

HAAL AHWAL

Monthly News Reviews on Food and Agriculture

November, 2025

Roots for Equity

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November, 2025

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Roots for Equity

Index

Topics	Page No.
Preface	I
Glossary	III
News Excerpts	VI
National News	XIV
International News	XX

1 Hectare = 2.471 Acres

1 Acre = 4,840 Square Yards

1 Ton = 25 Mann = 1000 Kg

1 Mann = 40 Kg

Preface

[Back](#)

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

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

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

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

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

[Back](#)

ADB: Asian Development Bank

AHCL: Arif Habib Corporation Ltd

AIIB: Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank

AMS: Additional Medical Superintendent

AQI: Air Quality Index

BoR: Board of Revenue

CCI: Council of Common Interests

CCP: Competition Commission of Pakistan

CDWP: Central Development Working Party

CPI: Consumer Price Index

DMC: Disaster Management Centre

DVIP: District Vulnerability Index for Pakistan

ECC: Economic Coordination Committee

ECNEC: Executive Committee of the National Economic Council

EDS: Export Development Surcharge

EFF: Extended Fund Facility

EU: European Union

FAO: Food and Agriculture Organisation

FCDO: Foreign and Commonwealth Development Office

FDI: Foreign Direct Investment

FRDLA: Fiscal Responsibility and Debt Limitation Act

FTAs: Free Trade Agreements

GFN: Gross Financing Needs

GIS: Geographic Information System

GMO: Genetically Modified Organism

HAI: Hydro-Agro Informatics

HCMR: Hellenic Centre for Marine Research

HKH: Himalayan Karakoram Hindukush

HPV: Human Papillomavirus

ICISD: Investment and Skills Development

IFIs: International Financial Institutions

IMF: International Monetary Fund

IPC: Inter-Provincial Coordination

IPCC: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

IWRM: Water Resources Management

JUI-F: Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam-Fazal

KBT: Karachi Bachao Tehreek

KKH: Karakoram Highway

KOICA: South Korean International Cooperation Agency

KPC: Karachi Press Club

KWSC: Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation

LCCI: Commerce and Industry

LG: Local Government Department

LHC: Lahore High Court

MAF: Million Acre Feet

MDBs: Multilateral Development Banks

MoCC&EC: Ministry of Climate Change & Environmental Coordination

MoF: Ministry of Finance

MoM: Month-on-Month

MRLs: Maximum Residue Limits

NDMA: National Disaster Management Authority

NFPP-IV: National Flood Protection Programme–IV

NSMC: National Seismic Monitoring Centre

PAC: Public Accounts Committee

PASSCO: Pakistan Agricultural Storage and Services Corporation Limited

PBS: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics

PFMA: Pakistan Flour Mills Association

PHA: Parks and Horticulture Authority

PIA: Pakistan International Airlines

PIACL: Pakistan International Airlines Corporation Ltd

PMD: Pakistan Meteorological Department

PMO: Prime Minister’s Office

PNSC: Pakistan National Shipping Corporation

PNSC: Pakistan National Shipping Corporation

PPG: Public and Publically Guaranteed

PPMA: Pakistan Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association

PPP: Pakistan Peoples Party

PR: Pakistan Railways

PSDP: Public Sector Development Programme

PSMA: Pakistan Sugar Mills Association

RSF: Resilience and Sustainability Facility

RSF: Resilience and Sustainability Fund

SAB: Sindh Abadgar Board

SAC: Sindh Action Committee

SAEP: Society of Aircraft Engineers of Pakistan

SAI: Sindh Abadgar Ittehad

SAP: Seed Association of Pakistan

SBA: Stand-By Agreement

SBP: State Bank of Pakistan

SDPI: Sustainable Development
Policy Institute

SHC: Sindh High Court

SHCBA: Sindh High Court Bar
Association

SIFC: Special Investment Facilitation
Council

SLA: Staff-Level Agreement

SLIC: State Life Insurance
Corporation

SMO: Scarp Monitoring Organisation

SNAP: Supplemental Nutrition
Assistance Program

SoEs: State-Owned Enterprises

SOPs: Standard Operating Procedures

SOQ: Statement of Qualifications

SPWA: Sindh Poultry Wholesalers
Association

SUP: Sindh United Party

SUPARCO: Space & Upper
Atmosphere Research Commission

TDAP: Trade Development Authority
of Pakistan

TIC: Trade and Investment
Counsellor

TTAP: Tehreek-i-Tahaffuz Ayeen-i-
Pakistan

UAE: United Arab Emirates

UAF: University of Agriculture
Faisalabad

WAPDA: Water and Power
Development Authority

WSMC: Wheat Stocks Management
Company

YoY: Year-on-Year

NEWS EXCERPTS

NATIONAL NEWS

[Back](#)

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION RESOURCES

- A Sindh Abadgar Board (SAB) meeting has described research and development work in the agriculture sector as very poor.
- Onions of October and November could fulfil domestic demand, but they were exported and “now it is being imported”.
- A new FAO report, Impact of Disasters on Agriculture and Food Security findings are painfully familiar for Pakistan, which has become an epicentre of climate-induced agricultural devastation.
- Estimated cost of these (climate-driven) disasters in terms of agricultural losses over the last 30 years is staggering: \$3.26tr, or 4pc of global agricultural GDP.
- The government has decided to replace Pakistan Agricultural Storage and Services Corporation Limited (Passco) with Wheat Stocks Management Company (WSMC) Public Ltd with authorized capital of Rs350 billion.
- As many as 20 farmers have been fined a total of Rs300,000 between Oct 1 and Nov 12 for stubble burning in Sialkot district.
- The country will require around 60 million acre feet (MAF) of additional irrigation water to meet food, energy and other needs of a population expected to reach 315 million by 2050, up from the current estimate of 251 million.

AGRICULTURAL INPUTS

- The ‘2025 Wheat Growers’ Support Programme, Under programme, Rs14,000 per acre will be provided for the purchase of DAP fertiliser, while Rs8,000 per acre will be disbursed for two urea bags, following verification. The project, costing approximately Rs55bn, targets 412,000 farmers across 2.26m acres of wheat cultivation.
- A total of 168,000 tonnes of (wheat) seed from the private sector and 196,000 tonnes from the Punjab Seed Corporation have been supplied.
- The Punjab Agriculture Department reported that the province is completing cultivation on 12.5 million acres against its target of 16.5 million acres for the ongoing Rabi season.
- 20 per cent increase in sowing this year have positively influenced farmers, who have also responded well to the indicative National Wheat Policy price of Rs3,500 per 40kg bag.

- In Sindh, Director-General Extension reported good availability of certified seed. A total of 533,000 hectares had been sown, marking peak sowing window.
- KP reported a target of 781,000 hectares, with 461,000 hectares sown so far (59pc progress).
- In Balochistan, Out of the 643,000 hectares target, approximately 85,000 hectares had been sown.
- Use of certified wheat seed for the current sowing season has increased by over 25 percent leading the hopes to achieve a good yield.
- The cultivation target for Punjab has been fixed at 16.5 million acres.
- Under the Kisan Card initiative, interest-free loans worth over Rs 100 billion have been disbursed to more than 700,000 farmers so far.

AGRICULTURAL OUTPUTS

- Cotton crop, a major input for the domestic yarn and textile industry accounting for over 50 percent of the country’s exports, suffered from a 34 percent decline this year against the year before, partly due to the floods but partly due to infestations (white fly, pink bollworm and chilli leaf curl virus disease), limited seed technology and competition with other crops.
- Pakistani administrations have so far failed to effectively compete with regional competitors in terms of increasing the yield per hectare through a pervasive use of technology and have, instead, relied on extending subsidies at the taxpayers’ expense to the farm sector.
- Neither the official procurement rate of the current season’s sugar cane crop could be fixed nor was a date for the commencement of cane crushing decided at the stakeholders’ recent meeting in Karachi.
- Pakistan, which until a few years ago ranked as the world’s fourth-largest cotton producer, has seen its output collapse from around 15 million bales in 2014-15 to barely 5.5m bales in 2024-25, largely due to the unchecked spread of sugarcane in designated cotton zones.
- For the first time in the country’s history, Sindh outperformed Punjab in cotton output during 2024-25 — 2.8m bales in Sindh versus 2.7m in Punjab.
- Rice crop is contributing more than US\$3.9bn annually to national economy.
- Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Mohammad Sohail Afridi said that Article 151 of the Constitution guaranteed free trade among provinces and no provincial government was empowered to obstruct transportation of food or essential commodities.
- Punjab government has provided a Rs.100 billion interest-free loan to the farmers for the new crop.

