

TODAY'S MEDIA TRENDS

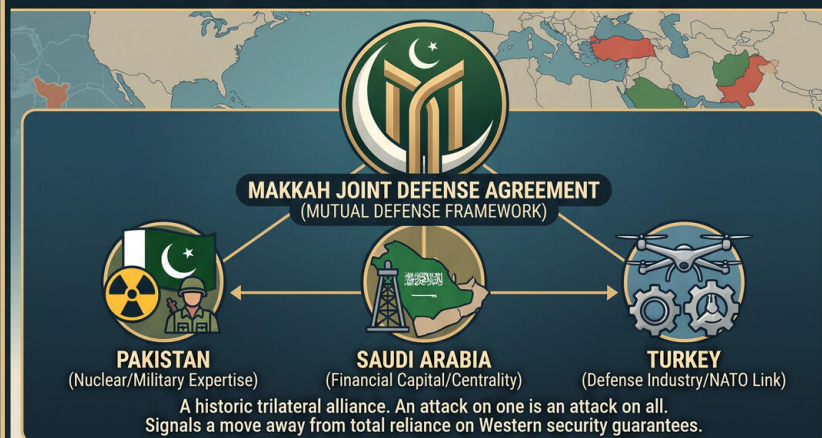
PTVNEWS

AUGUST 8, 2026

THE G D E L T P R O J E C T

A NEW ISLAMIC BLOC & PAKISTAN'S STRATEGIC PIVOT:

Forging a Trilateral Defense Pact while Mediating the US-Iran Conflict.



THE MEDIATOR: PAKISTAN'S DIPLOMATIC BRIDGE



DOMESTIC DYNAMICS: SECURITY & INTERNAL FRICTION



ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT & FUTURE OUTLOOK



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A NEW ISLAMIC BLOC: PAKISTAN, SAUDI ARABIA, AND TURKEY FORGE A TRILATERAL DEFENSE PACT AS ISLAMABAD POSITIONS ITSELF AS A CENTRAL MEDIATOR IN THE IRAN-US CONFLICT.

DAY-AT-A-GLANCE

The strategic landscape of Southwest Asia underwent a fundamental shift on August 8, 2026, centered on the formalization of the **Makkah Joint Defense Agreement**. This trilateral pact between Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey establishes a mutual defense framework where an [attack on one](#) is considered an attack on all three. The agreement, signed at the Safa Palace in Makkah, leverages Pakistan's nuclear and military expertise, Turkey's advanced defense industrial base and NATO connectivity, and Saudi Arabia's immense financial capital and geographic centrality. The broadcast frames this as a historic achievement for the civil-military leadership, specifically citing the roles of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Field Marshal Asim Munir in securing a [strategic victory](#) that seeks to ensure long-term regional stability and self-reliance,

potentially signaling a move away from total reliance on Western security guarantees.

Simultaneously, Pakistan is aggressively projecting itself as a global diplomatic heavyweight, claiming to have successfully mediated direct talks between senior [US and Iranian officials](#) in Islamabad. This mediation occurs against a backdrop of ongoing US-Iran hostilities that have disrupted the Strait of Hormuz and spiked global energy prices. While the US continues to impose sanctions on Iranian digital assets and entities, the broadcast suggests that Pakistan has achieved a diplomatic breakthrough that "major global powers" could not, positioning Islamabad as the [essential bridge](#) in the Middle East. This narrative of external diplomatic and military triumph is being used to bolster the domestic standing of the current administration amid persistent internal friction.

Domestic reporting remains heavily focused on the **Operation Rad-ul-Fitna**, a multi-front counter-terrorism effort targeting "Fitna al-Khawarij" (TTP) and "Fitna al-Hindustan" (Indian-backed proxies). Significant kinetic activity in [Hangu and Balochistan](#) resulted in the deaths of at least 10 militants, alongside the high-profile death of Captain Hamza Akram. These security successes are juxtaposed with the approaching August 14th Independence Day celebrations, creating a narrative of national resilience. However, underlying political instability persists, as the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) announces a [long march](#) for late September, even as internal fractures within the party leadership become increasingly visible to the public.

