "The News" (cir. 55,000) (03/11)

"The Pentagon's seemingly wise new solutions for Afghanistan are divorced from reality and likely to suffer the fate of Obama's pre-election slogan of change. It is being said about Marjah that "we cannot win this war, but we can help the Afghans win it." The question is: which Afghans and what kind of help?... At the national level, the Karzai government is born of massive electoral rigging and violates the core principle of democracy: respect for individual vote. It carries no legitimacy whatsoever with the Afghans, though he is acceptable as the 'lesser evil' to America and India. There is thus a tension between the local control of democracy and the American control of democracy in Afghanistan. This tension is hardwired into America's Afghan venture. Any government in a box that the U.S. Generals are ready to roll out after 'clearing' an area will be a government that is not born of legitimate political practices--i.e., is not a democratic government. Going by the Afghan tradition of dealing with illegitimate governments, there is every reason to expect the Taliban will return once the NATO troops move out of Marjah and other areas of operation throughout the country. The ideal solution would be for the U.S. troops to leave Afghanistan, followed by fresh and fair elections under UN auspices. With foreign troops gone, combat fatigue will make the Afghans turn to nation-building. Just a fraction of U.S. war capital could help a truly elected government build schools, hospitals and infrastructure with the same sincerity which galvanizes the amazing Afghan resistance."

Opinion: How A New Chapter Opened, an op-ed by Saleem Safi in the populist, often sensational national English daily "The News" (cir. 55,000) (03/11)

"Afghanistan's problem stems from persistent foreign interventions. Karzai needs to hold direct talks with the Taliban and must satisfy their demands, including the demand for ouster of foreign forces from Afghan soil. The Taliban and other Islamist forces must reciprocate Karzai's positive overtures. The realignment of these opposite camps will bolster Karzai's confidence to deal with foreign forces from a position of strength. Pakistan has legitimate interests in Afghanistan and, as such, Karzai should heed Islamabad's calls for the protection of Pakistani interests. Reciprocally, instead of exploiting Karzai's weaknesses, Pakistan must play a positive role in the development of reconciliation between the Taliban and Kabul. Unity among Afghans is a recipe for peace in their country. Intervention by foreign elements will always ignite fires, instead of helping to end internecine wars in that

country. A durable peace between Islamabad and Kabul can only be ensured through direct bilateral talks by pushing out India, the United States and Iran from the equation."

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Opinion: Which Language Do You Understand?, an op-ed by Tanweer Qaiser Shahid in the liberal Urdu daily "Express" (cir. 25, 000) (03/11)

"India might be right in feeling smug over the fact that the western countries listen to it more than they listen to Pakistan. But after the foreign secretary-level 'talks,' it has realized for the first time that it can establish good relations with Pakistan only on the basis of parity. President Obama has announced that U.S. troops would start withdrawing from Afghanistan in 2011, hence Uncle Sam also wants tensions between India and Pakistan to end. The kind of investment India has made in Afghanistan is unacceptable for Pakistan. R.K. Upadhaya, senior fellow of the Indian think-tank IDSA(Institute of Defense Studies and Analysis) says that India will not be able to resist international pressure for long, and the focal point of this pressure is that India should hold frank talks with Pakistan. Pakistan's Foreign Secretary Salman Bashir has also said in an interview with The Friday Times (March 5-11) that Indian refusal to hold talks with Pakistan is dangerous for South Asia. He has also said, "We have made it clear to India that it should inform us when it wants to have a meaningful dialogue, and we will respond similarly." Perhaps the Indians understand this kind of tone."

(All circulation figures are based on estimation)

Patterson

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