

HAAL AHWAL

Monthly News Reviews on Food and Agriculture

September, 2025

Roots for Equity

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Roots for Equity

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1 Hectare = 2.471 Acres

1 Acre = 4,840 Square Yards

1 Ton = 25 Mann = 1000 Kg

1 Mann = 40 Kg

Preface

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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 “Daily The 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

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ADB: Asian Development Bank

AGRA: Agrarian Reform Movement Alliance

AIIB: Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank

AJK: Azad Jammu & Kashmir

AKBL: Agriculture Sector, Askari Bank

AKU: Aga Khan University

APIs: Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients

APTMA: All Pakistan Textile Mills Association

ATF: Anti-Terrorism Financing

BISP: Benazir Income Support Programme

BMP: Businessmen Panel

CAP: Cereal Association of Pakistan

CCP: Competition Commission of Pakistan

CDWP: Central Development Working Party

CPEC: China-Pakistan Economic Corridor

CPFTA: China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement

CRF-I: Climate Risk Fund-I

DHO: District Health Office

DPP: Department of Plant Protection

DRA: Disparity Reduction Allowance

DRAP: Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan

EAD: Economic Affairs Division

ECC: Economic Coordination Committee

ECNEC: Executive Committee of the National Economic Council

EPBD: Economic Policy & Business Development

FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization

FCEP: Friesland Campina Engro Pakistan Limited

FDI: Federal Directorate of Immunisation

FDI: Foreign direct investment

FDRLA: Fiscal Responsibility and Debt Limitation Act

FEWS: Famine Early Warning Systems

GAM: Green Agrimall

GCC: Gulf Cooperation Council

GCLI: Green Corporate Livestock Initiative (Private) Limited

GERD: Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam

GST: General Sales Tax

HESCO: Hyderabad Electric Supply Company

HIES: Household Integrated Economic Survey

HPV: Human Papillomavirus

HRCP: Human Rights Commission of Pakistan

HRL: Limestone

HW&SC: Hyderabad Water and Sewerage Corporation

HWA: Hari Welfare Association

IAEA: International Atomic Energy Agency

ICT: Islamabad Capital Territory

IFIs: International Financial Institutions

IHC: Islamabad High Court

IMB: Independent Monitoring Board

IMF: International Monetary Fund

IMSG: Islamabad Model School for Girls

IPO-Pakistan: Intellectual Property Organization of Pakistan

IPPs: Independent Power Producers

JMA: Japan Meteorological Agency

KIP: Kissan Ittehad Pakistan

LGH: Lahore General Hospital

LSD: Lumpy Skin Disease

MAF: Million Acre Feet

MDBs: Multilateral Development Banks

MFPs: Microfinance Providers

MMT: Million Metric Tons

MNFS&R: Ministry of National Food Security and Research

MoF: Ministry of Finance

MOFA: Ministry of Foreign Affairs

MoM: Month-on-Month

MoU: Memorandum of Understanding

MSP: Minimum Support Price

NABP: National Agriculture Biotechnology Policy

NDMA: National Disaster Management Authority

NFC: National Finance Commission

NIH: National Institute of Health

NOC: No-Objection Certificate

PBF: Pakistan Business Forum

PBS: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics

PCGA: Pakistan Cotton Ginners Association

PDMA: Provincial Disaster Management Authority

PDWP: Provincial Development Working Party

PEP: Post-Exposure Prophylaxis

PFF: Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum

PFMA: Punjab Flour Mills Association

PkMAP: Pakhtunkhwa Milli Awami Party

PMA: Pakistan Medical Association

PMD: Pakistan Meteorological Department

PNC: Pakistan Nursing Council

PPMA: Pakistan Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association

PPR: Peste Des Petits Ruminants

PRCS: Pakistan Red Crescent Society

PSDP: Public Sector Development Programme

RAM: Resilience and Adaptation Mainstreaming

RCC: Roller-Compact-Concrete

RCEP: Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership

REAP: Rice Exporters Association of Pakistan

RNA: Rapid Needs Assessment

SBA: Stand-By Agreement

SBP: State Bank of Pakistan

SDGs: Sustainable Development Goals

SEA: Sindh Employees Alliance

SFA: Sindh Food Authority

SHC: Sindh High Court

SIFC: Special Investment Facilitation Council

SPI: Sensitive Price Index

SPLA: Sindh Professors and Lecturers Association

SPS: Sanitary and Phytosanitary

SUL: Sui Upper/ Main Limestone

SUP: Activists of Sindh United Party

SWAT: Sindh Water and Agriculture Transformation

TCP: Trading Corporation of Pakistan

TOMCL: Organic Meat Company Limited

TORs: Terms of Reference

TPB: Tariff Policy Board

USC: Utility Stores Corporation

WAPDA: Water and Power Development Authority

WEF: World Economic Forum

WMO: World Meteorological Organisation

YoY: Year-on-Year

NEWS EXCEPTS

NATIONAL NEWS

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AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION RESOURCES

- The Pakistan Business Forum (PBF) has called for the immediate declaration of an agricultural emergency as widespread flooding devastates large swathes of Punjab and threatens similar destruction in Sindh, jeopardising national food security and economic stability.
- The forum said preliminary assessments indicated the loss of approximately 60 per cent of the rice crop, 35pc of cotton, and 30pc of sugarcane in central and southern Punjab. Over 1.8 million people across the Chenab, Ravi, and Sutlej river basins have reportedly been severely affected, with floodwaters now moving southwards along the Indus River.
- Pakistan and China have inked more than two dozen memorandums of understanding (MoU) worth \$4 billion in the agriculture sector, focusing on mechanisation, seed development, smart farming and precision agriculture for data-driven productivity gains.
- There were 11.7 million private farms in Pakistan in 2024. The annual growth rate in the number of farms since 2010 has been 2.5 percent. This is significantly higher than the rate of increase in the number of households in the rural areas of Pakistan of approximately 2 percent.
- The increase in total farm area is estimated at only 0.8 percent on average annually. It was estimated at 59.3 million acres in 2024, compared to 52.9 million acres in 2010. The average farm size has contracted significantly from 6.4 acres to 5.1 acres. This is a clear indicator of the increased population pressure on farm land.
- The share of cultivated area in farm area has gone up from 80.6pc to 89 pc.
- The first important magnitude is the share of small farms, with area of up to only 2.5 acres. There has been a very big increase in the share of these small farms in the total number of farms. It has increased from 43.5 percent in 2010 to 60 percent in 2024. Their share in farm area has risen from 8 percent in 2010 to 18 percent in 2024.
- The big increase in the share of small farms highlights the likelihood of a rise in the incidence of rural poverty. Inclusive of income from crops and livestock, the net income from an acre of cultivated area is estimated at close to 470,000 rupees annually. The average size of small farms, below 1 acre, is 0.6 acres.

This implies the equivalent income annually of Rs 282,000, which is below the poverty line in Pakistan of Rs 340,000 per rural household.

- The other extreme end of the farm distribution is of very large farmers, with farms above 25 acres in size. The percentage of such farms has declined from 4.1pc to 1.4pc, while their share in farm area has fallen from 35pc to 14pc. This is clear evidence of a decline in inequality in rural incomes.
- Pakistan’s agriculture sector could mitigate and adapt to climate change through the use of nuclear technology, according to a recent assessment mission under the Atoms4Food Initiative — the first of its kind in Asia and the Pacific, launched by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).
- Pakistan was among the first in Asia and the Pacific region to commit to the Atoms4Food Initiative since its launch in October 2023.
- Tobacco growers have been left vulnerable to financial exploitation following delays in quota allocations.
- This situation has caused a loss of over Rs6.56 billion, leaving many farmers unable to recover their production costs.
- The recent floods in Punjab have left deep scars on its agricultural community, with small livestock farmers, landless labourers, and contractors bearing the heaviest toll.
- The floods affected 27 of Punjab’s 37 districts, as rivers Chenab, Ravi, and Sutlej breached their banks. Around 4.76 million people and 4,700 villages were impacted, with 2.63m people and 2.11m livestock evacuated to safety. The death toll has reached 134, though the final figures may be higher, as the full-scale survey only began on September 24.
- Rice yields have been hit hardest, with around 60pc of the crop destroyed, while maize and cotton losses are estimated at 20pc each.

AGRICULTURAL INPUTS

- Khalid Hussain Bath, President of Kissan Ittehad Pakistan (KIP), stated that the floods have “broken the back of the farming community,” with nearly 2.5 million acres of cultivated land destroyed. Key crops such as rice, cotton, millet, and oilseed have been ruined, and around 20,000 large and 20,000 small villages have been devastated across Punjab.
- Pakistan has launched the Climate Risk Fund-I (CRF-I) under the World Bank-funded Resilience and Adaptation Mainstreaming (RAM) Project, to strengthen the country’s most vulnerable farming communities and microfinance institutions against climate-induced shocks, particularly floods.

- Sindh Minister for Agriculture Sardar Mohammad Bux Mahar announced the launch of ‘Wheat Growers Support Policy’ terming it ‘a historic’ initiative aimed at providing immediate relief to wheat farmers.
- Under the Wheat Growers Package, around 411,000 farmers owning between one and 25 acres of land will be provided fertiliser and urea. He said wheat will be cultivated on 2.262 million acres across Sindh, and under the Wheat Cultivation Programme, each farmer will receive Rs24,700 per acre.
- Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif launched the Phase-II of Green Tractor Programme by announcing results of a ballot for 9,500 high-power tractors in Punjab.
- Former finance minister Dr Hafeez Pasha has said that Pakistan’s provincial governments are ignoring the massive potential of agricultural income tax, which could yield Rs 450-500 billion annually, against Punjab’s meagre Rs 10 billion collection target — a figure he termed “too low and embarrassing.”
- Urea sales rose sharply to 816,000 tonnes in August, up 46pc year-on-year and 34pc month-on-month, driven by aggressive discounting by select manufacturers and possible dealer pre-buying ahead of partial rollback in September.
- A coal gasification plant is being planned in Thar to utilise surplus coal for fertiliser production.
- The Sindh government has already introduced a ‘coal to gas and coal to liquids policy’ to convert Thar’s coal into synthetic gas at a cost lower than imported gas or coal.

AGRICULTURAL OUTPUTS

- The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs has said that 3,233 acres of agricultural land were damaged during the ongoing floods in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.
- People lost about 6,206 livestock across the affected areas of 10 districts.
- A preliminary assessment by the Pakistan Business Forum shows that 60pc of the rice crop, 35pc of cotton and 30pc of sugarcane in central and southern Punjab have been damaged, besides widespread losses to rural livelihoods.
- Losses of more than Rs10 billion have been reported by farmers as rice and other crops cultivated on 140,250 acres of agricultural land have been lost due to recent flooding in the Narowal district.
- The floods have destroyed over 1.3 million acres of farmland in Punjab, with additional losses reported in Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Balochistan.
- Floods in Punjab affected the rice crop the most, with damage reported on 600,000 acres.

- The National Assembly Standing Committee on National Food Security and Research urged the government to immediately announce minimum support prices for major crops, warning that farmers may shift to more profitable alternatives in the absence of clear pricing policies.
- Floods inundated 1.3m hectares, including 0.93m hectares of cropland, with Punjab worst hit.
- Many livestock owners are resorting to distress sales, and only 45pc of fodder seed is available in the formal market, heightening risks for livestock nutrition.
- The country's cotton production surged by 40 per cent year-on-year to 2.004 million bales by Sept 15.
- The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations says though the wheat production in Pakistan has officially been estimated at 29 million tonnes in 2025, reflecting about 5 per cent above the five-year average, the area planted has declined by 6.5pc compared to the previous year.
- In irrigated areas, yields are estimated to be above average, but dry weather conditions caused crop losses in rain-fed areas, which account for about 20pc of wheat plantings, and in some irrigated areas in northern parts due to shortage of irrigation water, the FAO report says.
- Sharjeel Inam Memon said that Sindh still has 1.2 million tons of wheat, but the federal government is unwilling to purchase it from farmers at a fair price.
- Wheat importers have warned of an imminent supply gap of around 3 million tonnes and urged the government to allow immediate imports to prevent further price escalation and ensure market stability.
- The government has decided to approach the IMF for the restoration of the annual announcement of minimum support price (MSP) for wheat, as the abolishment of MSP has negatively affected the production.
- If wheat output drops by another 6 percent this year, we will have to import \$1.5 billion worth of wheat, the minister warned.
- Last year, Pakistan produced 7.6 million tons of sugar against a national demand of 6.3 million tonnes, leaving a surplus of 1.3 million tonnes, he said, adding that the estimated production for this year was 7.2 million tons, but actual output only reached 5.8m tonnes, significantly below expectations.
- According to Agriculture Department of Punjab, which accounts for more than 90pc of Pakistan's Basmati production, floodwaters have affected an estimated 250,000-270,000 hectares of rice fields in Punjab. This represents only about 10.1pc of the total rice-growing area in the region, which covers 2.7 million hectares in the 2025 Kharif season.

- Farmers in Talash Valley and other parts of Lower Dir district have complained that a mysterious disease has hit their standing tomato crop this year, causing them huge financial losses.
- Another farmer from Sarai Payeen claimed that private dealers were charging over Rs10,000 for a seed packet by claiming it to be Thai hybrid seed, but later it turned out to be of poor quality.

TRADE

- The trade deficit widened significantly. In August, the deficit rose by 30.13pc to \$2.86bn, compared to \$2.21bn in the same month last year.
- For FY25, the annual trade deficit expanded by 9pc to \$26.27bn, from \$24.11bn a year earlier, raising concerns about the sustainability of external accounts in the face of fragile export growth and a rising import bill.
- Trade deficit swells by 29 percent in the first two months of FY26 as the exports in August were down by 12.49 percent on a year-on-year basis.
- In August FY26, exports remained USD2.42 billion, showing a decline of 12.5 percent compared to the corresponding period of last year.
- The import bill in August FY26 also showed an upward trend as it recorded at \$5.29 billion compared to USD4.97 billion in the corresponding period of last year, showing an increase of 6.42 percent.
- The country's trade data is said to have been over reported by USD6.4 billion by Pakistan Bureau of statistics (PBS) during the fiscal year 2024-25 due to flawed methodology.
- A decline in textile exports in August of 2025-26 fiscal year swelled the trade deficit to USD 6 billion in the first two months of the ongoing financial year, as the majority of textile sub-sectors showed a negative growth.
- IMF has approved 47 percent exemptions in taxes and duties on sugar imports by the Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP).
- Importers in Pakistan purchased an estimated 180,000 metric tons of soybeans in September expected to be sourced from US, European traders said.

INTERNATIONAL AID / LOAN / INVESTMENT

- Foreign direct investment (FDI) fell 22 per cent in the first two months of the current fiscal year.
- Foreign assistance inflows to Pakistan almost doubled to \$1.377 billion in the first two months (July-August) of current fiscal year, mainly because of an ongoing umbrella of International Monetary Fund (IMF).

INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS (IFIs)

- World Bank has flagged serious inefficiencies in Pakistan's health budgeting system, pointing to poor-quality cost estimates, unpredictable fund releases, and excessive centralization that undermine service delivery across country.
- The World Bank has said Pakistan's current development model is inadequate to reduce poverty and inequality, and called for its overhaul after poverty trends reversed over the past three years, erasing two decades of gains.

POLICY

- In the Federal Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP), having an outlay of Rs 1000 billion for the current financial year, only a paltry amount of Rs 16.59 billion has been earmarked for new development projects.
- The Central Development Working Party (CDWP) has cleared seven development projects with a total cost of Rs 236 billion.

SOCIO – ECONOMIC POLICY

- Pakistan's total government debt has increased by Rs9 trillion in just one year up to June 2025, with domestic debt representing the majority of this increase.
- Pakistan's central government debt surged to Rs 78.2 trillion in the first month of the fiscal year 2025-26 (FY26), continuing its upward trajectory.
- The government signed loan facilities worth approximately Rs1.225 trillion with 18 banks to settle the outstanding dues of Independent Power Producers (IPPs) parked in circular debt.
- The government has announced a borrowing plan worth about Rs6.4 trillion during the current fiscal year to service total public debt that stood at Rs81.5tr as of June 30.
- Pakistan's debt burden has reached alarming levels, with every citizen now owing Rs 318,252.
- The flour milling industry claims to have reached an agreement with the Punjab government for the provision of at least 100,000 wheat bags of 100kg each per month to sell flour at the officially designated rates.
- Sindh and federal governments joined hands to tackle country's food security challenges with provincial consultation and agreed on crafting a national food security policy and ensuring wheat support price to incentivise production.
- Over 55 per cent of the samples 71 out of 127 were found to be laced with harmful chemicals posing significant health risks to consumers.

- Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) through its nutrition initiative has reduced child stunting by 6.4 per cent in target populations.
- The federal government has announced to have launched a severance package of over 28 billion rupees for more than 11,000 employees of the Utility Stores Corporation (USC), further announcing to have shut down the USC services countrywide from Sunday, 31 August.

CLIMATE DISASTERS

- The recent floods across Pakistan have caused severe damage to the country's agriculture sector, destroying approximately 2.5 million acres of crops — equivalent to 7.7 percent of the total cropped area.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION RESOURCES

- Ethiopia inaugurated continent's largest hydroelectric project in what Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed called a "great achievement for all black people", but it drew a protest to the United Nations from downstream nation Egypt.
- The water cycle has become increasingly erratic and extreme, swinging between deluge and drought.
- The State of Global Water Resources report, released by WMO, says only about one-third of the global river basins had "normal" conditions in 2024. The rest were either above or below normal — the sixth consecutive year of clear imbalance.
- Many small-glacier regions have already reached or are about to pass the so-called peak water point — when a glacier's melting reaches its maximum annual runoff, after which this decreases due to glacier shrinkage.
- An estimated 3.6 billion people face inadequate access to water at least a month per year and this is expected to increase to more than 5 billion by 2050.
- In the past six years only about one-third of the global river catchment area had normal discharge conditions compared to the 1991-2020 average.

TRADE

- Artificial intelligence could boost the value of global trade by almost 40 percent by 2040 thanks to cost reductions and productivity gains.

- Hong Kong, Sri Lanka, Chile and Bangladesh are seeking to join the China-backed Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), the world's largest trade bloc, The RCEP currently consists of China, Japan, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand and all ten members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

INTERNATIONAL AID / LOAN / INVESTMENT

- Iraq signed investment deals worth USD1 billion in its energy, agriculture and finance sectors with the World Bank's private sector arm.

INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS (IFIs)

- The World Bank announced the opening of a new regional hub in Riyadh, to serve the Middle East, North Africa, Afghanistan, and Pakistan (MENAAP) region.

SOCIO – ECONOMIC CONDITION

- Ninety per cent of the world lives with either degraded land, unhealthy air, or water stress, In low-income countries alone, eight of out ten people live without all three — healthy air, water, and land.
- The report also identifies a nitrogen paradox where fertilisers boost yields, but overuse in some regions harms crops and ecosystems, costing as much as \$3.4 trillion annually.
- Using natural resources more efficiently could reduce pollution by as much as 50 per cent.
- Pollution markets” not only reduce air pollution, they are also cost effective: each dollar spent yields about \$26 to \$215 in benefits.
- By contrast, in high-income countries 43 per cent of people are not exposed to any of the three stressors.

ENVIRONMENT

- Malnutrition can cause its own form of diabetes, health experts said, calling for “type 5 diabetes” to be recognised globally to help fight the disease in countries already struggling with poverty and starvation.

CLIMATE CHANGE

- The UK, Japan and South Korea sweltered this year through the hottest summers since each country began keeping records.

- The British summer saw four heatwaves, below-average rainfall and sustained sunshine, and followed the nation's warmest spring in more than a century.
- Nearly 40 years after breaking off Antarctica, a colossal iceberg ranked among the oldest and largest ever recorded is finally crumbling apart in warmer waters, and could disappear within weeks.
- Rising oceans and flooding caused by climate change will threaten the homes and livelihoods of more than a million Australians by 2050, while deaths from heat-related illness will soar.
- The report, prepared independently for the government, found that 1.5 million people living in coastal areas will be at risk of sea level rise and coastal flooding by 2050.
- The World Economic Forum (WEF) warned in a fresh insight report that climate change, if left unaddressed, could result in 14.5 million excess deaths and trillion of dollars in economic losses by 2050.
- In food and agriculture, the report says an estimated 24m additional people will face hunger by 2050 and that agricultural workers are expected to face growing climate-health risks.
- It estimates a likely, mid-range scenario of \$740 billion in worker-availability losses between 2025 and 2050.
- Global climate finance provided by multilateral development banks (MDBs) rose by 10 per cent in 2024, reaching a record \$137 billion, with the bulk directed to low and middle-income economies.
- Private finance mobilised by MDBs for climate action also climbed sharply, reaching \$134bn in 2024 — a 33pc increase from the previous year.

CLIMATE DISASTERS

- Europe experienced an exceptionally deadly summer in 2024 with more than 60,000 heat-related deaths, bringing the total burden over the past three summers to more than 181,000.
- The death toll during last year's summer — which was the hottest in recorded history for both Europe and the world — was estimated to be 62,775.

1 # AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION RESOURCES

Billions lost: Floods spark agri-emergency call [P. 1]
Bilawal sees ‘agriculture emergency’ in Punjab [P. 1]
Pakistan, China sign \$4bn MoUs in agriculture [P. 1]
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Farmers’ body raps Sindh govt for filing appeal against SHC’s pro-peasant verdict
Punjab floods: small farmers, contractors face ruin [P. 5]

1.2 # Land

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1.3 # Water

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Pakistan to begin Rabi with record levels of stored water [P. 6]

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Askari Bank & Green Agrimall team up to empower farmers [P. 7]
Small farmers and microfinance sector: Pakistan launches Climate Risk Fund-I [P. 7]
Rs58bn scheme launched for Sindh’s wheat growers [P. 8]

2.2 # Agricultural Technology

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Maryam launches Phase-II of Green Tractor Scheme, 9,500 farmers win in ballot [P. 9]

2.3 # Agricultural Tax

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Farm income tax [P. 10]

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Sindh pushes ahead with coal-to-fertiliser plant in Thar [P. 11]

3 # AGRICULTURAL OUTPUTS

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Crop devastation [P. 12]

Floods destroy rice, other crops on 140,000 acres in Narowal [P. 13]

Agri sector hit hard due to floods: Sharjeel [P. 14]

Floods destroy 1.3m acres of farmland in Punjab: BMP for comprehensive rehabilitation

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Floods damaged 0.6m acres of rice crop in Punjab: secy [P. 14]

Minimum prices for major crops urged [P. 15]

FAO warns floods in Punjab, KP will affect Rabi cultivation [P. 15]

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Sugarcane crop faces growing pest threat [P. 16]

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Dar leads efforts to boost yields with Pakistan Cotton Plan 2026 [P. 17]

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Trade deficit with Middle East soars 22pc [P. 22]

PBS over reports Pakistan's trade data by USD6.4bn? [P. 23]

Jul, Aug trade performance reviewed: Exports stay stable at USD5.11bn [P. 23]

2MFY26: Pakistan's textile exports slump swells trade deficit to \$6bn [P. 23]

Trade deficit with nine states soars 28pc [P. 24]

MOFA informs NA body 'Trade with Central Asian countries reaches USD2.4bn mark'

5.1 # Export

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'Violations' of EU's SPS regulations: Three mango consignments destined for Norway halted by DPP [P. 26]

Textile exports hinge on European Union [P. 25]

TOMCL secures USD7.5m orders to supply beef to China [P. 26]

TOMCL secures \$8.1m export deal [P. 26]

Pharma exports surge to highest \$457m in two decades: Gilani [P. 26]

5.2 # Import

Sugar imports by TCP: IMF approves 47pc taxes, duty relief; panel told [P. 26]

Five-year used vehicles: TPB okays commercial import with 40pc extra duty [P. 27]

TCP buys 100,000 MT of sugar, tenders again for 100,000 tons [P. 27]

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1 # AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION RESOURCES

Billions lost: Floods spark agri-emergency call

The Pakistan Business Forum (PBF) has called for the immediate declaration of an agricultural emergency as widespread flooding devastates large swathes of Punjab and threatens similar destruction in Sindh, jeopardising national food security and economic stability. In a letter addressed to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, the forum said preliminary assessments indicated the loss of approximately 60 per cent of the rice crop, 35pc of cotton, and 30pc of sugarcane in central and southern Punjab. Over 1.8 million people across the Chenab, Ravi, and Sutlej river basins have reportedly been severely affected, with floodwaters now moving southwards along the Indus River. “The scale of devastation is staggering,” the letter stated, warning that key agricultural targets set for the current fiscal year may now be unattainable. It cautioned that Sindh could soon face a similar catastrophe if immediate preventive measures are not taken.

The PBF stated that losses have already run into billions of rupees, endangering rural livelihoods and placing additional stress on broader economy. It emphasised that unless swift, coordinated action is taken, the crisis could spiral into a protracted humanitarian and economic emergency. Calling the situation unprecedented, the forum proposed that federal government officially declare an Agricultural Emergency and initiate immediate relief measures, including provision of interest-free loans of up to Rs2m for small and medium-sized farmers to support replantation and recovery efforts. It also called for the launch of critical canal infrastructure projects in Punjab and Sindh to improve water management and resilience against future flooding. (*Dawn, September 5th, 2025, Page 9*)

Bilawal sees ‘agriculture emergency’ in Punjab

As floods continue to batter Punjab and severely impact farmers, PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari urged both federal and provincial governments to declare an agricultural emergency in the province. (*Dawn, September 6th, 2025, Page 1*)

Pakistan, China sign \$4bn MoUs in agriculture

Pakistan and China have inked more than two dozen MoU worth \$4bn in the agriculture sector, focusing on mechanisation, seed development, smart farming and precision agriculture for data-driven productivity gains. The MoUs were signed during the Pak-China Business-to-Business Conference in Beijing, witnessed by Minister for National Food Security and Research Rana Tanveer Hussain. Chinese media reports said shares of PIESAT surged after the Chinese aerospace firm signed a \$406.4m agreement with Pakistan — nearly double the company’s total revenue last year — to help build a satellite constellation for better communication and Earth data. Under the agreement, PIESAT will assist Pakistan in constructing an integrated satellite system for global real-time communication and remote sensing. (*Dawn, September 8th, 2025, Page 5*)

Findings of the agricultural census

The findings of the Agricultural Census of 2024 have been released recently by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS). This was also a digital census. It has come after a gap of 14 years, as the last Agricultural Census was conducted in 2010. According to the Census, there were 11.7 million private farms in Pakistan in 2024. The corresponding number was 8.3 million in 2010. Therefore, the annual growth rate in the number of farms since 2010 has been 2.5 percent. This is significantly higher than the rate of increase in the number of households in the rural areas of Pakistan of approximately 2 percent. Therefore, contrary to expectations, the rural economy is now more dependent on agriculture. The increase in total farm area is estimated at only 0.8 percent on average annually. It was estimated at 59.3 million acres in 2024, compared to 52.9 million acres in 2010. Consequently, the average farm size has contracted significantly from 6.4 acres to 5.1 acres. This is a clear indicator of the increased population pressure on farm land.