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

The Makkah Joint Defense Agreement

- Formalization of a mutual defense treaty between Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey, including [intelligence sharing](#) and joint defense production.
- The pact is explicitly described as a [deterrent against aggression](#), with specific mentions of its impact on the strategic calculations of India and Israel.
- International reception has been largely positive within the Islamic world, with the OIC, Bahrain, Yemen, and Somalia [issuing statements](#) of support.

US-Iran Mediation in Islamabad

- High-level direct negotiations between US and Iranian officials reportedly [facilitated by Pakistan](#) in the capital city.
- US President Trump publicly acknowledges the potential for the Iran war to end soon, leading to a [drop in oil prices](#), while simultaneously admitting to weapon stockpile depletions.
- Iranian President Pezeshkian emphasizes a desire for rights through [negotiation rather than war](#), despite maintaining a defiant stance against external pressure.

Escalation of Operation Rad-ul-Fitna

- Security forces eliminated [seven militants](#) in Hangu and [three in Balochistan](#) (Kumbila and Asim Abad areas).
- The military cleared 68 square kilometers of territory previously held by Indian-backed insurgent groups, [removing foreign flags](#).

- The death of Captain Hamza Akram is being leveraged as a [symbol of sacrifice](#) to unite public opinion against cross-border militancy.

KEY GOVERNANCE TOPICS

Armed Conflict & Militarization

- The Makkah Pact signals a move toward a [regional security architecture](#) that bypasses traditional Western-led alliances.
- Continued focus on "Fitna al-Hindustan" indicates a hardening of the military's stance against [Indian proxy warfare](#).

Diplomacy & Statecraft

- Pakistan's role as a [third-party mediator](#) in the US-Iran conflict is portrayed as its most significant diplomatic achievement in decades.
- Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's visit to Saudi Arabia and his reception by Governor Prince Salman [reinforce the "special relationship"](#) with the House of Saud.

Macroeconomics & Trade

- Privatization efforts are gaining momentum, with [12 expressions of interest](#) received for the Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO).
- Pakistan has become a top-tier importer of [US soybeans](#), reaching 1 million metric tons annually, indicating shifting agricultural trade dependencies.
- The Punjab government's "Apna Khet Apna Rozgar" program aims to distribute [land leases](#) to 97 deserving individuals to boost agricultural self-sufficiency.

Terrorism & Asymmetric Threats

- The military claims militants in Hangu [violated the sanctity](#) of a mosque by using it as a hideout, a narrative point intended to delegitimize the religious credentials of the Khawarij.
- Reports from Indian-occupied Kashmir highlight [ongoing human rights abuses](#) and state terrorism by Indian forces, including the seizure of digital devices.

DEEP DIVE: TRENDS AND THEMES

The Trilateral Islamic Bloc as a Global Counter-Weight

The "Makkah Pact" is not merely a defense treaty; it is presented as a [civilizational alliance](#). By linking Islamabad, Riyadh, and Ankara, the agreement creates a corridor of military and economic power that spans from the edge of Europe to the heart of South Asia. The inclusion of a "mutual defense" clause—historically rare for these nations—suggests a deep-seated anxiety regarding the reliability of the US security umbrella and a desire to [localize defense requirements](#) through joint production and technology transfer. The broadcast notes that this has caused significant [consternation in New Delhi](#), where media outlets like India Today are reportedly characterizing the pact as a major challenge to Indian regional interests.

The "Mediator State" Narrative

Pakistan is leaning heavily into the role of a "Net Security Provider" and diplomatic stabilizer. The claim that Islamabad facilitated direct US-Iran talks [during peak tension](#) is designed to present Pakistan as a responsible, indispensable nuclear power. This narrative

serves two purposes: it improves Pakistan's standing with the US administration (by helping resolve the Hormuz crisis) and strengthens ties with Iran, all while demonstrating to the domestic public that the government is [punching above its weight](#) on the global stage. This success is directly credited to the "hybrid" cooperation between the civilian government and the military leadership.