- Sindh government has allocated Rs55.89 billion for the Rabi season to provide 1 bag of DAP and 2 bags of Urea per acre to wheat farmers.
- In Sindh, the (wheat) seed requirement was estimated at 3.7 million metric tons, but only 19,800 metric tons had been moved by October 29.
- Pakistan has fixed its onion production target at 2.78m tons for the 2025-26 crop year, with cultivation planned over 168,000 hectares across the country.

SUB – AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIONS

- Pakistan’s blue economy can generate between USD 100 billion to USD 150 billion, if it is being expanded and modernized.
- It is now well-known that more than two-thirds of the world’s fisheries have been overfished or are fully harvested, and more than one-third are in a state of decline because of factors such as loss of essential fish habitats, pollution, and climate change.
- The situation in Pakistan is no different, as most of the fish stocks in coastal and offshore waters are now overexploited.
- Pakistan has initiated USD 100bn worth of development projects to unlock the country’s blue-economy potential, with the SIFC driving fast-track reforms and investment pipelines across the maritime sector.

TRADE

- Minister for Maritime Affairs Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry announced that the Pakistan National Shipping Corporation (PNSC) will expand its fleet to 30 ships within a year and 60 ships over the next 3 years.
- The trade deficit in October surged 56 pc year-on-year to \$3.2bn.
- Cumulative figures for July-October FY26 show trade deficit widened 38pc YoY to \$12.582bn, up from \$9.115bn during same period last fiscal year.
- Pakistan’s trade deficit with Middle Eastern countries contracted by 3.99 per cent in the first quarter of FY26.
- The trade gap with the region fell to \$3.558bn during July-September FY26, from \$3.706bn in same period last year. In contrast, deficit had widened 7.37pc to \$13.974bn in FY25, compared to \$13.014bn a year earlier.
- The month-long closure of Torkham border crossing has caused a cumulative loss of over \$45 million and another Rs16.5 billion in terms of exports and imports respectively through Pakistan’s trade with Afghanistan.
- Negative growth in all major exportable categories apart from textile and an upsurge in petroleum imports ballooned the trade deficit to USD12.7 billion, showing an increase of 39 percent in the July-October period of 2025-26.
- The textile exports in July-October FY26 period nominally increased by 4pc.

- Closure of Pakistan's Afghan border on October 11 was prompted by massive economic losses, over PKR 3.4 trillion yearly from smuggling, plus nearly PKR 1 trillion in illegal backflow of Afghan transit goods.
- Pakistan's textile exports registered an increase of 2.5 percent in October on a month-on-month (MoM) basis, whereas they registered a decline by 0.61 percent on a year-on-year (YoY) basis.
- However, the total trade deficit in (Oct-July) period of FY26 swelled by 38pc is USD12.58bn, compared to USD9.1bn in corresponding period of last year.
- Pakistan's exports to European countries recorded a year-on-year growth of 5.66 per cent in the first four months of 2025-26.
- Amid growing concerns over the country's export performance, Pakistan's textile and clothing sector recorded a 0.67 percent decline in October.
- The SAP, strongly opposed introduction of GMO corn, arguing that Pakistan's existing non-GMO maize varieties already outperform GMO-adopting countries in yield and that no major pest pressures justify GMO deployment.
- Pakistan's food exports currently stand at around US \$3 billion, with the potential to rise to US \$10 billion.
- Pakistan's merchandise exports to North America saw a paltry growth of 7.15 percent in the four months of 2025-26, reaching \$2.323 billion, up from \$2.168bn in the corresponding months of the previous year.
- Pakistan's edible oil imports are estimated to jump to 3.4-3.5 million tonnes this year as domestic demand rise.

INTERNATIONAL AID / LOAN / INVESTMENT

- Foreign direct investment fell by 26pc during first four months of 2025-26. During July-October, Pakistan received a total of \$747.7m in FDI, compared to \$1.01bn during same period of the previous fiscal year, a decrease of \$263m.
- Foreign loan inflows to Pakistan increased by more than 33pc to \$2.293bn in the first four months of 2025-26, mainly on the back of support from the IMF.
- The total inflows, both loans and grants, in July-October amounted to \$2.293bn when compared to \$1.723bn last year, an increase of 33.24pc.
- Repatriation of profits & dividends on foreign investments during first four months of current fiscal year (FY26) rose by 39pc compared to same period last year.

INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS (IFIs)

- Pakistan paid a total of SDR 1.90 billion (equivalent to USD 2.69 billion) in interest under various IMF programmes, which includes surcharges amounting to SDR 401.24 million from 2008 to June 2025.

- Exports have declined from 16 per cent of GDP in the 1990s to just around 10pc in 2024, with the export basket still concentrated in low-value textile and agricultural products.

POLICY

- The total spending on PSDP in the first four months (July-October) of 2025-26 amounted to Rs76 billion — just 7.6pc of the Rs1 trillion allocation for the year, which was lower than the previous fiscal year. The actual utilisation was far lower than Rs330bn authorised by the Planning Commission.
- Sindh CM Syed Murad Ali Shah reviewed provincial development portfolio for fiscal year 2025-26, with a “record” development scheme of Rs1.018tr.
- Government is preparing to deregulate the wheat and sugar sectors — a key structural reform under IMF Extended Fund Facility — though a formal timeline has yet to be announced.
- The Board of Privatisation Commission took key decisions regarding the divestment of Pakistan International Airlines Corporation Ltd (PIACL) and the management of Islamabad, Lahore, and Karachi international airports.
- Prices of more than a hundred commonly used medicines have increased by an average of 32 per cent since February last year, after the caretaker government lifted price controls under its deregulation policy.
- PSMA has stated that policy on deregulation of sugar sector should be approved at earliest so that sugarcane growers get best prices for their sugarcane crops.
- The PPMA day insisted that medicine prices have increased by an average of 15 per cent since the government announced the deregulation policy in February 2024, not 32pc as claimed by the authorities recently.
- PM Shehbaz Sharif was informed of the imminent privatisation of PIA, with an astonishing 75pc of flag carrier’s shares set to be sold off to private buyers.
- The ailing Pakistan Railways (PR), long plagued by inefficiency and mounting losses, has outsourced four trains and begun the process for 11 more.

SOCIO – ECONOMIC CONDITION

- With a track record of 3.6 percent increase in the overall public debt-to-GDP ratio to 74.5 per cent during FY25.
- The country’s public debt surged by an alarming Rs9.3 trillion during the 2024-25 fiscal year, equating to a daily increase of Rs25.4 billion.
- Pakistan’s unemployed population surged by a staggering 31 per cent, or 1.4 million, rising from 4.5m in 2020-21 to 5.9m in 2024-25.

- Food items and energy spiked inflation, measured by Consumer Price Index (CPI), to 6.24 per cent in October against 5.6pc in September, average inflation (CPI) in the first four months (July-October) of FY26 also moved up to 4.73pc.
- Amid decline in production of major crops including cotton and rice, inflation is expected to remain in the range of 5–6 percent in November, driven by pressures on food prices and agricultural output.

ENVIRONMENT

- The NDMA has warned that the country is likely to experience 22-26 per cent above-normal rainfall during the 2026 monsoon season.
- 3.1 million people had been relocated to safe areas during this year’s monsoon.
- According to the Air Quality Index (AQI) report, Karachi has been ranked the fourth most polluted city in the world.
- Lahore remained as most polluted city of world throughout day with its AQI.
- Khyber Pakhtunkhwa recorded 80 more dengue cases, taking the number of patients to 5,150 this year.
- Over 4,000 cases of dengue fever have been reported this month (in Sindh). A total of 9,638 cases have been reported this year.
- Around 54,000 cases of snakebite are reported every year in the province (Sindh), but the government is still awaiting an anti-venom vaccine for which it had spent hefty funds since 2012.

CLIMATE CHANGE

- Pakistan called for urgent, predictable and equitable climate finance, enhanced technology transfer and stronger global cooperation to support climate-vulnerable countries at a series of high-level side events organised by the Ministry of Climate Change & Environmental Coordination (MoCC&EC) on the sidelines of the UN Climate Summit (COP30) in Belem, Brazil.
- A new climate change policy has been introduced in Balochistan, with Rs500 million initially allocated to set up the Balochistan Climate Change Fund.

