

# PAKISTAN CONSTRUCTION & QUARRY

巴基斯坦建筑和采石杂志

December 2019

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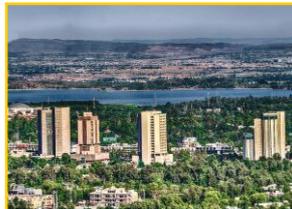
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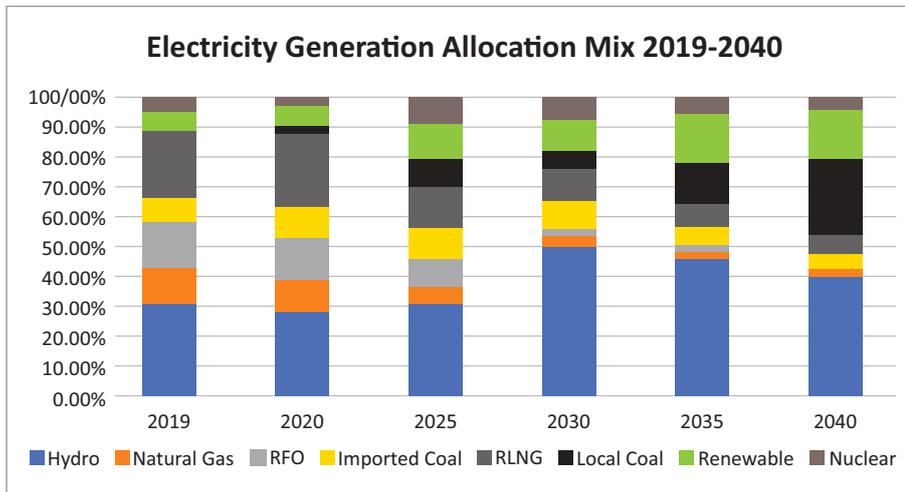
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# PAKISTAN'S POWER SECTOR PLANS AND THE SOARING ENERGY PRICES

The government has planned to increase the country's power generation capacity by almost 300 per cent in next 20 years to 111,000 megawatts and phase out almost all of the existing thermal power plants to meet rising energy demand and counter rising costs. Following is the planned allocation by type from 2019–2040.

the year 2040, the total share of hydro in the upcoming generation additions will be approximately 25,047MW.

As far as Thar coal power plants are concerned, the model has selected no power plant until the year 2032. However, after 2032, a series of Thar coal-based



## FORTHCOMING POWER PROJECTS

With regard to hydroelectric power projects, it is observed that no such project has been selected for the first two years – 2018 and 2019. The first hydroelectric power project selected by the model is Matiltan, which is an 84MW run-of-the-river power plant envisaged to be commissioned in the year 2020. Various other run-of-the-river power plants follow it, among which the commissioning of the 2,160MW Dasu stage-I project in the year 2025 is worth mentioning. Moving forward, the first reservoir-based hydroelectric power plant i.e. Mohmand Dam is also proposed to be commissioned in the year 2025.

Similarly, the year 2028 will see another reservoir-based mega project – Diamer Bhasha hydroelectric power project with a production capacity of 4,500MW. By

power plants have been selected and by the year 2040, a total of 36 units will be brought to the system with a cumulative capacity of 23,760MW, according to the study. In addition to the above-mentioned technologies, only one gas turbine of 400MW based on imported gas/LNG has been selected by the model for the year 2040.

It is pertinent to mention that neither any combined-cycle power plant on imported gas/LNG nor any nuclear power plant is selected by the model during the whole course of study period i.e. 2018-2040. As far as renewables are concerned, a total capacity of 6,000MW and 7,000MW will be available from solar and wind power plants respectively. The first block of 500MW of wind and 400MW of solar power plants will hit the ground in the year 2022, followed by 13 more blocks of wind and 14 blocks of solar plants till 2040.

## EFFORTS FOR CURBING PAKISTAN'S ENERGY CRISIS

During 2010-14, additional generation capacity of 2311 MW was installed, of which 1319MW was thermal generation. Even in 2017, Pakistan continued to face power shortage of up to 6097 MW. Over the years power shortages have severely impacted Pakistan's annual output, exports and employment.

China-Pakistan-Economic-Corridor (CPEC) which promises projects in energy and infrastructure worth \$62 billion, with investment in energy projects of \$35 billion will probably bridge the capacity shortfall. Power projects under CPEC are divided into priority projects and actively promoted projects.<sup>8</sup> Amongst the priority projects planned, with a total capacity of 11,110MW, 7 projects have been completed and have already added 3240 MW to the national grid, which is about 11.2% of the total installed capacity of 29,000 MW in Pakistan.<sup>9</sup> New power generation under CPEC approved by NEPRA as of March 2017, consists of coal, wind, solar and hydel based power projects with an installed capacity of 9887 MW. Of these, coal-based power installed capacity is 6600 MW and hydel based capacity is another 2690 MW. Solar and wind power capacity is only 6 percent of the total approved capacity.