Weaponization of Identity and Sectarian Language

The branding of domestic insurgents as "Fitna al-Khawarij" and "Fitna al-Hindustan" represents a sophisticated [information warfare strategy](#). By using the term "Khawarij"—a historical Islamic term for heretical rebels—the state seeks to strip the TTP of any religious legitimacy. Simultaneously, linking these groups to India ("Fitna al-Hindustan") frames internal security operations as a [defensive struggle against a foreign enemy](#). This dual-track labeling is designed to mobilize both religious and nationalist sentiments in support of ongoing military operations.

INTERNAL DYNAMICS & DOMESTIC INSTABILITY

Elite Infighting and PTI Fragmentation

- A significant rift is emerging within the PTI leadership. Aleema Khan, the sister of Imran Khan, has publicly expressed [dissatisfaction with the September 27th](#) long march date, calling it "too late" and questioning the decision-making process of Chairman Barrister Gohar.

- Internal critics suggest the PTI leadership is [intentionally delaying](#) action to negotiate a deal, while grassroots supporters are being urged toward a confrontation.
- The government is exploiting these divisions, with spokespersons highlighting the [lack of coordination](#) between PTI's central leadership and the Khan family.

Institutional Decay and Judicial Reform

- Chief Justice Aminuddin Khan is pushing for the [digitalization of the Federal Constitutional Court](#), describing it as an effort to make the judiciary "people-friendly" and paperless.
- However, critics within the PTI legal wing allege that the transfer of judges and the creation of new court systems are [maneuvers to ensure](#) favorable outcomes for the state in cases related to political detainees.

EXTERNAL DYNAMICS & GLOBAL POSTURE

The Strategic Reorientation Toward the "Green Bloc"

Pakistan's global posture is shifting toward a more assertive regionalism. The Makkah Pact is framed as a [natural alliance](#) based on "one Allah, one Quran, and one Qibla," suggesting that identity-based diplomacy is taking precedence over traditional Cold War-era alignments. The broadcast characterizes the international system as increasingly multipolar, where Pakistan must [forge its own path](#) through trilateral partnerships that offer investment (Saudi), technology (Turkey), and strategic depth (Pakistan). The framing of India and Israel as the primary entities "troubled" by this alliance reinforces Pakistan's role as a [defender of the Ummah](#).

Managing the US-Iran Tightrope

Despite the defense pact with Saudi Arabia, Pakistan is careful to maintain its role as a neutral arbiter between the US and Iran. The reporting of [US sanctions](#) alongside [Islamabad-based mediation](#) shows Pakistan attempting to be both a security partner to the Gulf and a diplomatic partner to the West. This balancing act is crucial for its economic survival, as it requires both Saudi investment and US-led IMF support.

THE ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

The economic outlook is characterized by a push for privatization and foreign investment to offset the damage caused by regional conflict and internal instability. The government is highlighting "Green Pakistan" initiatives and industrial partnerships to project a sense of recovery.

- **Energy Privatization:** The Privatization Commission received interest from [Turkish and Chinese groups](#) for the sale of FESCO, signaling a major move toward deregulating the power sector.
- **Agricultural Imports:** Pakistan is now a top global importer of US soybeans, moving [1 million metric tons](#) to support its poultry and dairy sectors.
- **Digital Economy:** The US has targeted Iranian [digital asset exchanges](#) used for international financial links, highlighting the growing role of cryptocurrency in bypassing traditional sanctions.
- **China's Circular Economy:** In a significant tech trend, China expects to recycle [500,000 tons of power batteries](#) by 2026, recovering lithium, nickel, and cobalt.

