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	IRM-00	NCTC-00	FMP-00	BBG-00	R-00	EPAE-00	ECA-00
	IIP-00	SCRS-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-00	G-00	SCA-00
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E.O. 12958: N/A
 TAGS: KMDR, KPAO, OIIP, OPRC, PGOV, PREL, PK
 SUBJECT: PAKISTAN MEDIA REACTION: APRIL 30, 2010

Summary: Coverage of Prime Minister Gilani's meeting with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on the margins of the SAARC Summit in Bhutan and their decision to resume talks between their two countries dominated headlines in all dailies on Friday morning. Several newspapers also carried Pentagon Press Secretary Geoff Morrell's statement that Pakistan will receive about \$600 million under the Coalition Support Fund in coming weeks. "Nawa-i-Waqt," in an exclusive article, quoted Ambassador Patterson's characterization of media reports about the use of private companies for spying in Pakistan as "baseless." Several major dailies published a Pentagon report that Pakistan has moved 100,000 of its troops from its Indian border to spearhead a crackdown on Taliban along the Afghan border.

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Newspapers also published the Pakistani spokesman's rejection of the report as "ridiculous and baseless." Along with these reports, several mainstream papers carried a Washington Post report that the U.S. decision to send 50 more military personnel with four new F-16 combat jets to Pakistan has made the Pakistani government "shudder with trepidation." Reports that the United States will hand over two upgraded P-3C Orion reconnaissance aircrafts to Pakistan received extensive coverage. Media also covered the U.S. Commission for International Religious Freedom report naming Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and China as serious violators of religious freedom. End Summary.

TOP STORIES

News Story: Mumbai's Long Shadow Finally Recedes; Gilani, Singh Want Roadmap to Walk the Talk - "Dawn" (04/30)

"Pakistan and India agreed on Thursday to revive, without any precondition, the stalled dialogue when their Prime Ministers met for first direct talks in nine months on the sidelines of the 16th SAARC Summit in Thimphu. Both sides termed the meeting between Yousuf Raza Gilani and Dr. Manmohan Singh 'very positive.' Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi described the meeting as 'warm, cordial and engaging.'"

News Story: Pakistan, India Agree To Resume Talks - "The News" (04/30)

"Pakistan and India decided on Thursday to resume talks but the process would not be under the mechanism of the composite dialogue that was stalled in July 2008 in the wake of the Mumbai incidents. The Foreign Ministers and the Foreign Secretaries of both the countries will work out modalities for the future course of talks. The two countries' relations continued to suffer from the confidence deficit syndrome, as conceded by both sides immediately after 90-minute meeting between Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani and his Indian counterpart Dr. Manmohan Singh on the sidelines of the 16th Summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)."

News Story: Reducing Indo-Pak Tension U.S. High Priority - "Dawn," "The News," "Daily Times," "The Nation" (04/30)

"President Barack Obama believes that reducing tensions between India and Pakistan is a 'high priority' for the United States, a high-ranking U.S. official said on Thursday. But the official made it clear that the American support for that process 'is best done in a quiet fashion.' 'It's certainly a very high priority for the president, for Secretary (of State Hillary) Clinton, for this administration, to be as supportive as we can in reducing tensions

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between India and Pakistan,' said ~~UNCLASSIFIED~~ Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan at the State Department."

News Story: Pakistan to Get \$600m Under CSF: Pentagon - "Dawn," "The News," "Daily Times" (04/30)

"The United States plans to quickly transfer \$600 million to Pakistan to reimburse the government for military operations over the last year, the Pentagon said on Thursday. 'There has been some concern on the Pakistanis' part about the rate at which they are reimbursed for Coalition Support Funds for their efforts in the war on terror on our behalf within their borders,' Pentagon Press Secretary Geoff Morrell said at a news conference."

News Story: U.S. Releases Another \$188m Tranche - "Pakistan Observer," "The News" (04/30)

"U.S. has released another tranche of \$188 million to Pakistan under Coalition Support Fund (CSF). This was told by U.S. Embassy Spokesman Richard Senlsire while talking to Online in Islamabad on Thursday. Richard Senlsire confirmed that a sum of 188 million dollars had been transferred to Pakistan account under CSF."

