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	VCI-00	H-00	TEDE-00	IO-00	LAB-01	MOFM-00	MOF-00
	VCIE-00	NEA-00	DCP-00	NSAE-00	ISN-00	OIC-00	OIG-00
	NIMA-00	EPAU-00	PA-00	PER-00	GIWI-00	ISNE-00	DOHS-00
	IRM-00	NCTC-00	FMP-00	BBG-00	R-00	EPAE-00	ECA-00
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HQ PACAF HICKAM AFB HI//CCPA// IMMEDIATE

JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

DIA WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMCONSUL PESHAWAR

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STATE FOR INR/R/MR, IIP/T, IIP/G/NEA-SA, SA

SA/PAB, SA/INS, SA/RA, SA/PPD, DRL

LONDON FOR POL/GOODRICH; PARIS FOR POL/HANSON

CENTCOM PUBLIC AFFAIRS-MAJ.BALDWIN/SGT. BAKER

USCINCPAC FOR POLAD AMBASSADOR HOLZMAN

SECDEF FOR PA

E.O. 12958: N/A

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

SUBJECT: MEDIA SUMMARY: NOVEMBER 07, 2006

SUMMARY: President Musharraf's address to the World Islamic Economic

Forum dominated headlines in the Pakistani Press on Tuesday (para 7). All major dailies gave front-page coverage to the arrival of Assistant Secretary Richard Boucher and his meetings with Pakistan Foreign Office officials. "Kasuri, Boucher happy with Pakistan-U.S. ties" reports "Daily Times" (para 1).

Daily "The Nation" reports that Ambassador Crocker has invited representatives of various political parties for a dinner with Secretary Boucher "with the quite significant absence of religious parties' alliance MMA" (para 3).

"Daily Times" reports that US Ambassador to Pakistan Ryan C. Crocker may replace Zalmay Khalilzad, his counterpart in Iraq (para 4).

A 'fact-finding team' of Peshawar lawyers has concluded that it were the US forces that targeted the Madarassa in Bajaur killing eighty people (para 5).

US mid-term elections and the death sentence for Saddam Hussein remained the main editorial themes today. Commenting on the US midterm elections, "The Nation" notes that with President Bush running the administration for the next two years, "Pakistan should not have much to fear." (para 15). Almost all the editorials were unanimous in their views that the judicial system in Iraq that handed over capital punishment to the deposed president was not above board. "The Muslim world will be united in his favor" observes liberal English daily "Daily Times" (para 20), while centrist English daily "The News" points out that the "judgment was manipulated to suit the interests of the occupying forces." (para 22). End Summary.

News Stories

1. "Kasuri And Boucher Happy With Pakistan-US Ties" "Daily Times" (cir. 10,000), "Dawn" (cir. 55,000), "The Post" (cir. 5,000), "Pakistan Observer" (cir. 5,000), "The Statesman" (cir. 3,000), "Jang" (cir. 300,000), "Nawa-e-Waqt" (cir. 125,000), "Ausaf" (cir. 10,000), "Khabrain" (cir. 50,000), "Express," (cir. 25,000), "Islam" (cir. 15,000) (11/07)

"Foreign Minister Khurshid Mehmood Kasuri held talks on Monday with United States Under Secretary for South and Central Asia Richard Boucher. Under the framework of the Pak-US strategic dialogue, the two discussed bilateral ties as well as regional issues of common interest. They agreed that steady progress had been made since the implementation of the March 4, 2006 Joint Statement on the Pakistan-US Strategic Partnership. The two also discussed counter-terrorism cooperation, the Foreign Minister reaffirming

Islamabad's resolve to fight terrorism and extremism." UNCLASSIFIED

2. "Pak, US Vow To Fight Terror" "The Nation" (cir. 20,000) (11/07)

"Pakistan and the United States on Monday resolved to continue with their fight against terrorism with Washington assuring its allied nation of all possible assistance in economic and defence sectors. The US Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs, Richard A. Boucher, called on Foreign Minister Khurshid Kasuri and discussed Pak-US bilateral relations, regional and global issues of mutual interest, said the officials here."

3. "Crocker Invites Political Leaders To Dinner For Boucher" "The Nation" (cir. 20,000) (11/07)

"The US Ambassador, Ryan C. Crocker, has invited the leadership of all political parties of the country to meet the visiting US Assistant Secretary of State on South Asia and Central Asian Affairs, Richard Boucher, at dinner at his residence. The invitation has been extended by the Ambassador to the main opposition as well as the government coalition parties. This would be a special occasion when the top leaders of main political parties would gather and share their thoughts with the US official. The absence of MMA leadership in the meeting would be quite significant."

4. "Crocker May Replace Khalilzad In Baghdad" "Daily Times" (cir. 10,000) (11/07)

"Ryan Crocker, US Ambassador to Pakistan, is likely to replace Zalmay Khalilzad, US ambassador to Iraq, who will probably return to an academic or private sector job in the United States, a senior Bush administration official said on Monday. Crocker was a top US representative in Baghdad for several months in 2003, shortly after the US-led invasion that toppled Saddam Hussein."

