

Media tracking report

29 April to 3 May 2019

Education in Pakistan

Higher education budget cuts-by [Dr. Faisal Bari](#)

The author evaluates the Pros and cons of the recent budget cut for the Higher Education Commission. Addressing the issue he says "AUSTERITY is upon us. With the IMF programme imminent, the cuts are going to get deeper. Barring debt servicing and defence, all government expenditure is going to take a hit. Debt servicing will not change as this is an international obligation and unless a creditor is willing to roll it over or refinance it, we will have to pay back the money. The defence establishment will not let civilian governments take anything away from them. The question there is always about limiting the increases for them

[NACTA finalizes report to bring madrassas under Ministry of Education-in \[The Dunya News\]\(#\)](#)

The National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA) has compiled a report on geo-tagging and registration of all the madrassas in Pakistan and announced to bring them under the Ministry of Education. NACTA report will be given to the provinces for further implementation.

[Pakistan's Fake Degrees \(Video Documentary\)- in \[Al Jazeera\]\(#\)](#)

101 East exposes the sales tactics used by these fictitious online universities, with alleged links to Pakistani company, Axact.

Infrastructure: The political costs and economic benefits of collaborating with China

[CPEC is the perfect opportunity for Pakistan to pivot to Africa- in \[The Nation\]\(#\)](#)

All Great Powers, including most recently even Russia and India, are increasingly expanding their influence in Africa as they seek to take part in the continent's expected growth across this century, and CPEC provides the perfect opportunity for Pakistan to pivot there too so long as the country's decision makers are aware of its many opportunities and successfully craft a comprehensive strategy for building mutually beneficial partnerships with those states.

[Imran's China visit ushers CPEC into new stage: envoy- in \[The News\]\(#\)](#)

Prime Minister Imran Khan's recent visit to China ushered the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) into a new stage. The leadership of the two countries decided to go for high-quality development and implementation of CPEC, laying more focus on industrial cooperation and social uplift and livelihood projects. PM Imran Khan reaffirmed his support for CPEC during his visit. His remarks on jointly addressing climate change, building tourism and livelihood corridor, promoting anti-corruption drive, setting up poverty alleviation fund, expanding free trade and investment were also widely welcomed by all the participants at the Belt and Road Forum (BRF).

[BRI a road map to global prosperity- \[The Nation\]\(#\)](#)

Prime Minister's visit to China to attend Second Belt and Road Forum has been quite successful from the perspective of signing of free trade agreement between the two countries according to which China has agreed to extend same preferential treatment to Pakistani imports as it has given to the ASEAN Countries. It will not only reduce the imbalance in bilateral trade between the two countries but would also enhance badly

needed export potential of Pakistan. The two countries were also able to formally sign MOU for ML-1 project for building double railway track from Peshawar to Karachi.

Reducing Pakistan's public sector: How can we maintain public services and minimize backlash while we make the cuts demanded by the IMF?

Pakistan seeks \$1b budgetary support from ADB-in [The Express Tribune](#)

Pakistan's economy is going through tough times and as per the norm the country is back on the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) doorstep. Technical teams of the IMF and Pakistan are locked in negotiations for a bailout package and hope to strike a deal by May 10. A lot is riding on this package and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has also hinted at providing budgetary support following an agreement on the IMF programme.

Pakistan's budgetary support has remained suspended for the past over two years due to the deterioration of macroeconomic conditions. The Manila-based lending agency requires a Letter of Comfort from the IMF to accept the request.

Bailout talks with IMF far from conclusion- in [The Express Tribune](#)

Pakistan and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) have yet to bridge their differences in three major policy areas, as the global lender seeks upfront monetary tightening and elimination of the flow of circular debt from the first year of the programme. The IMF staff-level team is in the country from April 29 to May 10 with an aim to finalise the three-year Extended Fund Facility programme, valuing nearly \$6.5 billion. Without an IMF umbrella, Pakistan's external sector position remains extremely fragile. The deal with the IMF will open doors for borrowings from the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and launch of sovereign bonds.

The Economic Outlook of the Middle East, North Africa, Afghanistan, and Pakistan in Five Charts- [IMF](#)

In the best of times, countries in the Middle East, North Africa, Afghanistan, and Pakistan (MENAP) region would face a formidable task of creating jobs for the millions of young people entering the workforce. Now, they must tackle this challenge amid a slowing global economy, volatile oil prices, and uncertainty around trade tensions.

IMF negotiations by nadir Cheema -in [Dawn](#)

THE IMF is in town again to negotiate a programme with the government. The discussions will no doubt centre on how to close Pakistan's massive fiscal and external financing gaps, which are driving both inflation and exchange rate depreciation.