

THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER

PAKISTAN Basic Facts

Official Title:

Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

Government:

Democracy, with a bicameral legislature—Senate and National Assembly.

Head of State:

President: General Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq.

Prime Minister:

Mohammad Khan Junejo.

Majlis-i-Shura (Parliament):

Comprises 237 members of the National Assembly and 87 members of the Senate. The new Cabinet was announced on 29.1.1986.

Flag:

The Pakistan flag is dark green, with a five-pointed white star inside a white crescent which points towards the outer top corner. There is a white vertical band on the staff side representing minorities in the country.

Location:

23°-37° north latitude and 61°-76° east longitude approximately.

Area:

796,095 sq. km. Land Boundaries: 5900 km. Bordering countries (clockwise from N.): Afghanistan, China, India, Iran.

Coastline:

1,046 km. on the Arabian Sea.

Population:

101 million (1987 Economic Survey estimate).

Growth rate:

3.2% per annum.

Rural/Urban Ratio:

72/28%.

Languages:

Urdu (national language), Punjabi, Sindhi, Pushto, Baluchi and Brahvi. English is mostly used for all commercial correspondence and business and legal transactions.

Religion:

97% Muslim; 3% comprise Christians, Hindus and Parsis.

Health

Life expectancy estimated at 59 years.

Services:

There are 46,494 Registered Doctors and 15,734 Registered nurses, serving 670 hospitals, 3,441 dispensaries, and 773 Maternity and Child Welfare Centres in the country with total 57,709 beds (1986). Besides, there are some 260 private hospitals/ Maternity Centres. There are 22 medical colleges with an enrolment of 20,250 students according to 1985-86 figures.

Education: School Attendance:

The over-all literacy rate is 26.2 per cent, according to the latest estimate. There are 86,142 Primary, 6,290 Middle and 5,102 Secondary schools in the country, according to 1985-86 figures. Students going to Primary schools number 7.7 million while 1.9 million go to the Middle, 739,000 to the Secondary schools, and 458,000 students are on rolls in 584 Arts, Science and Professional Colleges, besides 56,613 in the 20 universities of the country, according to 1985-86 figures.

Travel: Air:

Pakistan International Airline, the national flag carrier, operates over 205.7 million Route km. with domestic services to 32 main centres connecting various parts of the country, and 39 points internationally. PIA carried about 2.1 million passengers during 1985-86.

Roads:

There are 35,020 km. of roads in Pakistan. These include 34,431 km. of high type roads, and 18,589 km. of low type roads. Traffic drives on the left. Number of motor vehicles registered, as in 1985, were 1,840,753.

Rail:

Total network, over 8,775 km. Main route runs Karachi-Lahore-Rawalpindi-Peshawar with a network of 885 stations and 111 train halts. Number of passengers carried during 1985-86: 83 million.

Ports:

Karachi is the main sea port. Besides Port Qasim, commissioned recently to relieve congestion at the Karachi port. Total cargo landed by Karachi Port 15.8 million tonnes and Port Qasim 4.4 million tonnes of cargo during 1985-86.

Economy/Currency:

Pakistan Rupee=100 paisas, exchange rate: one US\$ equal to approx. 17.7 Rupees (floating).

Structure:

Agriculture predominates, accounting for 25.8% of GDP, manufacturing accounts for 19.9%, mining and quarrying 0.5%, construction 4.7%, electricity 3.5%, and the services 45.6% (1985).

Main Industries:

Cotton Textiles, cement, chemicals, industrial machinery, food processing, tractors, trucks and motor car assembly plants.

Main Exports:

Rice, cotton, including cotton yarn and cotton fabrics, carpets, oil products and leather and leather goods.

Main Imports:

Foodstuff, edible oil, fuels, machinery and transport equipment.

Main Trading Partners:

Japan, UK, Hong Kong, Federal Germany, the USA, United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia.

Communication:

Telephones: 607,000, Telegraph Offices: 387, Post Offices: 12,006, Radio Licences Issued: 1.14 million,

TV Sets 1.37 million, and VCR sets 208,500 (June, 1986).

Energy:

The total energy demand in Pakistan (1986-87) stand around 18.0 million TOE (Tonne Oil Equivalent). Sources of supply: (1) Oil and Gas 73.9% (2) Hydro-electricity 18.9% (3) Coal 6.2%, Nuclear Energy 0.6% (4) LPG 0.4%.

Capital:

Islamabad (Population: 340,286 according to 1981 Census).

Main Cities:

Karachi (Population estimated 7 million). Other important cities: Lahore, Rawalpindi, Faisalabad, Multan, Hyderabad, Peshawar and Quetta, Murree, Abbotabad, Nathiagali, Kaghan and Ziarat are important hill-stations and summer resorts.