

ACTION INR-00

RELEASED IN FULL

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AMAD-00	A-00	CIAE-00	INL-00	DOTE-00
	DS-00	EAP-00	EB-00	EUR-00	FAAE-00	UTED-00	VC-00
	FRB-00	H-00	TEDE-00	IO-00	LAB-01	VCE-00	AC-00
	NEA-00	DCP-00	NSAE-00	OIC-00	OIG-00	NIMA-00	EPAU-00
	PA-00	ACE-00	SCT-00	IRM-00	TEST-00	SA-00	FMP-00
	BBG-00	R-00	EPAE-00	ECA-00	IIP-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00
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AMCONSUL LAHORE

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AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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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 REACTION: CAMPAIGN AGAINST TERRORISM,

TERRORISM; U.S.-PAK RELATIONS; PAKISTAN POLITICAL

SITUATION; NON-PROLIFERATION; INDIA-PAKISTAN RELATIONS;

AFGHANISTAN: RECONSTRUCTION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER
 DATE/CASE ID: 11 SEP 2008 200706444

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(June 19-21, 2004)

MR Highlights: Accounts of the death of militant Nek Mohammed, his last words, local reaction in Waziristan and speculation as to the mechanics of the attack on Nek's dinner party late Thursday varied in detail depending on the newspaper. The degree of U.S. involvement in the precision strike on Nek percolated in inside page news and editorial page musings. Many papers likewise printed Pakistani government officials' comments refuting rumors of U.S. complicity, along with Nek-reaction from U.S. military officials in Afghanistan and an unnamed State Dept. source in Washington.

Reports continued Monday with speculation of a named successor to Nek emerging. President Musharraf commented to the "Daily Telegraph" in London about "fallout of the (Nek) operation in the form of bomb blasts and other sabotage activities in other parts of the country." In fringe and jihadi-related Urdu papers, reports stridently claimed that the U.S. was responsible for the killing, GoP arguments to the contrary notwithstanding. "Nek Mohammad Killed At The Hands Of U.S.: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam," a news report in daily, "Islam" said. Initial editorial reaction in Urdu papers was equally pointed (Nek-related news stories para 1-22, editorials para 38-47).

Monday morning papers front-paged news datelined from Quetta of a rocket and bomb attack on an airport in the remote, gas-rich town of Sui (para 23-25). Reports of Pakistan-India CBMs to avoid nuclear conflict were also prominent on front-pages Monday (para 37).

The "Daily Times" on Sunday front-paged a bit from Bill Clinton's memoir specific to Pakistan. "42" is reported to have personally interceded to secure Nawaz Sharif's release and subsequent removal to Saudi Arabia after General Musharraf's 1999 coup (para 31-32). End highlights.

-- News Stories/Campaign Against Terrorism

1. "Night Raid Kills Nek, Four Other Militants: Wana Operation" "Dawn" (06/19)

Quote: ... Witnesses said that Nek Mohammad's face bore burn marks and his left hand and leg appeared to have been badly injured in the explosion. "Why aren't

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you putting a bandage on my arm," were his last words, those accompanying Nek Mohammad to the hospital quoted him as saying. A trained pro-Taliban fighter, who fought the U.S. and Northern Alliance forces at Bagram, north of Kabul, Nek Mohammad rose to fame following a bloody clash with security forces in Kaloosha last March. The tribal militant broke through the security cordon with his guest, the leader of the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan, Qari Tahir Yaldashev, in his bullet proof car, amid a hail of bullets and rockets. The encounter won him fame and later he figured in several propaganda video CDs exhorting Muslims to wage jihad. For the tribesmen in South Waziristan, he became a symbol of defiance and was likened to the legendary tribal hero Faqir Ippi who had fought the British....

End quote.

2. "Nek Mohammad Killed in Missile Strike" "The News" (06/19)

Quote: ... There were conflicting reports and theories as to who fired the missile that killed Nek Muhammad. Major General Shaukat Sultan, military spokesman and director-general of Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), claimed the army targeted Nek Muhammad on the basis of intelligence information.... He refuted suggestions that the U.S. military assisted the Pakistan Army or on its own planned the operation to kill Nek Muhammad. "We have helicopter gunships, artillery, missiles, everything else that is required for such an operation. I cannot go into operational details but I must add that our own intelligence and weapons enabled us to achieve this significant hit," he argued. However, the public perception in Wana was quite the opposite. Majority of tribesmen blamed the U.S. for Nek Muhammad's killing. Certain government officials and eyewitnesses in Wana and its surrounding villages said they saw a drone in the skies just before the missile strike. Some of them claimed that the unmanned aircraft fired the missile that killed Nek Muhammad and the other five tribesmen.... The swiftness of the action and the precision with which the missile hit the target prompted even educated Pakistanis to speculate that the U.S. military provided technical assistance to the Pakistan Army to score a direct hit. This perception was augmented by the widely held belief that Nek Muhammad was undone when his satellite phone was tracked down....