## COST OF ELECTRICITY AND GENERAL CONSUMER

In 2008, the year when international oil prices shot up to over \$145 per barrel from an average of about \$66 in 2006, Pakistan's total thermal based power generation was 67.4% of which oil-based generation was 46% and natural gas-based generation was 54%. The cost of Pakistan's heavy dependence on oil for power generation was initially absorbed by the government in the form of power subsidies and later passed on to consumer in higher electricity prices. Electricity shortages and its price escalation became the main election issue and are attributed for the major electoral setback suffered by the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) in the 2013 national elections.

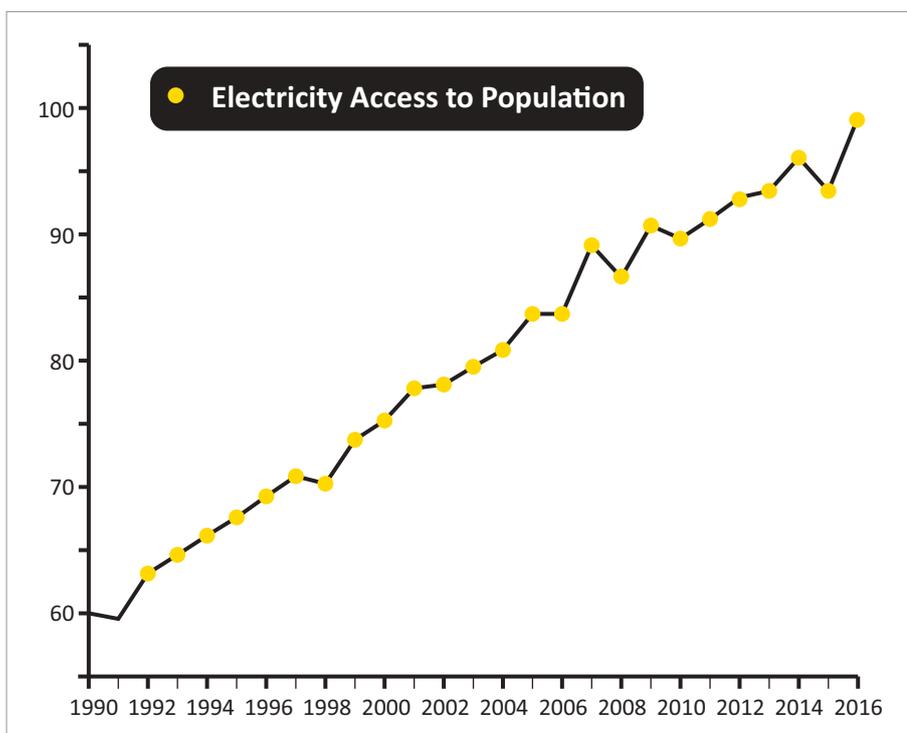
The switch of sources of new power generation from oil/gas to coal, RLNG, and renewables, reflects the lessons learnt from the social, economic and political fallout of the 2008 oil price shock.

To what extent this switch would save electricity cost for consumers in Pakistan? We try to address this question partially in this space, by comparing cost of coal-based power generation under CPEC (as approved by NEPRA) with oil/gas based generation that became operational during 2010-2014.

The average long run cost of power generation of IPPs commissioned during 2010-2014 is Rs.10.29 per kWh (of which the average for natural gas based generation is Rs.6.67, for RLNG it is Rs.9.60 and that of RFO based generation Rs.12.03) compared with the average long run cost of coal-based generation under CPEC of Rs.8.85 per kWh (for imported coal plants it is Rs.9.02 /kWh and plants using local coal have a cost of Rs.8.59/kWh) provided all plants operate at 85% capacity factor throughout their operational life (that ranges between 25-30 years).

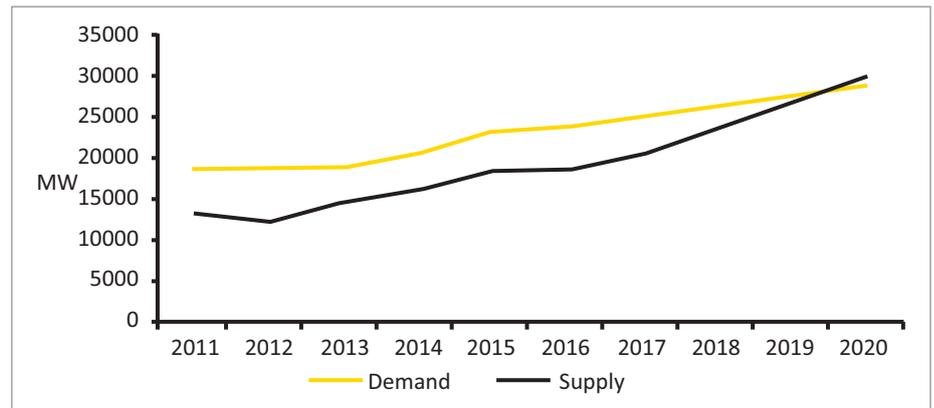
The current costs of renewable energy, as well as the increase in costs for imported fuels and currency devaluation, the least cost generation plan utilizes large quantities of hydro capacity, Thar Coal-based generation and renewable energy. Which is in line with the general policy view to reduce dependence on imported fuels from the perspective of energy security, sustainability and affordability ultimately yielding significant reduction in foreign reserve requirements pertaining to imported fuels.