However, the positive development is the more intensive utilization of farm area, with an increase in the share of cultivated area. The share of cultivated area in farm area has gone up from 80.6 percent to 89 percent. The issue is access to water of the higher cultivated area. The Census reports that the share of barani area is over 9 percent. Therefore, it is likely that some of the additional cultivated area is rainfed and not with access to irrigation. Turning to the key indicator of the inequality in farm area distribution, the first important magnitude is the share of small farms, with area of up to only 2.5 acres. There has been a very big increase in the share of these small farms in the total number of farms. It has increased from 43.5 percent in 2010 to 60 percent in 2024. Their share in farm area has risen from 8 percent in 2010 to 18 percent in 2024.

Overall, the Gini coefficient, the standard measure of inequality, has been computed of the farm size distribution. It ranges from 0 to 1. A Gini coefficient of more than 0.4 is taken to imply relatively high level of inequality. This is estimated of the farm size distribution at 0.589 in 2024, as compared to 0.626 in 2010. Therefore, there has been an overall decline in the inequality in the farm size distribution in Pakistan. However, inequality still remains high.

However, the big increase in the share of small farms highlights the likelihood of a rise in the incidence of rural poverty. Inclusive of income from crops and livestock, the net income from an acre of cultivated area is estimated at close to 470,000 rupees annually. The average size of small farms, below 1 acre, is 0.6 acres. This implies the equivalent income annually of Rs 282,000, which is below the poverty line in Pakistan of Rs 340,000 per rural household. Overall, this income includes the value of self-consumption of food crop outputs. The other extreme end of the farm distribution is of very large farmers, with farms above 25 acres in size. The percentage of such farms has declined from 4.1 percent to 1.4 percent, while their share in farm area has fallen from 35pc to 14pc. This is clear evidence of a decline in inequality in rural incomes.

However, the distribution of large farms by tenure status reveals the emergence of a new source of inequality. This is the share in large farms above 25 acres of owner-cum-tenant and tenant operated farms. It has declined from 72 percent in 2010 to 69 percent in 2024. This indicates the presence of greater economies of scale in the operation of large farms, due in particular to more mechanization and use of tractors. Turning to the cropping patterns, it is perhaps somewhat surprising that there is not much variation by farm size. The share of wheat cultivation in cropped area is somewhat U-shaped with respect to farm size. Cash crops like cotton and sugarcane see a rise in shares of cropped area with farm size. The sharpest increase in share of cropped area with farm size is observed in the case of sugarcane.

Perhaps it may come as a positive surprise that there is not a very large variation by farm size of access to irrigation water through canals. 85 percent of the cultivated area in small farms of up to 2.5 acres has access to this mode of irrigation. The corresponding percentage for large farms is not much larger at close to 88 percent. However, the access depends on the location. Large farms are likely to be closer to the head of a canal.

The next important statistic is the growth in livestock population. Here the increase is appreciable between 2010 and 2024. It ranges from a high of 7.8 percent per annum in the case of sheep to 5.3 percent in the number of goats, 5.1 percent in buffaloes and 2.9 percent in cattle. These relatively high growth numbers are consistent with the numbers reported by the PBS in the GDP estimates of increase in the value-added at constant prices in the livestock sector of 3.3 percent between 2009-10 and 2023-24. This is significantly higher than the growth rate in the crop sector of 2.4 percent. Medium-sized farms are more likely to be allocating a higher share of cultivated area to fodder cultivation.

The Agricultural Census of 2024 has quantified some key magnitudes on the crop and livestock sectors of Pakistan. However, some of the estimates relating to the use of inputs, type of labor employed, the level of trading in agricultural land, debt per household, etc., have not yet been released. We look forward to these estimates by farm size by the PBS as was done after the 2010 Census. Overall, the primary concern is the near doubling of the number of small farmers, who are likely to either below or close to the poverty line. They will need extraordinary support especially after the floods. On the positive side, inequality in farm size distribution has declined, farm area has increased significantly, and there has been a big rise in the livestock population. (*Business Recorder, September 9th, 2025, Page 6*)

Federal cabinet declares climate, agriculture emergency

The federal government imposed a climate and agriculture emergency in the wake of floods that devastated dozens of districts across the country, particularly in Punjab, giving rise to fears of food inflation. The decision was made during a meeting of the federal cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. The cabinet also announced

the formation of a special committee led by Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal to recommend measures to mitigate the impacts of the deluge on the economy. The terms of reference (TORs) of the special committee will be devised soon, the source added. (*Dawn, September 11th, 2025, Page 1*)

IAEA backs nuclear solutions for climate-hit agriculture in Pakistan

Pakistan's agriculture sector could mitigate and adapt to climate change through the use of nuclear technology, according to a recent assessment mission under the Atoms4Food Initiative — the first of its kind in Asia and the Pacific, launched by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The mission noted that climate change — rising temperatures, erratic rainfall and more frequent extreme weather events — poses a threat to the production of staple crops such as wheat and rice, as well as cash crops including cotton. Scarce irrigation water, soil degradation and growing pest populations are further straining food security for Pakistan's 250 million inhabitants.

Pakistan was among the first in Asia and the Pacific region to commit to the Atoms4Food Initiative since its launch in October 2023. Following a request from the government, an assessment mission was organised by the IAEA and the FAO last month and its goals were to consult stakeholders and analyse country-level data to better understand Pakistan's food security and agricultural resilience needs before ultimately making data-driven, country-specific recommendations. The Atoms4Food assessment mission found further potential to optimise and broaden the adoption of climate-smart agricultural practices in the country. This includes capacity building in efficient nutrient and water use practices, to enhance soil fertility and health, as well as reducing the carbon footprint of fertilisation. (*Dawn, September 14th, 2025, Page 3*)

1.1 # Farmers

Tobacco growers face financial exploitation

Tobacco growers have been left vulnerable to financial exploitation following delays in quota allocations, which have resulted in overproduction and a subsequent price crash. According to growers and industry leaders, this situation has caused a loss of over Rs6.56 billion, leaving many farmers unable to recover their production costs. The government is required to announce tobacco quotas by October each year, allowing growers to plan their production accordingly. However, the quota for the current fiscal year was not announced until December and was lower than the previous year. This delay has led to an oversupply of tobacco, with prices dropping sharply. Leading industry figures argue that this not only harms growers but also benefits tobacco companies. (*Dawn, September 23th, 2025, Page 9*)

Farmers' body raps Sindh govt for filing appeal against SHC's pro-peasant verdict

Expressing concern about the government's inadequate response to higher courts' verdicts regarding farmers' rights, the Hari Welfare Association (HWA) regretted that the Sindh government filed an appeal in the Supreme Court of Pakistan against a pro-

peasant verdict issued by the Sindh High Court (SHC). A press release issued by the HWA reminded that in 2019, the Sindh High Court (SHC) ordered the Sindh government to provide relief to Ghulam Ali Laghari against his forced eviction by landlords, and also to revise the Sindh Tenancy Act of 1950 to assist landless sharecropping peasants. But instead of offering relief, the government of Sindh, in 2020, filed an appeal in the apex court against the pro-peasant verdict issued by the SHC. (*Dawn, September 23th, 2025, Page 15*)

Punjab floods: small farmers, contractors face ruin

The recent floods in Punjab have left deep scars on its agricultural community, with small livestock farmers, landless labourers, and contractors bearing the heaviest toll. Though the damage affected all segments of rural society, some have suffered disproportionately, with many facing near-impossible circumstances. According to the latest figures from the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA), the floods affected 27 of Punjab's 37 districts, as rivers Chenab, Ravi, and Sutlej breached their banks. Around 4.76 million people and 4,700 villages were impacted, with 2.63m people and 2.11m livestock evacuated to safety. The death toll has reached 134, though the final figures may be higher, as the full-scale survey only began on September 24.

The scale of the disaster is staggering, with nearly 70 per cent of the province submerged. An official from the Agriculture Department, who spoke on condition of anonymity, described the floods as “unimaginable”, with virtually every crop, livestock, and human life in the region affected. The simultaneous swelling of all three major eastern rivers has created an unprecedented crisis for farmers, contractors, and rural communities. Among those hardest hit are the contractors who, in recent years, have come to control nearly 70pc of Punjab's farmland.

“The contractors are by far the biggest sufferers,” said Khalid Khokhar, leader of Pakistan Kissan Ittehad. “Farmers who paid in advance are facing total losses, while those still to pay may receive some concessions. In total, their losses run into hundreds of billions of rupees.” While the financial losses for contractors are enormous, it is the small livestock farmers who face most severe human toll. Aside from human suffering, floods also caused significant damage to crops, particularly rice, maize, and cotton. Rice yields have been hit hardest, with around 60pc of the crop destroyed, while maize and cotton losses are estimated at 20pc each. (*Dawn, September 28th, 2025, Page 9*)

1.2 # Land

Settlements near Bahawalpur face land erosion threat by Sutlej

Basti Mari Qasim Shah in the suburbs of Bahawalpur city is threatened by erosion as about four acres of the land on its outskirts have already been submerged by the river Sutlej floodwaters. According to the residents, after erosion of its four acres, the floodwaters were just around eight acres away from the basti. Apprehending submersion of the settlement by fast-approaching floodwaters, they urged the authorities to take

measures to check the land erosion within a day or two. Similarly, Fatowali village, located between Bahawalpur and Sammasatta railway station, is also threatened by the Sutlej erosion, and the locals have appealed to the authorities to send heavy machinery to dump sandbags and stones to save the area. (*Dawn, September 3rd, 2025, Page 2*)

1.3 # Water

Roller-compact-concrete work on Bhasha dam to begin next year

The Water and Power Development Authority is set to start RCC work on the Diamer-Bhasha dam early next year. “The under-construction Diamer-Bhasha Dam project is all set to achieve yet another milestone as roller-compact-concrete (RCC) work of the main dam will commence in early 2026 after completion of trials and excavation work on abutment and pit (foundation) by the end of this year,” the statement said.

Wapda has spent Rs 78.5bn for resettlement of the people displaced by the project and on execution of uplift schemes in health, education and upgradation of infrastructure in the region. The Diamer-Bhasha dam, with a height of 272 metres, is the highest RCC dam in the world. It will have a gross water storage capacity of 8.1 MAF and irrigate 1.23 million acres of land. With an installed power generation capacity of 4,500 megawatt, the project will provide 18bn units of green, clean and the most affordable electricity to the national grid every year. (*Dawn, September 10th, 2025, Page 12*)

Pakistan to begin Rabi with record levels of stored water

After many years, Pakistan will begin the upcoming Rabi season with healthy carryover water storage of more than 13 million acre feet (MAF) in reservoirs, which may partially offset agriculture output losses caused by floods in the outgoing Kharif season. “We expect water situation in Rabi season to be normal after many years”, said an official, adding that any shortage “will be minimal, bearable and manageable”. He noted that, after many years, we are also hopeful of having a reasonable carryover into the next Kharif season. (*Dawn, September 22th, 2025, Page 3*)

2 # AGRICULTURAL INPUTS

Farmers’ bodies demand govt announce ‘revival package’

Various farmers’ organizations have urged the government to take immediate notice of the massive losses sustained by rural areas of Punjab due to the recent floods. They have called for the launch of a comprehensive ‘revival package’—in addition to ongoing rescue and relief efforts—to help restore the livelihoods of farmers and stabilize the rural economy. “The revival package should include financial assistance, quality seeds, and other essential agricultural inputs to enable farmers to sow the next crop and bring the rural economy back on track,” farmer leaders demanded.

Khalid Hussain Bath, President of Kissan Ittehad Pakistan (KIP), stated that the floods have “broken the back of the farming community,” with nearly 2.5 million acres of cultivated land destroyed. Key crops such as rice, cotton, millet, and oilseed have been

ruined, and around 20,000 large and 20,000 small villages have been devastated across Punjab, he added. For the past two years, the government has not been purchasing wheat from farmers,” Bath claimed. “Now, wheat is being sold in the market at Rs. 3,000 to 3,500 per maund, whereas during the harvest season, it had to be sold at throwaway prices due to the government’s indifference.” He alleged that the Punjab government had abandoned the farming sector, offering no tangible support. “No practical steps have been taken to assist the farmers. (*Business Recorder, September 9th, 2025, Page 1*)

2.1 # Agricultural Loan / Finances

Newly-registered farmers to receive Benazir Hari Cards

Provincial Agriculture Minister Sardar Muhammad Bakhsh Mahar has stated that the Sindh government has decided to issue Benazir Hari Cards to millions of newly-registered farmers in the province. Registration and verification of 80,000 new farmers in Sindh have been completed. Sindh Bank will issue 50,000 cards in the last week of this month, and subsequently, an additional 50,000 cards will be issued every 20 days. Through the cards, farmers will receive subsidies and financial support.

Mr Mahar also stated that the Sindh government has also made a major decision to transition drip irrigation systems to solar power. Under this scheme, farmers with agricultural land ranging from five to 25 acres will be provided subsidised solar power panels. As part of the project, 295 units of solar power panels will be installed on 4,000 acres of land. The cost will be shared, with farmers bearing 20 per cent (pc) and the Sindh government covering 80pc. He mentioned that the farmers interested in obtaining solar panels can submit their applications at office of director general of the Agriculture Water Management in Hyderabad by Sept 20. (*Dawn, September 12th, 2025, Page 15*)

Askari Bank & Green Agrimall team up to empower farmers

In a landmark collaboration for Pakistan’s agriculture sector, Askari Bank (AKBL) and Green Agrimall (GAM) have launched a farmer-focused initiative offering up to 5 percent discount on purchases of agricultural inputs through Askari Bank’s debit and credit cards. This initiative, rolled out at Green Agrimall outlets across Pakistan, enables farmers to access quality seeds, fertilizers, and agrochemicals at reduced costs. By combining AKBL’s financial services with Green Agrimall’s one-window agri-solutions, the program provides much-needed relief against rising input costs while strengthening farm productivity. (*Business Recorder, September 12th, 2025, Page 4*)

Small farmers and microfinance sector: Pakistan launches Climate Risk Fund-I

Pakistan has launched the Climate Risk Fund-I (CRF-I) under the World Bank-funded Resilience and Adaptation Mainstreaming (RAM) Project, to strengthen the country’s most vulnerable farming communities and microfinance institutions against climate-induced shocks, particularly floods. In March this year, the World Bank approved USD102 million in financing for Pakistan under the Resilient and Accessible Microfinance (RAM) Project, which aims to enhance access to micro credit and support

the resilience of the microfinance sector and its borrowers, particularly in face of climate-related shocks. According to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) Pakistan is among the world's most climate-vulnerable countries and has faced repeated climate disasters in recent years, with the 2022 floods serving as a grim reminder of the risks. The agriculture sector, particularly small, subsistence and landless farmers, generally served by microfinance sector, is the most vulnerable and worst hit segments. Climate change has also significantly increased the risk of loan delinquencies and liquidity shortages in microfinance banks and institutions, and has affected the growth of microfinance sector. Therefore, to enhance resilience of the Microfinance Providers and their agri clients against floods, the federal government has established Climate Risk Fund I. The Fund essentially aims at promoting climate resilient farming and providing liquidity support to small farmers affected by floods. The SBP will manage this Fund under a Trust created by the federal government for this purpose. (*Business Recorder, September 16th, 2025, Page 1*)

Rs58bn scheme launched for Sindh's wheat growers

Sindh Minister for Agriculture Sardar Mohammad Bux Mahar announced the launch of 'Wheat Growers Support Policy' terming it 'a historic' initiative aimed at providing immediate relief to wheat farmers. He said that due to certain IMF conditions, farmers cultivating wheat, rice and sugar cane had stopped receiving support price of these commodities. However, despite challenging circumstances, the Sindh government has now decided to assist farmers. Giving details of the scheme, the minister said that in order to facilitate farmers' registration, monitoring and supervision, committees have been established at provincial, district and local levels. The registration process will be initiated using the Benazir Hari Card database, National Identity Cards and land revenue records. All field assistant officers of agriculture department have been instructed to complete the registration process within a month.

Sardar Mahar said that a provincial-level monitoring committee has been formed under the director general of the agriculture department. He said that under the Wheat Growers Package, around 411,000 farmers owning between one and 25 acres of land will be provided fertiliser and urea. He said wheat will be cultivated on 2.262 million acres across Sindh, and under the Wheat Cultivation Programme, each farmer will receive Rs24,700 per acre. The Sindh government will allocate a total of Rs58 billion for this initiative. The minister added that after verification, the distribution of DAP fertiliser will be completed by November this year while the remaining two bags of urea will be provided to each verified farmer after Jan 20, 2026 upon confirmation of cultivation. (*Dawn, September 27th, 2025, Page 15*)

2.2 # Agricultural Technology

Sindh govt launches farmer training to combat climate change, increase produce

The Sindh government has launched a farmer training initiative to help combat climate change and increase per-acre agricultural yield. A comprehensive plan has been

developed to address climate change and safeguard the province's agricultural sector. Agriculture Minister Sardar Muhammad Bux Mahar stated that this initiative will not only enhance farmers' income, but also ensure food security across the province. According to the provincial minister, the Sindh agriculture department has initiated the Climate Smart Agriculture project under the Sindh Water and Agriculture Transformation (SWAT) programme. Through this initiative, farmers are being trained in modern agricultural techniques such as increasing crop yield, optimising plant height and branch count, pest control and cultivation with minimal water.

Mr Mahar explained that this is a five-year project that will continue till 2028. During this period, 180 field schools will be established and 4,500 farmers will be trained. In the first phase, under the supervision of Project Director Liaquat Bhutto and Coordinator Mansoor Bughio, 750 farmers are receiving training in advanced agricultural methods this year. He added that initially, 30 demonstration plots and field schools have been set up in Sukkur, Mirpurkhas and Badin. These plots showcase practical techniques such as laser land leveling, row planting of wheat and the use of balanced fertilisers. He highlighted a successful experiment in Khorewah Minor, Badin, where wheat was cultivated using the zero tillage technique on residual moisture left after rice harvesting. This method significantly reduced costs, water usage and labour, while also benefiting the environment. (*Dawn, September 18th, 2025, Page 15*)

Maryam launches Phase-II of Green Tractor Scheme, 9,500 farmers win in ballot

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif launched the Phase-II of Green Tractor Programme by announcing results of a ballot for 9,500 high-power tractors in Punjab. The first tractor went to Raja Rafat Abbas, the second to Nuzhat Parveen and the third to Mian Naseer. She congratulated the successful farmers, and personally called a successful farmer Muhammad Ashiq of Kasur and said, "I have called you to congratulate you on your success in the draw to win a tractor." She was briefed by the Secretary Agriculture about 'CM Punjab Green Tractor Program Phase-II.'

He said that owners of seven acres or more land would be able to get tractors ranging from 75 to 125 horsepower. He added that the Punjab government would provide a subsidy of Rs1 million for high-power tractors and Rs500,000 for medium-power tractors with 50 to 65 horsepower under CM Punjab Green Tractor Scheme phase-II, under which 20,000 tractors would be subsidised. He highlighted that 9,500 tractors would be provided under High Power Tractor Scheme and 10,000 tractors would be provided under Medium Power Scheme. Chief Minister was apprised that 734,000 farmers applied under Green Tractor Scheme Phase-II; 282,000 farmers were declared eligible for the draw and 9,500 were declared successful in the ballot. Relevant authorities said that 98pc of farmers applied for Pakistani-made tractors while 2pc of them applied for large and modern imported tractors. They added that due to demand for imported tractors, foreign dealer companies had established dealers and business offices in Punjab. (*The News, September 21th, 2025, Page 12*)

2.3 # Agricultural Tax

Provinces assailed for ignoring agri tax potential

Former finance minister Dr Hafeez Pasha has said that Pakistan's provincial governments are ignoring the massive potential of agricultural income tax, which could yield Rs 450-500 billion annually, against Punjab's meagre Rs 10 billion collection target — a figure he termed “too low and embarrassing.” Dr Pasha said all four provinces have amended their agricultural income tax laws in line with commitments made to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), but the collection targets remain disproportionately low. “If we collect a very reasonable amount of tax from big landlords and agriculturists, the government can mobilize Rs 450-500 billion. At least the one percent of farmers who own 22 percent of farmland should be taxed properly,” he stressed. (*Business Recorder, September 8th, 2025, Page 12*)

Sindh CM for reviewing agri taxation policy

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that his government remains steadfastly supportive of farmers affected by floods, while also reaffirming his administration's dedication to restoring law and order and encouraging social inclusion for differently-abled persons. Speaking to the media just after inaugurating the Centre of Excellence for Disability Inclusion (CEDI), Koarngi – established by the Sindh government's Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPD), in partnership with NOWPDP, the Chief Minister, recalled that PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari had called for the declaration of an agricultural emergency in response to the extensive flood damage.

On financial matters, Murad Shah explained that the National Finance Commission (NFC) is established under Article 160 of the Constitution and comprises the federal finance minister and finance ministers of all four provinces. He noted that agricultural taxation would need to be reviewed: “We cannot abolish taxes on farmers entirely, but we will ensure that our revenue targets are met.” The CM warned that without a full-fledged agricultural emergency, the country could face a wheat shortage after December-January. “Last year, because farmers were denied fair prices, wheat output dropped by 20 per cent. If this trend continues, the crisis will deepen. Bilawal Bhutto's demand for an agricultural emergency is in the interest of the entire nation, not just farmers,” he stressed. (*Business Recorder, September 18th, 2025, Page 1*)

Farm income tax

Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah's call for a ‘review’ of agricultural taxation to help relieve the burden on farmers affected by the ongoing floods is understandable. Thousands of farmers, particularly smallholders, across Punjab and Sindh have seen their crops destroyed, livestock swept away, livelihoods lost and homes collapse. In such circumstances, taxing them would deepen their misery. Tax relief for the affected farmers is not only justified, it is also necessary to help them recover. However, Mr Shah did not elaborate much on his comments, and it remains unclear whether he was

talking only about temporary tax waivers or long-term exemptions, too. Neither was it clear whether he was suggesting an across-the-board waiver or relief only for the disaster-hit areas.

These distinctions matter because of the reluctance traditionally shown by provincial governments to tax agricultural income fearing the loss of political support from powerful landowners. The farm sector constitutes nearly a quarter of the economy. But its contribution to tax revenues is negligible. It was only under IMF pressure that the provinces amended their agriculture income tax laws to align them with the federal personal and corporate tax regimes. The willingness to implement the law to collect the levy is still to be tested. While immediate tax concessions are warranted in the flood-hit areas, the consequences of using the deluge as an excuse to give waivers to those who have escaped the flood devastation or to reverse the progress on agricultural income tax would negatively impact efforts to reform the inequitable tax system. For decades, large landowners have hidden behind the plight of smallholder farmers to avoid paying income tax. The result is an unjust system where the salaried and compliant corporate sectors carry the major tax burden to create resources for running the state. Equity demands that everyone pays their tax dues irrespective of the source of their income when it crosses minimum exemption threshold. (*Dawn, September 19th, 2025, Page 6*)

2.4 # Fertilizer

Urea sales surge 46pc in August

Urea sales rose sharply to 816,000 tonnes in August, up 46 per cent year-on-year and 34pc month-on-month, driven by aggressive discounting by select manufacturers and possible dealer pre-buying ahead of partial rollback in September. Engro Fertilisers led the discount drive, offering an average price cut of Rs269 per bag during August — a portion of which was withdrawn at the start of September. The sales surge is also attributed to advance purchases by dealers taking advantage of the lower prices. However, cumulative urea offtake during 8MFY25 declined by 10pc to 3.77 million tonnes compared to 4.21m tonnes in the same period last year, largely due to weaker farm economics. According to Asad Ali of Topline Securities, urea closing inventory in August stood at 1.06m tonnes, down from 1.23m tonnes in July. (*Dawn, September 3rd, 2025, Page 9*)

Sindh pushes ahead with coal-to-fertiliser plant in Thar

A coal gasification plant is being planned in Thar to utilise surplus coal for fertiliser production. MFTC Coal Gasification & Manufacturing (Pvt) Ltd and Sino Sindh Resources (Pvt) Ltd/Shanghai Electric recently signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for the project. It will be the first fertiliser venture based on Thar coal, designed not only to contribute to the country's energy needs but also to support the agriculture sector. According to Sindh Coal Authority officials, a feasibility study confirmed the project's potential to convert surplus coal into gas and fertiliser.

The Sindh government has already introduced a ‘coal to gas and coal to liquids policy’ to convert Thar’s coal into synthetic gas at a cost lower than imported gas or coal. It promotes diverse project models, private sector ventures, public-private partnerships and public-sector initiatives, while encouraging future private investment. It also emphasises collaboration between local engineering firms and foreign companies to ensure technology transfer and capacity building, with the aim of indigenising Pakistan’s energy sector. (*The News, September 28th, 2025, Page 17*)

3 # AGRICULTURAL OUTPUTS

Floods damaged vast areas of farmland in KP: UN-OCHA

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs has said that 3,233 acres of agricultural land were damaged during the ongoing floods in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The ‘Rapid Needs Assessment’ report prepared by UN-OCHA says Buner recorded the largest losses of agricultural land with 1,157 acres affected, followed by Swat with 853 acres, Shangla with 559 acres, and Swabi with 330 acres. Over 80 per cent of people reported crop losses which were significant in Battagram and Mansehra, while Lower Dir and Torgar reported smaller but notable losses, further threatening food security and livelihoods, the UN-OCHA report says.

People lost about 6,206 livestock across the affected areas of 10 districts. Buner reported the highest losses with 4,818 animals, followed by Swat with 618, Shangla with 295, Battagram with 219, and Swabi with 105. Smaller but significant losses were recorded in Bajaur, Mansehra, Torgar, and Upper Dir, while Lower Dir reported minimal impact. The loss of livestock further weakened the livelihoods of rural households already facing crop damage and displacement. Across most flood-affected areas, market access has remained relatively stable. Overall, 77 per cent of markets were reported as accessible, with full access in districts such as Bajaur, Battagram, Lower Dir, Tor Ghar, and Upper Dir. (*Dawn, September 4th, 2025, Page 12*)

Crop devastation

The devastation unleashed by the floods across Punjab with Sindh facing a similar situation is nothing short of catastrophic. The deluge has wiped out crops on thousands of acres across Punjab, the country’s food basket, sparking calls for an agricultural emergency. While an official assessment of the exact agricultural losses caused by floods and excessive monsoon rains is awaited, a business body has claimed that the flooding has led to staggering losses to crops and rural livelihoods. A preliminary assessment by the Pakistan Business Forum shows that 60pc of the rice crop, 35pc of cotton and 30pc of sugarcane in central and southern Punjab have been damaged, besides widespread losses to rural livelihoods.