End quote.

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3. "A Daring and Reckless Militant" "The News" (06/19)

Quote: Daring and reckless, Nek Mohammad died the way he lived. He swore by the gun and his end came as a result of a missile strike on his hideout. The unpredictable young tribal militant was hiding in a village barely four kilometers from Wana, where the military was concentrated, at a time when everyone thought he must be in the militants' strongholds of Shakai or Baghar.... Nek Mohammad has had a meteoric rise. He was an unknown Islamic militant until some months ago. He shot to prominence as commander of a pro-Taliban group of Pakistani tribesmen who resisted six military operations by Pakistan Army troops hunting al-Qaeda and Taliban suspects in the South Waziristan tribal region bordering Afghanistan.... His high-profile life-style despite his humble origins showed that he had access to funds whose source was never known. On his part, he refuted allegations that he was getting paid by al-Qaeda and the foreign militants for facilitating their illegal stay in South Waziristan. Nek Mohammad would forever remain a controversial figure. He was a hero to anti-U.S. Islamic militants but many others, including tribes people in South Waziristan, consider his death good riddance as they felt he had brought suffering on his people.... End quote.

4. "Nek Buried In Silence" "The Nation" (06/19)

Quote: ... According to reports from Kalushah, Nek Mohammad was being interviewed by a foreign media agency through a satellite phone when his hideout was attacked. He sustained serious injuries and was rushed to the headquarter hospital where he succumbed to his injuries at 2.00 am. His body was later shifted to his demolished house at Kalushah. Nek Mohammad, who belonged to Ahmadzai Wazir tribes of South Waziristan Agency, was laid to rest Friday morning in his ancestral graveyard at village Kalushah near Azam Warsak. His Namaz-i-Janaza was attended by around 15,000 tribesmen, however, none of his top aides was present on the occasion. According to the sources, a precision-guided missile hit the house while Nek Mohammad was giving an interview. During the last several days, he gave frequent interviews to a number of electronic media networks. Local residents say an unmanned drone, which was in the area, fired the missile at the house, while the ISPR chief General Shukat Sultan is reported by BBC as saying: "We were tracking him down and he was killed

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(Thursday) night by our hand."... End quote.

5. "Nek killed In Missile Strike" "Daily Times" (06/19)

Quote: A guided missile fired from a U.S.-provided night-capable helicopter hit Nek Muhammad and his colleagues, intelligence sources said.... Intelligence sources told "Daily Times" that a call from Nek's satellite phone was intercepted around 9:00pm on Thursday and a night-vision helicopter was sent in for a "targeted killing". They said that a laser-guided missile was used in the attack. Sources said that Nek was in the house of tribal leader Sher Zaman whose two sons aged 16 and 10 were also killed in the attack. "Minutes after he ended his phone call, a [guided] missile hit the place at 9:45pm where Nek, two Uzbeks and three local Taliban were dining," a neighbor of Mr. Zaman in Karikot area near Wana told "Daily Times" while quoting the host's family. Nek was taken to the hospital but was pronounced dead on arrival. "Allah O Akbar (God is great) were his last words," said the tribesmen who had brought Nek to the hospital.... End quote.

6. "Opposition Walkout Over Karachi, Wana Issue" "The Nation" (06/19)

Quote: As the House continued debate on budget 2004-5, the opposition parties Friday staged a walkout from the National Assembly against Munawwar Suharwardi's murder, overall law and order, and Wana operation.... The PPP-P backed by Nawaz League and MMA supported by FATA members staged walkout one-by-one and also held a demonstration outside the Parliament House.... End quote.

7. "Killing Of Nek Mohammad: Analysts Say Pakistan Does Not Have This Technology," "Jasarat" (06/19)

Quote: Noted journalists and analyst Rahimullah Yousafzai has said that commander Nek Mouhammad was killed as a result of action by the U.S. troops. In an interview to a local television channel he said that the tribal commander was hit by missile fired from a pilot-less plane after taking precise aim through the help of

satellite. He said that technology to trace satellite communications was only with the U.S. and not Pakistan. End quote.

8. "Nek Mohammad Targeted With Laser-Guided Missile,"

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"Ummat" (06/19)

Quote: The missile fired at the mujahideen and tribal people in South Waziristan were of U.S. origin and some sources have claimed that they were also fired by the Americans. However, some other sources pointed out that those missiles were fired from the Jhelum area. End quote.

9. "Nek Mohammad's Killing To Cost U.S. Dearly: Religious, Political Leaders," "Ummat" (06/19)

Quote: Religious and political parties and their leaders have demanded an immediate stoppage of the military operation in Wana and said that the martyrdom of Nek Mohammad would cost U.S. dearly and hatred and violence against the U.S. would further increase.... End quote.