LEADERSHIP CHANGES

The current power structure is becoming more consolidated around the "hybrid" model, with military leaders taking on increasingly public diplomatic and economic roles.

- **Field Marshal Asim Munir:** Portrayed as the [primary architect](#) of the Makkah Pact and the key guarantor of national security. His public profile continues to expand into the diplomatic sphere.
- **PM Shehbaz Sharif:** Seen as the [civilian executor](#) of these strategic shifts, successfully navigating ties with MBS and Erdogan.
- **Barrister Gohar vs. Aleema Khan:** This internal PTI struggle marks a [leadership crisis](#) for the opposition, as the Khan family begins to openly challenge the party's formal committee decisions.
- **Masood Pezeshkian:** The Iranian President's two-year anniversary address signals a [pragmatic shift](#) toward negotiation, likely driven by the severe economic impact of the Hormuz blockade.

EDITORIAL POSTURE & STORY HIERARCHY

The broadcast exhibits a high degree of state-aligned nationalism. The **Makkah Joint Defense Agreement** is the undisputed lead story, receiving nearly 50% of the airtime across multiple bulletins. The emotional tone is triumphalist and reassuring, designed to project strength. A secondary tier of stories focuses on **Operation Rad-ul-Fitna**, framed through the lens of individual heroism (Captain Hamza Akram) to build public support for the military. **Domestic political dissent** is frequently buried or framed as "internal chaos" within the opposition.

Conspicuously omitted is any detailed discussion of the specific **concessions** Pakistan may have made to Turkey or Saudi Arabia to secure the pact, or the specific terms of the US-Iran deal being negotiated in Islamabad. The news also minimizes the **inflationary pressures** affecting the average citizen, focusing instead on long-term agricultural leases and high-level trade stats.

GEOPOLITICAL FRAMING

The transcripts reveal a world divided into "Brotherly States," "Transactional Powers," and "Fitna (Chaos) Actors."

COUNTRIES

- **Pakistan:** Framed as a [pivotal global actor](#), nuclear-armed, and the only state capable of bringing Iran and the US to the table. "Pakistan has achieved what major global powers could not."
- **Saudi Arabia & Turkey:** Portrayed as [indispensable brothers](#) and pillars of the new Islamic security order. The relationship is described as "deeper than the oceans."
- **India:** Characterized as a [weak and deceitful foe](#), using proxies to destabilize Pakistan because it cannot win a direct conflict. Framed as "terrorized" by the Makkah Pact.
- **United States:** Portrayed as a [weary superpower](#), admitting to weapon shortages and seeking Pakistan's help to end a costly war with Iran.

LEADERS

- **Donald Trump:** Framed as [pragmatic but pressured](#), looking for an exit from the Iran conflict to lower oil prices before domestic elections.

- **MBS & Erdogan:** Portrayed as [visionary titans](#) who have recognized Pakistan's true value as a military partner.
- **Narendra Modi:** Implicitly portrayed as [inept and isolated](#), watching helplessly as his regional neighbors form a powerful military bloc.

NON-STATE & CORPORATE ACTORS

- **Fitna al-Khawarij (TTP):** Portrayed as [cowardly puppets](#) of foreign agencies, desecrating mosques and fleeing from the Pakistan Army.
- **Privatization Investors:** Framed as [confident partners](#) in Pakistan's economic reform, specifically the Chinese and Turkish groups eyeing FESCO.

INFORMATION WARFARE ENVIRONMENT

- **The "Fitna" Rebranding:** The state has successfully mainstreamed the terms [Fitna al-Khawarij](#) and [Fitna al-Hindustan](#) to define all security threats as both religiously deviant and foreign-sponsored. This is a clear domestic psy-op to maintain military mandate.
- **The "Makkah" Sanctity:** By emphasizing that the pact was signed [within the limits of the Kaaba](#), the government is using religious symbolism to shield the agreement from secular or political criticism.
- **Narrative Seeding on India:** The media is aggressively seeding the narrative that India is [panicking](#) over the Makkah Pact, citing obscure "experts" and social media tweets (e.g., Ashok Swain) to create a perception of Indian strategic paralysis.

