



YOUTH • POLICY • PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

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| 2026

Engaging Asian Youth Beyond Borders

From the Desk of PAYF

The past month has been a reminder of why PAYF exists—not just as a platform for events, but as a space where young people come together to think, question, and act with purpose. From policy-focused webinars and space sessions to roundtable discussions and our community hike, each engagement reflected a shared commitment to learning beyond classrooms and conversations beyond borders.

What made these moments meaningful was not only the diversity of voices involved, but the intent behind them: *to connect ideas with action, and dialogue with responsibility*. Whether discussing regional security dynamics, exploring literature, or engaging in environmental stewardship, **our members demonstrated that youth engagement is most powerful when it is informed, inclusive, and grounded in community.**

At a time when global and regional challenges demand fresh perspectives, PAYF continues to believe in the role of youth as credible stakeholders—**shaping narratives, building bridges, and contributing thoughtfully to public diplomacy.**

IN FOCUS:PAYF HIGHLIGHTS

Events & Engagements

Over the past month, PAYF convened conversations, collaborations, and community moments; bridging research, regional affairs, youth dialogue, and public diplomacy across Asia.

Events

1. Webinar

Bangladesh After the Ballot: Election Outcomes & Regional Alignments.

Speaker: Aisha Ghazi

Moderator: Riffat Amin

Key Insight:

Bangladesh's 2024 elections must be viewed beyond procedural democracy, focusing on institutional reform, strategic autonomy, and shifting regional alignments.

2. Webinar

How Youth of Balochistan Can Counter Terrorism & Why Some Adapt to BLA Ideology

Speaker: Abdullah Khan,

Sabookh Syed

Moderator: Jaweria

Bangladesh After the Ballot: Election Outcomes and Regional Alignments
India or Pakistan- Where Is the New Government Headed?

SPEAKER
Ayesha Ghazi
Director, iResist
Documentary Filmmaker

MODERATOR
Riffat Amin
Research Lead, PAYF

12 FEB 2026, THURSDAY
03:00 - 04:00 PM

WEBINAR
ZOOM

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HOW YOUTH OF BALOCHISTAN CAN PLAY IT'S ROLE IN COUNTERING TERRORISM AND WHY IS THE YOUTH ADAPTING TO THE IDEOLOGY OF BLA

SPEAKER
ABDULLAH KHAN
Managing Director at PICSS

SPEAKER
SABOOKH SYED
Journalist | President DigMAP | Human Rights Activist | Anchor

MODERATOR
JAWERIA
Events Coordinator

FEBRUARY
WEDNESDAY 25 2026 2:30 PM

3. Insta Live

Beyond Borders: Afghan Women & Our Shared Struggles

Speaker: Rubina Sadat, Kaiwan Rad, Farhan Khilji

Moderator: Muhammad Hashir

Takeaway: With Afghan women denied education and mobility, Pakistan's support has enabled many to live and learn with dignity, highlighting the need for sustained international backing.



BEYOND BORDERS: AFGHAN WOMEN & OUR SHARED STRUGGLES

 **22 FEB 2026, SUNDAY**  **10:00 PM**

YOUNG SPEAKERS FROM AFGHANISTAN



Neelofar Noori



Piykarrasa qadir



Rubina Sadat



Kaiwan Rad



Farida Hafiz



Muhammad Hashir
MODERATOR



Riffat Amin
MODERATOR

INSTA LIVE

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4. Match Screening
PAYF brought youth together for a live screening, promoting sportsmanship, unity, and cross-community engagement.