10. "Mujahidden [Of Yesterday] Have Become Terrorists Of Today: Qazi Hussain Ahmad," "Jasarat" (06/19)

Quote: Chief of the Jamat-e-Islami Qazi Hussain Ahmad has expressed his grave concern over the martyrdom of tribal commander Nek Mohammad and termed it as government's lack of foresight. He called upon the government to forthwith stop the operation in Pakistan's tribal belt that is being conducted at the behest of the U.S. End quote.

11. "Laser Guided Missile Attack in Wana, Nek Muhammad and Five Associates Killed" "Khabrain" (06/19)

Quote: As a result of laser guided missile attack in Village Dog, Wana, South Waziristan, former Taliban commander and tribal militant commander Nek Muhammad, his two associates and two hosts were killed. ISPR, Information Minister and Interior Minister have confirmed Nek's death.... On Thursday night Nek Muhammad used satellite phone to give an interview to BBC. A spy plane over Wana tracked the conversation and the hideout of Nek Muhammad. According to some reports the missile hit the target during Nek's conversation on satellite phone.... The funeral prayers of Nek were attended by five thousand tribal people at Kalosha. End quote.

12. "Sharif Khan to Fill Nek's Slot" "Khabrain" (06/19)

Quote: Nek Muhammad, who was killed in a missile attack

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in Wana, was not a tribal leader, but leader of the warriors fighting against U.S. and coalition forces in Afghanistan and al-Qaeda and Taliban militants fighting against Pakistan army in Wana. He belonged to Yargul branch of Ahmedzai wazir tribe. Yargul branch leads Ahmedzai Wazir tribes.... It is expected that the second in command, Muhammad Sharif Khan and Noorul Islam would now come to the forefront. End quote.

13. "Nek Muhammad's Last Word: Allah O Akbar, Allah O Akbar" "Khabrain" (06/19)

Quote: Nek Muhammad was 27 and father of one son and one daughter. According to Khabrain correspondent and U.S. wire service Nek Muhammad's last words were Allah O Akbar, Allah O Akbar. End quote.

14. "U.S. Army, Afghan Govt. Welcome Nek's Killing" "Daily Times" (06/20)

Quote: The U.S.-led coalition hunting militants in Afghanistan congratulated Saturday the Pakistani army for killing rebel tribal leader and former Taliban commander Nek Mohammad in his hideout near the Afghan border.... "The coalition ... congratulates Pakistan for their success in eliminating the former Taliban fighter Nek Mohammad," U.S. military spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Tucker Mansager told a news conference in Kabul. "From the coalition perspective it's our hope that his death will help disorganize the ongoing fight by the foreign fighters in the tribal areas in Pakistan."... The Afghan government also welcomed the development. "The elimination or prosecution of any known, active terrorist, whether Al-Qaeda or Taliban, is a step in the right direction," foreign ministry spokesman Omar Samad told AFP on Saturday.... End quote.

15. "U.S. Backs Pakistan's Anti-Terror Efforts" "Dawn" (06/20)

Quote: ... When a senior State Department official was contacted for comments on the rocket attack that killed Nek Mohammed and seven others on Friday, the official said he does not want to talk about individual incidents but said that the United States does "appreciate all the work Pakistan is doing in South Waziristan". End quote.

16. "Wana Calm As Tribesmen Condole With Nek Muhammad's Family" "The News" (06/20)

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Quote: The situation was calm and peaceful here and in rest of South Waziristan on Saturday as tribesmen flocked Kaloosha village to offer condolences to the family of Nek Muhammad, the pro-Taliban tribal militant who was killed in a laser-guided missile strike on Friday.... Almost every tribesman is convinced that the U.S. military provided the technology that tracked down Nek Muhammad's satellite phone and enabled the Pakistan Army to target his hideout. Without exception, the tribesmen were found blaming the U.S. for killing Nek Muhammad.... Asked how he was killed, the ISPR DG said he was killed through fire. We have capable armed helicopters and they are armed with guided weapon system. He was killed with this weapon system. While his attention was drawn towards the reported statements of local people saying it was a missile strike that killed Nek Mohammad and his associates, Sultan said, the local people have no knowledge what is a missile, what is a rocket, what is a mortar shell or what is an artillery bomb.... End quote.

17. "Musharraf Fears Fallout Of Wana Operation" "The News" (06/21)

Quote: President Musharraf, claiming that military operation conducted in tribal areas was successful, has ruled out the possibility of inflammatory effect of the swoop on the rest of the country and tribal areas. However, he feared the fallout of the operation in the form of bomb blasts and other sabotage activities in other parts of the country. In an interview with Sunday Telegraph, which appeared on Sunday online edition of the paper, Musharraf, however, said that the government did not know the results of the operation yet. "The operation is still on. We need to see the results once we flush out everyone and enter those complexes.... "I don't think it (backlash) is going to spread in the tribal territory because of the right policies we followed. We followed the political path first. The Jirga took certain decisions and the Jirga ordered a lashkar to be formed and a lashkar was formed and it went inside but if failed.... End quote.

