

## Media Tracking

8 – 15 February 2019

### Education in Pakistan

- Innovation in education sector imperative for development: Shafqat – in [Radio Pakistan](#)  
Shafqat Mahmood emphasized the need for becoming part of the technological revolution and scientific advancement to ensure the quality education. He said we have to improve quality of teaching and degrees and make our universities as center of excellence as well to uplift the standard of the education.
- Govt to introduce drug testing of school students – in [DAWN](#)  
Education ministry had also written to all the deputy commissioners of the province to close cigarette and betel leaf (Paan) shops within the 500 yard radius of any educational institute. Most of these shops were selling drugs to the students and are playing the role of facilitators.
- Universities to build incubation centers for new inventions – in [Pakistan Observer](#)  
Education issues could be resolved through linking different research institutions of country with each other. He said that building linkages among academia-industry is need of the hour. While formulating policies at HEC level, the steps should be taken for bridging linkages among academia-industry.
- Only 9% of Sindh's teachers can teach Math and Science – by Saba Naz in [Express Tribune](#)  
In all, there are 42,000 public schools in the province, of which a staggering 39,000 schools are limited to imparting primary-level education. This is despite the fact that the number of students at the secondary school level is much higher than their younger counterparts. Besides, hardly 9% of the 150,000 teachers are capable of teaching Mathematics and Science subjects. Around 10,000 schools in Sindh comprise only one room, while 17,700 schools have only one teacher.

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

- Dream of becoming great power deters India from joining CPEC – by Shakeel Ahmed Ramay in [Express Tribune](#)  
India considers CPEC as a hurdle in the way of becoming a great power in Asia. Therefore, Delhi deems it necessary to make CPEC a failure. However, sane voices in India are highlighting the other direction. They are asking their government to be partner in CPEC and reap enormous benefits of economic development under the programme.
- CPEC to connect cultures, continents, boost economies: Mushahid – by Parvez Jafri in [Business Recorder](#)  
China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) would connect cultures and continents, boost regional economies and improve connectivity among countries.

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

- IMF asks Pakistan to take steps to achieve fiscal consolidation – in [Gulf Times](#)  
The IMF has asked Pakistan to take 'decisive steps' to achieve fiscal consolidation and debt sustainability, putting the large volume of circular debt in a downward path, adopting a market-based flexible exchange regime and strengthening the independence of the central bank in line with best international practices.  
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- IMF demand for increase in gas, electricity prices unjustified – by Saeed Ahmed in [The News](#)#  
IMF should not try to get its important demands fulfilled before the loan but give some time to the government so that the poor can be shielded from its impact to some extent.
- IMF endgame? – by Rashid Amjad in [DAWN](#)  
Currently, the remaining points of contention are more regarding the pace and sequencing of short-term stabilisation measures, and not the fundamental reforms that need to be undertaken, on which there is broad agreement.  
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## Civil Service Reforms in Pakistan

- PM Imran chairs civil service reforms meeting – by Amir Rana in [Express Tribune](#)  
The system of governance, at present, could not compete with the private sector where employment is given according to merit, adding that no system was sustainable if accountability was absent.
- Can PM Imran Khan de-politicize bureaucracy - in [Global Village Space](#)  
Experts suggest that sooner or later PM Khan will have to take some difficult decisions to make it clear that the law is the same for anyone and institutions can work independently. At the movement, senior bureaucrats fear that if they do not oblige politicians, they might end up losing their positions.
- Depoliticizing bureaucracy – in [Business Recorder](#)  
Presiding over a meeting of the Task Force on Civil Service Reforms, Prime Minister Imran Khan reiterated his resolve to depoliticize bureaucracy and insulate it "from all kinds of political pressures". There is no doubt about his intent to make civil service efficient and responsive to public needs.