HYPOTHESES AND FUTURE OUTLOOK

- **Formation of an "Islamic NATO":** If Bahrain, Qatar, and Jordan join the Makkah Pact as hinted, this could lead to the formal [militarization of the OIC](#), fundamentally changing how the West interacts with the Middle East.
- **PTI Internal Collapse:** The public disagreement between the Khan family and the party committee suggests that PTI may [split into two factions](#) before the September long march, weakening the opposition's ability to challenge the government.
- **US-Iran "Islamabad Accord":** A formal agreement to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, signed in Pakistan, would cement Islamabad's status as the [preeminent regional mediator](#), potentially leading to massive debt relief or new F-16/defense deals from the US.

STRATEGIC FORESIGHT

Short Term (1-4 Weeks): Expect a surge in [nationalistic celebrations](#) leading up to Independence Day. Security forces will likely conduct high-profile arrests of PTI mid-tier leaders to disrupt the September march preparations while internal party friction grows.

Medium Term (1-6 Months): The first [joint military exercises](#) under the Makkah Pact will likely occur, possibly in the Arabian Sea. Privatization of FESCO will serve as a bellwether for foreign investor appetite in Pakistan's energy sector.

Long Term (1-5 Years): Pakistan, Turkey, and Saudi Arabia will likely move toward [joint](#)

[development of 5th generation fighter jets](#) or missile systems, reducing their dependency on US and European defense contractors and altering the balance of power in South Asia.

RISK ASSESSMENT

The primary risks involve external retaliation and internal political volatility that could undermine the newfound strategic gains.

- **Indian Retaliatory Aggression:** India may feel compelled to respond to the Makkah Pact with a "False Flag" or kinetic strike to prove the pact is toothless. **Triggers:** Joint Pak-Turk naval drills near the LoC or Sir Creek. **Likelihood:** Moderate. **Impact:** High (potential for full-scale war). **Mitigations:** Backchannel diplomacy via the US and high-alert status for the Makkah Pact partners.
- **Economic Sabotage via Energy Prices:** A collapse in the US-Iran mediation could lead to a permanent [blockade of Hormuz](#). **Triggers:** Israeli strikes on Iranian nuclear sites. **Likelihood:** Low-Moderate. **Impact:** Extreme (Global economic collapse). **Mitigations:** Diversification of energy routes and accelerated transition to renewables.
- **Domestic Civil Unrest:** The PTI long march could turn violent if the state uses excessive force to prevent entry into Islamabad. **Triggers:** A final court ruling against Imran Khan's release. **Likelihood:** High. **Impact:** Moderate-High. **Mitigations:** Early negotiations with PTI's "political" wing and controlled release of certain detainees.

- **Supply Chain Disruption (Soybeans):** Reliance on a single source (US) for critical agricultural imports makes Pakistan vulnerable to trade wars. **Triggers:** US-China trade escalation or political cooling between Washington and Islamabad. **Likelihood:** Moderate. **Impact:** High (Food security/poultry industry collapse). **Mitigations:** Developing trade routes with Brazil and Russia.
- **Asymmetric Insurgency Shift:** Militants may pivot from military targets to attacking [economic infrastructure](#) or foreign investors to deter privatization. **Triggers:** Formal signing of the FESCO sale. **Likelihood:** Moderate. **Impact:** Moderate. **Mitigations:** Specialized security for privatization sites and foreign personnel.

GAPS & BLIND SPOTS

- **Terms of the Makkah Pact:** The broadcast fails to explain the [financial commitments](#) required. Does Saudi Arabia get Pakistan's nuclear umbrella in exchange for debt relief? The specifics of the "mutual defense" are left vague.
- **Verification of US-Iran Talks:** The claim that Pakistan is the [sole mediator](#) has not been independently verified by US or Iranian state media, suggesting this may be a narrative push by Islamabad to inflate its importance.
- **Domestic Inflation Data:** While focusing on \$80 million energy projects and soybean imports, there is a total [lack of data](#) on the current inflation rate and its impact on the urban poor.