18. "Decision on Uniform in December; Wana Warrior Connected to People in Country; Important Persons, Installations Can be Attacked" "Nawa-e-Waqt" (06/21)

Quote: President Musharraf has expressed concern over

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Wana warriors connections all over the country. He has said that reacting to Wana operation these warriors could attack important personalities and installations. In an interview to British newspaper, Sunday Telegraph, he expressed the hope that Wana conflict would not spread to other areas. President Musharraf made it clear that he does not want to become field marshal like General Ayub Khan. End quote.

19. "Omar to Succeed Nek Muhammad" "The News" (06/21)

Quote: Haji Mohammad Omar, brother of two most wanted men in South Waziristan, is being appointed the acting commander of the group of tribal Islamic militants to succeed the deceased Nek Mohammad. Omar's elder brothers Haji Sharif Khan and Nur Islam are on the government's wanted list for allegedly sheltering foreign militants in South Waziristan.... End quote.

20. "Militants Active in Azam Warsak" "Dawn" (06/21)

Quote: Increased activity of local 'mujahideen' was seen in Azam Warsak on Sunday, fuelling speculation of renewed violence in South Waziristan. Over a hundred tribal militants were seen moving about Azam Warsak, about 15km to the west of Wana, the regional headquarters. This was the single largest concentration of militants in the area three days after the death of top militant Nek Muhammad in a missile attack last week. The militants are yet to choose Nek's successor but local mujahideen said they would choose their new commander sometime later this week.... End quote.

21. "Nek Mohammad Killed At The Hands Of U.S.: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam," "Islam" (06/21)

Quote: Renowned tribal figure Commander Nek Mohammad was killed at the hands of the United States and the Wana operation in Pakistan is being carried out at the behest of the U.S. If this operation were not stopped the country would witness great bloodshed. This was stated by the head of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Quetta and Member of National Assembly Maulana Noor Mohammad. End quote.

22. "Horrible Results Of Nek Mohammad Martyrdom To Emerge: Jamat-e-Islami," "Islam" (06/21)

Quote: Senior Provincial Minister and head of Frontier's Jamat-e-Islami Siraj ul Haq has said that we

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have been ministers for the last fifteen months but we are mujahideen for the last thirty years and we would not in any case compromise with the imperialist. He said that Commander Nek Mohammad had been killed under a conspiracy and horrible results would emerge out of it. End quote.

-- Terrorism

23. "Rockets Raze Sui Airport Building" "Daily Times"
(06/21)

Quote: Fifteen rockets were fired in Sui early on Sunday, damaging the airport building and injuring three people. Sources said the assailants were unidentified. "The rockets fell near Kachha Camp of the Frontier Corps (FC)," local people said. Sui tehsildar Khuda Bakhsh said the airport building was completely destroyed and the runway was partially damaged. He said it was not confirmed who targeted the airport building. All flights to Sui were suspended, he added.... End quote.

24. "Rockets, Blast Destroy Sui Airport" "The Nation"
(06/21)

Quote: An explosion and a pre-dawn rocket attack destroyed an airport in the remote gas rich town of Sui in southwestern Pakistan on Sunday, police and security officials said. A security official said the assailants apparently planted dynamite sticks around the wall of the small two-room facility which collapsed when the device exploded during the rocket barrage. The Frontier Corps soldiers responded but there were no casualties, the official speaking on condition of anonymity said. Local police officer Khan Mohammad Buzdar said the airport building and its departure lounge was badly destroyed, but there was no damage to its runway. 'More than 20 rockets crashed into the airport building,' Buzdar told AFP.... End quote.

25. "Blast Demolishes Sui Airport Terminal" "The News"
(06/21)

Quote: Terminal of the Sui airport blew up due to an explosion triggered by high power explosives in the building at Tehsil Sui of Dera Bugti district, some 343 kilometres south-east of the provincial capital, late on Saturday night. However, no loss of life was reported. Provincial Home Department officials said unknown miscreants had planted the high power explosives near

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the boundary wall of the terminal, which went off about 11:00 pm on Saturday night. The blast was so powerful that it brought down the entire structure of the

terminal. "It is a terrorist act and the whole building of the Sui airport terminal collapsed due to the explosion," Home Secretary Abdul Rauf Khan told "The News" on Sunday. However, the blast did not cause any damage to the runway of the airport, Rauf Khan said, adding that it demolished the airport building, which comprised three rooms, including the airport lounge.... End quote.

