

HAAL AHWAL

Monthly News Reviews on Food and Agriculture

June, 2025

Roots for Equity

HAAL AHWAL

Monthly News Reviews on Food and Agriculture

June, 2025

Editor

Azra Talat Sayeed

Sub-Editor

Mujtaba Zaidi

Contributors

Yasir Iqbal

Imamuddin

Roots for Equity

Index

Topics	Page No.
Preface	I
Glossary	III
News Excepts	VI
National News	XV
International News	XXIII

1 Hectare = 2.471 Acres

1 Acre = 4,840 Square Yards

1 Ton = 25 Mann = 1000 Kg

1 Mann = 40 Kg

Preface

[Back](#)

The *Haal Ahwal* was initiated in 2013 as an Urdu quarterly publication and came out with more than 20 journals till 2019. From 2020 onwards, due to Covid19's lockdown, and other resource gaps the publication was discontinued. The Urdu version of *Haal Ahwal's* was compiled as a fairly comprehensive resource bringing together current news and developments in the agriculture sector. Its aim was to provide readers with a chronological order of developments in various sub-sectors of agriculture and its interconnected domains to develop their understanding on the political economy of agriculture.

With the publication in hand, it's obvious that *Haal Ahwal* is being launched once again. However, after a gap of three years, it comes with some changes. The first most apparent is that, this time it's being published in English. The range of topics remain much the same, following the previous pattern of more coverage of Pakistan's domestic scene and sparingly international coverage. *Haal Ahwal* will now be on a monthly basis and not quarterly.

The publication covers a wide range of subjects, encompassing various aspects of agriculture and related fields. It delves into topics such as farmers, laborer, agricultural resources (including land, water, and inputs), seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, agricultural loans, agricultural machinery, and industrial production. News items on food and cash crops, fruits and vegetables, livestock, fisheries, and poultry are added. And then on more macro issues of neoliberal policies, trade, exports, imports, the corporate sector including agrochemical companies, food and fertilizer companies, corporate lobbies and foreign aid are also covered. Related issues such as environment, pollution, health and safety, climate change, and natural disasters, poverty, inflation, food security and people's and farmers resistance also have particular emphasis. All these topics will be covered more fully in the national context and where relevant to Pakistan, as part of international policies and politics. In addition, there is coverage of news on international financial institutions (IFIs) such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank,

Asian Development Bank; aid agencies such as the USAID and others as well as the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Though the layout of the news items has been changed quite a bit, we are retaining our take on the news items covered under Points to Ponder, which is given in the very beginning of the publication. The next section is based on excerpts of what the editorial team considers the most important news items in this period. This is followed by table of contents making it easier for readers to look for their topics of interest. And then we have the meat of the publication based on abbreviated news items included in each sub-section. As was the case for the Urdu *Haal Ahwal*, two major newspapers have been used for the news items included, namely the “Daily Dawn” and the “Business Recorder.” Please note, only the Sunday newspaper is used for news coverage from “The Daily News.”

At the end, we would like to add that comments and critique for making the resource more useful to our readers is very welcome.

1,000	1 Thousand	1 Thousand	ایک ہزار
10,000	10 Thousand	10 Thousand	دس ہزار
100,000	100 Thousand	1 Lac	ایک لاکھ
1,000,000	1 Million	10 Lac	دس لاکھ
10,000,000	10 Million	1 Crore	ایک کروڑ
100,000,000	100 Million	10 Crore	دس کروڑ
1,000,000,000	1 Billion	1 Arab	ایک ارب
10,000,000,000	10 Billion	10 Arab	دس ارب
100,000,000,000	100 Billion	1 Kharab	ایک کھرب

Glossary

[Back](#)

ACD: Additional Customs Duty

ADB: Asian Development Bank

ADP: Annual Development Plan

AJK: Azad Jammu and Kashmir's

AMR: Antimicrobial Resistance

APCA: All Pakistan Clerks
Association

APCC: Annual Planning
Coordination Committee

AT: Awami Tehreek

AYII: Area Yield Index Insurance

BHUs: Basic Health Units

BPD: Barrels Per Day

BYC: Baloch Yakjehti Committee

CBT: Climate Budget Tagging

CCP: Competition Commission of
Pakistan

CDWP: Central Development
Working Party

CMC: Chandka Medical College

COP29: Conference of the Parties

CPI: Consumer Price Index

DG: Director General

DIG: Deputy Inspector General of
Police

DTP: Diphtheria-Tetanus-Pertussis

ECC: Economic Coordination
Committee

ECNEC: Executive Committee of the
National Economic Council

EFS: Export Facilitation Scheme

EPI: Essential Programme on
Immunisation

EU: European Union

FAO: Agriculture Organisation

FBR: Federal Board of Revenue

FDI: Foreign Direct Investment

FED: Federal Excise Duty

FFD4: Financing for Development

FMPAC: Fertiliser Manufacturers of
Pakistan Advisory Council

FPCCI: Federation of Pakistan
Chambers of Commerce and
Industry's

FRDP: Fast Rural Development
Program

GCF: Green Climate Fund

GDP: Gross Domestic Product

GLOFs: Glacial Lake Outburst
Floods

GST: General Sales Tax

H&PD: Health & Population
Department

ICCBS: International Centre for Chemical and Biological Sciences

IDSRS: Diseases Surveillance and Response System

IFIs: International Financial Institutions

IFPRI: International Food Policy Research Institute

IHME: Health Metrics and Evaluation

IHR: International Health Regulations

IMF: International Monetary Fund

IPL: International Poverty Line

IQ: Intelligence Quotient

JPMC: Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre

KBP: Kisan Board Pakistan

KCA: Karachi Cotton Association

KKH: Karakoram Highway

KP: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

KU: Karachi University

LDCs: Least Developed Countries

LIC: Low-Income Country

LMIC: Moreover, the lower-middle income

LSM: Large-Scale Manufacturing

MDF: Marine Fisheries Department

MFD: Marine Fisheries Department

MoM: Month-on-Month

MSP: Minimum Support Price

NAB: National Accountability Bureau

NAPHS: National Action Plan for Health Security

NEC: National Economic Council

NIH: National Institute of Health

NIRM: National Institute of Rehabilitation Medicine

OCHA: Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

OGRA: Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority

PAFI: Pakistan Association of Food Industries

PAQI: Pakistan Air Quality Initiative

PBC: Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation

PBG: Policy Based Guarantee

PBL: Policy-Based Loan

PBS: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics

PCGA: Pakistan Cotton Ginners Association

PDA: Pakistan Dairy Association

PDMA: Provincial Disaster Management Authority

PES: Pakistan Economic Survey

PET: Polyethylene Terephthalate

PHIMC: Punjab Health Initiatives Management Company

PHMEA: Pakistan Hosiery Manufacturers and Exporters Association

PIMS: Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences

PKI: Pakistan Kissan Ittehad

PKIC: Pakistan Kissan Ittehad Council

PKRC: Pakistan Kissan Rabita Committee

PMD: Pakistan Meteorological Department

PML-N: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz

PPP: Pakistan Peoples Party

PPP: Purchasing Power Parity

PPWSMA: Pakistan Polypropylene Woven Sack Manufacturers Association

PRR: Pakistan Raises Revenue

PSDP: Public Sector Development Programme

PTV: Pakistan Television Corporation

ROI: Return on Investment

SAP: Sustainable Development Programme Achievement Programme

SBP: State Bank of Pakistan

SDGs: Sustainable Development Goals

SEA: Sindh Employees' Alliance

SHC&MED: Specialized Health Care & Medical Education Department

SMBBM: Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Medical University

SMEDA: Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority

SOEs: State-Owned Entities

SPI: Sensitive Price Index

SPO: Strengthening Participatory Organisation

STFC: Syndicated Term Finance Facility

SUP: Sindh United Party

TBIJ: The Bureau of Investigative Journalism

UHI: Universal Health Insurance

UNCTAD: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

USGS: United States Geological Survey

WHO: World Health Organisation

WMO: World Meteorological Organisation

WPI: Wholesale Price Index

WWA: World Weather Attribution

YoY: Year-on-Year

NEWS EXCEPTS

NATIONAL NEWS

[Back](#)

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION RESOURCES

- The Green Climate Fund (GCF) will assist Pakistan in enhancing its capacity for precision agriculture by establishing a centralised knowledge management system at the University of Agriculture in Faisalabad. This initiative aims to implement and promote precision agriculture practices that will contribute to climate resilience in Punjab and Gilgit-Baltistan.
- Precision agriculture offers a promising solution by optimising resource use and minimizing environmental impact through technologies like GPS-guided equipment, automated irrigation, and drones.
- According to data compiled by the PKI, farmers have collectively sustained a staggering compound loss of approximately Rs2,200 billion in wheat alone between May 2024 and May 2025.
- According to PKI, cotton production has plummeted to 5.55 million bales this year, a staggering 50pc below target and 34pc lower than the previous year. This drastic decline is projected to inflate the cotton import bill to an alarming \$1.9 billion, a massive leap from \$448 million last year.
- The 2025 wheat production is estimated at 28.98 million tonnes, an 8.91pc reduction from last year's 31.81m tonnes, representing a shortfall of 2.82m tonnes. This reduction alone accounts for an estimated loss of Rs250bn based on international market values.
- The overall production of important crops has seen a collective decrease of 13.49pc in FY25, and the overall agricultural sector growth has nosedived from 6.25pc to a mere 0.56pc since July 2024, highlighting the severe contraction of the sector.
- There is zero General Sales Tax (GST) on imported cotton bales, while locally produced seed cotton is subjected to an 18pc GST, creating a disadvantage for domestic growers.
- Country's agriculture sector showed a combination of resilience & challenges across all its sub-sectors during 2024-25, and despite climatic challenges, recorded a mere growth of 0.56pc, primarily driven by a 4.72pc sustained growth in livestock, according to Pakistan Economic Survey 2024-25.
- All important crops declined by 13.49pc due to reduced cultivation area and adverse weather conditions, leading to a decline of 30.7pc in cotton, 8.9pc in wheat, 3.9pc in sugarcane, 15.4pc in maize, and 1.4pc in rice.
- Important crops accounted for 17.82pc of the value added in the agriculture sector and contributed 4.19pc to the national GDP, while other crops contributed 13.88pc to agricultural value addition, and 3.27pc to GDP.

- Pakistan's agriculture sector has missed its growth target for the outgoing fiscal year, expanding by just 0.56 percent against the projected two percent.
- During 2024-25, the dismal performance is largely attributed to a significant decline in the production of major crops, including wheat by 8.9pc, cotton by 30.7pc, sugarcane by 3.9pc, Maize by 1.4pc and Maize by 15.4 percent.
- The agriculture sector's growth was largely supported by 4.72pc growth in livestock, 1.42pc expansion in the Fisheries and 3.03pc growth in forestry.
- Pakistan's cotton sector could not maintain its performance due to above-average rainfall during monsoon, late sowing, and reduced sowing area.
- It said that rice production also saw a decline despite an increase in area under cultivation. Area under rice cultivation expanded to 3.90m hectares, reflecting a growth of 7.2 percent. Despite an increase in cultivated area, production volume experienced a decline of 1.38 percent, falling to 9.72 million tons.
- It said that cattle and buffalo populations reached 59.7m and 47.7m, respectively.
- Pakistan's gross milk production remained 72.34m tons, reflecting a 3.2pc annual increase, driven by higher yields and increased livestock population.
- The PKRC termed the '2025 Economic Survey' a wake-up call and called upon the government to abandon corporate farming and military control over agricultural resources and redistribute public agricultural lands among landless farmers, especially women and youth in plots of up to 12.5 acres.
- The agriculture sector recorded a meagre growth rate of just 0.56–0.6 percent in the past year - the lowest in the last nine years.
- All major farmer organizations had already criticized the government's failure to procure wheat at the promised support price and warned that growers were abandoning wheat cultivation.
- Instead of acknowledging its policy failures, the government blames climate change: erratic monsoons, delayed sowing, and extreme heat. But the reality is that the government's neoliberal agricultural policies have failed miserably.
- Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif vowed to revamp country's agriculture sector through sustainable reforms, amid growing criticism from opposition parties over its perceived decline.
- Sharif directed authorities to begin a phased reduction in taxes on farm machinery and equipment to encourage mechanisation nationwide.
- Sharif assured that no new taxes would be imposed on fertilisers or pesticides in the upcoming fiscal year, underscoring the government's commitment to keeping input costs stable and supporting farmers.
- Under the National Technology Fund's "Ignite" initiative, 129 agriculture-related start-ups have been launched so far.
- Police recovered 61 bonded haris (farm workers), including women and children, after conducting raids on farmlands of three landlords in Umerkot and Pithoro talukas.

- Pakistan is one of the most water-stressed countries in the world, with an average per capita annual water availability of less than 1,000 cubic meters.
- The surface irrigation system, recognised as the world’s largest contiguous irrigated network, features three storage reservoirs with a live storage capacity of 13 MAF, along with 19 barrages, 12 inter-river link canals, 02 siphons, and 44 canal commands.
- Extensive network of main canals and distributaries spans 64,000 kilometres, complemented by an additional 1,621,000 kilometres of watercourses.
- The government needs to invest in modernising irrigation systems, such as adopting drip irrigation, which uses water more efficiently.
- Main targets for 12 years; i.e., 2018-2030, under the National Water Policy (2018) are: 33 percent reduction (i.e., 15.24 MAF) in the 46 MAF river flows lost in conveyance through watercourses lining, Live storage capacity enhancement of 10 MAF.

AGRICULTURAL INPUTS

- Accepting one of the farmer community’s biggest demands, the federal government decided to forego imposition of a GST on fertiliser and pesticides — both vital inputs — in its budget proposals for the upcoming fiscal year.
- HBL issued the largest payout of over Rs 10 million under the Area Yield Index Insurance (AYII) program, benefiting farmers in Balochistan and Sindh.
- The Punjab government claimed to have spared Rs123 billion for agriculture and its sub-sectors – livestock and irrigation – for next year, saying that “the province has adopted Farmer Centric Approach” in its budget for 2025-26.
- The province provided 9,500 tractors to farmers under the “Green Tractor Scheme” last year and spent Rs9.7bn on it.
- Punjab would continue with “Kissan Card” and “Solarisation of Agriculture Tubewells” schemes because of their massive benefits to agriculture and the government is sparing Rs6.3bn and Rs8.7bn, respectively.
- Last year, the province had provided Rs106bn interest-free loans to around a million farmers, which made on-time purchase of seeds, fertiliser and other inputs possible and helped farming.
- The Punjab government has proposed a sum of Rs 80 billion as the development budget for agriculture, aiming to implement a total of 37 schemes including 21 new and 16 ongoing projects.
- The Lahore High Court sought an estimate of per-acre wheat production cost from the Punjab Agriculture Department.
- A petition filed by Sardar Zafar Hussain Khan of Pakistan Kissan Board challenging government’s failure to fix the official wheat price. The petitioner asked the court to direct the government to immediately fix the wheat support price.

- Punjab government has started distributing green tractors among farmers under its wheat support programme to encourage wheat cultivation across province.
- A total of 1,000 tractors are being handed over through a transparent balloting process.
- Sindh Minister for Agriculture Muhammad Baksh Mahar has expressed serious concerns over IMF demand to impose an 18% General Sales Tax and increase Federal Excise Duty on fertilisers, sprays, and agricultural machinery.
- The Kisan Board Pakistan (KBP) has rejected the federal budget for taxing farm inputs instead of providing relief to the agriculture sector reeling under what is called failed agricultural policies.
- KBP Vice President Amanullah Chattha said not only the production of four major crops – wheat, cotton, rice and sugarcane – declined drastically but wheat growers also suffered Rs2,200 billion losses as the crop was sold much below its production cost.
- He criticised the government for imposing 18pc tax on solar panels, which were being used for agriculture tubewells.

AGRICULTURAL OUTPUT

- GDP growth for FY25 is recorded at 2.7pc against the target of 3.6pc, primarily due to a massive contraction in key commodity-producing sectors, including important crops, which witnessed a 13.5pc contraction due to adverse weather conditions, reduced rainfall, input challenges, and policy shift.
- Last year, government announced a lucrative minimum support price (MSP) for wheat, but the Punjab government subsequently withdrew its support for farmers, leaving them at the mercy of middlemen and market forces.
- The country’s agriculture sector has witnessed a dramatic slowdown, with growth dropping to 0.56 percent from 6.25 percent since July 2024.
- Cotton production has dropped to 5.55 million bales — 50 percent below the government’s target and 34 percent less than last year. Cotton import bill is projected to surge to \$1.9 billion, up from \$448 million the previous year.
- The country’s wheat production has also suffered, declining by 8.91 percent to 28.98 million tons from last year’s 31.81 million tons.
- Since May 2024, farmers have collectively suffered losses of around Rs2,200 billion in wheat alone — equivalent to 23.15 percent of the crop sector’s contribution to GDP for the fiscal year 2023–24.
- Amid falling local production, the cotton import bill swelled by 114 per cent in the first 10 months of FY25 compared to the last year. From July to April, the cotton import bill soared to \$2.545 billion, compared to \$1.189bn during the same period last year.

- The SBP data indicated that cotton imports surged by 58.4pc in the first ten months of FY25 compared to the entire FY24 figure of \$1.6bn. Cotton production has decreased to one-third of its peak of 14 million bales.
- Government has decided to withdraw sales tax and duty exemptions on imported cotton and yarn to support local cotton farmers and revive the domestic textile industry.
- Climate change, shortage of irrigation water and weather conditions suitable for pest attack reduced the mango yield by up to 45pc this year.

SUB – AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIONS

- The Pakistan Dairy Association (PDA) described 18pc sales tax, imposed in the federal budget for 2024-25 and retained for the next fiscal year, as an “existential threat” to the formal dairy sector.

TRADE

- Imports grew 7.30pc to \$53.450bn in July-May FY25 from \$49.815bn over the last year.
- The trade deficit in July-May FY25 widened by 10.63pc to \$24.005bn from \$21.698bn over the last year.
- Pakistan’s exports have witnessed an increase of 5.15 percent during the first 11 months (July–May) of fiscal year 2024-25, reaching \$29.564 billion compared to \$28.117 billion in the same period last year.
- Imports also recorded a rise of 7.50 percent totalling \$53.55 billion, up from \$49.815 billion in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal year.
- Pakistan’s trade deficit with nine neighbouring countries widened by 32.82 per cent to \$11.17 billion during the first 11 months of the current fiscal year (FY25), up from \$8.41bn in the same period a year earlier.
- In FY24, Pakistan’s trade deficit with these nine neighbours stood at \$9.506bn, reflecting a 49pc increase from \$6.382bn in FY23.
- Pakistan’s exports to European countries grew 8.62 per cent in the 10 months of the current fiscal year from a year ago.
- Pakistan’s exports to the European Union (EU) reached \$7.553 billion in July-April FY25 from \$6.954bn last year due.
- The Ministry of Commerce has expressed its inability to achieve the ambitious export target of \$60 billion by 2029 set by the Prime Minister, citing a range of international and domestic challenges.
- Merchandise exports decreased by 10 per cent in May, continuing the negative trend for the current fiscal year.
- The Ministry of Maritimes Affairs has set seafood export target at \$450 million this year and a non-tax revenue target of Rs 250 million within next three years.

- Pakistan's seafood exports from July to May (2020-24) stood at \$383.088 million; an increase from \$373.382 million recorded during the same period in 2019-23. This reflects a year-on-year growth rate of approximately 2.6 percent.
- Pakistan's seafood exports reached \$410.268 million in fiscal year 2023-24, a decrease of 17.4 percent compared to the record high of \$496.6 million in the 2022-23 fiscal year.
- Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has approved a reduction in duties on over 7,066 tariff lines, which include raw materials, intermediate and capital goods aimed at stimulating industrial growth in the country.
- Sugar Advisory Board approved the import of 500,000 tonnes of commodity.
- Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) has reportedly put sugar import plan on ice due to forex constraints.

CORPORATE SECTOR

- The Competition Commission of Pakistan has imposed a fine of Rs375 million on six leading urea manufacturers and their trade association — Fertiliser Manufacturers of Pakistan Advisory Council — for collusive price fixing.
- The CCP announced that fines of Rs50m each were imposed on Engro, Fauji Fertiliser, FFBL, Fatima Fertiliser, Fatima Ltd, and Agritech, while a penalty of Rs70m was levied on FMPAC.

INTERNATIONAL AID / LOAN / INVESTMENT

- Foreign Direct Investment fell by 7.6 per cent to \$1,979 million during the first 11 months of FY25 compared to \$2,142m in the same period last fiscal year.
- China has rolled over \$3.4 billion in loans to Pakistan.
- Beijing rolled over \$2.1bn, which has been in Pakistan's central bank's reserves for last three years, and refinanced another \$1.3bn commercial loan.

POLICY

- Federal government has budgeted Rs 86.550 billion collection from privatization proceeds in the next fiscal year which is 981.8 percent higher than the revised estimates of current fiscal year's Rs 8 billion.

SOCIO – ECONOMIC CONDITION

- The federal government's total debt stock surged by over Rs 6 trillion during the first ten months of this fiscal year (FY25) due to massive borrowing to finance the budget deficit.
- The current year's GDP growth will clock in at 2.68pc; well short of the 3.56pc target, although slightly improved from last year's 2.5pc.

- The overall agriculture sector, which accounts for nearly 24pc of GDP, posted modest growth of 0.6pc this year, falling well short of the 2pc target and significantly below last year's announced growth of 6.4pc.
- The industrial sector was announced to have shown 4.8pc growth, surpassing the 4.4pc target.
- The services sector, which makes up nearly 59pc of GDP, was said to have posted growth of 2.9pc, well short of the 4.1pc target.
- The total debt of Pakistan stood at Rs76.01 trillion at the end of March this year, with domestic debt at Rs51.52tr and external debt at Rs24.49tr.
- Every second child in Sindh is stunted, health experts have called for coordinated efforts to address the issue of malnutrition's impact on the generations to come.
- Globally one in nine people was hungry or malnourished and suspected that either we could achieve sustainable development goal of 'Zero Hunger'.
- The Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based inflation increased to 3.5 percent on Year-on-Year basis in May 2025 as compared to 0.3 percent of the previous month and 11.8 percent in May 2024.
- Almost forty-five percent of Pakistan's population lives below poverty line, proportion of people living in extreme poverty has risen from 4.9pc to 16.5pc.

ENVIRONMENT

- Karachi produces over 394 kilotons of emissions in the atmosphere, with industry contributing 49pc and transport 33pc of particulate matter (PM2.5).
- With an alarming 97 percent of pharmacies in Pakistan lacking temperature-controlled storage and biograde refrigeration.
- Health authorities have confirmed a new case of wild poliovirus in the Diamer district of Gilgit-Baltistan, marking first instance of virus reported from region.
- Federal Health Minister Syed Mustafa Kamal admitted that 68 percent of diseases in Pakistan were caused by consuming contaminated water as the country has no effective sewage treatment mechanism.
- 40pc of Pakistani children are malnourished, leading to stunted growth. Polio remains endemic only in Afghanistan and Pakistan. On the other hand 26 million children are out of school.
- Life-saving childhood vaccination coverage has stalled in recent decades, leaving millions of children at risk, with Pakistan having the highest number of zero-dose children in South Asia after India.

CLIMATE CHANGE

- A serious lack of livelihood opportunities, severe water scarcity and increasingly unpredictable weather patterns have triggered a wave of internal

migration which is fast emptying villages and small towns in the coastal districts of Thatta, Sujawal and Badin.

- Federal government allocated 6.9 per cent of the current budget and 8.2pc of the development budget for climate-related initiatives in fiscal year 2025-26.
- The government has proposed the imposition of a Rs2.5 carbon levy per litre of petrol, high-speed diesel and furnace oil, which will be increased to Rs5 per litre from the next fiscal year.
- The Country Climate and Development Report by the World Bank predicted that Pakistan will start losing anywhere “between” 6.5% to 9% of its GDP by 2050 because of climate change.
- The World Bank report on Pakistan stated that the country will need \$368 billion by 2030 for climate mitigation and adaptation if it were to avoid floods, droughts, and heat waves.

CLIMATE DISASTERS

- Country experienced 224 extreme natural disaster events between 1980 and 2024.
- With 109 occurrences — including flash, riverine and general floods — these events have affected over 100 million individuals and inflicted total damages of \$36.4 billion, excluding broader economic losses.
- Extreme temperatures, particularly heatwaves, are becoming increasingly deadly, accounting for 2,741 fatalities across 13 events.
- Tropical cyclones, though limited to five events, caused more than \$1.7bn in damages.
- Droughts, despite only two reported instances, have severely affected over 6.9 million individuals and resulted in damages totaling \$247m, underlining the severe consequences for the country’s agrarian economy.
- Natural disasters inflicted a damage of USD 36.4bn, economic losses aside, and affected more than 100m individuals in Pakistan, from 1980 till last year.
- Pakistan is losing fertile land at an alarming rate due to desertification, droughts, and mismanaged water resources, threatening food security, livelihoods, and the very fabric of rural economies.
- Climate Risk Index 2025 ranks Pakistan 1st among top 10 countries most affected by extreme weather events in 2022, with over 68 per cent of its land area now classified as arid or semi-arid.
- The country loses nearly 27,000 hectares of forest and productive land annually, while prolonged droughts in Balochistan, Sindh and south Punjab continue to push vulnerable communities deeper into poverty.
- The per capita availability of water had plummeted from 5,000 cubic metres in 1947 to less than 900 today, crossing the threshold of water scarcity.

- UNCCD warned, over one million km² of productive land — about 113pc of Pakistan’s total land area — was lost worldwide to degradation every year, requiring \$1bn in daily investments for restoration between 2025 and 2030.
- Yet current global investments stand at just \$66bn annually, with private sector contributions standing at a paltry 6pc.
- Heavy rain and flash flooding across Pakistan have killed 40 people, including 18 children, since the start of the monsoon season this week.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION RESOURCES

- India will never restore the Indus Waters Treaty with Islamabad, and the water flowing to Pakistan will be diverted for internal use, Home Minister Amit Shah said in an interview.

TRADE

- China will negotiate and sign a new economic pact with Africa that will get rid of all tariffs on the 53 African states it has diplomatic ties with a move that could benefit middle-income nations.
- China announced it is immediately resuming seafood products imported from some Japanese regions, ending a nearly two-year overall ban imposed due to worries over Japan’s release of treated wastewater from the Fukushima nuclear power plant.

INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS (IFIs)

- The World Bank said in a report that foreign direct investment (FDI) into developing economies has hit the lowest level since 2005, Developing countries received just \$435 billion of such investment in 2023.

SOCIO – ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

- Global public debt rose to \$102 trillion in 2024, with developing countries accounting for nearly one-third — \$31tr — of that total,
- Debt service payments by developing countries soared by \$74 billion in 2024, ie, from \$847 billion to \$921.
- Israeli fire killed at least 40 people, half of them near an aid distribution site operated by the US-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation.
- Conflicts and related fatalities have more than tripled since the early 2000s, fuelling extreme poverty.

- This year, 421 million people get by on less than \$3 a day in places hit by conflict or instability — a situation of extreme poverty — and the number is poised to hit 435 million by 2030.

CLIMATE CHANGE

- Asia is currently warming nearly twice as fast as the global average, fueling more extreme weather and wreaking a heavy toll on the region's economies, ecosystems and societies.
- 2024 was the warmest or second warmest year on record (depending on the dataset), with widespread and prolonged heatwaves.
- Greenland's ice sheet melted 17 times faster than past average during a May heatwave that also hit Iceland.
- The Arctic region is on the frontline of global warming, heating up four times faster than the rest of the planet since 1979.

CLIMATE DISASTERS

- A potentially life-threatening heat wave enveloped the eastern third of the United States impacting nearly 160 million people.
- Southern Europeans braced for the first heatwave of the northern hemisphere summer, as climate change pushes thermometers on the world's fastest-warming continent increasingly into the red.

