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EID MUBARIK

USPAK wishes its supporters EID MUBARIK on the occasion of Eid ul Azha (Festival of the sacrifice), and for those of you who were fortunate to go for Hajj, may ALLAH accept your prayers and hajj. Hajj Mubarik.

Please remember to help flood victims in Pakistan, you can donate Qurbani meet to the flood victims

Significance of Eid ul Azha: The basis for the Eid al-Azha comes from the 196th *ayah* (verse) of *Al-Baqara*, the second *sura* of the *Quran*. The word "Eid" appears once in *Al-Ma'ida*, the fifth sura of the Quran, with the meaning "solemn festival". When asked about the origin of Eid al-Azha, The Prophet of Islam, Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), is reported to have said, "It is a tradition that has come down to us from Ibrahim."

It honors the willingness of Prophet *Ibrahim* to sacrifice his promised son. *Ismail* as an act of submission to Allah command, before God then intervened to provide Abraham with a lamb to *sacrifice* instead. One of Prophet Ibrahim's main trials was to face the command of Allah to kill his only son. Upon hearing this command, he prepared to submit to Allah's will. When he was all prepared to do it, Allah revealed to him that his "sacrifice" had already been fulfilled. He had shown that his love for his Lord superseded all others that he would lay down his own life or the lives of those dear to him in order to submit to God. During the celebration of Eid al-Azha, Muslims commemorate and remember Prophet Ibrahim's trials, by themselves slaughtering an animal such as a sheep, camel, or goat. The story is mentioned in Chapter #37 of the Holy Qur'an.

Eid al-Azha enjoys special significance because the Day of Sacrifice marks the climax of Hajj or Pilgrimage, the fifth pillar of Islam. This annual pilgrimage to Makah and Medina in Saudi Arabia is an obligation only for those men and women who are physically and financially able to perform it once in their lifetime.

USPAK EVENTS

5th Annual Youth Leadership Conference



USPAK in collaboration with APPNA conducted a three day Youth Empowerment Conference, about 125 high school and college students from various parts of USA and Canada attended the Conference.

For three days for a total of 30 hours of instruction/networking activities were provided to the students by more than 35 panelists and guest speakers. In addition students travelled to Embassy of Pakistan and US Capitol for Jumna prayers and meetings. At Embassy of Pakistan, Ambassador Jilani addressed the students, highlighting the potential of the Pakistani American Diaspora, especially the young generation. He urged the participants to look at the opportunities in the

mainstream American society and also join professions in politics, Administration, judiciary and media. Ambassador Jilani also briefed the participants on the Embassy's open door policy for the Pakistani American community and drew their attention to the various youth-oriented programs being conducted by the Embassy as its Generation Next Initiative. [Watch Video](#) of event at Embassy of Pakistan. Read Embassy of Pakistan [Newsletter](#).

SURVEY: At the conclusion of the Conference, students submitted a survey about the Youth Conference. From the responses received, 86% students felt that conference met their expectations, and about 83% showed an interest in attending such a conference in future. Complete survey results can be [viewed](#) at USPAK website. To read [comments](#) of Youth Leadership Conference visit USPAK website.

You can view the complete Conference Program and list of speakers/panelists at [USPAK](#) website <http://uspakfoundation.org/annualconf/2014/program>. [Conference pictures](#) can be viewed online at USPAK [Facebook page](#). Pictures can be [downloaded](#) for your usage.

UPCOMING EVENT

Speed Networking amongst students

When: Saturday November 15th 2014,

Where: AVON, CT.

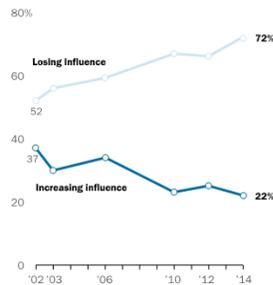
More details soon

NEWS

American Public Sees Religion's Influence Waning

Rising Number Say Religion Losing Influence

At the present time, do you think religion as a whole is increasing its influence on American life or losing its influence?



Survey conducted Sept. 2-9, 2014.
Don't know/refused responses not shown.
PEW RESEARCH CENTER

[Nearly three-quarters of the public \(72%\) now thinks religion is losing influence in American life](#), up 5 percentage points from 2010 to the highest level in Pew Research polling over the past decade. Perhaps as a consequence, [a growing share of the American public wants religion to play a role in U.S. politics](#). The share of Americans who say churches and other houses of worship should express their views on social and political issues is up 6 points since the 2010 midterm elections (from 43% to 49%).

Among the report's other key findings:

- A larger share of the general public sees the Republican Party as friendly toward religion (47%) than sees the Democratic Party that way (29%).
 - A declining share of Americans see the Obama administration as friendly toward religion; 30% now say the Obama administration is friendly toward religion, down 7 points since 2009.
 - About six-in-ten Americans say it is important for members of Congress to have strong religious beliefs (59%), a figure that has not changed significantly since the most recent midterm campaign in 2010.
- Roughly two-thirds of U.S. adults (65%) think gays and lesbians **face a lot of discrimination in the U.S. today**, and half or more say the same about Hispanics (50%), blacks (54%) and **Muslims (59%)**. Fewer think that Jews (32%), evangelical Christians (31%), atheists (27%) and Catholics (19%) face a lot of discrimination today.
 - About a third of evangelical Christians (34%), including 42% of white evangelical Protestants and one-in-five Catholics (18%) say it has become more difficult to be a member of their religious group in recent years. Roughly one-in-ten religious "nones" (8%) say it has become harder to be a person with no religion in the U.S. in recent years, while 31% say it has become easier. About half or more in each of these groups say the ease or difficulty of being a member of their group hasn't changed much either way.

