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# YOUTH • POLICY • PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

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Issue no#3

| May 01

| 2026

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## Engaging Asian Youth Across Every Frontier, Shaping Tomorrow's World

### From the Desk of PAYF

This past month, PAYF has functioned as a vital bridge between the tradition of quiet diplomacy and the rapid evolution of the digital age. As the regional landscape shifts, we have focused on a dual mission: equipping youth with the cutting-edge tools of the future while grounding them in the sophisticated history of mediation and peacebuilding.

From the rugged trails of Islamabad to the high-stakes digital rooms of X Spaces, our engagements this month prove that *youth are no longer just observers of history they are the architects of its narrative*. Whether we are deconstructing decades of strategic mediation or mastering AI-driven monetization, the goal remains the same: **to turn information into influence and dialogue into a tool for regional stability.** *At PAYF, we believe that an informed youth is Asia's most potent diplomatic asset.*

# IN FOCUS:PAYF HIGHLIGHTS

## Events & Engagements

Over the past month, PAYF convened workshops, high-stakes geopolitical discussions, and community moments bridging the creator economy, regional diplomacy, youth wellness, and public dialogue across Asia.

## Events

### 1. Roundtable:

Media, Truth, and Trust in Times of Conflict

Guest Speakers:

Haq Nawaz, Tanzeela Mazhar  
Usama Khilji

Moderator: Manahil Sarfraz:  
Events Manager

Key Insight:

This executive roundtable examined how the digital age has transformed information into a primary battlefield, where journalism, social media, and citizen voices converge to shape global perception. Speakers emphasized that preserving public trust during crises demands rigorous journalistic ethics, protection of digital rights, and awareness of how narrative control operates as a strategic tool in modern geopolitical conflicts. and shifting regional alignments.



**EXECUTIVE ROUNDTABLE**

## Media, Truth, and Trust in Times of Conflict

Examining the role of journalism, social media, and citizen voices in shaping narratives during crises.

**Speakers:**

- Haq Nawaz**  
correspondent  
Washington post
- Tanzeela Mazhar**  
Senior journalist, Trainer on Gender
- Sadia Kamal**  
Senior journalist,  
President PFUJ workers
- Usama khilji**  
Digital rights activist, journalist  
Dawn news English, Director Bolo Bhi
- Manahil Sarfraz**  
Events Manager

**30 MARCH 2026** | **2:00 PM - 4:00 PM** | **PAYF HEAD QUARTERS**

[@pkasiayouthforum](#) | [Pak Asia Youth Forum](#) | [@payf\\_official](#) | [Pak Asia Youth Forum](#)

## 2. Workshop

### AI Content Creation & Monetization Workshop

Featuring: Malik Waqas Saeed

**Key Insight:** Participants explored practical AI-driven workflows for research, content production, and platform management across YouTube, TikTok, and Instagram. The session focused on building scalable, low-cost personal brands and entering the creator economy with strategy and confidence.



## PAYF Workshop

# AI CONTENT CREATION

*Transforming Ideas into Intelligent Digital Content*

Trainer

**Malik Waqas Saeed**

An AI-based digital marketing and technology consultant.



**April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026, Sunday**

11:00 am - 01:00 pm

**Address:** 114 C, PAYF Headquarters,  
E11/3 Islamabad

**REGISTER NOW**

### 3. Space Session

#### From Sidelines to Center Stage: Pakistan's Diplomatic Masterclass in the US–Iran War Speakers:

Ahmed Shirazi, Salman Javed,  
Ambassador Masood Khan,  
Sumaira Khan

Moderator: Usama Qazzafi

#### Takeaway:

Pakistan's evolving role as a diplomatic facilitator in the US–Iran conflict was critically examined. Speakers unpacked Islamabad's balanced foreign policy and its growing relevance in promoting de-escalation within an increasingly complex global order.

### 4. Space Session

#### Islamabad's Historic Moment What's Next in the US–Iran Conflict

#### Speakers:

Amir Rana, Fida Adeel, Asif  
Mehmood

Moderator: Usama Qazzafi

#### Takeaway:

Experts broke down Pakistan's pivotal positioning in the unfolding conflict, analyzing what comes next and its broader implications for regional stability and Pakistan's long-term diplomatic credibility.