1 # AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION RESOURCES

Pakistan gets help for precision agri initiative [P.1]

Agricultural sector teetering on the brink, warn stakeholders [P.1]

Agriculture a major loser [P.2]

Agri sector misses growth target [P.3]

Agri resources: PKRC urges govt to abandon corporate farming [P.5]

Agriculture concerns [P.6]

Agriculture comes under renewed focus [P.7]

1.1 # Land

Houses torched, women & children beaten up over land dispute [P.7]

Six killed over land dispute in Bannu [P.8]

1.2 # Peasants

Umerkot court sets 61 bonded peasants at liberty [P.8]

1.3 # Water

New water reservoirs for corporate farming opposed [P.9]

Country transitioning to water-scarce status [P.9]

Water level in Khanpur Dam drops to critically low level [P.10]

NAB arrests 58 in multibillion-rupee scandal in Sindh Irrigation Dept [P.10]

2 # AGRICULTURAL INPUTS

No GST on key agri inputs, but farmers want more [P.11]

2.1 # Agricultural Loan & Finance

Agri financing: HBL gives largest insurance payout to farmers [P.11]

Agriculture gets 24pc more with Rs80bn allocation [P.12]

Rs80bn development budget proposed for agriculture [P.12]

High court seeks per acre wheat production cost [P.13]

2.2 # Agriculture Machinery & Technology

Agricultural solarisation bill sails through Balochistan Assembly [P.14]

Farmers start receiving tractors under wheat support programme [P.14]

2.3 # Agricultural Taxes

Minister opposes IMF demand of more taxes on agri sector [P.14]

KBP critical of taxing farm inputs in budget [P.15]

3 # AGRICULTURAL OUTPUT

‘Flawed’ govt policies cause sharp contraction in major crops [P.15]

Agri sector witnesses dramatic slowdown: PKIC [P.16]

3.1 # Cash Crop

Cotton import bill goes up by 114pc [P.16]

Govt taking steps to support cotton farmers, industry [P.17]

Hybrid cotton trials begin after ban lifted [P.17]

Mango production in RYK hit by climate change, water shortage [P.18]

4 # SUB – AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIONS

4.1 # Dairy

Dairy industry wants GST cut to 5pc [P.18]

4.2 # Fisheries

Halal seafood industry: Pakistan, Vietnam agree to expand cooperation [P.19]

4.3 # Livestock

ICCBS, govt ink MoU on livestock disease control [P.19]

5 # TRADE

Trade deficit [P.19]

Jul-May exports up 5.15pc [P.20]

Trade gap with nine states widens to \$11.17bn [P.20]

5.1 # Export

‘Proposed food tax may dent export-led growth’ [P.21]

Aptma seeks review of export scheme [P.21]

Exports to Europe swell to \$7.5bn [P.22]

\$60bn exports by 2029 target unachievable: MoC [P.22]

Exports contract 10pc in May [P.23]

Seafood export target set at \$450m, minister told [P.23]

EU imposes measures to curb ethanol imports from Pakistan [P.24]

India’s subsidised rice fails to dent Pakistan’s exports [P.24]

Textile exports drop for second month [P.24]

5.2 # Import

Import of coal, soapstone from Afghanistan remains suspended [P.24]

PM approves plan to cut import duties on raw materials [P.25]

Heavy imports causing trade imbalances [P.25]

Import of coal, soapstone allowed till June end [P.25]

Govt approves sugar imports [P.26]

Forex constraints: ECC puts sugar import plan on ice [P.26]

6 # CORPORATE SECTOR

Fertiliser makers, association fined Rs375m [P.26]

7 # INTERNATIONAL AID / LOAN / INVESTMENT

FDI declines by 7.6pc [P.27]

EU to provide €161m to help vulnerable Afghans [P.27]

China rolls over \$3.4 billion loans to Pakistan [P.27]

8 # INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS (IFIs)

8.1 # Asian Development Bank (ADB)

ADB okays \$800m loan to support fiscal reforms [P.28]

Pakistan, ADB sign \$300m 'Subprogram II' loan [P.28]

ADB-backed pact signed for \$1bn with ME banks [P.28]

ADB, UN agencies join hands with Pakistan to implement Pandemic Fund [P.28]

8.2 # International Monetary Fund (IMF)

Shadow of IMF looms over development kitty [P.29]

8.3 # World Bank

PRR project: WB approves additional \$70m credit [P.29]

Loans approved for education, water access and women's empowerment [P.29]

Water, education: WB Board approves \$194m for two Balochistan projects [P.29]

Flood project Govt seeks \$31m financing boost from WB [P.30]

9 # POLICY

9.1 # Developmental Policy

Provinces take the lead on Rs4.2tr in uplift spending [P.30]

Rs6.18bn development fund released to PBC in nine months [P.31]

Rs1trn set aside for PSDP [P.31]

Development outlay soars 50pc to Rs4.2trn in 2 years: minister [P.31]

Sindh sets aside Rs1.01tr for uplift [P.31]

KP fattens wallet for development to Rs547bn [P.32]

CDWP clears 10 development projects worth Rs36bn [P.32]

Balochistan govt outlines Rs250bn development plan [P.32]

AJK budget 2025-26: Rs49 billion allocated for annual development programme in Azad Kashmir [P.32]

CDWP clears five projects costing Rs55bn [P.33]

PDWP approves five development schemes [P.33]

9.2 # Neo – Liberal Policy

Privatisation: Rs86.5bn target set [P.33]

10 # SOCIO – ECONOMIC CONDITION

Debt stock reaches all-time high of Rs75trn [P.33]

Economic Survey 2024-25: Growth stumbles as key targets missed [P.34]

Debt grows moderately to Rs76 trillion [P.35]

Jul-Mar govt borrowing slumps 69pc [P.35]

Public debt recorded at Rs76,007bn by end-March [P.35]

10.1 # Food

Three of a family die by wheat pill poisoning [P.36]

Substandard wheat flour sacks inflict Rs594bn loss, food ministry told [P.36]

Every second child in Sindh suffers from stunting, say health experts [P.36]

10.2 # Inflation

May CPI-based inflation increases 3.5pc YoY [P.37]

Inflation projected to remain within range of 4.5-5pc [P.38]

June inflation likely to ease to 3.1pc: report [P.38]

ECC okays up to 50pc hike in gas charges [P.38]

Govt notifies 50pc hike in gas charges [P.38]

10.3 # Poverty

45pc of Pakistanis live below poverty line: WB [P.39]

11 # ENVIRONMENT

11.1 # Atmosphere

‘Karachi produces 394 kilotons of hazardous emissions every year’ [P.39]

Need stressed for recycling waste, nature-friendly options for plastic bags [P.40]

11.2 # Health

‘97pc of Pakistan’s pharmacies fail to store medicines properly’ [P.40]

First polio case from GB takes year’s tally to 11 [P.40]

No new health scheme included in PSDP 2025-26 [P.41]

Healthcare sector gets 8pc boost: Rs326.5bn allocated to improve service delivery

47 environmental samples found positive for polio [P.41]

Number of people living with brain tumours increasing: experts [P.41]

Govt hikes health development budget by 131 per cent [P.42]

Another polio case takes year’s tally to 12 [P.42]

Over 60pc diseases caused by contaminated potable water: minister [P.42]

Pakistan among nations lagging in child immunisation, study reveals [P.42]

Teenager becomes year’s fourth victim of brain-eating amoeba in Sindh [P.43]

Health insurance to be withdrawn from govt hospitals [P.43]

12 # CLIMATE CHANGE

Water scarcity, climate change trigger migration from coastal areas [P.43]

‘Coal-based plants major drivers of heatwaves’ [P.44]

Move to protect people of coastal areas from climate change [P.44]

12.1 # Climate Financing

8pc of uplift budget for climate change [P.44]

Pakistan’s climate change to hit GDP: WB report [P.45]

13 # CLIMATE DISASTERS

Warnings of an existential climate threat [P.46]

1980-2024: Natural disasters inflict \$36.4bn damage [P.47]

13.1 # Drought

Drought is a national emergency, warns Sherry Rehman [P.47]

13.2 # Flood

Swat river tragedy: death toll rises to 11 [P.48]

13.3 # Heatwave

Extreme heat sears cities across the country [P.48]

13.4 # Rainfall

Lightning claims life in Bajaur [P.49]

10 killed as downpour inundates Punjab cities [P.49]

Three die as heavy rain lashes twin cities for second consecutive day [P.49]

17 killed as rains wreak havoc across KP [P.49]

Floods, heavy rains kill 32 in two days [P.49]

Four more die as rain, power outages continue in Karachi [P.49]

Rain, flash floods kill 40, including 18 children, across Pakistan [P.50]

Two killed, seven injured as heavy rain wreaks havoc in Sheikhupura [P.50]

21 die in rain-related incidents in KP: PDMA [P.50]

13.5 # Wildfire

Wildfire ravages 35km forest area in Kirthar range [P.50]

Wildfire destroys pine nut, olive trees in Balochistan's Sherani [P.51]

14 # NATURAL DISASTER

14.1 # Earthquake

Karachi experiences 3.6-magnitude quake with Quaidabad as epicentre [P.51]

More tremors jolt parts of Karachi for third day [P.51]

Two more low-intensity tremors hit Karachi [P.51]

Karachi continues to face low-intensity tremors [P.51]

Low-intensity tremors hit Karachi, Gwadar and Ormara [P.52]

Three more tremors felt in parts of Karachi [P.52]

4.7-magnitude quake rocks Pasni, mild tremors felt in Karachi [P.52]

Five more low-intensity tremors felt in Karachi [P.52]

Two more tremors jolt city [P.52]

Karachi jolted by four more tremors [P.52]

Twin quakes jolt Balochistan; several houses collapse, [P.52]

15 # RESISTANCE

Schoolteachers across Gilgit-Baltistan protest denial of promotions [P.53]

Peshawarites stage rally against 'custodial killing' [P.53]

Karachi healthcare providers rally to express solidarity with Gaza [P.53]

Rally held in Sanghar against corporate farming, canals [P.54]
Gilgit-Baltistan traders block KKH for fifth consecutive day [P.54]
Apcra rallies for pay rise, benefits [P.54]
PTI rallies farmers for decisive protest to fix agri sector [P.54]
Couple's murder sparks protest [P.55]
Farmers protest dry canal, allege water theft [P.55]
Women protest prolonged power outages in Kotri [P.55]
BYC workers continue their hunger strike in Turbat [P.55]
SUP marches against corporate farming [P.56]
Health workers continue sit-in, demand restoration of risk allowance [P.56]
Protests erupt against power outages in KP amid heat wave [P.56]
Excessive power cuts spark public outrage in KP [P.57]
Quadcopter strike in South Waziristan protested [P.57]
Police briefly detain govt employees protesting for pay hikes, promotions in Karachi
Govt employees violently clash with police in Quetta [P.57]
Rally staged from Jhimpir to Makli for rights of locals [P.58]
Police briefly detain govt employees protesting for pay hikes, promotions in Karachi
Erstwhile Fata & PATA: Traders observe shutter-down strike against imposition of ST
Swat residents protest deaths in flooded river [P.58]
Fisherfolk, rights activists rally for climate justice, debt cancellation [P.58]

1 # AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION RESOURCES

Pakistan gets help for precision agri initiative

The Green Climate Fund (GCF) will assist Pakistan in enhancing its capacity for precision agriculture by establishing a centralised knowledge management system at the University of Agriculture in Faisalabad. This initiative aims to implement and promote precision agriculture practices that will contribute to climate resilience in Punjab and Gilgit-Baltistan. Under the project, a comprehensive 'Readiness Action Plan' will be developed to enhance institutional capacities, address policy gaps, and promote climate-smart agriculture using precision tools.

Precision agriculture helps avoid unwanted practices in crop production by reducing labour, water, fertilization, and pesticides, thereby ensuring quality produce. It recommends site-specific management interventions to maximize yield and reduce input costs, utilizing digital support systems. Pakistan lacks a standardised framework or coherent strategy for promoting and implementing precision agriculture as a climate resilience measure.

Pakistan faces significant climatic threats impacting agriculture, including increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather events like floods, droughts, and erratic monsoon rains. The projected recession of glaciers threatens water inflows into the Indus River System, essential for irrigation. Rising temperatures and water stress in arid regions are expected to reduce agricultural productivity, while saline water intrusion in the Indus Delta will adversely affect coastal agriculture. Precision agriculture offers a promising solution by optimising resource use and minimizing environmental impact through technologies like GPS-guided equipment, automated irrigation, and drones. (*Dawn, June 1st, 2025, Page 9*)

Agricultural sector teetering on the brink, warn stakeholders

The Pakistan Kissan Ittehad (PKI) has issued a stark warning regarding an escalating agricultural crisis that has gripped nation since May 2024, resulting in unprecedented financial losses for farmers and a severe downturn in the country's vital agricultural sector. According to data compiled by the PKI, farmers have collectively sustained a staggering compound loss of approximately Rs2,200 billion in wheat alone between May 2024 and May 2025. This colossal figure represents a significant 23.15 per cent of the total crop sector's contribution to GDP, which stood at Rs9,500 billion for FY24. The immense financial strain has severely curtailed farmers' purchasing power, consequently hindering productivity across other critical crops.

"The agricultural sector, the backbone of our economy, is teetering on the brink," stated Khalid Mahmood Khokhar, President of Pakistan Kissan Ittehad. "The past year has been catastrophic for our farmers, with plummeting prices and unsustainable production

costs pushing many to the wall. This crisis is not merely an agricultural issue; it's a national emergency that demands immediate and decisive action." The crisis extends beyond wheat, with other key crops experiencing significant setbacks. According to PKI, cotton production has plummeted to 5.55m bales this year, a staggering 50pc below target and 34pc lower than the previous year. This drastic decline is projected to inflate the cotton import bill to an alarming \$1.9bn, a massive leap from \$448 million last year.

Likewise, the 2025 wheat production is estimated at 28.98 million tonnes, an 8.91pc reduction from last year's 31.81m tonnes, representing a shortfall of 2.82m tonnes. This reduction alone accounts for an estimated loss of Rs250bn based on international market values, it claims. Maize production has declined by 15.4pc to 8.24m tonnes from 9.74m tonnes last year, while sugarcane production has decreased to 84.24m tonnes from 87.64m tonnes. Mr Khokhar says that the overall production of important crops has seen a collective decrease of 13.49pc in FY25, and the overall agricultural sector growth has nosedived from 6.25pc to a mere 0.56pc since July 2024, highlighting the severe contraction of the sector.

The impact of these production shortfalls is reflected in the nation's trade balance for food items. While Pakistan's raw food exports slightly decreased to \$6.16bn during July-April 2024-25 compared to \$6.23bn last year, the food import bill surged to nearly \$7bn in the first 10 months of the current fiscal year, up from \$6.82bn in the same period last year. This widening gap underscores the nation's increasing reliance on food imports, further straining its foreign exchange reserves. Adding insult to injury, the current tax structure places an unfair burden on local farmers, he bemoans. There is zero General Sales Tax (GST) on imported cotton bales, while locally produced seed cotton is subjected to an 18pc GST, creating a disadvantage for domestic growers.

The PKI recommends abolishing further tax burden on the agricultural sector as it cannot withstand any additional tax in the form of GST or Federal Excise Duty (FED). It also urges the government to immediately announce support or indicative prices for all crops to prevent the exploitation of farmers. It demands a robust, efficient, and transparent commodity price mechanism, guaranteeing farmers at least a 25pc return on investment (ROI). The 18pc GST on locally produced seed cotton must be abolished immediately to protect cotton growers. Also the 14pc GST on tractors and 18pc on tractor-mounted implements should be abolished without delay, and electricity tariffs for the agricultural sector should be standardised at Rs10 per unit (one unit, one rate). (*Dawn, June 7th, 2025 Page 9*)

Agriculture a major loser

The country's agriculture sector showed a combination of resilience and challenges across all its sub-sectors during 2024-25, and despite climatic challenges, recorded a mere growth of 0.56 per cent, primarily driven by a 4.72pc sustained growth in livestock, according to the Pakistan Economic Survey 2024-25. All important crops

declined by 13.49pc due to reduced cultivation area and adverse weather conditions, leading to a decline of 30.7pc in cotton, 8.9pc in wheat, 3.9pc in sugarcane, 15.4pc in maize, and 1.4pc in rice. Important crops accounted for 17.82pc of the value added in the agriculture sector and contributed 4.19pc to the national GDP, while other crops contributed 13.88pc to agricultural value addition, and 3.27pc to GDP.

The growth trend emphasises the sector's enduring importance, while also highlighting the urgent need for modernisation, climate adaptation, knowledge enhancement, and productivity improvements to sustain its contribution to economic growth and social well-being, the survey says. Although the growth of 0.56pc is below the historical average, it is notable given the recently challenging climatic conditions. With livestock, the other two sub-sectors which recorded growth were 1.42pc expansion in the fisheries and 3.03pc growth in forestry.

Livestock remains the most dynamic and resilient sub-sector of Pakistan's agriculture, integrated into rural livelihood. Engaging over eight million rural households, it contributes significantly (approximately 30-40pc) to their incomes. Livestock continues to dominate Pakistan's agricultural landscape. Herd sizes grew moderately across major species. Cattle and buffalo populations reached 59.7m and 47.7m, respectively. The crop sub-sector, which historically remained principal growth driver, faced headwinds during fiscal year 2025. It registered a contraction of 6.82pc, largely due to the decline in important crops by 13.49pc and in cotton ginning by 19pc. Other crops, however, registered a positive growth of 4.78pc, which highlights potential for diversification.

The volatile performance of cotton crop highlighted agriculture sector's vulnerability to temperature fluctuations, varying rainfall, policy shifts and input availability. In the previous year, crop growth had been exceptionally strong at 10.85pc. This was followed by a decline of 1.17pc during fiscal year 2023, illustrating the cyclical nature of the sector and its inherent capacity to rebound when conditions are favourable. In FY25, important crops accounted for 17.8pc of the value added in the agriculture sector and contributed 4.2pc to the national GDP. Meanwhile, other crops contributed 13.9pc to agricultural value addition and 3.3pc to GDP.

Sugarcane cultivation in Pakistan covered 1.19m hectares of land, depicting a 1.1pc increase from previous year. Despite a slight expansion in the area, sugarcane production registered a modest decline of 3.88pc, falling to 84.24m tonnes, primarily due to reduced rainfall and high temperature. Moreover, area under rice cultivation expanded to 3.90m hectares, reflecting a growth of 7.2pc. Despite an increase in cultivated area, production volume experienced a marginal decline of 1.38pc, falling to 9.72m tonnes. (*Dawn, June 10th, 2025, Page 9*)

Agri sector misses growth target

Pakistan's agriculture sector has missed its growth target for the outgoing fiscal year, expanding by just 0.56 percent against the projected two percent, according to the

Economic Survey 2024-25 released. The survey noted that during 2024-25, the dismal performance is largely attributed to a significant decline in the production of major crops, including wheat by 8.9 percent, cotton by 30.7 percent, sugarcane by 3.9 percent, Maize by 1.4 percent and Maize by 15.4 percent.

It further stated that the agriculture sector's growth was largely supported by 4.72 percent growth in livestock, 1.42 percent expansion in the Fisheries and 3.03 percent growth in forestry. The important crops accounted for 17.82 percent of the value added in the agriculture sector and contributed 4.19 percent to the national gross domestic product (GDP). Meanwhile, other crops contributed 13.88 percent to agricultural value addition and 3.27 percent to GDP, it said. During 2024-25 total estimated wheat production is 28.98 million tons, marking an 8.9 percent decline from the record-high harvest of 31.81 million tons in the outgoing year. The decline in production was due to reduction of 6.5 percent in the cultivated area, which decreased to 9.10 million hectares and high temperatures in the sowing season.

According to the economic survey, Pakistan's cotton sector could not maintain its performance due to above-average rainfall during monsoon, late sowing, and reduced sowing area. The area under cotton cultivation declined to 2.04 million hectares from 2.4 million hectares in the previous year, depicting a contraction of 15.7 percent. It said that production volumes dropped by 30.7 percent from 10.22 million bales to 7.08 million bales, depicting a reversal after recovery seen in the previous year. During 2024-25, sugarcane cultivation in Pakistan covered 1.19 million hectares of land, depicting a 1.1 percent increase from previous year. Despite the slight expansion in the area, sugarcane production registered a decline of 3.88 percent, falling to 84.24 million tons, primarily due to reduced rainfall and high temperature.

It said that rice production also saw a decline despite an increase in area under cultivation. Area under rice cultivation expanded to 3.90m hectares, reflecting a growth of 7.2pc. Despite an increase in cultivated area, production volume experienced a decline of 1.38pc, falling to 9.72m tons, the survey noted that maize crop was cultivated at 1.44m hectares. Production of maize is estimated at 8.24m tones, marking a decline of 15.4pc from previous year's 9.74m tons. The decrease was primarily due to reduced sowing area. It said that the area and production of other crops of Kharif and Rabi show mixed trends. During 2024-2025, bajra and gram production declined by 14.3pc and 16.3pc, respectively.

Similarly, jowar and moong experienced production declines of 2.6pc and 14.4pc, mainly due to reductions in cultivated area. However, mash, onion and potato witnessed an increase of 4.7pc, 15.9pc and 11.5pc, respectively, the survey noted that livestock sector posted 4.72pc growth. The sector accounts for 63.6pc of agriculture's value addition and contributes 14.97pc to GDP. The livestock sector accounts for approximately 2.9pc of total exports, through trade of meat, live animals, and animal-

based products it said. It said that cattle and buffalo populations reached 59.7 million and 47.7 million, respectively. Goat and sheep populations have also rose, as these small ruminants are well-suited to smallholder farmers and areas with limited water availability, it said. The survey noted that Pakistan's gross milk production remained 72.34 million tons, reflecting a 3.2 percent annual increase, driven by higher yields and increased livestock population. Buffalo milk remains the dominant contributor at 43.13 million tons, followed by cow milk at 27.08 million tons, it said.

According to the economic survey 2024-25 in the meat segment, total production remained 5.97 million tons, registering a growth of 2.7 percent over the last year. The increase was primarily attributed to poultry meat, which showed the strongest growth (9.4 percent), reaching 2.58 million tons, due to intensified production practices and rising consumer preference. Beef and mutton outputs are measured at 2.55 million tons and 0.84 million tons, respectively, with steady but slower growth rates. (*Business Recorder, June 10th, 2025, Page 1*)

Agri resources: PKRC urges govt to abandon corporate farming

The Pakistan Kissan Rabita Committee (PKRC) termed the '2025 Economic Survey' a wake-up call and called upon the government to abandon corporate farming and military control over agricultural resources and redistribute public agricultural lands among landless farmers, especially women and youth in plots of up to 12.5 acres. PKRC General Secretary Farooq Tariq, while commenting on Economic Survey of Pakistan 2024-25, said according to the survey, the agriculture sector recorded a meagre growth rate of just 0.56–0.6pc in past year - the lowest in the last nine years. Without moderate growth in livestock (4.72%), fisheries (1.42%), and forestry (3.3%), dismal performance of major crops would have dragged the overall sector into even deeper decline.

The most staggering drop occurred in major crops, whose collective production fell by 13.49 percent. Cotton suffered a massive 30.7 percent decline with its cultivated area shrinking by 15.7 percent. Cotton ginning was also declined by 19 percent, compounding the crisis. Wheat production declined by 8.9 percent, primarily because the government, despite earlier promises, refused to purchase wheat from farmers at PKR 3,900 per 40 kg, leaving growers in despair. Other critical crops like sugarcane, rice, and maize also registered declines ranging from one percent to 15 percent.

In December 2024, Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz claimed that wheat had been cultivated on 16.5 million acres—achieving 82 percent of the province's target. However, ground realities have proven otherwise. All major farmer organizations had already criticized the government's failure to procure wheat at the promised support price and warned that growers were abandoning wheat cultivation. Instead of acknowledging its policy failures, the government blames climate change: erratic monsoons, delayed sowing, and extreme heat. But the reality is that the government's neoliberal agricultural policies have failed miserably.

By exposing farmers to whims of the free market and refusing to implement meaningful protections, these policies have caused a steep drop in production, Farooq Tariq added. He said for the first time, the survey admits that cultivated area has decreased - especially for cotton and wheat. This has had a direct impact on national food security. Agriculture contributes 23–24% to Pakistan’s GDP and provides employment to 37 percent of the workforce. A crisis in this sector affects the entire economy.

Suggesting ways to strengthen the agricultural sector, PKRC General Secretary also proposed a ban on new canals, particularly those impacting Indus River system, legal implementation of Minimum Support Prices (MSP), starting with wheat at PKR 4,000 per 40kg and a ban on private wheat imports and strengthening PASSCO for public procurement. He also called for accountability for the wheat crisis, including arrest and investigation of hoarders and speculators, regulation of agricultural markets to prevent price volatility, rejecting IMF and WTO policies that undermine farmers; rebuilding public procurement systems and ensuring real access to interest-free loans for small farmers, while excluding agri-businesses and banks from subsidies. (*Business Recorder, June 11th, 2025, Page 1*)

Agriculture concerns

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif appears relieved that IMF did not turn down Pakistan’s request to exempt fertilisers and pesticides from new taxes in the recently announced budget. “We had made it clear that we will not impose taxes on agriculture [inputs], particularly on fertilisers and pesticides, as this sector is already under pressure,” he told a cabinet meeting recently. The lender had wanted the federal excise duty to be doubled from 5pc to 10pc on fertilisers besides imposing a levy of 5pc on pesticides. The two levies would have yielded Rs30-40bn in tax revenues, increasing the cost of critical inputs for growers, especially the smallholders. The 12pc year-over-year reduction in the urea off-take during the winter crop cycle this year compared to the previous one shows that input prices have played a major role in the tumbling crop sector, which contracted by 6.8pc, restricting farm sector growth to 0.56pc and overall GDP expansion to 2.6pc against a budgeted target of 3.6pc for the outgoing year.

With industry declining in Pakistan due to several factors, including tight fiscal conditions, the push for moderately higher GDP growth next year hinges on a rebound in agriculture, especially the crop sector. Pakistan is pursuing an economic growth rate of 4.2pc during the next year, a target that cannot be met unless commodity sectors expand by 4.4pc, driven by a 4.5pc rebound in agriculture and 3.5pc expansion in large-scale manufacturing. Besides, agriculture continues to play a pivotal role in economic resilience and rural livelihood, contributing 23.5pc to the national GDP and employing over 37pc of the labour force. Given its importance for the economy and employment, it is crucial to unleash true potential of agriculture by reducing input costs, encouraging mechanisation and modern irrigation methods, providing cheap credit, and increasing investments in the development of new seed varieties to boost yields. These measures

are necessary to revive the farm sector and help small farmers, in view of the impact of climate change on agriculture and the recent government decision to exit wheat market.

The ‘relief’ provided by the IMF to the farmers also underlines the fact that the Fund is not averse to foregoing its harsher revenue conditions provided the government is able to put together a credible tax plan by broadening the base, and effectively taxing the untaxed and under-taxed areas of the economy to meet the core funding programme goal of debt sustainability. The resistance within the ruling PML-N to making retailers, real estate, big farmers, professionals like lawyers and doctors, etc share the burden, is unfortunate. The state can hardly go on sustaining itself unless everyone starts paying their taxes irrespective of the source of income. Delaying action could be suicidal. (*Dawn, June 24th, 2025, Page 6*)

Agriculture comes under renewed focus

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif vowed to revamp country’s agriculture sector through sustainable reforms, amid growing criticism from opposition parties over its perceived decline. Chairing a high-level meeting on agricultural reform, Sharif directed authorities to begin a phased reduction in taxes on farm machinery and equipment to encourage mechanisation nationwide. Describing agriculture as the backbone of national economy, Sharif said the proposed reforms aim to raise per-acre yield, cut production costs, and drive broader economic growth. He also called for expedited efforts to expand storage capacity for agricultural produce. Welcoming funding commitments from provincial governments for new agricultural initiatives, the prime minister said the projects would help accelerate sectoral development. He expressed hope that agriculture students and scientists currently studying in China would return to contribute as entrepreneurs.

Sharif assured that no new taxes would be imposed on fertilisers or pesticides in the upcoming fiscal year, underscoring the government’s commitment to keeping input costs stable and supporting farmers. The prime minister said improving productivity, modernising infrastructure, and ensuring access to affordable credit were central to the government’s reform agenda. He stressed that progress in agriculture would directly benefit rural communities. Officials briefed Sharif on National Agriculture Innovation and Growth Action Plan, which targets increased production, better infrastructure, and expanded access to agricultural credit. The briefing also noted efforts to boost exports of value-added agricultural products and foster innovation. Under the National Technology Fund’s “Ignite” initiative, 129 agriculture-related start-ups have been launched so far. (*Business Recorder, June 26th, 2025, Page 1*)

1.1 # Land

Houses torched, women & children beaten up over land dispute

Multiple houses were set on fire and the inmates, including women and children, beaten up in an attack allegedly by dozens of armed men from Mahar community on Mangria community members, in the Ratanur Road area. The survivors narrated horrific scenes

of women being dragged out of their homes, beaten up, children left crying after their homes were reduced to ashes. Affected women tearfully stated that their families had been left homeless and traumatized while the authorities have failed to register their FIR despite repeated attempts. Allah Bachayo Mangrio shared that the conflict stemmed from a gesture of goodwill made 20 years ago when his community allowed a man named Wadan Mahar from the Mahar community to build a house in the neighborhood.

Since then, he and others had allegedly been expanding their occupation unlawfully, now seizing over 50,000 square foot of land. He claimed that it was not just a land issue, but a larger plan of occupation by a land mafia operating under the guise of religious sanctity and spirituality. He alleged that members of Mahar community had occupied over 200 acres of government land, fraudulently declaring it as the site of a ziyaratgah associated with the Pir Pagara.

