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From: Mathews, George D **On Behalf Of** Islamabad, Information Section
Sent: Saturday, May 28, 2011 6:28 AM
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Subject: PAKISTAN MEDIA ANALYSIS, SPECIAL SATURDAY EDITION, May 28, 2011

PAKISTAN MEDIA ANALYSIS
SPECIAL SATURDAY EDITION: ISLAMABAD VISIT OF SECRETARY CLINTON
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May 28, 2011

- **Secretary Clinton's trip to Islamabad dominates Saturday news**
- **Headlines largely positive; editorials remain skeptical**
- **Key messages: "Relations at a turning point," and "No evidence that senior leaders knew about OBL"**
- **Storm clouds ahead? Gilani tells Clinton: stop drone strikes**

Secretary Clinton's Friday visit to Islamabad was the lead story in all Pakistani media Saturday. Coverage was largely straightforward on the front pages of the main dailies, although the reaction among TV commentators and editorial writers ranged from skeptical to critical. The overall tone is that while Pakistan and the U.S. have by no means kissed and made up, they have at least crawled back from the precipice.

Most Urdu headlines trumpeted the Secretary's exhortation at her Embassy press conference that "Pakistan must do more on al Qaida," as mass-circulation "Jang" had it. Her comment that there is no evidence that senior Pakistani leaders knew OBL was in Abbottabad was highlighted in nearly all coverage. English dailies picked up a wider variety of themes: "Pak-US ties at a turning point," "Pakistan needs to take decisive steps against terrorists," and "Anti-Americanism, and conspiracy theories will not end problems." The headline in the leading English paper, "Dawn," claimed, "Split in Pakistan-US ties averted."

Most TV news bulletins and front pages juxtaposed the Secretary's comments with reports that Prime Minister Gilani "clearly and categorically" told Secretary Clinton that the GOP intends to implement a resolution of parliament which calls for a review of US-Pak relations if drone strikes continue. Most vernacular press also reported that Chief of Army Staff General Kayani told JCS Admiral Mullen that the, "ISI will either cooperate with the CIA on equal grounds, or will not cooperate at all" – a story almost entirely absent from the English media space.

The Secretary's visit engendered a more critical response on the editorial pages. "Jang" wrote that "Pakistan is facing a very serious situation due to its all-out support to the U.S. and its allies in the war on terror, and attacks on its military installations, troops, check-posts and police stations have become a daily practice.... It is unprecedented that so many American officials have ever visited Pakistan in such a short span of time, and sought to achieve their objectives by exerting diplomatic pressure." Number-two "Nawa-i-Waqt" opined, "By advising Pakistan to continue its efforts against terrorism after the NATO troops' withdrawal from Afghanistan,

the United States has spilt the beans that it will continue to engage Pakistan in the war that is being fought to safeguard U.S. interests." Another widely-read Urdu paper, "Express," piled on: "Every American official says the same things whenever he or she comes to Pakistan, or speaks in Washington, DC, hence it will not be wrong to say that the Secretary of State Clinton has just harped on the 'do more' mantra."

TV talking heads made much of the Secretary's comment that there was no evidence that senior Pakistani officials knew bin Laden's whereabouts, and the usual professional anti-Americanists used the Secretary's visit to vent their spleen anew. On Dunya TV, Cricketer-turned-politician Imran Khan claimed, "Pakistan-U.S. relations have not been based on the principle of parity and mutual respect. It is a master-slave relationship cultivated by the Americans to achieve their national goals." Khan added that, "Osama's killing has provided the U.S. a rare and golden opportunity to leave Afghanistan. They were facing a humiliating defeat there. But now they can tell their people that the real goal of the war has been achieved." Another well known journalist said on Aaj TV that "We [Pakistan] have lost nearly 35,000 men, and our national economy suffered a loss worth \$68 billion, while we have received only \$19 billion from the Americans over the last decade. On the other hand, Washington 'rewarded' us by signing a nuclear deal with our archrival, New Delhi, while expressing baseless doubts on our sincerity in fighting the war against terrorism." On Dunya TV, analyst Moeed Pirzada said that even "pro-U.S." Pakistanis are exasperated with the U.S. after Abbottabad and are thinking of severing the alliance, but that the Pakistani government will probably have to compromise since their bargaining power had been undercut by the discovery of OBL.