In a letter to the prime minister, the forum has asked that an agricultural emergency be declared. Stating clearly that ‘such destruction in Punjab due to flooding has never been witnessed before, with Sindh soon facing a similar devastation if immediate preventive

measures are not taken`, the letter cautions the government that the key agricultural targets set for the current fiscal year may be unattainable now. The forum`s call has not come a moment too soon as the unfolding economic upheaval and humanitarian crisis have exposed the fragility of our farm sector. With food inflation already rising, and large amounts of wheat stored in warehouses or at home by farmers for personal use damaged or swept away by the floodwaters, the devastation risks jeopardising the food security of tens of millions of people in both the rural and urban areas. More crucially, the recent monthly finance ministry report has predicted that flood-related damage may worsen fiscal pressures as food and industrial crop losses are likely to necessitate imports. Not just that. The farm sector, which forms nearly a quarter of the economy and employs almost 40pc of the labour force, was in troubled waters even before the rains lashed down and floods inundated vast swathes of farmland. The sector had grown only marginally by 0.56pc the lowest in almost a decade in the last fiscal year against the five-year average of 3.38pc, depressing overall GDP growth and affecting both the industrial and services sectors. With agriculture growth falling short of the target, the story will likely repeat itself this year. While declaring an agricultural emergency is necessary to support rural communities, the government must also use the unfolding crisis to push overdue structural reforms in this neglected sector. As a PBF member stressed, the present crisis should serve as a wake-up call to overhaul agricultural strategies. Without decisive action to mitigate the immediate fallout and avert longer-term decline, the country risks deepening its economic vulnerabilities. (*Dawn, September 8th, 2025, Page 6*)

Floods destroy rice, other crops on 140,000 acres in Narowal

Losses of more than Rs10 billion have been reported by farmers as rice and other crops cultivated on 140,250 acres of agricultural land have been lost due to recent flooding in the Narowal district. As per details, the high-level floods in the river Ravi and rainwater drains Auj, Baein, Basantar and Dek wiped out farmlands and devastated the farming community. Due to the lack of an industrial zone in Narowal district, the livelihood of locals depends on agriculture and farming is done on 355,425 acres of land. Farmers grow rice, wheat, vegetables, pulses and animal fodder on these lands.

Locals report that four to five feet of floodwater has been accumulated in their fields. Adding insult to injury, the already suffering farmers and citizens lost their homes, while roads and other infrastructure was also destroyed in the floods. Narowal Deputy Commissioner Syed Hassan Raza told that crops cultivated on 140,250 acres of land had been lost due to the floods. He said that farmers in Shakargarh tehsil suffered the most due to the floods as 77,090 acres of land had been submerged in the area. He said that 45,617 acres of agricultural land was under floodwater in Narowal tehsil and 17,543 acres in Zafarwal. He said that the rice crop cultivated on 84,000 acres had been lost due to the floods. He said that the floodwaters washed away fodder for animals cultivated on 8,176 acres of land. (*Dawn, September 14th, 2025, Page 2*)

Agri sector hit hard due to floods: Sharjeel

Sindh Senior Minister and Provincial Minister for Information, Transport and Mass Transit Sharjeel Inam Memon has said that the agricultural sector has been affected the most due to floods and rains, and it is Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's vision to get the farmers back on their feet. The Sindh government is taking practical steps for this purpose, and full cooperation is also expected from the federal government. Welcoming the efforts of Chairman Bilawal Bhutto for the flood victims across the country and said that the vision of Pakistan Peoples Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari is a ray of hope for the flood victims, he said Bilawal Bhutto considers the suffering of the people as his own. Under his leadership, the PPP will not rest on its laurels until the flood victims are fully restored. (*Business Recorder, September 14th, 2025, Page 3*)

Floods destroy 1.3m acres of farmland in Punjab: BMP for comprehensive rehabilitation

The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry's Businessmen Panel (BMP) Chairman Mian Anjum Nisar has expressed grave concern over the catastrophic impact of recent floods, warning that Pakistan's agriculture sector alone is facing losses amounting to billions of rupees. He stressed that the destruction of crops, farmland, and infrastructure is having a ripple effect across allied industries, including food processing, textiles, logistics, and other agriculture-dependent businesses, and that immediate action is required to prevent long-term economic setbacks. Highlighting official estimates, Mian Anjum Nisar said, the floods have destroyed over 1.3 million acres of farmland in Punjab, with additional losses reported in Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Balochistan. Faisalabad, a critical hub for textile and agro-processing industries, has been particularly hard-hit, with hundreds of thousands of acres of crop lands affected. (*Business Recorder, September 15th, 2025, Page 2*)

Flash flood damages property, crops in Chitral

Heavy rain in the villages of Shali, Khora Lasht and Bilphok situated on the outskirts of Chitral city triggered a flash flood, which damaged standing crops, gardens and property, while vehicular traffic remained suspended on Garam Chashma Road due to a landslide. (*Dawn, September 19th, 2025, Page 8*)

Floods damaged 0.6m acres of rice crop in Punjab: secy

Floods in Punjab affected the rice crop the most, with damage reported on 600,000 acres. A meeting was held under the chairmanship of Secretary of Agriculture Iftikhar Ali Sahoo to review the losses caused by the floods. Agriculture Secretary said floods have damaged crops in 28 districts of Punjab, while more than 3,000 villages across the province have been affected. Iftikhar Ali said over 2,000 survey teams have been formed to assess the extent of the damage. "The cotton crop has been less affected by the floods, whereas the rice crop has suffered the most damage, with 600,000 acres impacted", he told the meeting. According to the Agriculture Secretary, the Chief Minister will announce a special compensation package for the losses suffered by farmers. (*The News, September 21th, 2025, Page 12*)

Minimum prices for major crops urged

The National Assembly Standing Committee on National Food Security and Research urged the government to immediately announce minimum support prices for major crops, warning that farmers may shift to more profitable alternatives in the absence of clear pricing policies. At the meeting chaired by Syed Tariq Hussain, the committee stressed that timely intervention prices were essential for market stability and food security. Minister for National Food Security Rana Tanveer Hussain supported the recommendation and informed the committee that approval for the wheat support price had been obtained, with an official announcement expected shortly. He added that further approvals requiring engagement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) would be pursued as needed.

The committee also asked the ministry to provide a detailed report on crop damage from recent floods. On rising sugar prices and domestic shortages, it directed the ministry to submit data on the rates at which sugar was exported and later re-imported. Members were briefed on the proposed National Agriculture Biotechnology Policy (NABP) 2025, which aims to tackle challenges related to food demand, climate stress, and low yields. The policy focuses on conventional biotechnology, genetically modified crops, new plant breeding tools, and the regulation of GM commodity imports and exports. (*Dawn, September 24th, 2025, Page 9*)

FAO warns floods in Punjab, KP will affect Rabi cultivation

The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) has warned that flood damages in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will affect upcoming Rabi cultivation, as the Punjab Provincial Disaster Management Authority directed survey teams to prioritise public complaints while assessing losses in affected areas. Meanwhile, Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has predicted rain, wind, and thundershowers in south-eastern Sindh till October 2, with occasional gaps. The recent floods have damaged farmland, standing crops, and agricultural infrastructure in both Punjab and Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa.

In its preliminary assessment report on the impact of floods, the FAO warned that seed availability for Rabi 2025-26 and Kharif 2026 is underthreat. Floods inundated 1.3m hectares, including 0.93m hectares of cropland, with Punjab worst hit. FAO said half of wheat seed comes from saved grain, much of which was lost in flooded homesteads. Within the formal sector, 80 to 90 per cent of wheat seed is available, but market pressures may affect this supply. Rising demand and prices may push farmers to sell seed as grain, cutting availability across provinces. The report said flooding cut fodder supplies, raising costs and limiting access in remote areas.

Many livestock owners are resorting to distress sales, and only 45 per cent of fodder seed is available in the formal market, heightening risks for livestock nutrition. Overcrowded shelters and stagnant water are heightening stress and disease risks for

livestock. The FAO warned that conditions are favourable for outbreaks of lumpy skin disease (LSD), foot-and-mouth disease, peste des petits ruminants and other zoonotic infections. LSD outbreaks have already been reported in southern Punjab bordering Sindh and Balochistan and are spreading northwards, with new cases in Pakpattan, Lodhran and Khanewal. Quantifying crop-wise damage in Punjab, the FAO report said:

Rice: 188,837 hectares damaged (7.3pc of total rice area), mainly in the northeast. The worst-hit districts were Sialkot (37,944 ha, 24.67pc), Narowal (20,008 ha, 15.88pc), Gujranwala (10,765 ha, 4.72pc), Bahawalnagar (9,594 ha, 8.60pc) and Sheikhupura (9,364 ha, 4.25pc). Cotton: 84,182 hectares damaged (5.1pc of total cotton area). The worst-hit districts were Bahawalpur (19,503 ha, 6.10pc), Rajanpur (8,688 ha, 6.75pc), Khanewal (7,724 ha, 8.21pc), Multan (6,917 ha, 7.57pc) and Muzaffargarh (6,477 ha, 7.03pc). Sugarcane: 23,413 hectares damaged (2.8pc of totalsugarcane area). The most affected districts were Faisalabad (2,466 ha, 4.01pc), Jhang (2,254 ha, 4.05pc), Bhakkar (2,201 ha, 6.28pc), Rajanpur (1,512 ha, 2.87pc) and Layyah (1,504 ha, 5.45pc). In KP, 62,080 hectares of land were flooded, including 50,821 hectares of cropland (2.7pc of total cropland). In Sindh, 74,542 hectares of land were flooded (0.5pc of total land), including 43,140 hectares of cropland (0.8pc of total cropland). (*Dawn, September 30th, 2025, Page 12*)

3.1 # Cash Crop

Unexpected rise in cotton arrivals despite floods

In a surprising turn, cotton production in Pakistan has seen an unexpected increase this season, defying earlier predictions despite widespread heavy rainfall and flooding in key cotton-growing regions. While the increase marks a positive development, the sector still faces significant challenges, with large areas of cotton crops submerged by floods, especially in Punjab. The floodwaters are now heading towards Sindh, threatening further damage. According to latest report from the Pakistan Cotton Ginners Association released, as of Aug 31, ginneries across the country had received 1.336 million bales of raw cotton, reflecting a 9pc increase over the same period last year.

The rise has been largely driven by a notable surge in cotton arrivals from Sindh, where production is up by 87pc compared to Punjab. In fact, ginneries in Sindh received 352,000 bales between Aug 16 and 31, a sharp increase from 226,000 bales in the first half of August and a substantial jump from 130,000 bales in the same period last year. This brings the total for Sindh to 1.336 million bales, a 13pc increase compared to 2024, despite the adverse weather conditions.

In contrast, cotton arrivals in Punjab have shown a more modest increase. Ginneries in the province received 466,000 bales by Aug 31, which is a 3pc rise compared to the same period last year. However, a separate report from the Crop Reporting Service Punjab indicated a record 125pc increase in cotton production in the province compared to the PCGA's data. (*Dawn, September 4th, 2025, Page 9*)

Sugarcane crop faces growing pest threat

Pyrilla and whitefly infestations have become a significant threat to sugarcane production across Pakistan due to rising humidity levels. The Ministry of National Food Security and Research has warned that delays in controlling these pests could cause irreversible damage to the crop. The ministry has urged sugarcane growers to take immediate preventive and control measures. Farmers are advised to regularly inspect their fields, maintain close contact with local agricultural extension officers, and apply recommended pesticides such as Imidacloprid promptly. Food Security Minister Rana Tanveer Hussain, chaired a meeting in Islamabad to address the escalating threat posed by these pests. He assured that the federal government is mobilising relevant departments and launching awareness campaigns to help farmers mitigate crop losses. He emphasised that coordinated efforts are essential to safeguard the sugarcane crop. (Dawn, September 18th, 2025, Page 9)

Cotton output rises 40pc despite floods

The country's cotton production surged by 40 per cent year-on-year to 2.004 million bales by Sept 15, according to data released by the Pakistan Cotton Ginners Association (PCGA). The sharp increase has come despite prolonged rainfall and flooding in several cotton-growing regions, raising hopes of a reduced import bill for raw cotton and edible oil. The PCGA report shows that ginning factories in Punjab received 690,000 bales during the period, reflecting a 28pc increase from last year, while Sindh reported a 47pc rise, with 1.314m bales reaching ginneries. The overall output suggests an early recovery in the cotton sector, which has faced multiple challenges in recent years. (Dawn, September 19th, 2025, Page 9)

Dar leads efforts to boost yields with Pakistan Cotton Plan 2026

Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar is spearheading the launch of a new comprehensive strategy, the Pakistan Cotton Plan 2026, aimed at aggressively reviving the country's declining cotton production. The plan, which consolidates various earlier proposals from the Ministry of Food Security and the All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA), is expected to be presented to the deputy prime minister shortly, it has been learnt. Implementation of the strategy is anticipated to significantly boost cotton yields, which would lead to a substantial reduction in the national import bill for cotton and edible oils. (Dawn, September 29th, 2025, Page 3)

3.2 # Food Crop

Wheat plantation area declined by 6.5pc in Pakistan, says Food and Agriculture Organisation

The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations says though the wheat production in Pakistan has officially been estimated at 29 million tonnes in 2025, reflecting about 5 per cent above the five-year average, the area planted has declined by 6.5pc compared to the previous year. The reason for the decline in area of plantation is attributed to the removal of the minimal support price since May 2024,

combined with low domestic wheat prices at the planting time that led some farmers to shift to more profitable vegetables and cash crops, including oilseeds, condiments and vegetables, says Global Information and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture (GIEWS) on Pakistan in its latest issue.

In irrigated areas, yields are estimated to be above average, but dry weather conditions caused crop losses in rain-fed areas, which account for about 20pc of wheat plantings, and in some irrigated areas in northern parts due to shortage of irrigation water, the FAO report says. Planting of the 2025 paddy crop finalised in early August. In some areas, farmers undertook replanting operations following severe localised flooding between June and early August. The floods and landslides particularly affected northern and northwestern areas, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, as well as parts of Punjab, Sindh and Balochistan provinces, resulting in localised crop losses and disruption of agricultural livelihood. The report says in the 2024-25 marketing year wheat imports were significantly below the five-year average after the introduction of an import ban on wheat grain in July 2024. This year the government also put a ban on exports of wheat flour, including flour made from imported wheat, wheat products, refined flour and semolina, which is still in place as of early August 2025.

Exports of rice, the country's major exportable cereal, are preliminarily forecast at 5.5 million tonnes in calendar year 2025. Exports of maize in the 2025-26 marketing year are preliminarily forecast at an average level of 500,000 tonnes. Domestic prices of wheat flour, the country's main staple food, declined by about 50pc between March 2024 and July 2025. The decline in prices reflects abundant market availability driven by consecutive good harvests and large imports in 2023-24, as well as by the government's decision, since 2024, to cease wheat procurement from farmers at an MSP. The abolition of the minimum support price was part of a broader package of economic reforms required by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) as a condition to secure a \$7 billion bailout approved in 2024. (*Dawn, September 1st, 2025, Page 12*)

Reduced wheat acreage

The FAO's assessment of Pakistan's latest wheat crop is both reassuring and worrying. On the one hand, it celebrates a harvest 5pc higher than the five-year average; on the other, it highlights the troubling fact that wheat acreage has shrunk by 6.5pc as farmers abandon the staple crop for more profitable alternatives. The reduction in wheat acreage was not unexpected. The government's abolition of the minimum support price and falling rates during the sowing season were among the main reasons why some farmers switched to what they saw as more profitable crops. It was an economic decision: why grow something that yields lower returns? The report notes the woes of wheat farmers from the rain-fed dry regions who constitute nearly a fifth of all staple growers. While canal-irrigated areas are enjoying above-average yields, farmers from the dry regions are vulnerable to drought and water shortages. Their losses can be significant, forcing them to shift to drought-resistant crops.

That said, the declining wheat acreage does not necessarily mean that the government's policy of withdrawing itself from the market is flawed or misguided. It was long overdue. However, it is a sobering reminder that piecemeal economic reforms risk destabilising the agriculture markets to the detriment of both growers and consumers. The decline in acreage demands that policymakers go beyond the abolition of the support price if they want to make wheat profitable for farmers. Only a functioning and well-regulated market can deliver market stability and ensure profitability for growers particularly smallholders.

Farmers need access to small soft loans for inputs and mechanisation, insurance protection from the vagaries of the weather, training in modern farming and irrigation techniques, removal of exploitative middlemen and stronger linkages with global markets through a liberal wheat trade regime. Unless the reforms are taken to their logical conclusion, we will continue to see risks to food security and rural livelihoods. (*Dawn, September 3rd, 2025, Page 6*)

Centre not willing to purchase wheat from farmers: Sharjeel

Sindh Senior Minister and Provincial Minister for Information, Transport and Mass Transit, Sharjeel Inam Memon said that Sindh still has 1.2 million tons of wheat, but the federal government is unwilling to purchase it from farmers at a fair price. He stressed that Pakistan is an agricultural country and supporting farmers is the only way to strengthen the economy. On the flood situation in Punjab, he said the scale of destruction could have been reduced with better planning, but 'inexperience' made the losses worse. By contrast, he said, Sindh managed the situation more effectively under the direct monitoring of the Chief Minister and with establishment of a control room, which helped limit the damage. (*Business Recorder, September 23th, 2025, Page 2*)

Call for wheat imports to avert further rise in flour prices

Wheat importers have warned of an imminent supply gap of around 3 million tonnes and urged the government to allow immediate imports to prevent further price escalation and ensure market stability. This comes as the government maintains that current reserves are sufficient until the next harvest in early 2026 and continues to rule out imports. In a letter addressed to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Cereal Association of Pakistan (CAP) Chairman Muzzamil A. Chappal called for the immediate import of at least 1.5m tonnes of wheat. He emphasised the importance of a transparent and inclusive import policy that is open to all stakeholders, thereby ensuring price stability and food security. (*Dawn, September 24th, 2025, Page 9*)

Govt to move IMF for restoration of wheat MSP system

The government has decided to approach the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for the restoration of the annual announcement of minimum support price (MSP) for wheat, as the abolishment of MSP has negatively affected the production, said Minister for National Food Security and Research Rana Tanveer Hussain. The minister said this

during the meeting of the National Assembly Standing Committee on National Food Security and Research, which met with MNA Syed Hussain Tariq in the chair. “The government is trying to convince the IMF to allow flexibility over food items,” the minister further said, adding that the reduced government control over the market has led to a surge in wheat price.

The minister also said the government is going to announce a new wheat policy in the first week of October to protect farmers and the public. The minister also said that the government is likely to import wheat due to a decline in production. “If wheat output drops by another 6 percent this year, we will have to import \$1.5 billion worth of wheat,” the minister warned, stressing that such large-scale imports would place a significant burden on the national exchequer. The committee also discussed matters related to the import and export of sugar. The minister briefing the committee on the country’s sugar situation said that last year, Pakistan produced 7.6 million tons of sugar against a national demand of 6.3 million tonnes, leaving a surplus of 1.3 million tonnes, he said, adding that the estimated production for this year was 7.2 million tons, but actual output only reached 5.8 million tonnes, significantly below expectations. (*Business Recorder, September 24th, 2025, Page 1*)

Basmati crop remains resilient

Initial reports predicting a catastrophic loss to Pakistan’s Basmati crop due to severe flooding in the Indus delta region have been largely overstated. While global media outlets speculated in late August that the damage could be as high as 60 per cent, more recent official assessments suggest the impact is far less significant. The Rice Exporters Association of Pakistan (REAP) has dismissed these early reports, assuring international buyers that the country’s Basmati export capacity remains intact.

According to Agriculture Department of Punjab, which accounts for more than 90pc of Pakistan’s Basmati production, floodwaters have affected an estimated 250,000-270,000 hectares of rice fields in Punjab. This represents only about 10.1pc of the total rice-growing area in the region, which covers 2.7 million hectares in the 2025 Kharif season. The damage estimate is consistent with reports from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and satellite data from the Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO), which also indicate that less than 10pc of the rice crop has been affected. (*Dawn, September 27th, 2025, Page 9*)

3.3 # Fruits

‘Mysterious’ disease hits tomato crop in Lower Dir

Farmers in Talash Valley and other parts of Lower Dir district have complained that a mysterious disease has hit their standing tomato crop this year, causing them huge financial losses. Talking to Dawn, several growers said they had already used costly pesticides available in the market, but the sprays had no effect. They alleged that private companies were selling substandard pesticides and spurious seed under the label of

imported varieties. Nawab Khan, a farmer from Dheri Talash, said officials of the agriculture department had failed to extend any support. “Even their field assistants do not visit the affected fields. Farmers invested hundreds of thousands of rupees, but their efforts are going to waste,” he said.

Another farmer from Sarai Payeen claimed that private dealers were charging over Rs10,000 for a seed packet by claiming it to be Thai hybrid seed, but later it turned out to be of poor quality. Tomato is among the major cash crops of Lower Dir, cultivated on hundreds of acres in Talash valley. The crop not only sustains thousands of small farmers but also feeds local markets, and is also sent to parts of Punjab. Any large-scale losses, experts warn, could severely affect rural livelihoods and the district’s agriculture-based economy. The farmers said tomato fields in all four union councils of Talash had been badly affected, while the agriculture department had adopted “criminal silence.” (*Dawn, September 28th, 2025, Page 8*)

4 # SUB – AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIONS

4.1 # Dairy

CCP approves merger of European dairy cooperatives

The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has approved the merger of M/s. Milcobel CV with and into M/s. Zuivelcoöperatie Friesland Campina U.A. under a merger agreement. Zuivelcoöperatie Friesland Campina U.A., a Dutch cooperative, collects milk from the Netherlands and Belgium and processes it into a wide range of dairy products. In Pakistan, it operates through its subsidiary, Friesland Campina Engro Pakistan Limited (FCEP), which manufactures and markets various dairy products. Milcobel CV, a Belgian cooperative, is engaged in the same line of business and markets its milk powder products in Pakistan under the brand names ‘Inco’ and ‘Binco’ through business-to-business arrangements. (*Business Recorder, September 11th, 2025, Page 2*)

4.2 # Fisheries

Fisherman drowns as boat capsizes near Port Qasim

A fisherman drowned and three survived when their boat capsized in the open sea near Port Qasim due to strong winds. Seventy-year-old captain of the boat Somar Usman Arif drowned and could not be saved. According to Kamal Shah, spokesperson for the Coastal Media Centre at Ibrahim Hyderi, the incident occurred at around 6am when the fishermen were engaged in fishing. (*Dawn, September 9th, 2025, Page 13*)

4.3 # Livestock

Askari Bank signs MoU with GCLI to boost livestock & rural economy

Askari Bank Limited signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Green Corporate Livestock Initiative (Private) Limited (GCLI) to launch a collaborative program focused on livestock fattening and rearing, aimed at uplifting the rural economy and enhancing Pakistan’s meat export potential. Under this partnership, Askari Bank will extend affordable financing facilities to eligible farmers, while GCLI

will provide technical support and data on potential beneficiaries. The initiative will enable farmers to improve livestock productivity, raise meat quality, and ultimately contribute to increased exports, rural income generation, and employment creation. (*Business Recorder, September 24th, 2025, Page 4*)

5 # TRADE

Trade deficit widens

Imports rose 6.42pc year-on-year to \$5.28bn in August, up from \$4.96bn in the same month last year. On a monthly basis, however, imports fell by 9.35pc. In the first two months of FY26, the import bill increased by 14.23pc to \$11.2bn from \$9.73bn a year earlier. For the full FY25, imports rose 6.57pc to \$58.38bn, compared to \$54.78bn in the previous fiscal year. As a result of declining exports and rising imports, the trade deficit widened significantly. In August, the deficit rose by 30.13pc to \$2.86bn, compared to \$2.21bn in the same month last year. Cumulatively, the deficit for July-August stood at \$6.02bn, up from \$4.66bn in the corresponding period last year. For FY25, the annual trade deficit expanded by 9pc to \$26.27bn, from \$24.11bn a year earlier, raising concerns about the sustainability of external accounts in the face of fragile export growth and a rising import bill. (*Dawn, September 3rd, 2025, Page 9*)

Jul-Aug trade deficit swells 29pc YoY

Trade deficit swells by 29 percent in the first two months of FY26 as the exports in August were down by 12.49 percent on a year-on-year basis. According to the figures issued by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) in July-August FY26, the exports from the country remained USD5.10 billion, showing a nominal increase of 0.65 percent. Whereas the imports increased by 14.23 percent in the first two months of FY26 and reached USD11.12 billion from USD9.73 billion in the corresponding period of last year. Resultantly trade deficit swells to USD6 billion compared to USD4.66 billion in the corresponding period of last year.

In August FY26, exports remained USD2.42 billion, showing a decline of 12.5 percent compared to the corresponding period of last year. On a month-on-month (MoM) basis, the exports are also down by 10 percent. The import bill in August FY26 also showed an upward trend as it recorded at \$5.29 billion compared to USD4.97 billion in the corresponding period of last year, showing an increase of 6.42 percent. However, on a MoM basis, the imports in August dip by 9.35 percent to USD5.28 billion compared to USD5.83 billion in July FY26. It may be mentioned here that textile exports were up by 32.13 per cent on a year-on-year basis and 10.37 per cent on a month-on-month basis in July. However, according to sources in the textile sector, in August, exports of textile products will definitely go down. (*Business Recorder, September 3rd, 2025, Page 1*)

Trade deficit with Middle East soars 22pc

Pakistan's trade deficit with the Middle East surged by 22.38 per cent in the first month of FY26, largely driven by the rising influx of petroleum products from the region.

According to data compiled by the State Bank of Pakistan, the trade deficit with the Middle East reached \$1.323 billion in July FY26, up from \$1.081bn during the same month last year. In FY25, the deficit with the region increased by 7.37pc, rising to \$13.974bn from \$13.014bn in the previous year. The growing trade imbalance has raised concerns among policymakers, with the primary culprit being the rising import of petroleum products from the Middle East. (*Dawn, September 9th, 2025, Page 9*)

PBS over reports Pakistan's trade data by USD6.4bn?

The country's trade data is said to have been over reported by USD6.4 billion by Pakistan Bureau of statistics (PBS) during the fiscal year 2024-25 due to flawed methodology. Insiders revealed a discrepancy of USD 1-1.5 billion between Aptma's compilation of cotton import figure of USD 2.2 billion (State Bank of Pakistan) against USD 2.65 billion (Pral) in FY25, while Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) in its trade release for June 2025 reported only USD 1.27 billion worth of cotton imports in FY25. (*Business Recorder, September 12th, 2025, Page 1*)

Jul, Aug trade performance reviewed: Exports stay stable at USD5.11bn

Commerce minister Jam Kamal Khan chaired a high-level meeting to review Pakistan's trade performance during the first two months of the current financial year, ie, 2025–26. Senior officials and representatives from relevant departments attended the meeting. According to an official statement, the meeting noted that Pakistan's exports remained stable at USD 5.11 billion during July–August 2025–26, despite challenging global conditions. The textile and apparel sector remained the mainstay of exports with a 10 percent increase, reaffirming its role as a backbone of Pakistan's export economy.