In reality, according to the Mangria community, only two acres would suffice for the actual ziyaratgah. The rest of the land, they say, had been exploited, sold and resold while poor residents were harassed and forced out of their homes. The affected community has staged demonstrations, appealing to the district administration, Sindh government, law enforcement agencies and the Pir Pagara, asking for immediate intervention. (*Dawn, June 20th, 2025, Page 15*)

Six killed over land dispute in Bannu

Six people were killed and three others, including a 14-year-old girl, were injured when armed groups clashed over a property dispute in Sadri Mamandkhel area of Bannu district. (*Dawn, June 23rd, 2025, Page 9*)

1.2 # Peasants

Umerkot court sets 61 bonded peasants at liberty

Police recovered 61 bonded haris (farm workers), including women and children, after conducting raids on farmlands of three landlords in Umerkot and Pithoro talukas. The raids were carried out on the directives of Umerkot sessions court, which issued orders on separate petitions filed by Asan Kolhi, Rashi Kolhi and Sajan Kolhi, who alleged that they and their families were forcibly kept in illegal confinement and made to work without pay by the influential landlords. Following the court's order, Umerkot taluka police raided the farmlands of Sohrab Marri and Mushtaq Dal and Pithoro police raided the lands of Vikram Maheshwari.

Nine people, including women and children, of Kolhi community were found on Maheshwari's farmland, and 52 were taken into custody at the farmlands of Sohrab Marri and Mushtaq Dal, said police. The petitioners alleged that they were forcibly kept in illegal confinement, made to do labour, were denied food and not provided with any record of their earnings or accounts of their spending. However, police stated in their report that they found no physical structures resembling private jails at the raided

locations, the ‘bonded’ farm workers were recovered from their residences and brought to the court along with their belongings as per order. The court, however, set all the bonded labourers at liberty and allowed them to live their lives as they wished. (*Dawn, June 15th, 2025, Page 15*)

1.3 # Water

New water reservoirs for corporate farming opposed

The Awami Tehreek (AT) has strongly opposed a federal government’s decision to build new water reservoirs, calling the move an anti-Sindh scheme designed to raise more dams over the Indus River. In a joint statement, AT said the plan to build the new water reservoirs as well as six canals was a conspiracy to deprive Sindh of its rightful water share and render province barren. They accused the Punjab rulers of maintaining a rigid and oppressive stance towards Sindh, reminiscent of the treatment once meted out to Bengal. The leaders pointed out that the Indus River was already on the brink of collapse, with no water being released downstream Kotri Barrage, leading to the destruction of the Indus Delta. While the people of Sindh suffered from severe water shortages, the federal government continued to pursue dam construction.

The AT rejected the Dam Fund Committee formed by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and demanded an immediate halt to all new water reservoir projects. The statement also criticised the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) for its alleged complicity in these plans, accusing Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah of betraying the Sindhi nation by silently endorsing the federal government’s initiatives. The AT leaders also condemned the corporate farming projects being introduced under what they said the guise of water management, asserting that those initiatives served only to benefit large landowners and corporate interests at the expense of Sindh’s people, lands and resources. The statement concluded with a firm pledge that the people of Sindh would continue their peaceful, democratic and political struggle against the corporate farming projects and any new water reservoir schemes imposed on the Indus River. (*Dawn, June 10th, 2025, Page 15*)

Country transitioning to water-scarce status

Pakistan is one of the most water-stressed countries in the world, with an average per capita annual water availability of less than 1,000 cubic meters. According to Economic Survey 2024-25, the country is transitioning from water stressed to water-scarce status driven by population growth, industrial expansion, inefficient irrigation, unsustainable groundwater use, inadequate storage, low water productivity, and poor management efficiency. The survey says that notable fluctuations in rainfall patterns across Pakistan have been observed during 2024-25. Monsoon rainfall (July-September 2024) was significantly above average at 212.1 mm, reflecting a 50.6 percent excess over the long run average. In contrast, post-monsoon (Oct-Dec 2024) and winter rainfall (January-March 2025) experienced substantial deficits of 44.9 percent and 39.9 percent, respectively. These imbalances suggest potential implications for water availability,

crop planning, and reservoir levels, particularly during the Rabi season when winter rainfall is crucial for wheat and other key crops.

Water is important to agriculture, industry, and domestic consumption. Its scarcity poses serious risks to economic growth and social wellbeing across the country, especially to the people living in the least developed areas of the country, where water is in short supply and land is ridden with water-logging and salinity. The surface irrigation system, recognised as the world's largest contiguous irrigated network, features three storage reservoirs with a live storage capacity of 13 MAF, along with 19 barrages, 12 inter-river link canals, 02 siphons, and 44 canal commands. The extensive network of main canals and distributaries spans 64,000 kilometres, complemented by an additional 1,621,000 kilometres of watercourses.

Groundwater is a vital water source, especially in areas with limited or seasonal surface water. Pakistan has an extensive network of wells and tube-wells, especially in the arid regions of Sindh, Balochistan, and Punjab. Groundwater in Sindh is meagre as most aquifers are brackish. Groundwater extraction is crucial for irrigation in many parts of the country, though it is being used at unsustainable rates. Groundwater contributes 50 MAF of water (NWP-2018).

The government needs to invest in modernising irrigation systems, such as adopting drip irrigation, which uses water more efficiently. Additionally, improving maintenance and management of canal systems is crucial. Building new dams and reservoirs, such as Diamer Basha Dam, is critical for improving water storage capacity. These projects will help store water during the monsoon season and release during periods of drought. Main targets for 12 years; i.e., 2018-2030, under the National Water Policy (2018) are: 33 percent reduction (i.e., 15.24 MAF) in the 46 MAF river flows lost in conveyance through watercourses lining, Live storage capacity enhancement of 10 MAF. 30 percent increase in water use efficiency through modern irrigation techniques. (*Business Recorder, June 10th, 2025, Page 1*)

Water level in Khanpur Dam drops to critically low level

The water level in Khanpur Dam has fallen to a critically low level, just eight feet above the dead level, raising alarms about a looming crisis for its civic beneficiaries of Rawalpindi and Islamabad. Water supply for irrigation purposes to both KP and Punjab had already been suspended around a month ago. (*Dawn, June 22nd, 2025, Page 4*)

NAB arrests 58 in multibillion-rupee scandal in Sindh Irrigation Dept

In one of the largest anti-graft crackdowns, the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) has arrested 58 individuals in a corruption case involving over five billion rupees in the Sindh Irrigation Department. (*The News, June 29th, 2025, Page 2*)

2 # AGRICULTURAL INPUTS

No GST on key agri inputs, but farmers want more

Accepting one of the farmer community's biggest demands, the federal government decided to forego the imposition of a general sales tax (GST) on fertiliser and pesticides — both vital inputs — in its budget proposals for the upcoming fiscal year. Still, stakeholders are complaining that it ignored many more demands that it had previously promised it would consider. Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb acknowledged before parliament that the agriculture sector, responsible for 24 per cent of Pakistan's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), had not performed well last year. He assured, however, that the government has extended it a helping hand not only to get it back on its feet, but to keep it up and running.

Sectoral loans have risen from Rs1,785 billion in the first 10 months of the last fiscal year to Rs2,066 in the corresponding period of this year, the minister said. Keeping in view the rising demand, the federal government will be starting a 'Clean Financing Facility' to provide farmers up to Rs100,000 without collateral, with the money transferred directly to their e-wallets. The government has also planned a National Seed Development and Regulatory Authority that will help develop standardised seeds which can withstand climatic changes and improve yields. Pesticides, fertilisers to remain exempt from sales tax, but reviving sectoral growth an uphill task.

Separately, a Punjab government official regretted what he described as 'federal insensitivity', complaining that the budget had fulfilled only one of many promises. "The federation had also promised to cut duties on farm machinery, which is badly needed by the sector; reduce, as far as it could, fertiliser prices; and spearhead research and development initiatives. [Instead], it hid behind jargon and small concessions to escape responsibility, which can only be regretted. Avoiding GST on two inputs, however, is a welcome step," he added. (*Dawn, June 11th, 2025, Page 12*)

2.1 # Agricultural Loan & Finance

Agri financing: HBL gives largest insurance payout to farmers

HBL issued the largest payout of over Rs 10m under the Area Yield Index Insurance program, benefiting farmers in Balochistan and Sindh. This innovative insurance solution is designed to support farmers by providing financial protection against yield losses due to adverse climatic conditions and other agricultural risks. The AYII program offers extensive coverage including windstorms, frost, excessive rainfall, heat waves, hail, floods, droughts, and pest attacks. By providing this safety net, HBL is helping farmers maintain their incomes and contribute to national food security, while also demonstrating leadership in agri financing. (*Business Recorder, June 2nd, 2025, Page 5*)

Agriculture gets 24pc more with Rs80bn allocation

The Punjab government claimed to have spared Rs123 billion for agriculture and its sub-sectors – livestock and irrigation – for next year, saying that "the province has

adopted Farmer Centric Approach” in its budget for 2025-26. For agriculture alone, Rs80bn have been earmarked, which is 24 per cent more than the last year’s allocation, finance minister Mujtaba Shujaur Rehman told the provincial assembly during his budget speech. The province provided 9,500 tractors to farmers under the “Green Tractor Scheme” last year and spent Rs9.7bn on it. It proved to be a tremendous success and the Punjab plans second phase of the scheme this year and has allocated Rs5.5bn for it. Considering the success and contribution of it, a similar “High Power Tractor Programme” is being launched this year at a cost of Rs10bn.

He said Punjab would continue with “Kissan Card” and “Solarisation of Agriculture Tubewells” schemes because of their massive benefits to agriculture and the government is sparing Rs6.3bn and Rs8.7bn, respectively. Last year, the province had provided Rs106bn interest-free loans to around a million farmers, which made on-time purchase of seeds, fertiliser and other inputs possible and helped farming. The minister said the revival of the citrus sector would be made possible with an allocation of Rs1bn, which would not only help revive sector but also increase exports to the world market and earn foreign exchange.

The province would also improve 1,200 water courses at a cost of Rs8bn and Agriculture Farm Mechanisation Programme is there to improve efficiency with the government subsidising seeder, rice transplanters, combine and rice harvesters and balers, with Rs9bn budgetary allocation. Another Rs7bn has been set aside for “Transformation of Agriculture in Pothohar”, which would be spent on efficient water irrigation systems, solar pumps and small dams.

Crops need some form of financial protection. The Punjab is responding with Rs1.5bn for insurance schemes for crops. He said the Punjab is also launching an integrated remodeling plan of barrages and link canals. Rasul-Qadirabad Canal will be re-modeled with Rs1bn. Similarly, Qadirabad-Baloki Link Canal would take another Rs1.2bn for restoration and re-modeling. A Rs9bn New Ravi Syphon would help district Kasur’s irrigation. A small dam, for which Rs4.2bn have been set aside, would help irrigate around 2,280 acres in Rawalpindi district. (*Dawn, June 17th, 2025, Page 2*)

Rs80bn development budget proposed for agriculture

The Punjab government has proposed a sum of Rs 80 billion as the development budget for agriculture, aiming to implement a total of 37 schemes including 21 new and 16 ongoing projects. The ongoing schemes will continue with an estimated allocation of Rs 32.40 billion while the new schemes are proposed to receive Rs 47.598 billion. According to the budget documents, the ongoing schemes include allocations for two each in agricultural education and agricultural research, three schemes related to water management, and one scheme each for the soil survey of Punjab, Pest Warning and Quality Control, and the Agriculture Transformation Plan. In addition, work will continue on six chief minister initiatives with an allocation of over Rs 16.984 billion.

Similarly, 21 new schemes include four for agricultural extension, two for agricultural mechanization, five for agricultural research, one for crop reporting services, and five new schemes under chief minister initiatives. Government has proposed an allocation of Rs 5.5 billion under the Chief Minister's Punjab Green Tractor Program (Phase-II) for the next financial year. Under Phase-I of the same scheme during the current fiscal year, 9,366 farmers have been proposed to receive subsidized green tractors.

Some of the important schemes to be implemented in the next financial year include the Chief Minister Punjab Hi-Tech Farm Mechanization Financing Programme, with an estimated cost of Rs 9 billion over next four years. The government has proposed an allocation of Rs 1.5 billion for next year for this purpose. For water-efficient agriculture, which is a three-year programme, the government intends to spend Rs 8 billion, with an allocation of Rs2bn proposed for the year 2025-26 in the first phase. Under Agricultural Farm Mechanization Project, another 3-year programme with an estimated cost of Rs 7 billion, an allocation of Rs 0.7 billion has been proposed for the first year - 2025-26.

Recounting the steps taken by the incumbent government to support farmers and promote better farming practices for improved yields and a stronger rural economy, the documents state that the government established "Model Agriculture Malls" at a cost of Rs 1.1 billion in four agricultural hubs - Bahawalpur, Multan, Sahiwal, and Sargodha. These malls will provide farmers with a one-stop solution for their agricultural needs, including credit access, agricultural inputs at notified rates, mechanization and advisory services, quality control, and testing. Under the Chief Minister Punjab Kissan Card schemes, government delivered 482,436 Kissan Cards to farmers, who then spent Rs 36.5 billion on purchasing agricultural inputs. 1,050 farmers have been provided with various types of agricultural implements. Under CM's Punjab High Power Tractor Programme, a proposed allocation of Rs 10 billion has been made for the year 2025-26. (*Business Recorder*, June 17th, 2025, Page 12)

High court seeks per acre wheat production cost

The Lahore High Court sought an estimate of per-acre wheat production cost from the Punjab Agriculture Department. Justice Sultan Tanvir was hearing a petition filed by Sardar Zafar Hussain Khan of Pakistan Kissan Board challenging government's failure to fix the official wheat price. The judge directed the agriculture department to submit estimates of the cost of the wheat production for both the current and previous year. The petitioner submitted that 70 per cent of country's population was linked to agriculture making the sector's development crucial for national food security. He stated that last year, wheat was procured at Rs4,000 per 40kg in selected areas but due to delays in the government's policy this year, wheat was being sold in the open market for as low as Rs2,200 per 40kg. As a result the farmers were suffering losses because their cost of production was higher than the market price. The petitioner asked the court to direct the government to immediately fix wheat support price. (*Dawn*, June 18th, 2025, Page 2)

2.2 # Agriculture Machinery & Technology

Agricultural solarisation bill sails through Balochistan Assembly

The Balochistan Assembly adopted the Agricultural Solarisation and Electricity Theft Prevention Bill amid opposition by the leader of opposition who demanded its further review from the standing committee. Parliamentary Secretary Nawabzada Zain Khan Magsi moved the bill during the session presided over by Speaker Abdul Khaliq Achakzai. Despite opposition's resistance, the bill passed by a majority vote, which aims to switch the agricultural tube wells to solar power and impose strict penalties to curb electricity theft. (*Dawn, June 4th, 2025, Page 5*)

Farmers start receiving tractors under wheat support programme

The Punjab government has started distributing green tractors among farmers under its wheat support programme to encourage wheat cultivation across the province. A total of 1,000 tractors are being handed over through a transparent balloting process. Speaking at a distribution ceremony held in Multan as part of the "Grow More Wheat" campaign, Punjab Agriculture Minister Syed Ashiq Hussain Kirmani said the Chief Minister of Punjab has introduced a landmark Rs27 billion package to promote wheat farming and increase production. As part of the wheat production competition, farmers at the provincial level will receive an 85-horsepower tractor for the first prize, a 75-horsepower tractor for second, and a 60-horsepower tractor for third. At the district level, the first prize is Rs1 million, second prize Rs0.8 million, and third prize Rs0.5 million. Under this initiative, farmers with wheat crops on 1 to 12.5 acres are receiving a subsidy of Rs5,000 per acre. The minister added that in the Multan Division, 109 farmers are being given tractors under the campaign.

He also noted that in the first phase of the Green Tractors Programme, 9,500 farmers had already received tractors. In the second phase, 20,000 more tractors will be distributed. Meanwhile, Phase 2 of the Chief Minister Punjab Kisan Card scheme is offering interest-free loans worth Rs100 billion. The maximum loan limit has been raised to Rs300,000, and landholding eligibility increased to 25 acres. Farmers can withdraw 30% of the loan in cash, while 20% is reserved for diesel. To support the scheme, 4,000 registered dealers and over 700 PSO fuel stations have been included in the network. The ceremony was also addressed by Secretary Agriculture Punjab Iftikhar Ali Sahoo. Minister Syed Ashiq Hussain Kirmani handed over keys of the green tractors to successful farmers. (*Business Recorder, June 15th, 2025, Page 5*)

2.3 # Agricultural Taxes

Minister opposes IMF demand of more taxes on agri sector

Sindh Minister for Agriculture Muhammad Baksh Mahar has expressed serious concerns over the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) demand to impose an 18% General Sales Tax (GST) and increase Federal Excise Duty (FED) on fertilisers, sprays, and agricultural machinery. Mahar said, "The IMF's demand is extremely unfair and

anti-farmer, which will prove disastrous for the country's agricultural sector and farmers. The IMF must refrain from proposing additional taxes on the agriculture sector." He emphasised that farmers across the country, including Sindh, are already suffering due to climate change, water scarcity, and low crop prices.

The provincial minister warned that the new taxes would lead to an enormous increase in agricultural production costs, ultimately jeopardising food security. He stated that this would trigger a new wave of inflation in the country. He strongly urged the federal government to persuade the IMF and make it aware of the importance of the agriculture sector. He made it clear, "The IMF's demand is causing severe unrest among farmers, and we vehemently oppose any such proposal." He said that providing facilities to agriculture is the need of the hour instead of imposing additional burdens on it. (*Business Recorder, June 1st, 2025, Page 3*)

KBP critical of taxing farm inputs in budget

The Kisan Board Pakistan (KBP) has rejected the federal budget for taxing farm inputs instead of providing relief to the agriculture sector reeling under what is called failed agricultural policies. KBP Vice President Amanullah Chattha said in a statement that the government admitted in the Economic Survey 2024-25 that agricultural production dropped during the ongoing financial year, reflecting failures of the policies of an agrarian country. He said not only the production of four major crops – wheat, cotton, rice and sugarcane – declined drastically but wheat growers also suffered Rs2,200 billion losses as the crop was sold much below its production cost. "The farmers suffered so much that they are unable to sow the next crop," he added.

He criticised the government for imposing 18pc tax on solar panels, which were being used for agriculture tubewells, while carbon levy was also increased on petroleum products. The all-important urea fertiliser prices had also been increased by Rs200 per bag, he added. He stressed the government reduce the production cost of farmers so that the country could gain economic stability. Meanwhile, the Textile Powerloom Garment Workers Federation criticised the government for increasing taxes on essentials and utilities to be used by the working class but refrained from enhancing the minimum wage for them. (*Dawn, June 12th, 2025, Page 2*)

3 # AGRICULTURAL OUTPUT

'Flawed' govt policies cause sharp contraction in major crops

The Planning Commission has conceded that policy decisions and government measures at both the federal and provincial levels have caused a substantial contraction of 13.5 per cent in major crops this fiscal year, which may lead to increased food imports next year at the expense of precious foreign exchange. In a working paper for the federal budget 2025-26, the Planning Commission also attributed the lower-than-targeted GDP growth to a poor performance of the agriculture sector. "GDP growth for FY25 is recorded at 2.7pc against the target of 3.6pc, primarily due to a massive

contraction in key commodity-producing sectors, including important crops, which witnessed a 13.5pc contraction due to adverse weather conditions, reduced rainfall, input challenges, and policy shift”, the Planning Commission candidly placed on record.

Last year, the government announced a lucrative minimum support price (MSP) for wheat, but the Punjab government subsequently withdrew its support for farmers, leaving them at the mercy of middlemen and market forces. The federal government, as part of the IMF negotiations, later announced its intention to end commodity market interventions and refrain from implementing minimum support prices. The subsequent policy changes, including extended fertiliser subsidies, added salt to the farmers’ pain, causing input challenges as pointed out by the Planning Commission. (*Dawn, June 4th, 2025, Page 9*)

Agri sector witnesses dramatic slowdown: PKIC

The country’s agriculture sector has witnessed a dramatic slowdown, with growth dropping to 0.56 percent from 6.25 percent since July 2024, Pakistan Kissan Ittehad Council (PKIC) President Khalid Mehmood Khokhar said. Addressing at a press conference, he said that the decline in major crop yields has severely impacted both the economy and the livelihoods of farmers. He said that cotton production has dropped to 5.55 million bales — 50 percent below the government’s target and 34 percent less than last year. Cotton import bill is projected to surge to \$1.9 billion, up from \$448 million the previous year, he said. Khokhar said that the country’s wheat production has also suffered, declining by 8.91 percent to 28.98 million tons from last year’s 31.81 million tons. Maize production fell by 15.4 percent to 8.24 million tons, compared to 9.74 million tons in the previous year, he said. Khokhar stated that since May 2024, farmers have collectively suffered losses of around Rs2,200 billion in wheat alone — equivalent to 23.15 percent of the crop sector’s contribution to GDP for the fiscal year 2023–24. The resulting financial strain has weakened farmers’ purchasing power and affected the productivity of other crops as well. (*Business Recorder, June 5th, 2025, Page 3*)

3.1 # Cash Crop

Cotton import bill goes up by 114pc

Amid falling local production, the cotton import bill swelled by 114 per cent in the first 10 months of FY25 compared to the last year. From July to April, the cotton import bill soared to \$2.545 billion, compared to \$1.189bn during the same period last year. According to data released by the State Bank, the significantly low cotton production has become a burden on the economy, particularly affecting exports. At the beginning of the current fiscal year, it was estimated that cotton imports would be around \$1.9bn, but the frequent decline in lint production has increased the import bill. The country witnessed a record trade deficit in April. The rising cotton imports could jeopardise the country’s effort to keep the current account positive by the end of FY25. So far, the current account has a surplus of \$1.88bn in 10MFY25.

The SBP data indicated that cotton imports surged by 58.4pc in the first ten months of FY25 compared to the entire FY24 figure of \$1.6bn. The official data showed that cotton production has decreased to one-third of its peak of 14 million bales. The cotton experts view this massive decline as a major reason for the decline in exports. Despite some growth, the country has failed to boost its exports significantly.

Pakistan faces approximately 29pc reciprocal tariffs on its exports to US. Formal negotiations are underway with Trump administration to seek relief by importing US cotton and soybeans. The US is the single largest export market. To save its exports, Pakistan has chosen to import American products to reduce around \$3bn trade surplus. A significant number of textile units have already shut down, primarily due to higher electricity tariffs, in fact, the highest in the region. With the shortage of domestic cotton and high costs, textile exports are unlikely to surpass the \$16.6bn threshold recorded in FY24. The textile sector accounted for 54pc of the country's total exports. (*Dawn, June 1st, 2025, Page 9*)

Govt taking steps to support cotton farmers, industry

Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb informed the National Assembly that the government has decided to withdraw sales tax and duty exemptions on imported cotton and yarn to support local cotton farmers and revive the domestic textile industry. In his winding-up speech on the debate on the Finance Bill 2024-25, he said the government had introduced an export facilitation scheme several years ago that allowed exporters to import raw materials duty- and tax-free to boost exports. However, he added that data from the past three years revealed a significant price gap between imported cotton and yarn and locally produced goods, which negatively impacted cotton farmers.

By removing these exemptions, Aurangzeb said the move is aimed at increasing local cotton production, rejuvenating spinning mills, and conserving foreign exchange reserves. He also announced Rs36 billion in additional tax measures for the fiscal year 2025-26 to compensate for revenue shortfalls caused by a reduction in sales tax on solar panels, while outlining a series of fiscal adjustments and social spending initiatives aimed at stabilising the economy and promoting inclusive growth. (*Business Recorder, June 24th, 2025, Page 1*)

Hybrid cotton trials begin after ban lifted

The lifting of the longstanding ban on hybrid cotton technology has paved the way for what many industry stakeholders see as a potential turnaround for Pakistan's cotton sector, with several seed development companies initiating large-scale trials of hybrid varieties across country. Field trials are currently underway in both Punjab and Sindh, with experts projecting that hybrid cotton could fully revitalise national output within the next three to four years. Pakistan's cotton industry had been held back for over five decades by a lack of access to hybrid technology despite its regulatory approval in 2010.

The recent removal of this restriction has triggered a coordinated effort to help the country catch up with global leaders in cotton production, including India, China, the United States, Uzbekistan and Ethiopia. Initial trial data is reported to be highly encouraging. While hybrid cotton varieties have a lower plant population — around 8,500 plants per acre compared to 17,000 for conventional varieties — they are demonstrating markedly higher boll formation. Hybrid plants are producing an average of 250 to 300 bolls each, compared to 150 to 200 bolls in traditional varieties. (*Dawn, June 29th, 2025, Page 9*)

Mango production in RYK hit by climate change, water shortage

Climate change, shortage of irrigation water and weather conditions suitable for pest attack reduced the mango yield by up to 45pc this year. The most affected variety is Chaunsa, which is also called Samar Bahisht in Rahim Yar Khan and Multan areas. Similarly, the impact of Iran-Israel war has also totally suspended the export of Sindhri mango variety, a favourite in Iran. There are many mango orchards in Rahimabad, Bhong, Jamaldinwali, Sheikh Wahan, Yousafabad, Mianwali Qureshian, Sardar Garh, Zahirpir, Khanbela and Taranda Muhammad Pannah in district Rahim Yar Khan where the fruit is cultivated on over more than 60,000 acres of land.

According to the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (Smeda), there are around 2,300 to 2,500 orchards of medium and large size growing in Rahim Yar Khan and there about 2,300 growers in the area. Some sources give the estimate of total mango production from Rahim Yar Khan alone as 250,000 to 300,000 tonnes. Although the mango orchard owners have mainly the variety of Chaunsa, which is most sweet and delicious and popular among most of the people in the country, there are also other varieties, including Dussehri, Malda, Lahotlya, Anwar Ratol, Langra, Sanglafia, Tota Pari, Kala Chaunsa, Sufaid Chaunsa and Desi. The yield of Dussehri, Sindhri and Anwar Ratol is less by up to 30pc but the most affected variety is Chaunsa, says Jam Farooq Ahmed Ganga, a mango orchard owner in Yousufabad in Rahim Yar Khan along the National Highway. He says that last year the mango yield was comparatively better but it is 40 to 50pc less than normal this year. (*Dawn, June 21st, 2025, Page 2*)

4 # SUB – AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIONS

4.1 # Dairy

Dairy industry wants GST cut to 5pc

The Pakistan Dairy Association has warned that continuation of heavy taxation on milk and milk products is not only inflating prices for consumers but also hampering the industry's export potential. The association described the 18pc sales tax, imposed in the federal budget for 2024-25 and retained for the next fiscal year, as an "existential threat" to the formal dairy sector. Addressing a press conference representatives from Friesland Campina, Tetra Pak, and Nestlé Pakistan stressed that milk is widely recognised as an essential food item and is either exempted from tax or minimally taxed in over 100

countries. PDA Chairman Usman Zaheer Ahmad said that the combination of high taxation and escalating operational costs had caused a sharp drop in packaged milk sales. “Households are directly affected, with the price of packaged milk rising from Rs280 to Rs350 per litre — making it the most expensive staple in many homes,” he said, adding that demand has fallen by over 20pc, further complicating efforts to expand exports. The PDA has proposed slashing the GST on packaged milk from 18pc to 5pc and introducing a 2pc tax on retailers selling unregulated, open milk to address both fiscal and health concerns. (*Dawn*, June 25th, 2025, Page 9)

4.2 # Fisheries

Halal seafood industry: Pakistan, Vietnam agree to expand cooperation

Pakistan and Vietnam have agreed to expand cooperation in the Halal seafood industry, signalling a new chapter in bilateral trade relations between the two countries. To this end, a key meeting was held between the Ambassador of Vietnam to Pakistan, Pham Anh Tuan, representatives of Pakistan Fisheries Exporters Association, and Pangasius fish importers with Director General of Marine Fisheries Department Dr. Mansoor Ali Wassan. Dr Wassan informed the participants that Pakistan’s seafood exports to Vietnam reached US \$9 million in 2024, a 20 percent increase over the previous year. He also highlighted Pakistan’s expanding capabilities in aquaculture and Halal-certified fish processing. He remarked, “Setting an annual export target of \$25–30 million within next five years is not only realistic but also strategically advantageous for diversifying Pakistan’s marine export portfolio.” (*Business Recorder*, June 30th, 2025, Page 12)

4.3 # Livestock

ICCBS, govt ink MoU on livestock disease control

The provincial government and the International Centre for Chemical and Biological Sciences, Karachi University, joined hands to enhance cooperation in the surveillance and control of livestock diseases and zoonotic infections. The collaboration falls under the one health concept — a multisectoral approach aimed at achieving optimal health outcomes by recognising the interconnection between people, animals, plants and their shared environment. The MoU emphasises on the genome sequencing of major disease-causing pathogens, including the foot and mouth disease virus. It also includes vaccine matching studies to evaluate the efficacy of current vaccines. Both institutions agreed to collaborate on the development of modern vaccines based on virus-like particles technology for more effective disease control. (*Dawn*, June 25th, 2025, Page 14)

5 # TRADE

Trade deficit

According to the PBS data, imports grew 7.30pc to \$53.450bn in July-May FY25 from \$49.815bn over the last year. Imports rose 5.23pc to \$5.172bn in May from \$4.915bn. Month-on-month, imports decreased 7.58pc. IMF revised its import forecast downward by \$3.3bn from \$60.5bn to \$57.2bn for FY25, converging with the government’s

projection of \$57.3bn. In FY24, imports decreased 0.84pc to \$54.73bn compared to \$55.19bn in FY23. The trade deficit in July-May FY25 widened by 10.63pc to \$24.005bn from \$21.698bn over the last year. In May, the deficit increased by 26.16pc to \$2.619bn from \$2.076bn last year. The trade gap contracted to \$24.08bn in FY24 from \$27.47bn in the preceding year. (*Dawn, June 5th, 2025, Page 9*)

Jul-May exports up 5.15pc

Pakistan's exports have witnessed an increase of 5.15 percent during the first 11 months (July–May) of fiscal year 2024-25, reaching \$29.564 billion compared to \$28.117 billion in the same period last year, according to advance releases on external trade statistic for the month of May 2025 released by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS). Imports also recorded a rise of 7.50 percent totalling \$53.55 billion, up from \$49.815 billion in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal year. In May 2025, exports stood at \$2.672 billion, reflecting a 22.91 percent year-on-year increase from \$2.174 billion in April 2024. Meanwhile, imports in May 2025 reached \$5.273 billion, as compared to \$5.596 billion in April, 2025 showing a decrease of 5.77 percent over April, 2025 but an increase of 7.28 percent as compared to \$4.915 billion in May, 2024.