Urdu Editorials:

"U.S. Officials' Visits – We must Defend our Stand," an editorial in the leading mass-circulation populist, often sensational Urdu daily "Jang" (cir. 300,000) (05/28)

"Pakistan is facing a very serious situation because of its all-out support for the U.S. and its allies in the war on terror. Attacks on its military installations, troops, check-posts and police stations have become a daily occurrence. Following the Abbottabad operation and the attack on the Mehran base in Karachi and security facilities, some quarters are expressing apprehension that terrorists are planning to launch suicide assaults on the Artillery Center in Attock and the Pakistan Ordnance Factory. With growing terrorist incidents in Pakistan, U.S. officials including Secretary Clinton, Admiral Mullen, the NATO Commander in Afghanistan, the CIA Deputy Director, and Senator John Kerry have started their visits to Pakistan. These visits give an impression that, by meeting with Pakistani officials, the American officials want to increase U.S. pressure on Pakistan, and that the U.S. does not want to give the Pakistani rulers any more time. It is unprecedented that so many American officials have ever visited Pakistan in such a short span of time, and sought to achieve their objectives by exerting diplomatic pressure."

"Hillary and Mullen's Pressure on Pakistan to Do More," an editorial in the second largest Urdu daily "Nawa-i-Waqt" (circ. 150,000) (05/28)

"It seems that the recent visit of Secretary Hillary Clinton and Admiral Mike Mullen is a strategy to force Pakistan to remain stuck to its assurances of achieving the U.S. targets in any way. By advising Pakistan to continue its efforts against terrorism after the NATO troops' withdrawal from Afghanistan, the U.S. has spilled the beans that it will continue to engage Pakistan in the war that is being fought to safeguard the U.S. interests. Now, if the U.S. is telling us to resolve our issues by ourselves, then there is no need for us to remain engaged in the U.S. war and devastate our own country. If the U.S. does not care about our independence, sovereignty and security, then we also have nothing to do with their (American's) problems."

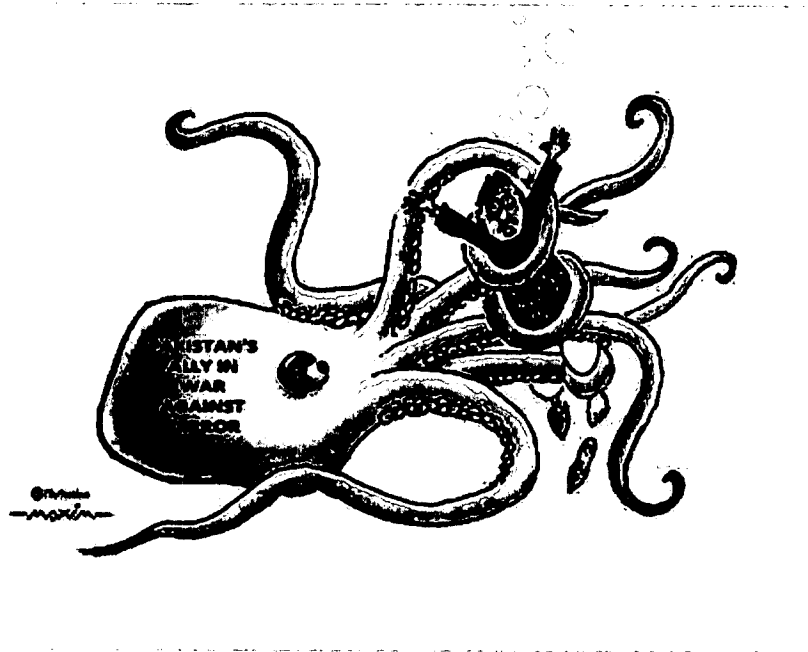
"Hillary Clinton Visit to Pakistan and Pak-U.S. Ties," an editorial note in the center-right Urdu daily "Pakistan" (circ. 10,000) (05/28)

“Secretary Hillary Clinton said nothing new during her visit to Pakistan. She just repeated the same stereotypes: that the U.S. appreciates Pakistan’s role and performance in war on terror, but it should take more action. Every American official says the same things whenever he or she comes to Pakistan, or speaks in Washington DC, thus it is not wrong to say that Secretary of State Clinton just harped on the ‘do more’ mantra... Whenever a terrorist incident occurs in Pakistan, the Taliban or the TTP immediately take responsibility, but our government neither takes any action against them, nor hunts the Taliban sympathizers in different cities and towns of Pakistan. Perhaps that is the reason that every American official who visits Pakistan criticizes Pakistan. We need to devise a two-pronged policy: a. either we will have to convince Taliban to renounce violence and rejoin the mainstream of the Pakistani society, or b. if they (Taliban) are not ready to do so, then we will have to wipe them out by force.”

The News - (5/28)



The Nation - 5/28



Daily Times – (5/28)



Comments in various bulletins on TV networks:

1. Neither Hillary Clinton's visit nor meetings behind closed doors can remove deep-rooted misunderstandings in Pak-U.S. ties : Opposition Leader in National Assembly: Chaudhry Nisar Ali, PML-N leader – Geo News TV.