5. "US Drone Attacked Bajaur Madarassa: Fact-Finding Team" "The News" (cir. 55,000) (11/07)

"For the first time after the pre-dawn aerial strikes a week ago on the seminary in Chingai village of Mamond subdivision in the Bajaur tribal agency, a fact-finding mission of the Peshawar High Court Bar Association on Monday succeeded in reaching the spot and held a meeting with the victim families. The delegation also met the brother of Maulana Liaqat, who was head of Ziaul Uloom and Talimul Quran Madarassa and died along with his three sons in the attack. "We analyzed it from various angles and also held a number of meetings with family members of the victims and eyewitnesses and reached the conclusion that US forces had targeted the Madarassa and killed 80 innocent students."

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6. "US Will Not Abandon Pakistan Again: USAID Official" "The News" (cir. 55,000) (11/07)

"Washington will never abandon Pakistan, its frontline ally in the war against terrorism, as the United States has already paid the price of ditching the Pakistani nation which ended the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan. "The United States has learned a lot after abandoning Pakistan in 1990 and will not repeat the same mistake. Pakistan is a great ally of the United States," Mark S. Ward, Deputy Assistant Administrator of the Bureau for Asia and Near East of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) said in a special interview to "The New" in Islamabad on Monday."

7. "Musharraf Urges Palestine, Kashmir Solution" "The News" (cir. 55,000) (11/07)

"President Musharraf has called for establishment of an effective international dispute resolution mechanism to solve political issues of the Muslim world and asked the United States and the European Union to play their role in resolving the lingering political issue of Palestine that has held hostage the world peace. "

8. "Pakistan Concerned Over Saddam's Death Sentence" "Pakistan Observer" (cir. 5,000) (11/07)

"Commenting on the death sentence to former President of Iraq Saddam Hussain, Tasneem Aslam, spokesperson of the Foreign Office, at the weekly briefing in Islamabad on Monday said, "Pakistan is concerned about the stability and integrity of Iraq after a tribunal in Baghdad imposed the death sentence on Saddam Hussein."

9. "PHCBA Team Barred From Bajaur Probe" "Daily Times" (cir. 10,000) (11/07)

"The political administration, Pakistan Army and the Frontier Corps (FC) personnel, along with Bajaur Jirga elders on Monday denied the Peshawar High Court Bar Association (PHCBA) probe team investigations into the Bajaur air strikes."

10. "Bourses Under Terror Threat" "Daily Times" (cir. 10,000) (11/07)

"Intelligence agencies have been informed of a potential terrorism strike on the country's stock exchanges by the end of November, intelligence sources told "Daily Times" on Monday. Sources said that terrorists would try to sabotage Pakistan's economy by attacking the stock exchanges."

11. "Pakistan, Afghanistan Still Differ On Border Fencing: FO" "The News" (cir. 55,000) (11/07)

"Differences persist between Pakistan and Afghanistan over ways to fence their porous border, as Pakistan and NATO forces are in favor of partially fencing the international border, while Afghan President Hamid Karzai is against such a move."

12. "Death Penalty For BLA Man" "Dawn" (cir. 55,000) (11/07)

"An anti-terrorism court on Monday convicted Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) activist Jan Maqbool of carrying out two blasts in the city last year and sentenced him to death on 11 counts."

13. "It's Time To Move Ahead, India Told" "Dawn" (cir. 55,000) (11/07)

"Sending out a strong message to India, Pakistan on Monday declared it was now time for the two countries to move forward on crucial issues, especially the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. "In the context of CBMs we have made progress and we strongly believe now is the time to move towards the resolution of outstanding issues and disputes, particularly the core issue of Jammu and Kashmir," Foreign Office spokesperson Tasnim Aslam told a briefing."

14. "Election May Bring Change In US" "The News" (cir. 55,000) (11/07)

"The Americans were all set in the Tuesday national elections to come out of the 9/11 state of siege, changing the course of events that has led to disastrous wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. When US voters go to polls on Nov 7 for 435 House of Representatives and 33 Senate seats, besides referenda and votes on numerous other issues, all indications are that the world will witness a shift of power from the ultra-conservative right-wing war-mongers to a more moderate America which would strive to live and let others live in peace."

Editorials/Opinions

15. "US Polls: Impact On Pakistan," an op-ed by Mazhar Qayyum Khan in the center-right national English daily, "The Nation" (cir. 20,000) (11/07)

"... As Pakistan has had no role in creating the Iraqi quagmire, the Democrat Party's control of one or both Houses of the Congress, especially with President Bush in the White House, is not expected to make any difference to the US support to Pakistan.... But there

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is no difference of perception between Democrats and Republicans in the case of Afghanistan. Even if Democrats were to have doubts about Islamabad's role, they cannot do without its support. And with President Bush running the administration for the next two years, Pakistan should not have much to fear."

