

## Media Tracking

28 December 2018 – 4 January 2019

### Education in Pakistan

- Govt to introduce uniform education system: Bangesh – in [DAWN](#)  
Government would not construct new schools rather evening shifts would be started in the existing schools. He added that in case of non-availability of school building in an area, a rented building would be arranged by the government.
- Criminal negligence in forming teaching policy – by Asadullah Khan in [Pakistan Today](#)  
According to research, approximately 98 per cent of teachers in Pakistan's education sector teach not due to passion but to earn a living. Such teachers therefore often resort to forcing students in their classrooms to attend tuition centers where they teach.
- Govt to establish common national teaching standards – in [Pakistan Observer](#)  
Core subjects to be agreed across school systems with a common curriculum framework. It has been decided that an agreement on a multi-lingual policy would be made under which English to be taught as a second language. The Ministry would establish and strengthen regulatory bodies to ensure cohesion and coordination across school systems.
- Malaysian miracle: some lessons for Pakistan – by Naila Tasneem in [Daily Times](#)  
The Education Blueprint 2013-2025 provides the overarching framework for reforms to basic education. Reforms have also been introduced for more holistic examinations and student benchmarking, a comprehensive framework for teacher evaluation, training and career development.
- When language divides us – by Shahid Siddiqui in [The News](#)  
Inequality in the education system are perpetuated through the social institution of schools and language remains an important factor in this process. If we look at the history of educational policies in Pakistan, we don't find a comprehensive language policy. If we are serious about tackling the problem of inequality within the education system in Pakistan, we must rejuvenate our public-sector schools. Efforts to improve the education sector won't bear fruit till we come up with a comprehensive language policy that specifies a detailed action plan and prioritises clear deliverables.

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

- ICCI urges govt to avoid burdening existing tax payers – in [Pakistan Today Profit](#)  
Despite tall claims for broadening the tax net, successive governments in Pakistan have not been able to increase the tax base due to which the country was facing the problem of low tax revenue.
- Orbit of external influence: IMF or no IMF? – by Jawaid Bokhari in [DAWN](#)  
The Fund is seeking a cut in current account expenditure including debt servicing, defence and subsidies. The current sovereign debt servicing over the next three years will amount to \$7.9bn per annum.
- Mini budget in January 2019, says Finance Minister Asad Umar – in [The News](#)  
PTI government is making a grand strategy to restore Pakistan Steel Mills and Pakistan International Airlines. The mini budget is not being brought to generate revenue.

- Playing IMF hardball – in [Daily Times](#)  
Already, the Fund has called for Islamabad to ensure a primary surplus on its budget deficit as a precondition for bailout; keeping this within 4-5 percent of GDP during the duration of the proposed financial programme. Analysts warn that in real terms this will translate into: increased interest rates (by 13 percent) and electricity tariffs (22 percent) as well as a free floating exchange rate. Thereby forcing the government to effectively choose between slashing defence expenditure or else making additional cuts to the development budget.

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

- Pakistan owes \$6 billion to China under CPEC – in [The News](#)
- CPEC is not imposing any burden with respect to loans repayment and energy sector outflows. The planning ministry said the resultant benefits of the investments to the Pakistani economy would far outweigh the outflows.
- CPEC moves on despite criticisms, doubts and protests – by Manoj Kumar Mishra in [Asia Times](#)  
A report published recently by The New York Times alleged that China had hatched a secret plan to build fighter jets and other military hardware in Pakistan as part of the \$60 billion project and the Pakistan Air Force and Chinese officials were putting the final touches to the secret proposal.
- Hallucination about CPEC project – in [Pakistan Observer](#)  
A wrong perception being spread is that Chinese labor and workers (mainly Chinese prisoners) will replace Pakistani workers rendering them jobless, whereas the fact is that there is more than plenty of work in China. The Chinese military bases are planned in the coastal belt and Gwadar Port is another wrong opinion. Youth will get job opportunities reducing their vulnerability to terrorist teaching.

### **Reforming the Civil Service of Pakistan**

- Review aka reform – by Asad Ejaz Butt in [Daily Times](#)  
The application forms for CSS examination for 2019 recruitment were delayed by 45 days to make changes to the provincial quotas that will be reflected in the forms but the forms returned unchanged implying no reform to the service recruitment has so far taken place and that the government, despite buying enough time to finalize and implement the change wasn’t either able to conceptualize the reform or find enough cabinet support for it.