News Story: Media Reports About Use of Private Companies for Spying in Pakistan Baseless: Ambassador Patterson - "Nawa-i-Waqt" (04/30)

"U.S. Ambassador Anne W. Patterson has said that the media reports regarding the use of private companies to set up a spy network in Pakistan are completely baseless. Speaking at a reception hosted by the Dutch ambassador on Thursday evening, she said that such malicious and false reports are being repeatedly published with an aim to spoil the friendly relations between Pakistan and the United States. To a query, the U.S. envoy said that her country is providing assistance to Pakistan to improve the production capacity of Tarbela, Jamshoro, and other power-generating plants as an effort to resolve the acute energy crisis. Patterson further said that the second round of the U.S.-Pak Strategic Dialogue will be held in Islamabad next month in which important decisions would be taken to enhance the close cooperation between the two countries. She added that Secretary Clinton is expected to visit Pakistan in July."

News Story: Pakistan Has Moved 100,000 Troops From Indian Border: Pentagon - "Dawn," "The News," "The Nation," "Daily Times," "Pakistan Observer" (04/30)

"Pakistan has deployed 140,000 troops in Fata, moving at least 100,000 soldiers from the Indian border to back up its 'unprecedented' crackdown on militants along the Afghan border, says

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a Pentagon report. In its mandatory report to the U.S. Congress on the situation in the Pakistan-Afghan region, the Pentagon notes that the deployment is the biggest in the country's history on the western border."

News Story: Report Ridiculous: Maj. Gen. Athar - "Pakistan Observer, "The News" (04/30)

"Military spokesman Maj Gen Athar Abbas has made it clear Pakistan has not shifted its 100,000 troops from eastern borders and deployed them on western borders adding U.S. media reports in this respect are baseless, ridiculous and misleading. Talking to Online on Thursday he said about 147000 security Forces personnel were deployed on western borders to combat the menace of terrorism and no additional forces had been shifted there."

News Story: U.S. To Deploy 50 More Troops In Pakistan: WP - "Pakistan Observer," "The News," "The Nation" (04/30)

"The scheduled arrival of 50 additional U.S. military personnel to Pakistan in June, accompanying four new F-16 fighter jets, will increase the official number of American boots on the ground there by 25 percent. It is enough to make the Pakistani government shudder with trepidation. Under agreements connected to Pakistan's purchase of 18 F-16s scheduled for staggered delivery this year, a U.S. military team must be on hand to ensure that sophisticated, top-of-the-line avionics, weapons and data systems aboard the aircraft remain secure."

News Story: Pakistan To Get Two P-3C Orion Surveillance Aircraft - "Daily times," "The News," "The Nation" (04/30)

"The United States will hand over two upgraded P-3C Orion reconnaissance aircraft to Pakistan on Friday to help boost maritime security capability of the key member of the multinational task force.... Pakistan is due to get in phases a total of 7 P-3 C Orion aircraft that are being upgraded by global security company Lockheed Martin. According to a spokesman of the Pakistani Embassy in Washington, the acquisition of the aircraft reflects growing cooperation between the U.S. and Pakistani navies, that have been cooperating closely in stemming illegal activities at sea."

News Story: Pakistan, 12 Others Named Violators Of Religious Freedom - "Daily Times" (04/30)

"Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and China are among 13 countries a U.S. government panel named on Thursday as serious violators of religious freedom. The panel's report also criticized the current and former administrations in Washington for doing little to make basic religious rights universal. That is the goal of the congressional

act that founded the U.S. Commission on International Religious

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Freedom in 1998. The commission investigates conditions in what it calls 'hot spots,' where religious freedom is endangered. Its job is to recommend U.S. government policies to improve conditions."

News Story: Obama To Act If Mideast Talks Derailed: Palestinian Official - "Daily times" (04/30)

"U.S. President Barack Obama has vowed to take action against Israel or the Palestinians if either undermines indirect peace talks, a senior Palestinian official said on Thursday. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said that, in a letter handed to Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas by U.S. envoy George Mitchell during a meeting last week, Obama pledged to hold both parties accountable."