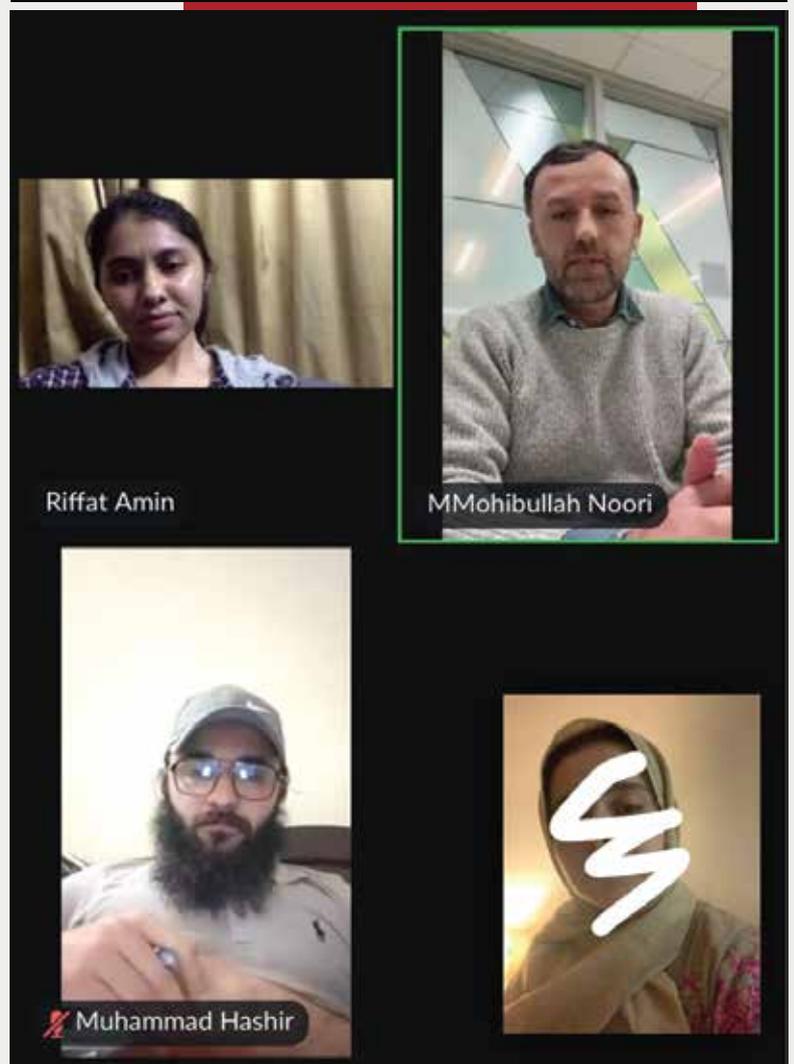


5. Zoom Meeting – PAYF x FRIM

From PAYF: Riffat Amin, Jaweria, Muhammad Hashir

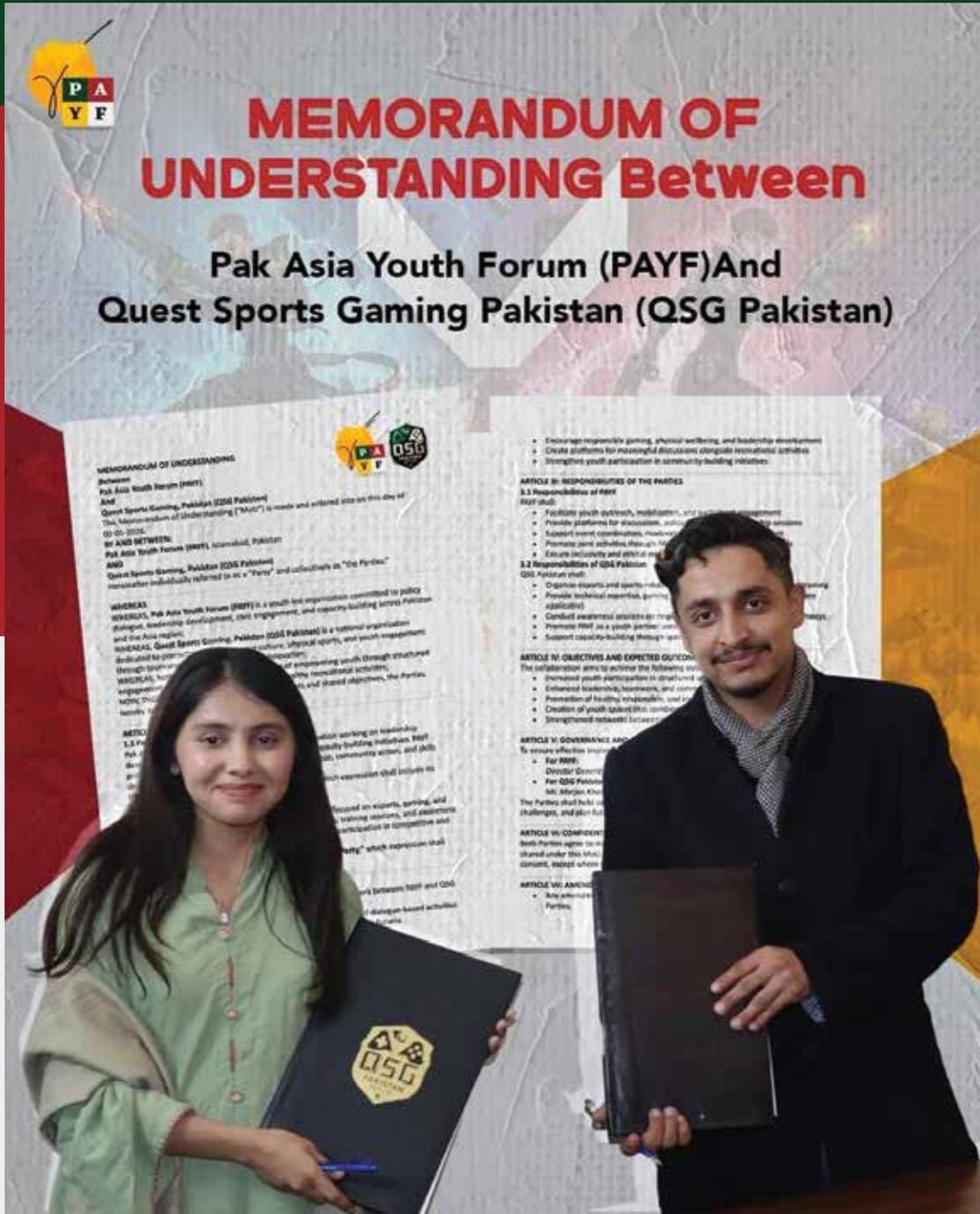
From FRIM: Mohibullah Noori

Outcome: Agreement to formalize cooperation through a concept note and follow-up meeting, focusing on diaspora engagement, regional advocacy, and youth-led cross-border initiatives.



PAYF x QSG (E-gaming):

PAYF signed an MoU with QSG to promote esports as a healthy activity and career opportunity for youth.





Beyond Headlines: Pakistan's Security Perspective on Recent Operations

Guest speaker:



Dr. Syed Muhammad Ali
Policy Analyst, Strategist,
and International Relations
Expert.



Azhar Zeeshan
Research Officer at the Centre
for Aerospace and
Security Studies (CASS)



Moderator:
Muhammad Hashir
Events Manager

28 FEB 2026, SATURDAY
10:00PM

SPACE SESSION

 [pkasiayouthforum](#)  [Pak](#)

6. Space Session

Speakers: Syed Muhammad Ali, Azhar Zeeshan, Amina Khan
Moderator: Jaweria

Social Media & Digital Engagement

- **Carousel: Four Years of the Russia-Ukraine War**
From Moscow's 2022 offensive to Zaporizhzhia's nuclear tensions, examining global and South Asian implications.
- **Infographic: Afghan Women in Exile – The Reality in Numbers**
- **Carousel: India AI Summit vs Pakistan Indus AI Week**
Optics vs Operations. Apologies vs Execution.
Pakistan demonstrated effective event management and strategic clarity.



Publications:

 PAYF INSIGHTS



**Asia's Digital Century:
Rethinking Pakistan's
Technological Trajectory**

 **Author: Malik Waqas Saeed**
IT Expert, Expert in Artificial Intelligence and Head Digital
Institute of Pakistan (DIP)

READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE
<https://pakasiayouthforum.com/>

 PAYF INSIGHTS



**A Journey of Resistance:
An Afghan Woman's Story**

 **Author: Sumaya Shirzad**
Four years have passed since those bitter days. Time has
not erased the memories. It has not softened the trauma.
But it has strengthened my resolve." - Samia Shirzad
Women's Rights Activist
Member of the Women's Justice Movement

READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE
<https://pakasiayouthforum.com/>

- **Waqas Saeed:** *Asia's Digital Century: Rethinking Pakistan's Technological Trajectory.*