Encouragingly, Pakistan's exports to Africa grew by 9 percent and to South Asia by 7 percent, while stable performance was recorded in North America and the EU. These gains underscore the Ministry's ongoing efforts to expand into new markets while consolidating traditional ones. It was observed that imports were mainly driven by higher requirements for energy, raw materials, and food items, indicating growing domestic economic activity. Minister emphasized that this trend provides opportunities for import substitution and investment in local manufacturing under the Government's "Make in Pakistan" initiative. (*Business Recorder, September 12th, 2025, Page 1*)

2MFY26: Pakistan's textile exports slump swells trade deficit to \$6bn

A decline in textile exports in August of 2025-26 fiscal year swelled the trade deficit to USD 6 billion in the first two months of the ongoing financial year, as the majority of textile sub-sectors showed a negative growth. According to sector-wise details issued by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, the trade deficit increased by 29 percent in the first two months of the fiscal year 2025-6 as the exports in August were down by 12.49 percent on a year-on-year (YoY) basis and 10.39 percent on a month-on-month (MoM) basis. According to the figures issued by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), in July-August, the country's exports stood at USD 5.10 billion, showing a nominal

increase of 0.65 percent. Whereas the imports increased by 14.53 percent in the first two months of the current fiscal, which reached USD11.12bn from USD9.73bn in the corresponding period of last year. (*Business Recorder, September 17th, 2025, Page 1*)

Trade deficit with nine states soars 28pc

Pakistan's trade deficit with nine neighbouring countries increased by 27.94 per cent in the first two months of FY26, reaching \$2.592 billion compared to \$2.026bn in the same period last year. The widening deficit comes amid a decline in exports to most regional markets, with the exception of China, where exports showed signs of recovery during the period. In FY25, Pakistan's trade deficit with these countries had already grown by 29.42pc, rising to \$12.297bn from \$9.502bn in FY24. The trend of widening trade deficits has been consistent, as imports continue to surge while exports remain subdued.

In terms of exports, Pakistan's shipments to the nine countries — Afghanistan, China, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, India, Iran, Nepal, Bhutan, and the Maldives — fell by 1.52pc, totalling \$654.05m in July-August FY26, down from \$664.13m in the same months last year. For FY25, exports to these countries had increased by 1.49pc, reaching \$4.401bn, up from \$4.336bn in FY24. The decline in exports this year is largely due to negative growth in shipments to Bangladesh and Afghanistan. Exports to Afghanistan, for instance, dropped by 25.44pc in the first two months of FY26, falling to \$109.34m from \$146.65m in the same period last year. This decline contrasts with a 38.68pc increase in exports to Afghanistan in FY25, which reached \$773.89m, primarily driven by sugar exports. (*Dawn, September 21th, 2025, Page 1*)

MOFA informs NA body 'Trade with Central Asian countries reaches USD2.4bn mark'

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) informed the National Assembly Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs that trade with Central Asian countries, including Afghanistan, has reached USD 2.4 billion mark. The 14th meeting of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs was held with Hina Rabbani Khar in the chair. The committee reviewed ongoing initiatives aimed at strengthening trade and connectivity with the Central Asian States, as well as matters related to Pakistan's recent diplomatic engagements at the global and regional levels.

The chairperson of the committee said that during the years 2014 and 2015, trade volume with Afghanistan alone was significantly higher. The MOFA officials, however, explained that the reason for this was the higher volume of construction material supplies, including cement, iron, and others, before the withdrawal of US forces from Afghanistan. The MOFA officials also mentioned that trade with other Central Asian countries is not so easy either, and whatever trade is currently taking place is happening via Dubai. The committee was also told that visas and security for Pakistani and Afghan drivers are major challenges, and security issues with Afghanistan and Iran are additional obstacles to trade. (*Business Recorder, September 24th, 2025, Page 2*)

5.1 # Export

Exports fall 12.5pc as demand dips in August

Pakistan's merchandise exports slipped back into negative territory in August, fuelling concerns among policymakers over weakening international demand and the country's eroding competitiveness in global markets. This marks the fourth contraction in the last five months, with July offering only a brief respite through marginal growth. The persistent decline reflects mounting pressure on the country's trade performance as exporters face subdued external demand and a high cost of doing business.

According to data released by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), exports fell by 12.49pc year-on-year to \$2.42 billion in August, down from \$2.76bn in the same month last year. On a month-on-month basis, export proceeds declined by 9.98pc. During the first two months of the current fiscal year (July-August FY26), exports edged up by a marginal 0.65pc to \$5.11bn, compared to \$5.07bn in the same period of the previous year. The export growth of 16.91pc recorded in July was not enough to offset the broader trend of stagnation and decline.

The weakness in export performance was evident in previous months as well, with declines of 0.59pc in June, 10.07pc in May, and 7.36pc in April. Although March recorded a modest growth of 3.08pc, the trend reverted to negative in subsequent months. In FY25, total exports stood at \$32.11bn, reflecting a 4.67pc increase from \$30.68bn in the previous fiscal year. However, the growth momentum weakened sharply after October, with several months registering negative or single-digit gains. (*Dawn, September 3rd, 2025, Page 9*)

'Violations' of EU's SPS regulations: Three mango consignments destined for Norway halted by DPP

In a decisive move to safeguard Pakistan's agricultural exports and maintain strict compliance with Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) regulations, the Department of Plant Protection (DPP) halted three mango consignments totaling 6.2 metric tons destined for Norway due to serious violations of the European Union's SPS regulations. The seized consignments, valued at USD 25,649, were found to be in blatant non-compliance with mandatory EU phytosanitary requirements. (*Business Recorder, September 4th, 2025, Page 14*)

Textile exports hinge on European Union

Pakistan's textile and apparel exports presented a mixed picture in the first two months of FY26, with steady growth in the European market offset by stagnation in the United States, modest gains in the United Kingdom, and volatility in smaller destinations such as the UAE and Bangladesh. The Pakistan Textile Council's latest report underscored the industry's heavy reliance on European buyers and its vulnerability to fluctuations in a limited circle of markets. During July–August FY26, the European Union (EU-27) retained its dominant position as Pakistan's top textile destination, with shipments rising

to \$1.303 billion from \$1.149bn a year earlier. The United States, however, remained flat at \$878m, a trend largely unchanged over the past five years. (*Dawn, September 14th, 2025, Page 9*)

TOMCL secures USD7.5m orders to supply beef to China

The Organic Meat Company Limited (TOMCL) has announced a major export breakthrough, confirming USD 7.5 million worth of orders to supply cooked and heat-treated frozen boneless beef to China for the fiscal year 2025-26. According to TOMCL, the orders mark one of its largest single-year export commitments and highlight its compliance with China's rigorous sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) protocols. (*Business Recorder, September 18th, 2025, Page 4*)

TOMCL secures \$8.1m export deal

The Organic Meat Company Ltd (TOMCL) has signed a new export contract worth \$8.1 million with UAE-based Gold Crest Trading FZE for the supply of frozen boneless beef, expanding its footprint in the Gulf market amid growing demand for Pakistani meat products. In a filing with the Pakistan Stock Exchange, TOMCL said the beef will be exported for industrial and household processing in the United Arab Emirates. The company expects to fully realise the contract's revenues during the current fiscal year (FY26). (*Dawn, September 23th, 2025, Page 9*)

Pharma exports surge to highest \$457m in two decades: Gilani

Senate Chairman Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani said Pakistan's pharmaceutical exports had reached a record \$457 million in last fiscal year, registering a 34pc growth - the highest increase in over two decades. He was speaking to participants of the 8th Pharma Summit, which was organised by Pakistan Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association (PPMA). The event brought together leading pharmaceutical exporters, industry leaders, policymakers and international experts. Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani noted the early adoption of artificial intelligence, digital health platforms and advanced manufacturing technologies, along with supportive institutional efforts such as reducing duties on Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) and the launch of PharmEx Pakistan. (*Dawn, September 25th, 2025, Page 4*)

5.2 # Import

Sugar imports by TCP: IMF approves 47pc taxes, duty relief; panel told

The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) informed a National Assembly panel that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has approved 47 percent exemptions in taxes and duties on sugar imports by the Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP). While briefing the committee, FBR Member Dr Hamid Ateeq Sarwar stated that sugar imports are typically subject to 47.5 percent taxes—comprising 20 percent customs duty, 18 percent General Sales Tax (GST), 3 percent value-added tax, and 6.5 percent income tax. However, after IMF approval, the government has now exempted state-owned sugar imports from these duties, with only a 5 percent tax remaining applicable. Sarwar

confirmed that the IMF had endorsed the government's decision to waive these levies for public sector imports. (*Business Recorder, September 3rd, 2025, Page 1*)

Five-year used vehicles: TPB okays commercial import with 40pc extra duty

The Tariff Policy Board (TPB) headed by Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan has formally approved commercial import of five-year old used vehicles with 40 percent additional duty despite strong opposition by the local industry which claims that the used car business is also under FATF radar for monitoring and mitigating risks of Money Laundering (ML) and Anti-Terrorism Financing. The TPB which is comprised of all concerned Ministries including, Commerce, Industries and Production, Finance Division and Federal Board of Revenue discussed the issue of five year used car import in two consecutive meetings. (*Business Recorder, September 15th, 2025, Page 1*)

TCP buys 100,000 MT of sugar, tenders again for 100,000 tons

State agency the Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP) has issued a new international tender to purchase 100,000 metric tons of white refined sugar and is believed to have bought 100,000 tons in a tender last week, European traders said. The deadline for submission of price offers in the new tender is September 23. Traders said the new announcement followed a purchase last week of about 100,000 tons of medium grade sugar in a previous tender made at an estimated \$560 a ton cost and freight included (c&f). Trading house Bare was believed to be the seller. Reports reflect assessments from traders and further estimates of prices and volumes are still possible later.

Pakistan's government has approved plans to import 500,000 tons of sugar to help maintain price stability after retail sugar prices in the country rose sharply. The TCP has held a series of sugar tenders in July, August and September. Traders estimate that around 235,000 tons have been bought in the recent tenders including last week's purchase. The TCP's latest tender seeks price offers for fine, small and medium-grade sugar, with shipment arranged to achieve arrival of all sugar by November 7. The sugar for new tender can be sourced from any worldwide origin excluding India and Israel or other sanctioned countries. (*Business Recorder, September 16th, 2025, Page 12*)

Unilateral tariff concessions on 700 items sought from China

Pakistan has requested unilateral tariff concessions from China on approximately 700 items as part of the third phase of the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement (CPFTA), currently under negotiation. This development was disclosed by officials of the Ministry of Commerce during a meeting of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Commerce, chaired by Jawed Hanif Khan. The Commerce Ministry's team was led by Additional Secretary (In-charge) Salman Mufti. According to the Ministry, Pakistan's exports to China have increased following the second phase of the CPFTA. (*Business Recorder, September 23th, 2025, Page 1*)

Importers buy about 180,000 MT of soybeans in Sept, expected US origin

Importers in Pakistan purchased an estimated 180,000 metric tons of soybeans in September expected to be sourced from the United States, European traders said. Three shipments each of around 60,000 tons were purchased which are expected to be shipped from the US Gulf in January 2026. Export availability of US-origin soybeans is large following China's transfer of import purchases to Brazil during the US/China trade war, traders said. Brazilian soybean export prices are also firm largely because of Chinese demand, they said.—Reuters (*Business Recorder*, September 24th, 2025, Page 12)

6 # CORPORATE SECTOR

6.1 # Fertilizer Company

Three fertiliser plants: Pakistan govt allocates 222 MMCFD indigenous gas

The federal government has decided to allocate 222 MMCFD indigenous gas to three fertiliser plants from the Ghazij/ Shawal reservoir (Mari Gas Field) at OGRA's prescribed price aimed at keeping in urea or DAP prices at reasonable level, sources close to the Petroleum Minister told. The decision was finalised by a committee headed by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar before being placed for approval before the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet. Mari Energies Limited (Mari Energies), operator of the Mari Gas Field located in Ghotki district, Sindh, produces gas from four vertically stacked reservoirs: Habib Rahi Limestone (HRL), Sui Upper/ Main Limestone (SUL/ SML), Ghazij/ Shawal, and Goru-B Deep. (*Business Recorder*, September 22th, 2025, Page 1)

6.2 # Food Company

Flood-hit communities: Nestlé Pakistan donates 300,000 liters of clean drinking water

Nestlé Pakistan has completed donations of 200,000 liters of clean drinking water, in the first phase to support vulnerable communities affected by the devastating floods in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Gilgit Baltistan, following National Disaster Management Authority's (NDMA) calls for flood relief efforts, and has pledged an additional 100,000 liters for districts in Punjab. (*Business Recorder*, September 1st, 2025, Page 4)

Flood-hit people: Nestlé Pakistan extends 63,000 litres of water to PRCS

Nestlé Pakistan extended donation of 63,000 litres of drinking water, under the employees' voluntary program Nestlé Cares, to support Pakistan Red Crescent Society's (PRCS) relief efforts for flood affected vulnerable communities. Talking at the event, Jason Avanceña, CEO, Nestlé Pakistan said, "Our contribution to PRCS is a result of an internal voluntary donation drive by employees under our Nestlé Care's program, that was matched 1:1 by the company. Staying true to our values of being a force for good, Nestlé and its employees care deeply for the communities affected by floods, and we believe we have an essential role to play during times of crisis," he said. (*Business Recorder*, September 26th, 2025, Page 4)

7 # INTERNATIONAL AID / LOAN / INVESTMENT

Accords worth \$8.5bn signed during PM's China visit

Pakistan and China vowed to further cement bilateral trade and strategic ties, as both sides inked 21 different MoUs and joint ventures worth around \$8.5 billion, besides formally launching the second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project. The MoUs were signed between the two countries with regard to cooperation in the development of CPEC 2.0, science and technology, IT, media, investment, agriculture, etc. On the last day of his visit to China, PM Shehbaz Sharif met his counterpart, Premier Li Qiang, and attended an investors' conference.

According to the PM Office, PM Shehbaz and his Chinese counterpart reaffirmed to work together in a meeting that the former termed "most productive". "Both sides also agreed to continue working closely on the next phase of upgraded CPEC 2.0, with its five new corridors," an official statement said. During the meeting, the prime minister highlighted the "significant contribution" of the CPEC to Pakistan's socio-economic development in the past decade. He also stressed the need for early implementation of the Main Line-1 (ML-1) railway project, the Karakoram Highway realignment and operationalisation of the Gwadar Port. (*Dawn, September 5th, 2025, Page 1*)

Aid flows as country reels from floods

As severe flooding devastates the northern region and Punjab, with impending threats to Sindh, the international community, including the United Kingdom and United Nations with their partners, has stepped up to aid the flood-stricken areas by releasing funds to expedite relief efforts and enhance disaster preparedness across Pakistan. The United Kingdom announced an additional 1.2 million pounds to help the government's coordinated response and assist communities in Sindh prepare before disaster strikes. According to a press release from the British High Commission, the new funding brings the UK's total humanitarian assistance to £2.53m, providing life-saving support to over 400,000 people. (*Dawn, September 5th, 2025, Page 12*)

Foreign investment plunges

Foreign direct investment (FDI) fell 22 per cent in the first two months of the current fiscal year, undermining government efforts to attract inflows through special initiatives. According to State Bank data released, FDI during July-Aug FY26 stood at \$364m against \$467m in the same period last year, a decline of \$103m. In Aug alone, inflows dropped to \$156m from \$272m a year earlier, down 42.6pc. Despite repeated policy drives, including the formation of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), the government has struggled to draw significant foreign investment. Successive administrations have faced similar challenges. Meanwhile, the State Bank's foreign exchange reserves rose by \$21m in the week ending Sept 12, reaching \$14.357bn. Total liquid reserves held by the country stood at \$19.735bn, with commercial banks holding \$5.378bn. (*Dawn, September 19th, 2025, Page 9*)

Loan inflows nearly double in two months

Foreign assistance inflows to Pakistan almost doubled to \$1.377 billion in the first two months (July-August) of current fiscal year, mainly because of an ongoing umbrella of International Monetary Fund (IMF). This helped the government to start the new fiscal year on a healthy note, unlike last year's lacklustre beginning in the absence of IMF support. The total inflows, both loans and grants, in the first two months of the current fiscal year amounted to \$1.377bn when compared to \$714m last year, showing an increase of 93pc. Inflows in August alone amounted to \$680m, almost 152pc higher than last year's \$270m in the same month. In July this year, a total of \$698m loans and grants flowed into the country compared to \$444m in the same month last year, representing a 57pc increase.

The \$1.345bn in foreign loans and \$33m in grants in the first two months of the fiscal year flowing into the country were about 103pc higher and 31pc lower than last year's \$662m loans and \$43m grants, respectively, as finalisation of the Extended Fund Facility with the IMF was taking time and later materialized after the budget approval.

The target for total foreign inflows for the current year has been set at \$19.9bn compared to \$19.4bn last year. In July-August 2023, Pakistan was able to materialise more than \$3.2bn mainly due to signing of the 9-month Stand-By Agreement (SBA) with the IMF. As a result, Pakistan received a major injection of \$2bn in time deposits from Saudi Arabia. In fact, total inflows in July 2023 amounted to \$5.1bn, which also included \$1.2bn from the IMF and an \$1bn from the UAE. The Ministry of Economic Affairs said that it had received a total of \$1.377bn in foreign inflows in first two months of FY26 compared to \$714m in same period last year. (*Dawn, September 26th, 2025, Page 9*)

7.1 # Countries / Region

Flood-hit areas: EU to allocate Rs350m in emergency aid

In response to the urgent humanitarian needs in the flood-affected areas of Pakistan, the European Union (EU) announced to allocate over Rs 350 million (EUR 1,050,000) in emergency assistance. This support will be provided through trusted humanitarian partner organisations and will include life-saving health services, water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) support to prevent the spread of disease and cash assistance to help the most vulnerable meet their basic needs. In a statement, the EU said that it will respond to urgent humanitarian needs to flash floods in Pakistan. (*Business Recorder, September 3rd, 2025, Page 12*)

Islamic Relief, Qatar Charity seal \$15m global aid partnership

Islamic Relief and Qatar Charity have signed a landmark three-year agreement worth \$15 million to deliver humanitarian aid, build sustainable livelihoods and address the root causes of poverty and conflict worldwide. Each organisation will commit \$7.5 million towards the partnership and a commitment to share expertise and experience. The collaboration is designed to contribute to the United Nations Sustainable

Development Goals (SDGs), particularly zero hunger, good health and well-being, quality education, decent work and economic growth, reduced inequalities, peace, justice and strong institutions, and partnerships for the SDGs. (*Dawn, September 11th, 2025, Page 5*)

7.2 # America

US delivers flood relief assistance to Pakistan

The United States has reaffirmed its commitment to supporting Pakistan in the wake of catastrophic flooding that has devastated communities across the country. The US Department of State, along with the US military, has approved emergency foreign assistance funding to aid national response efforts in the hardest-hit areas. According to an official statement, the assistance includes the delivery of food, shelter, and other essential supplies to affected populations. (*Business Recorder, September 15th, 2025, Page 12*)

US companies urged to invest in Pakistan

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif invited American companies to invest in country during a meeting with US President Donald Trump at the White House that also focused on how to end to the war in Gaza. Sharif, along with army chief Field Marshal Asim Munir, met Trump, in a further sign of warming relations with the United States, which had been frozen under previous US administration. The Pakistani prime minister earmarked the agriculture, technology, mining and energy sectors for investment from US companies, his office said in a statement. Trump previously called for American companies to explore for oil in Pakistan. There was no immediate statement from the White House. Just before the meeting, Trump told reporters in the Oval Office that Munir “is a very great guy, and so is the prime minister”. (*Business Recorder, September 27th, 2025, Page 1*)

8 # INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS (IFIs)

8.1 # World Bank

WB flags serious flaws in health budgeting system

The World Bank has flagged serious inefficiencies in Pakistan’s health budgeting system, pointing to poor-quality cost estimates, unpredictable fund releases, and excessive centralization that undermine service delivery across the country. In a report titled “Budget execution in health: from bottlenecks to solutions,” The Bank noted that Pakistan continues to rely on historical allocations rather than proper costing estimates while preparing annual health budgets. This practice, it said, has repeatedly led to overruns or underruns in expenditure.

Budgeting processes in Pakistan were described as highly centralized, with limited input from lower-tier health facilities. According to the report, this often results in unrealistic cost projections and a mismatch between allocations and actual service delivery needs. Fiscal constraints and mid-year cuts further aggravate the problem. The study also

underscored chronic weaknesses in fund release mechanisms. Health facilities in Pakistan reported that unpredictable and delayed disbursements compromised their ability to meet operational costs, including payment of utility bills. (*Business Recorder, September 6th, 2025, Page 1*)

Poverty surge sparks World Bank warning

The World Bank has said Pakistan's current development model is inadequate to reduce poverty and inequality, and called for its overhaul after poverty trends reversed over the past three years, erasing two decades of gains. Pakistan's prevailing "challenges reveal that poverty reduction is not guaranteed under the current development model... A new development trajectory is needed — one that prioritises inclusive growth, equity, and sustained investment in human capital," the Washington-based lender said in its latest report "Reclaiming Momentum Towards Prosperity" released at a news briefing.

"The Big Picture: Pakistan's growth model that supported initial poverty reduction has proven insufficient to sustain progress," said Christina Wieser, senior economist and one of the lead authors. She warned that "progress in poverty reduction is threatened by structural vulnerabilities". Drawing on Pakistan's Household Integrated Economic Survey (HIES-2018-19), she noted that after a steady decline from 64.3 per cent in 2001-02 to 21.9pc in 2018-19, poverty began to rise in 2020. It increased to 24.7pc in 2019-20, fell again to 18.3pc in 2021-22, but climbed back to 25.3pc in 2023-24 — a seven percentage point jump in just two years. Final results will depend on the HIES-2023-24, now in its final stage, though vulnerabilities appear to have worsened after recent floods. (*Dawn, September 24th, 2025, Page 9*)

9 # POLICY

9.1 # Agricultural policy

Govt unveils new wheat policy to ensure food security, farmers' welfare

The government has unveiled a new roadmap for the 'National Wheat Policy and Wheat Management Strategy' for 2025-26 and onwards that will serve as a long-term plan to ensure food security, safeguard farmers' livelihoods, protect consumers and build resilience against market disruptions and climate-induced emergencies. Research and development for climate-resilient and high-yield wheat varieties, farmer welfare initiatives and modern storage systems would be central to the policy, Minister for National Food Security and Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain, said while chairing a meeting to deliberate on the contours of the new policy, in Islamabad.

The minister reaffirmed that the new wheat policy will be finalised and adopted after comprehensive consultations with all stakeholders, including federal and provincial governments, farmer bodies, and the food industry, to ensure collective ownership and effective implementation, emphasising that Pakistan will not allow 'a crisis of bread' to emerge in the market. The food security minister stated that wheat is not just a staple crop but a lifeline for millions of Pakistanis, highlighting that fairness and sustainability

will be the guiding principles of the new wheat policy. Farmers, he stated, must receive prices aligned with international market trends to encourage greater production, while middle-class and above-poverty-line consumers will pay market-based rates. For low-income groups, the government will provide relief through subsidies and other supportive measures, carefully balancing fiscal responsibilities between the federation and the provinces. (*Dawn, September 11th, 2025, Page 4*)

9.2 # Developmental Policy

Public Sector Development Programme: Only Rs16.59bn set aside for new projects

In the Federal Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP), having an outlay of Rs 1000 billion for the current financial year, only a paltry amount of Rs 16.59 billion has been earmarked for new development projects. According to the Ministry of Planning's reply submitted to the National Assembly Standing Committee on Economic Affairs Division, PSDP allocation was made for 801 projects, of which 733 are ongoing and 68 are new projects. For 238 national projects, Rs. 313 billion has been allocated, out of which Rs 306.9 has been allocated for the ongoing and Rs 6.65 billion for new projects. For 127 development projects in Punjab, Rs 76.63 billion has been allocated of which Rs 75 billion is for ongoing projects and only Rs 1.55 billion has been allocated for the new projects. Sindh's share in PSDP is Rs 146 billion of which Rs 144.85 has been earmarked for ongoing projects and merely Rs 1.15 billion for new projects. (*Business Recorder, September 4th, 2025, Page 1*)

Just Rs5.3bn spent on development in July-Aug

The Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) has had a sluggish start this fiscal year, with only Rs5.3 billion spent in the first two months, a mere 0.5 per cent of the Rs1 trillion allocated for the year. This slow pace of expenditure, despite the closure of hundreds of projects to focus on strategic ones, raises concerns about the timely completion of vital infrastructure and social development projects. (*Dawn, September 10th, 2025, Page 9*)

Govt implementing Karachi master plan with World Bank's help: Sindh CM

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that unplanned expansion in the city has created serious issues, but his government, with support from the World Bank, is implementing a comprehensive Master Plan covering transport, water supply, drainage, waste management, and more. (*Business Recorder, September 12th, 2025, Page 3*)

CDWP clears seven projects worth Rs236bn

The Central Development Working Party (CDWP) has cleared seven development projects with a total cost of Rs 236 billion. CDWP approved three development projects costing eight billion rupees and recommended four projects valued Rs 228 billion to the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (EcneC) for final approval. The CDWP met with Ahsan Iqbal, Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special

Initiatives, and Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, in the chair. The agenda focused on development projects across key sectors, including Education & Training, Transport & Communications, Energy, Health, Mass Media, and Water Resources. (*Business Recorder, September 12th, 2025, Page 12*)

PDWP approves five development schemes

The Provincial Development Working Party (PDWP) approved five development schemes in the sectors of skill development and governance having an estimated cost of Rs9.3 billion. The PDWP's 26th meeting presided over by Planning and Development Board Punjab Chairman Dr Naeem Rauf approved a scheme of expansion of construction and hospitality labs in Tevta at an estimated cost of Rs2.513bn. (*Dawn, September 13th, 2025, Page 2*)

Development budget hits historic low, warns Ahsan Iqbal

Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal has deplored a massive decline in allocation of funds for development, stunting economic growth and job creation and has linked clearance of new foreign-funded projects to prior certification for availability of additional rupee cover. The minister has conveyed to the Economic Affairs Division (EAD) that no new foreign-funded projects would be acceptable for consideration by the Central Development Working Party (CDWP) or Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecne) unless the Ministry of Finance (MoF) provides a no-objection certificate (NOC) along with allocation of additional local funds to cover foreign loans. (*Dawn, September 17th, 2025, Page 9*)

PDWP approves Rs16bn schemes

The Provincial Development Working Party (PDWP) granted approval for seven development schemes and a position paper having an estimated cost of Rs16 billion in agriculture, livestock, SHC&ME, and tourism sectors. (*Dawn, September 18th, 2025, Page 2*)

Central Development Working Party recommends Rs18bn health project for KP

The Central Development Working Party (CDWP) recommended an Rs18.14 billion health sector project for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to improve the availability and quality of healthcare for locals and refugees, and to secure \$62.5 million in assistance from the World Bank. The CDWP meeting, presided over by Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal, also cleared a paper for a Rs2bn nationwide programme to eliminate AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria from the country by 2030. (*Dawn, September 21th, 2025, Page 3*)