News Story: Clinton Urges Arab States To Do More For Mideast Peace - "The News" (04/30)

"U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on Thursday urged Arab states to do more to back Israeli-Palestinian peace moves while warning Syria against arming Lebanon's anti-Israeli Hezbollah. But Clinton, speaking to a pro-Israel group, said she also expected Israel to halt settlements in occupied land, meet the humanitarian needs of Gazans, and help the Palestinian Authority build institutions needed for statehood. 'We do not expect the Arab states to move forward in a vacuum,' the Chief U.S. diplomat said in remarks to the American Jewish Committee."

TERRORISM/MILITARY ISSUES

News Story: Pentagon Hails Improvements In Pak, U.S. Defence Ties - "Pakistan Observer," "The News" (04/30)

"The Pentagon praised Pakistan's recent steps to deny safe haven to terrorists within its borders while also noting in a report to Congress Wednesday that defense relationship between the two allies has seen 'substantial improvements,' the Pentagon said in a congressionally mandated report."

News Story: Dead Or Alive - Hakeemullah No Longer In Charge: Pentagon - "Daily Times" (04/30)

"The Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) is no longer being run by Hakeemullah Mehsud, who Pakistani intelligence officials now believe survived a CIA drone aircraft strike in January, the Pentagon said on Thursday. 'I certainly have seen no evidence that the person you speak of (Mehsud) is operational today or is executing or exerting authority over the Pakistani Taliban as he once did. So I don't know

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if that reflects him being alive or dead. As he clearly is not running the Pakistani Taliban anymore,' Pentagon Press Secretary Geoff Morrell told a news conference."

News Story: Pakistan Does Not Want Taliban To Return To Power in Afghanistan: Haqqani - "The Nation," - "Pakistan Observer" (04/30)

"Pakistani Ambassador to U.S. Hussain Haqqani has said that his does not want the Taliban to return to power in Afghanistan and we would help the Americans succeed in their mission in Afghanistan. Most Pakistanis and certainly the government of Pakistan want Afghanistan to emerge as a stable state. Afghanistan's stability will ensure Pakistan's stability. Pakistan certainly does not want the Taliban to return to power in Afghanistan."

News Story: Drone Attacks Illegal, Experts Warn Congress - "Dawn" (04/30)

"U.S. drone attacks were illegal because the CIA was using civilian contractors to launch them, a prominent U.S. lawyer told a key Congressional Committee. Another lawyer argued before the U.S. House Subcommittee on National Security and Foreign Affairs that while the United States had the right to use the drones, the CIA personnel actually launching the attacks could be guilty of war crimes.... Lawyers and lawmakers both noted that what was a seldom-used tactic in the Bush Administration, the use of Predator drones to launch attacks against Pakistani territory has become ubiquitous since President Obama took office last year."

News Story: 4,000 Men To Be Recruited In Levies Force - "Daily Times" (04/30)

"South Waziristan Political Agent Syed Shahab Ali Shah has said that 4,000 additional men will be recruited to the levies force to effectively enforce the writ of the government in the agency. Speaking at a press conference at his office, Shah said the recruitment would start from May 3 and would continue until May 7, adding that the recruitment would help decrease unemployment in the area."

News Story: Swat Militants Told to Surrender by May 15 - "Dawn" (04/30)

"The government has warned militants in Swat that their property will be confiscated and their families expelled if they do not surrender by May 15."

News Story: Troops Kill 15 Terrorists In Orakzai Agency - "Daily Times" (04/30)

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"At least 15 terrorists were killed and several others injured in clashes with security forces in Orakzai Agency, sources said on Thursday."

News Story: 4 Schools Blown Up In Orakzai, Mohmand - "Dawn"
(04/30)

"Three government-run schools were blown up in the Orakzai Agency and one in Mohmand early Thursday morning, sources said."

