

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	H-00	TEDE-00	IO-00	L-00
	MOFM-00	MOF-00	VCIE-00	DCP-00	NSAE-00	ISN-00	OIC-00
	OIG-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	SCA-00
	CARC-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00	FA-00	SWCI-00	/000W	

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 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
 AMEMBASSY LONDON
 AMEMBASSY PARIS
 AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
 HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI

UNCLAS ISLAMABAD 003559

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: KMDR, KPAO, OIIP, OPRC, PGOV, PREL, PK
 SUBJECT: PAKISTAN MEDIA REACTION: NOVEMBER 12, 2008

Summary: Most major dailies on Wednesday highlighted Prime Minister Gilani's statement in the National Assembly "expressing concern over the U.S. and NATO drone attacks" inside Pakistan and terming them as "intolerable." Reports and photographs of a suicide attack outside a sports stadium in Peshawar which killed four persons also received front-page coverage. Newspapers also reported that President Zardari left for New York to "attend a special session of the UN General Assembly on interfaith peace and harmony." Also highlighted were reports that "eight people were killed in an operation in the outskirts of Peshawar to recover two Humvee vehicles and military goods looted by militants on Monday."

Some major dailies ran editorials on Monday's hijacking by the Taliban of vehicles carrying NATO supplies. The national English

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daily, "Dawn," noted that "this brazen attack raises serious questions about the operational capability and motivational levels of the security forces vis-à-vis the fight against militancy. Incidents such as the one on Monday can reinforce the impression in certain quarters that our security forces cannot by themselves stamp out militancy and enforce the rule of law." Another English daily, "The News," observed that "we have a high profile incident that delivers a further blow to the writ of the government over parts of the country. The incident will also embolden militants who seemed to be on the backfoot in many stretches of the tribal areas where they face a military offensive." End Summary.

News Stories

1. "U.S. Air Strikes Intolerable: PM" "The Nation" (11/12)

"Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani said that the whole nation was concerned about the U.S. and NATO drones attacks inside Pakistan and explained the government's stand that these attacks were not doing any service to the ongoing war against terrorists, rather adding to their problems in tackling the situation in the troubled areas."

2. "Drone Raids Issue To Be Taken Up With New U.S. Government"
"Dawn" (11/12)

"Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani on Tuesday told the National Assembly that Pakistan would take up its opposition to the often deadly drone raids on its tribal areas from Afghanistan with the new U.S. administration less than eight weeks away as he seemed to suggest the row could outlive the American transition."

3. "Suicide Bomber Hits Peshawar Stadium" "The Nation" (11/12)

"At least four persons were killed and over 50 injured as a result of a suicide attack on the main gate of Khan Quyoom Stadium in Peshawar on Tuesday."

4. "Zardari In New York For 'Culture Of Peace' Dialogue" "Dawn"
(11/12)

"President Asif Ali Zardari arrived in New York on Tuesday afternoon to attend a special session of the United Nations General Assembly on interfaith peace and harmony to be held on Wednesday and Thursday."

5. "Zardari Not To Meet Obama" "Dawn" (11/12)

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"President Asif Ali Zardari will not meet American President elect Barack Obama during his two day visit to the United States to participate in the high-level session of UN General Assembly on 'Culture of Peace,' being held on November 12-13. 'Neither we have sent any request to the U.S. government for the meeting nor we are expecting it between the two leaders,' Foreign Office spokesman Mohammad Sadiq told 'Dawn' on Tuesday." said."

6. "Eight Killed In Operation Launched To Recover NATO Goods"
"Dawn" (11/12)

"Three militants and five other people were killed and seven others injured when security forces launched an operation in the outskirts of Peshawar and adjoining Khyber and Mohmand tribal regions on Tuesday to recover two Humvee vehicles and military goods looted by

militants on Monday. The militants hijacked 13 containers carrying supplies for NATO forces in Afghanistan on the Peshawar-Torkham highway and a group working under Baitullah Mehsud claimed responsibility for the attack."

7. "Pakistan Looking Forward To Working With Obama Administration"
"The News" (11/12)

"Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani on Tuesday said Pakistan is eagerly looking forward to working with the Obama administration and the new U.S. Congress for further solidifying multi-dimensional relationship between the two countries, while talking to a U.S. congressional delegation led by Senator Olympia Snowe at the Prime Minister House."