9.3 # Neo – Liberal Policy

Biotechnology and IP Law: Ali & Associates and USCG Karachi host roundtable

Ali & Associates, in collaboration with the US Consulate General Karachi, successfully hosted a high-level roundtable on Biotechnology and Intellectual Property (IP) Law at its Karachi office. The event brought together leading representatives from government

bodies, academia, pharmaceutical and biotech industries, and international organizations for a groundbreaking discussion on the future of biotechnology and intellectual property in Pakistan. The roundtable explored the critical nexus between scientific research, healthcare innovation, and intellectual property frameworks, highlighting how stronger IP systems can accelerate biotech breakthroughs, foster research commercialization, and enhance access to advanced therapies for patients. Prominent participants included representatives from Intellectual Property Organization of Pakistan (IPO-Pakistan), the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP), the Pakistan Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association (PPMA), leading academic and research institutions, as well as representatives from the pharmaceutical, biotechnology, and agricultural sectors. (*Business Recorder, September 12th, 2025, Page 4*)

10 # SOCIO – ECONOMIC POLICY

Debt surges by Rs9tr in one year

Pakistan's total government debt has increased by Rs9 trillion in just one year up to June 2025, with domestic debt representing the majority of this increase. This significant rise in borrowing is raising concerns about the country's fiscal balance and its capacity to manage revenue and expenditures effectively. According to the latest data from the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), the total government debt increased from Rs68.914tr in June 2024 to Rs77.888tr by June 2025, marking a rise of Rs8.974tr. This figure exceeds the debt servicing allocation for the federal budget for fiscal year 2026 (FY26), which stands at Rs8.207tr. The federal budget for FY26 has a total outlay of Rs17.573 trillion, which is a 6.9 per cent decrease from the previous year. Additionally, the allocation for current expenditures has been reduced by 5.33pc to Rs16.286tr. (*Dawn, September 10th, 2025, Page 9*)

Central govt debt hits Rs78.2trn mark in July

Pakistan's central government debt surged to Rs 78.2 trillion in the first month of the fiscal year 2025-26 (FY26), continuing its upward trajectory. According to data released by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), the total debt, including both domestic and external borrowings, grew by Rs 350 billion in July 2025. This increase brings the country's total debt to Rs 78.238 trillion, up from Rs 77.888 trillion in June 2025. On a year-on-year basis, the central government's debt has risen by 12.4 percent, compared to Rs 69.623 trillion in July 2024. (*Business Recorder, September 18th, 2025, Page 1*)

2.9m Pakistanis leave country in 3 years

As economic anxieties deepen and job prospects shrink, nearly 2.9 million Pakistanis have sought livelihoods abroad in the past three years, official data from the Protectorate of Emigrants revealed. Between 2022 and September 15, 2025, a total of 2,894,645 individuals left the country. During the same period, they paid a combined Rs2.66 billion in emigration-related fees. (*Business Recorder, September 18th, 2025, Page 3*)

Rs1.2tr bank loan secured to settle circular debt

The government signed loan facilities worth approximately Rs1.225 trillion with 18 banks to settle the outstanding dues of Independent Power Producers (IPPs) parked in circular debt. These dues will be serviced through a Rs3.23 per unit surcharge on consumers for a period of six years. The signing ceremony was held at the PM Office, witnessed virtually by the prime minister from New York. No official announcement was made, although ministers confirmed the signing of the agreement. Under the agreement, the government will have 30 days to request disbursements from banks for prompt utilisation to avoid penalties. Any withdrawal request not fully used within the period will lapse. After the request is made, the government will have three months to draw down the approved funds. (*Dawn, September 25th, 2025, Page 9*)

Public debt servicing to cost Rs6.4tr

As a visiting mission of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) reviews Pakistan's fiscal and monetary performance and outlook, the government has announced a borrowing plan worth about Rs6.4 trillion during the current fiscal year to service total public debt that stood at Rs81.5tr as of June 30. The Ministry of Finance released the Annual Borrowing Plan FY26 as required under section 13 of the Fiscal Responsibility and Debt Limitation Act (FDRLA) to meet financing needs. "The net domestic borrowing is projected at Rs6.395tr during FY26, said the plan that is aligned with the Medium-Term Debt Management Strategy 2026-28 (MTDS) which incorporates macroeconomic and fiscal frameworks from the FY26 budget. (*Dawn, September 27th, 2025, Page 9*)

Debt burden reaches alarming levels: Every Pakistani now owes Rs318,252

Pakistan's debt burden has reached alarming levels, with every citizen now owing Rs 318,252, according to the latest estimates by the Economic Policy & Business Development (EPBD) Think Tank. Figures show that per-person debt has ballooned from Rs 90,047 in 2014 to Rs 318,252 in 2024 — marking an average annual growth of 13 percent. The country's public debt-to-GDP ratio now stands at 70.2 percent, well above the legal ceiling of 60 percent set under the Fiscal Responsibility and Debt Limitation Act, 2005. In regional comparison, Pakistan is second only to Sri Lanka (96.8 percent), while higher than Thailand (61.1 percent), India (57.1 percent), Indonesia (40.2 percent), and Bangladesh (36.4 percent). (*Business Recorder, September 27th, 2025, Page 1*)

10.1 # Food

PFMA, govt reach deal on 'stable' wheat, flour prices

The flour milling industry claims to have reached an agreement with the Punjab government for the provision of at least 100,000 wheat bags of 100kg each per month to sell flour at the officially designated rates. Mian Iftikhar Mattoo, former chairman of Punjab Flour Mills Association (PFMA), tells that provincial government has assured the industry of provision of wheat at Rs3,000 per 40kg so that the mills may sell flour

at Rs1,810 per 20kg bag and roti at Rs14 in the open market. As per the verbal understanding reached between the millers and the government, the latter will provide the wheat from around 2.5 million tonnes of unaccounted grain lying with the hoarders, while two multinational companies that had been allowed to purchase the crop during harvesting season will also release a portion of their stock. (*Dawn, September 10th, 2025, Page 2*)

Twin Cities Nanbais up in arms over wheat flour price

Nanbais of the twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad are up in arms, urging the government to either provide them wheat flour on subsidised rates or allow them to increase prices of Naan and Roti. The Nanbai Associations of Rawalpindi threatened to go on strike, if wheat flour rates were not brought under control within 10 days, while the Nanbai Association of Islamabad announced its plan to approach the Islamabad High Court (IHC) against the alleged indifferent attitude of the capital administration in this regard. (*Dawn, September 12th, 2025, Page 4*)

KP asks Punjab to lift ban on wheat, flour movement

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Food Zahir Shah Toru has asked Punjab to immediately lift its ban on the inter-provincial supply of wheat and flour while terming the move a violation of Article 151 of the Constitution. Chairing a high-level meeting here to review the province's wheat and flour situation, the provincial minister said that despite the availability of sufficient wheat across the country, Punjab's restrictions had caused a temporary increase in the prices of flour in KP and other provinces. "This unconstitutional action has directly impacted the poor and must be withdrawn without delay to provide relief to the common people," he remarked. (*Business Recorder, September 15th, 2025, Page 4*)

Floods in Sindh: Supply of food items, agri produce badly affected: HCSTSI

President Hyderabad Chamber of Small Traders & Small Industry (HCSTSI) Saleem Memon has expressed deep concern over the severe disruptions and disarray in the supply chain of food items and agricultural produce following the recent torrential rains and floods in Sindh and across country. He said that the impact of this crisis is becoming unbearable not only for the general public but also for the trader community. (*Business Recorder, September 15th, 2025, Page 5*)

Punjab's wheat restrictions trigger domino effect

Punjab's unannounced ban on the interprovincial movement of wheat has ignited a new crisis, causing a severe flour shortage and soaring prices in other provinces. The move has drawn sharp criticism from politicians and flour millers who argue it violates constitutional rights and a recent deregulation agreement. While Punjab officials denied a formal ban, they acknowledged establishing checkpoints to curb what they termed "unusual" wheat movement. Critics, however, argued that these measures are against the spirit of a deregulated market. The ban has been met with strong

condemnation from other provinces, particularly Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh, which heavily depend on Punjab's wheat supply. The All-Pakistan Flour Mills Association (PFMA) has labelled the policy unconstitutional, citing Article 151 of the Constitution, which guarantees the freedom of trade and commerce across the country. (*Dawn, September 17th, 2025, Page 1*)

Senate panel alarmed by reports dam water unfit for consumption

A Senate committee expressed serious concern over reports showing water in Rawal Dam is entirely unsafe for drinking while 62pc of water in Simli Dam has become unfit for human consumption. The revelation was made during a meeting of Senate Standing Committee on Climate Change, headed by Senator Sherry Rehman, to review troubling findings on Rawal and Simli dams. A Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources study showed that 62pc of water supplied after filtration was unsafe for drinking, while Rawal Dam water was 100pc unsafe for human consumption. Despite orders of Supreme Court, sewage contamination persisted in water. (*Dawn, September 18th, 2025, Page 3*)

Wheat supply curbs

Punjab's unannounced 'ban' on interprovincial wheat movement is creating flour shortages leading to price spikes in KP and Sindh. What Punjab officials describe as 'check-points' to curb 'unusual' wheat movement is actually being viewed as a de facto ban by the other provinces. The move has drawn criticism from flour millers and politicians from provinces heavily reliant on Punjab for wheat supplies and food security. Flour mill owners have rightly argued that the curbs on wheat movement go against Article 151 of the Constitution, which guarantees freedom of interprovincial trade. The PPP's governor in Peshawar has called the restrictions a "serious breach of national unity" and the KP Assembly has passed a resolution denouncing Punjab's actions. Sindh, too, is alarmed. That this is fast morphing into a political fault line is deeply worrying. (*Dawn, September 18th, 2025, Page 6*)

Declining wheat output threatens food security, warns Murad

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah cautioned that the dwindling wheat production trend posed a looming threat to the country's food security, underscoring the critical need for a robust wheat support price for farmers. Presiding over a joint meeting of agriculture, food and finance departments, he said that 4.592 million metric tons (MMT) of wheat was produced in 2023-24 in Sindh, while the production dropped to 3.542 MMT due to the absence of a support price. Mr Shah warned that such trends could trigger a food security crisis. "If we don't support our growers, we may be forced to import wheat. The solution is to incentivise farmers so they grow more wheat," he said. (*Dawn, September 19th, 2025, Page 13*)

More than 300,000 tonnes of wheat recovered from hoarders in Punjab

The Punjab Price Control and Commodity Management Department has claimed to have recovered 334,000 metric tonnes of wheat from hoarders. A meeting chaired by Price Control Department Secretary Dr Kiran Khurshid was told that wheat stocks in

flour mills had increased by 165,000 metric tonnes this month. Additionally, the grinding of 360,000 metric tonnes of wheat has ensured the steady supply of flour. (*Dawn, September 20th, 2025, Page 2*)

Sindh govt, Centre unite to ensure support price of wheat

The Sindh and federal governments joined hands to tackle the country's food security challenges with provincial consultation and agreed on crafting a national food security policy and ensuring wheat support price to incentivise production. The agreement between the provincial and federal governments was forged during a high-level meeting between Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah and Federal Food Security Minister Rana Tanveer Hussain at the CM House. According to a press statement issued by the CM House, the chief minister stressed that fair support prices were crucial for encouraging wheat cultivation, warning that without them, farmers might shift to other crops or face significant financial losses. "This year, we must fix a support price so that our growers are protected. Only then can we secure food for our people," he added. (*Dawn, September 20th, 2025, Page 13*)

55pc milk samples in Karachi found adulterated with harmful chemicals

While dairy farmers want a massive increase in the per-litre milk price, the city administration made public the disturbing findings of a recent exercise to check the quality of milk available in the city, announcing that over 55 per cent of the samples 71 out of 127 were found to be laced with harmful chemicals posing significant health risks to consumers. Officials said that the Sindh Food Authority (SFA) had recently obtained 127 milk samples from as many shops across the city and sent them to a food testing laboratory. They said that as many as 15 samples were found laced with detergent and 19 others with added water. Besides, they said that 22 samples of fresh milk contained salt and 12 others sugar. (*Dawn, September 30th, 2025, Page 13*)

10.2 # Food Scarcity

Flour millers blame Punjab ban for wheat crisis

As consumers continue to pay inflated prices for various flour types, millers have accused the Punjab government of creating an artificial wheat and flour crisis by imposing a ban under Section 144 on the inter-provincial movement of wheat and related products. The Pakistan Flour Mills Association (PFMA) South Zone argued that such restrictions contradict the wheat deregularisation policy and violate Article 151 of the Constitution, which allows the free movement of goods across provinces. The association warned that provincial-level curbs inevitably lead to nationwide disruptions. (*Dawn, September 3rd, 2025, Page 9*)

Punjab denies ban on inter-province wheat movement

In response to Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi's complaint that wheat supply from Punjab has been suspended, the Punjab officials tasked with maintaining supplies of commodities and regulating their prices deny that there is any

ban on inter-province movement of grain. Speaking to the media after a ceremony to distribute checks to flood victims in Dera Ismail Khan, KP governor regretted reports that Punjab has banned movement of wheat to other provinces as flour millers from KP, Punjab and Sindh are protesting against the move. Punjab officials deny that they are restricting inter-province movement of wheat. (*Dawn, September 8th, 2025, Page 2*)

Cash transfers to adolescents moderately reduce adolescent anemia: study

A study conducted by ‘Nutrition International’ in collaboration with Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) has showed that cash transfers to adolescent moderately reduce anemia for adolescents in the country. The pilot project as well as its evaluation was funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation reached over 100,000 adolescent girls with weekly iron and folic acid supplementation while enhancing their knowledge about nutrition and anaemia. (*Business Recorder, September 14th, 2025, Page 3*)

Flour millers warn of looming food crisis in Balochistan

Pakistan Flour Mills Association (PFMA) Chairman Badruddin Kakar has expressed serious concern over the restriction on the movement of wheat and flour imposed by the Punjab government and said if the decision was not withdrawn, Balochistan would face food crisis in coming days. Speaking at a press conference along with Haji Abdul Waheed Bareech and Syed Nasir Agha, the PFMA chairman said that with the ban on the movement of wheat and flour, the price of a 20kg bag has increased by Rs800. He said wheat is one of Pakistan’s essential food commodities, with Punjab being the country’s largest producer. This year, he added, the total wheat production in the country reached around 28 million metric tonnes, of which 77pc came from Punjab. (*Dawn, September 25th, 2025, Page 1*)

Water crisis in Quetta worsening with each passing day: commissioner

Commissioner of Quetta Division Shahzeb Khan Kakar and Deputy Commissioner of Quetta retired Captain Mehrullah Badini have said that water shortage in the provincial capital is worsening with each passing day and the government and the people must take joint steps to resolve this serious issue. Speaking at the Quetta Press Club’s programme Meet the Press, they said that in view of the serious water shortage, “we are going to announce a water emergency in Quetta”. They said that steps were under way to resolve the water shortage and many plans were in the pipeline in this regard. However, they said that in order to resolve the water issue and improving cleanliness, joint efforts were needed as without public support, issues could not be resolved. They said the public awareness was very important and the masses must understand their responsibilities. (*Dawn, September 26th, 2025, Page 5*)

BISP’s nutrition initiative reduces child stunting by 6.4pc: report

Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) through its nutrition initiative has reduced child stunting by 6.4 per cent in target populations, says a report. According to a midterm independent evaluation by the Aga Khan University (AKU)’s Institute for

Global Health and Development, stunting among children under five declined by 6.4 per cent among Nashonuma beneficiaries compared to nonbeneficiaries. The prevalence of low birth weight dropped by 5.6 per cent in intervention districts. Most notably, the programme reduced the number of babies born too small or too weak by 7 to 8 per cent a record outcome rarely achieved by large-scale nutrition programmes worldwide. The evaluation highlights measurable improvements in birth outcomes, child survival and maternal health. (*Dawn, September 30th, 2025, Page 4*)

10.3 # Inflation

Flour prices climb as supply concerns mount

Wheat and flour prices have surged sharply in Karachi's wholesale market, raising fresh concerns about food inflation and market supply, despite government assurances of sufficient national stocks. Wholesale wheat now sells for Rs90 per kg, up from Rs72 in mid-August and Rs62 in July. This increase has pushed the price of flour no. 2.5 to Rs97 per kg and fine flour to Rs103, compared with Rs81 and Rs85, respectively. In early August, these prices were Rs74 and Rs79 per kg.

Chakki flour varieties are now available at wholesale rates between Rs110 and Rs135 per kg, marking an average rise of Rs20 per kg. According to the Sensitive Price Index (SPI) for the week ending Aug 28, the price of a 10kg wheat bag climbed to Rs794 from Rs640. Consequently, 20kg wheat flour bags now sell between Rs1,700 and Rs2,100, while one kg of fine flour is priced at Rs106 — up from Rs1,350–1,700 and Rs93, respectively, in early August. With flour prices continuing to rise, a further burden on consumers is expected once roti and naan (bread) sellers adjust their prices to reflect higher input costs. (*Dawn, September 2nd, 2025, Page 9*)

August inflation cools to 3pc, flood impact looms

Inflation benchmark Consumer Price Index (CPI) in August FY26 increased by 3.0percent on a year-on-year (YoY) basis. However, experts believed that inflation projections might be revised after food supplies were badly disrupted by the ongoing floods, which created havoc in the country. According to the statistics issued by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, on month-on-basis CPI decreased by 0.6 percent in August FY26as compared to an increase of 2.9 percent in the previous month (July) and an increase of 0.4 percent in August FY25.

CPI inflation in urban areas increased by 3.4percent on a year-on-year basis in August FY26, as compared to 4.4percentof the previous month and 11.7percent in August FY25. On a month-on-month (MoM) basis, it decreased by 0.7percent in August FY26 as compared to 3.4percent in the previous month and an increase of 0.3percent in August FY25. CPI inflation in rural areas increased by 2.4percent on a YoY basis in August FY26, as compared to an increase of 3.5percent in the previous month and 6.7percent in August FY25. On a MoM basis, it decreased by 0.5percent in August 2025 as compared to an increase of 2.2percent in the previous month and an increase of

0.6percent in August FY25. Sensitive Price Index inflation on a YoY basis increased by 2.6percent in August FY26, as compared to a decrease of 0.9percent a month earlier and an increase of 10.8percent in August FY25. On a MoM basis, it increased by 3.2percent in August FY26, as compared to 3.1percent in a month earlier and a decrease of 0.3percent in August FY25. WPI inflation on YoY basis decreased by 1.0percent in August FY26, as compared to a decrease of 0.5percent in the previous month and an increase of 6.3percent in August FY25. On a MoM basis, it decreased by 0.2percent in August FY26 as compared to 1.2percent in the previous month and an increase of 0.3percent in August FY25. (*Business Recorder, September 2nd, 2025, Page 1*)

Flour prices hit record high in Taxila, Wah

Residents of Taxila and Wah Cantonment are grappling with record high prices of flour as retailers allegedly defy the official price list severely affecting consumers already overburdened with the crippling inflation. A market visit showed flour mills have set the price of a 20kg bag at Rs2,400, while the government has directed retailers to sell the same at Rs1,810. (*Dawn, September 8th, 2025, Page 4*)

Roti price goes up by Rs10 in Charsadda

Nanbais have increased the roti price from Rs20 to Rs30 after a reported ban on transportation of wheat from Punjab to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Ayaz Mohammad, deputy general secretary of Flour Dealers Association, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and also the association's Charsadda president, has demanded of the federal and Punjab governments to lift ban on wheat supply to KP. (*Dawn, September 8th, 2025, Page 9*)

Flood devastation prompts food inflation fears

Floods in Punjab, which have submerged more than 1.3m acres of farmland along eastern rivers, have caused significant damage to Kharif crops, particularly cotton, prompting fears of food inflation. Floods have displaced two million people, submerged 2,000 villages, and led to relocation of 760,000 residents and 516,000 heads of cattle from the affected areas. The satellite imagery of 24 Punjab districts in the command areas of Sutlej, Ravi, and Chenab rivers shows that around 3,661 square kilometres, or 4.7pc of total area, remained under floodwaters. The floods have devastated key crops, including rice, sugarcane, corn, vegetables, and cotton. According to the Pakistan Business Forum, approximately 35pc of the cotton crop in central and southern Punjab has been destroyed, with losses reaching as high as 40-50pc in Bahawalnagar, the province's largest cotton-producing district. (*Dawn, September 9th, 2025, Page 1*)

Flour, roti prices rise

Following a surge in sugar prices, consumers are now facing higher costs for flour and roti across various parts of Pakistan as wheat and flour prices continue to rise. In Karachi, tandoor operators have raised the price of various roti varieties by an average of Rs2 per piece, which will mainly impact low- and middle-income groups, particularly

daily wage earners and the labour class, who typically rely on eating their meals at local eateries. (*Dawn, September 9th, 2025, Page 9*)

Gold, silver hit record highs

Gold prices in both international and local markets surged to record highs, driven by expectations of further US interest rate cuts and rising demand for safe-haven assets amid global uncertainty. (*Dawn, September 23th, 2025, Page 9*)

10.4 # Poverty

Utility Stores finally closed

The federal government has announced to have launched a severance package of over 28 billion rupees for more than 11,000 employees of the Utility Stores Corporation (USC), further announcing to have shut down the USC services countrywide from Sunday, 31 August. In this context, Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Tariq Fazal Chaudhary, along with the representatives of the USC unions, held a press conference to formally announce the closure of the USC. Announcing the USC package for the USC employees, the minister said, a grant of Rs 19.5 billion has been approved by the Finance Ministry in this regard. In addition, the affected employees would also be paid under the head of terminal dues and widow dues, amounting to Rs 5.7 billion, whereas Rs 3 billion rupees would be paid as pending salaries of the last few months to the USC employees. (*Business Recorder, September 1st, 2025, Page 12*)

Factory worker dies by suicide

The body of a teenage labourer was found hanging in his room in a factory in the Port Qasim area. Officials identified the deceased as 18-year-old Azeem Khan and said that he worked and had been living at the factory. It appeared that he took his own life, he added. The body was shifted to the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre for medico-legal formalities. (*Dawn, September 3rd, 2025, Page 13*)

Mismanagement at flood relief centre Woman dies `after being injured in rush for ration`

An elderly woman died allegedly after being injured in a rush for ration packs at a flood relief centre near Chowk Kumharanwala at Jalalpur Pirwala. According to the daughter of the 60-year-old victim, Bano Bibi, her mother had gone to collect ration at the flood relief centre at Jalalpur Pirwala where she was critically injured while attempting to collect her pack as there was a rush. She was shifted to hospital, where she expired. (*Dawn, September 30th, 2025, Page 2*)

11 # ENVIRONMENT

HRCP urges enforcement of Article 9A for environmental rights

Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) evening launched a report highlighting the necessity to enforce Article 9A of the Constitution to provide citizens with their right to clean air, safe drinking water, waste management, disaster preparedness and access to environmental justice. The Constitution guarantees the fundamental right to a

clean, healthy and sustainable environment under Article 9A. Yet this vital right has remained absent from public debate, even as the country confronts a worsening climate and environmental crisis, said the HRCP in a statement. Not only Pakistan is consistently ranked among the most climate-vulnerable countries in the world, but disasters are no longer rare: flash floods, droughts, glacial lake outbursts and heatwaves are now recurring threats. Major urban centres — Lahore, Karachi, Peshawar and Faisalabad — remain among the world’s most polluted cities, while deforestation and biodiversity loss quietly worsen. (*Dawn, September 1st, 2025, Page 4*)

City’s first urban forest to breathe afresh with pruning and care

The Karachi Metropolitan Corporation has undertaken maintenance and restoration of the city’s first urban forest in Clifton amid complaints that the man-made jungle has fallen prey to negligence. For months now, entrepreneur Shahzad Qureshi’s model Urban Forest Park in Clifton Block 5 has fallen prey to negligence. Based on the Miyawaki method — a Japanese technique developed by botanist Dr Akira Miyawaki that creates dense, fast-growing forests using a variety of native plant species planted in a multi-layered structure, mimicking natural forest ecosystems — the Urban Forest was designed to give the concrete jungle that Karachi has become a breath of fresh air. (*Dawn, September 2nd, 2025, Page 13*)

11.1 # Health

68pc of diseases linked to contaminated water: Kamal

Federal Minister for National Health Services Regulations, Mustafa Kamal, stressed the need for transforming the country’s healthcare system from sick-care into a true health-care system, saying that 68 percent of diseases in Pakistan are linked to contaminated water. Kamal, while addressing the ceremony of a pilot project on adolescent nutrition and maternal health, said, “If we ensure access to safe drinking water, we can eliminate 68 percent of diseases,” he said. He added that the country still lacks an effective sewage treatment system. “Sewage treatment must be made a core part of our national health policies,” he emphasized. (*Business Recorder, September 11th, 2025, Page 3*)

46 new dengue cases reported from twin cities in single day

As many as 46 new cases of dengue were reported in the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi in a single day. In Islamabad, 25 dengue patients landed in hospitals taking the season’s tally to 435, while in Rawalpindi 21 cases were reported. In the garrison city the number of patients this year has been recorded at 319, which was relatively low compared to Islamabad. According to the District Health Office (DHO) Islamabad, out of 25 cases, 18 were reported from rural areas and seven surfaced from the urban localities. (*Dawn, September 14th, 2025, Page 4*)

Malaria affects over 1,000 in Landi Kotal

The local health authorities in Landi Kotal have said that over 1,000 people have been affected with malaria during the last three-four weeks. They said that free health

services were being provided at the malaria centre at the District Headquarters Hospital, Landi Kotal, and efforts were underway to control the spread of the disease, which has become endemic. (*Dawn, September 16th, 2025, Page 8*)

Mpox case surfaces in Lahore

A case of mpox, formerly called monkeypox, has surfaced in Lahore as a patient tested positive for the virus at the Lahore General Hospital (LGH), sending alarms for the local and global health authorities. Identified as Rahmat Ali (48), a resident of Kot Radha Kishan, Kasur, the patient was brought to the hospital on Sept 16 with strong symptoms of mpox. He was currently residing in the Cantt area of the provincial capital. During preliminary investigations, he was declared as suspected patient of mpox and was immediately isolated for treatment. The samples sent to the provincial public health reference lab confirmed the virus in the patient. (*Dawn, September 19th, 2025, Page 2*)

Rawalpindi's health authority sacks 12 for 'negligence' in anti-dengue drive

The Rawalpindi District Health Authority has dismissed 12 workers and supervisors for alleged negligence during the anti-dengue campaign. District Health Authority Chief Executive Officer Dr Ehsan Ghani told that show-cause notices had been issued to more than 448 workers, and in the initial phase, action was taken against 12 workers under departmental rules. (*Dawn, September 19th, 2025, Page 5*)

World no closer to polio eradication after 37 years, \$22bn spent: Independent Monitoring Board