## DISTRIBUTION DISPARITY AND POWER THEFT



According to the World Energy Outlook (2016) statistics, at least 51 million people in Pakistan or representing 27% of the population live without access to electricity. The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA), in its annual State of the Industry Report, concludes that approximately 20% of all villages, 32,889 out of 161,969, are not connected to the national grid. Even those households that are statistically connected experience daily blackouts. So that it is estimated that more than 144 million people across the country do not have reliable access to electricity.

The country's bleeding power sector continued to hit national exchequer owing



to the burgeoning efficiencies. And this ugly reality is further substantiated with the new fact of quantum of power theft of Rs52 billion registered in nine electricity power distribution companies during the period from July 2018 to June 2019. However, in October 2018, Prime Minister Imran Khan ordered a countrywide crackdown on

electricity theft. Thousands of people were arrested or fined till date after the order.

## IMPACT OF ENERGY PRICES ON MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY

Over the years, the share of manufacturing showing a declining trend in Pakistan's GDP, which also declined the share of exports of Pakistan in Global exports. While as compared to Pakistan the share of Bangladesh, India, China and Vietnam indicates an increasing trend and raised their share in Global exports and GDP. There are various reasons behind this but high energy prices is also playing a big role here.

## PAKISTAN INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION JAN – OCT 2019

We have to think that in 2017, there was a shortfall of 6097 but starting from late 2018 to till date the demand is not rising at projected pace and there is surplus electricity production, as you can see in below graph.

But why? The manufacturing is the largest user of electricity in Pakistan. The demand in this industry has impact on overall demand. However, government is working to improve business environment and as a result Pakistan's ranking improved to 108 out of 190 countries compared to last year ranking 136th Ease of Doing Business index Report 2020.

## ENERGY IS THE ENGINE OF GROWTH

Energy is a critical input for economic development and correspondingly, the power sector comprises an indispensable infrastructure in any economy. Providing adequate and affordable electric power is essential for economic development, human welfare, and better living standards. The growth of economy along with its global competitiveness hinges on the availability of reliable and quality power at competitive rates to all consumers throughout the country.

# GOVT ANNOUNCES INCENTIVES FOR SETTING UP PRIVATE SHIPPING LINES IN PAKISTAN

The Ministry of Maritime Affairs has announced multiple incentives for foreign shipping companies to set up private shipping lines and operations in Pakistan.

According to officials incentives include no federal duties taxes for next five years. "No Federal Taxes (direct & indirect) shall be levied to detriment of Pakistan Resident Ship Owning Companies during the exempted period," said the official notification issued by the ministry.

New shipping companies will be known as Pakistan Resident Ship Owning Companies. Operated as Pakistan's private shipping lines but will be national flag carrier of Pakistan. Accordingly, new company is required to be registered with Securities & Exchange Commission of Pakistan.

These shipping companies will have to pay a

lower tonnage tax of \$0.75 GRT (Gross Registered Tonnage) annually for the first five years for each individual vessel. After the relaxation period, the company will pay \$1 per FRT (Freight Ton) annually on the income of vessel operations. The tax exemptions for new private shipping companies will be valid until 2030.

It is pertinent to mention here that to provide protection to new entrants, the government has set a tonnage tax of \$1 annual GRT for Pakistan National Shipping Corporation (PNSC).

Industry experts believe that the decision of setting up private shipping lines is based on economic needs. Also on strengthening the strategic areas of the country. Pakistan-based private shipping companies will attract investment. It will expand the local industry significantly with the generation of

skilled employment and associated businesses.

## CURRENT SCENARIO

At present, a shipment of nearly 8 million tons of liquid cargo (petroleum products, chemicals, etc) comes to Pakistan. Share of PNSC stands at 20-22% in liquid cargo and the rest of shipment is handled by foreign shipping companies. Which also repatriate a lion's share of the revenue to different countries.

The government has made these decisions in line with its new development policy of the shipping industry. It made amendments in certain clauses of Pakistan Merchant Marine Policy 2001. After consultation with the relevant stakeholders for one and a half years.