**From Sidelines to Center Stage:  
Pakistan's Diplomatic  
Masterclass in the US-Iran War**

**Amb Masood Khan**  
Former President AJ&K

**Salman Javed**  
D.G PAYF

**Sumaira Khan**  
Senior Journalist  
& Analyst

**Usama Qazzafi**  
Moderator

**Sheraz Ahmed  
Sherazi**  
Senior Journalist

**19 APR 2026, SUNDAY  
09:00 PM ONWARDS**

**SPACE  
SESSION**

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**“Islamabad's Historic Moment  
What's Next in US Iran Conflict”**

**Amir Rana**  
President PIPS

**Fida Adeel**  
Senior Journalist

**Asif Mehmood**  
Senior Analyst &  
Columnist

**Usama Qazzafi**  
Moderator

**12 APR 2026, SUNDAY  
09:00 PM ONWARDS**

**SPACE  
SESSION**

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## 5. PAYF Hike Club Weekly Wellness Initiative at Trail 5

A community-driven outdoor program encouraging members to trade digital screens for weekly nature resets. Designed to promote physical health and mental clarity, the Hike Club reflects PAYF's belief that grounded leaders are built both in boardrooms and on trails.



**PAYF**  
**HIKE CLUB**

Trade your screen for the sunrise.  
Move your body. Clear your head.