- **AJK Election Irregularities:** Reporting on the AJK elections focuses on [PML-N's "success,"](#) but ignores PPP and PTI allegations of systemic rigging and "blunders" by the administration.

CONTRARIAN NARRATIVE SCENARIOS

The "Paper Tiger" Bloc: The Makkah Pact might be a desperate PR exercise by three regimes facing internal pressures. Saudi Arabia (oil volatility), Turkey (inflation), and Pakistan (debt) may have signed a pact they have [no intention of honoring](#) kinetically, simply to project an image of strength to their respective domestic audiences and to India/Israel.

The "Mediation Trap": By positioning itself between the US and Iran, Pakistan risks becoming the scapegoat if talks fail. If an [Hormuz attack](#) occurs despite the Islamabad negotiations, both sides may blame Pakistan for "misleading" them, leading to diplomatic isolation rather than leadership.

Black Swan: The Nuclear Proliferation Crisis: The Makkah Pact's "mutual defense" could be interpreted by Israel as the de-facto [nuclearization of Saudi Arabia](#) via Pakistan. This could trigger a preemptive Israeli strike on Pakistani nuclear facilities or a rapid Saudi dash for its own weapon, destabilizing the global non-proliferation regime.

RECOMMENDATIONS & IMPLICATIONS

For Statecraft/Public Sector:

- **Security:** Formalize the Makkah Pact's [intelligence-sharing protocols](#) to specifically target the funding networks of "Fitna al-Hindustan."
- **Economic:** Leverage the US-Iran mediation success to negotiate for **GSP+ status** extensions and preferential trade deals with the EU and US.
- **Diplomatic:** Publicly invite [Jordan and Egypt](#) to the next Makkah summit to broaden the bloc and avoid it being seen as a purely Sunni-triumphalist alliance.

For Private Sector/Investors:

- **Supply Chains:** Investors in the Pakistani poultry and dairy sectors should [diversify feed sources](#) beyond US soybeans to mitigate the risk of geopolitical trade shocks.
- **Regulatory Compliance:** Companies involved in digital assets must strictly audit their [connectivity to Iranian networks](#) to avoid falling under the new US secondary sanctions.
- **Capital Allocation:** The energy sector, particularly FESCO, offers a high-reward entry point for Turkish and Chinese firms, provided they factor in the cost of [increased site security](#).

LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP

Governance activity focused on judicial modernization, privatization regulations, and

land reform policies to stimulate the rural economy.

- **BILLS DISCUSSED/DEBATED:**

- **Federal Constitutional Court Digitalization:** A policy directive to move toward [paperless judicial processes](#) to increase case disposal rates.

- **Privatization Act Revisions:** Procedural updates to allow for [100% administrative control](#) transfers to foreign investors in the power sector.

- **Land Lease Policy (Punjab):** A new framework to provide [5-acre agricultural leases](#) to landless citizens for economic self-sufficiency.

- **HEARINGS & PRESS EVENTS:**

- **Privatization Commission Briefing:** Announcement of [12 EOI submissions](#) for FESCO and the role of Turkish/Chinese business groups.

- **AJK Election Commission Presser:** Confirmation of the [August 10th polling date](#) for the final phase of the Bagh and Haveli district elections.

- **Interior Ministry Committee Meeting:** Mohsin Naqvi approved [78 Gallantry Awards](#) for martyrs and veterans of the counter-terror war.

KEY STORIES

- **Makkah Joint Defense Agreement Signed:** A historic trilateral pact between Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey signed at [Safa Palace](#), establishing a mutual defense framework and joint military cooperation.