# CPEC PROJECTS RESULTED IN 10,000 JOBS; ADDS 15% OUTPUT TO NATIONAL GRID



**KARACHI:** China-Pakistan Economic Corridor – CPEC projects of energy have contributed \$250 million in taxes and provided 10,000 jobs by adding 14.5 percent of the total electricity output in National Transmission & Despatch Company (NTDC) system so far, reported Business Recorder.

According to the official documents quoted in the media report, CPEC energy cooperation has increased power supply in Pakistan. The power generation of CPEC projects reached 17.728 billion kWh, 14.5 percent of total output in the NTDC system. Supplying over 33 million people on per capita power use basis.

Read Also: AIIB approves \$ 511.81 million

for Pakistan's infrastructural projects

CPEC energy cooperation has also promoted economic and social development of Pakistan. According to statistics, CPEC projects as of the fiscal year of 2018-2019 have paid about 250 million USD in taxes. During the construction period and provided over 10,000 jobs. Reliable power supply is a significant facilitator to local economy and social development, the report claimed.

Documents showed that as of September 2019, 12 power generation projects have either started construction or been in commercial operation already. With a total installed capacity of 7240 MW and a total investment of about \$12.4 billion.

Among them, there are nine commercial operations (COD) projects (some are constructed by phases), with a total installed capacity of 5320 MW. A total investment of about \$8.175 billion and three projects, expected to be completed and operational between 2020/21 to 2022/23. The projects are under construction (some are constructed by phases), with a total installed capacity of 1920MW.

In addition, nine projects stand at early stage (some are constructed by phases), with a total installed capacity of 6390MW, according to the report.

# A POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT, NEW GWADAR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT CONSTRUCTION STARTS UNDER CPEC

**BEIJING** – The construction of New Gawadar International Airport Project (GNIAP), a key project under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) framework, has officially been launched and at present, the construction work is progressing in an orderly manner.

The China Railway Engineering Bureau's Airport Engineering Branch is constructing the largest foreign aid project. At present, the living area of the project has been basically in place, the site has been cleared and completed in an orderly manner according to the construction plan, according to a report published by Guangming News, a Chinese language newspaper.

## AREA OF NEW AIRPORT

The NGIAP project is located about 26 kilometers northeast of Gwadar city, just off the Makran Coastal Highway. The airport site is an area of 43 acres. It covers an area of about 18 square kilometers and the main runway is 3,658 meters. Also, a modern terminal covers an area of 14,000 square meters.

There will be common supporting facilities including water supply, power supply, HVAC, etc. and necessary air traffic control projects including weather, communication, navigation, etc. and construction of corresponding hospitals, schools, family areas, and other facilities, the flight zone level is the highest level 4F, Takeoff and landing A380, B747.

## COST OF NEW AIRPORT

The design and construction of the new airport are in line with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) standards. It is the project with the largest amount of funds since the founding of the People's Republic of China, with a total investment of nearly 1.7 billion yuan.

"The project is one of the key projects under, Belt and Road Initiative and also under the framework of CPEC. It is a great honor to participate in the construction of the project in a foreign country.

"We understand that responsibility is great. Under the guidance of the project consortium management organization,

adhering to the corporate spirit of China Railways. Bringing ahead and pursuing excellence, the quality and quantity will complete the construction task as scheduled. The Gwadar new airport will be built into the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) framework," Mao Guoqi, deputy general manager of the Airport Engineering Branch of China Railway Engineering Bureau in Gwadar, said.

## BENEFITS OF NEW AIRPORT

After completion of New Gawadar International Airport, it will become a landmark building for the modernization of the Gwadar region.

It has important strategic significance for the development of Gwadar city and is an important transportation infrastructure that benefits Gwadar and connects other cities.

The future development of the city will lay a better foundation. This project will enhance China-Pakistan economic and trade cooperation and will also further enhance China-Pakistan friendship.



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# PUNJAB GOVT STARTED CONSTRUCTION OF 9 UNIVERSITIES IN 2019



**Lahore:** Punjab Chief Minister Usman Buzdar on Sunday vowed to set up a university in every district of Punjab.

"We will set up a university in each district of Punjab and varsity of global standards in

every division," the chief minister said in a Twitter statement.

The incumbent government after assuming office worked on bringing reforms to the

existing universities, he said, adding that a total of 16 vice-chancellors and top management of various universities were appointed on merit, new courses designed and the exam system improved. Usman Buzdar said work on eight universities has already begun this year and their basic necessities have been met.

Name of the following Universities are as follows:

- Kohsar University Murree
- Thal University Bhakkar
- Rawalpindi University
- North Punjab University #Chakwal
- Mianwali University
- Baba Guru Nanak University Nankana Sahab
- South Punjab University Layyah
- Information & Technology University Rawalpindi
- Al-Qadir University Sohawa

## CDA'S NEW SECTORS STOPPED FOR DISTURBING ECOLOGY



**ISLAMABAD:** Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has halted approvals of the Capital Development Authority (CDA) new sectors and National Transmission and Dispatch Company (NTDC) project on disturbing ecology.