The exports \$2.672 billion in May witnessed a decrease of 5.88 percent as compared to \$2.839 million in May, 2024. Main commodities of exports during May, 2025 were Knitwear with Rs123.121 billion), readymade garments with Rs105.420 billion, bed wear with Rs75.937 billion, rice and others Rs50.707 billion, cotton cloth with Rs38,147 billion, towels Rs25.939 billion, madeup articles excl towels and bed wear Rs19.895 billion, basmati rice Rs16.682 billion, fish and fish preparations Rs15.908 billion, and cotton yarn Rs11.976 billion. Based on the provisional figures of imports and exports the balance of trade in May, 2025 was recorded at \$2.601 billion. The balance of trade figures cumulative from July-May, 2024-2025 was recorded at \$23.986 billion. (*Business Recorder, June 19th, 2025, Page 12*)

Trade gap with nine states widens to \$11.17bn

Pakistan's trade deficit with nine neighbouring countries widened by 32.82 per cent to \$11.17 billion during the first 11 months of the current fiscal year (FY25), up from \$8.41bn in the same period a year earlier. While exports to Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka recorded notable growth — buoyed in part by changing political dynamics in the region — the overall trade gap continued to expand due to surging imports, particularly from China, India and Bangladesh. The most concerning trend for policymakers remains the sustained decline in exports to China, Pakistan's largest trading partner in the region, despite imports from the country surging. This has further deepened the bilateral trade imbalance, with similar patterns observed in trade with India and Bangladesh.

In FY24, Pakistan's trade deficit with these nine neighbours stood at \$9.506bn, reflecting a 49pc increase from \$6.382bn in FY23. According to data compiled by the

State Bank of Pakistan, exports to the region in July-May FY25 edged up 0.98pc to \$4.085bn from \$4.045bn in the same period last year. In contrast, imports jumped 22.52pc to \$15.255bn from \$12.451bn a year ago. A deeper analysis reveals that imports from China surged 22.59pc to \$14.890bn in July-May FY25 from \$12.146bn. In FY24, imports from China had already risen 39.78pc to \$13.506bn from \$9.662bn the previous year. China accounts for the bulk of Pakistan's regional imports, followed by India and Bangladesh. Exports to China, however, fell 11.18pc to \$2.270bn in the first 11 months of FY25, down from \$2.556bn in the same period last year.

Imports from India rose 11.82pc to \$211.42m during July-May FY25, compared to \$189.07m a year earlier. In FY24, these imports totalled \$206.89m, up from \$190.04m in FY23. Meanwhile, exports to India remained negligible at \$0.51m in 11MFY25, compared to \$3.43m last year. In FY24, Pakistan's exports to India stood at \$3.669m, having risen sharply from \$0.329m in the preceding year. Exports to Afghanistan grew significantly by 41.39pc to \$723.44m, up from \$511.63m in the previous year. Imports from Afghanistan also increased sharply by 142pc to \$24.72m from \$10.18m. Pakistan's main export to Afghanistan during FY25 was sugar, with over 700,000 tonnes exported over the past four months alone.

Exports to Bangladesh rose by 21.45pc to \$728.31m from \$599.65m. Imports from Bangladesh climbed 41.95pc to \$73.55m from \$51.67m. This boost in trade followed political upheaval in Dhaka and the resumption of rice exports to Bangladesh. Exports to Sri Lanka declined slightly by 3.02pc to \$352.37m, compared to \$363.36m last year. The drop was attributed to recessionary pressures in Sri Lanka. Imports from the island nation remained unchanged at \$54m. (*Dawn, June 25th, 2025, Page 9*)

5.1 # Export

'Proposed food tax may dent export-led growth'

Pakistan's food manufacturing industry has raised alarm over the proposed five per cent Federal Excise Duty on ultra-processed foods, warning it could derail country's growing processed food exports and penalise tax-compliant businesses already operating under significant economic pressure. Industry leaders warned that Pakistan's emerging export sectors may suffer at a time when traditional industries like textiles were struggling with competitiveness. Pakistan Association of Food Industries, which represents major food and beverage manufacturers, said tax disproportionately targets compliant, tax-paying businesses leaving informal and grey market channels untouched, distorting market and undermining long-term competitiveness. (*Dawn, June 4th, 2025, Page 4*)

Aptma seeks review of export scheme

Textile industry has sought urgent removal of yarn and fabric from Export Facilitation Scheme (EFS) import scheme in budget FY26 to save the domestic textile value-added chain from complete collapse. The government in budget FY25 removed sales tax exemption on local inputs under EFS making imports sales tax and duty-free. However,

18pc sales tax on local inputs is refundable, but refunds have been delayed, especially disadvantaged SMEs. Only 60-70 cent of refunds are issued while the rest are stuck in manual processing with no progress in the last four to five years, they claimed. Meanwhile, Pakistan Hosiery Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PHMEA) has strongly reacted to misconception created by Aptma about EFS 2021 and its irrational anti-export demand to impose sales tax on import-stage in EFS which will sabotage the export and industry. (*Dawn, June 4th, 2025, Page 9*)

Exports to Europe swell to \$7.5bn

Pakistan's exports to European countries grew 8.62 per cent in the 10 months of the current fiscal year from a year ago, mainly due to higher shipments to western and southern states. In absolute terms, Pakistan's exports to the European Union (EU) reached \$7.553 billion in July-April FY25 from \$6.954bn last year due to a slight increase in demand for textile and clothing products in western, eastern and northern Europe, according to data compiled by the State Bank of Pakistan. In FY24, Pakistan's exports to the EU decreased by 3.12pc to \$8.24bn, despite holding the GSP+ status, which allows duty-free entry into most European countries.

Western Europe, comprising countries such as Germany, the Netherlands, France, Italy, and Belgium, accounts for the largest share of Pakistan's exports to the EU. Exports to this region increased by 10.04pc to \$3.791bn in 10MFY25, up from \$3.445bn a year ago. There is also a slight increase in exports to eastern and northern Europe. Exports to the north of Europe saw a rise of 17.39pc to \$620.63m in 10MFY25, up from \$528.66m in the corresponding months last year.

Exports to southern Europe grew 3.62pc to \$2.552bn in 10MFY25 from \$2.463bn in the corresponding period last year. In this region, exports to Spain rose 2.75pc to \$1.232bn from \$1.199bn in 10MFY24. Exports to Italy increased 1.62pc to \$934.04m in 10MFY25 compared to \$918.09m in the same period last year. Exports to Greece increased 12.81pc to \$123.05m against \$109.07m in 10MFY24. However, exports to eastern Europe grew 13.96pc to \$590.02m from \$517.74m in the corresponding period last year. (*Dawn, June 4th, 2025, Page 9*)

\$60bn exports by 2029 target unachievable: MoC

The Ministry of Commerce has expressed its inability to achieve the ambitious export target of \$60 billion by 2029 set by the Prime Minister, citing a range of international and domestic challenges. "Achieving the \$60 billion export target by 2029 presents a formidable challenge amid complex international and domestic dynamics. External factors such as the ongoing impact of US tariffs, the prolonged Russia-Ukraine conflict, and a general slowdown in global markets continue to exert significant pressure on Pakistan's export performance. Domestically, high energy prices and infrastructural constraints further complicate the path to sustained export growth," the Ministry noted. (*Business Recorder, June 4th, 2025, Page 1*)

Exports contract 10pc in May

Merchandise exports decreased by 10 per cent in May, continuing the negative trend for the current fiscal year, according to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics. The growth in export proceeds began to decelerate in October, and the pace progressively slowed in the months that followed, eventually shrinking by 5.57pc in February, 8.93pc in April, and 10.07pc in May. Export growth returned in March, with a modest 3.08pc increase, but fell back to negative growth in April and the following month. The slowdown in export proceeds may worry policymakers in the federal government. However, there is no panic in the Ministry of Commerce over the steady decline in export proceeds.

The exports grew 11.83pc in July, followed by 16pc in August, 13.52pc in September, 10.64pc in October, 8.98pc in November, 0.67pc in December and 4.59pc in January. Exports reached \$2.55bn in May against \$2.84bn in the corresponding month last year. On a month-on-month basis, exports increased 17.43pc. In the 11 months of FY25, export proceeds rose 4.72pc to \$29.445bn against \$28.117bn in the corresponding period last year. Global buyers have redirected clothing sourcing from Bangladesh and China, placing orders with Pakistan over the past few months. It allows exporters to capitalise on the opportunity and capture the market. (*Dawn, June 5th, 2025, Page 9*)

Seafood export target set at \$450m, minister told

The Ministry of Maritimes Affairs has set seafood export target at \$450 million this year and a non-tax revenue target of Rs 250 million within next three years. This was told by Marine Fisheries Department (MDF) Director General (DG) Dr Mansoor Ali Wasan to the Federal Minister for Maritimes Affairs Junaid Akbar Chaudhary. The DG MDF said that his department has initiated establishing a fisheries dialogue, research centre, revamping the fisheries training center to conduct 300 training sessions over three years and reactivating four laboratories to achieve the targets.

Pakistan's seafood exports from July to May (2020-24) stood at \$383.088 million; an increase from \$373.382 million recorded during the same period in 2019-23. This reflects a year-on-year growth rate of approximately 2.6 percent, despite global economic challenges and fluctuating trade patterns. Pakistan's seafood exports reached \$410.268 million in fiscal year 2023-24, a decrease of 17.4 percent compared to the record high of \$496.6 million in the 2022-23 fiscal year.

DrWasan informed the maritime minister that stakeholders in fisheries, such as fishermen, exporters, and crew members will receive training at the Fisheries Research Centre. The minister urged KoFHA to accelerate the Pak Aqua public-private venture to enhance trade by leveraging private sector investment for facility modernisation and operational efficiency. The minister assessed the implementation of PQA's 10-year development plan focused on increasing cargo handling capacity and modernising infrastructure to establish the port as a regional maritime logistics hub. (*Business Recorder, June 12th, 2025, Page 3*)

EU imposes measures to curb ethanol imports from Pakistan

European Commission has ended tariff preferences for non-fuel ethanol imports from Pakistan, answering EU ethanol makers' calls that a surge in cheap imports from the Asian country was pressuring prices and disturbing markets. Last year, ethanol imports from Pakistan accounted for more than a quarter of all non-fuel ethanol imports, making Pakistan the largest source of imports to the EU, the Commission said in its decision published in the EU's Official Journal. The rise in total ethanol imports has been lasting for several years with EU customs data showing imports of non-fuel ethanol into the EU nearly doubling between 2021 and 2024 to reach 726,000 tonnes in 2024, from about 376,000 tons in 2021, it said. (*Dawn, June 21st, 2025, Page 9*)

India's subsidised rice fails to dent Pakistan's exports

Despite India's heavy subsidies on exports, Pakistan's rice shipments remained largely unaffected due to a strategy adopted by local exporters that prioritised agility & quality. India recently re-entered the international rice market after a two-year hiatus imposed to ensure domestic food security. The lifting of export bans by New Delhi generated considerable excitement in Indian media, which predicted a significant economic blow to Pakistan's rice exports, which had been performing robustly in the interim.

For the three months preceding India's return (July to September 2024), Pakistan's rice exports averaged a strong 550,000 tonnes per month. Indian officials, trade bodies, and think tanks anticipated that a surge in cheaper Indian rice would undercut Pakistan's global market share. However, Pakistani exporters countered with a swift, quality-centric strategy, avoiding a direct price war and instead focusing on premium offerings. According to sector expert Hamid Malik, this approach paid off as India's re-entry failed to significantly disrupt Pakistan's rice trade in the following six months (October 2024 to March 2025). (*Dawn, June 24th, 2025, Page 9*)

Textile exports drop for second month

Pakistan's textile and clothing exports declined by 1.75pc year-on-year in May, marking the second consecutive monthly contraction and pushing overall sector growth into single digits for the ongoing fiscal year, largely due to mounting production costs and unresolved structural challenges. Export proceeds from the textile sector totalled \$1.53bn in May, down from \$1.55bn in the same month last year. This followed a 1.35pc contraction in April. As a result, textile and clothing export growth during July-May FY25 stood at 7.37pc, reaching \$16.36bn compared to \$15.24bn in the same period last year. (*Dawn, June 24th, 2025, Page 9*)

5.2 # Import

Import of coal, soapstone from Afghanistan remains suspended

The import of coal and soapstone from Afghanistan had been suspended as customs authorities at Torkham, Ghulam Khan and Kharlaachi borders linked it with production of certificate of the country of origin by importers. (*Dawn, June 5th, 2025, Page 8*)

PM approves plan to cut import duties on raw materials

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has approved a reduction in duties on over 7,066 tariff lines, which include raw materials, intermediate and capital goods aimed at stimulating industrial growth in the country. The premier green-lit the proposals for a formal announcement in the budget speech, which had received earlier approval from the Tariff Policy Board and Steering Committee. However, the premier asked that implementation committee identify any irritants before the budget announcement. Government will announce the abolishing of 2 per cent additional customs duty (ACD) on 4,294 tariff lines in the upcoming budget. These are mostly raw materials, which will reduce the industries' input cost. It was also decided that the ACD will be reduced from 4pc to 2pc on 545 tariff lines, from 6pc to 4pc on 2,227 tariff lines, and from 7pc to 6pc for all products currently subject to a customs duty above 20pc.

According to officials, the major impact will be seen in products classified in chapters 28 to 38, which mostly cover products related to chemicals, pharmaceuticals, plastics, etc. The 2pc to 4pc duty cut will lower the cost of all these products. The reduction will also cover information technology products, which fall under chapters 84 and 85 of the Pakistan Customs Tariff. Polyester Filament Yarn and HRC of steel sectors will also see a cut in import duties. (*Dawn, June 5th, 2025, Page 9*)

Heavy imports causing trade imbalances

The demand pickup in developed markets created export opportunities for Pakistan. However, continued heavy reliance on imports, particularly from China, resulted in persistent trade imbalances, according to Economic Survey 2024-25. "With global trade of goods and services growth projected to slow to 1.7 percent in 2025, the government is taking all measures to strengthen economic buffers, expand exports, and enhance trade ties to navigate rising geopolitical and financial uncertainties," said survey. "Pakistan has recently resolved issues in import of soyabean and beef products from US, which will further enhance its trade with one of largest markets in world," it added.

Cotton trade forms the backbone of US-Pakistan textile cooperation. Pakistan is one of the largest importers of US cotton, a vital input for its top export sector, textiles and apparel. In FY24, it imported over \$700 million worth of raw cotton, the largest item in imports from the US. This number is expected to increase further in the ongoing year. The trade balance in goods registered negative growth, driven by an 11.8pc increase in imports, which outpaced the 6.8pc growth in exports. Service exports grew by 9.3pc, slightly outpacing 7.9pc growth in service imports. (*Dawn, June 10th, 2025, Page 9*)

Import of coal, soapstone allowed till June end

Customs authorities have granted a temporary waiver to import of coal and soapstone from Afghanistan without a country-of-origin certificate till June end. The temporary concession was granted during a meeting of chief collector customs and representatives of Torkham customs clearing agents and coal importers in Peshawar. Customs

authorities refused to clear the coal and soapstone vehicles brought from Afghanistan on June 4 after imposition of condition of country-of-origin certificate during customs clearance. Importers and customs clearing agents said that over 1,600 vehicles loaded with coal and soapstone got stranded on Afghan side of Torkham, Ghulam Khan and Kharlaachi borders since imposition of new condition. (*Dawn, June 14th, 2025, Page 4*)

Govt approves sugar imports

In a bid to stabilise soaring sugar prices and curb market volatility, the Sugar Advisory Board approved the import of 500,000 tonnes of the commodity, amid concerns over supply chain disruptions and alleged non-compliance by millers. The decision was taken at a board meeting chaired by Minister for National Food Security and Research Rana Tanveer Hussain, who announced that all formalities would be completed in the coming days, paving the way for imported sugar to enter the domestic market. (*Dawn, June 24th, 2025, Page 9*)

Forex constraints: ECC puts sugar import plan on ice

Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) has reportedly put sugar import plan on ice due to forex constraints. Last Sugar Advisory Board, chaired by Minister for National Food Security Rana Tanveer Hussain, approved the import of 500,000 tons of sugar. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, who is overseeing the sugar crisis, has already given the go-ahead for the import of 0.5m tons. However, the final landed cost of the sugar remains uncertain due to regional tensions, particularly the ongoing conflict between Iran and Israel. (*Business Recorder, June 29th, 2025, Page 1*)

6 # CORPORATE SECTOR

Fertiliser makers, association fined Rs375m

The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has imposed a fine of Rs375 million on six leading urea manufacturers and their trade association — Fertiliser Manufacturers of Pakistan Advisory Council (FMPAC) — for collusive price fixing. The fines have been imposed in violation of Section 4 of the Competition Act 2010. Following a suo motu inquiry initiated in 2021, the CCP found that the companies, in coordination with FMPAC, had issued a joint advertisement setting a uniform maximum retail price of Rs1,768 per 50 kg bag—despite variations in input costs, gas prices, and market conditions. The CCP declared this a clear act of cartelisation, and not a lawful awareness campaign. The decision was made after a four-year process.

The CCP announced that fines of Rs50m each were imposed on Engro, Fauji Fertiliser, FFBL, Fatima Fertiliser, Fatima Ltd, and Agritech, while a penalty of Rs70m was levied on FMPAC. Commission rejected firms' argument that they acted under a government directive, stating no formal instruction existed. The CCP emphasised that business associations cannot fix or recommend prices, and warned that long-standing subsidies cannot justify anti-competitive conduct. CCP noted that despite expiry of subsidised gas contracts in 2021 and deregulation under IMF reforms, price uniformity persists, which raised serious red flags about competition. (*Dawn, June 4th, 2025, Page 9*)

7 # INTERNATIONAL AID / LOAN / INVESTMENT

FDI declines by 7.6pc

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) fell by 7.6 per cent to \$1,979 million during the first 11 months of FY25 compared to \$2,142m in the same period last fiscal year, showed data issued by the State Bank. FDI in May declined by 36 per cent year-on-year to \$111m. The inflow in April was \$140m, March \$26m, February \$94.7m and January \$194m. The FDI has been slow throughout the entire fiscal year despite some improved macroeconomic indicators and a stable currency rate. The government is working to attract foreign investors by establishing the Special Investment Facilitation Council for this purpose. However, the results have remained almost negligible. The chances of improvement in the inflow of FDI are slim, particularly after the war in the region. It is not clear how long the Israeli aggression against Iran will continue, but the damage is already visible for FDI. (*Dawn, June 18th, 2025, Page 9*)

EU to provide €161m to help vulnerable Afghans

As the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan remains among the most severe in the world, the European Commission has announced that it will provide 161 million euros in humanitarian aid to help the most vulnerable Afghans in the country and in the broader region. This funding will support humanitarian organisations working inside Afghanistan with over 141m euros, while also responding to the needs of Afghan citizens and refugees in Pakistan and Iran, with 10m euros allocated per country. EU humanitarian aid is solely channelled through humanitarian partners working on the ground. (*Dawn, June 18th, 2025, Page 12*)

China rolls over \$3.4 billion loans to Pakistan

China has rolled over \$3.4 billion in loans to Pakistan, two senior Pakistani government officials told, in a move that will help boost Islamabad's foreign exchange reserves, a requirement of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Beijing rolled over \$2.1bn, which has been in Pakistan's central bank's reserves for the last three years, and refinanced another \$1.3bn commercial loan, which Islamabad had paid back two months ago, the sources said. The officials asked not to be named as they were not authorised to discuss the matter publicly ahead of an official announcement.

Another \$1bn from Middle Eastern commercial banks and \$500 million from multilateral financing have also been received, one of the officials said. "This brings our reserves in line with the IMF target," he said. The loans, especially those from China, are critical to shoring up Pakistan's low foreign reserves, which the IMF required to be over \$14bn at the end of the current fiscal year on June 30. Pakistani authorities say that the country's economy has stabilised through ongoing reforms under a \$7bn IMF bailout. (*Dawn, June 30th, 2025, Page 3*)

8 # INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS (IFIs)

8.1 # Asian Development Bank (ADB)

ADB okays \$800m loan to support fiscal reforms

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved an \$800 million programme loan for Pakistan to help strengthen fiscal sustainability and improve public financial management. Improved Resource Mobilisation and Utilisation Reform Programme, (Subprogram 2) includes a policy-based loan of \$300m, and ADB's first-ever policy-based guarantee of up to \$500m, which is expected to mobilise financing of up to \$1 billion from commercial banks, agency said. (*Dawn, June 4th, 2025, Page 12*)

Pakistan, ADB sign \$300m 'Subprogram II' loan

The government of Pakistan and Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a \$300 million loan agreement for the "Improved Resource Mobilization and Utilization Reform Programme (Subprogramme-II)". This programme is designed in a programmatic mode and aims to introduce structural reforms in trade, revenue generation and capital market development. A Policy Based Guarantee (PBG) of \$500 million is also associated with this policy-based loan, backed by a sovereign counter-guarantee and indemnity to raise commercial financing of \$1 billion. The total financing package of \$800m will significantly contribute to Pakistan's ongoing macroeconomic recovery and stabilisation efforts. (*Business Recorder, June 5th, 2025, Page 1*)

ADB-backed pact signed for \$1bn with ME banks

Making a return to international capital market after over two years, Pakistan announced that it had signed an Asian Development Bank-backed agreement for \$1 billion Syndicated Term Finance Facility (STFC) with commercial banks, primarily based in the Middle East. The \$1bn facility is partially backed by a policy-based guarantee of the ADB's "Improved Resource Mobilisation and Utilisation Reform," it said. Dubai Islamic Bank acted as the sole Islamic global coordinator, while Standard Chartered Bank acted as the mandated lead arranger and bookrunner. Other financiers include Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank as the mandated lead arranger and Sharjah Islamic Bank, Ajman Bank and Habib Bank Ltd as arrangers. (*Dawn, June 19th, 2025, Page 9*)

ADB, UN agencies join hands with Pakistan to implement Pandemic Fund

ADB and two United Nations specialised agencies — the Food and FAO and WHO — have joined hands with the government to start implementation of Pakistan's Pandemic Fund through a national consultation to establish 'One Health Units' across the country. The objective of the 'One Health Units' is to strengthen pandemic prevention, preparedness and response capacities across the country to be ready to prevent and respond to future pandemics, protecting millions of lives, ADB, FAO and WHO announced. Pakistan has been awarded \$18.7m from 'Pandemic Fund' to strengthen its 'One Health' coordination and ability to ward off public health threats. The project has catalysed an additional \$4.1m in co-financing and \$49.7m in co-investment.

Pakistan's Pandemic Fund strategy — aligned with the National Action Plan for Health Security (NAPHS) and the International Health Regulations (IHR) — emphasises the One Health (OH) approach as an integrated framework that recognises the interdependence of human, animal and environmental health to tackle complex health threats. Over 75 per cent of emerging and endemic human infectious diseases originate from animals, compounded by rising antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and climate-driven disease spillovers. (*Dawn, June 29th, 2025, Page 3*)

8.2 # International Monetary Fund (IMF)

Shadow of IMF looms over development kitty

Under tight control of IMF next year's federal development programme cuts allocations for almost all sectors, barring a rise in road building schemes and no changes to parliamentarians' schemes. Despite this, the Annual Planning Coordination Committee (APCC) cleared the national development programme worth a record Rs4.083 trillion, aided by Punjab and Sindh, showing greater financial muscle than the Centre which is pauperised by greater financial devolution, debt servicing, and security needs.

Based on this spending, the government set next year's growth target at 4.2pc, supported by a 4.4pc target in agriculture output, 4.3pc in industry, and 4pc in the services sector, and an inflation rate at 7.5pc. Thus, the government allocated Rs880bn for the public sector development programme (PSDP) for next year, down 20pc compared to the current year's revised allocation of Rs1.1tr and 37pc lower than the current year's original budget allocation of Rs1.4tr. Yet, the government pitched the PSDP at Rs1tr after also including Rs120bn for N-25 highway in Balochistan to be generated through an additional petroleum levy. (*Dawn, June 3rd, 2025, Page 1*)

8.3 # World Bank

PRR project: WB approves additional \$70m credit

The World Bank has approved an additional \$70 million credit for the Pakistan Raises Revenue (PRR) project to boost Pakistan's domestic revenue collection and improve tax compliance. This additional financing brings the total amount of resources under the project to \$470 million. (*Business Recorder, June 14th, 2025, Page 8*)

Loans approved for education, water access and women's empowerment

The World Bank has approved \$194 million in financing for two major development projects in Balochistan to expand educational access and strengthen water security, while ADB signed a \$350m loan agreement for a landmark initiative to boost women's financial inclusion in Pakistan. (*Dawn, June 25th, 2025, Page 9*)

Water, education: WB Board approves \$194m for two Balochistan projects

The World Bank Board of Executive Directors approved \$194 million for two projects to enhance educational opportunities for children and boost water security in Balochistan. (*Business Recorder, June 26th, 2025, Page 12*)

Flood project Govt seeks \$31m financing boost from WB

The government of Pakistan has requested the World Bank for increasing the financing envelope by \$31 million as well as restructuring of Integrated Flood Resilience and Adaptation Project. (*Business Recorder, June 29th, 2025, Page 1*)

9 # POLICY

9.1 # Developmental Policy

Provinces take the lead on Rs4.2tr in uplift spending

Fuelled by a 22pc increase in provincial allocations, the National Economic Council (NEC) approved with consensus a record Rs4.22 trillion national development outlay for the next fiscal year to upgrade growth rate to 4.2pc from 2.7 this year, despite an IMF-decreed 29pc cut in the public sector development programme compared to current year. The provincial expansionary stance is expected to come under the International Monetary Fund's watch, which has been pushing for greater provincial cash surpluses to support the federal government in delivering a healthy amount for debt servicing, besides effective taxation of the agriculture income under a new national fiscal pact.

The next year's development plan is led by Punjab with a record Rs1.204tr, 20pc higher than the Centre, up 10.6pc compared to the current year's Rs1.089tr. This is first time a federating unit has exceeded federal allocation, showing enhanced financial muscle of the provinces. Sindh trailed just behind the Centre with Rs967bn allocation, a healthy 27pc increase from its current year's Rs705bn development fund. Punjab and Sindh enhanced their allocations by Rs16bn and Rs80bn respectively over what they had reported to the APCC.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa announced to invest Rs417bn in development next year, showing a massive 33pc increase over the current year's allocation of Rs313bn. It had reported Rs440bn ADP in APCC but scaled down by Rs23bn. Balochistan, mostly dependent on the federal support, would announce Rs281bn development plan, up 12pc over the current year's Rs252bn. Likewise, estimates for SOE's projects were also jacked up to Rs355bn from Rs288bn two days ago.

