

## Media Tracking

1 February – 8 February 2019

### Education in Pakistan

- [Piecing together Pakistan education puzzle](#) – by Maha Dania Qazi in [Daily Times](#)  
If we wish to accomplish progress in the education sector, a major part of the effort should be to make teacher training compulsory. Teaching capacities should be enhanced through professional training.
- [Pakistan Education Council asks govt to form commission to decide fee structure](#) – in [Express Tribune](#)  
The hostility being directed toward private schools was misplaced. It is not private schools which are responsible for the education crisis in the country but the insistence on reduced fees will only lead to the slow erosion of private schools.
- [There's a need for reforms within education system and in policing](#) – in [The News](#)  
Governance and mismanagement are the major issues at state-run schools and that the children who are out of school won't be able to go to schools because there is no infrastructure, fixture and required facilities. "Until the concerned departments address such core problems, we can't achieve the goals in education."

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

- [Expected socio-economic development under CPEC discussed](#) – in [The News](#)  
Iranian port of Chahbahar and Gwadar are not competitors. \$1 billion had been earmarked for the socio-economic development of the province. CPEC would trigger development for the deprived people of Pakistan.
- [Next 5 years of CPEC likely to help Pakistan tackle trade deficit](#) – by Junaid Zahid in [Express Tribune](#)  
According to official documents, 30,000 jobs were created under the early harvest programme of CPEC and about 80,000 more will be created in the remaining years. Data from the Economic Survey of Pakistan shows that the country has 326,765 fully unskilled and 152,235 semi-skilled registered workers. China is the world's largest importer of agricultural products with over \$100 billion of food products. But unfortunately, Pakistan has a share of only 1% in China's food imports.
- [Scholars, experts call CPEC an oppressive design of Pakistan, China](#) – in [Business Standard](#)  
"CPEC is just another way to exploit Baloch people. First of all it is an economic method. It is a method of land compensation and is a method of depriving local people of jobs and natural resources. An area which is already being deprived, all the economic benefits of CPEC is going into Punjabis and Chinese pockets. The local people have no benefits

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

- [AIIB: Pakistan infrastructure construction outlook neutral](#) – in [Gulf Times](#)#

Should the IMF programme be adopted, it is possible that IMF evaluation will require greater austerity measures, which may affect planned expenditure, the report says. An increase in long-term borrowing costs is expected in the next 12 months due to interest rate pressure and monetary policy announcements by the Pakistani central bank.

- PM Imran advised caution on IMF bailout deal – by Shahbaz Rana in [Express Tribune](#)  
Asad Umar shared some of the harsh conditions of the IMF programme with the EAC members: notably further increase in electricity prices and cutting back the budget deficit while ignoring the ground realities. In order to make his point, Umar cited the example of Egypt, where poverty increased from nearly 30% to 53% due to the IMF programme, according to the meeting participants. Egypt steeply devalued its currency that even did not help reduce the current account deficit.

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### **Civil Service Reforms in Pakistan**

- Taskforce's proposals to overhaul bureaucracy finalized – by Mehtab Haider in [The News](#)  
Opportunities would be provided to induct professionals and technical experts from outside the regular civil service on contractual basis to fill in the gaps in the skill sets unavailable in the ministries and departments.
- Police reform – in [DAWN](#)  
Prime Minister Imran Khan's new ToRs for a committee tasked with suggesting amendments to the KP Police Act, 2017, and to the Punjab Police Rules, indicate a shift towards rolling back the operational independence granted to the police. In fact, rather than any reference to enhancing that independence, the ToRs speak of a 'police for the government'.