CLIMATE DISASTER

- NDMA has informed Peshawar High Court that 504 persons including 338 men, 76 women and 90 children lost lives during this year devastating monsoon flooding in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.
- NDMA also said that a total of 3,222 houses were damaged including 701 fully and 2521 partially damaged. A total of 5,467 livestock deaths were also recorded in KP.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION RESOURCES

- The report, “Continental Drying: A Threat to Our Common Future,” says about one-quarter of inefficient water consumption in rain-fed agriculture and one-third in irrigated agriculture are concentrated in regions experiencing declining freshwater availability.
- The world is losing 324 billion cubic metres of freshwater every year, enough to meet the needs of 280 million people annually.

INTERNATIONAL AID / LOAN / INVESTMENT

- Global foreign direct investment (FDI) fell three per cent in the first half of 2025, extending a two-year slump.
- The drop was driven by developed economies, where cross-border mergers and acquisitions (M&As) — which normally make up a large share of their FDI — fell 18pc to \$173bn.
- Donald Trump defended Saudi Arabia’s Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman over the murder of a journalist and hailed a \$1 trillion investment pledge.
- Trump said he had pushed the prince to normalize relations with Israel as part of the Abraham Accords that he launched in his first term.

INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS (IFIs)

- The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) reveals that while major funders have invested \$42.2 billion in health and climate initiatives over the past five years, only \$3.7bn has been directed towards adaptation.

SOCIO – ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

- A top US congressional Democrat accused President Donald Trump and fellow Republicans of choosing to “weaponise hunger,” as a prolonged government shutdown disrupts critical food benefits for millions of low-income Americans.
- The UN’s World Food Programme warned that funding cuts mean it will struggle to feed even a third of the 318m people facing severe hunger in 2026.
- Wealth inequality is a global emergency that threatens democracy and social cohesion.
- Billionaires in the world’s leading economies made \$2.2 trillion last year, which would have been enough to lift all the world’s poor out of poverty.

- Billionaires in 19 countries that are part of the grouping made \$2.2tr last year as their combined wealth grew to \$15.6tr, basing its figures on the Forbes list.
- The annual cost to lift up the 3.8 billion people who currently live below the poverty line is \$1.65tr.

CLIMATE CHANGE

- Thousands of people marched through the streets of Belem to press for action from negotiators holding tough talks at the UN's COP30 climate conference in the Amazonian city.
- More than 30 countries, including wealthy nations, emerging economies and small island states, had warned in a letter to Brazil that they would reject any deal that did not include a plan to move away from fossil fuels.
- Nations clinched a deal at the UN's COP30 climate summit in the Amazon without a roadmap for phasing out fossil fuels as demanded by the European Union, opting instead for a compromise to boost finance for poor nations.

CLIMATE DISASTERS

- Disasters have caused an estimated \$3.26 trillion in agricultural losses worldwide over the past 33 years — an average of \$99 billion annually, or roughly four per cent of global agricultural GDP.
- Between 1991 and 2023, disasters wiped out 4.6bn tonnes of cereals, 2.8bn tonnes of fruits and vegetables, and 900m tonnes of meat and dairy. These losses translate to a daily per capita reduction of 320 kilocalories — 13-16pc of average energy needs.
- The FAO report said Asia accounts for the largest share of global losses of 47pc, totaling \$1.53tr, reflecting both the scale of agricultural production and the region's high exposure to floods, storms and droughts.
- In Pakistan, monsoon floods affected over 9m people and destroyed 849,000 hectares of crops, coming just one year after the catastrophic 2022 floods from which the country is still recovering.

NATIONAL NEWS

[Back](#)

1 # AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION RESOURCES

SAB says poor research keeping agriculture sector backward [P. 1]

Agriculture crisis [P. 1]

Rs350bn authorized capital: Passco being replaced with 'WSMC' [P. 2]

Punjab seeks proposals for uplift of agriculture in Potohar region [P. 2]

FAO's help sought to tackle agricultural challenges [P. 3]

1.1 # Farmers

Governor vows to raise voice for farmers at every forum [P. 3]

Benazir Hari Card marks new era for Sindh's farmers: Sharjeel [P. 3]

20 farmers fined for stubble burning [P. 4]

UAF organises 'Farmer Day' [P. 4]

1.2 # Land

Man killed over land dispute in Lower Dir [P. 4]

KP CM seeks plan to increase cultivable area for food security [P. 4]

1.3 # Water

Sindh to introduce new water law [P. 5]

Waterlogged areas in Sindh, Punjab, KP reduced [P. 5]

Dykes in Larkana face erosion as water recedes in Indus [P. 5]

Water crucial to economic security [P. 6]

2 # AGRICULTURAL INPUTS

2.1 # Agricultural Loan & Finance

Murad orders immediate release of wheat support funds to small farmers [P. 6]

BoR approves auction of sugar mills land to clear growers dues [P. 6]

2.2 # Agricultural machinery & Technology

FAO assures Sindh farmers of cooperation [P. 6]

2.3 # Fertilizer

Urea sales decline [P. 7]

2.4 # Seed

Korean agency submits feasibility study for seed potato centre [P. 7]

Provinces' seed needs met for wheat sowing [P. 8]

Use of certified wheat seed up by more than 2pc [sic] [P. 9]

3 # AGRICULTURAL OUTPUTS

Crop output decline [P. 9]

3.1 # Cash Crop

Board fails to fix official sugar cane rate, crushing season date [P. 10]

Sugarcane footprint on the rise in cotton belt [P. 10]

27 sugar mills start crushing across Punjab [P. 11]

3.2 # Food Crop

Aide advises CM to fix paddy price [P. 11]

PFMA for wheat supply to idle flour mills from Punjab's storage [P. 12]

KP CM Afridi resents 'restrictions' on wheat movement [P. 12]

'Grow more wheat' campaign launched in Rawalpindi [P. 12]

Centre says ready to supply KP 1m tons of wheat [P. 13]

Inter-provincial wheat seed flow becomes smooth, govt claims [P. 13]

Sindh govt asks Centre to establish mechanism for fixing paddy support price [P. 14]

Farmers advised to complete wheat sowing by 20th [P. 14]

3.3 # Vegetables

Govt sets onion production target for 2025-26 [P. 14]

4 # SUB – AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIONS

4.1 # Fishery

Blue economy can help generate up to USD150bn: Ateeq [P. 15]

World Fisheries Day: country's marine fisheries sector faces ecological and economic crisis

Blue economy: Projects aimed at unlocking potential initiated [P. 16]

4.2 # Livestock

'Mysterious' disease kills 28 camels in Cholistan [P. 16]

4.3 # Poultry

Chicken rates fall significantly in Karachi amid border closure with Afghanistan [P. 17]

5 # TRADE

Govt unveils 100-year maritime roadmap to become global trade hub [P. 17]

Trade deficit surges 56pc in October [P. 17]

Trade gap with Middle East narrows in first quarter [P. 18]

Month-long Torkham border closure inflicts \$45 million trade losses [P. 18]

Pak trade delegation secures USD8m orders from Argentina [P. 18]

Jul-Oct trade deficit jumps 39pc to USD12.7bn YoY [P. 19]

Rs4.4trn losses prompt Afghan border closure: officials [P. 19]

5.1 # Export

Oct textile exports surge 2.5pc MoM [P. 20]
Aurangzeb lauds 34pc growth in pharma exports [P. 20]
Exports to Europe rise to \$3.2bn [P. 20]
Textile exports drift lower for third month [P. 21]
NA panel for steps aimed at safeguarding rice exports [P. 21]
Food exports stand at around \$3bn: official [P. 22]
PM Shehbaz eliminates 0.25pc export surcharge [P. 22]
Jan-Oct salt export to China jumps 26pc [P. 22]
Afghan border closure chokes crucial exports [P. 22]
Exports to N. America post paltry growth [P. 22]

5.2 # Imports

Growers uneasy over import of tomatoes, sugar [P. 23]
'Edible oil imports to hit 3.5m tonnes in 2025' [P. 23]
Scrap imports surge to 382,000 tonnes in October, nearing 2021 high [P. 24]