26. "Thousands of suspects are being held in secret U.S. detention centers: U.S. Human Rights Group revealed" "Khabrain" (06/19)

Quote: A prominent U.S. human rights group has claimed the U.S. has held thousands of suspects in more than two-dozen detention centers. Half of these detention centers are being run covertly. This was revealed when an Afghan captive succumbed to his injuries, inflicted by a CIA-contractor. According to this U.S.-based Human Rights Group, these detention centers are located in Iraq, Cuba, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Jordan, and on two U.S. naval ships.... The director of Human Rights Group Deborah Perileston has said that the prisoners abuse in Gauntanamo and Abugarib are only a few examples.... One such detention center is located in Kohat, Pakistan, one in Jordan and another on the island of Deogo-Garsia.... End quote.

27. "U.S. Was Involved In Regional Terrorism: Benazir Bhutto," "Jang" (06/21)

Quote: Former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has said that the United States was involved in terrorism in the region; however, later on it separated itself from it. She was addressing a party reception in Birmingham. End quote.

28. "Eleven Chinese Workers Killed By U.S.: Hikmatyar," "Ummat" (06/21)

Quote: Chief of the Hizb-e-Islami, Afghanistan, Gulbadin Hikmatyar has said that the United States was involved in the killing of eleven Chinese workers in Kanduz. In a statement issued to the newspapers in Peshawar, he said that the Mujahideen were only targeting the American and the allied troops. He said

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that it was also Americans who attacked the Chinese in Gwadar and Yugoslavia. End quote.

-- U.S.-Pak Relations

29. "No Instability In Pakistan: U.S." "Dawn" (06/19)

Quote: The U.S. administration believes that a change of government in Islamabad will not destabilize Pakistan because "it's a stable nation." Senior U.S. officials made this observation when asked at a special briefing for South Asian journalists if the United States had a contingency plan for dealing with a sudden change of administration in Islamabad. "Pakistan is a stable nation there's a prime minister, a parliament, an elected government," said one senior U.S. official while explaining why Washington thinks a sudden change will not destabilize Pakistan.... End quote.

30. "U.S. To Write Off \$500m Debt" "Dawn" (06/19)

Quote: The U.S. government will write off \$500 million debt out of the remaining \$2 billion debt owed by Pakistan, said a senior official of the ministry of finance. He told "Dawn" on Friday that an agreement to this effect would be signed here next week by United States' Ambassador to Pakistan Nancy Powell and Secretary Economic Affairs Division (EAD) Dr. Waqar Masood Khan. The official said that the U.S. government had earlier written off \$1 billion debt owed by Islamabad.... End quote.

31. "Clinton Secured Nawaz Sharif Release" "Daily Times" (06/20)

Quote: It was President Bill Clinton whose personal efforts led to the release of former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif from jail and his dispatch, along with his family, to Saudi Arabia. It cannot yet be determined if the role played by the former U.S. president in the Nawaz Sharif affair finds mention in his 957-page memoir that is due to hit the nation's bookshops on Tuesday. Although the "New York Times" and the Associated Press

have both managed to obtain a pre-release copy, none of the stories put out by them contain any reference to Pakistan or, for that matter, India. This correspondent has it from two unimpeachable sources with direct knowledge of how Nawaz Sharif was released and that President Clinton was fearful, if not convinced, that

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General Musharraf regime would execute the deposed Prime Minister.... End quote.

32. "Clinton Secured Nawaz Sharif's Release,"
"Khabrain" (6/20)

Quote: Former U.S. President Bill Clinton made personal efforts to secure Nawaz Sharif's release and helped him go to Saudi Arabia with his family. It's not yet clear whether this saga of Sharif's release is mentioned in Clinton's book which is hitting the stands all over the U.S. on Tuesday, however, a reporter of the Associated Press has got information from two very credible sources about the events which led to the release of the Sharifs and what role President Clinton played in this regard. Clinton had feared that the government would send Nawaz Sharif to the gallows. He asked the Saudi government to convince Pakistan to send Sharif and his family abroad. Pakistan agreed to it. End quote.

-- Pakistan Political Situation

33. "MPs Meet Musharraf, Predict Change" "Daily Times"
(06/19)

Quote: Parliamentarians of the Pakistan Muslim League (PML), who have met President Musharraf several times, told Daily Times on Friday that there might be a major political change in the country in a month's time. They said the president assured them that the present "political crisis" would settle down within a month or so. "My assessment is that a major change is in the offing," a PML parliamentarian said, adding that the

situation would become clear after the budget was passed.... Sources claim that a search for the next prime minister is on. "The president's meetings with the parliamentarians are a part of his strategy to assess the situation before deciding who will be the next Prime Minister," they said, adding that it was clear from these meetings that all the parliamentarians reposed confidence in the President. End quote.