16. "Reaction Over Death Sentence To Saddam Hussain" an editorial note in the leading mass circulation centrist Urdu daily, "Jang" (cir. 300,000) (11/07)

"... In present circumstances, the death sentence to Saddam Hussain was not surprising, as the U.S. and its allies had attacked Iraq to capture the natural resources of Arab states regardless of all the UN rules and regulations. In such conditions, a verdict of a court under the influence of the U.S. is not matched with the ground realities. In fact, it is a conspiracy to divide Iraq on linguistic and ethnic basis."

17. "Death Sentence To Saddam Hussain - A Political Step Of Bush Administration" an editorial in the Karachi-based, pro-Taliban Jihadi Urdu daily, "Islam" (cir. 15,000) (11/07)

"It is clear that Bush administration has attempted to save itself from a likely defeat in mid-term elections of the U.S. Congress. With this approach, the Bush administration has sought to mislead the American voters. Whether Saddam Hussain is a criminal or not is a debatable question. But this question can be considered only in a free Iraq that should have a sovereign administration."

18. "Death Sentence To Deposed Iraqi President" an editorial note in Peshawar-based Urdu daily, "Mashriq" (cir. 55,000) (11/07)

"Death sentence to deposed Iraqi President Saddam Hussain will not help improve the situation in Iraq. In fact, it will complicate and worsen the political state of affairs there. Only Iraqi people have right to chastise Saddam Hussain, and for this purpose there are courts in Iraq. But, the U.S. established a special court of its own likes and appointed judges of its own choice to penalize Saddam Hussain which is a clear indication that it (U.S.) does not care for laws to crush its rivals."

19. "Death Sentence To Saddam - A Message To The Dictators In The World" an editorial in the popular rightist Urdu-language daily, "Ausaf" (cir. 10,000) (11/07)

"The end of Saddam Hussain gives a message that puppets or titular rulers have no worth, however those who defend the national interests diligently become immortal."

20. "Another Hanging Gone Wrong," UNCLASSIFIED The Lahore-based liberal English language daily, "Daily Times" (cir. 10,000) (11/07)

"... Saddam's fate is another hanging gone wrong. The Muslim world will be united in his favor when it comes to seeing his end in the background of America's aggression in the Middle East. The Muslim world will also be divided on sectarian lines - the Shias welcoming his death while the Sunnis 'reviving' him as the champion of the Arabs against 'Israeli-American imperialism'. If the recent sectarian conflict is any token of the developments to come, the joint stand on America will finally paper over the sectarian division over Saddam's death."

21. "A Flawed Verdict," an editorial in the Karachi-based center-left independent national English daily, "Dawn" (cir. 55,000) (11/07)

"... Unlike Nazi and Yugoslav war criminals tried by foreign courts, Saddam was in the dock in an Iraqi court, but the trial was conducted in an Iraq that was - and still is - under American-led occupation.... No wonder, the Arab world sees it as the "victor's justice", and Amnesty International has termed it "flawed in various ways". The independence of the judiciary, it said, was "impugned". America has welcomed the verdict, with President Bush calling it a victory for "Iraq's young democracy". But it is doubtful if in the aftermath of Saddam's hanging - subject to appeal - America or Israel will be the gainers. He does not have that stature, but in his death Saddam could possibly become a martyr for the Arab world. Already in tatters, Iraq will then become a haven for radicals and terrorists, and this will hardly advance America's purported aim of "spreading democracy" in the Middle East."

22. "The Saddam Verdict," an editorial in the centrist national English daily, "The News" (cir. 55,000) (11/07)

"... More importantly, a close look at the process that delivered the verdict reveals that Iraq's first major post-Saddam trial made it all look as if the judgment was manipulated to suit the interests of the occupying forces.... One has no hesitation in saying that the verdict is a product of the efforts of handpicked judges, jurors and prosecutors, operating under the instructions of a government whose autonomy is severely and explicitly circumscribed by the Bush administration -- which wanted the decision on the eve of the elections."

23. "Victor's Justice," an editorial in the Lahore-based liberal English daily, "The Post" (cir. 5,000) (11/07)

"... Many critics have dismissed the trial as a form of victors'

justice, given the close attention ~~UNCLASSIFIED~~ it. Except for US President George Bush, the Iraqi Prime Minister and a handful of other countries, none has applauded the death penalty. Many countries, the European Union (EU), and human rights organizations have opposed the death penalty. Since due process was not followed during the trial and there are many trials still pending against Saddam, there would be negative repercussions if the sentence is upheld."

24. "Death for Saddam Hussein And International Reaction," an editorial in the second largest, Center-right nationalist Urdu daily, "Nawa-e-Waqt" (cir. 125,000) (11/07)

"The legal and constitutional experts have rightly pointed out that the court that handed down death sentence to Iraq's former President Saddam Hussein was under U.S. influence and was not expected to fulfill requirements of justice.... It is right to say that Saddam Hussein should have been tried by the International Court of Justice.... Moreover, how could we expect justice from a Kurd judge...? Can ICJ take suo moto note of the case?" Crocker

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