The CDA sectors C-14, C-15 and C-16

approvals were halted as the already built road for the sectors was passing into the vicinity of Margalla Hills National Park, an EPA official told this agency on Sunday.

He said the EPA raised objection that land falling into the vicinity of Margalla Hills National Park should be de-notified in order to avoid damage to the National Park during

the development of the newly planned sectors.

However, no reply was received from the CDA and the project was stopped till the proper action is taken by CDA in this regard, he said adding NTDC was extending its power structure which was partially lying in the vicinity of the National Park whereas the Director of Islamabad Wildlife Management Board had written EPA to look into the matter as the construction was posing threat to the ecology in the National Park.

Therefore, the NTDC was directed to stop the project and come up with a better implementation plan, not violating the environmental law, he added. He noted that EPA did not issue environmental approvals to any development project in the Federal Capital without following the criteria, rather strictly scrutinize the project proposals to ensure environment-friendly and sustainable urbanization in the federal capital.

# CHAKDARA-GILGIT ROAD TO BE ALTERNATE CPEC ROUTE

**PESHAWAR:** The provincial government is working on constructing a road to link Chakdara in Lower Dir with the northern town of Gilgit as an alternative route for the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in the province.

Like other CPEC routes, this route is also expected to help boost tourism and economy along with it. This was disclosed on Wednesday during a meeting between Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) Chief Minister Mahmood Khan with the provincial Minister for Communications and Works Akbar Ayub Khan at the CM Secretariat in Peshawar. The route will comprise the Shandoor and Chitral roads as well. During the meeting, it was disclosed that work to finalize the Project Concept-1 (PC-I) of the 'Chakdara-Gilgit CPEC link is expected to be completed soon.

Mahmood said that the government believes tourism has great potential to uplift the economy of the region, adding that they were developing tourist destinations in the northern areas to provide employment to locals. He reiterated that expanding communication networks, building roads, promoting tourism and opening industrial zones remain the top priorities of the provincial government.



The chief minister added that the provincial government has initiated projects for sustainable development and prosperity in the newly-merged tribal districts (NMTDs). Efforts in this regard were underway to improve bilateral trade with Afghanistan and other Central Asian countries to boost economic activities in the province. Such activities, he hoped, will further enhance regional cooperation, law and order, and bilateral trade. However, the chief minister hinted that there were sparse funds available locally to achieve such development, hence he said that foreign investment was crucial for the development of the province. For this

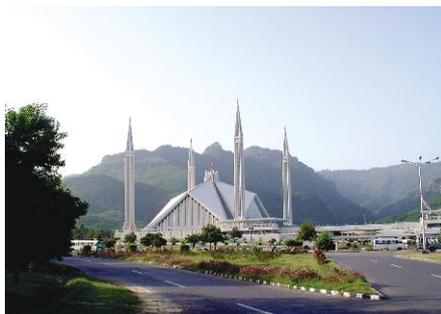
purpose, he said that the provincial government is trying to attract foreign investment and making it easier to do business in K-P.

Mahmood further stated that the provincial government is taking all possible steps to bring about an economic revolution in the province and that they will create public awareness about all public interest measures so that the people can draw benefit from such initiatives. The chief minister said that the government has formulated an integrated strategy for economic stability in the province.

## CDA APPROVES RS110M FOR GAS SUPPLY IN I-11

**Islamabad:** The Capital Development Authority (CDA) in line with its policy to complete the development works in the stalled sectors, has approved Rs110.119 million for installation and provision of gas network in sector I-11/1 and I-11/2.

The payment would likely be made to SNGPL in next few days and after that SNGPL will start work on the provision of Sui-gas in the sector I-11, the CDA spokesman said. Under this project, SNGPL would lay main gas pipe line up to the sector and will further establish door to door gas



networks in sector I-11/1&2. The said work would likely be completed in approximately three (03) months.

The CDA-Development Working Party in its 45th meeting held in October this year approved PC-I and PC-IV amounting to Rs2618.251 million for carrying out development works in sector I-11. Consequent upon approval of Project Costs, concerned formations were directed to fulfill codal formalities so that works pertaining to respective formations be carried out simultaneously. In this context,

SNGPL was approached to furnish demand notice for the provision of Sui-gas infrastructure in the sector. After the complete survey demand draft was furnished which was processed and accordingly approved by the authority during the last week. In addition to the provision of the Sui-gas network, authority during its board meeting held in November this year approved the allocation of 18.6 kanals land for construction of 132 KV grid stations in sector I-11/2 for provision of electricity in the sector I-11 and I-12.