34. "Presidency Not Abode of Conspiracies: Jamali"
"Daily Times" (06/20)

Quote: Prime Minister Zafarullah Jamali on Saturday denied the Opposition's allegation that the President House was the abode of conspiracies, observing that holding meetings with parliamentarians was the

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president's prerogative. "The President is part of the Parliament and has the right to hold meetings with the parliamentarians. It is the president's prerogative. It is wrong that members (of the ruling coalition) are bypassing me," he told journalists at his Parliament chamber. The Prime Minister was reacting to a recent statement by Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal (MMA) Parliamentary Leader Qazi Hussain Ahmed that the President House was an abode of conspiracies against the Jamali government.... End quote.

35. "People Don't Want Me To Quit The Army: Musharraf"
"Daily Times" (06/21)

Quote: President Musharraf has said he intends to honor his pledge to take off his uniform when the time comes, but when it comes to his pledge he gave to the Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal (MMA), they had themselves violated two pledges that they gave to Musharraf and therefore he has no qualms as far as his pledge to the religious alliance is concerned. Talking to the Sunday Telegraph, he said, "I will adhere to the 17th amendment of the Pakistani constitution. My word that I gave - that I will remove the uniform- if the MMA is talking - because they are talking of the word, of the pledge, that I gave - they themselves have violated two pledges that they gave: firstly, to support my vote of confidence in the assembly and the second was the National Security Council Bill, supporting that. Therefore, I have no qualms at all as far as my word to them. They have broken their word and so I am under no obligation to please them."... End quote.

-- Non-Proliferation

36. "N-Proliferation Out Of Question: Musharraf" "The Nation" (06/21)

Quote: President Musharraf has said there cannot be any proliferation of nuclear technology as now 'the best possible custodial measures' are in place to protect the country's nuclear installations. He expressed these views in an interview carried by "The Telegraph" here Sunday.... The President said, "As far as those assets are concerned, they are under very strong control of the armed forces of Pakistan. Here we have created an Army Air Force Navy strategic forces, commanding all these assets. So I think we are very well organized."... End quote.

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-- India-Pakistan Relations

37. "India and Pakistan will Maintain Ban on N-Tests"
"Daily Times" (06/21)

Quote: At the end of the two-day expert-level talks on nuclear confidence building measures (CBMs) on Sunday, India and Pakistan reaffirmed their unilateral moratorium on conducting further tests. "Each side reaffirmed its unilateral moratorium on conducting further nuclear explosions unless, in exercise of national sovereignty, it decides that extraordinary events have jeopardized its supreme interests," the two-page statement on the talks stated.... End quote.

Editorials/Opinions: Watch list Items

-- Campaign Against Terrorism

38. "Nek Put Out Of Business," an editorial in the Lahore-based liberal English daily, "Daily Times" (06/19)

Quote: ... A few days ago, in this space, we had wondered how the army could not find him if he were using the sat-phone, perhaps the easiest way of determining someone's coordinates. It appears that someone finally did. And since no one knows where the missile came from, we have a sneaking suspicion that Nek was finally taken out by the U.S. army.... Putting Nek out of business should send a salutary message to others bent on making trouble in the area. However, show of force itself can never be effective unless it is backed with incentives and socially honorable 'exit routes' in tribal societies. That is why it is important for the government to pull the tribal areas out of their abject poverty and into the mainstream. End quote.

39. "Maulvi Nek Muhammad," an editorial in the center-right national English daily, "The Nation" (06/19)

Quote: The killing of Maulvi Nek Muhammad, the ex-Taliban commander who had taken on the Pakistan Army, should hopefully lead to a resolution of the unfortunate situation which has developed in and around South Waziristan.... Whether the Maulvi was the commander of anywhere from 400 to 600 foreign fighters (at least 350

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of whom are therefore presumably still at large), or merely their local host, is not clear. If the late Maulvi was merely their host, their leadership structure is intact.... It is not yet too late. The government must not overreach itself in a difficult area. The absence of planes firing missiles might give rise to speculation whether this was indeed a Pak Army operation, or one of those remotely-controlled Langley-based operations which have taken out certain Al-Qaeda leaders.... The government must realize that any exacerbation of an already tense situation, just to placate the U.S., would be damaging to our national interests. End quote.

40. "Nek Mohammad's Death," an editorial in the Karachi-based center-left independent national English daily, "Dawn" (06/20)

Quote: ... Honor and promise have a special place in a tribal society. For that reason, Nek lost the sympathy of many tribal elders.... The security forces could not have kept track of his movement without some tribesmen's cooperation.... The tribesmen should be made to realize that Al Qaeda and foreign militants were involved in acts of terror, violence and subversion in Pakistan and that the victims of their terrorist activity were often innocent Pakistanis. They must be told that such criminal offences in no way serve the cause of Islam or contribute to this country's peace, progress and stability. End quote.