News Story: TTP Swat Commander Arrested From Khyber Agency - "Daily Times" (04/30)

"Security forces on Thursday arrested two commanders of the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) Swat during a raid in Jamrud tehsil of the Khyber Agency, sources said."

News Story: Three Sisters Suffer Acid Attack In Kalat - "Dawn"
(04/30)

"Three young sisters were seriously injured when two unidentified men riding on a motorcycle threw acid on them in Kalat town, some 150 kilometers from Quetta, on Thursday.... A new organisation calling itself 'Baloch Ghairat Mand Group' had issued threatening letters in Dalbandin in the first week of April, warning women not to go out of their homes for shopping."

News Story: FIA Finds Clue To 'Facilitator' Of Benazir Assassination - "Dawn" (04/30)

"The Special Investigation Group of the FIA, which has been asked to fix criminal responsibility in the Benazir Bhutto assassination case, has conducted the DNA test of the suicide bomber and the result matched the blood samples taken from his shoes found by investigators from the residence of the 'facilitator.'"

POLITICAL ISSUES

News Story: Bill To Abolish NAB Quietly Submitted To NA; FSF-Type Police Force Proposed in New Law - "The News" (04/30)

"The PPP government has quietly and almost mysteriously proposed the formation of a new countrywide police force, headed by an Inspector General, which will have powers to search, arrest, investigate and seize property of any citizen - almost a replica of the dreaded Federal Security Force (FSF) of the ZA Bhutto era. This new force, called the National Investigation Agency, is being set up under the new accountability law, which will replace the current NAB law. The draft of the new law has been adopted by the National Assembly

standing committee on law and justice UNCLASSIFIED Priority of PPP members only as none of the other MNAs were in the knowledge of the final draft, which was quickly adopted by the committee. It has been tabled in the National Assembly."

ECONOMY/ENVIRONMENT

News Story: \$40m Accord For 'Energy Savers' Inked With ADB - "Dawn," "Daily Times" (04/30)

"The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the government of Pakistan on Thursday signed an agreement to invest \$40 million in energy-efficient and cost-effective compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs), said Rune Stroem, ADB's Country Director for Pakistan."

News Story: Govt. Turns Down WB Loan Offer - "Dawn" (04/30)

"The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has turned down a \$100 million loan offer by the World Bank for social sectors, to avoid future piling up of foreign debts, a senior official of the Finance Department told 'Dawn.'"

EDITORIALS/OPINIONS

Editorial: Alive Again!, an editorial in the populist, often sensational national English daily "The News" (cir. 55,000) (04/30)

"If it is true that Hakeemullah is still in charge of Taliban affairs, this might explain several things: why the Taliban have been able to continue what seems like a well-organized campaign of terrorist attacks and why we have not seen any signs of in-fighting within the outfit.... The new doubts now arising over Hakeemullah's death also prove once more how difficult it is to acquire accurate information from the conflict zone. There is a great deal we do not know. It is unclear where key militants are, and how many now wait in North Waziristan for what could be the final leg of the bitter internal war we have become locked in. Expert commentators have said the Taliban may deliberately have moved to areas where the terrain favors them the most. The possibility of Hakeemullah's presence there adds to the dangers. It is true that the Taliban are not entirely dependent on the leadership of a single man. This has been proven several times. But the possibility that they could for now remain unified behind a single commander adds to the threat they present and to the dangers that lie ahead."

Editorial: Meeting Between The Pakistani And Indian PMs: Results And Impact, an editorial in the independent Urdu daily "Din" (circ. 5000) (04/30)

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"By holding a meeting at the SAARC and Pakistani PMs have initiated a thaw that will be very significant in normalizing regional matters... Other countries of the region are also gripped by tension due to Indo-Pak disputes. There can be no doubt in the fact that the people of the region will live in peace once relations between these two nuclear states return to normalcy."

Editorial: A Resounding Failure, an editorial in the center-right national English daily "The Nation" (cir. 20,000) (04/30)

"The principal cause why the SAARC failed to take off and progress, unlike other thriving regional bodies like the EU and the ASEAN, has been the existence of political disputes, particularly between the two of its biggest countries, India and Pakistan. Even on the common issue of terrorism, they are at odds with one another. India keeps engineering acts of terrorism within Pakistan, but persistently accuses it of instigating or being directly responsible for such incidents in India. That is hardly the way for a regional body to function."