Moreover, the development of remaining infrastructure in the sector is also in pipeline. Similarly, the spokesman said the authority in addition to initiating development activities also focusing on the cost-effectiveness of the development works. Steps are also being taken to complete development activities in the remaining other sectors.

# WAPDA BREAKS RECORDS FOR HYDEL POWER PRODUCTION IN 2019

2019 is a historic year for the development of water and hydropower resources in Pakistan, as a record amount of hydel electricity was supplied to the national grid during the year.

In addition, after almost five decades the construction work on Mohmand Dam was started in May this year.

The hydel power stations owned and operated by WAPDA provided 34.678 billion units of hydel electricity – highest-ever – to the system in 2019. This quantum of generation is 6.321 billion units higher compared with last year i.e. 28.357 billion units.

The optimal operation of three hydropower projects, completed last year, proved to be a good omen for hydel generation in the country since these projects alone generated 9.372 billion units cumulatively during their operation in 2019.

Here's a detailed breakdown of electricity produced by each project:

- 4.741 billion units from Tarbela 4th Extension Hydropower Project.



- 4.519 billion units from the Neelum-Jhelum Hydropower Project.
- 0.111 billion units from Golen Gol Hydropower Project.
- Tarbela Hydel Power Stations produced 10.831 billion units.
- Ghazi Barotha 6.594 billion units.
- Mangla 4.005 billion units.
- Others 3.986 billion units.

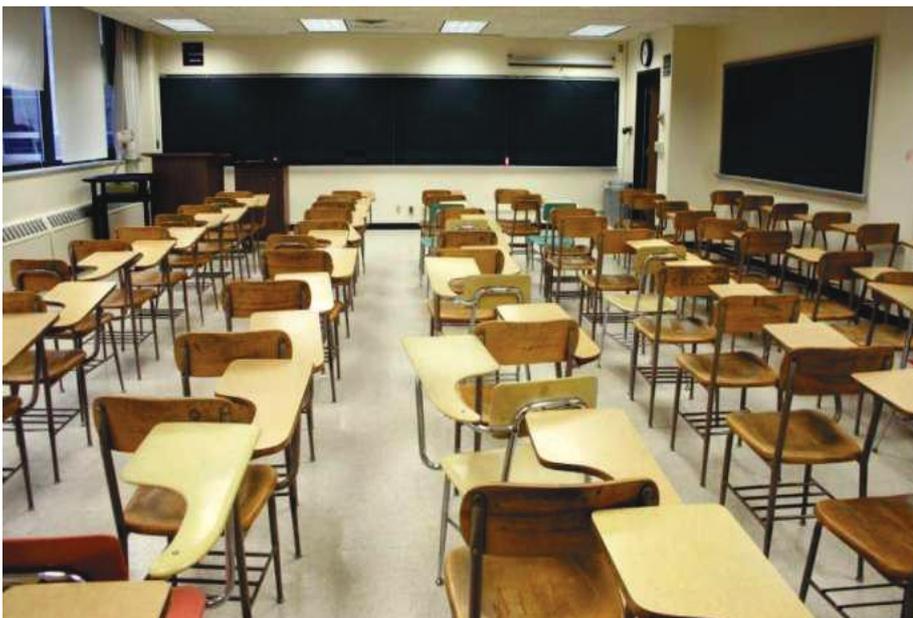
Hydropower is known to be the cheapest and most environment-friendly source of electricity. The contribution of WAPDA's hydel electricity to the system helped the country meet the electricity needs and stabilize the electricity tariff for the

consumers during the year.

In addition to record hydel electricity generation in 2019, WAPDA also succeeded in achieving vital targets for the construction of mega-dams to avert looming water crises in the country.

In this regard, the construction of Mohmand Dam commenced on May 2, 2019. Mohmand Dam is the first mega multi-purpose dam project undertaken during the last 51 years after Tarbela Dam, construction of which was started way back in 1968.

## CONSTRUCTION OF GIRLS COLLEGE COMPLETED AFTER A DECADE



**RAWALPINDI:** After more than a decade, construction work on the Government Girls Degree College in Saddar has finally been completed. Work to paint and renovate the structure is expected to be completed by January 30, 2020, while admissions in the college are expected to start by the time the new educational year begins.

In this regard, the Federal Railways Minister Sheikh Rasheed Ahmed said that the recruitment of teaching and non-teaching staff for the college will be completed by mid-February.

The foundation of the college had been laid by former dictator General (retired) Pervez Musharraf, however, construction work was halted by former Punjab chief minister Shehbaz Sharif after which the project was shelved. The college building has been completed after a period of 12 years.



# GWADAR'S CONTRIBUTION IN GDP TO SURGE TO OVER \$200BN BY 2050

**ISLAMABAD:** The contribution of Gwadar's smart port city in Pakistan's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) will rise up to US\$200 billion to \$300 billion by 2050. According to a forecast by the ministry of planning and development, the contribution of Gwadar in Pakistan's economy would rise to \$6 billion in the short term by 2025 and \$24 billion in 2035.