6 # CORPORATE SECTOR

10 sugar mills in Punjab issued notices for failing to start crushing [P. 24]
Only five sugar factories start cane crushing [P. 24]
Competition Commission of Pakistan issues notices to 10 sugar mills over collusion

7 # INTERNATIONAL AID / LOAN / INVESTMENT

Foreign investment plunges 26pc [P. 24]
Foreign loan inflows surge 33pc in July-Oct [P. 25]
Profit repatriation jumps 39pc in four months [P. 25]

7.1 # Countries / Regions

US mineral firm explores investment opportunities in Pakistan [P. 26]
Chinese firm to invest USD1.5bn in Punjab Industrial Park [P. 26]

8 # INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS (IFIs)

8.1 # Asian Development Bank (ADB)

Balochistan water project: ADB approves USD48m more loan [P. 27]

8.2 # International Monetary Fund (IMF)

IMF official highlights impediments to growth [P. 27]
USD2.69bn interest paid against various IMF lendings: EAD [P. 27]
Pakistan may get \$1.2bn from IMF on Dec 9 [P. 28]

8.3 # World Bank

World Bank asks Pakistan to overhaul skewed trade pacts [P. 28]

9 # POLICY

9.1 # Development Policy

Rs2.77bn released for Balochistan PSDP projects [P. 28]

Govt spends just Rs76bn on development in four months [P. 29]

Rs330.43bn authorised for uplift projects under PSDP [P. 29]

CDWP clears seven projects worth Rs34.6bn [P. 30]

756 development schemes underway in Karachi: Sharjeel [P. 30]

‘Record’ Rs1.018tr allocation for FY26 development schemes in Sindh reviewed

9.2 # Neo – Liberal Policy

Govt moves to deregulate wheat, sugar sectors [P. 30]

Major airports up for privatisation [P. 31]

Price deregulation raises medicine costs by 32pc [P. 31]

PSMA advocates early approval of deregulation policy [P. 31]

Drug prices up by 15pc, not 32pc, since deregulation policy: PPMA [P. 31]

Wapda CBA vows agitation against privatisation [P. 32]

Struggling PIA: Govt says 75pc shares to be privatized [P. 32]

Beleaguered PR outsources four trains [P. 32]

10 # SOCIO – ECONOMIC CONDITION

Overall public debt rises Rs9.3tr in FY25 [P. 33]

NA told: Public debt skyrockets by Rs9.3trn in FY25 [P. 33]

District Vulnerability Index launched [P. 34]

1.4m more jobless in four years [P. 34]

10.1 # Food

Guarantee of quality sought before any hike in milk price [P. 35]

Fresh milk retail price fixed at Rs220/litre [P. 35]

FoodAg Pakistan 2025 concludes on highly positive note [P. 35]

10.2 # Inflation

Inflation jumps to 6.24pc in October [P. 36]

Business confidence slides ‘slightly’, inflation top concern [P. 36]

Food prices & agri output depressed: Inflation likely to stay within 5-6pc range [P. 36]

11 # ENVIRONMENT

NDMA warns of even stronger monsoon next year [P. 37]

11.1 # Atmosphere

Citizens' health at risk in Karachi as 'hazardous' clouds of dust, smog hang in the air
70pc decline in stubble-burning incidents, claims Punjab govt [P. 37]

11.2 # Pollution

Lahore again ranked most-polluted city globally [P. 38]

11.3 # Health

KP records 80 more dengue cases [P. 38]

Over 4,000 test positive for dengue in five days in Sindh [P. 38]

Sindh reports 1,124 new dengue cases in 24 hours [P. 38]

13 years on, Sindh yet to produce anti-snakebite vaccine, PAC told [P. 39]

Measles claims seven lives in Bajaur [P. 39]

Mayo Hospital received 1,796 dog-bite cases in 14 months, LHC told [P. 39]

KP govt to save Rs7bn through new funding model of free treatment scheme [P. 39]

DG Health issues report on dengue cases [P. 40]

12 # CLIMATE CHANGE

COP30: Pakistan calls for urgent climate finance [P. 40]

12.1 # Climate Policy

Balochistan introduces new climate change policy [P. 41]

13 # CLIMATE DISASTER

13.1 # Flood

Rs824bn flood protection plan sent to CCI [P. 41]

13.2 # Rainfall

504 killed in 2025 monsoon floods in KP, court informed [P. 41]

13.3 # Wildfire

Wildfire on Nawagai mountains extinguished [P. 42]

14 # NATURAL DISASTERS

14.1 # Earthquake

Another tremor felt in Karachi [P. 42]

Tremor shakes Ziarat, surrounding areas [P. 42]

14.2 # Landslide

Karakoram Highway landslide buries six vehicles, sweeps two into river [P. 42]

Landslide renders 15 families homeless in Chitral [P. 42]

15 # RESISTANCE

- JI protests against delay in completion of Red Line BRT project [P. 43]
- Residents protest 'illegal' mining in Lower Dir village [P. 43]
- JSM-R holds sit-in against 'victimisation' [P. 43]
- Engineers' protest continues to affect PIA operations [P. 43]
- 'Workers to resist bid to privatise Wapda' [P. 43]
- Demolition drive victims continue protest outside Supreme Court Registry in Karachi
- Highway blocked after trailer kills woman, her three children [P. 44]
- Nanbais' strike enters fourth day in Pindi [P. 44]
- Clifton residents in Karachi protest commercialisation of neighbourhood parks [P. 44]
- Many activists briefly detained after rally against 27th Amendment [P. 44]
- JUI holds protest rally [P. 45]
- Clifton residents protest against 'encroachments' in public parks [P. 45]
- Awami Tehreek stages rally against 27th Amendment, 'exploitation' of Sindh resources
- PTI holds walk against 27th Amendment in Lahore [P. 45]
- Opposition marches from parliament to apex court [P. 45]
- Lawyers observe strike against conviction of colleagues [P. 45]
- SAI protests delay in cane crushing in Sindh [P. 46]
- Opposition protests 'state oppression', fresh tweaks [P. 46]
- Activists briefly detained for protest against 27th Amendment [P. 46]
- Police, lawyers clash during protest against 27th Amendment [P. 47]
- Residents of Karachi's district Central stage protest against water shortage [P. 47]
- 'Matter of life and death': citizens protest commercial use of parks [P. 47]
- Lawyers march on CM House for withdrawal of govt appeal before FCC in Karoonjhar mining case [P. 47]
- Lawyers call off sit-in in Karachi [P. 47]

1 # AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION RESOURCES

SAB says poor research keeping agriculture sector backward

A Sindh Abadgar Board (SAB) meeting has described research and development work in the agriculture sector as very poor, stating that the situation leads to a lack of introduction of new and better technologies and tackling issues. The meeting also urged the government to fix minimum support prices of agricultural commodities. It said that onions were one example of apathy in research and development. Onions of October and November could fulfil domestic demand, but they were exported and “now it is being imported”, it explained. According the SAB, the reason was that in the last three years standing onion would wilt to an extent that most of growers stopped planting its crop in October/November. But there was no formal research done for diagnosis or treatment. (*Dawn, November 3rd, 2025, Page 15*)

Agriculture crisis

A new FAO report, Impact of Disasters on Agriculture and Food Security, is a grim reminder of the toll climate-driven disasters are exacting on global agriculture and food systems. The estimated cost of these (climate-driven) disasters in terms of agricultural losses over the last 30 years is staggering: \$3.26tr, or 4pc of global agricultural GDP. And behind the statistics lie millions of lost livelihoods, growing hunger and the increasing fragility of rural economies. The message is that climate disasters are intensifying faster than we can cope.

The report also highlights a parallel digital revolution that could transform how we manage agricultural risks. AI, remote sensing, drones, sensors, and digital insurance platforms are opening new opportunities for proactive action rather than reactive responses. These technologies have enabled more precise early warning systems and allowed millions of farmers to access parametric insurance and timely advisories. However, we can also witness the widening gap between countries able to harness these technologies and those still struggling to gain even basic climate resilience. Nowhere is this divide more evident than in Asia, which accounts for nearly 47pc of all global agricultural losses, reflecting the region’s acute exposure to floods, storms and droughts.