- **US-Iran Mediation in Islamabad:** Pakistan claims to have hosted direct, high-level [negotiations](#) between the US and Iran to end the Hormuz blockade and resolve the oil crisis.

- **Operation Rad-ul-Fitna Successes:** Security forces killed 7 militants in Hangu and 3 in Balochistan, clearing [68 square kilometers](#) of insurgent-held territory.

- **Martyrdom of Captain Hamza Akram:** A 27-year-old army officer was [killed in action](#) in Hangu while leading troops against Khawarij militants.

- **FESCO Privatization Milestone:** The Privatization Commission received interest from [12 international and local investors](#) for a majority stake in the Faisalabad power utility.

- **PTI Internal Leadership Rift:** Aleema Khan publicly [criticized Barrister Gohar](#) and the party committee for delaying the long march until late September.

- **US Soybean Import Boom:** Pakistan now imports [1 million metric tons](#) of US soybeans annually, becoming a major global buyer.

- **China Power Battery Recycling:** Expert reports suggest China will recycle [500,000 tons of batteries](#) by 2026 to recover critical minerals like lithium and cobalt.

- **AJK Election Third Phase:** Final polling for the Bagh and Haveli districts scheduled for [August 10th](#) following intense campaigning by PML-N and PPP.

- **Thalassemia Awareness Campaign:** Dr. Saqib Hussain Ansari discussed a [national strategy](#) for thalassemia prevention and bone marrow transplants for affected children.

- **Mango Festival in Singapore:** The Pakistan High Commission hosted a festival to promote [Pakistani mangoes](#) and celebrate 60 years of diplomatic ties with Singapore.
- **Independence Day Preparations:** Markets in [Okara, Rahim Yar Khan, and Lahore](#) are decorated with flags and lights as the public prepares for August 14th.
- **Court Digitalization Initiative:** Chief Justice Aminuddin Khan reviewed progress on [e-filing systems](#) for the Federal Constitutional Court.
- **Punjab Land Reform Program:** PM Maryam Nawaz launched the "[Apna Khet Apna Rozgar](#)" scheme, distributing leases to landless farmers in Bahawalnagar.
- **Major Tufail Muhammad Anniversary:** The 68th martyrdom anniversary of the [Nishan-e-Haider recipient](#) was marked by military ceremonies at his shrine in Burewala.
- **US Sanctions on Iran Exchange:** The US Department of State sanctioned six Iranian entities and one individual involved in [digital asset exchanges](#).
- **Monsoon Reforestation Drive:** DHA Islamabad launched a campaign to plant [50,000 trees](#) to combat climate change effects.
- **Samundri Date Orchard Harvest:** Historical [date orchards](#) in Samundri are seeing a bumper harvest of Halawi, Khudrawi, and Iraqi date varieties.
- **Nankana Sahib Student Success:** A female student from a remote village [ranked 3rd](#) in the Lahore Board exams, becoming a symbol of educational resilience.

- **National Weather Forecast:** Predictions of [heavy rain and wind](#) in Kashmir, KP, and Punjab over the next 12 hours.

ABOUT THIS REPORT

Today's Media Trends is a public interest experiment in applying deep thematic trend analysis to television news coverage from around the world to explore how responsibly applied advanced AI can help journalists and scholars better understand the overarching trends, themes and patterns of our global world.

No data is used to train or tune any AI model.

Each morning, in collaboration with the Internet Archive's TV News Archive, we apply Google's Gemini 3 to deeply examine yesterday's coverage from each television news channel to tease out the overarching themes and trends of its news coverage into a richly annotated thematic analysis. Each high-level insight is connected back to the original broadcast, allowing journalists and scholars to understand the dominate themes and trends and instantly click out to the underlying sources for details.

By helping journalists and scholars see the broader trends and patterns of global news coverage, this analysis helps them identify relevant stories and coverage they might not otherwise have encountered and uncover connections, emphases and narrative shifts that enable more comprehensive reporting and deeper, evidence-based research.

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