As Pakistan reports 26 new polio cases this year, the global polio monitoring board has issued a stark warning that efforts to eradicate the disease are failing. After 37 years and \$22 billion invested, the world has reached an “inflection point” where, traditional methods offer diminishing returns, the Independent Monitoring Board on polio said in its latest report. The ‘glass mountain’ of polio eradication has proven unclimbable through conventional methods, it says, calling for fresh thinking and unambiguous country ownership to achieve success. (*Dawn, September 22th, 2025, Page 1*)

Over 50 dengue cases emerge in Rawalpindi, Islamabad

There has been no let-up in the number of dengue cases as 54 more have surfaced in the twin cities in a single day. According to the District Health Office (DHO), 32 people got infected by the dengue virus. Out of the total number, 24 were reported from the rural areas and six from urban areas. (*Dawn, September 22th, 2025, Page 4*)

Another polio case found in Hyderabad; tally rises to 27

A new confirmed polio case in Hyderabad has pushed Pakistan's nationwide tally to 27 and the number of cases in Sindh to seven so far this year, the NIH said. According to Regional Reference Laboratory's official at NIH, the lab has confirmed a polio case in District Hyderabad, Sindh. “With this detection, total number of polio cases in Pakistan in 2025 has reached 27 — including 18 from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, seven from Sindh, and one each from Punjab and Gilgit-Baltistan.”. (*Dawn, September 23th, 2025, Page 3*)

Only 34pc of HPV vaccination target achieved as drive nears end

The Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination campaign, which has been targeting 13 million girls aged 9 to 14, has so far achieved only 34 percent of its target. So far, only 4.5 million girls out of the targeted 13 million have been vaccinated against the virus, which causes cervical cancer. The update was shared with State Minister for National Health Dr Malik Mukhtar Ahmad Bharath, who visited the HPV vaccination site at Islamabad Model School for Girls (IMSG), G-6/1-3, to observe the public health effort. The visit was organised by UNICEF in collaboration with the Federal Directorate of Immunisation (FDI). (*Dawn, September 25th, 2025, Page 4*)

HPV vaccination declared lifeline for girls

The Pakistan Medical Association (PMA) urged parents and guardians to reject negative propaganda against the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine and ensure that their daughters are vaccinated against the potentially fatal disease of cervical cancer during the ongoing immunisation drive. In a statement released against the backdrop of reports showing how vaccine hesitancy has affected the ongoing HPV immunisation drive, the association stated that the HPV vaccine is a critical and effective tool for preventing cervical cancer, a disease that claims thousands of lives in Pakistan annually. (*Dawn, September 25th, 2025, Page 14*)

Congo fever claims sixth life in four months

Sindh health department declared the sixth death from Crimean-Congo Haemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) in the province since June. The victim, a 28-year-old man, was a butcher by profession and resident of Landhi. He died. “The patient had high fever, cough and vomiting blood when he was brought to the emergency department of the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre on Sept 24. He died the same day,” health department spokesperson Meeran Yousuf said. (*Dawn, September 27th, 2025, Page 13*)

World Rabies Day: 1,000 people die annually in Pakistan due to preventable rabies, laments expert

In Pakistan alone, an estimated 1,000 people, mostly children, die every year due to rabies, despite the availability of life-saving treatment. This was stated by Dr Muhammad Irfan Habib, medical director of the ChildLife Foundation. He said World Rabies Day would be observed today (September 28), and this year’s theme of the day was “Act Now: You, Me, Community,” underscoring urgent need for awareness and action. “Rabies does not have to claim lives, it is 100 per cent preventable if the right steps are taken immediately,” he said, adding that the tragedy was particularly acute in Pakistan’s rural and low-income communities, where children were frequently bitten by stray dogs while playing or walking to school, and delayed or inaccessible post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) often led to preventable deaths. (*The News, September 28th, 2025, Page 15*)

Pakistan faces shortfall of nearly 900,000 nurses, says minister

Federal Minister for Health Syed Mustafa Kamal said that all affairs of the Pakistan Nursing Council (PNC) will soon be computerised to minimise human intervention and eliminate inefficiencies. He was chairing a meeting on the affairs of the PNC, attended by the federal health secretary and additional secretary. The minister announced to fully digitalise the PNC to ensure efficiency, merit, and transparency in all of its operations. Mr Kamal underscored the vital role of nursing in Pakistan's health system and highlighted the pressing shortage of nursing professionals. 'Pakistan currently faces a shortfall of nearly 900,000 nurses, while globally the shortage of qualified nurses stands at approximately 2.5 million', he added. (*Dawn, September 30th, 2025, Page 4*)

Polio tally reaches 29 with fresh cases from Badin and Thatta

Pakistan has reported two more cases of polio from Sindh, raising the tally for the current year to 29. According to an official of the Regional Reference Laboratory for Polio Eradication at the National Institute of Health (NIH), the lab has confirmed two new poliovirus cases in Sindh, one from District Badin and the other from District Thatta. With these two cases, both girls, the total number of polio cases in Pakistan in 2025 has reached 29 including 18 from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, nine from Sindh, and one each from Punjab and Gilgit-Baltistan. (*Dawn, September 30th, 2025, Page 12*)

12 # CLIMATE CHANGE

KP Assembly passes bill to establish climate action board

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly approved the KP Climate Action Board Bill, 2025, for establishment of a climate action board. The development came during a session chaired by Speaker Babar Saleem Swati. The draft law moved by law minister Aftab Alam Afridi was unanimously passed by the house after incorporation of amendments suggested by some opposition members. Under the law, climate action board will "plan, oversee and execute all climate-related initiatives, streamline decision-making and synergise cross-sector efforts to address climate risks faced by province and for matters connected there with and incidental thereto". (*Dawn, September 3rd, 2025, Page 8*)

13 # CLIMATE DISASTERS

Pakistan highly vulnerable to natural disasters: WB

Pakistan is highly vulnerable to natural disasters —including earthquakes, landslides, and water scarcity—all of which greatly damage the country's infrastructure and, consequently, negatively affect people's welfare, said the World Bank. In a stark assessment, the Bank has ranked Pakistan fifth among nations most affected by extreme weather events driven by climate change. The findings, published in its report "Evidence-based targeting of infrastructure investments, a model for accessibility to services in Pakistan's rural communities", underscore the urgent need for resilient infrastructure and smarter investment strategies to safeguard rural communities. The Bank has pointed out that road maintenance budgets are prepared based on visual inspections — a method that is often subjective and vulnerable to political influence. (*Business Recorder, September 2nd, 2025, Page 1*)

13.1 # Flood

Over 2m displaced as Punjab braces for more torrents from India

The overflowing Chenab, Ravi and Sutlej rivers have displaced more than two million people across 2,200 villages since Aug 23, while Sindh braces for what officials warn could be a “super flood” as massive inflows from Punjab move downstream. (*Dawn, September 1st, 2025, Page 1*)

Thousands of people, livestock relocated from Sindh’s flood-prone areas

Arrangements to save people’s life, property and livestock in the face of impending flood have almost been completed in upper, central and southern districts, including Hyderabad, Matiari, Larkana and Qambar-Shahdadkot districts while a strategy to relocate a large number of vulnerable families along with their belongings was being finalised. (*Dawn, September 1st, 2025, Page 15*)

Flash floods claim 18 more lives

The flash floods triggered by monsoon rains have resulted in the death of 18 more people, injuries to 29, and damage to 40 houses, countrywide in the past 24 hours, the National Disaster Management Authority’s daily situation report said. Since June 26, 2025, on the onset of the current monsoon season, a total of 881 people have been killed and 1,176 injured. According to the NDMA report, at least 6,180 livestock have also perished, and a total of 9,206 houses were damaged, of which 2,149 were fully destroyed and 7,073 were partially damaged.

KP remained the worst hit province with floodwaters-related incidents as out of 881 deaths, KP reported 488, followed by Punjab with 223, Sindh 58, Gilgit-Baltistan (G-B) 41, AJK 37, Balochistan 26, and Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) with eight deaths. Of 1,176 injuries, Punjab has reported 648, KP 359 injuries, Sindh 78, G-B 52, AJK 31, Balochistan five, and ICT three. The flooding has also destroyed 671.25 kilometres of road network countrywide, of which 432 km of roads were destroyed in KP, over 20 km each in G-B and AJK, 13.6 km in Balochistan and four km in Sindh. The flash floods swept away a total of 239 bridges nationwide, of which 94 in AJK, 87 in G-B, 52 in KP, three apiece in Balochistan and ICT regions.

Of the 6,180 livestock that perished, KP reported 5,460, AJK 239, Sindh 231, Punjab 121, G-B 67, and Balochistan 62. The disaster management authorities in the past 24 hours conducted 179 rescue operations and evacuated 93,067 people. Since the start of the monsoon season, the authorities have evacuated 1.028 million people nationwide by carrying out 2,844 rescue operations. (*Business Recorder, September 3rd, 2025, Page 1*)

Punjab: 3.36m people affected by floods

As many as 43 people have died while 3.36 million people have been affected due to flooding. Over 3,300 villages have been affected by severe flooding in Ravi, Sutlej and Chenab rivers. Over 1.29 million people were rescued and shifted to safe places, while

over 400 relief and medical camps and 385 veterinary camps have been set up in the affected districts. During rescue efforts, nearly 800,000 animals were also moved to safer areas. (*Business Recorder, September 4th, 2025, Page 3*)

Millions affected as Punjab floods worsen

Punjab is facing one of its worst flood emergencies in recent years, as overflowing rivers and breached dykes have submerged vast areas, displacing millions and destroying crops. The situation has become so severe that the Pakistan Army has been called in to assist rescue operations across the province. According to Punjab Relief Commissioner Nabeel Javed, more than 4.15 million people across 4,150 villages have been affected by floods in the Ravi, Sutlej, and Chenab rivers. (*Business Recorder, September 8th, 2025, Page 7*)

Pakistan ‘better off’ than last floods, but fiscally bound

Pakistan has entered this year’s flood season with more substantial economic buffers than it had before the 2022-23 floods, but the country’s improved macroeconomic situation comes with new constraints, according to a ‘targeted analysis’ carried out by the Famine Early Warning Systems (FEWS) Network. The analysis expects that the 2025 floods will primarily drive short-term, localised, food insecurity among flood-affected households. (*Dawn, September 11th, 2025, Page 3*)

Five die, hundreds rescued as rain, hill torrents play havoc with Karachi

Five people were killed and hundreds rescued as water from hill torrents and continuous downpour swelled the Lyari and Malir rivers to what many called as unprecedented levels, wreaking havoc on citizens and civic infrastructure, especially in low-lying areas. Although almost every city area received non-stop light to moderate showers, it was heavy rain in the Kirthar mountain range that brought miseries on Karachi and its citizens particularly those living in Gadap Town, Scheme 33 and areas along the M-9 motorway. (*Dawn, September 11th, 2025, Page 13*)

Korangi industrial area: ‘Rains disrupt around 30pc of production, export operations’

Junaid Naqi, President of the Korangi Association of Trade and Industry (KATI) has warned that the recent spell of rains has once again crippled industrial activities in the Korangi industrial area, disrupting around 30 percent of production and export operations. Junaid Naqi said that the overflowing Korangi River and the closure of the EBM Causeway had blocked entry and exit routes to the industrial zone, leaving the Jam Sadiq Bridge as the only access point. However, he noted that during rains, hours-long traffic jams on the bridge had become routine, further paralyzing industrial movement. (*Business Recorder, September 12th, 2025, Page 4*)

Floods threaten humanitarian crisis in Punjab

Evacuation efforts continued across central and south Punjab as exceptionally high flood levels persist between the Panjnad confluence of Chenab-Ravi-Sutlej and Guddu Barrage in Sindh, creating a severe humanitarian crisis, inundating low-lying areas,

displacing large populations, and destroying hundreds of acres of standing crops. The overflowing Indus has also inundated parts of Sindh, with areas in Dadu and Larkana witnessing widespread displacement in riverine areas. (*Dawn, September 13th, 2025, Page 1*)

Punjab on the brink of diseases outbreak after floods, heavy rains

After affecting more 4 million people in Punjab, heavy monsoon rains and floods may lead to water, food and vector-borne diseases as the reports of overwhelming burden of the patients in most hospitals have started surfacing. There are reports that diarrheal outbreaks during the floods may leave dire consequences followed by the dengue. As per the figures so far, 158,000 flood affected people are suffering from various diseases, including diarrhea and skin, eye, chest-related ailments. Quoting the official figures, a senior health official said 49,500 cases of chest infection, 43 of temperature with flu and 20,945 cases of diarrhea have been reported, mostly in the worst-hit districts of Punjab so far. Similarly, 143 cases of dogbites and 88 of snakebite have also been reported in the public hospitals. (*Dawn, September 13th, 2025, Page 2*)

Flood havoc claims 972 lives, destroys 8,481 homes since June 26 in Pakistan

Torrential rains and flash floods have wreaked havoc in many regions of the country, claiming 972 lives, injuring 1,062 people, destroying 8,481 homes, and killing 6,509 livestock since June 26, according to the latest figures released by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). At least 972 people, including 266 children, 547 men, and 159 women, have lost their lives in flood-hit areas of the country in incidents related to torrential rains and flash flooding. At least 283 people have died in Punjab, including 107 children, 127 men, and 49 women.

In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the death toll has reached 504, with 90 children, 338 men, and 76 women among the victims. Sindh has reported 71 fatalities, comprising 33 children, 30 men, and 8 women. Flash floods have caused widespread devastation in most areas of country, with Balochistan reporting 26 fatalities—including 16 children, 6 men, and 4 women. In Gilgit-Baltistan, 41 people lost their lives, among them 6 children, 26 men, and 9 women. Azad Jammu & Kashmir recorded 38 deaths due to the deluge, comprising 9 children, 17 men, and 12 women. Meanwhile, in Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT), 9 individuals perished, including 5 children, 3 men, and 1 woman. Flood-related incidents have left 1,062 people injured, including 320 children, 450 men, and 292 women.

Punjab reported the highest number of injuries with 660 individuals affected, including 199 children, 258 men, and 203 women, highlighting the severe impact on vulnerable populations across the province. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 218 people sustained injuries, comprising 70 children, 99 men, and 49 women. Meanwhile, Sindh reported 87 injuries, including 39 children, 29 men, and 19 women, reflecting the widespread impact of the floods across age and gender groups. Balochistan reported five injuries, affecting two

children, two men, and one woman. In Gilgit-Baltistan, 52 individuals were injured, including four children, 42 men, and six women, reflecting the widespread human toll of the floods across both regions.

Azad Jammu and Kashmir recorded 37 injuries, including 4 children, 20 men, and 13 women, while the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) reported 3 injuries, affecting 2 children and 1 woman, with no male injuries documented. According to the latest figures released by the National Disaster Management Authority, a total of 2,879,054 individuals have been rescued in 5,400 operations carried out in flood hit areas since June 26, as part of a coordinated response. In a sweeping effort to safeguard lives, Punjab led nationwide rescue operations with 2,711,146 individuals evacuated through 4,508 coordinated missions. (*Business Recorder, September 15th, 2025, Page 3*)

Floods inflict USD2bn losses to Pakistan: report

A report says Pakistan's fragile economy has been dealt a severe setback as the 2025 monsoon floods leave behind destruction on a massive scale, causing nearly USD2 billion in damages to agriculture and infrastructure while threatening the country's GDP growth, inflation outlook, and external account stability. According to the latest research report by JS Research analyst Waqas Ghani, figures compiled by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) show that at least 955 people have lost their lives, more than 1,000 have been injured, and over 96,000 displaced citizens are currently sheltering in relief camps. (*Business Recorder, September 16th, 2025, Page 1*)

High flood submerges villages, destroys crops in Sindh's riverine belt

A high flood has inundated vast riverine areas of Naushahro Feroze district, submerging most villages and destroying standing crops. According to reports, road and land links to the village of Sher Muhammad Khoso in the old Mukhat riverine belt have been cut off, leaving residents stranded. The stagnant water has triggered outbreaks of diseases, with malaria spreading among flood victims in makeshift settlements. Agricultural losses are mounting, with several feet of water accumulating in lemon orchards spread over more than 2,000 acres. Farmers have urged the Sindh government to announce a comprehensive relief package to compensate for their losses. (*The News, September 21st, 2025, Page 12*)

Punjab unveils flood relief package, but sets no timeline

The Punjab government announced a relief package for people affected by recent floods, but stopped short of giving a date for its distribution. "A sum of Rs1 million will be given to the owner of a destroyed house and Rs500,000 for partially damaged houses," Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari told a press conference. She said that farmers whose land had been submerged would receive Rs20,000 per acre, while compensation of Rs500,000 would be provided for each cow or buffalo lost. (*Dawn, September 24th, 2025, Page 1*)

Floods batter fields, factories and fiscal plans

Massive floods in Pakistan have struck both the rural heartland and industrial centres for the first time in decades, causing billions of dollars in damage while straining food supplies, exports and a fragile economic recovery. The government had been optimistic about 2026, pencilling in 4.2 percent growth on the back of a rebound in farming and manufacturing after the economy was stabilised under a USD7 billion International Monetary Fund bailout. Instead, record monsoon rains since late June, amplified by dam releases from India, have submerged large swathes of Punjab and Sindh, the two most populous and economically vital provinces. While waters have yet to recede in many districts, officials and analysts warn the hit could be deeper than in 2022, when a third of the country lay under water, due to dual shocks to agriculture and manufacturing. (*Business Recorder*, September 24th, 2025, Page 1)

Over 3,000 Punjab schools damaged by floods

Punjab Minister for School Education Rana Sikandar Hayat said that 3,000 schools had been destroyed in the floods, severely affecting the education of thousands of students. He was speaking during a meeting with Unicef's Representative to Pakistan, Pernille Ironside, to discuss progress on various educational plans. The meeting also decided to strengthen cooperation for better outcomes. The minister informed the Unicef representative that the school education department was facing immense challenges due to floods in the province. (*Dawn*, September 26th, 2025, Page 12)

Number of villages hit by floodwater in Jamshoro, Dadu districts rises to 300

Scores of more villages and several hundred acres of farmlands were hit by gushing floodwater in Jamshoro as deluges continued to push up water level in the Indus at Kotri Barrage, both upstream and downstream. Although the peak of flood safely passed through Guddu and Sukkur barrages and is unlikely to cause damage to Kotri Barrage or widespread devastation in Sindh, water level in the Indus is showing a constant rise in this district. (*Dawn*, September 26th, 2025, Page 15)

MNFS&R's report to Senate panel: Floods destroy 2.5m acres of crops

The recent floods across Pakistan have caused severe damage to the country's agriculture sector, destroying approximately 2.5 million acres of crops—equivalent to 7.7 percent of the total cropped area. This was revealed in a report submitted by the Ministry of National Food Security and Research (MNFS&R) to the Senate Standing Committee on National Food Security and Research, which met under the chairmanship of Senator Masoor Ahsan. According to the report, Punjab province has been the hardest hit, with around 90 percent of major crops—such as rice, sugarcane, maize, and fodder—affected by the flooding. The worst-affected districts in Punjab include Sialkot, Narowal, Gujrat, Jhang, Hafizabad, Chiniot, Multan, Muzaffargarh, Bahawalnagar, and Bahawalpur. (*Business Recorder*, September 26th, 2025, Page 1)

Floods affect 4.2m people in Punjab

As millions of people have been affected and hundreds of casualties reported across the country during the recent floods and monsoon rains, the prime minister has raised the ex-gratia assistance for the next of kin of those who lost their lives from Rs1 million to Rs2m. More than 4.2 million people in 18 districts of Punjab have been affected by the recent floods, with Muzaffargarh alone accounting for over a quarter of the total, according to a Rapid Needs Assessment report released by United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. (*Dawn, September 27th, 2025, Page 1*)

Maryam announces special cards for flood victims

Punjab Chief Minister announced that special cards will be issued to flood victims for compensation, as she digitally launched a province-wide flood survey portal at a ceremony, held at Alhamra Cultural Complex. (*The News, September 28th, 2025, Page 1*)

13.2 # Lightning

Two women die in lightning strikes

Two women died while a man was injured as lightning struck them in Shorkot and Pirmahal. In first incident, an elderly woman died while her husband was injured when lightning struck them at village Kakki Nau Soem in Shorkot tehsil of Jhang district. In second incident in village Jatti Kutti of Pirmahal, lightning struck a woman when Sattan Bibi (40) was cutting fodder for her animals during rain. (*Dawn, September 8th, 2025, Page 8*)

Lightning kills man amid downpour in several districts

Tharparkar and Umerkot districts and Jamshoro's hilly areas, alongside their adjoining areas, received several heavy spells of monsoon rains, causing flooding in both urban and rural areas. In Tharparkar district, downpour turned streets into ponds and filled seasonal streams to their capacity. Lightning killed a man in Mithi and 16 animals in different areas of the district. (*Dawn, September 8th, 2025, Page 15*)

Lightning, widespread rains continue to take toll on life and livestock in Sindh

Almost the entire Sindh was hit by varying intensity of monsoon rains, in some areas for a third consecutive day, causing human and animal casualties as well as widespread destruction in terms of property and crops. Lightning struck a house in Bhadehli village killing an eight-year-old child, Maroo, son of Nago Kolhi. His mother, Marwan Kolhi, suffered serious injuries. Another child, Nago, son of Nomji Kolhi, and a girl, Shanti, daughter of Hero Kolhi, were also seriously injured. In Golarchi town of Badin district, a 12-year-old boy, Shakeel Ahmed Shaikh, was killed when lightning struck a place near his home. (*Dawn, September 9th, 2025, Page 15*)

14 # NATURAL DISASTERS

14.1 # Earthquake

5.9 tremor felt in KP, Pindi and Islamabad

The Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) said that tremors of a 5.9-magnitude earthquake were felt in the twin cities and areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Dawn.com

reported. The PMD said the quake originated at 9:56pm at a depth of 111 kilometres with its epicentre in the Hindu Kush region. It said tremors were felt in Peshawar, Mansehra, Hangu, Abbottabad, Swat, Attock, Malakand, Rawalpindi and Islamabad. (*Dawn, September 5th, 2025, Page 5*)

15 # RESISTANCE

Jl holds sit-in at PIDC intersection as police block march on CM House

In response to the widespread devastation caused by recent monsoon rains in Karachi, Jamaat-i-Islami (JI) staged a protest march from the Karachi Press Club to the Chief Minister's House, drawing a significant crowd of party workers and supporters. However, the police thwarted the protesters' attempt to march towards the CM House by blocking the road at PIDC Chowk with containers and heavy barricades. (*Dawn, September 1st, 2025, Page 13*)

PFF protests bar on fishing in lake

The Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum (PFF) has protested against Rangers' act of stopping fishermen from fishing in Shakoor Lake in lower Sindh. A meeting was held at the PFF Badin office where its leaders appealed to the army chief, corps commander and chief minister to take urgent notice of the situation and ensure protection of fishermen's livelihood. (*Dawn, September 1st, 2025, Page 15*)

Farmers stage hunger strike in Quetta over unmet demands

Members of KIP staged a token hunger strike outside the Quetta Press Club, demanding acceptance of their 15-point charter of demands submitted to government. Addressing a press conference, KIP Chairman Khalid Hussain Bathh announced that strike would continue until government accepted and implemented their demands related to growers & landowners affected since 2022. Despite repeated requests, he regretted, government had not taken steps to resolve their issues. (*Dawn, September 2nd, 2025, Page 3*)

Protests held in Larkana colleges against pension reforms

The Sindh Professors and Lecturers Association (SPLA), Larkana chapter, staged demonstrations in the district's colleges in protest against new pension reforms which the association termed as black law. Teachers and employees of the colleges tied black armbands during protests in Boys Degree College, Girls College Larkana, Commerce College, Begum Nusrat Bhutto Girls College, Boys and Girls College Ratodero, Hyder Bux Jatoti College Dokri, Girls College Badah, Boys and Girls Degree College Naudero, and other educational institutions. The protesters said that plunder of their pensions fund was unacceptable. It was an oppressive decision, a black law and was tantamount to economic massacre of government employees. (*Dawn, September 4th, 2025, Page 15*)

Killing of child triggers protest in Chakdara

The brutal killing of a minor boy in Badwan sparked grief and anger among residents, triggering a strong protest demonstration in Chakdara. A day earlier, a mutilated body

of a seven-year-old Afnan, son of Dawood, resident of Tor Gatu Badwan, was recovered from a nearby hill. He had gone missing a day before and was mercilessly stoned to death. The Chakdara police registered a case on the complaint of his father and launched investigation. The traders and residents staged a demonstration in Chakdara against the brutal killing of the child. They placed the body on the road and vowed to continue their protest till the arrest of culprit. SHO Fazal Ghafoor Khan of Chakdara police station assured the protesters that the matter was being investigated and the culprits would be traced soon. The protesters dispersed peacefully after his assurance. (*Dawn, September 8th, 2025, Page 9*)

Protests held to condemn FIR against SUP leader

Activists of Sindh United Party (SUP) took out processions and staged demonstrations in several Sindh towns to protest what they described as registration of ‘fabricated’ and ‘politically motivated’ cases against the party’s president Syed Zain Shah. They accused Pakistan Peoples Party of reducing Sindh Police to a mere tool for arm twisting and harassing political opponents, and demanded immediate withdrawal of all the cases.