**THIS ISN'T JUST A HIKE, IT'S YOUR WEEKLY**

**JOIN US**

**2 MAY**  
**SATURDAY | 4 PM**

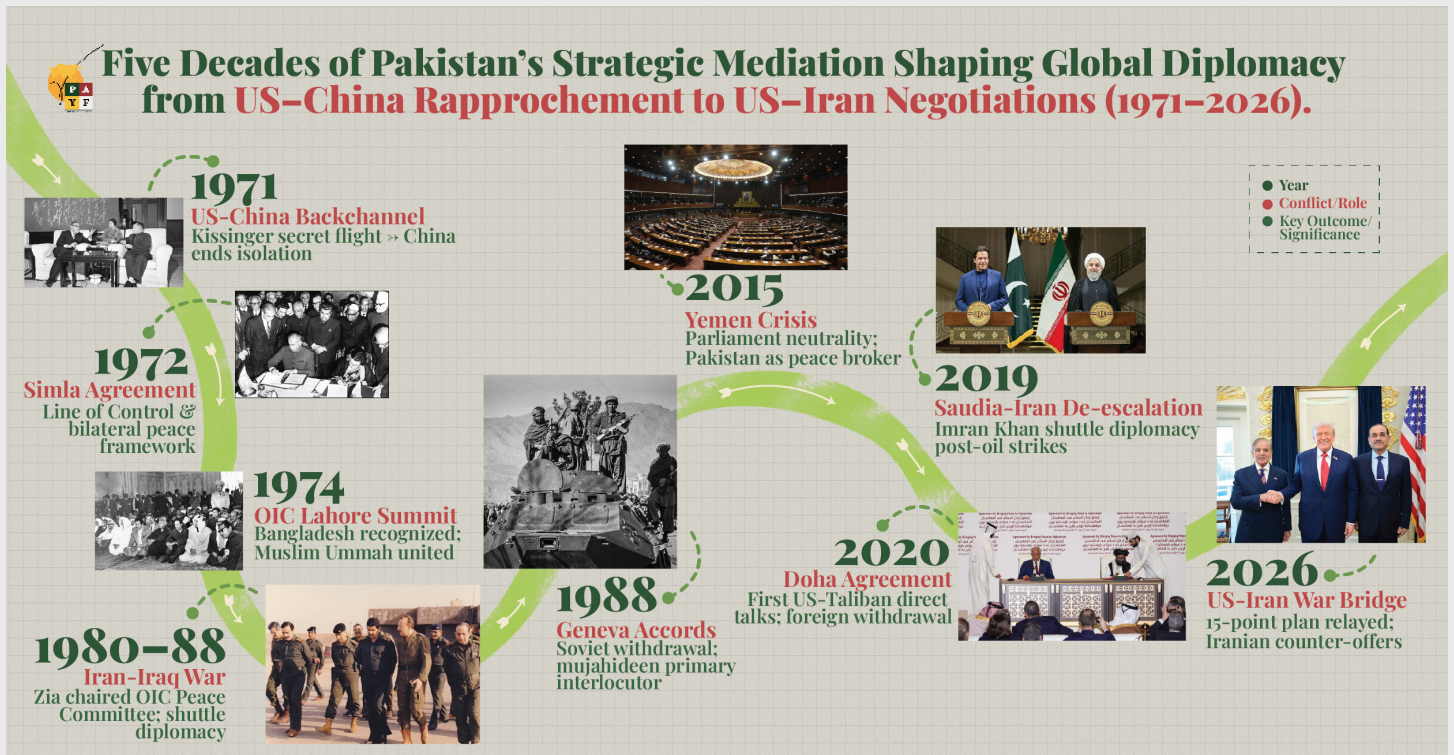
BE THERE. OR HEAR  
ABOUT IT LATER.  
SCAN TO REGISTER



# Social Media & Digital Engagement

## • Infographics:

1. Five Decades of Pakistan's Strategic Mediation: From US-China Rapprochement to US-Iran Negotiations (1971-2026)
2. Hazara: A People Under Siege: A Documented History of Persecution in Afghanistan (1891-2024)

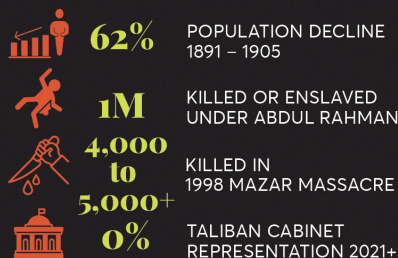


## Hazara: A People Under Siege

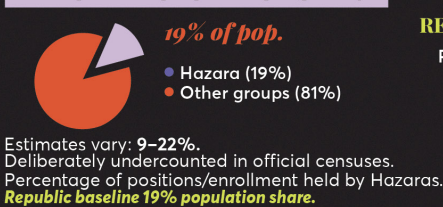
DOCUMENTED HISTORY: 1891-2024 · AFGHANISTAN & PAKISTAN

### A People Under Siege

The Hazara people of central Afghanistan have endured over a century of ethnically and sectarianly motivated violence from 19th-century enslavement to contemporary erasure from political and civic life. This is their record.

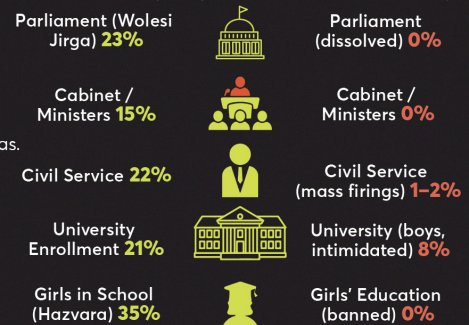


### NATIONAL POPULATION SHARE

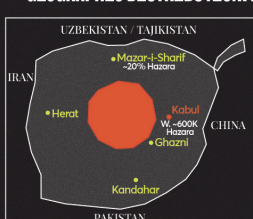


### HAZARA CIVIC REPRESENTATION:

#### REPUBLIC ERA (2019) VS. TALIBAN EMIRATE (2021+)

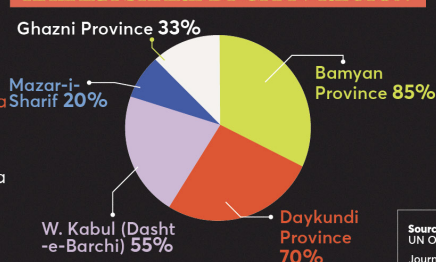


### THE ENDURING HAZARA GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION: HAZARA HOMELAND



**Hazarajat: Hazara heartland (~85% in Bamyan)**  
 Major city with significant Hazara population  
**Bamyan: cultural & historic Hazara capital**

### HAZARA SHARE BY CITY / REGION



↑ Hazaras outperformed population share in education and civic society due to strong cultural emphasis on learning