Editorial: IMF Program Remains On Track Despite Hiccups, an editorial in the country's premier business newspaper, "Business Recorder" (cir. 25,000) (04/30)

"Latest negotiations between Pakistan and the International Financial Institutions (IFIs), particularly the IMF and the World Bank, appear to have been quite productive... There was widespread acknowledgement of the fact that Islamabad had tried determinedly to adhere to its economic stabilization program... Anyhow, it is good to see that while the IFIs are persuading Pakistan, through various means, to implement its obligations, they also appear willing to show flexibility, because Pakistan is in a tight political and fiscal spot. Pakistan, unfortunately, is faced with the worst of circumstances at the moment, and can only get out of the crisis with the support of the international community and the IFIs. Also, we have to make extra efforts, ourselves, to ensure that the economy remains in a reasonable shape and that the people of the country are not unduly distraught."

Editorial: IMF Dictation Is Pain In The Neck, an editorial in the second-largest, nationalist Urdu daily "Nawa-i-Waqt" (cir. 150,000) (04/30)

"The nation is on the brink of losing its patience. People have come out on the streets. What happened in Kyrgyzstan could be repeated in Pakistan too. Hence, the rulers should take decisions in accordance with national interests. They should not be blackmailed by the IMF. Instead of looking towards the Friends of Pakistan and international

donors, they should take a step towards self-reliance. The nation will support the rulers in such efforts." UNCLASSIFIED

Opinion: Big Players And Human Rights Values, an op-ed by Anum Raza Hasan in the Lahore-based liberal English language daily "Daily Times" (cir. 10,000) (04/30)

"Even though Guantanamo Bay has been partially closed - even Bagram has become part of a handover plan to local authorities - but regular reports of U.S. army abuse in foreign territories, be it Afghanistan or Iraq, are increasingly receiving condemnation from human rights organizations the world over, reaffirming global skepticism over the U.S. desire to reverse its regime of abuse. It needs to be understood that upholding human rights values as defined in international conventions will serve the long-term interests of the U.S. as well. Acknowledging its structural loopholes, even if the international human rights regime were to be reformed to make it more applicable in the current political situation, the question remains if it will ever be able to enforce itself against a superpower like the U.S. Would big power players ever feel compelled to uphold universal values at the cost of political self-interest?"

Opinion: Of Interventions, an op-ed by Gulmina Bilal Ahmad in the Lahore-based liberal English language daily "Daily Times" (cir. 10,000) (04/30)

"We are not fighting only a military war. It is a war against mindsets and attitudes that are discriminatory and bigoted. It is actually a war against a paranoid mindset.... It cannot be won by military action alone. Military action is an important first step.... Only military action will just cause resentment and hatred, leading to even more intense militant and extremist attitudes.... In order to avoid tomorrow's tragedies resulting from today's actions, we need to focus on military and social interventions. Just what exactly these interventions can be or how to design and develop them are pertinent questions, which need to be discussed at least. Military interventions are not sustainable in the long run, nor have they ever produced attitudinal changes. The sooner we realize this the better."

Opinion: The People's 'SAARC', an op-ed by Kuldip Nayar in the Karachi-based center-left independent national English daily "Dawn" (cir. 55,000) (04/30)

"What south Asia has not learnt is that people have to make a joint effort to overcome problems.... The people's wishes - and prayers - would have yielded some results by this time had the hostility between India and Pakistan been overcome. Neither India nor Pakistan has been able to overcome the differences which go back a long way."

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In a way, it is the same old bias between Hindus and Muslims.... The disease is the bias, suspicion and mistrust which appear in one form or the other. Even if one issue was to be solved, another would rear its ugly head because of the fundamental Hindu-Muslim divide. How do the two nations get away from this posture? The sooner we find an answer to this question, the stronger will be SAARC."

(All circulation figures are based on estimation)
Patterson

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