In Hyderabad, SUP organised a procession, which started from Sindh University’s old campus and culminated at local press club. The party’s senior vice president Roshan Ali Buriro, who led the protest, said that PPP government was using police to harass its opponents and held Sindh minister for home and Jamshoro SSP responsible for registration of FIRs against Zain Shah. (*Dawn, September 8th, 2025, Page 15*)

PkMAP protests suicide attack on Quetta public meeting

The Pakhtunkhwa Milli Awami Party (PkMAP) staged rallies across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa against a suicide blast targeting a public meeting in Quetta on Sept 2. The Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf leaders and workers joined protest rallies on the instructions of their detained leader, Imran Khan. In Peshawar, a protest was staged outside the Peshawar Press Club. (*Dawn, September 9th, 2025, Page 8*)

Hundreds of Chinese, other foreigners stranded in GB for second day

Hundreds of Chinese nationals, foreign tourists and students remained stranded on the second day at Sost as protesters blocked Khunjerab Pass Immigration Office’s entry and exit points on Pakistan-China border. The GB people and traders have been staging a protest sit-in and blocking the Karakoram Highway for last 51 days against collection of Sales Tax, Income Tax and Excise Tax by the federal government from the GB people. They say that collection of any tax from GB people by federal government is illegal as they have no representation in Pakistan’s parliament and they are not part of Pakistan according to Constitution of Pakistan. (*Dawn, September 10th, 2025, Page 3*)

Opposition parties protest Quetta suicide blast across Balochistan

Seven opposition parties staged protests outside press clubs across Balochistan against the Sept 2 suicide bombing near Shahwani Stadium, which occurred after a Balochistan National Party-Mengal (BNP-M) public meeting. Party leaders alleged that those

behind the attack sought to eliminate the province's "true political leadership". Large numbers of workers and supporters, carrying party flags and banners inscribed with anti-government slogans, gathered outside the Quetta Press Club. (*Dawn, September 12th, 2025, Page 1*)

No end to Hayatabad Medical Complex visitors' misery as medics continue strike

A strike by doctors at the Hayatabad Medical Complex over a parking row with employees of the provincial tuberculosis control programme has left patients without elective services. Health secretary Shahidullah Khan, who had ordered an inquiry into violence over the issue, said the matter would take a few more days to resolve as protesting doctors were unwilling to resume duties at the HMC, one of Peshawar's three largest public hospitals. "It [issue] will take some time to conclude," the secretary told. (*Dawn, September 14th, 2025, Page 8*)

Protesting Kashmiri refugees press for implementation of demands

Hundreds of men, women and children from families of post-1989 refugees from Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir staged a protest demonstration, pressing the authorities to implement their charter of demands, including an increase in monthly subsistence allowance and a comprehensive resettlement package. The protesters demanded that the AJK government present a clear roadmap by Oct 15 to resolve all their issues, including resettlement. They called on the authorities to immediately increase the subsistence allowance of refugees by Rs1,500 per person in line with promises. (*Dawn, September 16th, 2025, Page 4*)

Govt machinery at standstill as employees' strike continues

The government employees continued their strike for the second consecutive day, bringing the entire government machinery at the civil secretariat here along with attached departments and directorates across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to a standstill. They observed a strike against the storming of the education secretary's office by special assistant to the chief minister on relief Naik Mohammad along with armed men. Besides staging a daylong sit-in outside the elementary and secondary education department at the civil secretariat, the employees also demonstrated demanding the immediate removal of aide to the CM Naik Mohammad and registration of an FIR against him. (*Dawn, September 17th, 2025, Page 8*)

Wapda employees protest privatisation plan

Employees of the Water and Power Development Authority (Wapda) staged a protest in Islamabad against the proposed privatisation of electricity distribution companies. All Pakistan Federation of Trade Unions and the All Pakistan Wapda Hydro Electric Workers Union (CBA) had announced their plan to stage a protest at the National Press Club against the privatisation of Wapda power companies, the Utility Stores Corporation of Pakistan and other institutions, while also pressing for their demands. In the morning, around 10am, protesters began arriving at the National Press Club, and

over 150 people had gathered there. Later, dozens of employees also joined the gathering from the nearby Wapda office in G-7. (*Dawn, September 18th, 2025, Page 4*)

Students march in solidarity with Gaza's children

Thousands of schoolchildren thronged Shahrah-i-Quaideen to participate in a march organised by the Jamaat-i-Islami to express solidarity with the children in Gaza. They demanded an end to the ongoing genocide of Palestinians and a strong response from the Islamic countries against Israel. The students, including girls, also performed tableaux, sang songs and recited poems at the march, themed 'Unite with Gaza', highlighting the courage of children in Gaza against tyranny, hunger and death. (*Dawn, September 19th, 2025, Page 13*)

People protest barbaric treatment of grazing cow

A large number of people held a protest demonstration outside the Umerkot Press Club against the barbaric treatment meted out to a cow grazing on the farmland near Haji Khalid Village, close to Umerkot. They said that one leg of the cow was brutally chopped off with repeated blows of axes after the animal strayed into the farmland. The demonstrators strongly condemned the brutality shown to the animal by the attackers. Speaking to journalists, they alleged that the caretakers, Saroop alias Sarwan Bajir, Asan Kolhi and Aarib Bheel, attacked the cow with axes upon seeing it grazing on the farmland under their protection. They demanded action against the attackers under relevant laws. (*Dawn, September 19th, 2025, Page 13*)

Protest against 'siege' of locality by Hesco

A large number of men, women and children took to the street to protest against an anti-theft and recovery drive launched by Hyderabad Electric Supply Company. The protest paralysed life in the entire Phulleli area and forced the Hesco team, escorted by police and Rangers, to put off drive for day. The protesters blocked the main Phulleli road and raised slogans against Hesco. They included a large number of power consumers who were neither bill defaulters nor had they any Hesco dues outstanding against them. The protesters lit bonfire on Phulleli Bridge which remained blocked for four hours. The protesters pointed out that a transformer that had developed some fault was installed in their locality only after eight days of power outage but Hesco team started taking action against consumers in name of 'power theft'. (*Dawn, September 19th, 2025, Page 15*)

Thousands gather in Swat for peace

Residents of Swat announced that there would be no place for terrorists in the valley, warning that if the provincial government and police failed to expel terrorists present in the border areas of Swat and Dir, they would confront the terrorists on their own. (*Dawn, September 20th, 2025, Page 8*)

Kissan Ittehad chief slams FIRs against farmers in Nasirabad

Pakistan Kissan Ittehad (KIP) Chairman Khalid Hussain Bathh condemned the registration of FIRs against protesting farmers in Nasirabad, who he said were

peacefully advocating for their demands. During a press conference with Arya Hoorain and Raza Muhammad Khilji, he called for the immediate withdrawal of cases and the release of those detained. (*Dawn, September 21th, 2025, Page 5*)

Teachers' body vows to resist outsourcing of schools

All Primary School Teachers' Association, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa announced not to allow government to outsource even a single educational institution anywhere in the province. "The government has scheduled outsourcing schools across the province, but we want to make it clear that teachers' fraternity consisted of over 150,000 professionals wouldn't permit outsourcing of a single school," Azizullah Khan, the association's president, said. (*Dawn, September 22th, 2025, Page 9*)

HW&SC officers protest cut in allowance

An officers' action committee has expressed concern over arbitrary and unlawful actions of the newly-hired contractual management of the Hyderabad Water and Sewerage Corporation (HW&SC) which deducted or withheld the house rent allowance of the employees. In their joint statement, members of action committee, including Zeeshan Malik, Mirza Mohammad Ali Baig, Shoukat Shaikh, Asgher Khawaja, Shewan Kumar, Masha Allah Rajput and others said that under legal and policy framework, the Sindh government was bound to provide either official accommodation or house rent allowance to its employees. They said the allowance was recognised as compensatory benefit in lieu of government housing which remains scarce. (*Dawn, September 22th, 2025, Page 15*)

Strike in Sindh over cut in pension

Government employees in many cities, towns and villages of Sindh observed a strike in response to a call given by the Sindh Employees Alliance (SEA). The alliance is agitating against the recently introduced 'black law' under which pension has been reduced from 63.5pc to just 15pc. It also demands other rightful allowances and facilities continued to be extended to all government employees. It had called for a 'province-wide' strike. In Larkana, a complete shutdown of educational institutions, health facilities and government offices was observed. Government employees observed a pen-down and tools-down strike rendering their departments non-functional. (*Dawn, September 24th, 2025, Page 15*)

Hundreds turn up to join govt employees' protest against pension reforms

Hundreds of Sindh government employees gathered outside the local press club to lodge their protest against pension reforms policy and demand its reversal. The protest was organised under the aegis of the Sindh Employees Alliance (SEA), which has started and pen-down and tools-down strike under its five-day campaign against the new policy. Representatives of various unions from health, education and other departments spoke to the protesters. (*Dawn, September 26th, 2025, Page 15*)

Thousands rally in Swat to demand durable peace

A massive demonstration was staged at Kanju Chowk under the banner of the Swat Olasi Pasoon to demand durable peace in Swat, Dir, Bajaur and other districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Thousands of people attended the gathering, carrying white flags with peace slogans. (*Dawn, September 27th, 2025, Page 8*)

SHO among six injured as protest against child's murder turns violent in AJK's Kotli district

At least five police personnel, including an SHO and a woman constable, and one demonstrator were injured when a protest against the murder of a six-year-old girl turned violent in Khuiratta, in the southern Kotli district of Azad Jammu and Kashmir. The clash erupted after protesters, staging a two-day sit-in at a busy roundabout on the call of Tehreek-i-Labbaik leader and former assembly candidate Arslan Ghazi, blocked all entry and exit routes of the border town early in the morning. The demonstrators, including women—some carrying infants—held placards and banners and chanted slogans against the police and administration, accusing them of “failing to dispense justice to the victim’s family”. (*Dawn, September 28th, 2025, Page 4*)

Sindh govt employees vow to take agitation to next phase

Sindh government employees continued their province-wide strike against newly introduced pension police and in favour of their demands. The SEA is spearheading the agitation to press the government restore their pension, allowances and other fringe benefits. Employees of almost all government departments in Hyderabad, Sukkur, Shikarpur, Jacobabad, Kandhkot Kashmore, Ghotki, Khairpur and Tharparkar districts continued to take out rallies and hold demonstrations. They said that millions of Sindh government employees had been protesting for several months for their legitimate demands, including group insurance, benevolent fund and disparity reduction allowance (DRA) but the Sindh government was not only ignoring these demands but resorted to apply a 65pc cut in pension. (*Dawn, September 29th, 2025, Page 15*)

AT holds rally, sit-in against `state-backed bandit rule`, controversial dam and canal projects

The Awami Tehreek (AT) took out a rally and staged a sit-in in Kandhkot against `statebacked rule of bandits`, the proposed 27th constitutional amendment, corporate farming and the construction of new dams and canals. The rally began from Ghanta Ghar Chowk and culminated at the Kandhkot Press Club where the sit-in was staged. (*Dawn, September 29th, 2025, Page 15*)

AJK paralysed by competing protests, comms blackout

At least one person was killed and over a dozen others were injured including a policeman in the AJK capital, as the region observed a shutter-down and wheel-jam strike amid a communications blackout. The strike, called by the Jammu Kashmir Joint Awami Action Committee over the issue of its unfulfilled charter of demands, saw rival groups stage simultaneous protests, which accused each other of fomenting violence during an otherwise peaceful demonstration. (*Dawn, September 30th, 2025, Page 1*)

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1 # AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION RESOURCES

Ethiopia inaugurates Africa's biggest dam

Ethiopia inaugurated continent's largest hydroelectric project in what Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed called a "great achievement for all black people", but it drew a protest to the United Nations from downstream nation Egypt. The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD), straddling a tributary of the River Nile, is a national project of historic scale and a rare unifying symbol in a country torn apart by ongoing internal conflicts. Towering 170 metres (550 feet) and stretching nearly two kilometres across the Blue Nile near the Sudanese border, construction on the dam began in 2011. The \$4-billion megastructure is designed to hold 74 billion cubic metres of water and generate 5,150 megawatts of electricity — more than double Ethiopia's current capacity. That makes it the largest dam by power capacity in Africa, though still outside the top 10 globally.

Egypt protest

Egypt, dependent on Nile for 97pc of its water, has long decried project, with President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi calling it an "existential threat" to its water security. In a letter to United Nations Security Council, Egypt described inauguration as a "unilateral measure that violates international law" and vowed to defend "the existential interests of its people". Abiy again insisted dam is not a threat. (*Dawn, September 10th, 2025, Page 11*)

World water cycle has become erratic, says WMO

The water cycle has become increasingly erratic and extreme, swinging between deluge and drought, according to a new report from the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), which highlights the cascading impacts of too much or too little water on economies and society. The State of Global Water Resources report, released by WMO, says only about one-third of global river basins had "normal" conditions in 2024. The rest were either above or below normal — sixth consecutive year of clear imbalance.

The year 2024 was the third straight year with widespread glacier loss across all regions. Many small-glacier regions have already reached or are about to pass the so-called peak water point — when a glacier's melting reaches its maximum annual runoff, after which this decreases due to glacier shrinkage. Since the 1990s, ice loss has been increasing in almost all regions, and it has considerably accelerated since 2000. This is mostly due to regions consistently presenting larger summer melt than winter accumulation after 1990s. In 2024, glaciers lost 450 Gt of water, which is equivalent to 1.2mm of contribution to global mean sea-level rise. An estimated 3.6bn people face inadequate access to water at least a month per year and this is expected to increase to more than 5bn by 2050, according to UN Water, and the world falling far short of Sustainable Development Goal 6 on water and sanitation. According to report, in the past six years only about one-third of global river catchment area had normal discharge conditions compared to the 1991-2020 average.

This means that two-thirds have too much or too little water, reflecting the increasingly erratic hydrological cycle. In 2024, deviations of river discharge from normal conditions occurred in approximately 60pc of global catchment area. In past six years only about one-third of the global catchment area was under normal discharge conditions when compared to 1991–2020 average. In 2024, above- to much-above-normal discharge conditions prevailed across Central and Northern Europe and parts of Asia, including Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation. (*Dawn, September 19th, 2025, Page 12*)

2 # AGRICULTURAL INPUTS

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4 # SUB – AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIONS

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5 # TRADE

AI may boost global trade value by nearly 40pc: WTO

Artificial intelligence could boost the value of global trade by almost 40 percent by 2040 thanks to cost reductions and productivity gains, the WTO said. In its latest annual World Trade Report, WTO identified AI as one of the few bright spots as global trading system has been upended by United States slapping high tariffs on its trading partners. “AI holds major promise to boost trade by lowering trade costs & reshaping production of goods and services,” WTO chief Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala said while presenting the report. She said WTO simulations suggest AI could increase exports of goods and services by nearly 40pc above current trends. (*Business Recorder, September 18th, 2025, Page 5*)

Indonesia, EU sign long-awaited trade deal

Indonesia and the European Union finalised negotiations on a trade agreement after nearly a decade of talks. The Indonesia-European Union CEPA is the third deal Brussels has signed with Southeast Asian countries, after Singapore and Vietnam. The pact was signed by EU Trade Commissioner Maros Sefcovic and Indonesian Minister of Economic Affairs Airlangga Hartarto in Bali and will open investment in strategic sectors such as electric vehicles, electronics, and pharmaceuticals. “In all, EU exporters will save some 600m euros (\$708 million) a year in duties paid on their goods entering the Indonesian market, and European products will be more affordable and available to Indonesian consumers,” EU President Ursula von der Leyen said in a statement. Indonesia has been in talks with the EU since 2016, but negotiations for a trade deal initially saw little progress. (*Business Recorder, September 24th, 2025, Page 5*)

WTO says end of China’s special status aids fair trade

The World Trade Organization hailed Beijing’s decision to no longer seek new special treatment in future WTO talks, calling it a step towards a more equitable global trading

system. “This is a pivotal moment for the WTO,” organisation chief Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala said in a statement. “China’s decision reflects a commitment to a more balanced and equitable global trading system.” Her comment came after Chinese Premier Li Qiang announced that his country would not be seeking new special and differential treatment — a privilege granted to developing nations — in future WTO talks. (*Business Recorder, September 25th, 2025, Page 5*)

Hong Kong, Sri Lanka, Chile and Bangladesh seeking to join RCEP trade bloc

Hong Kong, Sri Lanka, Chile and Bangladesh are seeking to join the China-backed Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), the world’s largest trade bloc, Southeast Asian officials said. The RCEP currently consists of China, Japan, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand and all ten members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. RCEP officials, who are meeting on the sidelines of a gathering of ASEAN trade and economic ministers in Malaysia this week, said they had few objections to accepting new applicants and will work towards bringing the four economies into the bloc. (*Business Recorder, September 26th, 2025, Page 5*)

US tariffs threaten \$3.1 billion of Singapore’s pharma exports, trade talks ongoing

Pharmaceutical companies in Singapore are seeking clarification on whether they would qualify for an exemption from steep tariffs imposed by the United States on their goods, Singapore’s Deputy Prime Minister Gan Kim Yong said. Singapore exports about S\$4 billion (\$3.10 billion) of pharmaceutical products to the U.S. and most of these exports are branded drugs, Gan, who is also trade minister, told reporters. U.S. President Donald Trump announced 100% duties on imports of branded drugs that would apply to firms unless they build a manufacturing presence in the U.S.

This is a concern for Singapore as pharmaceuticals form around 13% of all Singapore exports to the U.S., said Gan. He said that many of the pharmaceutical firms in Singapore have existing plans to expand or build their business footprint in the U.S., which may qualify them for a tariff exemption. Gan, who met U.S. Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick in August, said trade talks with the U.S. are ongoing, with officials on both sides working on details of possible deals for pharmaceutical and semiconductor sectors. (*Business Recorder, September 28th, 2025, Page 8*)

6 # CORPORATE SECTOR

Not any preferable news to be included in this month.

7 # INTERNATIONAL AID / LOAN / INVESTMENT

Aid flotilla leaves Spain to ‘break illegal Gaza siege’

A flotilla, Spanish term for a fleet of ships or boats, carrying humanitarian aid and activists, including Swedish climate campaigner Greta Thunberg, prepared to leave from Barcelona to try to “break the illegal siege of Gaza,” organisers said. The vessels will set off from the Spanish port city to “open a humanitarian corridor and end the ongoing genocide of the Palestinian people,” said the Global Sumud Flotilla — sumud

is the Arabic term for “resilience”. The group’s website states it is an independent organisation with no affiliation to any government or political party. A fleet of boats was ready to depart with hundreds on board, including activists from various countries like Irish actor Liam Cunningham and Spain’s Eduard Fernandez, as well as European lawmakers, public figures and former Barcelona mayor Ada Colau. The flotilla is expected to arrive at the war-ravaged coastal enclave in mid-September. Previously, Israel blocked aid ships to Gaza in June and July. In one instance, the sailboat Madleen with 12 activists, was intercepted 185 km from Gaza, and its passengers were detained and expelled. (*Dawn, September 1st, 2025, Page 12*)

Iraq signs USD1bn investment deals with World Bank’s IFC

Iraq signed investment deals worth USD1 billion in its energy, agriculture and finance sectors with the World Bank’s private sector arm, as the country seeks to build on its economic recovery following years of unrest. At a ceremony marking two decades of International Finance Corporation’s presence in Iraq, PM Mohammed Shia al-Sudani announced new contracts with his country’s private and public sectors. IFC announced “USD1 billion in new investments and engagements in energy, infrastructure, agribusiness, and finance”. (*Business Recorder, September 14th, 2025, Page 8*)

8 # INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS (IFIs)

World Bank opens regional hub

The World Bank announced the opening of a new regional hub in Riyadh, to serve the Middle East, North Africa, Afghanistan, and Pakistan (MENAAP) region. The Riyadh Hub brings the World Bank’s leadership closer to country teams, clients and regional partners. The MENAAP’s regional Vice President and regional practice directors have relocated to Riyadh, marking a new chapter in the World Bank’s operational footprint. The Riyadh hub will be co-located with the World Bank Group’s Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) regional office. (*Dawn, September 23th, 2025, Page 9*)

ADB okays assistance for climate adaptation in Central, West Asia

Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved technical assistance to operationalise the ‘Glaciers to Farms (G2F)’ regional programme, covering Pakistan and several Central and West Asian countries, as the region faces intensified climate disaster risks. According to an ADB report, the support will back the Climate Action Roadmap through glacier monitoring, river basin planning and regional knowledge sharing. It will also help countries establish institutional and operational mechanisms, and prepare diagnostics, studies and capacity requirements needed to implement the programme. The early ADB support ensures that the G2F programme seamlessly transitions into the implementation phase, minimising delays, strengthening readiness of proposed projects and enhancing the overall effectiveness and sustainability of the interventions in key sectors, including agriculture, health, social protection, and water, the report said. (*Dawn, September 28th, 2025, Page 12*)

9 # POLICY

Not any preferable news to be included in this month.

10 # SOCIO – ECONOMIC CONDITION

90pc of world lives on degraded land, unhealthy air, water stress: WB

Ninety per cent of the world lives with either degraded land, unhealthy air, or water stress, according to a new World Bank report, which says that restoring natural systems is possible and can yield high returns. In low-income countries alone, eight of out ten people live without all three — healthy air, water, and land — according to the report, ‘Reboot Development: The Economics of a Livable Planet’. New evidence shows that the loss of forests disrupts rainfall, dries soils, and worsens droughts, costing billions of dollars. The report also identifies a nitrogen paradox where fertilisers boost yields, but overuse in some regions harms crops and ecosystems, costing as much as \$3.4 trillion annually. And air and water pollution silently damage health, productivity, and cognition, thereby sapping human potential, the report estimates. If managed well, however, nature can create jobs, drive economic growth, and build resilience. Using natural resources more efficiently could reduce pollution by as much as 50 per cent. Improving farm-level practices of nitrogen fertiliser use can deliver 25 times greater benefits than their cost, while boosting crop yields.

Improving water and sanitation services could be lifesaving: chlorinating water at point of use could save a quarter of the children that prematurely die from water-related issues. “Pollution markets” not only reduce air pollution, they are also cost effective: each dollar spent yields about \$26 to \$215 in benefits. Around 80 pc of the people in low-income countries live with all three environmental stressors — degraded land, polluted air, and water stress. By contrast, in high-income countries 43 per cent of people are not exposed to any of the three stressors. The report says the scale of impacts is so vast that humans have transitioned from being passive beneficiaries of the planet to becoming the dominant force in its transformation. Today humans and their livestock account for an astonishing 95 per cent of total mammalian biomass (by weight) on Earth, leaving wild mammals a vanishing 5 per cent. The Earth has transgressed six of the nine environmental thresholds — termed “Planetary Boundaries” — needed for human progress, the report says. (*Dawn, September 3rd, 2025, Page 12*)

11 # ENVIRONMENT

World Bank urges fresh push on economic threat of pollution

Degraded land, polluted air and water stress pose a direct global economic threat but using natural resources more efficiently could cut pollution by half, one of the World Bank’s senior managing directors told. The damage is particularly acute for low-income countries most at threat from poverty, climate change and biodiversity loss, Axel van Trotsenburg said. Speaking alongside the publication of a new report, he said around 80% of people in low-income nations were exposed to all three and the World Bank was committed to responding even as many countries cut aid budgets. Among the most

impacted countries are Burundi, where 8 million people face water risk and air pollution, and 7 million face land degradation. In Malawi, 12 million people face all three risks, the report said. More broadly, 90% of the world's population face at least one of the challenges, with the report urging countries to repurpose subsidies currently spent on harmful activities. The report is published against a fractious political backdrop ahead of November's COP30 climate talks in Brazil. The World Bank and other multilateral lenders are also awaiting the outcome of a US review of their operations ordered by President Donald Trump in February.

The World Bank would provide data-backed evidence to inform discussions on environmental degradation among its member governments, van Trotsenburg said. The report estimated that forests help around half of the world's rain clouds form and said deforestation cut rainfall at a cost of \$14 billion a year for the nine-country Amazon region alone, a material hit for the affected nations. It also means landscapes are less able to store and release moisture slowly over time. That amplifies the effects of droughts and results in a \$379 billion hit, or 8% of global agricultural economic output. While ecological threats were often seen as being distant, the report zeroed in on economic impacts happening now. (*Business Recorder*, September 2nd, 2025, Page 5)

Agricultural burning fuels Indo-Gangetic Plain pollution: World Meteorological Organisation

The WMO, marking the “Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies”, highlighted the complex relationship between air quality and climate while underscoring how tiny aerosol particles contribute to the intensification of wildfires, winter fog, and urban pollution. In its ‘Air Quality and Climate Bulletin’, WMO identified the burning of post-monsoon agricultural residue, particularly in Indian Punjab and the upper Indo-Gangetic Plain, which encompasses northern and eastern India, eastern Pakistan, southern Nepal, and almost all of Bangladesh, as a dominant seasonal contributor to emissions. Satellite data confirms sharp increases in aerosol optical depth during these months, correlating with spikes in fog intensity across region, which is home to over 900m people. The persistence of fog in the Indo-Gangetic Plain “is no longer a simple, seasonal weather event — it is a symptom of escalating human impact on the environment,” WMO bulletin stated. The organisation noted that other pollution sources in densely populated region include vehicle and construction emissions, as well as ammonium from large cattle populations and poor sanitation. This ammonium interacts with other chemicals to form stable fog condensation nuclei, resulting in persistent fog. Many brick kilns using inferior coal and obsolete technology further increase organic aerosol emissions. (*Dawn*, September 8th, 2025, Page 5)

11.1 # Health

Malnutrition causes unrecognised type of diabetes: experts

Malnutrition can cause its own form of diabetes, health experts said, calling for “type 5 diabetes” to be recognised globally to help fight the disease in countries already struggling with poverty and starvation. The most common form of diabetes, type 2, can

be caused by obesity and occurs when adults become resistant to the hormone insulin. Type 1, mostly diagnosed in childhood, arises when the pancreas does not produce enough insulin. But diabetes researchers have been tracking another form of the disease, which often appears in people aged under 30. And rather than being linked to being overweight or obese like type 2, it affects people who are underweight because they do not eat enough. (*Dawn, September 19th, 2025, Page 10*)

Bangladesh sees worst single-day surge in dengue deaths

Dengue infections are climbing rapidly across Bangladesh, with health officials reporting the biggest single-day rise in both deaths and hospital admissions this year. Twelve people have died in the past 24 hours while 740 new patients have been hospitalised with the mosquito-borne disease, the directorate general of health services said. Dengue has killed at least 179 people and infected nearly 42,000 nationwide so far this year. Children are increasingly crowding into hospital wards, many arriving with high fever, rashes, and dehydration. Some develop severe complications. The worst year on record for Bangladesh was 2023, when dengue killed 1,705 people and infected more than 321,000. Experts fear that without stronger preventive measures such deadly cycles will continue. (*Dawn, September 22th, 2025, Page 12*)

12 # CLIMATE CHANGE

UK, Japan, South Korea endure hottest summer on record

The UK, Japan and South Korea sweltered this year through the hottest summers since each country began keeping records, their weather agencies said. Temperatures the world over have soared in recent years as human-induced climate change creates ever more erratic weather patterns. The UK's provisional mean June-August temperature was 16.1C, which was 1.51C above the long-term average and surpassed all years since 1884, including the previous record, set in 2018, the Met Office said.