The report’s findings are painfully familiar for Pakistan, which has become an epicentre of climate-induced agricultural devastation. Disastrous floods have exacted massive human and economic costs and reshaped our farming landscape. The soil has suffered deep erosion, with vast tracts facing rising salinity; irrigation and drainage networks remain damaged or dysfunctional. The effect is a decline in productivity in a sector that employs over a third of the labour force and is the backbone of national food security and the export industry.

The country's weak capacity to store, process and transport food has deteriorated further under the strain of repeated shocks. Food inflation, which disproportionately hurts the poor, has become a structural feature of the economy due to supply disruptions caused by changing climate including extreme weather events. Disruptions to farm economy extend far beyond immediate crop and livestock losses, and spill over into markets, financial systems, public health and social stability. Although digital technology is a game-changer, we lag behind other countries in digital crop monitoring, while farmers' access to advisory services is patchy at best, with negligible insurance penetration. Where digital tools do exist, they are not integrated into local decision-making. Pakistan urgently needs a national strategy to mainstream digital agriculture: crop mapping using remote sensing, AI-based pest surveillance, mobile advisory hubs and disaster-indexed insurance. The tools exist, but political will and investment are missing. The window for building tech-based resilience is closing faster than policymakers seem to realise. (*Dawn, November 17th, 2025, Page 6*)

Rs350bn authorized capital: Passco being replaced with 'WSMC'

The government has decided to replace Pakistan Agricultural Storage and Services Corporation Limited (Passco) with Wheat Stocks Management Company (WSMC) Public Ltd with authorized capital of Rs350 billion. Passco, a Public Limited Company incorporated under the Companies Ordinance, 1984 (now WSMC Companies Act, 2017), was established with the mandate of procuring wheat for maintaining national wheat reserves. In the backdrop of the redefined role of the federal government in the wheat operations, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), through directives of September 12, 2024 and March 21, 2025, instructed the winding up of PASSCO after stakeholder consultations, and advised development of an alternative mechanism for maintaining strategic wheat reserves. Thereafter, the Prime Minister's Office, vide its directive of August 25, 2025, assigned the Finance Minister to lead the process of PASSCO's winding up in consultation with the Ministry of National Food Security & Research.

In this regard, the committee headed by the Finance Minister has since held five meetings (on 2nd, 5th, 11th, 19th September, and 10th October 2025) to deliberate on the modalities of disposal of wheat stock, settling of Passco liabilities, and the eventual winding-up of Passco. Among other matters, the settlement of Passco's receivables from the recipient agencies, including receivables from Federal and Provincial Governments, and its liabilities towards creditors amounting to Rs. 527.664 billion, was extensively discussed. It is projected that after adjustment through sale proceeds of wheat stock, realization of dues from recipient agencies, and disposal of assets, a residual liability of approximately Rs.121 billion will remain to be settled for closing balance sheet prior to winding up. (*Business Recorder, November 21st, 2025, Page 1*)

Punjab seeks proposals for uplift of agriculture in Potohar region

Punjab Minister for Agriculture Syed Mohammad Ashiq Hussain Kirmani instructed Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi to prepare proposals for

uplift of agriculture in the Potohar region. He said that the University is at the forefront of implementing the CM Punjab's Agriculture Transformation Plan in the Potohar but there was dire need to make more plans to further improve the agriculture in arid agricultural area. The minister emphasised the critical role of universities as hubs of research, innovation, and technology transfer. He expressed keen interest in hydroponic agriculture and highlighted the university's specialised hydroponic institute and units, stressing the need to prioritise this technology to boost production and improve food security. (*Dawn, November 23rd, 2025, Page 4*)

FAO's help sought to tackle agricultural challenges

Pakistan has requested assistance from the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations to launch flagship projects aimed at revitalising the agricultural sector, which is facing significant challenges. The meeting focused on a range of critical issues affecting Pakistan's agricultural sector, including challenges with irrigation water availability, water quality concerns, and seed-related issues. The minister also called for the digitalisation of Pakistan's agriculture sector, emphasising its importance in enhancing productivity, efficiency, and sustainability. He urged the FAO to assist in implementing modern technologies and digital tools to streamline agricultural processes. (*Dawn, November 26th, 2025, Page 9*)

1.1 # Farmers

Governor vows to raise voice for farmers at every forum

Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan visited the office of the Punjab Kisan Board and met with a delegation of farmers where he promised to raise their concerns at every forum. He noted that the recent floods had destroyed crops, leaving farmers in severe financial distress. He stressed that the government must stand by them in this difficult time. The governor highlighted the vital role of agriculture in Pakistan's economy and said that farmers, through their hard work, provide the nation with wheat. He emphasised that the use of modern agricultural machinery was essential in the current era, and that improving the quality of crop seeds was also crucial for enhancing productivity in the agricultural sector. (*Dawn, November 3rd, 2025, Page 8*)

Benazir Hari Card marks new era for Sindh's farmers: Sharjeel

Sindh Senior Minister and Provincial Minister for Information, Transport and Mass Transit Sharjeel Inam Memon said that the Benazir Hari Card marks a new era for the province's farmers. The Benazir Hari Card is a transparent, organized, and modern system designed for the welfare of Sindh's farmers. Through this program, urea and DAP fertilizers are being provided to farmers and cultivators. He said that in cases of natural disasters or crop damage, financial assistance is being provided to farmers and cultivators under the Benazir Hari Card. Small farmers are directly benefiting from this scheme. (*Business Recorder, November 4th, 2025, Page 3*)

20 farmers fined for stubble burning

As many as 20 farmers have been fined a total of Rs300,000 between Oct 1 and Nov 12 for stubble burning in Sialkot district. This was said by Sialkot Agriculture Deputy Director (extension) while giving a briefing about the measures taken to control smog. He said that actions against stubble burning were carried out in Daska, Pasrur, and Sambrial tehsils, while no report of such incidents was received from the Sialkot tehsil. He said that fines amounting to Rs120,000 in Daska, Rs150,000 in Pasrur, and Rs30,000 in Sambrial were imposed during this period. (*Dawn, November 13th, 2025, Page 4*)

UAF organises 'Farmer Day'

The University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) in collaboration with the Punjab Agriculture Extension Department arranged a Farmer Day at Chak No 142, Jhumra, as part of Wheat Campaign 2025 to enhance crop productivity across the province. UAF students along with agricultural experts visited the said area where they held a gathering of local farmers. The campaign aims to reach various regions of Punjab to create awareness among farmers about advanced cultivation methods for achieving higher wheat production this year.

Dr Ghulam Murtaza said that timely sowing, certified seed, drill swing, use of balanced fertilizers, modern irrigation systems, and modern agricultural technologies can ensure an increase productivity manifold. He said that university is committed to empowering farmers through research-based solutions and practical training. He added that farmers can achieve maximum output with minimal resources by using modern techniques to ensure food security and economic stability. (*Business Recorder, November 19th, 2025, Page 2*)

1.2 # Land

Man killed over land dispute in Lower Dir

A man was killed after an exchange of fire between rival groups over a land dispute in the Tangi Payeen area within the jurisdiction of the Samarbagh police station. (*Dawn, November 15th, 2025, Page 8*)

KP CM seeks plan to increase cultivable area for food security

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Mohammad Sohail Afridi directed the irrigation department to immediately prepare a comprehensive plan for increasing the cultivable command area across the province. "Expanding the command area is essential for ensuring food security, which remains a top priority of the provincial government," Mr Afridi told a meeting of the irrigation department. He ordered the introduction of a modern asset management system as well as geographic information system (GIS) mapping of the canal network and digitisation of records. The chief minister directed authorities to digitise all departmental functions, including abiana (water rate) collections, saying digitisation will significantly enhance both transparency and performance. (*Dawn, November 19th, 2025, Page 8*)

1.3 # Water

Sindh to introduce new water law

The Sindh government has decided to introduce a new Sindh Water Law based on the principles of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and aligned it with the Sindh Water Policy 2023. The decision was announced during a meeting between Sindh Irrigation Minister Jam Khan Shoro and a World Bank delegation, where it was revealed that a committee of irrigation department officials will finalise the draft of the law by next month. Once completed, the proposed bill will be presented to the provincial cabinet and later to the Sindh Assembly for approval. “This law will be a milestone for equitable water distribution, improved management, and environmental protection in Sindh,” Mr Shoro stated. The discussions also covered the formulation of the Sindh Strategic Water Plan and the institutional framework of the Hydro-Agro informatics (HAI) Programme. (*Dawn, November 9th, 2025, Page 15*)

Waterlogged areas in Sindh, Punjab, KP reduced

The waterlogged areas in Punjab, Sindh, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa showed a decline, while they nominally increased in Balochistan in 2014-2022 period. According to a Planning Commission’s document, Scarp Monitoring Organisation (SMO) of Wapda covered an area of approximately 47.77 million acres, covering 49 canals commands in all four provinces. The SMO findings say that the data for 2014 and 2022 had been analysed, and the comparison of the results shows that waterlogged areas in Punjab decreased from 3.66 percent to 0.048, normal depth range areas reduced from 79.16 percent to 76.54 and depleted areas increased from 17.18 percent to 22.84 percent.