41. "Security Interests," an editorial in the centrist national English daily, "The News" (06/20)

Quote: ... Killing him was a risky venture as it will not be easily accepted by the people of the tribal belt and will certainly stoke the fires of revenge.... There is every reason to fear that this action will worsen the situation and could have far reaching effect in the future.... However, the government cannot be faulted as it had to keep the security of the state uppermost and in pursuit of its policy could not have permitted a few persons to oppose its policy.... The strike itself has also become a source of controversy and many in the area see American hand in the action. Witnesses claim that a U.S. drone was seen overhead and it fired the fatal missile. The ISPR, however, confirms that it was a precision guided missile strike by an army helicopter with the help of satellite. End quote.

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42. "Wana Operation: Stop it Now," an editorial in the second largest Urdu daily "Nawa-e-Waqt" (06/20)

Quote: Official spokesperson has given the credit of Nek Muhammad's martyrdom to Pakistan Army, but the details of how Nek Muhammad satellite phone call was tracked show that Nek Muhammad his associates' martyrdom was a result of American investigation and action, Pakistan does not have the technology to track the whereabouts of a person using satellite phone, according to experts.... To understand that Al-Qaeda or the Taliban have been crushed after Nek Muhammad Martyrdom and Wana operation's conclusion, would be self-deceiving.... The seed of hatred have been sown with the bombing of armed tribes homes and fields, they are bound to take root. End quote.

43. "Nek Muhammad's Last Journey," an editorial in the center-right Urdu daily "Pakistan" (06/20)

Quote: In Nek Muhammad's death Pakistan Army had an important success.... When Karachi Corps Commander convoy was attacked, Nek Muhammad claimed the responsibility of the attack. Nek Muhammad did not deny the statement in the last two weeks, so there could be fewer objections over the justification of military action.... To establish and maintain the writ of the

state happens to be the government's responsibility; Nek Muhammad failed to understand this principle. End quote.

44. "Martyrdom Of Nek Mohammad And Its Repercussions," an editorial in the Karachi-based, right-wing, pro-Islamic unity Urdu daily, "Jasarat" (06/20)

Quote: In the Shakai agreement signed between Nek Mohammad and none other than the Peshawar Corps Commander, the former was declared as a mujahid. But in one month's time, Mujahid Nek Mohammad turned into a terrorist, a traitor and a mercenary. There is no denying the fact that the agreement of Shakai was nullified at the whim of the U.S. and the American officials are on record having said that terrorists are either apprehended or killed. They are not pardoned nor any agreement is made with them. End quote.

45. "Battle Between Evil And Good," an editorial in the sensationalist Urdu daily, "Ummat" (06/20)

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Quote: The course Nek Mohammad had chosen for himself could only have led to the final destination of martyrdom. By taking the credit of killing Nek Mohammad the government could appease the United States but has the government contemplated what reaction it could foster among the people of the tribal areas. There is no clear-cut and particular allegation against Nek Mohammad. He was only declared criminal at he behest of the U.S. for providing refuge to foreign terrorists. End quote.

46. "Attitude Of Violence, Hostility Be Avoided," an editorial in the Karachi-based pro-Taliban/Jihad Urdu daily, "Islam" (06/20)

Quote: The manner in which a large number of people turned out at the funeral rites of Nek Mohammad proved that people considered him a hero and not a terrorist. End quote.

47. "Stability Of State Should Be Paramount In Any Case," an editorial in the leading mass circulation Urdu daily, "Jang" (06/20)

Quote: The respect and love for Nek Mohammad found in the tribal areas could not be ignored. The manner in which the people participated in his funerals lends credence to the doubts that this military operation could ignite anti-Pakistan feelings among them. This reaction could have a long lasting and negative effect on the country. These issues in the tribal areas should be resolved thorough political means and not by military operation. End quote.

-- Terrorism

48. "Another Political Murder?," an editorial in the Karachi-based center-left independent national English daily, "Dawn" (06/19)

Quote: Yet another politician has been gunned down in Karachi, adding to the long list of assassinations that

have rocked the nation's biggest city.... We are concerned here with a phenomenon that has held Karachi in its grip for nearly two decades - politics of violence, terror and intimidation. Many groups now firmly believe that political rivals should be tackled not by political means but through violence, threat of force or outright murder.... It is time all political

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parties developed a consensus on the need for conducting politics politically, and agree to ostracize elements that believe in violence as a political tool. End quote.