- **Sumaya Shirzad:** Afghan women continue resisting systemic erasure through protest and exile activism.
- **Editorial:** Pakistan's diplomatic engagement on Palestine through the Board of Peace shaping conversations through sustained diplomacy.



Fellowship Program

PAYF launched its Fellowship Program to empower young leaders across Asia through research, dialogue, and regional engagement —building informed and action-oriented youth voices.

PAYF FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM 2026

Why Join PAYF?

- Networking Opportunities
- Publication Platforms
- Participation in Dialogue
- Regional Connectivity

Duration & Structure

Duration: 8–12 Weeks
Format: Virtual (with selected high-level roundtable engagements)

Structure:

- Expert Sessions
- Interactive Dialogue Forums
- Research and Writing Assignments

Who Can Apply?

- Undergraduate and graduate students
- Youth engaged in governance, international relations, media, or regional studies
- Young researchers
- Emerging policy analysts

Become part of a platform that moves beyond conversation & into constructive regional engagement.

Ambassador Program

Students across Pakistan and Asia are invited to join the University Ambassador Program, representing PAYF on campuses and strengthening youth-led dialogue and outreach.



AMBASSADORSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Who Can Apply?

University & College Students (Passionate about Leadership & Youth Engagement)

Your Role:

- Represent PAYF on Campus
- Promote Youth Initiatives
- Support Events & Activities

Why Join?

- Official Certificate
- Leadership Experience
- Networking Opportunities
- Recommendation Letter (Performance-Based)

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Storytellers from PAYF



Riffat Amin – Content Director

Advocating critical thinking, informed dialogue, and responsible youth narratives across Asia.



Noor ul Huda – Social Media Manager

Making regional and geopolitical issues accessible to youth audiences.



Muhammad Hashir – Events Manager

Promoting flexible partnerships to strengthen Pakistan's economic and global engagement.



Ayesha Noor – Research Coordinator:

Conducting research that empowers youth across Asia with knowledge and insight.

THANK YOU