Sources said despite their own heavy allocations, the Sindh and KP chief ministers complained over exclusion of their projects from the federal budget, while the Balochistan chief minister thanked the Centre for giving special attention to the restive province. The cash-strapped government, however, did not forget protecting allocations for coalition partners' parliamentarians scheme at Rs50bn and also enhanced funds for PML-N's trademark road-building projects. All other sectors, including special areas like Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan, would be handicapped by lower allocations, as all sectors, including energy, food, and water, faced funding constraints.

Based on these spending plans, the government set next year's growth target at 4.2pc, supported by 4.4pc target in agriculture output, 4.3pc in industry and 4pc in the services sector, and an inflation rate at 7.5pc. It set the target for national savings at 14.3pc of GDP in FY 2025-26, slightly higher than the current year's 14.1pc and total investment

of 14.7pc of GDP, up from 13.8pc in FY 2024-25. This reflects a narrowing saving investment gap to be financed through modest external inflows.

The agriculture growth will be supported by a recovery in important crops (6.7pc) and cotton ginning (7pc), as well as robust performance in livestock. The industrial sector is expected to benefit from a significant revival in LSM with 3.5pc growth, the planning ministry said, with 3pc growth in mining and quarrying, “alongside sustained growth momentum in construction and energy, gas and water supply”. The services sector, which forms the largest share of GDP, is set to grow by 4pc, underpinned by stronger performance in wholesale and retail trade, transport, storage & communications, financial services and real estate. (*Dawn, June 5th, 2025, Page 1*)

Rs6.18bn development fund released to PBC in nine months

The Economic Survey 2024–25 stated that development fund worth Rs6.18 billion was released to the Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation (PBC) during the first nine months of the fiscal year, including Rs500 million in additional funds from the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting to meet operational and employee-related expenditures. Simultaneously, the government allocated Rs1.13 billion under the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) for technical upgrades of Pakistan Television Corporation (PTV). (*Business Recorder, June 10th, 2025, Page 3*)

Rs1trn set aside for PSDP

The budget 2025-26 allocated Rs1,000 billion for federal Public Sector Development Programme while provincial Annual Development Plans earmarked 2,869 billion. A separate allocation has been envisaged for state-owned entities, ie, Rs355 billion against Rs196.839 billion last fiscal year. The budgeted allocation for 2024-25 was Rs1,400 billion and the current year is lower allocation which indicates a decline of 28.5 percent next fiscal year. During the year the government reduced it to Rs1.1 trillion due to narrow fiscal space. (*Business Recorder, June 11th, 2025, Page 1*)

Development outlay soars 50pc to Rs4.2trn in 2 years: minister

Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal said that Pakistan’s national development outlay has increased by 50 percent, Rs2.832 trillion to Rs4.2 trillion, in two years. “The national development outlay has escalated due to increasing tax collection revenue. The provinces receive a 60 percent share in collected revenue, which has led to a rise in their annual development plans. Our five-year plan envisaged allocation of Rs4.2 trillion for the development budget in the fifth year, but this target has been achieved in the second year, describing it as encouraging,” the minister addressing a news conference. (*Business Recorder, June 13th, 2025, Page 12*)

Sindh sets aside Rs1.01tr for uplift

The Sindh government allocated Rs1,018 billion under the Annual Development Programme for 2025-26, with a focus on rehabilitation, infrastructure, Karachi city projects, social services, and sustainable growth across the province. While unveiling

the annual budget for the upcoming fiscal year, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, in his budget speech, said the almost 25pc increase in the development spending from the current year's revised estimates of Rs817.19bn reflects the government's commitment to sustaining development momentum while focusing on efficiency, equity, and economic recovery. (*Dawn, June 14th, 2025, Page 9*)

KP fattens wallet for development to Rs547bn

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government announced an increased budget for development activities in the upcoming fiscal year. Finance Minister Aftab Alam Afridi presented a Rs547 billion Annual Development Plan (ADP) for 2025-26. This amount is approximately 32 per cent, or Rs131bn, higher than the current year's Rs416bn. The allocations under the proposed development expenditure for the next fiscal year include Rs195bn for PADP, Rs39bn for districts, Rs39.6bn for merged districts, Rs92.7bn for the accelerated implementation programme for the merged districts, Rs177.1bn as foreign project assistance and Rs3.47bn for PSDP. The budget documents reveal that the provincial government has proposed 1,349 ongoing and 810 new schemes in the development outlay for the next year. (*Dawn, June 14th, 2025, Page 9*)

CDWP clears 10 development projects worth Rs36bn

CDWP has approved nine development projects totalling Rs25.19bn and recommended another project worth Rs10.671bn to Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecneec) for approval. The CDWP meeting reviewed 10 projects with a total cost of Rs35.86bn. (*Dawn, June 15th, 2025, Page 9*)

Balochistan govt outlines Rs250bn development plan

The Balochistan government has allocated Rs249.50 billion for Annual Development Plan (ADP) for 2025-26. While unveiling the budget in the Balochistan Assembly, Finance Minister Mir Shoaib Noshierwani stated that it was the first time a significant amount had been allocated for development to provide maximum facilities to the people. He said that the allocated funds would be spent on 3,633 ongoing and 2,550 new development projects, with Rs18bn earmarked for the installation of safe city projects in eight cities in 2025-26. He said that in the outgoing fiscal year, Rs38bn was allocated for irrigation-related projects, which included 431 ongoing and 348 new schemes, out of which 186 had been completed. (*Dawn, June 18th, 2025, Page 9*)

AJK budget 2025-26: Rs49 billion allocated for annual development programme in Azad Kashmir

Azad Jammu and Kashmir's (AJK) Annual Development Programme (ADP) for the fiscal year 2025-26 with an outlay of Rs49 billion, including a Rs 1 billion foreign component, allocates 52 per cent to infrastructure development-related sectors, 34pc to social sectors, and 14pc to productive sectors. (*Dawn, June 19th, 2025, Page 4*)

CDWP clears five projects costing Rs55bn

The Central Development Working Party (CDWP) cleared five development projects at a total cost of Rs55.164 billion. The CDWP approved two development projects of value Rs7.725 billion and recommended three projects at the cost of Rs47.439 billion to the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) for final approval. (*Business Recorder, June 21st, 2025, Page 1*)

PDWP approves five development schemes

The Provincial Development Working Party – Punjab approved five development schemes worth over Rs16.75 billion. (*Dawn, June 26th, 2025, Page 2*)

9.2 # Neo – Liberal Policy

Privatisation: Rs86.5bn target set

Federal government has budgeted Rs 86.550 billion collection from privatization proceeds in the next fiscal year which is 981.8 percent higher than the revised estimates of current fiscal year's Rs 8 billion. The government budgeted Rs 30 billion privatization proceeds originally for the ongoing fiscal year 2024-25. The International Monetary Fund's (IMF's) first staff-level report uploaded on its website on May 17, 2025 projected zero revenue from privatisation from 2019-20 till 2030 while it underscored the government's commitment to prioritising privatisation of commercial profitable state-owned entities (SOEs) supported by completion of the SoE privatisation classification. (*Business Recorder, June 11th, 2025, Page 1*)

10 # SOCIO – ECONOMIC CONDITION

Debt stock reaches all-time high of Rs75trn

The federal government's total debt stock surged by over Rs 6 trillion during the first ten months of this fiscal year (FY25) due to massive borrowing to finance the budget deficit. According to a statistic released by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) the central government's total debt, comprising domestic and external liabilities, rose by 9 percent during July-April of FY25. Overall, the stock reached an all-time high level of Rs 74.936 trillion by the end of April 2025 compared to Rs 68.914 trillion as of June 2024, depicting an increase of Rs 6.022 trillion. The major growth in debt stocks was attributed to domestic borrowings, which rose by 11.37 percent or Rs 5.363 trillion to reach Rs 52.523 trillion in April 2025 up from Rs 47.16 trillion in June 2024. The domestic debt comprised long-term loans worth Rs 44.132 trillion and short-term borrowings amounting to Rs 8.328 trillion.

External debt, in rupee terms, saw an increase of Rs 659 billion during the first ten months of FY25, reaching Rs 22.413 trillion by the end of April 2025 compared to Rs 21.754tr in June 2024. The SBP reported that Weighted Average Customer Exchange Rate of the US dollar was Rs 278.3668 in June 2024 and Rs 280.9739 in April 2025. The federal government's debt showed a notable increase of Rs 1.248tr in April 2025 due to massive borrowing to finance the budget deficit. On a month-on-month basis, the

federal government's debt stock rose by 2 percent from Rs 73.688 trillion in March 2025 to Rs 74.936 trillion in April 2025. (*Business Recorder, June 5th, 2025, Page 1*)

Economic Survey 2024-25: Growth stumbles as key targets missed

“Next year will be a turnaround story,” Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb promised as he unveiled the Pakistan Economic Survey 2024-25 (PES) document, which highlighted widespread slippages across major sectors of the economy in the outgoing fiscal year. Reviewing the economy report card, the finance minister suggested that Pakistan's performance should be evaluated in a global context rather than a historical one. He stated that while global economic growth has been on a declining trend, expanding 3.5pc in 2023, 3.3pc in 2024, and 2.8pc in 2025, Pakistan had progressed from a contraction of 0.2pc in 2023 to 2.5pc growth in 2024, with a further rise to almost 2.7pc this year.

The current year's GDP growth will clock in at 2.68pc; well short of 3.56pc target, although slightly improved from last year's 2.5pc. It is below the five-year average of around 3.3pc, and well below Pakistan's long-term average of over 4.5pc. Mr Aurangzeb noted that global inflation stood at 2.6pc in 2023, rose to 2.7pc in 2024, and is projected to reach 3.1pc in 2025. In contrast, inflation in Pakistan had fallen from 29pc in 2023 to 23pc in 2024, and now to a six-decade low of 4.6pc.

The Economic Survey data reveals that almost all major components of the economy missed targets. The finance minister singled out a 13.5pc contraction in major crops, which was estimated to have restricted the overall GDP growth rate by 0.6pc. The overall agriculture sector, which accounts for nearly 24pc of GDP, posted modest growth of 0.6pc this year, falling well short of the 2pc target and significantly below last year's announced growth of 6.4pc. Major crops such as wheat, cotton, and maize contracted by 13.5pc, a sharper decline than an estimated 4.5pc. This was primarily due to initial estimates of a 35pc water shortage, which were later revised down to 11-12pc. As a result, cotton ginning saw a 19pc decline, compared to last year's growth of 0.1pc, and well below a targeted contraction limit of 2.3pc.

Meanwhile, the industrial sector was announced to have shown 4.8pc growth, surpassing the 4.4pc target. This triggered some pointed questions, however. A journalist commented that it seemed likely the industry's performance would later be revised downward, given that an almost 1pc contraction had been reported for the first nine months of the current year. Within industries, mining and quarrying contracted by 3.4pc against a growth target of 5pc, shrinking for the third consecutive year. Likewise, Large-Scale Manufacturing (LSM), which contributes nearly 8pc to GDP, contracted by 1.5pc, falling far short of the growth target of 3.5pc. This also marked the third consecutive year of struggles for LSM, which saw a 10pc contraction in fiscal '23, followed by less than 1pc growth in fiscal '24 (that too, owing to a low base effect), and followed by an additional 1.5pc contraction this year.

The services sector, which makes up nearly 59pc of GDP, was said to have posted growth of 2.9pc, well short of the 4.1pc target. Within the services sector, wholesale and retail trade, transport and storage, financial and insurance services, and private services all missed targets, whereas government services, education and similar sectors that outperformed expectations. Separately, the investment-to-GDP ratio improved to 13.8pc in fiscal '25, up from 13.1pc in fiscal '24, although falling short of the 14.2pc target. Private investment grew by 9.1pc, slightly below the 9.7pc target. National savings also saw an improvement, rising to 14.1pc of GDP, surpassing the 13.3pc target. (*Dawn, June 10th, 2025, Page 1*)

Debt grows moderately to Rs76 trillion

The total debt of Pakistan stood at Rs76.01 trillion at the end of March this year, with domestic debt at Rs51.52tr and external debt at Rs24.49tr, according to the Pakistan Economic Survey 2024-25. Growth in public debt was 6.7 per cent, which was lower as compared to the growth of 7.4pc in the same period of the preceding year, mainly due to increased primary surplus. Moreover, total markup expenditure during 9MFY25 amounted to Rs6.44tr, representing 66pc of the full-year budget estimate of Rs9.78tr. The majority of this expenditure was on domestic debt, which accounted for Rs5.78bn or 66pc of the annual allocation of Rs8.74tr, whereas interest payments on external debt reached Rs656bn, equivalent to 63pc of the budgeted Rs1.04tr. (*Dawn, June 10th, 2025, Page 9*)

Jul-Mar govt borrowing slumps 69pc

The government sector borrowing for budgetary support declined sharply, ie, 69 percent or Rs 2.9 trillion during the nine months of this fiscal year (FY25). According to Economic Survey of Pakistan during July-March FY 2025, the government sector borrowing for budgetary support decreased to Rs 1.320 trillion compared to Rs 4.220 trillion during the same period last year (FY24), showing a notable decline of Rs 2.9 trillion. During the period, the government retired Rs 287.4 billion to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) against a retirement of Rs 654.7 billion last year.

Similarly, government borrowed Rs 1.608 trillion from scheduled banks, significantly less than Rs 4.874 trillion in the same period last year. Therefore, net government sector borrowing decreased from Rs 3.856 trillion in July-March FY 2024 to Rs 1.019 trillion in same period of FY25. During the period under review, low government borrowing reflects fiscal consolidation as fiscal deficit remained 2.4 percent of GDP during July March FY 2025 compared to 3.7 percent the same period last year. (*Business Recorder, June 10th, 2025, Page 1*)

Public debt recorded at Rs76,007bn by end-March

Pakistan's total public debt was recorded at Rs 76,007 billion by end-March 2025, registering an increase of Rs 4,761 billion (6.7 percent) during first nine months of current fiscal year, as it was Rs 71,246 billion on June 30, 2024, the Economic Survey

2024-25 noted. External public debt was recorded at \$87.4 billion by end-March 2025, revealing an increase of around \$883 million during the first nine months of the current fiscal year compared to an increase of \$2.6 billion during the same period of the last fiscal year, however it does not contain liabilities of foreign exchange, public sector enterprises (PSEs), banks and private sector.

Country's external debt and liabilities stood at \$130.310 billion by end-March 2025, which contains, government external debt, short term, from International Monetary Fund (IMF) as well as liabilities of foreign exchange, public sector enterprises, banks and private sector. Pakistan's domestic debt stood at Rs 51.5 trillion by end-March fiscal year 2025, reflecting an increase of Rs 4.8 trillion during the first nine months of the fiscal year, from Rs 47.160 trillion by end-June 2024. The increase of Rs 4761 billion in public debt include Rs (2415) billion of federal primary deficit, Rs 6,439 billion interest on debt, Rs 738 billion on other (Exchange Rate / Cash Balances / Accounting impact). (*Business Recorder, June 10th, 2025, Page 12*)

10.1 # Food

Three of a family die by wheat pill poisoning

A jobless man died allegedly by suicide after consuming wheat pills that administered to his three minor children too, two of whom also breathed their last in hospital. The third child is stated to be in critical condition. (*Dawn, June 3rd, 2025, Page 2*)

Substandard wheat flour sacks inflict Rs594bn loss, food ministry told

The Pakistan Polypropylene Woven Sack Manufacturers Association (PPWSMA) has raised serious concerns over the continued use of substandard and non-food-grade sacks for wheat flour packaging, leading to an estimated loss of Rs594 billion in seven years due to product wastage and contamination. In a letter to the Ministry of Food Security, PPWSMA has added that wheat flour was the lifeline of millions of Pakistanis who eat daily; therefore, protecting the quality of wheat flour and preventing its wastage in the supply chain was essential. It has been highlighted that every year, hundreds of thousands of wheat flour bags become unusable or damaged during storage and transportation due to the use of low-quality, non-compliant packaging materials. (*Dawn, June 7th, 2025 Page 4*)

Every second child in Sindh suffers from stunting, say health experts

Every second child in Sindh is stunted, health experts have called for coordinated efforts to address the issue of malnutrition's impact on the generations to come. Drawn from different institutions, they were sharing their views at the 'National Conference Tackling Malnutrition in Sindh' held under the auspices of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Medical University (SMBBMU) under the sponsorship of the Strengthening Participatory Organisation (SPO) at Chandka Medical College (CMC) the other day. Prof Saifiullah Jamro called malnutrition the most common, most neglected and mother of diseases. Lower resistance to diseases, increased risk of mortality and reduced

physical activity were the risk with malnourished person, he added. He said amidst imbalance intake, the stunted mother would give birth to stunted child. According to him, among children of under five the death ratio is 55 per cent. He said the malnutrition runs from generation to generation, affecting child physically and mentally.

He went on saying that undernourished or malnourished child would have low intelligence quotient (IQ), adding that every four out of 10 children were stunted and claimed that from 2018 to date there was no change. He said that globally one in nine people was hungry or malnourished and suspected that either we could achieve sustainable development goal of 'Zero Hunger'. He said in 2010 floods, the malnourishment had touched 'disaster' line. He suggested that emergency should be declared in Sindh regarding the malnourished children. "We are malnourished nation from birth," he said. (*Dawn, June 23rd, 2025, Page 15*)

10.2 # Inflation

May CPI-based inflation increases 3.5pc YoY

The Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based inflation increased to 3.5 percent on Year-on-Year basis in May 2025 as compared to 0.3 percent of the previous month and 11.8 percent in May 2024, says the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS). Average CPI in the country remained at 4.61 percent during the first 10 months (July-May) 2024-25 compared to 24.52 percent during the same period of last fiscal year. On Month-on-Month (MoM) basis, it decreased by 0.2 percent in May 2025 as compared to a decrease of 0.8 percent in the previous month and a decrease of 3.2 percent in May 2024.

The CPI inflation Urban increased to 3.5 percent on year-on-year basis in May 2025 as compared to 0.5 percent of the previous month and 14.3 percent in May 2024. On Month-on-Month basis, it increased to 0.1 percent in May 2025 as compared to a decrease of 0.7 percent in the previous and a decrease of 2.8 percent in May 2024. The CPI inflation Rural increased to 3.4 percent on Year-on-Year basis in May 2025 as compared to a decrease of 0.1 in the previous month and 8.2 percent in May 2024. On Month-on-Month basis, it decreased by 0.5 percent in May 2025 as compared to a decrease of 1.0 percent in previous month and a decrease of 3.9 percent in May 2024.

The Sensitive Price Index (SPI) inflation on YoY decreased by 0.6 percent in May 2025 as compared to a decrease of 3.6 percent a month earlier and 15.3 percent in May 2024. On MoM basis, it decreased by 1.0 percent in May 2025 as compared to a decrease of 2.1 percent a month earlier and a decrease of 4.0 percent in May 2024. Wholesale Price Index (WPI) inflation on YoY basis increased to 0.4 percent in May 2025 as compared to a decrease of 2.2 percent in the previous month and 9.9 percent in May 2024. On Month-on-Month basis no change measured in May 2025 as compared to a decrease of 1.3 percent in the previous month and a decrease of 2.5 percent of the corresponding month of last year i.e. May 2024. (*Business Recorder, June 3rd, 2025, Page 12*)

Inflation projected to remain within range of 4.5-5pc

Inflation is projected to remain within the range of 4.5-5 percent during fiscal year 2025, supported by a sharp decline in the prices of perishable food items and adequate stocks of key non-perishable commodities, noted the Economic Survey 2024-25. Consumer Price Index inflation decreased to 4.7 percent during July-April fiscal year 2025, down from 26 percent in the same period last year. CPI inflation, which stood at 11.1 percent year-on-year in July 2024, marked a significant decline from 28.3 percent in July 2023.

This downward trend persisted, with inflation hitting as low as 1.5 percent in February 2025, the lowest since September 2015. The trend continued, with inflation further easing to 0.7 percent by March 2025 and remarkably dropping to 0.3 percent in April 2025, a multi-decade low. This decline in inflation in Pakistan can also be attributed to several factors, including improved food availability, decreased energy prices, and excess production capacity. The easing of inflation is also influenced by the decline in commodity prices globally, primarily driven by improved energy supplies and food. (*Business Recorder, June 10th, 2025, Page 12*)

June inflation likely to ease to 3.1pc: report

Inflation is projected to ease sharply to 3.1 per cent year-on-year (YoY) in June 2025, signalling a return to more stable price trends as high base effects from last year dissipate, according to brokerage JS Global. The brokerage expects full-year average inflation for FY2024-25 to decline to 4.6 per cent, a substantial drop from 23.9 per cent recorded in the previous fiscal year. Food inflation for June is likely to register at 2.8 per cent YoY, compared to just 0.97 per cent a year earlier. However, falling prices in certain food categories may push month-on-month (MoM) food inflation into negative territory. Housing, gas and electricity costs are projected to fall 4.1 per cent YoY, driven by reductions in electricity tariffs. Core inflation is expected to remain sticky at 8.5 per cent YoY. Urban core inflation stood at 7.3 per cent in May, while rural core inflation was recorded at 8.8 per cent. (*The News, June 22nd, 2025, Page 17*)

ECC okays up to 50pc hike in gas charges

The government has increased the price of gas by 50 per cent in an apparent move to meet the demand of International Monetary Fund (IMF). The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the federal cabinet approved the hike in fixed gas charges for all consumers from July 1. (*Dawn, June 28th, 2025, Page 1*)

Govt notifies 50pc hike in gas charges

The government notified a 50 per cent increase in fixed gas charges for all consumer categories and raised per unit gas sale rates by up to 17pc for industrial, power and bulk users, effective from July 1. The revision is expected to place an additional financial burden of around Rs85 billion on consumers during the 2025-26 fiscal year, as part of efforts to meet a structural benchmark set by IMF. (*Dawn, June 30th, 2025, Page 3*)

10.3 # Poverty

45pc of Pakistanis live below poverty line: WB

Almost forty-five per cent of Pakistan's population lives below the poverty line, according to a World Bank report. The finding, based on a survey conducted in 2018-19, comes in the wake of an update of global poverty lines made by the bank, and not because of any change in underlying economic conditions across world. The proportion of people living in extreme poverty has risen from 4.9pc to 16.5pc, according to report. The latest findings come in the wake of World Bank's update of global poverty lines and not because of any change in the underlying economic conditions across world.

“For Pakistan, the poverty rate based on the new \$3 international poverty line (IPL) under 2021 purchasing power parity (PPP) is 16.5Pc, compared to 4.9pc under the previous \$2.15 line (2017 PPP),” said the World Bank. About 82pc of this increase is due to the higher value of the new IPL, reflecting increases in the national poverty lines of comparator countries, with the rest explained by price increases in Pakistan between 2017 and 2021 reflected in the updated PPPs, it added. “The poverty rate under the \$4.20 IPL line rose from 39.8pc to 44.7pc” in Pakistan, the bank said. It added that the new IPL affected the level of poverty only, but trends in poverty remain unchanged.

To enable cross-country comparisons, the World Bank introduced the “\$1-a-day” International Poverty Line (IPL) in 1990. This benchmark was based on the average national poverty lines of the world's 15 poorest countries at the time, adjusted using purchasing power parity (PPP) exchange rates to account for differences in the cost of living. It was revised to \$1.25 per day in 2005, \$1.90 in 2011, and \$2.15 in 2017. The most recent update, using 2021 PPPs, sets the low-income country (LIC) IPL at \$3 a day — a 40pc increase. Sixty per cent of the increase in IPL is due to higher national poverty lines, while 40pc is due to a rise in prices between 2017 and 2021. Moreover, the lower-middle income (LMIC) IPL is set at \$4.2 per day (from \$3.65), an increase of roughly 15pc. The upper middle income line is set at \$8.3 per day (from \$6.85) — an increase of roughly 20pc, in 2021 PPPs. (*Dawn, June 6th, 2025, Page 9*)

11 # ENVIRONMENT

11.1 # Atmosphere

‘Karachi produces 394 kilotons of hazardous emissions every year’

The city of Karachi produces over 394 kilotons of emissions in the atmosphere, with industry contributing 49 per cent and transport 33pc of the particulate matter (PM2.5). Prepared by Pakistan Air Quality Initiative (PAQI), the report — Unveiling Karachi's Air — A Scientific Foundation for a Clean Air City — highlights that Karachi's atmosphere is burdened by a substantial load of pollutants, with annual emissions estimated at 39.11 kilotons of PM2.5, 52 kilotons of sulphur dioxide, 100.78 kilotons of nitrogen oxides, and 203.41 kilotons of carbon monoxide — resulting in per capita PM2.5 emissions of approximately 1.86 kg each year. (*Dawn, June 4th, 2025, Page 13*)

Need stressed for recycling waste, nature-friendly options for plastic bags

Environment experts have called upon provincial governments to launch environmental awareness campaigns across the country to encourage public to adopt nature-friendly alternatives to plastic shopping bags and polyethylene terephthalate (PET) bottles and promote reuse and recycling of waste. A programme was organised by the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry's (FPCCI) Central Standing Committees on Environment and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at its head office in connection with World Environment Day. The United Nations has designated this year's theme as "Beat Plastic Pollution."

The speakers were of the opinion that the government-imposed bans on plastic bags could only be effectively implemented if incentives are provided to manufacturers for transition towards environment-friendly alternatives such as biodegradable carrier bags. They noted that the industry would stop manufacturing single-use plastic bags if there was no market demand for their production. Participants recalled the earlier failure of Islamabad's administration to enforce a plastic bag ban despite the capital's smaller size compared to Karachi, due to the lack of engagement with both retailers and consumers in the environmental campaign. The speakers disclosed that Pakistan produces 55 billion plastic bags annually with a 15pc annual increase rate. Plastic waste accounts for over 60pc of total urban waste generated in the country, a major cause of environmental degradation. A study conducted along Karachi's coastline, detected significant microplastic contamination in marine sediments. (*Dawn, June 5th, 2025, Page 13*)

11.2 # Health

'97pc of Pakistan's pharmacies fail to store medicines properly'

With an alarming 97 percent of pharmacies in Pakistan lacking temperature-controlled storage and biograde refrigeration, raising serious concerns about drug efficacy and patient safety, Alkhidmat Foundation has launched a new temperature-controlled home delivery pharmacy service aimed at transforming pharmaceutical care in the country. Speaking at the launch ceremony held at Alkhidmat Headquarters in Karachi, health experts shared findings from a recent cross-sectional survey which inspected 1,003 drug stores across Pakistan. Only 4.1% of these stores were found compliant with regulatory requirements, while nearly 75% were selling general items alongside medicines, and a mere 12% had any qualified personnel—only a third of whom were pharmacists. (*The News, June 1st, 2025, Page 16*)

First polio case from GB takes year's tally to 11

Health authorities have confirmed a new case of wild poliovirus in the Diamer district of Gilgit-Baltistan, marking the first instance of the virus reported from the region. The Regional Reference Laboratory for Polio Eradication at the National Institute of Health has confirmed a new case in 23-month-old male child from District Diamer, Gilgit-Baltistan. This is the first case of wild poliovirus reported from GB and the eleventh confirmed case in Pakistan this year. (*Dawn, June 3rd, 2025, Page 3*)

No new health scheme included in PSDP 2025-26

While not a single new health scheme has been included in Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) 2025-26, Health Minister Syed Mustafa Kamal claimed that considering the current economic challenges the government had made every effort to allocate a commendable budget for the health sector. According to the budget document, not a single new health scheme has been included in the upcoming financial year's Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP). However allocations have been made for some ongoing projects which include Development of Integrated Diseases Surveillance and Response System, establishment of four basic health units (BHUs) in Islamabad, establishment of Jinnah Hospital at G-11/3 and implementation of National Action Plan on Population (2021-26). (*Dawn, June 11th, 2025, Page 4*)

Healthcare sector gets 8pc boost: Rs326.5bn allocated to improve service delivery

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah announced that the provincial health budget for the fiscal year 2025-26 has been proposed at Rs326.5 billion, with an eight per cent increase from last year's allocation of Rs302.2bn. Addressing the Sindh Assembly, the CM said that the additional funding is aimed at enhancing service delivery across the health sector, with a focus on expanding access and improving the quality of care for citizens. He said the allocation includes Rs18.2bn specifically reserved for medical education while a significant Rs146.9bn has been earmarked as grants-in-aid to support the operational efficiency of various health units, institutions and facilities serving the public across Sindh. (*Dawn, June 14th, 2025, Page 14*)

47 environmental samples found positive for polio

As many as 47 environmental samples have tested positive for poliovirus, according to an official of the polio programme. As part of ongoing robust poliovirus surveillance across the country, a total of 116 environmental (sewage) samples were collected from 82 districts during the month of May and tested at Regional Reference Laboratory for Polio Eradication at National Institute of Health in Islamabad. "Moreover, 11 samples are currently under process in the lab," the official said. "Of the total 116 samples, 69 samples tested negative with no poliovirus detected, while 47 samples tested positive," he added. (*Dawn, June 15th, 2025, Page 3*)

Number of people living with brain tumours increasing: experts

'World Brain Tumour Day' was marked with a renewed pledge to continue awareness drives against the disease so as the goal of healthy society could be achieved. Speakers at an awareness session stated that brain tumours can be treated with timely diagnosis. They said simple lifestyle, regular exercise, adequate sleep and avoidance of mental stress are the best preventive measures to prevent diseases like brain tumours. Due to lack of awareness, the number of brain tumour patients is increasing in Pakistan. (*Business Recorder, June 16th, 2025 Page 4*)

Govt hikes health development budget by 131 per cent

The Punjab government has allocated Rs631bn for the health sector in the fiscal year 2025-26, including Rs450bn, for non-development and Rs181bn for development budget. In the development budget, the Punjab government has made 131pc increase than that of the current financial year. One of the salient features of the budgetary allocations was the Punjab government's new flagship project of establishing the first-ever Medical District in Lahore. For this purpose, it has allocated a hefty estimated budget of Rs109bn which would be utilised for the acquisition of land and establishment of the Medical District. (*Dawn, June 17th, 2025, Page 2*)

Another polio case takes year's tally to 12

A new case of poliovirus has been reported in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, bringing the total number of cases this year to 12. According to the Regional Reference Laboratory for Polio Eradication at the National Institute of Health (NIH), the victim was a 33-month-old male child from union council Shamsikhel in Bannu. A lab official said this was the sixth case of polio reported from KP this year. Of the remaining six cases, four were reported from Sindh and one each from Punjab and Gilgit-Baltistan. As per the lab official, the victim had weakness in both lower limbs. (*Dawn, June 21st, 2025, Page 12*)

Over 60pc diseases caused by contaminated potable water: minister

Federal Health Minister Syed Mustafa Kamal admitted that 68 percent of diseases in Pakistan were caused by consuming contaminated water as the country has no effective sewage treatment mechanism. "From the peaks of Gilgit to the shores of Karachi, sewage is mixing with drinking water. Pakistan has become a leading country in patients suffering from Hepatitis C and diabetes. 40pc of Pakistani children are malnourished, leading to stunted growth. Polio remains endemic only in Afghanistan and Pakistan. On the other hand 26 million children are out of school," he said while addressing to participants of a conference. The conference titled "Combat Diarrhoeal Diseases and Strengthen Health Preparedness" was organised by the National Institute of Health (NIH). (*Dawn, June 25th, 2025, Page 4*)

Pakistan among nations lagging in child immunisation, study reveals

Life-saving childhood vaccination coverage has stalled in recent decades, leaving millions of children at risk, with Pakistan having the highest number of zero-dose children in South Asia after India, a new study by the British medical journal Lancet warns. An analysis by the Global Burden of Disease Vaccine Coverage Collaborators, highlighted in a Lancet press release, shows that childhood vaccination rates have stagnated and vaccine coverage varies widely over the last two decades, despite 50 years of progress, Dawn.com reported. The journal added that "these challenges have been further exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic, leaving millions of children vulnerable to preventable diseases and death". Since its 1974 inception, the World Health Organisation's (WHO) Essential Programme on Immunisation (EPI) averted an estimated 154 million child deaths worldwide.