Similarly, the per capita income of the citizens of Gwadar city would be around \$2000 in 2025 while it would rise to \$4000 by 2035. According to the long term forecast, the per capita income of the city would further surge to around \$10,000 to \$15,000.

Gwadar Smart Port City Master Plan is a vital part of the multi-billion dollar China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) which after completion would transform the port

city into a hub of industrialization, commercial activity, and international marinetrade.

As the city would grow, it will also create a huge number of employment opportunities for the local as well as for the people hailing from other parts of the country, an official in the ministry said.

He said the development of the port, free zone, and industrial zones will create huge job opportunities and the employed population is expected to reach 9000 to 12000 in short term, 24000 to 30,000 in medium-term while 100,000 to 120,000 in long term. The labor participation will also be increased and Gwadar will become a productive and efficient city.

The Gwadar master plan was developed way back in 2006, and it got delayed due to

flaws and lack of interest by the past governments.

However, on August 23 this year, the governing body of Gwadar Development Authority accorded final approval to the Master Plan while the feasibility study (PC-II) for implementation of Gwadar Smart Port City Master Plan was approved by Balochistan Provincial Development Authority (PDWP) at a total cost of Rs 300 million on November 13, 2019.

Under the plan, the government is planning to build a diversified, prosperous, dynamic, and green industrial system so as to achieve fast economic growth and establish a new engine for the regional economy. In the short term, Gwadar advantages in fisheries and geographical location will be given full play, with a focus on its competitive industry.

# PAKISTANI CONSTRUCTION EMPLOYEES WIN AWARDS IN WORKERS GAMES IN CHINA

**BEIJING:** Dec 21 (APP): Pakistani employees of the China Construction, builder of Pakistan Motorway (PKM) Project, won the admission best award and sports ethics award in Workers' Games held at Wuhan University of Technology.

Nine Pakistanis participated in the games and took part in running, throwing shots, lightning column war and other events of the games.

During the competition, they also deeply admired respect from people of China to their Pakistani friends, said a report of China Economic Net published on Saturday.

Accompanied by colleagues from the China Construction Third Bureau, they also visited the Wuhan subway, the Hubei Museum, toured the East Lake and also tasted snacks at Hubu Lane and besides watching the Yangtze River night light show.

The Pakistani employees were highly impressed with the trip to China, and after returning home, everyone shared his experiences and feelings.

Talking about their visit to China, they said China is a world-historical and cultural center, with more than 5,000 years of ancient history. It kept world-renowned and impressive cultural essence and historical sites.

The amalgamation of a number of people from different nationalities, a variety of Chinese clothes and different languages portray China's image in a more colorful and interesting way.

As Pakistanis, they also felt an emotional attachment to China. It could be said that "Pak-China friendship" is higher than the mountains, deeper than the sea and sweeter than honey", the group members commented after their visit.

It seems that all Chinese friends knew that Pakistan is China's "iron brothers" and they feel sincere respect and friendship from their Chinese brothers and sisters.

In an interview, Pakistani employees stated that China Construction is the world's largest engineering contractor with operating performance in more than 100 countries and regions at home and abroad.

M-5 motorway is the largest transportation infrastructure project of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor undertaken by China Construction.

Xiao Hua, Chairman China Construction Pakistan Co., Ltd. stated that in the course of implementing the project, China Construction always adhered to the principle of openness, and strove to bring more people and more social forces to coexist in a variety of ways and methods.



# RS90BN REQUIRED FOR UP-GRADATION OF 12,500 KM ROADS: SENATE



ISLAMABAD: Senate Sub Committee on Communications on Tuesday informed that Rs. 90 billion per annum was needed for repair and maintenance of 12,500 km roads

of the country.

Briefing the meeting of the committee, chaired by Senator Fida Muhammad was

told that a sum of Rs. 2,587 million toll tax had been collected by seven toll plazas functioning between Rawalpindi and Lahore during 2016-17. A sum of Rs. 2,855 million was collected in 2017-18 and Rs. 1,354 million were spent on the repair and maintenance in three years period.

The committee was told that toll tax is increased every three years. Four contractors have imposed fines. No company is exempted from the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) rules.

No contract is awarded without bidding. Four projects were being constructed on Build Operate and Transfer (BoT) basis including M2, M9, N5, and Lahore Sialkot Motorway. Likewise, 11 projects of BoT would be introduced soon.

Senator Atteq Shaikh expressed his concern over the increase in toll tax. Dr. Ashok Kumar, Mir Muhammad Yousaf Badini and Mian Muhammad Ateeq Sheikh and secretary communication, chairman NHA and high officials attended the meeting.