49. "Who Benefits From Suhrawardy's Murder?," an editorial in the Lahore-based liberal English daily, "Daily Times" (06/19)

Quote: To Karachi's continuing killing spree has been added June 17 the targeted assassination of a Pakistan Peoples Party leader Munawwar Suhrawardy.... One theory is that he has been wasted by the Mutahidda Qaumi Movement. The PPP chairperson Benazir Bhutto has pointed at the involvement of the MQM as one of three plausible scenarios.... Ms. Bhutto's two other scenarios - involving General Musharraf in one and pointing to people in the nuclear proliferation business in the other - appear quite fantastic. The other theory is that Suhrawardy was knocked off by the construction business mafia with whom he is said to have unsavoury links. Whatever, the fact is that Karachi has become a city where people can get killed for a number of reasons. End quote.

50. "Sliding Into Anarchy," an editorial in the center-right national English daily, "The Nation" (06/19)

Quote: Mr. Munawwar Suhrawardy is the third public figure since March to succumb to a targeted killing in Karachi. Add to this the two attacks on mosques in June resulting in 29 deaths... This could bring down the house of cards in Sindh, leading to a chain reaction that could upset the apple cart in Islamabad. Another factor which has made Pakistan in general and Karachi in particular the target of terrorist attacks is the blind pursuit of the U.S. agenda in disregard of wider national interests, which demand a firm but more patient approach. End quote.

-- Pakistan Political Situation

51. "New CII: Keep Your Fingers Crossed!," an editorial in the Lahore-based liberal English daily, "Daily Times" (06/20)

Quote: The government has finally filled up the vacant Council for Islamic Ideology (CII). On the face of it, its new members look like reasonable people. This impression must be accurate because the obscurantist

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religious parties - who used to dominate the old Councils - are unhappy. Leaders of the Jama'at-e Islami in Lahore called the new 12 appointees sifarishi and angutha chchaap (rubber stamp). But that charge is ridiculous.... We appeal to the new CII that it should try to break away from its past. (Lashkar-e Tayba's scary leader Hafiz Saeed once served as its resident

research scholar.) It should guard its internal discussions from the leaks that put the government needlessly on the defensive and provoke the citizens. It should tread the reformist-modernist path blazoned by Allama Iqbal and not lean on the literalism of today's violent Islamists.... End quote.

52. "Mr. Jamali's Fate Revisited," an editorial in the Lahore-based liberal English daily, "Daily Times" (06/21)

Quote: ... We find the prospect of Mr. Jamali being buffeted around rather galling. What can one say about the nature of a dispensation that reduces the prime ministerial post to an absolute farce?... It is our position that General Musharraf would be making a big mistake by undermining his own prime minister. By so doing, he would be undermining his own political system and eroding his own credibility. End quote.

53. "Constant Crisis," an editorial in the Karachi-based center-left independent national English daily, "Dawn" (06/21)

Quote: ... Such internecine struggles for power divert attention from basic tasks. They lead to government run ad hoc, on a day-to-day basis, without a sense of purpose or direction. Let's recognize the sovereignty of parliament, and then let the natural dynamics of democracy take over. End quote.

54. "Questionable Deal," an editorial in the center-right national English daily, "The Nation" (06/21)

Quote: While questions were still being raised about PIA's purchase of Boeing 777s, the Airlines administration has entered into another questionable deal, this time involving Saab 2000 aircraft.... In July a major disaster was averted when the pilot of a Boeing 747 aborted the take-off as all 16 tyres of a New York-bound plane burst at Islamabad airport.... PIA being the national flag carrier, one expects all

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decisions on purchases of aircraft to be taken by experts in a transparent way. Unless this is done, doubts regarding purchases would continue to be expressed and demands for probes in the deals continue to be made. End quote.

-- India-Pakistan Relations

55. "A Long Way to Go," an editorial in the center-right national English daily, "The Nation" (06/21)

Quote: ... If India actually wants to make the composite dialogue result-oriented its leadership should not forget that CBMs without substantive talks on Kashmir would prove counter-productive. Mr. Natwar Singh, who lays a strange emphasis on a common nuclear doctrine between two neighbors with more than half a century of historic animosity, must be mindful of the fact that his unsubtle hints at putting the Kashmir issue on backburner would disrupt the ongoing peace process, not speed it up. End quote.

-- Afghanistan: Reconstruction

56. "Afghan Situation," an editorial in the centrist national English daily, "The News" (06/21)

Quote: ... With the immediate attention of United States and its allies being focused on the troubled state of Iraq, the earlier interest in reconstructing Afghanistan is slowly petering out.... It is only the fear of the recrudescence of another Taliban wave in Afghanistan and a new base for Al Qaeda and Osama that is forcing the United States and its allies not to abandon ship just yet. In this depressing situation, Afghan Transitional Administration Chairman Hamid Karzai stands out as a brave but lonely warden of the marches. It goes to his personal courage and strength of character that he is determinedly fighting on against the difficulties he faces, notably the coalition government he heads, the warlords-U.S. nexus, Taliban and betrayal by his patrons. The ability of the Afghans to withstand the worst problem and survive remains his main asset.... End quote. Powell

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