

ACTION INR-00

INFO	LOG-00	EEB-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	A-00		INL-00
	DOTE-00	PDI-00	DS-00	EAP-00	DHSE-00	EUR-00	FAAE-00
	FBIE-00	UTED-00	VCI-00	OBO-00	H-00	TEDE-00	IO-00
	LAB-01	MOFM-00	MOF-00	VCIE-00	DCP-00	NSAE-00	ISN-00
	OIC-00	OIG-00	NIMA-00	EPAU-00	GIWI-00	ISNE-00	DOHS-00
	NCTC-00	FMP-00	BBG-00	R-00	EPAE-00	ECA-00	IIP-00
	SCRS-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-00	SCA-00	CARC-00	NFAT-00
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SECDEF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE

THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE

HQ USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL//CCPA// IMMEDIATE

HQ PACAF HICKAM AFB HI//CCPA// IMMEDIATE

JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

DIA WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

ALL SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA COLLECTIVE

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E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: KMDR, KPAO, OIIP, OPRC, PGOV, PREL, PK

SUBJECT: PAKISTAN MEDIA REACTION: AUGUST 29, 2008

Summary: The reportedly "secret meeting" between senior U.S. and Pakistani generals dominated headlines in all newspapers on Friday. Newspapers quoted U.S. Joint chiefs of Staff Admiral Mike Mullen as saying that "military to military relationship between the two countries was growing every day," while a spokesman of the Pakistan Military confirmed the participation of Chief of Army Staff General Kayani in the meeting and said that "this was pre-scheduled meeting aimed at discussing security matters at the strategic level." All newspapers also highlighted government's decision of abolishing "35 Frontier Corps checkpoints in Balochistan." Also figured prominently were reports that "Senator Barrack Obama made history by becoming the first black American to win presidential nomination." Also front-paged were reports that "lawyers staged sit-ins and rallies all over the country" to protest against the non-restoration

of deposed judges. Reports on a "remote controlled bomb blast" in Bannu in the NWFP killing nine people including seven policemen also received wide coverage. Most major dailies ran editorials on national political developments including the forthcoming presidential elections and the restoration of deposed judges. End Summary.

News Stories

1. "Pakistan's Focus On Terror War Finally On Target: U.S.; Kayani Attends Secret Talks With American Military Chief On Aircraft Carrier" "Dawn" (08/29)

"After a secret meeting between senior U.S. and Pakistani generals, Chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff Admiral Mike Mullen told a briefing at the Pentagon on Thursday that the military-to-military relationship between the two countries was 'growing every day.' Admiral Mullen also told the briefing he believed Pakistan's focus in the war on terror was where it should have been. The meeting, held on Wednesday aboard U.S. aircraft carrier Abraham Lincoln in the Indian Ocean, considered various proposals for fighting extremists in FATA.... According to ISPR, this was a pre-scheduled meeting aimed at discussing security matters at strategic level."

2. "Most FC Posts In Balochistan To Be Abolished" "Dawn" (08/29)

"Prime Minister's Adviser on Interior Affairs Rehman Malik has announced that names of all political leaders of Balochistan have been removed from the Exit Control List (ECL) and 35 checkpoints of the Frontier Corps in the province are being abolished."

3. "Bannu Bomb Attack Kills Seven Police Personnel" "Dawn" (08/29)

"Seven policemen and two civilians were killed and 14 people were injured when a bomb placed in a car exploded near a police bus in Bannu on Thursday."

4. "U.S. Missile Attack In Waziristan Injures Four" "Daily Times" (08/29)

"A missile fired from a United States drone injured a woman and three children in South Waziristan late on Wednesday night, officials and residents told 'Daily Times' on Thursday."

5. "Six Militants Killed, Five Captured In Bajaur" "Dawn" (08/29)

"Security forces killed five militants in fresh attacks on suspected locations in Salarzai tehsil of Bajaur tribal region on Thursday."

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6. "Taliban Ask People To Leave Troubled Area" "Dawn" (08/29)

"The Taliban have asked the people to leave the troubled areas of Swat and move to safe places as five more people were killed in the valley on Thursday. Sources said that militants had erected barricades on different roads and were targeting pro-government people."

7. "Obama Creates History By Winning Presidential Nomination"

"Dawn" (08/29)

"Senator Barack Obama made history on Wednesday night, becoming the first black American to win presidential nomination of a major U.S. party."

8. "Lawyers Stage Sit-Ins, Rallies All Over Country" "The News"

(08/29)

"The lawyers on Thursday staged two-hour sit-ins and took out protest rallies across the country to put pressure on the government for the early restoration of the deposed judges, including Chief Justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry."