In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, data for 2014 and 2022 had been analysed, and the comparison shows that waterlogged areas decreased from 2.07 to 0.64 percent. Normal depth range area reduced from 73.25 percent to 66.41 percent, and depleted areas increased from 24.69 percent to 32.96 percent. Data for 2014 and 2022 had been analysed in Sindh, and the comparison of the results showed that waterlogged areas have decreased from 10.75 percent to 5.02 percent. Normal zone Areas have increased from 89.23 percent to 94.97 percent, and depleted areas have decreased from 0.01 percent to 0.006 percent. Whereas in Balochistan, the data for 2014 and 2022 had been analysed, and the comparison shows that waterlogged areas have increased from 4.53 percent to 4.89 percent. Normal zone areas have decreased from 95.22 percent to 95.11 percent, and depleted areas have decreased from 0.24 percent to 0.00 percent. (*Business Recorder, November 14th, 2025, Page 4*)

Dykes in Larkana face erosion as water recedes in Indus

As the Indus River’s water level continues to fall after recent floods, several dykes in the Larkana region, including the already vulnerable Moria Loop Bund inspected earlier by officials and the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leaders, have been damaged, a survey by Dawn has shown. During a visit to the spot, where an emergency had been declared earlier, officials confirmed serious erosion. (*Dawn, November 19th, 2025, Page 15*)

Water crucial to economic security

The country will require around 60m acre feet of additional irrigation water to meet food, energy and other needs of a population expected to reach 315m by 2050, up from current estimate of 251m. The new water storage projects currently under development can provide 11.13MAF additional resource. These details were shared during a meeting of Senate Standing Committee on Water Resources, chaired by Senator Shahadat Awan. The committee expressed concern that Pakistan Space & Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (Suparco) had breached its privilege by failing to provide a report on more than 1,300 encroachments along riverbanks, despite repeated requests. Water Resources Secretary Syed Ali Murtaza told the committee that government was considering a reservoir on Chenab River near Chiniot to manage flood flows from across border. He said feasibility study for project had been completed. (*Dawn, November 25th, 2025, Page 9*)

2 # AGRICULTURAL INPUTS

2.1 # Agricultural Loan & Finance

Murad orders immediate release of wheat support funds to small farmers

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has directed the agriculture department to immediately disburse funds to small-scale farmers for purchasing DAP (diammonium phosphate) and urea fertilisers ahead of the upcoming wheat sowing season. Presiding over a high-level meeting on the '2025 Wheat Growers' Support Programme', the chief minister emphasised that the initiative must reach genuine farmers without delay, ensuring maximum coverage before the sowing season concludes. "This support is vital to help our small farmers prepare for the upcoming wheat season," he said.

Under the programme, Rs14,000 per acre will be provided for the purchase of DAP fertiliser, while Rs8,000 per acre will be disbursed for two urea bags, following verification. The project, costing approximately Rs55bn, targets 412,000 farmers across 2.26m acres of wheat cultivation. The programme, first approved in principle on Sep 23, 2025, initially envisaged the provision of fertilisers 'in kind'. On Oct 24, 2025, the Sindh cabinet revised the mechanism to introduce direct cash transfers, aiming to enhance transparency and efficiency. (*Dawn, November 1st, 2025, Page 15*)

BoR approves auction of sugar mills land to clear growers dues

The Punjab Board of Revenue (BoR) in its full board meeting has allowed the Jhang district administration to sell through open auction the immovable property of Shakarganj Sugar Mills and to clear the dues owed by the mills for the purchase of sugarcane from farmers during previous crushing seasons, which amount to several millions of rupees. (*Dawn, November 19th, 2025, Page 2*)

2.2 # Agricultural machinery & Technology

FAO assures Sindh farmers of cooperation

A delegation of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) met Sindh Minister for Irrigation Jam Khan Shoro to focus on the use of modern technology in the agricultural

sector, effective water management and mutual cooperation. The FAO team also visited the irrigation department's Hydro-Informatics Center and Kotri Barrage where they were given a detailed briefing on modern monitoring systems, technical infrastructure, database management and online monitoring procedure.

The discussion covered points of integration and usefulness of irrigation department's active monitoring systems with the FAO's under-construction "Eki Portal". Jam Khan informed the delegation that purpose of the portal was to provide farmers across province with real-time information, to help them take better decisions, increase productivity and promote efficient use of water. He emphasised that the portal would prove to be a significant step towards sustainable development of Sindh's agricultural sector, allowing farmers to make smart decisions based on scientific data. (*Dawn, November 23rd, 2025, Page 15*)

2.3 # Fertilizer

Urea sales decline

Urea sales fell to 351,000 tonnes in October, down 2 per cent year-on-year (YoY) and 18pc month-on-month (MoM), according to data compiled by Topline Securities. Analyst Asad Ali said the month-on-month decline was largely due to pre-buying in earlier months. He noted that Engro Fertiliser raised its discount on urea bags to Rs320 per bag towards the end of October, while Fauji Fertiliser maintained an average discount of Rs70 per bag. Urea offtake in the first 10 months of 2025 stood at 4.55 million tonnes, down 8pc YoY from 4.93m tonnes in the same period last year, mainly reflecting weak farm economics. Urea inventories also rose, with closing stocks reaching 1.42m tonnes in October, compared to 1.15m tonnes in September.

Meanwhile, DAP sales for October were estimated at 140,000 tonnes, showing a 55pc YoY decline but a 44pc MoM increase owing to seasonal demand. During 10M2025, total DAP offtake stood at 936,000 tonnes, down 25pc YoY. Closing DAP inventory reached 408,000 tonnes in October, up from 392,000 tonnes in September and 307,000 tonnes a year earlier. Mr Ali said urea inventory levels are expected to remain elevated in the near term due to ongoing weakness in the agriculture sector, though rising farm incomes are beginning to support recovery. (*Dawn, November 4th, 2025, Page 9*)

2.4 # Seed

Korean agency submits feasibility study for seed potato centre

The South Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) has submitted a feasibility study to the government for the establishment of a 'Seed potato production and supply centre' in Islamabad that will reduce the dependency on imported potato seed by about 80 per cent. Presenting the feasibility study to Minister for National Food Security and Research Rana Tanveer Hussain, KOICA Director Je Ho Yeon termed the proposed project a model initiative for long-term agricultural cooperation between South Korea and Pakistan. He said Korea had achieved global success in seed potato

production through aeroponics and advanced cold-chain systems and KOICA was ready to transfer this expertise to Pakistan on a large scale. Previously, eight aeroponics, 36 screen houses and one cold storage had been established at NARC under a Pakistan Korea joint project. A proposal to establish a seed potato production and supply centre at Pakistan Agricultural Research Centre had been submitted KOICA. KOICA will provide financial contribution of \$10 million for the project, while the government will provide over \$5 million, including the operational cost. Work on the four-year project will commence in 2027.

KOICA and Pakistani experts hope that domestic production of virus-free seed potatoes will substantially increase with the completion of the project, whereas 70 to 80 per cent dependency on imported seed will be reduced. Pakistan needs more than 0.9 million tonnes seed potato annually. The project will improve access to high-quality certified seed for over 100,000 farmers across country, contributing to increased yields, reduced input costs and improved income stability and food security. (*Dawn, November 18th, 2025, Page 4*)

Provinces' seed needs met for wheat sowing

As the wheat sowing drive continues in full swing across the country, the Ministry of National Food Security and Research announced that all provinces have received their seed requirements. The ministry in its press release said a total of 168,000 tonnes of (wheat) seed from private sector and 196,000 tonnes from the Punjab Seed Corporation have been supplied. The allocations are as follows: 23,000 tonnes to Balochistan, 82,000 tonnes to Sindh, 22,000 tonnes to KP, and 41,000 tonnes retained in Punjab.