INTERNSHIPS

Research and Technology Intern at Consumer Electronics Association [More Information](#)

Policy Internship at Americas Society Council of the Americas [More Information](#)

Integrated Transport Research Intern at [World Resources Institute](#) [More Information](#)

Government Relations Intern at U.S. Travel Association [More Information](#)

Fall 2014 Internships at [Bipartisan Policy Center](#) [More Information](#)

Fall 2014 Research Internships at [Center on Global Interests](#) [More Information](#)

International Relations Public Relations Intern at Alpaytac Marketing Communications [More Information](#)

Pakistan Scholar Program: 2014-2015

The Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and the [Fellowship Fund for Pakistan](#) are pleased to announce the 2014-15 competition for the Wilson Center's Pakistan Scholar Program. One Pakistan Scholar, who must be from, and based in, Pakistan, will be selected each year. Successful applicants will spend 9 months in residence at the Woodrow Wilson Center, in the heart of Washington, D.C., where they will carry out advanced, policy-oriented research and writing. [More Information](#)

Employment Opportunities at Department of Justice

The Civil Rights Division (Division) at Department of Justice has the following Job openings

Position	Salary	Closing Date
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Government Information Specialist (MPP) Administrative Management Section	GS-306-9/11 (\$52,146 to \$82,019 per year)	9/22/14
Government Information Specialist (DEU) Administrative Management Section	GS-306-9/11 (\$52,146 to \$82,019 per year)	9/22/14
Statistician (MPP) Professional Development Office	GS-1530-14/15 (\$106,263 to \$157,100 per year)	9/24/14
Statistician (DEU) Professional Development Office	GS-1530-14/15 (\$106,263 to \$157,100 per year)	9/24/14
Secretary (MPP) Employment Litigation Section	GS-318-7 (\$42,631 to \$55,421 per year)	9/23/14
Secretary (DEU) Employment Litigation Section	GS-318-7 (\$42,631 to \$55,421 per year)	9/23/14
Student Volunteers (Division-wide)	N/A (Volunteer)	See Description

VIEWPOINT

Pakistani Military Cool Amid Political Crisis – Daniel Markey

Pakistani prime minister Nawaz Sharif seems to have weathered weeks of protests, but he and his rivals, Imran Khan and Tahir-ul-Qadri, will likely all suffer politically from the crisis, says CFR's Daniel Markey. "Everyone will look weaker except perhaps the army," which has sought to avoid a military takeover and facilitate peaceful negotiations, Markey explains. Despite hopes for his political success at home and abroad, Sharif has fallen short in addressing some of the country's very difficult challenges, particularly its ailing economy and poor governance. "He's learned what every Pakistani leader has learned for several decades now, which is that it's an incredibly difficult country to govern," Markey says.

The latest news from Pakistan are the [floods](#), but there have also been continuing street protests and sit-ins in Islamabad. Do these endanger [Sharif's](#) government? [Read More](#)

OVERCOMING PAKISTAN'S ENERGY CRISIS - Javed Akbar

- Embrace, in the immediate term, hydel, wind, and solar power—all readily available in Pakistan—and aim to have them comprise 50 percent of electricity generation within 10 years.
- Privatize public sector thermal power plants in rapid fashion to boost efficiency, and privatize distribution companies to enhance accountability and to reduce theft.
- Facilitate the rapid development and production of Pakistan's ample tight and shale gas resources by transferring 26 percent of equity, along with managerial control, of the public sector company Pakistan Petroleum Limited to an overseas exploration and production company. [Read More](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Pakistan's Biggest Challenge: Turning Around a Broken Education System

October 08, 2014 // 8:30am — 4:00pm at [Wilson Center](#)

Over a third of Pakistan's population is under the age of 15, yet it has the world's second-highest number of children out of school. Pakistan's youth could be the nation's greatest asset—or its biggest liability. Turning around Pakistan's broken education system holds the key to a more peaceful and prosperous future for a country in one of the world's most volatile regions.

This conference has been made possible through the generosity of [The Citizens Foundation of Pakistan](#). It is being co-sponsored by the Wilson Center's Asia Program.

RSVPs are required. Please RSVP [at this link](#) or by emailing asia@wilsoncenter.org.

Help Us Help You

USPAK is a volunteer organization working for the betterment of Pakistani Americans. Our efforts are focused on developing future leaders of our country from within our community. We also work to address issues of concern of our community, ranging from immigration, civil liberties, religious freedom, and socio-economic development of Pakistani American community.

It is through help of supporters like you that we are able carry on our vision promoting the ambitions and aspirations of Pakistani Americans. Your support today can ensure that Pakistani Americans have a place at the table, as we shape the policies on immigration, the economy and civil rights. You can help build a more vibrant and inclusive democracy.

Can we count on you to help? Can you donate \$500, \$250 or \$150 today? [Click here](#) and use **Donate** button. USPAK is a 501 c3 non-profit organization; your donation qualifies for tax deduction.

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