8. "MPs Ask Government To Block NATO Supply" "The Post" (11/12)

"The opposition in the National Assembly on Tuesday stressed to block supply of fuels, foods etc to the NATO troops engaged in Afghanistan as a reaction against drones attack on the tribal areas which killed innocent people there."

9. "U.S. Commander To Brief Pakistani Lawmakers" "Dawn" (11/12)

"The Commander of U.S. and allied forces in Afghanistan General David McKiernan is coming to Pakistan on Thursday to give a special briefing to a select group of parliamentarians. Sources told 'Dawn' that the visit was significant because it was being undertaken against the backdrop of protests lodged by Pakistan over continuous violation of its air space by U.S. drones and missile attacks on tribal areas."

10. "PPP Assured U.S. To Retain Musharraf Policies, Says Fazl" "The

"Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) Amir Maulana Fazlur Rehman claimed on Tuesday that the incumbent government had assured U.S. that it would follow former president Musharraf's agenda in a better way."

11. "Trailer Carrying Jeeps Of Allied Forces Put On Fire" "The Post" (11/12)

"Some unidentified militants put on fire a huge trailer, carrying jeeps of allied forces, from Afghanistan to Pakistan at Landi Kotal By-pass Torkham road on Tuesday morning."

12. "NATO Tanker Snatched" "The Nation" (11/12)

"A NATO oil tanker was snatched from the jurisdictions of Memon Goth Police Station, Karachi, when the tanker was on the way to Afghanistan when some six armed men intercepted him at Magsi Goth Link Road, Super Highway. They tied the driver to rope and taken the trailer to some unknown place, police said."

13. "Taliban Renew Offer For Talks" "Dawn" (11/12)

"The outlawed Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) has renewed its offer to hold talks with the government and said that use of tribal lashkars is not a solution to the problem in the tribal region."

14. "Air Attacks To Get Back U.S. Vehicles" "The News" (11/12)

"Enraged residents blocked the busy Pak-Afghan Highway to protest killing of a student during an assault by military gunship helicopters against militants loyal to Baitullah Mahsud as choppers continued to pound the suspected hideouts of militants in Khyber Agency for the second consecutive day on Tuesday."

15. "4 Militants Die In Swat Gunfight" "The News" (11/12)

"The security forces on Tuesday killed four militants in the Kabal Tehsil while nine persons, including two security men, were injured in separate clashes in the restive Swat Valley."

16. "New Chief Of Staff Of White House Agent Of Israeli S e c r e t Service "Ummat" (11/12)

"The new appointee of President-elect Obama as chief of staff at White House is an agent of Israel's secret service MOSSAD. An American Senator of Jewish origin, Rahm Emanuel has been working for

Israel in the U.S. government ever since he became Senator in 2003."

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Editorials/Op-eds

17. "Taliban Raid," an editorial in the Karachi-based center-left independent national English daily "Dawn" (cir. 55,000) (11/12)

"Monday's hijacking by the Taliban of vehicles carrying NATO supplies is disturbing both for its audacity and possible implications.... This brazen attack raises serious questions about the operational capability and motivational levels of the security forces vis-`-vis the fight against militancy.... But incidents such as the one on Monday can reinforce the impression in certain quarters that our security forces cannot by themselves stamp out militancy and enforce the rule of law. Images of the Taliban posing in front of U.S. Humvees can only lower our credibility in foreign eyes and weaken claims that Pakistan can go it alone in rooting out militancy."

18. "A Tale Foretold," an editorial in the centrist national English daily "The News" (cir. 55,000) (11/12)

".... We have a high profile incident that delivers a further blow to the writ of the government over parts of the country. The incident, which the Taliban in Jamrud say was, in their eyes, justified given that the goods were being taken through to those whom they see as 'enemies' will act also to embolden militants who seemed to be on the back-foot in many stretches of the tribal areas where they face a military offensive. The 'success' of the raid in Jamrud could also inspire 'copycat' actions, and for this authorities need to be prepared."