The Punjab Agriculture Department reported that the province is completing cultivation on 12.5 million acres against its target of 16.5 million acres for the ongoing Rabi season, eyeing to achieve the target in the next two weeks. Special trends observed in Punjab include early and rapid sowing due to post-flood land availability. Furthermore, subsidies offered through Punjab Seed Corporation (Rs500 per bag) and collaboration with private seed companies (Rs550 per bag, totalling Rs5,500 for certified seed) have led to 100 per cent improvement in certified seed usage.

The Ministry's Secretary Amir Mohyuddin confirmed that media announcements regarding a 20 per cent increase in sowing this year have positively influenced farmers, who have also responded well to the indicative National Wheat Policy price of Rs3,500 per 40kg bag. In Sindh, the Director-General Extension reported good availability of certified seed. A total of 533,000 hectares had been sown, marking the peak sowing window. By the end of the current month, 85pc of the target is expected to be completed.

KP reported a target of 781,000 hectares, with 461,000 hectares sown so far (59pc progress). Sowing in sugarcane and rice areas has been slower; however, it is expected to accelerate by the end of November, as temperatures remain favourable and the sowing window extends until Dec 15. In Balochistan, most cultivation occurs in tube-

well irrigated areas, with a few districts relying on canal irrigation, where sowing follows rice harvesting. Out of the 643,000 hectares target, approximately 85,000 hectares had been sown. Tube-well-irrigated and barani areas are progressing steadily, while the canal-fed Nasirabad division is expected to pick up pace soon. (*Dawn, November 21st, 2025, Page 9*)

Use of certified wheat seed up by more than 2pc [sic]

Use of certified wheat seed for the current sowing season has increased by over 25 percent leading the hopes to achieve a good yield. Similarly, keeping in view the sowing trend, it is expected that it will surpass the target of 16.5 million acres set for the current season. Secretary Agriculture Punjab Iftikhar Ali Sahoo claimed this while presiding over a review meeting regarding wheat cultivation held in Multan today. He highlighted the critical importance of wheat for national food security and stated that the cultivation target for Punjab has been fixed at 16.5 million acres. He further said that during the current season, wheat will be cultivated on an area exceeding the set target.

Certified wheat seed is available in the market at the rate of Rs 5500 per bag, and the use of certified seed has increased by more than 25percent compared to previous years. Fertilizers are also available in sufficient quantity at prices below the official rates. The Secretary Agriculture Punjab further stated that an adequate supply of canal water for wheat sowing has been ensured. Under the Kisan Card initiative, interest-free loans worth over Rs 100 billion have been disbursed to more than 700,000 farmers so far. On the directions of the Chief Minister Punjab, wheat production competitions are being organized at provincial and district levels. The winning farmers at both levels will receive tractors and cash prizes worth millions of rupees. He also acknowledged the significant role of agricultural university students and internees in the wheat cultivation drive. (*Business Recorder, November 30th, 2025, Page 4*)

3 # AGRICULTURAL OUTPUTS

Crop output decline

Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of Cabinet, highest economic policymaking forum in the country, chaired by Federal Minister for Finance Muhammad Aurangzeb, projected a renewed spell of an inflationary surge in the aftermath of the floods that not only reduced crop output but also disrupted supply chains. The ECC was further informed that cartelisation of edible oil and ghee sectors is further upping inflation. Cotton crop, a major input for the domestic yarn and textile industry accounting for over 50 percent of the country's exports, suffered from a 34 percent decline this year against the year before, partly due to the floods but partly due to infestations (white fly, pink bollworm and chilli leaf curl virus disease), limited seed technology and competition with other crops.

Pakistani administrations have so far failed to effectively compete with regional competitors in terms of increasing the yield per hectare through a pervasive use of

technology (though the yield per hectare of the rich farmers compares favourably with the output in competing countries) and have, instead, relied on extending subsidies at the taxpayers' expense to the farm sector. It is within this context that the ongoing International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme pointed out in its 10 October 2024 documents that "long-standing government interventions in agricultural commodities have created distortions inhibiting the sector's productivity and harming Pakistan's medium-term potential. (*Business Recorder, November 3rd, 2025, Page 6*)

3.1 # Cash Crop

Board fails to fix official sugar cane rate, crushing season date

Neither the official procurement rate of the current season's sugar cane crop could be fixed nor was a date for the commencement of cane crushing decided at the stakeholders' recent meeting in Karachi. It was the first meeting of the Sugarcane Control Board held on Nov 4 which was supposed to be attended by all stakeholders. The meeting remained inconclusive as sugar millers' representatives abstained. Representatives of farmers' bodies presented their viewpoint on sugar cane indicative price. None from the Pakistan Sugar Mills Association (PSMA) turned up at meeting.

A total of 33 sugar mills, out of 38 in Sindh, had crushed sugar cane last year. It has been the growers' argument that the sugar cane crop becomes ready for harvesting in October every year but crushing begins either in November or December. The Sugarcane Factories Act 1950 and its (Sindh Amendment) Act 2009 allows millers to begin cane crushing not later than Nov 30. The government had fixed Rs425 per 40kg in 2023-24. (*Dawn, November 10th, 2025, Page 15*)

Sugarcane footprint on the rise in cotton belt

Persistent violations of crop-zoning rules for sugarcane and unchecked establishment of new sugar mills have drastically reshaped Rahim Yar Khan — once Pakistan's largest cotton-producing district — where sugar-milling capacity is rapidly expanding both within the district and along the Punjab — Sindh border. Sources say almost 40 per cent of the country's total sugar-milling capacity is now concentrated in Rahim Yar Khan and its border belt alone — a shift that experts fear is accelerating the decline of cotton, straining water resources, and degrading soil. Six sugar mills currently operate in Rahim Yar Khan with a combined crushing capacity of 135,000 tonnes per day, the highest for any single district in the country. One of these mills is reportedly adding another 10,000 tonnes per day to its capacity this season.

Pakistan, which until a few years ago ranked as the world's fourth-largest cotton producer, has seen its output collapse from around 15 million bales in 2014-15 to barely 5.5m bales in 2024-25, largely due to the unchecked spread of sugarcane in designated cotton zones. The extraordinary expansion in sugarcane cultivation is not only responsible for a massive drawdown of irrigation resources — with millions of acre-feet of water wasted — but is also raising the water table to levels that threaten to render

vast tracts barren. Concurrently, pollution from sugarcane processing is harming fibre quality, pushing textile mills to import high-grade cotton to meet export commitments, Cotton Ginners Forum Chairman Ihsanul Haq tells *Dawn*.

Recalling the “crop transformation”, he says that until a few years ago, Rahim Yar Khan was Pakistan’s single largest cotton-producing district, cultivating the crop on 800,000 acres and yielding 1.3–1.4m bales annually. Across Bahawalpur division’s three districts, cotton output exceeded 4m bales. During 2024-25 cotton year, however, same region produced just 1.5m bales, with expectations of an even lower harvest this season. He notes that for first time in the country’s history, Sindh outperformed Punjab in cotton output during 2024-25 — 2.8m bales in Sindh versus 2.7m in Punjab. This marks a stark reversal from 2014-15, when national output peaked at 15m bales, with Punjab contributing 11m bales compared Sindh’s 4m. Preliminary assessments suggest Sindh will again surpass Punjab this year, despite Punjab having planted cotton on 1.4m hectares, more than double Sindh’s 630,000 hectares. (*Dawn, November 17th, 2025, Page 3*)

27 sugar mills start crushing across Punjab

As many as 27 sugar mills have started sugarcane crushing in line with the Punjab government’s notification. The sugar mills that defaulted on beginning crushing today will be liable to face action. The Punjab government has notified, under the Punjab Sugar Factories (Control) Act 1950, that the occupiers of sugar factories in Punjab shall start crushing of sugarcane from Nov 15. The Punjab cane commissioner says the sugar mills not launching sugarcane crushing by today will be slapped with a Rs1 million fine on a daily basis. The commissioner says monitoring teams have been constituted to inspect mills. (*Dawn, November 17th, 2025, Page 8*)