2. With the killing of Osama bin Laden, the first phase of Pak-U.S. partnership came to an end. Now, the primary concern for the United States is that Afghanistan should not again become a stronghold of terrorism and religious extremism after the withdrawal of foreign forces from that war-torn country. To achieve this objective, Islamabad can play a pivotal role and Washington is fully aware of this fact. I think the real agenda of Secretary Clinton's visit was to convince Pakistan to play this role: –Nazir Naji, columnist on SAMAA TV.

3. If Pakistan fails to take initiative to improve the security situation in this region, the U.S. will maintain its presence here. I think it is in our own national interest that we utilize all our resources and energies to eliminate the menace of terrorism and extremism, because the war on terror has now become our own war: defense analyst Shehzad Chaudhry on SAMAA TV.

4. In his meeting with Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, President Asif Zardari demanded that the U.S. respect the sovereignty of Pakistan and immediately stop drone attacks on our territory. He told her that, in case Washington does not honor the resolution unanimously approved by the Pakistani parliament, our bilateral ties will be negatively affected. The Americans know that the political leadership, military and people of Pakistan have reservations over the drone issue. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has been categorically told that Pakistan will not compromise on its sovereignty and its national interests. If the U.S. does not respond to our demands, we will devise future strategy. Federal cabinet and coalition parties also have been taken into confidence regarding Pakistan's relations with the United States: Information Minister, Firdous Ashiq Awan's press talk – PTV News.

TV Talk Shows:

Program: "Policy matter" Duniya TV (05/27)

Hosts: Naseem Zuhra

Participants: Khwaja Asif (PML-N); Azam Swati (JUI-F); Moeed Pirzada (analyst); Marvi Memon (PML-Q)

Topic: Hillary, Mullen Visit to Pakistan; What is the Outcome?

Summary: During this show, the participants discussed the recent visit of U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Admiral Mike Mullen to Pakistan. Analyst Moeed Pirzada said that the purpose of the U.S. military and political leadership was to bridge the gap between the establishments of both countries following the U.S. operation in Abbottabad. He said he thinks that, after the events of May 2, even the pro-U.S. circles in Pakistan are annoyed with the U.S. and are saying that friendship with the U.S. is a difficult business, and that the government should explore the possibility of getting rid of America. While talking about the U.S. high officials' visit, he said it was a tough and difficult visit, however he felt that Pakistan must compromise with the U.S. since we lost some of our bargaining power following the Abbottabad operation. PML-Q leader Ms. Marvi Memon condemned Secretary Clinton's statement in which she demanded that the Pakistan military urgently take more steps. She said that Hillary Clinton insulted the unanimous resolution adopted by our parliament when she reiterated that the U.S. can again take unilateral action inside Pakistan in case of the presence of a high-valued target. She also said that is why a First Investigation Report (FIR) should be lodged against Hillary Clinton. JUI-F leader Azam Swati said that, in the meetings with U.S. military and political leadership, our leaders should have conveyed to them to not talk about our (Pakistan's) domestic issues in public.

Program: "News Watch" Dunya TV (05/27)

Host: Javed Iqbal

Participants: Sami Yousufzai (Senior Journalist); Imran Khan (PTI)

Topic: Visit of Secretary Hillary Clinton and Admiral Mike Mullen

Excerpts:

Host: In her meetings with Pakistani military and civilian leadership, during today's visit to Islamabad, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton made it clear to her hosts that they would have to take decisive measures against the terrorists present in the country. The visiting U.S. officials acknowledged that top Pakistani leadership was **unaware** about Osama's presence in Abbottabad. Secretary Clinton said that her country's relations with **Pakistan** are of utmost importance and that these ties will further strengthen in the coming years. What was the **real agenda** of this visit by Secretary Hillary Clinton and Admiral Mike Mullen? Did they come here to **explore the ways to remove mutual misunderstandings** between the governments of the two countries or to **learn about Pakistan's reservations**, and to express those of the United States? Has this visit produced the desired results?

Imran Khan: I have said repeatedly that the Pakistan-U.S. relations have not been based on the principle of parity and mutual respect. It is a master-slave relationship cultivated by the Americans to achieve their national goals. Our partnership with the United States is tactical not strategic. They hire our services in exchange for dollars. Our leadership has always ignored Pakistan's own long-term interests. Consequently, Washington dictates our governments to act according to its will, no matter if it's against our own interests. This subservient attitude of the Pakistani leaders has given rise to strong popular reaction in the country. Today, no part of the country is immune from bomb blasts and suicide bombings. In fact, these incidents are the direct reaction to our government's servitude to the American hegemony which has virtually turned Pakistan into client state of the U.S. By joining the so-called war against terrorism, our leaders have turned this country into hell. Ironically, the Americans themselves are negotiating with the Afghan Taliban while, at the same time, they are not ready to use this channel to politically engage our own alienated people. Now, after the terrorist attack on Mehran naval base, they are spreading rumors that Pakistan's nuclear weapons may end up in the hands of extremist elements.