The British summer saw four heatwaves, below-average rainfall and sustained sunshine, and followed the nation's warmest spring in more than a century. Japan's average temperature spike was even starker over the same three summer months, at 2.36C above "the standard value", making it the hottest since records began in 1898, JMA said. It was third consecutive summer of record high temperatures, agency noted. This year's scorching heat left some 84,521 people hospitalised nationwide from May 1 to Aug 24, according to Japan's Fire and Disaster Management Agency. In South Korea, average June-August temperature was 25.7C, "the highest since data collection began in 1973", the Korea Meteorological Administration said in a press release. The previous record over same period was 25.6C, set just last year. (*Dawn, September 2nd, 2025, Page 11*)

La Nina may return to impact climate patterns from Sept onward: World Meteorological Organisation

La Nina may return to impact weather and climate patterns from September onward, according to the latest World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) update. But despite

the temporary cooling influence of La Nina, temperatures are still expected to be above average for much of the world, the WMO cautioned. The WMO data indicates a 55 per cent likelihood that sea surface temperatures in the equatorial Pacific will cool to La Nina levels from September to November. About 90 per cent of the excess heat from global warming is stored in the ocean, making ocean heat content a critical indicator of climate change. According to the UN agency, there is a slim chance (45 per cent) that Pacific temperatures will stay as they have for the past six months, when neither the cooling La Niña nor its opposite number, the warming El Niño, caused unusual spikes or dips in sea surface temperatures. (*Dawn, September 3rd, 2025, Page 3*)

Once king of the seas, a giant iceberg is finally breaking up

Nearly 40 years after breaking off Antarctica, a colossal iceberg ranked among the oldest and largest ever recorded is finally crumbling apart in warmer waters, and could disappear within weeks. Earlier this year, the “megaberg” known as A23a weighed a little under a trillion tonnes and was more than twice the size of Greater London, a behemoth unrivalled at the time. The gigantic slab of frozen freshwater was so large it even briefly threatened penguin feeding grounds on a remote island in the South Atlantic Ocean, but ended up moving on. It is now less than half its original size, but still a hefty 1,770 square kilometres (683 square miles) and 60 kilometres (37 miles) at its widest point, according to analysis of satellite images by the EU earth observation monitor Copernicus. (*Dawn, September 3rd, 2025, Page 11*)

Global warming linked to consumption of sugary drinks, ice cream

People consuming more sugary drinks and ice cream on warmer days, particularly those with less money could pose a growing threat to health as climate change drives up temperatures, new research warned. Sugar is a major contributor to serious health problems such as obesity, diabetes and heart disease, yet consumption of sweet additive has surged across world in recent decades. Hotter days could be one factor nudging people to grab cooling sugary drinks like soda and juice — or a few scoops of ice cream, according to a study in journal Nature Climate Change. (*Dawn, September 9th, 2025, Page 10*)

Rising oceans a threat to 1.5m Australians: study

Rising oceans and flooding caused by climate change will threaten the homes and livelihoods of more than a million Australians by 2050, while deaths from heat-related illness will soar, a landmark report warned ahead of Canberra’s release of emission reduction targets this week. The long-awaited national climate risk assessment found that rising temperatures will have “cascading, compounding, concurrent” impacts on life in Australia, home to more than 27 million people. “We are living climate change now. It’s no longer a forecast, a projection or prediction — it is a live reality, and it’s too late to avoid any impacts,” Climate Minister Chris Bowen said.

The report, prepared independently for the government, found that 1.5 million people living in coastal areas will be at risk of sea level rise and coastal flooding by 2050. By 2090, about three million people will be at risk from rising oceans. Sea level rises pose

a significant threat to homes, livelihoods, and cultural connections — particularly in locations such as the Torres Strait Islands, the report said. Scattered through the warm waters off Australia’s northernmost tip, the sparsely populated islands are threatened by seas rising much faster than the global average. (*Dawn, September 16th, 2025, Page 10*)

Climate change may devastate millions of lives, economy by 2050: WEF

The World Economic Forum (WEF) warned in a fresh insight report that climate change, if left unaddressed, could result in 14.5 million excess deaths and trillion of dollars in economic losses by 2050, concentrated in the world’s most disadvantaged regions and populations. The report, “Building Economic Resilience to the Health Impacts of Climate Change,” says deaths from extreme weather events in those regions have been about 15 times higher over the past decade. It also warns that climate-health impacts threaten business resilience and that today, less than 5 per cent of global adaptation funding targets health protection. “This is a dangerous gap that also presents an opportunity for private-sector action,” the report said.

The WEF defines a Climate and Health Business Framework and applies it to four highly exposed sectors to identify specific climate-health risks and opportunities. In food and agriculture, the report says an estimated 24m additional people will face hunger by 2050 and that agricultural workers are expected to face growing climate-health risks. It estimates a likely, mid-range scenario of \$740 billion in worker-availability losses between 2025 and 2050. “Businesses that invest in resilient and precision agriculture practices and modified working practices will be best positioned to meet growing global needs for consistently available, healthy foods,” the report said. In the built environment, the forum notes that more than half of the world’s population lives in urban areas and that most buildings and infrastructure are poorly adapted for climate extremes such as heat and air pollution. (*Dawn, September 21th, 2025, Page 12*)

12.1 # Climate Financing

Global lenders’ climate finance hits record \$137bn in 2024

Global climate finance provided by multilateral development banks (MDBs) rose by 10 per cent in 2024, reaching a record \$137 billion, with the bulk directed to low and middle-income economies. Private finance mobilised by MDBs for climate action also climbed sharply, reaching \$134bn in 2024 — a 33pc increase from the previous year. The report, released by the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), said climate finance remains central to MDBs’ efforts to advance sustainable development worldwide. By supporting investments in renewable energy, green cities, clean transport, water and food security, MDBs are helping countries move closer to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Of the total climate finance last year, \$85.1bn went to low and middle-income economies. Climate finance to these countries has more than doubled over the past five years and rose 14pc year-on-year. Of this, \$58.8bn, or 69pc, was allocated for climate change mitigation, while \$26.3bn, or 31pc, was directed to adaptation. Mobilised private finance for climate investments in these

economies amounted to \$33bn. In high-income countries, MDBs' climate finance reached \$51.5bn in 2024, of which \$46.5bn (90pc) supported mitigation and \$5bn (10pc) backed adaptation. Mobilised private finance for climate-related investments in these countries stood at \$101bn. The 2024 climate finance data was compiled by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and includes contributions from the African Development Bank, Asian Development Bank, Council of Europe Development Bank, European Investment Bank, Inter-American Development Bank Group, Islamic Development Bank, New Development Bank and World Bank Group. (*Dawn, September 14th, 2025, Page 5*)

12.2 # Climate Policy

UN pushes nations to submit overdue climate plans

The United Nations urged nations late in turning in their climate plans to do so quickly, with major polluters among dozens of countries still to unveil new commitments. The nearly 200 countries under Paris Agreement were supposed to put forward updated policies in February, providing a tougher 2035 emissions reduction target and a detailed blueprint for achieving it. But only a handful made deadline, and six months later, China, India and European Union are among biggest names still to submit their revised plans. In a letter, UN climate chief Simon Stiell called on laggards to get their plans in "as soon as possible".

"These national climate plans are much more than words on paper; they are among this century's most powerful engines of economic growth and rising living standards, and the cornerstone of humanity's fight against the global climate crisis," he wrote. UN Framework Convention on Climate Change is supposed to conduct its much-anticipated review of new commitments in a report to be ready by COP30, annual UN climate summit in Brazil in November. Plans submitted by end of September would make cut for this "important update" on global climate action, executive secretary of UNFCCC. He encouraged world leaders to use opportunity of a special climate event being hosted on September 24 during UN General Assembly in New York to announce their new policies.

Around 190 countries have indicated they intend to submit their revisions this year, a spokesperson for the UNFCCC told AFP. Roughly 30 — including major economies Brazil, the United Kingdom, Japan and Canada — have already done so, according to a UN database tracking the submissions. The United States has also put forward a plan, but it is considered largely symbolic, made before President Donald Trump withdrew Washington from the 2015 Paris deal. The sluggish global response has hinted at a waning appetite for climate action, with nations distracted by mounting security crises and international trade tension. Taken together, national climate plans represent the collective effort to meet the Paris Agreement goal of holding global temperature rises well below two degrees Celsius relative to pre-industrial levels. The world is currently tracking closer to 3C of warming. Global emissions have been rising but need to almost halve by the end of the decade to limit global warming to safer levels agreed under the Paris deal. (*Business Recorder, September 4th, 2025, Page 11*)

13 # CLIMATE DISASTERS

13.1 # Flood

Villagers marooned after deadly floods in Indian Punjab

A thousand villages in India's Punjab state are marooned by deadly floods, with thousands forced to seek shelter in relief camps, government authorities say. Flooding across the northwestern state killed at least 29 people and affected over 250,000 last month, with the state's chief minister calling it "one of the worst flood disasters in decades". The region is often dubbed India's breadbasket, but more than 940 square kilometres (360 square miles) of farmland are flooded, leading to "devastating crop losses", Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann wrote in a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. (*Dawn*, September 3rd, 2025, Page 12)

Death toll from Thailand monsoon flood rises

The death toll from floods triggered by heavy monsoon rains in Thailand rose to seven, authorities said, as relief efforts continued. More than 260,000 people across several provinces along the Chao Phraya river were impacted by flooding this week, the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation said in a statement. The nation's disaster agency initially reported four deaths across central Thailand but has now revised the figure up to seven. Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul visited Ayutthaya province, the hardest hit, in one of his first trips since taking office. (*Business Recorder*, September 28th, 2025, Page 8)

13.2 # Heatwave

Over 60,000 Europeans died from heat last year

More than 60,000 people died from heat in Europe during last year's record-breaking summer, a benchmark study said, in latest warning of massive toll climate change is having on continent. With Europe heating up twice as fast as global average, the Spain-based researchers suggested an emergency alert system could help warn vulnerable people — particularly elderly — ahead of dangerous heatwaves. "Europe experienced an exceptionally deadly summer in 2024 with more than 60,000 heat-related deaths, bringing total burden over the past three summers to more than 181,000," said the study in journal *Nature Medicine*. The researchers at the Barcelona Institute for Global Health reached this figure by analysing mortality data in regions across 32 European countries that covered a population of 539m. The death toll during last year's summer — which was hottest in recorded history for both Europe and the world — was estimated to be 62,775. This was nearly 25pc higher than 50,798 estimated for 2023's summer, according to the study's newly revised figures. It remained below 2022's toll of 67,873. However there are several sources of uncertainty for this kind of research, which means these are not "ultimate and precise" numbers, lead study author Tomas Janos of ISGlobal said. Taking this uncertainty into account, 2024 study gave a wider estimate range of between 35,00 to 85,000 deaths. It is difficult to establish how many people are killed by rising temperatures, because heat is very rarely recorded as a cause of death. (*Dawn*, September 23th, 2025, Page 10)

13.3 # Typhoon

China prepares to evacuate 400,000 as super typhoon hits Philippines

The southern Chinese city of Shenzhen was preparing to evacuate 400,000 people while residents of the northern Philippines sought shelter from gale-force winds as Super Typhoon Ragasa headed on a collision course with southern China. The typhoon made landfall on Calayan Island, part of the sparsely populated Babuyan chain and the storm was generating maximum sustained winds of 215 kilometres per hour near its centre with gusts of up to 265 kph. (*Dawn, September 23th, 2025, Page 12*)

Typhoon Ragasa slams into south China after killing 14 in Taiwan

Fierce winds, pounding rain and rough seas battered southern China as powerful Typhoon Ragasa made landfall in Guangdong province after killing at least 14 in Taiwan. Ragasa churned into Guangdong, home to tens of millions of people, and journalists at the impact point in the city of Yangjiang saw flying debris and gusts ripping advertisements off of buildings. The typhoon had hours earlier swept past Hong Kong, with the densely-populated city's weather service ranking the storm the strongest yet in the northwestern Pacific this year.

Ragasa's passage in Taiwan killed at least 14 and injured 46 when a decades-old barrier lake burst in eastern Hualien county under the storm's heavy rains, according to regional officials who revised the death toll down from 17 after duplicate cases were rechecked. Authorities earlier said 152 people were unaccounted for, but later revised that figure down, saying they had made contact with more than 100 of those reported missing and were still trying to confirm how many were missing. Around 1,200 people were preparing to spend a second night in shelters after the flood. (*Dawn, September 25th, 2025, Page 10*)

13.4 # Wildfires

Wildfires producing 'witches' brew' of air pollution, UN warns

Wildfires are releasing a "witches' brew" of pollutants that can end up wrecking air quality a continent away from the blaze, the UN's weather and climate agency said. The World Meteorological Organisation said the quality of the air people breathe was interlinked with climate change, and the two issues needed to be tackled together. Wildfires in the Amazon, Canada and Siberia have brought home how air quality can be impacted on a vast scale, the WMO said in its fifth annual Air Quality and Climate Bulletin. The bulletin looked at the interplay between air quality and the climate, highlighting the role of tiny particles called aerosols in wildfires, winter fog, shipping emissions and urban pollution. Particles with a diameter of less than 2.5 micrometres (PM 2.5) are considered particularly harmful since they can penetrate deep into the lungs or cardiovascular system. Wildfires led to above-average PM 2.5 levels in Canada, Siberia and central Africa last year, the WMO said. The biggest PM 2.5 surge, however, was in the Amazon basin. (*Dawn, September 6th, 2025, Page 11*)

14 # NATURAL DISASTERS

14.1 # Earthquake

Strong earthquake jolts Afghanistan

A 6.0-magnitude earthquake struck Afghanistan's mountainous Hindu Kush region near the border with Pakistan, US seismologists said. The epicentre of quake, which struck at a relatively shallow depth of 10 kilometres, was located 42 kilometres east-northeast of Jalalabad, US Geological Survey said. The quake struck at 11:47 pm (1917 GMT). There were no immediate reports of casualties or damage. Afghanistan is frequently hit by earthquakes, especially in Hindu Kush mountain range, near the junction of the Eurasian and Indian tectonic plates. (*Business Recorder, September 1st, 2025, Page 12*)

5.4-magnitude quake follows tremors in Afghanistan

The PMD said that tremors were felt in Peshawar, Mansehra and Islamabad after another earthquake struck eastern Afghanistan. A PMD press release said the 5.4-magnitude earthquake occurred in southeastern Afghanistan at a depth of 22 kilometres with tremors felt all the way in Peshawar, Mansehra, Islamabad, Abbottabad and Swat. Meanwhile, the US Geological Survey reported it as a 5.2-magnitude earthquake 34 kilometres northeast of Jalalabad city in Nangarhar province. The epicentre of tremor was close to where a magnitude 6.0 earthquake hit devastating remote areas in mountainous provinces near the border with Pakistan. The PMD earlier reported three more minor quakes in the day: a magnitude 4 in southeastern Afghanistan at 2:50pm at a depth of 97km, a magnitude 5.4 in China's Xinjiang at 12:59pm at a depth of 10km and a magnitude 4.4 in southeastern Afghanistan at 12:25pm at a depth of 20km. Later in day, the PMD reported another earthquake of magnitude 3 with the epicentre 24km northeast of Pattan at a depth of 46km at 7:10pm. (*Dawn, September 3rd, 2025, Page 5*)

'Deadliest in decades' Afghan quake toll tops 2,200

A magnitude 6.2 earthquake struck southeastern Afghanistan, the German Research Centre for Geosciences said, the third tremor in the same region, when one of the country's deadliest quakes in decades killed more than 2,200 people. The tremor, at a depth of 10km (six miles), followed the earlier quakes that flattened villages in Kunar and Nangarhar provinces, left tens of thousands homeless and injured more than 3,600 people. Survivors have been left without shelter as aid groups warn of dwindling resources, with the United Nations and other agencies citing a critical need for food, medical supplies and shelter. Rescue workers pulled bodies from the rubble of homes razed in Afghanistan's earthquakes as the confirmed death toll topped 2,200, while homeless survivors faced a bleak future with global aid agencies warning of dwindling resources. (*Dawn, September 5th, 2025, Page 1*)

14.2 # Landslide

Landslide flattens Sudan village, killing over 1,000

Rescue teams were struggling to reach a remote mountain village in Sudan's Darfur region after a devastating landslide buried almost the entire community, killing more

than 1,000 people. Heavy rain triggered the disaster, flattening the village of Tarasin in the Jebel Marra range, the rebel Sudan Liberation Movement/Army (SLM) faction, which controls the area said in a statement, adding that there was only one survivor. (*Dawn, September 3rd, 2025, Page 11*)

15 # RESISTANCE

Indonesia cuts lawmaker perks after protests

Indonesia cut financial perks for lawmakers, after at least five people were killed in protests against economic hardship that have escalated into anger against police. Southeast Asia's biggest economy was rocked by protests in major cities in recent days after footage spread of a motorcycle taxi driver being run over by a police vehicle at a rally against lucrative perks for lawmakers. (*Dawn, September 1st, 2025, Page 11*)

International media protest over journalists' deaths in Gaza

More than 250 media outlets in over 70 countries staged a front page protest highlighting the deaths of scores of journalists in Israel's war against Hamas in Gaza, the Reporters Without Borders media freedom group said. "At the rate journalists are being killed in Gaza by the Israeli army, there will soon be no-one left to keep you informed," the group's general director Thibaut Bruttin said in a statement. The protest was taken up on the website front pages of publications including Qatari broadcaster Al Jazeera, British news site The Independent, French newspapers La Croix and L'Humanite and Germany's TAZ and Frankfurter Rundschau, according to Reporters Without Borders. (*Business Recorder, September 2nd, 2025, Page 5*)

Cosmetics chain shut for a day in protest

British cosmetics chain Lush shut down its UK shops, factories and online sales for the day to protest the devastating humanitarian effects of Israel's war in Gaza. The international retailer said it displayed signs reading "stop starving Gaza — we are closed in solidarity" across shuttered shop windows. "Whilst Lush is losing a day of takings, this also means that the UK government is losing a day of tax contributions from Lush and our customers," the company, which sells its products in over 50 countries, said on its website. Lush said it "shares the anguish that millions of people feel seeing the images of starving people in Gaza" and called for the UK government to end arms sales to Israel. London has in recent months suspended some export licences to Israel for arms used in Gaza. Lush, which has over 100 shops in Britain, faced a backlash in 2023 after a Dublin store displayed a sign urging "boycott Israel", which the company called an "isolated" incident. (*Dawn, September 4th, 2025, Page 10*)

19 protesting social media ban, corruption killed in Nepal

Unrest killed at least 19 people in Nepal, authorities said, as police in the capital fired tear gas and rubber bullets at protesters trying to storm parliament in anger at a social media shutdown and corruption, prompting the United Nations to demand a swift and transparent investigation into the incident. "We are shocked by the killings and injury

of protesters in Nepal today and urge a prompt and transparent investigation,” UN rights office spokeswoman Ravina Shamdasani said in a statement. Some of the mainly youth protesters forced their way into the parliament complex in Kathmandu by breaking through a barricade, a local official said, setting fire to an ambulance and hurling objects at lines of riot police guarding the legislature. (*Dawn, September 9th, 2025, Page 12*)

Calls for restraint as Nepali PM ‘disappears’ after stepping down

The whereabouts of Nepali Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli were unknown after he was forced to step down in the face of furious protests by young people, as mobs set fire to the parliament and Supreme Court buildings. The outrage was sparked by a social media ban, which Oli’s government lifted after police fired tear gas and rubber bullets at protesters trying to storm parliament, and 100 people were injured alongside 19 dead. Organisers of protests, which spread to other cities, have called them “demonstrations by Gen Z”, driven by young people’s frustration with a perceived lack of action to tackle corruption and boost economic opportunities. But there was no let-up in the protests, which plunged Nepal into fresh political uncertainty. “In view of the adverse situation in the country, I have resigned effective today to facilitate the solution to the problem and to help resolve it politically in accordance with constitution,” Oli said in his resignation letter to President Ramchandra Paudel. (*Dawn, September 10th, 2025, Page 12*)

Scores tear-gassed, held amid violent protests across France

Nearly 300 protesters were arrested as they disrupted traffic, torched a bus besides rubbish bins on roads and at times clashed with police across France in a bid to “Block Everything” in a show of anger against President Emmanuel Macron, the political establishment and planned budget cuts. The demonstrators vented their anger against Macron, who is already facing political turmoil after parliamentary opposition united to defeat his government. Tens of thousands of security forces who had been deployed across the country removed blockades as fast as possible, officials said, meaning that France was, for now, not blocked despite some scuffles. The president appointed a close ally as his new prime minister, conservative Sebastien Lecornu, who took office facing the same challenge to rein in France’s ballooning debt as his predecessor. (*Dawn, September 11th, 2025, Page 13*)

‘Gen Z’ revolution targeting elites demands change in Nepal

Protests fuelled by a youth-led ‘Gen Z’ movement against corruption and inequality engulfed Nepal this week, forcing prime minister to resign after demonstrators stormed parliament in the Himalayan nation’s worst upheaval in years. Amid the chaos, arsonists attacked luxury hotels and the residences of political leaders, reflecting a deep-seated public anger at the lavish lifestyle of the elites in one of the world’s poorest countries. Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli, 73, an unpopular four-time leader resigned a day after 19 protesters were killed in clashes with security forces. The death toll has since risen to 34, with more than 1,300 people injured, according to Nepal’s health ministry.

The demonstrations, popularly called the “Gen Z” protests as most participants were in their teens or early 20s, have brought the nation of 30 million to a standstill. The army has imposed a curfew, with soldiers patrolling the largely quiet streets of Kathmandu for a second day. As protesters set fire to government buildings including the parliament, the prime minister’s office and the Supreme Court, arsonists also targeted five-star hotels like the Hilton, the Hyatt Regency and the Varnabas Museum Hotel. The homes of politicians, including Oli, were also attacked. His whereabouts remain unknown. (*Dawn, September 12th, 2025, Page 12*)

Anti-immigrants march in UK; anti-racists hold counter protest

More than 100,000 people massed in central London for a march and rally organised by far-right activist Tommy Robinson, as anti-racism campaigners held a smaller counter-protest. Huge crowds, many draped in English and British flags, gathered through the morning just south of Westminster for what Robinson, a veteran of UK far-right organising, has branded the country’s “biggest free speech festival”. His latest “Unite the Kingdom” event saw attendees march over Westminster Bridge before rallying near Downing Street for speeches by far-right figures from across Europe and North America. “The silent majority will be silent no longer,” Robinson told the crowd. (*Dawn, September 14th, 2025, Page 10*)

News Makers: Melbourne (Australia)

People hold up placards during an anti-racism protest march to counter anti-immigration and anti-government protesters from a Save Australia rally. (*Dawn, September 14th, 2025, Page 1*)

Tens of thousands join pro-Palestinian march in New Zealand

Thousands took part in a pro-Palestinian march in Auckland, New Zealand’s biggest city, in what organisers said was the largest rally of its kind since the conflict in Gaza began between Israel and Hamas. Some 50,000 attended the March for Humanity rally in central Auckland, the Aotearoa for Palestine group said. New Zealand police estimated the attendance at 20,000. Aotearoa for Palestine spokesperson Arama Rata said it was New Zealand’s largest march in support of Palestinians since conflict broke out in Gaza in October 2023, when Israel launched an offensive in retaliation of a Hamas-led cross-border raid.

Palestinian authorities have said that more than 64,000 people have been killed in the conflict in Gaza, while humanitarian organisations say a shortage of food is leading to widespread starvation. Many in protest crowd carried Palestinian flags and banners with slogans including “Don’t normalise genocide” and “Grow a spine stand with Palestine”, public broadcaster Radio New Zealand reported. Organisers, motivated by a march that shut down Sydney’s iconic Harbour Bridge in August, wanted to close a major city bridge with rally, Rata said, but were forced to abandon those plans due to strong winds. (*Dawn, September 14th, 2025, Page 11*)

Tens of thousands join Ankara protest ahead of court showdown

At least 50,000 people joined a protest by Türkiye's main opposition CHP in Ankara ahead of a key court hearing that could oust the party's leadership, the organisers and correspondents said. The protesters packed into the Turkish capital's vast Tandoğan Square in a massive show of defiance on the eve of the hearing at an Ankara court, with CHP's vice president Murat Bakan giving a figure of 50,000. Correspondents at the scene said many tens of thousands were packed into the square, waving Turkish flags and wearing t-shirts of the Turkish republic's founding father, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. (*Dawn, September 15th, 2025, Page 11*)

Gaza demo halts cycling finale in Madrid

Waves of pro-Palestinian protesters washed over Madrid for the Vuelta's final stage, bringing to a crescendo three weeks of upheaval over the Israeli-Premier Tech team's participation in clouds of smoke and tear gas. Demonstrators waving Palestinian flags and chanting pro-Gaza slogans tore down barriers on the Spanish capital's famed Gran Vía commercial thoroughfare and invaded the course where the riders were due to pass. (*Business Recorder, September 15th, 2025, Page 12*)

Anti-Trump protesters march through London as president basks in royal welcome

Thousands of people marched through London to protest against US President Donald Trump's state visit to Britain while a much smaller crowd gathered outside the royal Windsor Castle west of the capital to give him a warm welcome. Trump was paying Britain an unprecedented second state visit, and was treated to displays of royal pageantry, including a carriage procession in Windsor and a grand military parade. While all that was happening, a 'Trump Not Welcome' protest took place 25 miles (40 km) away in central London organised by the Stop Trump Coalition and supported by other organisations including Amnesty International, women's associations such as Abortion Rights, and pro-Palestinian activists. (*Business Recorder, September 18th, 2025, Page 5*)

Big rallies, disruptions in France on day of anger against Macron

Hundreds of thousands protested across France in a show of anger over President Emmanuel Macron's austerity policies, disrupting much of the country's public life. Heeding a call from trade unions, protesters staged a day of nationwide actions, with public transport stalled, schools closed and people taking to the streets for demonstrations marked by sporadic clashes with the police. One trade union, the leftist CGT, said that more than a million people across the country had taken part in the demonstrations. French authorities, whose count is usually substantially lower than that of unions, said more than 500,000 people had demonstrated in the country, including 55,000 in Paris. (*Dawn, September 19th, 2025, Page 10*)

Thousands take to streets in Dutch protest against migrants

Dutch police used tear gas and a water cannon to disperse violent anti-migration protesters in The Hague a spokesperson for local government said. Thousands of people had joined a protest organised by a rightwing activist to demand stricter migration policies and a clampdown on asylum seekers, just over a month before a national election. Large groups of protesters, many waving Dutch flags and flags associated with far-right groups, clashed violently with the police, throwing rocks and bottles, footage from broadcaster NOS showed. (*Dawn, September 21th, 2025, Page 10*)

Thousands take to streets as Manila protests flood control fraud

Thousands of Filipinos marched in Manila to vent their anger over a ballooning scandal involving bogus flood-control projects believed to have cost taxpayers billions of dollars. But a day of largely peaceful mass protests erupted into violence as riot police deployed water cannon in clashes with scores of mostly young masked people who hurled rocks and shattered the glass of one police outpost. Police arrested 72 people — including 20 minors — in two separate incidents that saw at least 39 officers injured and a trailer that was being used as a barricade set ablaze, according to a spokeswoman. The Department of Finance has estimated the Philippine economy lost up to 118.5 billion pesos (\$2 billion) from 2023 to 2025 due to corruption in flood control projects. Greenpeace has suggested the number is actually closer to \$18 billion. (*Dawn, September 22th, 2025, Page 12*)

Five killed in Ladakh protest for autonomy in held Kashmir

At least four people were killed and dozens injured in India-held Ladakh as protesters demanding statehood for the federal territory and job quotas for residents clashed with police, two sources said. The Buddhist-Muslim enclave was deprived of its autonomy in 2019 when Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government carved it out of the disputed Jammu and Kashmir state, placing the region under New Delhi's direct control. Protesters, led by activist Sonam Wangchuk, also want Ladakh to be given special status that would allow the creation of elected local bodies to protect its tribal areas. (*Dawn, September 25th, 2025, Page 10*)

News makers: Jakarta (Indonesia)

Members of the Agrarian Reform Movement Alliance (AGRA) hold a banner that reads "Freeport out of Papua", a message against Freeport Indonesia, a mining company partly owned by the Indonesian government. (*Dawn, September 25th, 2025, Page 10*)

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.

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