19. "FATA And Pakistan's Sovereignty," an editorial in the Lahore-based liberal English language daily "Daily Times" (cir. 10,000) (11/12)

"No nation-state can allow its territorial sovereignty to be so violated. But one can't also see how the Americans can be 'persuaded' to heed President Zardari, given their knowledge of how Pakistan is unable to control its own territory.... In truth, the religious-nationalist media's sensitivity to Pakistan's 'external sovereignty' is greatly exaggerated when its 'internal sovereignty' has been so dangerously curtailed in many parts of the country.... Pakistan needs more help, and for that it needs to become a part of the regional and global consensus on what is happening inside its territory."

20. "Hard Task Ahead," an editorial in the center-right national English daily "The Nation" (cir. 20,000) (11/12)

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"The new American Administration must keep in mind that increased intrusions into our sovereign territory, that stoke anger in the local population, would make it difficult for Pakistan to effectively fight the ongoing War on Terror. It is time both Washington and Islamabad understood that the use of force should go in tandem with the development of the tribal areas. There is no disputing the fact that the government cannot withdraw the Army from the restive region, as long as militants continue to impede the effort to establish the writ of the state."

21. "Detachment From U.S. War - Only Guarantee Of National Security," an editorial in the second-largest, center-right nationalist Urdu daily "Nawa-i-Waqt" (cir. 125,000) (11/12)

"President Asif Ali Zardari said that Pakistan is winning the war against terrorism, but U.S. missile strikes from across the border are hampering our way.... Half of terrorism will go with the cessation of American missile strikes while the rest could end with the cessation of the military operation in the tribal areas and cooperation with America."

22. "Need Of Effective Strategy To Deal With U.S. Attacks," an editorial in the Karachi-based, pro Taliban Jihadi Urdu daily "Islam" (cir. 15,000) (11/12)

"President Zardari must let the nation know if there was any agreement between his predecessor General Musharraf and the U.S.

administration about U.S. attacks on Pakistani territories. If no such agreement exists, then our air defense system should come into action to intercept the jets and missiles coming from Afghanistan. If we cannot stop the missile attacks, we can at least shoot down the low-flying U.S. drones. It is for sure that we cannot stop the U.S. aggression without effective measures and effective reprisal."

23. "Banking On Obama," an editorial in the centrist national English daily "The News" (cir. 55,000) (11/12)

"Now, quite evidently, is the time when they are reviewing ongoing policy and may be willing to consider changes.... What is needed is a definite plan of action backed by a clear-cut demonstration of a commitment to go through with it. Only when this is drafted and preferably also put before the Pakistani people, suggesting a meaningful alternative to the strategy of U.S. bombings now being used amidst signs that Washington is becoming more and more desperate as time goes by, can we hope for any real change in tactics and a sympathetic hearing for Islamabad as it calls for an end to the U.S.-led attacks."

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24. "Horrorific Report Of New York Times," an editorial in the Lahore-based independent Urdu daily "Din" (cir. 10,000) (11/12)

"American media has disclosed the President Bush had allowed attack on 20 countries in 2004 including Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Syria.... If this horrific report is based on facts then it means that our government's resolve to give befitting responses to the NATO or American attacks were mere lip-service. Now we have to see as to how President Zardari would convince America to stop this aggression, for he has left for America on November 11."

25. "Obama's Agenda," an op-ed by Mazhar Qayyum Khan in the center-right national English daily "The Nation" (cir. 20,000) (11/12)

"Islamabad is anxious to see his (Obama) strategy on Afghanistan unfurled. There is little doubt that he would be shifting his focus on the insurgency there, but his stress on surge in the armed forces has been tempered with frequent references to the need for socio-economic progress that has been poorly handled till now.... Washington has to realize that they do not advance the cause of its anti-terrorist policy. The issue should be left to Pakistan to handle, and the U.S. should concentrate on heavy investment in the development of the backward region as well as the rest of Pakistan, if it wants to extricate itself from the bog."

26. "Obama Must Remove Our Fears," an op-ed by Yousuf Nazar in the Karachi-based center-left independent national English daily "Dawn" (cir. 55,000) (11/12)

"If Mr. Obama is sincere about taking out Al Qaeda or its remnants, he should demonstrate this by inviting China and Russia to join the international security force in Afghanistan. This would be a concrete step toward removing the trust deficit with Pakistan and its apprehension that the West is playing a 'great game' in Afghanistan which has little to do with Al Qaeda or combating terrorism."

Patterson

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