Host: Is there any evidence that the U.S. is negotiating with the Afghan Taliban?

Sami Yousufzai: I think the Americans have started sincere efforts to engage the Taliban in political dialogue. After Osama bin Laden's death, the Afghan Taliban have no complications in negotiating with the United States. Now, I think, they also can show their readiness to compromise on certain issues. On the other hand, the Americans also think that they have achieved their stated goal -- the killing of Osama bin Laden and dismantling al-Qaeda to the extent that it will not be able to perpetrate any major terrorist attack. The time has come for them to get out the Afghanistan quagmire, which is costing them heavily in terms of human and financial losses. Washington also seems convinced that the Taliban's links with al-Qaeda remnants also have been considerably weakened. On the hand, there also are indications that the Taliban, too, are ready for some sort of a power-sharing arrangement in the future ruling setup in their country. Hence, it is quite possible that both sides may reach some agreement regarding the future of Afghanistan.

Host: There are reports that the Americans are preparing to withdraw their forces from Afghanistan. Have they devised any face-saving strategy in this regard?

Imran Khan: I think that Osama's killing has provided the U.S. a rare and golden opportunity to leave Afghanistan. They were facing a humiliating defeat there. But now they can tell their people that the real goal of the war has been achieved. In fact, Osama's death has provided them an excellent face-saving strategy. America's further stay in Afghanistan will result in more destabilization of Pakistan. We're already seeing that, following Osama's killing, the bomb blasts in our cities and on our sensitive installations have become almost a daily-life routine.

Program: "Pakistan At 7" Aaj TV (05/27)

Host: Nadia Naqi

Participants: Air Vice Marshal (R) Shehzad Chaudhry (Defense Analyst); Mujeeb-ur-Rehman Shami (Senior Journalist)

Topic: U.S.-Pakistan Relations

Excerpts:

Host: The bilateral relations of the United States and Pakistan are experiencing an unusual strain today. Analysts believe that the national interests of the two countries are diverging regarding the end-game in Afghanistan. There also is a mutual trust-deficit between them. The Americans are saying that they have provided huge military and civilian assistance to Pakistan in exchange for the services it has rendered in the ongoing war against terrorism. But Islamabad is suspicious about Washington's strategic tilt towards New Delhi. What will be the future of the U.S.-Pakistan relationship? Do you think that the current tension in their ties is temporary and both sides will be able to reverse the ongoing deterioration in their relations?

Mujeeb-ur-Rehman Shami: Pakistan has rendered huge sacrifices, both in men and material, in the war against terrorism, but the United States, instead of appreciating our role in this regard, views us as an unreliable partner. The U.S. assistance provided to Pakistan is negligible as compared to the losses we have had to suffer in this war. We have lost nearly 35,000 men, and our national economy suffered a loss worth \$68 billion, while we have received only \$19 billion from the Americans over the last decade. On the other hand, Washington rewarded us by signing a nuclear deal with our arch rival, New Delhi, while expressing baseless doubts on our sincerity in fighting the war against terrorism. Worse, the U.S. itself is killing our innocent people with drone attacks, besides regularly violating our national integrity.

Host: Why is the U.S. losing trust in Pakistan?

Shehzad Chaudhry: Undoubtedly, Pakistan has rendered meritorious services in the war against terrorism, but, unfortunately, some strange developments have led to the widening mistrust between the two countries. For example, we have failed to provide satisfactory answers raised by the Americans about the presence of Osama bin Laden on our soil. For more than decade, the Americans have been wondering if they can trust Pakistan. They suspect that the Pakistani establishment, which receives financial and military aid from the U.S. and publicly proclaims allegiance, is privately acting against U.S. global interests. Osama bin Laden's six-year-long presence and his ultimate killing on Pakistani soil further amplified Washington's concerns about Islamabad's real intentions. The Americans also have suspicions that Pakistan is not doing enough against the extremist organizations operating from its territory. Ironically, these extremist groups are not a headache for the Americans only, but they also are involved in terrorist activities in our own country. We need to come out of this state of denial and go after the elements that have turned Pakistan into an inferno. I repeatedly have said that now the war against terrorism has become our own war, and in order to win this fight, it has become imperative to maintain our existence as an independent country. As far as our complaints about the drone attacks and other such U.S. actions are concerned, I think our government should use diplomatic channels to convince the U.S. that such policies are counter-productive and they only breed more terrorists.

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