↓ Taliban decrees ban Hazara women entirely. Hazara men face discrimination, arbitrary arrest & land seizure

Sources: UN OHCHR · Human Rights Watch · Amnesty International · Afghanistan Analysts Network · USIP · USHMM · Journal of Genocide Research · Afghanistan Independent · Human Rights Commission of Pakistan · UNHCR

- **Carousels**

1. **Oil Routes That Control the World: 90% of global trade moves by sea. These are the chokepoints that define it**
2. **Pakistan's Quiet Diplomacy: The Silent Architect of Regional Peace\***

## Publications:



- **Editorial:**

1. **How the Emergence of Green NATO Will Redefine a Post-American Muslim World Order**
2. **How India's Thirty-Year Decoupling Doctrine Against Pakistan Was Transformed in Thirteen Months (2025-2026)**

# Commentaries:

## 1. Mapping the Military Supply Chain Behind India's Setback at Marka-e-Haq



## Commentary

### Mapping the Military Supply Chain Behind India's Setback at Marka-e-Haq

**The Globalized War Machine That Still Lost**  
When India launched Operation Sindoor on the night of May 6 and 7, 2025, it did so carrying weapons assembled across three continents, financed across three decades, and sustained by the combined industrial output of Russia, France, and Israel.

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29 APR  
2026

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READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE  
[🌐 https://pakasiayouthforum.com/](https://pakasiayouthforum.com/)



## 2. The Phantom Majority: How a Missing Census Became the Most Powerful Political Weapon in Afghanistan

### Commentary

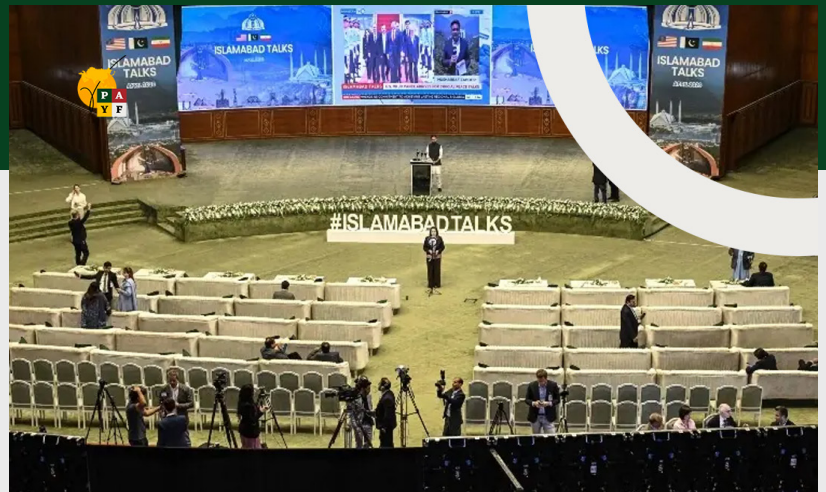
#### The Phantom Majority: How a Missing Census Became the Most Powerful Political Weapon in Afghanistan

For over a century, the political legitimacy of the Afghan state has rested upon a demographic assumption of extraordinary consequence and extraordinary fragility: the existence of a Pashtun ethnic majority.

25 APR  
2026

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<https://pakasiayouthforum.com/>

## 3. How Pakistan Emerged as the Sole Bridge Between Rival Powers and the Architect of a Global Armistice



### Commentary

#### How Pakistan Emerged as the Sole Bridge Between Rival Powers and the Architect of a Global Armistice

The metamorphosis of the Middle Eastern security landscape during the spring of 2026 has witnessed an unprecedented gravitational shift toward Pakistan.

17 APR  
2026

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

# Storytellers from PAYF



## **Ayesha Noor – Research Coordinator:**

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



## **Noor ul Huda – Productions Lead & S.M Coordinator**

Making regional and geopolitical issues accessible to youth audiences.



## **Manahil Sarfaraz – Events Manager**

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



## **Laiba Zaidi: Social Media Manager**

Bridging complex narratives with creative digital strategy to empower and inform the next generation.

# THANK YOU