The study, “Global, regional, and national trends in routine childhood vaccination coverage from 1980 to 2023 with forecasts to 2030: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2023,” warns that immunisation targets for 2030 won’t be met without major equity improvements. The WHO set these ambitious goals in 2019 through its Immunisation Agenda 2030. According to 2023 data, more than half of the world’s 15.7m unvaccinated children lived in just eight countries, with 53 per cent in sub-Saharan Africa and 13pc in South Asia. “Large numbers of children remain under and unvaccinated,” said senior study author Dr. Jonathan Mosser of the University of Washington’s Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME). The Covid-19 pandemic significantly worsened global coverage rates for original EPI-recommended vaccines, with declines starting sharply in 2020. An estimated 15.6m children missed the full three doses of the diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (DTP) vaccine or a measles vaccine between 2020 and 2023. (*Dawn, June 26th, 2025, Page 12*)

Teenager becomes year’s fourth victim of brain-eating amoeba in Sindh

The provincial health department reported fourth death from *Naegleria fowleri* in Sindh. According to officials, a 17-year-old student reportedly suddenly developed fever, body aches and vomiting on June 25. A day later, he was admitted to the Aga Khan University Hospital where he tested positive for the deadly infection. On June 27, his condition deteriorated and he was shifted to ventilator support. (*Dawn, June 29th, 2025, Page 13*)

Health insurance to be withdrawn from govt hospitals

The Universal Health Insurance (UHI) in public sector hospitals of Punjab is going to be closed by the end of current fiscal year. The Punjab Health Initiatives Management Company (PHIMC) notified that, as per approval of competent authority, the implementation of Universal Health Insurance (UHI), in public sector hospitals is going to be closed on 30.06.2025. However, the special initiatives launched by the Chief Minister Punjab will continue as per current policy. In the connection, PHIMC has directed all the Medical Superintendents under the administrative control of Specialized Health Care & Medical Education Department (SHC&MED) and Health & Population Department (H&PD) to ensure the timely submission of all pending claims under the UHI. (*The News, June 29th, 2025, Page 2*)

12 # CLIMATE CHANGE

Water scarcity, climate change trigger migration from coastal areas

A serious lack of livelihood opportunities, severe water scarcity and increasingly unpredictable weather patterns have triggered a wave of internal migration which is fast emptying villages and small towns in the coastal districts of Thatta, Sujawal and Badin. The crisis, a slow-burning disaster exacerbated by climate change, has accelerated a decades-long decline, transforming once-fertile lands into saline wastelands and decimating traditional livelihoods. Hassan Abbas, environmental expert and advocate for water resources, revealed in an interview with Dawn that the construction of Ghulam Mohammad Barrage and reduced water flow were key factors for drastic reduction in

water flow downstream Kotri. Constructed in 1956 and commissioned in 1958, the barrage, while intended for upstream irrigation, had effectively choked the lifeblood of the delta, he said. He said: “When the Ghulam Muhammad Barrage at Kotri became operative, the fate of the delta was sealed”. (*Dawn, June 12th, 2025, Page 15*)

‘Coal-based plants major drivers of heatwaves’

Underscoring the need for strengthening mitigation and adaptation capacities in the face of rapidly changing climatic conditions, chief meteorologist has said that coal-based plants are a major local factor contributing to and driving extreme weather events, such as heatwaves and floods, which are likely to increase their intensity and frequency in coming years. He was speaking at a conference on climate change and disaster resilience held at in a local hotel. It was organised by CESVI Pakistan in collaboration with partners including Fast Rural Development Program (FRDP), Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Sindh and Welthungerhilfe. The event brought together key representatives from government, academia, civil society, UN agencies and the development sector. (*Dawn, June 24th, 2025, Page 14*)

Move to protect people of coastal areas from climate change

Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry announced a programme to protect the lives and livelihoods of communities in coastal zones. The Port Community Climate Resilience Programme, a pilot project, will be launched in selected areas of Karachi and Gwadar, the minister said. Under the programme, communities will be engaged in shaping localised, sustainable climate solutions and improving public awareness, ecosystems and coastal urban environments. The minister said that mounting heat is severely disrupting daily life in urban coastal areas, where dense populations, limited green spaces and inadequate infrastructure are amplifying impacts of extreme weather.

He stressed the need for coordinated response to rising temperatures. He said that a comprehensive national action plan would also be developed in coordination with provincial authorities, port administrations, and climate experts to prepare a series of immediate interventions, including urban greening projects and ventilation retrofitting in informal settlements near ports to reduce urban heat accumulation and to improve living conditions of vulnerable populations. “Port workers are at the frontlines of our maritime economy. They must be protected from the worst effects of extreme heat,” he said. (*Dawn, June 30th, 2025, Page 5*)

12.1 # Climate Financing

8pc of uplift budget for climate change

In a significant move to address growing challenges of climate change, federal government allocated 6.9pc of the current budget and 8.2pc of the development budget for climate-related initiatives in the fiscal year 2025-26. In addition, the finance minister announced during his budget speech that in order “to discourage use of fossil fuels” and create a funding

source for climate adaptation and Green Energy Programmes, the government has proposed the imposition of a Rs2.5 carbon levy per litre of petrol, high-speed diesel and furnace oil, which will be increased to Rs5 per litre from the next fiscal year. Furthermore, a petroleum levy on furnace oil will be imposed as per government announcement.

According to Annual Budget Statement, the allocations reflect a strategic shift towards climate-resilient planning, with climate-responsive grants making up 0.2pc and nearly half of all subsidies geared towards climate-related objectives. These interventions aimed to equip the federal government with the tools to make more targeted and impactful decisions in response to climate risks. A key feature of this year's budget process was the implementation of the Climate Budget Tagging tool, which enabled the classification of climate-sensitive expenditures in line with National Climate Change Policy. Government, through a consultative process involving multiple stakeholders, successfully tagged more than 5,000 cost centres across three primary categories, along with 40 sub-categories. This data had been integrated into Sustainable Development Programme Achievement Programme system for streamlined accounting and reporting. The budget statement noted that this tagging system would strengthen government's ability to monitor and track climate-related spending, with regular reports expected to improve transparency and guide future policy-making.

As per the detailed breakdown, Rs85.43 billion had been allocated for adaptation measures aimed at enhancing climate resilience, Rs603bn for mitigation efforts to reduce emissions and transition to cleaner technologies, and Rs28.33bn for supporting areas, including capacity building, institutional development, and research. The enhanced climate allocations underscored Pakistan's commitment to integrating environmental considerations into national development planning, ensuring that economic growth aligned with the country's climate resilience and sustainability goals.

According to the statement, the federal government had adopted a climate budget as a governance system to mainstream climate considerations into policy decision making. Green budgeting will enable the government in prioritising climate by integrating it into budgeting process to ensure implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting across line ministries and departments. Separately, Rs2.76bn has been allocated in the budget; from which a major chunk of Rs2.25bn will go to upscaling the Green Pakistan Programme. Besides, Rs325 million has been allocated for strengthening the capacity of the Ministry of Climate Change. (*Dawn, June 11th, 2025, Page 3*)

Pakistan's climate change to hit GDP: WB report

The Country Climate and Development Report by the World Bank predicted that Pakistan will start losing anywhere "between" 6.5% to 9% of its GDP by 2050 because of climate change. "Alarming, Pakistan is currently losing around 6% of its GDP due to inefficient urban transport," said Tauqeer Ahmed Rana, an expert in the area of Road Safety, quoting from the above report. He added that efficient urban transport planning will enhance urbanization-driven economic gains and improve impaired mobility.

The World Bank report on Pakistan stated that the country will need \$368 billion by 2030 for climate mitigation and adaptation if it were to avoid floods, droughts, and heat waves. “But the harsh reality is that despite committing billions of dollars, whatever meagre funds received so far are mostly in the form of loans rather than grants, further exacerbating the economic and financial woes of the developing and the underdeveloped,” said Tauqeer. (*Business Recorder*, June 29th, 2025, Page 2)

13 # CLIMATE DISASTERS

Warnings of an existential climate threat

The Economic Survey has warned that the escalating climate crisis poses an existential threat to Pakistan, noting that extreme weather patterns, rising temperatures and erratic rainfall are increasing in frequency and intensity as the world crosses the crucial 1.5°C threshold. “Climate change is no longer a myth but an urgent reality. The high vulnerability of Pakistan calls for reducing global emissions and creating improved adaptive response strategies locally,” emphasised the survey released. Natural disasters have posed serious threats to Pakistan’s human capital, prompting the government to make significant future capital investments in infrastructure, it said, adding that the country experienced 224 extreme natural disaster events between 1980 and 2024. Among these disasters, floods have emerged as the most catastrophic in terms of economic damage and population impact. With 109 occurrences — including flash, riverine and general floods — these events have affected over 100 million individuals and inflicted total damages of \$36.4 billion, excluding broader economic losses. This disproportionately high impact underscores the issue of climate injustice.

In addition, extreme temperatures, particularly heatwaves, are becoming increasingly deadly, accounting for 2,741 fatalities across 13 events. Tropical cyclones, though limited to five events, caused more than \$1.7bn in damages. Droughts, despite only two reported instances, have severely affected over 6.9 million individuals and resulted in damages totaling \$247m, underlining the severe consequences for the country’s agrarian economy. According to the survey, the year 2024 witnessed severe climate phenomena in Pakistan, marked by extreme heat, unpredictable rainfall, and regional disparities, further reflecting the increasing impacts of climate change. These climatic anomalies involved both intensified rainfall and elevated temperatures.

The economic and social costs are already substantial, as shown by the devastating 2010 and 2022 floods, which caused billions of dollars in damages, massive displacement and necessitated high capital investment. As these challenges intensify, Pakistan’s climate profile is increasingly reflecting global trends of heightened variability and environmental distress, making the country’s resilience dependent on urgent and coordinated action at multiple levels.

Both globally and in Pakistan, 2024 was marked by a mix of climate-driven challenges that reflect intensifying variability and extreme weather. These developments underline

the growing need for enhanced adaptation efforts, resilient infrastructure and proactive measures to counter the mounting impacts of a shifting climate. The survey stated that despite contributing minimally to global greenhouse gas emissions, Pakistan remains among the most vulnerable nations to climate-related disasters. The country continues to experience an alarming rise in such events — from extreme heatwaves and monsoon floods to glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs) and air pollution — while 2024 set new records for temperature and rainfall anomalies.

Looking ahead, this vulnerability can be transformed into resilience through sustained investment in renewable energy, climate-smart infrastructure, and ecosystem restoration. By aligning global support with national-level efforts, Pakistan can not only mitigate the climate crisis but also work towards a safer and more sustainable future. Both globally and within Pakistan, the intensification of climate variability and extreme weather events during 2024 highlights the urgent need for robust adaptation strategies and climate resilience initiatives. (*Dawn, June 10th, 2025, Page 3*)

1980-2024: Natural disasters inflict \$36.4bn damage

Natural disasters inflicted a damage of USD 36.4 billion, economic losses aside, and affected more than 100 million individuals in Pakistan, from 1980 till last year, revealed the Economic Survey for outgoing fiscal year 2024-25. “Between 1980 - 2024, Pakistan experienced 224 extreme natural disaster events. Among these disasters, floods have become the most catastrophic threat in terms of economic damage and have impacted a vast population. According to the Survey, Pakistan’s first-ever carbon market policy was launched during the 29th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP29) held in Baku, Azerbaijan, last year. Through this policy, Pakistan aims to accelerate clean technology deployment and attract investment in sectors and projects with significant emissions reduction potential, including energy, agriculture, waste management, and forestry, reads the Economic Survey. (*Business Recorder, June 10th, 2025, Page 2*)

13.1 # Drought

Drought is a national emergency, warns Sherry Rehman

Senator Sherry Rehman, the chairperson of the Senate Standing Committee on Climate Change, has called for accelerated investment in land restoration, regional climate cooperation, and an end to the weaponisation of water resources, warning that Pakistan was on the frontlines of a compounding climate emergency marked by desertification, drought and declining water security. “Pakistan is losing fertile land at an alarming rate due to desertification, droughts, and mismanaged water resources, threatening food security, livelihoods, and the very fabric of rural economies,” she said in a statement issued on the occasion of World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought. “This is not just an environmental issue, it is a national emergency,” she added. Climate Risk Index 2025 ranks Pakistan 1st among top 10 countries most affected by extreme weather events in 2022, with over 68 per cent of its land area now classified as arid or semi-arid.

The country loses nearly 27,000 hectares of forest and productive land annually, while prolonged droughts in Balochistan, Sindh and south Punjab continue to push vulnerable communities deeper into poverty. The per capita availability of water had plummeted from 5,000 cubic metres in 1947 to less than 900 today, crossing the threshold of water scarcity. This year's theme — "Restore the Land. Unlock the Opportunities" — could not be more relevant for Pakistan. Healthy land underpinned food systems, climate resilience, and economic stability. But as the UNCCD warned, over one million km² of productive land — about 113pc of Pakistan's total land area — was lost worldwide to degradation every year, requiring \$1 billion in daily investments for restoration between 2025 and 2030. Yet current global investments stand at just \$66bn annually, with private sector contributions standing at a paltry 6pc. (*Dawn, June 17th, 2025, Page 3*)

13.2 # Flood

Swat river tragedy: death toll rises to 11

The death toll from the Swat River incident surged to 11 while two others are still missing. A rescue operation is underway in the area. A day earlier 18 individuals were swept away by a sudden surge of high water in the Swat River. The deputy commissioner Swat said 10 dead bodies out of 18 persons swept away by the flash floods have so far been recovered from the river. The incident occurred while tourists were having breakfast along the riverbank when they were caught off guard after heavy rains upstream caused an unexpected and rapid increase in water flow. As many as 80 officials have been deployed across five locations for the rescue operation while they are facing difficult conditions due to rough weather and fast river currents. (*Business Recorder, June 29th, 2025, Page 5*)

13.3 # Heatwave

Extreme heat sears cities across the country

Amid no let-up in extreme heat that has engulfed Pakistan since last week, almost all cities in Punjab reported temperatures exceeding 45 degrees Celsius, with Bhakkar and Sindh's Jacobabad topping the charts with 49°C. The intense weather is expected to continue today as well, according to the Pakistan Meteorological Department. "Mainly hot and dry weather is expected in most parts of the country, while very hot in plain areas," it said. "However, dust-raising/gusty winds are likely in plain areas during the afternoon. Partly cloudy weather with isolated rain-wind/thunderstorm is likely in upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Potohar region, Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan during the evening/night," it added.

The PDMA reported extreme conditions across Punjab, including Sargodha City at 47.8°C, Gujranwala and Hafizabad at 47.5°C, and Lahore at 46.2°C. Only the hill station of Murree offered some respite with a relatively cooler temperature of 32°C. Like Punjab, the rest of the country sizzled as well, bringing life to a standstill. In Sindh, Jacobabad reported 49 and Mohenjo-Daro simmered at 48°C. Larkana and Sukkur

recorded 47°C. Karachi experienced sweltering 40°C with 70% humidity, making conditions unbearable for citizens in the port city. The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) plains, including Peshawar and Dera Ismail Khan, baked at 45-46°C. The northern mountainous areas remained relatively cooler, however. Balochistan's Sibi and Turbat reported 47°C, while Quetta witnessed a comparatively mild temperature of 38°C. (*Dawn, June 12th, 2025, Page 1*)

13.4 # Rainfall

Lightning claims life in Bajaur

A woman was killed after lightning struck a house in Khar tehsil. Rescue 1122 and local residents said the incident occurred at Abdul Manan's house in the Sheikh Meno area during heavy rainfall. Heavy rain, accompanied by thunderstorm and winds, damaged crops and other infrastructure. (*Dawn, June 22nd, 2025, Page 8*)

10 killed as downpour inundates Punjab cities

At least 10 persons were killed as heavy rain drenched cities across Punjab. Some districts in south Punjab were also hit by a strong windstorm. The weather brought much-needed relief after weeks of sweltering heat where temperatures increased to record levels. Rescue 1122 said it provided emergency services to 46 people in the last 24 hours, out of which 39 were hospitalised. Seven died in these emergencies. (*Dawn, June 27th, 2025, Page 1*)

Three die as heavy rain lashes twin cities for second consecutive day

At least three people lost their lives in rain-related incidents as monsoon rains lashed the twin cities and surrounding areas. The downpour also raised water levels in Rawal Dam. (*Dawn, June 27th, 2025, Page 4*)

17 killed as rains wreak havoc across KP

At least 13 tourists drowned in the flooded River Swat after being caught in the gushing water while having breakfast on the riverbank. The casualties occurred near Mingora as the water level in the river rose following two days of rainfall. According to PDMA, six people got trapped in flooded water bodies in Lower Dir. Five of them were rescued, while the search for one person, who drowned near Ghari Rahimabad, was underway. (*Dawn, June 28th, 2025, Page 1*)

Floods, heavy rains kill 32 in two days

At least 32 people have been killed in four provinces over the past two days as heavy rains triggered flash floods and damaged houses. (*Dawn, June 29th, 2025, Page 1*)

Four more die as rain, power outages continue in Karachi

While the city received moderate to heavy showers when the current monsoon spell touched its peak, two more persons died in rain-related incidents. (*Dawn, June 29th, 2025, Page 13*)

Rain, flash floods kill 40, including 18 children, across Pakistan

Heavy rain and flash flooding across Pakistan have killed 40 people, including 18 children, since the start of the monsoon season this week. Flash floods and roof collapses over the past 36 hours have claimed the lives of 19 people, eight of them children, a statement by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provincial disaster management authority said. Of the total fatalities, 13 were reported from northwestern Swat Valley.

At least 15 people have also been killed in Punjab, the area's disaster management authority said. Eight of the fatalities were children, who died when walls and roofs collapsed during heavy rain. Also, six deaths and seven injured in rain related incidents were reported from Karachi. Flooding in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has also damaged 56 houses, six of which were destroyed, the disaster authority said. Meanwhile, at least 15 people lost their lives while 35 others sustained injuries in various rain-related accidents across Punjab during the ongoing monsoon spell, according to a detailed report issued by Provincial Disaster Management Authority. The report, which covers period from June 25 to June 27, highlights a total of 25 incidents caused by torrential rains and strong winds. (*The News*, June 29th, 2025, Page 1)

Two killed, seven injured as heavy rain wreaks havoc in Sheikhpura

Two people died and seven others were injured as roofs and walls of several houses collapsed during heavy thunderstorms and torrential rains in Sheikhpura district. In a separate incident, a five-year-old boy is feared drowned in a canal. The downpour caused widespread damage to property, leaving citizens in financial distress. (*Dawn*, June 30th, 2025, Page 8)

21 die in rain-related incidents in KP: PDMA

Twenty-one died and 10 others injured in rains, floods/flash floods and land slide related incidents in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, said updates released by the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA). It said that since June 27 till various incidents triggered by rains, strong winds, flash floods, and landslides have resulted in the loss of 21 people and injuries to 10 others in the province. The deceased include 7 men, 5 women, and 9 children. The injured include 6 men, 3 women, and 1 child. (*Business Recorder*, June 30th, 2025, Page 3)

13.5 # Wildfire

Wildfire ravages 35km forest area in Kirthar range

A wildfire which erupted near Shah Makan in western Dadu ravaged a big part of around 35 kilometre forest area of Kirthar mountain range. Dadu Deputy Commissioner Syed Murtaza Ali Shah said that initial efforts to contain the fire were hampered by the rough landscape and strong winds. However, he added, the winds eventually lost velocity allowing the fire to die down naturally. "Smoke is still rising from some areas, but flames have subsided," he said. (*Dawn*, June 4th, 2025, Page 15)

Wildfire destroys pine nut, olive trees in Balochistan's Sherani

A wildfire that broke out in the forest of Shin Ghar in Sherani district could not be brought under control despite the passage of three days, destroying pine nut and olive trees and threatening the livelihood of local residents. Officials in Zhob confirmed the outbreak of the massive fire in the mountainous area of Mraghbal Tora Morgah, saying that reports of the fire were received. The blaze had continued for the third consecutive day. (*Dawn, June 13th, 2025, Page 5*)

14 # NATURAL DISASTER

14.1 # Earthquake

Karachi experiences 3.6-magnitude quake with Quaidabad as epicentre

Parts of Karachi experienced mild tremors as a 3.6-magnitude earthquake struck the city in the evening. The earthquake originated at a shallow depth of 10 kilometres beneath the surface, with its epicentre located near Quaidabad, a densely populated area of the city. (*Dawn, June 2nd, 2025, Page 13*)

More tremors jolt parts of Karachi for third day

Parts of Karachi experienced three more tremors, as the city has been shaken by 19 mild earthquakes over the past three days, Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) officials said. Data released by the Early Tsunami Warning Cell suggests an unusual seismic activity that marks a rare episode in the city's history, raising concerns among residents and officials alike. The tremors, all classified as low to moderate in intensity, ranged from 2.1 magnitude to 3.6 on the Richter scale. The strongest tremor, measuring 3.6, was recorded while the weakest was of 2.1 magnitude.

Earlier, Chief Meteorologist Amir Hyder Laghari had said that there was a historical fault line which became active, causing frequent earthquakes in the city. The fault was releasing its seismic energy, and when it's spent, the tremors' magnitude will reduce, he said, adding that the small-scale jolts to end within a week. Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah explained the geological context of the repeated tremors. "I have also studied engineering. These low-scale tremors are actually a good thing. The earth is releasing its energy gradually," he told reporters. He said that the gradual release of seismic energy, is preferable to a sudden, large-scale discharge which could result in a catastrophic earthquake. (*Dawn, June 4th, 2025, Page 13*)

Two more low-intensity tremors hit Karachi

The seismic centre of the Pakistan Meteorological Department reported two more tremors — with their epicentres near Malir — raising the city's tally of the low-intensity earthquakes to 29 since June 1. (*Dawn, June 6th, 2025, Page 13*)

Karachi continues to face low-intensity tremors

The city experienced two more tremors raising the Karachi's tally of the low-intensity earthquakes to 32 since June 1, the Met Office said. (*Dawn, June 7th, 2025 Page 14*)

Low-intensity tremors hit Karachi, Gwadar and Ormara

Another earthquake, this time of magnitude 3.5 on the Richter scale, hit parts of Malir, spreading fear in the locality and adjoining areas. Also Gwadar and Ormara experienced mild tremors at around 5:14pm. Officials said that the magnitude of the quake in Gwadar was 3.0 on the Richter scale, with the epicentre located eight kilometres northwest of the port city. Similarly, in Ormara, the 3.1-magnitude earthquake was reported at a depth of 10kms. (*Dawn, June 10th, 2025, Page 13*)

Three more tremors felt in parts of Karachi

Three more tremors — two of them within a gap of seven minutes — were felt in parts of the city, raising the tally of low-intensity earthquakes in the city since June 1 to 38. (*Dawn, June 13th, 2025, Page 13*)

4.7-magnitude quake rocks Pasni, mild tremors felt in Karachi

Low to moderate intensity earthquakes hit parts of Karachi and Pasni. However, there were immediate no reports of any casualty or infrastructure damage. Later in the day, an earthquake measuring 4.7 on the Richter scale was recorded in and around Pasni at 6.23pm. Its epicentre was located 60km southwest of Pasni, at a depth of 14km. (*Dawn, June 15th, 2025, Page 13*)

Five more low-intensity tremors felt in Karachi

Five more tremors hit parts of the city, raising the tally of low-intensity earthquakes to 45 since June 1. (*Dawn, June 17th, 2025, Page 13*)

Two more tremors jolt city

Two more tremors jolted parts of the city, raising the tally of low-intensity earthquakes to 49 since June 1. (*Dawn, June 21st, 2025, Page 13*)

Karachi jolted by four more tremors

Four more tremors – two of them within a gap of four minutes – hit city, bringing tally of low-intensity earthquakes to 55 since June 1. Since June 1, the PMD has recorded 55 tremors, most of them in areas near Malir. The other areas include parts of Quaidabad, Gadap, DHA City, DHA and Korangi. Their intensity so far has ranged from 1.5 magnitude to 3.8 magnitude on Richter scale. (*Dawn, June 23rd, 2025, Page 13*)

Twin quakes jolt Balochistan; several houses collapse,

Two powerful earthquakes jolted Barkhan, Musa Khel, and surrounding areas in Balochistan, causing widespread panic and structural damage. The first quake struck at 3:24 am with a magnitude of 5.5, while the second tremor, recorded at 7:30 am, measured 4.8 on the Richter scale. The shocks were felt across multiple towns, bringing down several homes and injuring four people. The United States Geological Survey (USGS) reported a magnitude 5.3 earthquake in central Pakistan with the epicentre positioned roughly 60 kilometres north-northeast of Barkhan.