## HISTORY MADE: BIGGEST CONTAINER LADEN SHIP ANCHORS DOWN AT KPT



KARACHI: The biggest container laden ship in the history of Pakistan anchored down at the Karachi Port Trust (KPT) on Friday.

The ship, namely 'Cosco Belgium' is a giant container vessel that anchored down at the South Wharf area of Karachi Port.

This is the largest ever vessel handled for the very first time at Karachi Port with length overall (LOA) of 366 meters, highest gross registered tonnage (GRT) of 153,666 metric tonnes and maximum beam of 51.20 meters.

None of the Pakistani port has ever handled such a giant vessel in past. The Hong Kong flag vessel came alongside SAPT-3 berths at 8:10 pm Pakistan time under the personal command and supervision of Deputy Conservator KPT Captain Asif Ahmed Saeed Tauni while adopting all safety measures.

KPT has previously handled vessels of LOA 354.24 meters, 128,929 metric tonnes GRT and 45.6 meters Beam.

Chairman KPT Rear Admiral Jamil Akhtar congratulated the entire operations team which participated in this landmark achievement.

# BRIDGING THE SKILLS GAP



**Asian Institute of Industrial Air (AIIA) organizes Certificate Course for Basics of Compressed Air systems in Islamabad in collaboration with National Textile University (NTU).**

ISLAMABAD, 19 DEC 2019: Compressed Air is the most important but least understood utility in all engineering and manufacturing sectors. Realizing the needs of the sector, Asian Institute of Industrial Air (AIIA) organized one day Certificate course on Compressed Air Systems. A large number of professionals from 15 different public and private engineering sectors showed serious interest in learning the science and best maintenance practices. Expert trainers having a strong practical background in maintenance management of Industrial compressors and Academia provided an in-depth understanding of compressors and compressed air-related issues faced in the field by the technical managers.

Certificate Course on Compressed Air Systems attracted participants from manufacturing Sector. Participants experienced a very good understanding and expressed their interest to learn more in future training sessions to be organized by AIIA so that all areas of Compressed Air technology could be covered in detail.



Asian Institute of Industrial Air (AIIA) is a non-profit organization working under the umbrella of Potohar Center for Entrepreneurship Development (PCED). AIIA will continue to identify critical skill gaps and organize

professional trainings for skills upgrading of technical and managerial staff of Industries along with the facility of providing tailor-made dedicated trainings customized as per the needs of industries.

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# ORDINANCE APPROVED FOR REAL ESTATE REGULATION & DEVELOPMENT

The federal cabinet has approved in principle the Real Estate Regulation and Development Ordinance 2019 subject to clearance by the Cabinet Committee for Disposal of Legislative Cases (CCLC) to effectively manage the affairs of housing sector.

Sources said that the ordinance for regulation and development of real estate sector was presented to the federal cabinet by the Housing and Works Division for consideration and approval. The meeting approved in principle the ordinance subject to clearance of CCLC and

further directed to rectify typographic mistakes in the draft ordinance.

Ministry of Housing and Works submitted that in order to effectively manage the affairs of housing sector and to streamline the procedure, processes and system for the growth of real estate in the country, the government intends to establish Real Estate Regulatory Authority under the Real Estate Regulation and Development Ordinance 2019.

This legislation is also expected to establish and adjudicate mechanism for speedy dispute redressal and also to establish the appellate tribunal to hear appeals against decisions, directions or orders of the Authority and the adjudicating officers whereby the same ultimately act as a catalyst for satisfying the housing needs of the people of the country.



## CONSTRUCTION OF PAKISTAN'S FIRST NURSING UNIVERSITY WILL BEGIN SOON

King Hammad University of Nursing and Associate Medical Sciences will begin next month after finalizing all arrangements for the Ministry of National Health Services

Through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), the Capital Development Authority (CDA) has granted land of about 5500 square feet to Pakistan's first nursing university in Islamabad.

Dr. Asad Hafiz, director-general of the health ministry, said in an interview. "The construction cost is estimated at about \$ 16 million, contract of the university has been given and construction work will begin next month,"

King of Bahrain Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa offered to establish a state-of-the-art medical institution as a gift from his country during his visit to Pakistan in March 2014. It was decided that Pakistan would arrange the land and utility



services for the university and Bahrain would fund its construction.

A Bahraini delegation, led by Dr. Shaikha Rana Bint Isa Bin Daij Al-Khalifa, then

assistant under-secretary for Arab and Afro-Asian Affairs, visited Islamabad in July 2016 to finalize the project and signed an MoU with Pakistan's ministry of health.

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Since its inception, PCQ has already attracted keen participation and interest from the Construction Industry. It is an ideal way to explore Construction business and identify investment opportunities, in turn encouraging various Housing & Construction companies from the sector to participate and seize the numerous opportunities.

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