9. "U.S. Pledges Close Ties With Pakistan" "The News," "Daily

Times" (08/29)

"The United States said it has longstanding interests with Pakistan and pledged close cooperation with the elected government while acknowledging the key importance of the country's cooperative role in the fight against extremism, State Department Deputy spokesman Robert Wood said."

10. "Genetically Modified Food Answer To Food Crisis: U.S.

Official" "Daily Times" (08/29)

"Genetically modified crops can help solve international food crisis faced by many countries including Pakistan, said U.S. Special Advisor on Science and Technology Dr. Nina V. Fedoroff on Thursday. Talking to reporters in Islamabad, Fedoroff said the international community had ignored important issues like energy and food in the past and was now paying for that negligence."

Editorials/Op-eds

11. "For The Sake Of A Chief Justice," an editorial in the centrist national English daily "The News" (cir. 55,000) (08/29)

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"Party Chief Asif Ali Zardari, in a ^{interview} had reaffirmed the deposed Chief Justice would be brought back. Till now the PPP has consistently held that the measures taken on November 3 were illegal. It is possible of course that this too was just a false promise, no different to other 'agreements' that Zardari has said he had no problem with breaking. But the PPP must realize there is a limit to the length of time it can keep taking people for a ride....

A failure to restore the deposed Chief Justice would be an act violating all principles and would confirm suspicions that we seem to be headed into a political abyss where deceit rules and decency has no place."

12. "On Mr. Zardari As Candidate For President," an op-ed by Shafqat Mahmood in the centrist national English daily "The News" (cir. 55,000) (08/29)

"The Zalmay Khalilzad connection that is confirming people's impression that he (Asif Ali Zardari) is the next U.S. man in Pakistan. It is commonly understood that Zardari has built very strong links with the Bush people, particularly with Vice President, Dick Cheney. This facilitated not only Musharraf's departure but also anointed him as the next friend of America in Pakistan. It is significant that as soon as he announced his candidature, the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) was banned in a toothless but symbolic gesture. He has also spoken out more forcefully on militancy than in the past."

13. "Savoring The Ultimate Irony," an op-ed by Ayaz Amir in the centrist national English daily "The News" (cir. 55,000) (08/29)

"A bad sign about the future is the flourishing of cronyism in Islamabad these days.... Are we about to see another edition of Mr. Ten Percent or a break with the past? In the domain of national security we face another danger, and that comes from the American apologists holding key positions in the present government. They range from Hussain Haqqani in Washington to Maj. Gen. Mahmud Durrani and my friend Interior Adviser Rehman Malik in Islamabad. If they continue to influence decision-making we are in for some more hard times."

14. "Dr. Aafia Must Be liberated From U.S. Atrocities," an editorial in the Karachi-based, pro Taliban Jihadi Urdu daily "Islam" (cir. 15,000) (08/29)

"The physical condition of Dr. Aafia is very critical as she suffered inhuman affliction and barbarism of Americans. It is regrettable that the Government of Pakistan has just sent a letter to the U.S. Administration for the handing over of Dr. Aafia. It did not mention that Dr. Aafia is an innocent Pakistani national,

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therefore she must be released immediately. The letter shows that the present government is not serious in resolving this issue amicably, whilst the whole Pakistani nation is demanding time and again the release of Dr. Aafia from the U.S. detention."

15. "Looking Back At Our Role In Afghanistan," an op-ed by Najmuddin A. Shaikh in the Lahore-based liberal English language daily "Daily Times" (cir. 10,000) (08/29)

"Let us be clear that the direction of the anti-Soviet Jihad was determined by us. We decided after the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan not to dismantle the Jihadi network and to use it for other purposes. We decided to support the Taliban and thus furthered the spread of extremism in our border areas. The American abandonment of the area was criminally negligent; their actions in other parts of the Muslim world were equally harmful; their decision to let Usama bin Laden seek asylum in Afghanistan after his expulsion was inexplicable. Much other blame can be apportioned to America but we too must acknowledge that the misguided policies and ambitions of our leaders have played the principal part in bringing us to our present sorry pass."

16. "India-U.S. Nuclear Agreement And Pakistan," an editorial in independent Urdu daily "Waqt" (cir. 10,000) (08/29)

"Following its occupation of Iraq and Afghanistan, the U.S. wants access to the Central Asian States; and India wants U.S. support to fulfill its desire for South Asian domination.... In this perspective, the U.S.-India civil nuclear agreement is a source of grave fear and apprehension for Pakistan, China and other countries of the region."

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