Pakistan lies at the intersection of the Indian and Eurasian tectonic plates, making it prone to seismic activity. The region has witnessed several devastating quakes in the past. In 2005, a 7.6-magnitude earthquake struck Pakistan-controlled Kashmir, killing over 73,000 people and leaving 3.5m homeless. A 7.5-magnitude quake in 2015 affected both Pakistan and Afghanistan, claiming nearly 400 lives across remote mountain regions that slowed down rescue efforts. Balochistan, the country's largest and most sparsely populated province, has seen frequent seismic activity. In 2021, a quake in the Harnai district killed at least 20 people and injured several more, with landslides further delaying emergency response. (*Business Recorder, June 30th, 2025, Page 3*)

15 # RESISTANCE

Schoolteachers across Gilgit-Baltistan protest denial of promotions

Despite rain and winds in different parts of Gilgit-Baltistan, government school teachers continued to boycott classes and hold a protest sit-in for a sixth consecutive day to press the authorities for their one-point agenda of long overdue promotions. Academic activities at government schools across Gilgit-Baltistan have been suspended since last week, as thousands of teachers announced that they would call off their protest only when their single-point demand was fulfilled. For the past five days, teachers have organised demonstrations and rallies outside the education department offices in Hunza, Nagar, Astore, Skardu, Diamer, Ghanche, Shigar, Kharmang and Ghizer. The protesting teachers from these districts marched towards Gilgit and joined the protest sit-in outside the Gilgit-Baltistan Directorate of Education in Gilgit, the regional headquarters, where the minister's office is situated. (*Dawn, June 1st, 2025, Page 3*)

Peshawarites stage rally against 'custodial killing'

Residents of Mathra area blocked the Khyber Road against the alleged killing of a man in police custody. They placed the body on the road. City police issued a statement, saying a mobile snatcher was killed by Mathra police in an exchange of fire. The statement said Asad, a resident of Miskeenabad, was wanted by the Peshawar and Islamabad police in several cases. The statement said two motorcyclists opened fire when policemen signalled them to stop at a checkpoint. The police retaliated the fire. After the cross-fire the police launched a search operation and found Asad's body, while his accomplice escaped. (*Dawn, June 1st, 2025, Page 8*)

Karachi healthcare providers rally to express solidarity with Gaza

A large number of healthcare professionals representing 17 medical and welfare organisations organised a Palestine solidarity walk at the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre (JPMC). They called upon the United Nations and the global community to take immediate steps to enforce a ceasefire in Gaza and restore its medical and humanitarian aid. The participants carried banners and placards inscribed with slogans such as "Heal Humanity," "Doctors for Gaza," and "Open Humanitarian Corridors." A symbolic "Wall of Solidarity" was also installed during the walk, where attendees inscribed heartfelt messages for the people of Gaza. (*Dawn, June 1st, 2025, Page 13*)

Rally held in Sanghar against corporate farming, canals

Workers of Awami Tehreek organised a protest rally in Jhol, Sanghar district against corporate farming, construction of six canals on Indus River and “occupation” of Sindh’s mineral resources. They said that corporate farming was a conspiracy to erase the very existence of the nations who created Pakistan. (*Dawn, June 1st, 2025, Page 15*)

Gilgit-Baltistan traders block KKH for fifth consecutive day

Local traders protesting import-export policies continued to block the Karakoram Highway (KKH) at Gulmat Nagar for a fifth consecutive day, with a separate demonstration also halting traffic in Sost town near Khunjerab Pass. The KKH Hunza-Nagar section remained blocked at two locations, causing difficulties for tourists and passengers amid long queues of vehicles. Protesters, led by the Pak-China Traders Action Committee, vowed not to call off their sit-in until their demands concerning trade with China and what they termed “exploitative policies” by the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) are met. The committee is an alliance comprising the Gilgit-Baltistan Importers and Exporters Association, the Nagar Chamber of Commerce, and small trade associations from Nagar, Hunza, and Gilgit. Key demands include the clearance of 240 consignments imported from China, stuck at Sost Dry port for seven months, through an amnesty scheme, and a waiver of all port charges. (*Dawn, June 4th, 2025, Page 3*)

Apcra rallies for pay rise, benefits

In response to a call given by the All Pakistan Clerks Association (Apcra), Sindh, its Larkana chapter staged a rally after locking out offices. Carrying banners and placards, and chanting slogans in favour of their demands, the participants marched on the roads. They held a demonstration and a sit-in outside the local press club. They said that the rising inflation and low salaries along with inadequate medical, conveyance and house rent allowances, had made it extremely difficult for the employees to manage their household expenses. They claimed that during the past nine months, the employees had deposited Rs450 billion in taxes in the national treasury, but there had been no increase in their salaries or in benefits. (*Dawn, June 4th, 2025, Page 15*)

PTI rallies farmers for decisive protest to fix agri sector

The PTI has criticised the government for “destroying” the agriculture sector and called upon farmers to prepare for a “decisive” protest movement for their rights. These remarks were made by PTI leaders at a farmers’ convention a day after the federal budget was announced. The government announced several measures in the budget to support the farming sector, including the decision not to impose a general sales tax (GST) on fertilisers and pesticides to reduce the cost of input for farmers. However, farmers have called the measures — which came on the back of the sector’s poor performance last year — inadequate. In the outgoing financial year, the output of major crops reduced by 13.5pc, which restricted the overall GDP growth rate by 0.6pc. (*Dawn, June 12th, 2025, Page 3*)

Couple's murder sparks protest

A large number of men, women and children staged a protest over the murder of a couple in Kotdiji tehsil of Khairpur district. According to reports reaching here, residents of the Alam Khan Gopang village, falling within the limits of Shah Latif police station, carried the body of a woman identified as Fozia Gopang and protested against her brother-in-law and his accomplices who allegedly tortured and shot Fozia and her husband Mir Muhammad Gopang dead last night in Kotdiji. They said that last night armed persons had shot dead the couple who had four children, two sons and two daughters. (*Dawn, June 12th, 2025, Page 15*)

Farmers protest dry canal, allege water theft

Farmers from several villages in the Bhandi area protested against the unavailability of irrigation water in the Gullan Minor canal, alleging water theft and corruption by irrigation department staff in Chak 206-P. Bhandi is about 35 kilometres from Sadiqabad near the Punjab-Sindh border. The Gullan Minor is fed by the Sadiq Branch canal at headworks near Chak 160-P. Dozens of farmers from Chaks 198-P to 210-P, along with residents of several smaller settlements, gathered at Gullan Minor in Chak 206-P. Led by Syed Tafsir Shah, Asghar Khalti and Nisar Ahmed, the protesters shared their grievances about the acute water shortage.

They said 50,000 acres in the area had turned barren due to the lack of irrigation water. Since the underground water is brackish, villagers said they were even struggling to access drinking water for themselves and their livestock, forcing many to migrate from the region. They accused the irrigation staff of selling water to influential farmers in upstream villages who bribed officials, leaving tail-end areas dry. The farmers alleged that the staff charged Rs600 to Rs1,000 per hour for illegal water supply by enlarging outlets or installing unauthorised tube connections. (*Dawn, June 1th, 2025, Page 8*)

Women protest prolonged power outages in Kotri

A large number of women staged a demonstration outside Kotri Press Club in protest against unannounced and prolonged electricity loadshedding and authorities' failure to replace the faulty transformers. According to the protesters, their area had been without electricity for the past 15 days, with loadshedding lasting up to 18 hours a day. They expressed deep concern over the impact of the power outages on children, the elderly and the sick, who were suffering in extreme heat. (*Dawn, June 18th, 2025, Page 15*)

BYC workers continue their hunger strike in Turbat

The Baloch Yakjehti Committee (BYC) workers continued their hunger strike in Turbat for a second consecutive day, protesting the alleged "illegal detention" of their leaders including, Dr Mahrang Baloch. The BYC members have set up a hunger strike camp in front of Turbat Press Club where large numbers of people, including leaders of various political parties, members of civil society and activists of human rights visited them, expressing their solidarity. (*Dawn, June 21st, 2025, Page 5*)

SUP marches against corporate farming

Activists of the Sindh United Party (SUP) staged a march for the rights of Indus river and against the corporate farming plan in the province. Led by acting SUP president Roshan Buriro, the activists carrying party flags marched from Jamshoro road to M-9 where they held a sit-in at Karachi-Hyderabad point, suspending the movement of vehicular traffic on the highway. Mr Buriro said the Sindh government had planned to lease out 1.4m acres of land for the corporate farming in the province. Initially 435,000 acres of land in Kacho, Thar and coastal areas had been leased out for the purpose.

He said the forest department's land from Matiari to Sakrand had been given to companies. The PPP's Sindh government had bargained over the core interests of Sindh in lieu of power, he alleged. He stated that Sindh's assets of land resources, water, minerals, tourist spots and islands were being sold. He maintained that the SUP's movement would now focus on the corporate farming. Stating that the party protest held at the bypass remained peaceful, he warned that such protest would also be held outside the CM House. (*Dawn, June 21st, 2025, Page 15*)

Health workers continue sit-in, demand restoration of risk allowance

A token sit-in by health employees at major public sector hospitals in Islamabad entered its second consecutive day, with protestors vowing to continue their demonstration until the health risk allowance is restored. Health workers also warned that the protest may be extended and intensified in the coming days if their demand remains unmet. The hospitals where the strike is being observed include the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (Pims), Polyclinic, Federal General Hospital, National Institute of Rehabilitation Medicine (Nirm) and the District Health Office, among others. At Pims, employees have been staging a two-hour daily strike from 8am to 10am.

The health risk allowance, equivalent to one month's basic salary, was initially introduced by the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) government in 2011 but was withdrawn by the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) government in 2014. Employees had hoped it would be reinstated in the proposed federal budget, but no such announcement was made. A large number of nurses, as well as gazetted and non-gazetted staff, participated in the protest and sit-in. (*Dawn, June 22nd, 2025, Page 4*)

Protests erupt against power outages in KP amid heat wave

As the heat wave persists, different localities of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are experiencing prolonged power outages daily. In Peshawar, the power consumers, including women held protest meetings in different areas against the power outages and demanded smooth power supply to their areas. The main Charsadda road remained blocked for some time, which also affected the traffic flow. The protesters said the situation was even worse in rural areas, where sixteen to twenty hours of power outages have become order of the day. (*Dawn, June 22nd, 2025, Page 8*)

Excessive power cuts spark public outrage in KP

Widespread and excessive electric loadshedding has sparked intense public outrage throughout Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Citizens in both urban and rural areas are suffering from daily power outages lasting 16 to 20 hours, with Peshawar Electric Supply Company justifying the practice by labelling certain feeders as “high-loss”, according to a statement issued. (*Dawn, June 23rd, 2025, Page 9*)

Quadcopter strike in South Waziristan protested

A large number of tribesmen came onto the roads in Makeen tehsil following a suspected quadcopter strike in Dshka area, claiming life of a child and injuring five others. The incident prompted a complete shutter down strike, drawing thousands of locals to streets. According to local sources, the quadcopter attack occurred, targeting schoolchildren. In response, residents staged a massive demonstration in Makeen Bazaar. Hundreds of protesters, including tribal elders, youth and members of the victims’ families, gathered in front of the security forces’ office, holding a jirga to voice their outrage over the continued quadcopter operations in civilian areas. (*Dawn, June 24th, 2025, Page 8*)

Police briefly detain govt employees protesting for pay hikes, promotions in Karachi

The Karachi Police briefly detained government employees protesting for pay hikes and promotions after initially using tear gas and water cannons to disperse the crowds. Traffic snarls were also caused in several areas due to the confrontations. South Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) Syed Asad Raza told *Dawn.com*, “Eighty-seven [protesters were] arrested and released on commitment to call off the protest,” adding that their future course of action would be announced after 13th Muharam. He said the police initially took action as negotiations among the representatives of the employees and officials failed. “The Sindh Employees’ Alliance (SEA) — an alliance of different departments of Sindh government employees — were marching towards the Chief Minister’s House. (*Dawn, June 24th, 2025, Page 8*)

Govt employees violently clash with police in Quetta

Police arrested over two dozen government employees’ after clashes erupted while they were protesting against their salaries not being increased in line with federal government scales. Police lobbed tear gas shells when the protesting employees became unruly and pelted police with stones during their demonstration. The employees took to roads in Quetta carrying placards and banners scribed with their demands and chanted slogans against the government. Police resorted to baton-charge and used tear gas to disperse the protesting employees, during which around a dozen demonstrators received injuries. Law enforcement officials also used batons against media men covering the protest. (*Dawn, June 25th, 2025, Page 5*)

Rally staged from Jhimpir to Makli for rights of locals

Nationalist activists and residents of Kohistan staged a protest rally from Jhimpir to Makli, which culminated in a sit-in and demonstration outside Deputy Commissioner Office. The protest aimed at highlighting the long-standing issues faced by the people of Jhimpir and the Kohistan region. Leaders demanded employment for local residents of Jhimpir and Kohistan. (*Dawn, June 25th, 2025, Page 15*)

Police briefly detain govt employees protesting for pay hikes, promotions in Karachi

The Karachi Police briefly detained government employees protesting for pay hikes and promotions after initially using tear gas and water cannons to disperse the crowds. Traffic snarls were also caused in several areas due to the confrontations. South Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) Syed Asad Raza told *Dawn.com*, “Eighty-seven [protesters were] arrested and released on commitment to call off the protest,” adding that their future course of action would be announced after 13th Muharam. He said the police initially took action as negotiations among the representatives of the employees and officials failed. “The Sindh Employees’ Alliance (SEA) — an alliance of different departments of Sindh government employees — were marching towards the Chief Minister’s House. (*Dawn, June 26th, 2025, Page 2*)

Erstwhile Fata & PATA: Traders observe shutter-down strike against imposition of ST

Traders in Malakand division and merged districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa observed a complete shutter down against imposition of the proposed 10 percent sales tax through the federal budget for FY26 in erstwhile Fata and PATA. Business community warned to strongly resist if the government would implement its decision. All large and small businesses remained closed in Malakand and merged districts as a complete shutter down strike was observed in the division to protest the levy of sales tax. (*Business Recorder, June 26th, 2025, Page 2*)

Swat residents protest deaths in flooded river

People from all walks of life took to the streets to protest deaths in the flooded river. The tragedy struck as flash floods swept away around 17 tourists having breakfast by the Swat River. Out of the visitors, 13 drowned after remaining stranded for around two hours. (*Dawn, June 29th, 2025, Page 8*)

Fisherfolk, rights activists rally for climate justice, debt cancellation

Members of the fisherfolk community, civil society and rights activists staged a rally calling for a transformation of the international financial system, along with immediate demands such as debt cancellation, wealth taxes and the delivery of climate finance. The rally was held in connection with the 4th International Conference on Financing for Development (FFD4) in Sevilla, Spain, a once-in-a-decade UN gathering. The participants marched from Governor House Roundabout to the Karachi Press Club, carrying banners and placards and raising slogans in favour of their demands.

Civil society organisations and movements reiterated the urgent demand for debt cancellation and called for a UN Framework Convention on Debt to pave the way for a democratic, multilateral and transparent mechanism to address unsustainable and illegitimate debts. They assert that it is vital to move away from creditor-dominated forums that have failed to prevent and resolve the accumulation of unsustainable and illegitimate debts, and have resulted in debt relief schemes that protect creditor interests. In 2022, developing countries paid USD 49 billion more to their external creditors than they received in fresh disbursements.

Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum General Secretary Saeed Baloch said, “The global financial architecture is dominated by rich countries and not responsive to the needs and priorities of the Global South. It is in the interest of all of us... to build a Financing for Development system that reduces inequality... and ensures adequate public finance for climate change.”

Fatima Majeed, senior vice chairperson, said, “The international tax system is broken... Tax abuse by the rich and multinational corporations has instead taken these resources, deepening the debt crisis... A historic process is underway as countries will meet in August to begin negotiations on a UN Tax Convention.”

Climate disasters are further depleting public coffers in developing countries. Civil society groups emphasised that climate finance must be delivered in the form of public, predictable, grant-based finance, not loans. Aid cuts by Global North governments were denounced as harmful to necessary transitions. (*Dawn, June 30th, 2025, Page 14*)

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

1 # AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION RESOURCES

India says will never restore Indus Water Treaty [P.60]

2 # AGRICULTURAL INPUTS

Not any preferable news to be included in this month.

3 # AGRICULTURAL OUTPUTS

Not any preferable news to be included in this month.

4 # SUB – AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIONS

Not any preferable news to be included in this month.

5 # TRADE

China says it will remove all tariffs on African exports to boost trade [P.60]

WTO trade barometer rises, but slowdown expected later in year [P.61]

5.1 # Exports

Nepal to export buffalo meat to China as part of Rs27bn project [P.61]

5.2 # Imports

Iranian oil imports to China hit record high in June [P.61]

China resumes qualified seafood imports from some Japan regions [P.61]

6 # CORPORATE SECTOR

Not any preferable news to be included in this month.

7 # INTERNATIONAL LOAN / AID / INVESTMENT

UN slashes global aid plan over ‘deepest funding cuts ever’ [P.62]

8 # INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS (IFIs)

8.1 # World Bank (WB)

World Bank flags drop in FDI to developing countries [P.63]

WB announces Lebanon, Syria reconstruction projects [P.63]

9 # POLICY

Not any preferable news to be included in this month.

10 # SOCIO – ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

\$31tr debt threatens public services: UNCTAD [P.63]
Developing states' debt service tops \$921bn: UN [P.64]

10.1 # Food

40 killed trying to reach food in Gaza [P.64]

10.2 # Poverty

Surge in conflicts fuels extreme poverty: World Bank [P.64]

11 # ENVIRONMENT

11.1 # Health

'It's heartbreaking': bad cancer drugs shipped to more than 100 countries [P.65]
US stops financial support for global vaccine alliance [P.65]

12 # CLIMATE CHANGE

South Asia urged to tackle climate change for resilient food systems [P.66]
Meteorologists have a first-row seat to climate change in Arctic [P.67]
Asia warming nearly twice as fast as global average: WMO [P.67]

12.1 # Climate Crisis

Greenland ice melted 17 times faster than average in May heatwave: scientists [P.67]

13 # CLIMATE DISASTERS

Disasters loom over South Asia as hotter monsoon forecast [P.68]

13.1 # Cyclone

China braces for second tropical cyclone in two weeks [P.68]

13.2 # Flood

Flash floods batter Nigeria, kill over 150 [P.69]

13.3 # Heatwave

Millions in US sweat out year's first extreme heatwave [P.69]
Europe bakes in summer's first heatwave [P.69]
Cold baths, climate shelters as Southern Europe heatwave intensifies [P.70]

13.4 # Rainfall

Monsoon floods kill five in India's northeast [P.70]
India's monsoon rains kill at least 30 in northeast [P.71]
27 killed as rains lash India's Gujarat [P.71]

Heavy rain hits China's flood-stricken region for second time [P.71]

13.5 # Storm

Unseasonal hailstorm lashes Egypt's Alexandria [P.71]

14 # NATURAL DISASTERS

Rock collapse at Indonesia quarry kills 10 [P.72]

6.1-magnitude quake hits off southern Philippines [P.72]

15 # RESISTANCE

News Makers: Sao Paulo (Brazil) [P.72]

Curfew in LA as protests spread across US despite Trump threats [P.72]

Protests over police killing in Kenya as govt presents budget [P.73]

Coordinated protests against tourism planned in Europe [P.73]

News Makers: Sanaa (Yemen) [P.73]

Thousands attend anti-Trump protests in US cities [P.73]

Tens of thousands rally for Gaza in Netherlands, Belgium [P.73]

Thousands protest in Tehran, region against Israel [P.74]

Tens of thousands join pro-Palestinian marches in London and Berlin [P.74]

News Makers: Dhaka (Bangladesh) [P.74]

16 killed, 400 injured in protests across Kenya [P.74]

News Makers: Kolkata (India) [P.75]

Strike shuts down Bangladesh's biggest port [P.75]

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

[Back](#)

1 # AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION RESOURCES

India says will never restore Indus Water Treaty

India will never restore the Indus Waters Treaty with Islamabad, and the water flowing to Pakistan will be diverted for internal use, Home Minister Amit Shah said in an interview with Times of India. India put into “abeyance” its participation in the 1960 treaty, which governs the usage of the Indus river system, after 26 civilians in Indian Kashmir were killed in what Delhi described as an act of terror. The treaty had guaranteed water access for 80% of Pakistan’s farms through three rivers originating in India. Pakistan has denied involvement in the incident, but the accord remains dormant despite a ceasefire agreed upon by the two nuclear-armed neighbours last month following their worst fighting in decades.

“No, it will never be restored,” Shah told the daily. “We will take water that was flowing to Pakistan to Rajasthan by constructing a canal. Pakistan will be starved of water that it has been getting unjustifiably,” Shah said, referring to the northwestern Indian state. The latest comments from Shah, the most powerful cabinet minister in Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s cabinet, have dimmed Islamabad’s hopes for negotiations on the treaty in the near term. Last month, Reuters reported that India plans to dramatically increase the water it draws from a major river that feeds Pakistani farms downstream, as part of retaliatory action. Pakistan’s foreign ministry did not immediately respond to Reuters’ request for comments. But it has said in the past that the treaty has no provision for one side to unilaterally pull back and that any blocking of river water flowing to Pakistan will be considered “an act of war”. Islamabad is also exploring a legal challenge to India’s decision to hold the treaty in abeyance under international law. (*Business Recorder, June 22nd, 2025, Page 1*)

2 # AGRICULTURAL INPUTS

Not any preferable news to be included in this month.

3 # AGRICULTURAL OUTPUTS

Not any preferable news to be included in this month.

4 # SUB – AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIONS

Not any preferable news to be included in this month.

5 # TRADE

China says it will remove all tariffs on African exports to boost trade

China will negotiate and sign a new economic pact with Africa that will get rid of all tariffs on the 53 African states it has diplomatic ties with a move that could benefit middle-income nations. The Asian economic giant offers duty- and quota-free market access to least developed countries (LDCs), including many in Africa, but the new

initiative will level the playing field by also offering middle-income countries similar market access. “China is ready to... welcome quality products from Africa to the Chinese market”, China’s foreign ministry said after a meeting of senior Chinese officials with African foreign ministers in Changsha to review implementation of commitments made during a summit in Beijing last September. (*Business Recorder, June 13th, 2025, Page 5*)

WTO trade barometer rises, but slowdown expected later in year

The World Trade Organization reported a rise in its quarterly trade barometer driven by frontloading purchases but likely to be short-lived as weakening export orders suggest a slowdown later in the year. The WTO Goods Trade Barometer rose to 103.5, above the baseline of 100 dividing above- and below-trend trade volumes and slightly above a March reading of 102.8. “The decline in export orders and the temporary nature of frontloading suggest that trade growth may slow in the months ahead,” the WTO said in a statement. (*Business Recorder, June 27th, 2025, Page 1*)

5.1 # Exports

Nepal to export buffalo meat to China as part of Rs27bn project

IF all goes as planned, Nepal will begin exporting buffalo meat to China next June, with a daily target of 5,000 tonnes, according to meat industry representatives. “It’s been a week since we received approval for Chinese investment worth nearly Rs9.5 billion. The investors are arriving, after which we’ll submit an application to the Investment Board Nepal for final approval,” said Navin Kumar Sharma, chairman of Himalayan Food International. Beijing has promoted the deal as part of its ‘soft trade diplomacy’ strategy and hopes to import up to \$1.5 billion worth of buffalo meat annually from Nepal, calling the partnership a potential “game changer”. The total Chinese investment in Nepal’s meat sector will reach around Rs27 billion, covering two major components: meat processing and animal rearing. (*Dawn, June 30th, 2025, Page 10*)

5.2 # Imports

Iranian oil imports to China hit record high in June

China’s Iranian oil imports surged in June as shipments accelerated before the recent conflict in the region and demand from independent refineries improved. The world’s top oil importer and biggest buyer of Iranian crude brought in more than 1.8 million barrels per day (bpd) from June 1-20, according to ship-tracker Vortexa, a record high based on the firm’s data. Kpler’s data put the month-to-date average of China’s Iranian oil and condensate imports at 1.46 million bpd as of June 27, up from one million bpd in May. (*Business Recorder, June 28th, 2025, Page 8*)

China resumes qualified seafood imports from some Japan regions

China announced it is immediately resuming seafood products imported from some Japanese regions, ending a nearly two-year overall ban imposed due to worries over Japan’s release of treated wastewater from the Fukushima nuclear power plant. In a

notice, China Customs said seafood products from 10 prefectures - Fukushima, Gunma, Tochigi, Ibaraki, Miyagi, Niigata, Nagano, Saitama, Tokyo and Chiba - will still be banned from entering the country. Products from other regions will need health certificates, radioactive substance detection qualification certificates and production area certificates issued by the Japanese government for Chinese customs declarations.

Chinese customs authorities said decision was made after no abnormality was detected following long-term international and independent Chinese sampling and monitoring of discharged wastewater. China banned all imports of Japanese seafood in August 2023, shortly after Tokyo began releasing treated Fukushima wastewater, prompting a diplomatic and economic backlash. Sunday's notice said China will strictly supervise Japanese seafood imports and will take measures if it finds any violations of relevant Chinese laws, regulations and food safety standards. (*Business Recorder, June 30th, 2025, Page 1*)

6 # CORPORATE SECTOR

Not any preferable news to be included in this month.

7 # INTERNATIONAL LOAN / AID / INVESTMENT

UN slashes global aid plan over 'deepest funding cuts ever'

The United Nations said it was drastically scaling back its global humanitarian aid plans because of the “deepest funding cuts ever” — leaving tens of millions of people facing dire straits. The UN's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said it was seeking \$29 billion in funding for 2025 compared to the \$44 billion originally requested in December, in a “hyper-prioritised” appeal. Since US President Donald Trump returned to office in January, the United States — the world's top donor — has heavily slashed foreign aid, causing havoc in the humanitarian sector across the globe.

Drastic US funding cuts have had dramatic consequences for emergency aid, vaccination campaigns and the distribution of drugs to fight AIDS. Other major donor countries have also cut back their contributions in the face of an uncertain economic outlook. “Brutal funding cuts leave us with brutal choices,” OCHA chief Tom Fletcher said in a statement. “All we ask is one percent of what you chose to spend last year on war. But this isn't just an appeal for money — it's a call for global responsibility, for human solidarity, for a commitment to end the suffering.”

In late April, while visiting a hospital in Kandahar in Afghanistan, Fletcher warned: “Cutting funding for those in greatest need is not something to boast about... The impact of aid cuts is that millions die.” With 2025 nearly halfway through, the UN has received only \$5.6 billion out of the \$44 billion originally sought for this year — a mere 13 percent. In total, the original plan covered more than 70 countries and aimed to assist nearly 190 million vulnerable people. Even so, that plan acknowledged there were 115 million people the UN would not be able to reach. “We have been forced into a triage of human survival,” Fletcher said. (*Business Recorder, June 17th, 2025, Page 5*)

8 # INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS (IFIs)

8.1 # World Bank (WB)

World Bank flags drop in FDI to developing countries

The World Bank said in a report that foreign direct investment (FDI) into developing economies has hit the lowest level since 2005, citing growing trade and investment barriers. Developing countries received just \$435 billion of such investment in 2023, the Washington-based development lender added, noting this was the latest year for which data was available. As a share of gross domestic product (GDP), FDI flows to developing economies were at 2.3 percent in 2023 — about half the level of their peak in 2008. “What we’re seeing is a result of public policy,” said World Bank chief economist Indermit Gill, noting that investment is falling while public debt is reaching new highs. (*Business Recorder, June 17th, 2025, Page 5*)

WB announces Lebanon, Syria reconstruction projects

The World Bank announced it had approved \$250 million to support Lebanon’s post-war reconstruction and a \$146 million grant to rehabilitate neighbouring Syria’s electricity sector. (*Business Recorder, June 26th, 2025, Page 1*)

9 # POLICY

Not any preferable news to be included in this month.

10 # SOCIO – ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

\$31tr debt threatens public services: UNCTAD

Global public debt rose to \$102 trillion in 2024, with developing countries accounting for nearly one-third — \$31tr — of that total, according to a new report by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. These economies paid a record \$921bn in interest payments, severely straining public finances and threatening essential public services. In its latest World of Debt report, released ahead of the fourth International Conference on Financing for Development in Spain on June 30, UNCTAD warns that mounting debt burdens, declining investment, and shrinking aid flows are derailing progress towards Sustainable Development Goals, especially for lower-income nations.

Since 2010, public debt in developing countries has grown twice as fast as in advanced economies, the report states. Systemic inequalities in global financial systems have further exacerbated the crisis. Since 2020, developing nations have been forced to borrow at interest rates two to four times higher than those available to the United States. UNCTAD’s data reveals significant regional disparities. Asia and Oceania hold 24pc of global public debt, followed by Latin America and the Caribbean with 5pc, and Africa with just 2pc. UNCTAD reports that 61 developing countries now spend at least 10pc of their government revenues on interest payments—leaving little room for investment in health, education, or climate action. Alarming, 3.4bn people now live in countries where interest payments surpass public spending on education or health. It calls for a fundamental overhaul of international financial architecture. (*Dawn, June 27th, 2025, Page 9*)

Developing states' debt service tops \$921bn: UN

Debt service payments by developing countries soared by \$74 billion in 2024, ie, from \$847 billion to \$921, according to a new UN report, which points out that two-thirds of the low income nations are either in debt distress or at a high risk of it. The report, “Confronting the Debt Crisis: 11 Actions to Unlock Sustainable Financing,” was launched by UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed. The report showed more than 3.4 billion people now live in countries that spend more on interest payments than on health or education, 100 million more than previous year. (*Business Recorder, June 29th, 2025, Page 1*)

10.1 # Food

40 killed trying to reach food in Gaza

Israeli fire killed at least 40 people, half of them near an aid distribution site operated by the US-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, the territory’s health ministry said, as UN officials denounced Israeli-backed aid delivery methods. Medics said at least 20 people were killed and 200 others wounded near an aid distribution site in Rafah, the latest in daily mass shootings that have killed hundreds of Palestinians trying to reach food since Israel imposed a new distribution system after partly lifting a near three-month total blockade. Israel has put responsibility for distributing much of the aid it allows into Gaza into the hands of a new US-backed group, the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, which operates three sites in areas guarded by Israeli troops. The United Nations has rejected the plan, saying GHF distribution is inadequate, dangerous and violates humanitarian impartiality principles. (*Dawn, June 17th, 2025, Page 12*)

10.2 # Poverty

Surge in conflicts fuels extreme poverty: World Bank

Conflicts and related fatalities have more than tripled since the early 2000s, fuelling extreme poverty, the World Bank said. Economies in fragile and conflict-affected regions have become “the epicentre of global poverty and food insecurity, a situation increasingly shaped by the frequency and intensity of conflict,” the bank added in a new study. This year, 421 million shaped by the frequency and intensity of conflict,” the bank added in a new study. This year, 421 million people get by on less than \$3 a day in places hit by conflict or instability — a situation of extreme poverty — and the number is poised to hit 435 million by 2030.

Global attention has been focused on conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East for the past three years, said World Bank Group chief economist Indermit Gill. But “half of the countries facing conflict or instability today have been in such conditions for 15 years or more,” he added. Currently, 39 economies are classified as facing such conditions, and 21 of them are in active conflict, the Washington-based development lender said. The list includes Ukraine, Somalia, South Sudan and the West Bank and Gaza. It also includes Iraq although not Iran. (*Business Recorder, June 28th, 2025, Page 1*)

11 # ENVIRONMENT

11.1 # Health

'It's heartbreaking': bad cancer drugs shipped to more than 100 countries

Vital chemotherapy drugs used around the world have failed quality tests, leaving cancer patients in more than 100 countries at risk of ineffective treatments and potentially fatal side effects. The drugs in question form the backbone of treatment plans for numerous common cancers, including breast cancer, ovarian cancer and leukaemia. Some drugs contained so little of their key ingredient that pharmacists said giving them to patients would be as good as doing nothing. Other drugs, containing too much active ingredient, put patients at risk of severe organ damage or even death. "Both scenarios are horrendous," said one pharmacist. "It's heartbreaking."

Doctors from multiple countries told The Bureau of Investigative Journalism that the drugs in question were not working as expected, leaving patients suddenly unresponsive to treatment. Other patients suffered side effects so toxic that they could no longer tolerate the medicine. The variance found in levels of active ingredient was alarming. In some cases, pills from same blister pack contained different amounts. These findings expose huge holes in global safety nets intended to prevent profit-seeking manufacturers from cutting corners and to protect patients from bad drugs. All the while, patients and governments with stretched resources are paying the price for drugs that don't work.

Cancer is one of the biggest killers worldwide, linked to around 10m deaths every year — roughly one in six. The burden of cancer is growing, particularly in low and middle-income regions. In sub-Saharan Africa, for example, instances of cancer have doubled in the last 30 years. Much of the global demand for treatment is met by so-called generic drugs. These are versions of a drug that can be made once the original maker's exclusivity rights have expired, and are typically made far more cheaply. The bad drugs described in this investigation were all generics. The cruel irony is that in this race to the bottom, it is the cancer patients who are often left to foot the bill. And those who have the least pay the most: in low-income countries, the cost of 58pc of essential cancer medicines is paid by patients, compared with 1.8pc in upper-middle-income countries. One cancer pharmacist in Ethiopia estimated that it could take over a year for a patient to save for cancer treatment. If that medicine then turns out to be faulty, they simply might not be able to afford to pay for another. (*Dawn, June 26th, 2025, Page 1*)

US stops financial support for global vaccine alliance

Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. said that the US government will no longer contribute to Gavi, accusing the group that helps buy vaccines for the world's poorest children of ignoring safety, without providing evidence. In a video statement shown at a Gavi fundraising event in Brussels, Kennedy — a long-time vaccine sceptic — also accused the Global Alliance for Vaccines of making questionable recommendations around Covid-19 vaccines, and raised concerns about the DTPw (diphtheria-tetanus-whole cell pertussis) vaccine. Gavi said in a statement that safety was key, and that it

acts in line with World Health Organisation recommendations. It has full confidence in the DTPw vaccine, which has contributed to halving child mortality in the countries it supports since 2000, the statement continued. (*Dawn, June 26th, 2025, Page 10*)

12 # CLIMATE CHANGE

South Asia urged to tackle climate change for resilient food systems

South Asian countries should research climate change, digitalisation, and diets and nutrition to support the region in continuing to build sustainable and resilient food systems that nourish more than 2 billion people while delivering equitable and sustainable outcomes, according to the ‘Global Food Policy Report 2025’. The report, published by the Washington-based International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), said in the next 25 years, robust policies and innovations will be needed to tackle climate adaptation and mitigation in the region’s food systems.

It said evidence is needed on the effectiveness of various pilot programmes to address climate threats, as well as on adaptive approaches that combine traditional social protection and livelihood interventions with mechanisms to rapidly address disaster and climate-related shocks. The report noted that over last several decades, environmental degradation and climate change, digitalisation in agriculture, and changes in diets and nutrition have emerged as trends that present both challenges to and opportunities for improving food systems in South Asia. These trends interact with persistent gender and social equity issues in region, including low empowerment and participation of women in labor force, youth employment challenges, and rapidly increasing urbanisation.

In recent decades, South Asia has become a hotspot of climate change, with the region facing significant climate-induced risks that are intensified by existing vulnerabilities. It has already experienced a rise in temperatures, accelerated rates of glacial melting and ground water depletion, and unpredictable patterns in rainfall and heat, leaving a large portion of the population exposed to climate hazards. Although both irrigation and fertilisers played a crucial role in increasing agricultural productivity, irrigation subsidies are a major cause of the region’s alarming rate of groundwater depletion — South Asia extracts 25 per cent of global groundwater.

The report said new technologies, and the associated policies were central to the region’s success in increasing productivity, reducing poverty, and transforming its chronic food deficit into a food surplus in less than two decades, although many have since raised concerns over the environmental issues created by these technologies and the uneven distribution of their benefits. As optimism grows around the potential of AI and digital technologies to help transform food systems, South Asian countries have adopted a range of policies and programmes to incorporate digital technologies into agriculture and food systems. Bangladesh, India, and Pakistan have adopted national governance plans and policies on digital and AI technologies.

The report said policy research is needed to ensure that AI and digital technologies include everyone in South Asia, even the region's poor. Barriers to achieving this goal include bottlenecks in institutions and infrastructure, combined with market failures within food systems such as limited digital infrastructure, concentration of market power, and issues with data governance and privacy. (*Dawn, June 1st, 2025, Page 5*)

Meteorologists have a first-row seat to climate change in Arctic

In the cold of the Norwegian Arctic, meteorologist Trond Robertsen manually recorded precipitation levels for over two decades, witnessing firsthand the effects of climate change. (*Dawn, June 24th, 2025, Page 10*)

Asia warming nearly twice as fast as global average: WMO

Asia is currently warming nearly twice as fast as the global average, fueling more extreme weather and wreaking a heavy toll on the region's economies, ecosystems and societies, according to a titled, 'The State of the Climate in Asia 2024' published. The report, released by the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), says that 2024 was the warmest or second warmest year on record (depending on the dataset), with widespread and prolonged heatwaves. The warming trend between 1991 and 2024 period was almost double that of during the 1961–1990 period.

Substantial precipitation deficits in the region were observed around the Laptev Sea and the lower and middle course of the Lena River towards the Yablonoi Mountains (Russian Federation), and around the East Sayan (Russian Federation) and Khangai Mountains (Mongolia). Parts of the Hindu Kush (Afghanistan) and western Himalayas (Pakistan) were drier than usual. In 2024, heatwaves gripped a record area of the ocean. Sea surface temperatures were the highest on record, with Asia's sea surface decadal warming rate nearly double the global average. (*Dawn, June 24th, 2025, Page 12*)

12.1 # Climate Crisis

Greenland ice melted 17 times faster than average in May heatwave: scientists

Greenland's ice sheet melted 17 times faster than past average during a May heatwave that also hit Iceland, the scientific network World Weather Attribution (WWA) said in a report. The Arctic region is on the frontline of global warming, heating up four times faster than the rest of the planet since 1979, according to a 2022 study in scientific journal *Nature*. "The melting rate of the Greenland ice sheet by, from a preliminary analysis, a factor of 17... means the Greenland ice sheet contribution to sea level rise is higher than it would have otherwise been without this heat wave," one of the authors of the report, Friederike Otto, associate professor in climate science at the Imperial College London, told reporters. In Iceland, the temperature exceeded 26 degrees Celsius on May 15, unprecedented for that time of year on the subarctic island. "Temperatures over Iceland as observed this May are record-breaking, more than 13 degrees Celsius hotter than the 1991-2020 average May daily maximum temperatures," the WWA said. In May, 94 per cent of Iceland's weather stations registered record temperatures, according

to country's meteorological institute. In eastern Greenland, the hottest day during the heatwave was about 3.9°C warmer compared to preindustrial climate, the WWA said.

According to the WWA, the record highs observed in Iceland and Greenland this May could reoccur every 100 years. For Greenland's indigenous communities, the warmer temperatures and melting ice affect their ability to hunt on the ice, posing a threat to their livelihood and traditional way of life. The changes also affect infrastructure in the two countries. "In Greenland and Iceland, infrastructure is built for cold weather, meaning during a heatwave ice melt can lead to flooding and damage roads and infrastructure," the WWA said. (*Dawn, June 12th, 2025, Page 11*)

13 # CLIMATE DISASTERS

Disasters loom over South Asia as hotter monsoon forecast

Communities across Asia's Himalayan Hindukush region face heightened disaster risks this monsoon season with temperatures and rainfall expected to exceed normal levels, experts warned. Temperatures are expected to be up to two degrees Celsius hotter than average across the region, with forecasts for above-average rains, according to a monsoon outlook released by Kathmandu-based International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development. The summer monsoon, which brings South Asia 70-80 percent of its annual rainfall, is vital for agriculture and therefore for the livelihoods of millions of farmers and for food security in a region that is home to around two billion people. However, it also brings destruction through landslides and floods every year. Melting glaciers add to the volume of water, while unregulated construction in flood-prone areas exacerbates the damage.

The deadly effects of extreme heat are a growing risk to people, reinsurance giant Swiss Re said, adding that heat killed more people than earthquakes, floods and hurricanes combined. "Up to half a million people globally succumb to the effects of extreme heat each year," it said in its annual SONAR report on risks to the global economy and the insurance industry. "Heat-related risks extend to wildfires, healthcare systems, infrastructure and agriculture," it added, noting that World Meteorological Organisation had reported that 2024 was the hottest year on record. "There is clear evidence that extreme heat events are happening with greater severity, frequency and duration," the company said in a statement announcing its report. (*Dawn, June 13th, 2025, Page 10*)

13.1 # Cyclone

China braces for second tropical cyclone in two weeks

A tropical depression may hit southern China, meteorologists cautioned, bringing rain and gales to a flood-hit region still recovering from the impact of Typhoon Wutip two weeks ago. The tropical depression could make landfall somewhere between the island province of Hainan and Guangdong on the mainland, China's National Meteorological Centre said in an online bulletin. Hundreds of thousands of people were evacuated when Wutip tore through the region from June 13 to 15, dumping record rains and damaging

roads and cropland. Five people died. China has battled with summer floods for millennia, but some scientists say climate change is resulting in heavier and more frequent rain. Massive flooding could set off unforeseen “black swan” events with dire consequences such as dam collapses. Heavy precipitation caused by typhoons will also aggravate seasonal rainfall from June to July, causing bigger-than-expected floods, Chinese meteorologists say. Unusually heavy rains struck Rongjiang in southwestern Guizhou province, half-submerging the city of 300,000 people as fast-rising floodwaters swept away cars, roared into underground garages and malls, and damaged vital infrastructure including its power grid. (*Dawn, June 26th, 2025, Page 10*)

13.2 # Flood

Flash floods batter Nigeria, kill over 150

Search teams fanned out from the epicentre of deadly flash flooding in Nigeria, the Red Cross said, as the death toll from heavy rains in the north-central market town of Mokwa topped 150. The sharp rise in the toll came as bodies were recovered nearly 10 kilometres from the town, where more than 250 buildings were levelled and two bridges were swept away, a spokesman for the Niger State Emergency Management Agency, Ibrahim Audu Hussein, said. Hussein said the toll could rise further, with bodies being swept down the powerful Niger River. Gideon Adamu, head of the Red Cross in Niger state, said that search teams were heading toward Jebba, on the opposite side of the waterway’s swampy banks.

Mokwa was hit by torrential rains with the flooding displacing more than 3,000 people, Hussein said. There were 121 injured in hospital, Adamu said, and more than 100 people were missing. Nigeria’s rainy season, which usually lasts six months, is just getting started for the year. Heavy rains and poor infrastructure lead to flooding that wreaks havoc every year, killing hundreds of people across the west African country. Scientists have also warned that climate change is fuelling more extreme weather patterns. According to a tally provided by Hussein, 151 people were killed, 3,018 were displaced, 265 houses were destroyed and two bridges were washed away in the busy market town. (*Dawn, June 1st, 2025, Page 11*)

13.3 # Heatwave

Millions in US sweat out year’s first extreme heatwave

A potentially life-threatening heat wave enveloped the eastern third of the United States impacting nearly 160 million people, with temperatures this week expected to reach 102 degrees Fahrenheit (39 degrees Celsius) in the New York metropolitan area. The country’s first significant scorching heat of the year triggered health warnings as it arrived over the weekend. Dangerously high temperatures are forecast in Washington, Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York City and Boston.

“This extreme heat will not just be uncomfortable and oppressive for New Yorkers,” warned Mayor Eric Adams, adding that each year heat claims the lives of 500 people in

this city of eight million. “Extreme Heat Warnings and Heat Advisories across much of the eastern third of the country (are) affecting nearly 160 million people” across at least 29 states, the NWS reported. Scientists say extreme heat waves are a clear sign of global warming, and they are expected to become more frequent, longer, and more intense. Fueled by human-caused climate change, 2024 was the warmest year on record globally — and 2025 is projected to rank among the top three. (*Dawn, June 25th, 2025, Page 11*)

Europe bakes in summer’s first heatwave

Southern Europeans braced for the first heatwave of the northern hemisphere summer, as climate change pushes thermometers on the world’s fastest-warming continent increasingly into the red. Temperatures are set to rise to 37 degrees Celsius (99 Fahrenheit) in Rome, driving the Eternal City’s many tourists and pilgrims to the Vatican alike towards the Italian capital’s 2,500 public fountains for refreshment.

With residents of the southern French port city of Marseille expected to have to cope with temperatures flirting with 40C (104F), authorities in city ordered public swimming pools to be made free of charge to help residents beat the Mediterranean heat. Two-thirds of Portugal will be on high alert for extreme heat and forest fires, with 42C (108F) expected in the capital Lisbon, while visitors to — and protesters against — Amazon tycoon Jeff Bezos’s wedding in Venice likewise sweltered under the summer sun. (*Dawn, June 29th, 2025, Page 12*)

Cold baths, climate shelters as Southern Europe heatwave intensifies

Authorities across Southern Europe urged people to seek shelter and protect the most vulnerable as punishing temperatures from Spain to Portugal, Italy and France climbed higher in the summer’s first major heatwave. Ambulances stood on standby near tourist hotspots and regions issued fire warnings as experts warned that such heatwaves, intensified by climate change, would become more frequent. Peaks of 43 degrees Celsius (109 Fahrenheit) were expected in areas of southern Spain and Portugal, while nearly all of France is sweltering in heat expected to last for several days. In Italy, 21 cities were on high alert for extreme heat, including Milan, Naples, Venice, Florence and Rome. (*Business Recorder, June 30th, 2025, Page 9*)

13.4 # Rainfall

Monsoon floods kill five in India’s northeast

Torrential monsoon rains in India’s northeast triggered landslides and floods that swept away and killed at least five people in Assam. India’s annual monsoon season from June to September offers respite from intense summer heat and is crucial for replenishing water supplies, but also brings widespread death and destruction. The deaths recorded are among the first of this season, with scores often killed over the course of the rains across India, a country of 1.4 billion people. The monsoon is a colossal sea breeze that brings South Asia 70-80 percent of its annual rainfall.

Rivers swollen by the lashing rain — including the mighty Brahmaputra and its tributaries — broke their banks across the region. But the intensity of rain and floods has increased in recent years, with experts saying climate change is exacerbating the problem. Assam State Disaster Management Authority officials confirmed five deaths in the last 24 hours. A red alert warning had been issued for 12 districts of Assam after non-stop rains over the last three days led to flooding in many urban areas. The situation was particularly bad in the state capital Guwahati. (*Dawn, June 1st, 2025, Page 10*)

India's monsoon rains kill at least 30 in northeast

Flash floods and landslides after torrential monsoon rain over the last two days killed at least 30 people in India's northeast. State disaster management officials said eight people died in Assam, and nine in Arunachal Pradesh, many of them in landslides as earth loosened by the water slumped into the valley below. Another five people died in a landslide in the neighbouring state. (*Business Recorder, June 2nd, 2025, Page 9*)

27 killed as rains lash India's Gujarat

At least 27 people have died in three days of torrential rains which have lashed parts of India's western Gujarat. Disaster response teams have been deployed to rescue dozens of people in state, where residents are bracing for more heavy monsoon rainfall. "Deaths in rain-related incidents in Gujarat rose to 27, with nine more deaths reported during the day," the state government said. India's annual monsoon season from June to September offers respite from intense summer heat and is crucial for replenishing water supplies. But scores of people die each year during rainy season due to flash floods and landslides across India, a country of 1.4b people. (*Dawn, June 19th, 2025, Page 10*)

Heavy rain hits China's flood-stricken region for second time

Heavy rain struck China's southwestern Guizhou province again, half-submerging the already flood-stricken riverside city of Rongjiang for a second time this week and prompting the evacuation of residents to higher ground. Located at the confluence of three rivers and home to 300,000 residents, Rongjiang was inundated earlier this week by record downpours that left six dead and forced more than 80,000 people to flee their homes. The amount of rain that fell over 72 hours was double the city's average for June. (*Dawn, June 29th, 2025, Page 10*)

13.5 # Storm

Unseasonal hailstorm lashes Egypt's Alexandria

An unseasonal rainstorm battered the Egyptian city of Alexandria, flooding roads and damaging seafront businesses in the latest bout of erratic weather to hit the region. Hailstones pelted the city overnight, forcing people to flee cafes as gusts of wind blew the ice pellets through windows, according to footage posted on social media. Lightning lit up the skies and underpasses were submerged. Alexandria governor Ahmed Khaled Hassan raised the alert level and emergency crews worked through the morning to tow cars and clear debris. No casualties were reported, Egypt's health ministry said.

Storms are common along Egypt's Mediterranean coast in winter, but media outlets described this spring event as "unprecedented". Scientists warn extreme weather is becoming more frequent due to climate change, which drives both droughts and intense, unpredictable rainstorms. Alexandria is highly vulnerable to climate impacts, suffering from coastal erosion, rising sea levels and flooding from annual storms.

The Mediterranean could rise by up to a metre (three feet) within three decades, according to the UN-mandated Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Even under more optimistic forecasts, a 50-centimetre rise by 2050 would flood 30 percent of Alexandria, displace a quarter of its six million residents and cost 195,000 jobs. Authorities have begun mitigation efforts, including constructing a massive breakwater along the coast. (*Dawn, June 1st, 2025, Page 10*)

14 # NATURAL DISASTERS

Rock collapse at Indonesia quarry kills 10

At least 10 people in Indonesia's West Java were killed and six injured following a rock collapse at a quarry, the disaster agency said, with search efforts ongoing to find people buried beneath the rubble. The collapse took place in Cirebon in West Java, where television footage showed excavators working to move huge rocks and personnel moving bags containing bodies to an ambulance. Kompas TV earlier said about 10 people were missing. The national disaster management agency said heavy machinery, including three excavators, were also buried under rocks and operations continued. It gave no estimate on the number of people missing. West Java's governor, Dedi Mulyadi, on his Instagram account said the site was dangerous and "does not meet safety standards for workers". (*Dawn, June 1st, 2025, Page 10*)

6.1-magnitude quake hits off southern Philippines

A magnitude-6.1 earthquake struck deep off the coast of the southern Philippines, the United States Geological Survey said. There were no immediate reports of casualties or damage from the quake, which the USGS reported occurred at a depth of 101 kilometres (63 miles) about 70 kilometres from the nearest areas of Davao Occidental province. (*Business Recorder, June 29th, 2025, Page 8*)

15 # RESISTANCE

News Makers: Sao Paulo (Brazil)

Environmental activist rally against a bill, known as 'devastation bill', after Brazil's Senate approved a proposal to relax requirements for companies that exploit environmental resources. (*Dawn, June 3rd, 2025, Page 10*)

Curfew in LA as protests spread across US despite Trump threats

Protests against Donald Trump's harsh immigration policies spread across the United States despite a military-backed crackdown in Los Angeles and a threat by the Republican president to use "heavy force." In Los Angeles, where the unrest began last

Friday, the downtown area was calm but tense after an overnight curfew saw police make 25 arrests. Heavily armed officers patrolled near government buildings, and storekeepers boarded up windows to protect against vandalism. US Marines — ordered by Trump to deploy in addition to more than 4,000 National Guard soldiers — were expected to make their first appearance on the streets. (*Dawn, June 12th, 2025, Page 12*)

Protests over police killing in Kenya as govt presents budget

Kenyan security forces fired tear gas against demonstrators protesting a death in police custody, clashes that threatened to overshadow government attempts to pass a budget without sparking unrest. The government carefully prepared its new finance bill with the aim of avoiding the massive protests over tax hikes that engulfed Kenya a year ago. But death of 31-year-old teacher Albert Ojwang while in police custody last weekend, following his arrest for criticising a senior officer online, has reawakened anger over police brutality in east African country. (*Business Recorder, June 13th, 2025, Page 5*)

Coordinated protests against tourism planned in Europe

Activists against overtourism are planning protests across Spain, Portugal and Italy, with one group urging people to bring water pistols to the demonstration in Barcelona. Anger has been growing in southern Europe against what protesters say are excessive levels of tourism that they complain are forcing locals out of affordable accommodation, pushing up living costs and clogging up city centres. (*Dawn, June 14th, 2025, Page 10*)

News Makers: Sanaa (Yemen)

Yemenis wave flags during a rally in solidarity with Palestinians and to condemn the Israeli strikes on Iran. (*Dawn, June 14th, 2025, Page 10*)

Thousands attend anti-Trump protests in US cities

Tens of thousands of Americans protested President Donald Trump at rallies and marches in major cities from New York to Los Angeles. The protests marked the largest outpouring of opposition to Trump's presidency since he returned to power in January, and came the same day that thousands of military personnel, vehicles and aircraft will march through and fly over Washington, DC, in a parade celebrating the US Army's 250th anniversary. (*Dawn, June 15th, 2025, Page 12*)

Tens of thousands rally for Gaza in Netherlands, Belgium

Tens of thousands of people dressed in red marched through the streets of The Hague and in Brussels to demand more action from their governments against what they termed a “genocide” in Gaza. In France, thousands of other people joined similar protests, as part of a weekend mobilisation around the world against the Israeli offensive in the Palestinian territory. Some 150,000 people participated in the march in the Hague, according to organisers. In Brussels, where protesters were also calling for action from the EU, turnout was estimated at 110,000 by organisers and 75,000 by police.

Rights groups such as Amnesty International and Oxfam organised the demonstrations, which were aimed at creating a so-called “red line” on the issue. With many waving Palestinian flags and some chanting “Stop the Genocide”, the demonstrators in the Dutch city turned a central park into a sea of red on a sunny afternoon before a march towards the International Court of Justice. (*Business Recorder, June 16th, 2025 Page 1*)

Thousands protest in Tehran, region against Israel

Thousands of people rallied in Tehran, Baghdad and Beirut after weekly prayers to protest Israel’s strikes on Iran, chanting slogans against Israel and its main backer, the United States. Images on Iran’s state television showed protesters in Tehran holding up photographs of commanders killed since the start of the war, while others waved the flags of Iran and the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah. In Iraq, thousands of supporters of powerful cleric Moqtada Sadr rallied in Baghdad and other cities. (*Business Recorder, June 21st, 2025, Page 1*)

Tens of thousands join pro-Palestinian marches in London and Berlin

Tens of thousands of pro-Palestinian protesters marched in London and Berlin calling for an end to the war in Gaza, amid concerns that the Iran-Israel conflict could spark wider regional devastation. Protesters in the British capital waved Palestinian flags, donned keffiyeh scarves and carried signs including “Stop arming Israel” and “No war on Iran” as they marched in the sweltering heat.

There have been monthly protests in the British capital since the start of the 20-month-long war between Israel and Hamas, which has ravaged Gaza. Saturday’s march comes amid heightened global tensions as the United States mulls joining Israel’s strikes against Iran. In Berlin, more than 10,000 people gathered in the centre of the city in support of Gaza, according to police figures. (*The News, June 22nd, 2025, Page 5*)

News Makers: Dhaka (Bangladesh)

Bangladesh’s police personnel use a water cannon to disperse demonstrators during a protest by candidates of 18th Non-Government Teachers’ Registration Examination demanding a review of their viva results. (*Dawn, June 23rd, 2025, Page 10*)

16 killed, 400 injured in protests across Kenya

Marches in Kenya to mark a year since massive anti-government demos turned violent, with sixteen killed and hundreds injured as protesters held running battles with police, who flooded Nairobi’s streets with tear gas and sealed off government buildings with barbed wire. At least 60 people were killed last year by security forces in weeks of protests over tax rises and the dire economic situation for young Kenyans, peaking when a huge crowd stormed parliament on June 25. Thousands gathered in central Nairobi and other towns, including the families of last year’s victims, for initially peaceful anniversary marches. They soon descended into chaos as scattered groups ripped up flagstones to throw projectiles at security forces and chanted for the resignation of President William Ruto. (*Dawn, June 26th, 2025, Page 10*)

News Makers: Kolkata (India)

Social activists carrying torches shout slogans as they protest against the alleged gang rape of a student inside a law college. Police have arrested three men accused of gang raping the student in the college. The case has reignited anger in a city still scarred by the rape and murder of a doctor last year. (*Dawn, June 30th, 2025, Page 10*)

Strike shuts down Bangladesh's biggest port

Operations at Bangladesh's biggest port were suspended as a strike by customs officials brought shipping activity to a halt. The shutdown at Chittagong Port is part of an ongoing dispute between tax authority employees and the government, which is trying to overhaul the body. "The port typically handles around 7,000 to 8,000 containers daily ... But since this morning, there has been no movement in offloading or onboarding of goods," said Mohammed Omar Faruq, secretary of the Chittagong Port Authority. (*Dawn, June 30th, 2025, Page 11*)

About Us

Roots for Equity was formed in 1997 and formally registered in 2000. The organization works with the most vulnerable, marginalized communities that include small and landless farmers, women and religious minorities in the rural and urban sector. The inequities in society are a result of the oppression and exploitative forces of feudalism, imperialist corporate hegemony often termed as globalization, and patriarchy.

We believe that a democratic base is essential for the social and economic development of the country. This is not possible without mobilization of communities themselves; no doubt only socially conscious and politically active communities can demand and achieve social justice. Roots remains committed to being an active part of communities' struggle to achieve political, social, environmental and economic justice.

Our Mission

Our mission is to strengthen communities and movements for attaining political, economic, social and environmental justice.

Our Vision

Our vision is a genuinely democratic society with its people free from inequities, marginalization and exploitation.

Our Objectives

- (i) Organizing and mobilizing grass root communities and movements for attaining basic rights;
- (ii) Action research in collaboration with impacted vulnerable communities on issues and impacts of globalization, patriarchy, and feudalism;
- (iii) Capacity building of grass root leaders and creating a grass roots knowledge base for attaining social justice;
- (iv) Engaging with people's organizations and movements to amplify the voices of the most marginalized sectors of our society, locally, nationally and internationally.

Roots for Equity

A-1, 1st Floor, Block 2, Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Karachi, Pakistan

Phone: +9221 34813320, Fax. +9221 34813321

Email: roots.equity@gmail.com

Website: <http://rootsforequity.org/>

Blog: <https://rootsforequity.noblogs.org/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/RootsEquity>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/rootsforequity/>