3.2 # Food Crop

Aide advises CM to fix paddy price

Special Assistant to Chief Minister Khair Mohammad Shaikh has advised the provincial government to fix support price of paddy. He has written a letter to the CM, and the prime minister as well, in this regard. Mr Shaikh, who also heads the Larkana Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI), stated that the rice crop is the backbone of the regional economy and a major export commodity contributing more than US\$3.9bn annually to the national economy. He noted that since the dissolution of the Rice Export Corporation of Pakistan, farmers, growers and millers had been left vulnerable to market manipulation. He stressed that they should be provided rightful relief by fixing support price of paddy. (*Dawn, November 1st, 2025, Page 15*)

PFMA for wheat supply to idle flour mills from Punjab’s storage

The ‘Reforms Committee’ of the Pakistan Flour Mills Association (PFMA) has demanded the Punjab government immediately supply wheat from its storage to the flour units lying idle in the province. A meeting of the body presided over by its head

Malik Tahir Hanif had a consensus that several mills in the province were non-operational because of departmental, administrative or other issues and the government should immediately supply grain to all these units to prevent any shortage of flour in the market. The meeting reviewed in detail the problems being faced by flour millers across the province. The participants lauded Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz's decision to fix the wheat price at Rs3,000 per 40kg, terming it a step that would help create employment opportunities for more than 100,000 jobless families.

Meanwhile, food authorities have issued show-cause notices to two known flour mills in Lahore for "creating artificial flour shortage" in the market. The officials claim that both the units had been issued 15,000 wheat sacks each on subsidised rates from the government's storage to ensure sufficient availability of flour in Lahore, but the two units milled only 10,000 sacks each. (*Dawn, November 3rd, 2025, Page 2*)

KP CM Afridi resents 'restrictions' on wheat movement

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Mohammad Sohail Afridi said that Article 151 of the Constitution guaranteed free trade among provinces and no provincial government was empowered to obstruct transportation of food or essential commodities. "Political differences must not come at the cost of people's livelihoods. Any hurdle to wheat and flour supply not only strains relations among provinces but adversely affects economic wellbeing of people," said the chief minister.

Meanwhile, another statement said that Standing Committee on Inter-Provincial Coordination (IPC) held a meeting with Senator Dilawar Khan in the chair to deliberate on the issue of inadequate coordination between the provinces of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab over supply of wheat. Food Secretary Shah Mahmood presented a detailed briefing on the province's wheat stock position. He said that only 17 per cent of KP's wheat requirement was met through local production while 83 per cent was procured from open market in Punjab. (*Dawn, November 6th, 2025, Page 8*)

'Grow more wheat' campaign launched in Rawalpindi

The Punjab Agriculture Department and Pir Mehar Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi launched a 'Grow more wheat campaign' in the Rawalpindi division. The campaign aims to enhance wheat production and promote sustainable agricultural practices across the six districts of Rawalpindi, Attock, Jhelum, Chakwal, Murree and Talagang. The campaign will continue until November 16. Vice Chancellor of the arid agriculture university Prof Dr Qamaruz Zaman emphasised the vital importance of wheat as a staple crop in Potohar region. He said wheat is one of the most important crops cultivated in the region. (*Dawn, November 8th, 2025, Page 4*)

Centre says ready to supply KP 1m tons of wheat

Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain, has said that the federal government is ready to supply up to one million tons of wheat to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, provided the province is prepared to receive it. Minister said,

“No food grain shortage was reported in flood-affected areas.” However, the Ministry of National Food Security and Research, along with provisional agriculture department, has taken several measures to avoid any potential shortage of wheat in the upcoming Rabi season. He said that the federal government is closely working with the provinces to ensure the implementation of sowing plans for the Rabi season 2025-26 to maintain national food security.

The Minister said the federal government is ready to provide one million tons of wheat to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He said that the provinces already have sufficient stocks of wheat to meet their needs, while the federal government maintains storage reserves to supply any province facing a shortage. He said that KP had reported a shortfall of 800,000 tons of wheat, upon which the federal government offered to provide the required quantity. Initially, the province requested 100,000 tons; however, no formal demand has been received from the provincial government so far, he said. He said that the federal government remains ready to immediately supply as much wheat as the province requires. He said that Punjab government has provided a Rs.100 billion interest-free loan to the farmers for the new crop. He said that Sindh government has allocated Rs55.89 billion for the Rabi season to provide 1 bag of DAP and 2 bags of Urea per acre to wheat farmers. (*Business Recorder, November 11th, 2025, Page 11*)

Inter-provincial wheat seed flow becomes smooth, govt claims

The Ministry of National Food Security and Research claimed that the inter-provincial flow of wheat seed — particularly during the critical sowing window for Rabi season in Sindh and Balochistan — has now become uninterrupted and smooth, and provincial governments have expressed their satisfaction over the supply of wheat seed. The Punjab government was specifically instructed to expedite seed dispatches to Balochistan and Sindh to meet critical sowing timelines and avoid production losses.

From Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, reports indicated a major bottleneck at Ramak check post, where around 100 seed trucks enroute from Punjab were stranded. Similar delays were also observed at other checkpoints along the inter-provincial borders, affecting timely delivery of certified wheat seed to farmers.

Officials from Punjab, Balochistan, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa acknowledged that despite significant progress, delays were still occurring at several inter-provincial check posts. These bottlenecks were primarily related to verification processes and incomplete documentation of seed consignments. In Sindh, the (wheat) seed requirement was estimated at 3.7 million metric tons, but only 19,800 metric tons had been moved by October 29. This disparity between demand and actual seed inflow was noted with concern, and Sindh authorities were asked to work closely with the seed providers and federal government agencies to close the gap. The secretary of agriculture, Balochistan, reported a shortfall in certified seed supply against the province’s target of 500,000 hectares, requiring 50,000 bags per day. As of October 29, only 12,000 to 13,000 bags

were being received daily. This slow inflow risked delaying sowing schedule in several districts and was flagged as a priority concern. (*Dawn, November 13th, 2025, Page 12*)

Sindh gov't asks Centre to establish mechanism for fixing paddy support price

The Sindh government has demanded that the federal government establish an effective mechanism to fix a support price for paddy, similar to wheat, so that farmers can receive fair compensation for their hard work. In a statement, Sindh Agriculture Minister Sardar Muhammad Bux Mahar stated that the provincial government was fully aware of the difficulties faced by rice growers. He emphasised that setting the support price for paddy was the authority of the federal government, but Sindh insisted that federation make an immediate decision in this regard. (*Dawn, November 14th, 2025, Page 15*)

Farmers advised to complete wheat sowing by 20th

The Agriculture Department has advised farmers to ensure wheat cultivation is completed by November 20 to achieve better production outcomes. A spokesperson for the Agriculture Department of Punjab emphasized that wheat is Pakistan's most crucial food crop, with the province targeting a production goal of 10.65 million acres this year. He highlighted that Punjab's climate and soil are ideally suited for wheat farming, offering significant potential to increase per-acre yields. To reduce farmers' production costs, the government has lowered the price of certified wheat seed from Rs 6,500 to Rs 5,500 per bag. Additionally, federal and provincial governments have set wheat support price at Rs 3,500 per 40 kg. (*Business Recorder, November 17th, 2025, Page 13*)

3.3 # Vegetables

Gov't sets onion production target for 2025-26

Pakistan has fixed its onion production target at 2.78 million tons for the 2025-26 crop year, with cultivation planned over 168,000 hectares across the country. The new target reflects the government's aim to build on the strong output achieved in the ongoing season. According to official data available with Wealth Pakistan, during 2024-25, national onion production rose sharply by 19.2 percent, reaching 2.747 million tons compared to 2.3046 million tons a year earlier. The cultivated area also recorded a notable increase of 16.8 percent, expanding from 142,500 hectares to 166,400 hectares, according to a document of the Ministry of National Food Security and Research.

Onion is Pakistan's second major vegetable crop after potato, with annual consumption estimated between 1.6 and 1.8 million tons. It remains an essential ingredient for household cooking throughout the year, widely used in soups, gravies, seasonings and other food preparations. Under the new production plan for 2025-26, Sindh has been assigned largest share with a target of 956,550 tons from 60,000 hectares. Balochistan follows closely with a target of 884,500 tons from 47,000 hectares, while Punjab aims for 720,000 tons from 49,000 hectares. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has been given a target of 254,400 tons from 12,000 hectares. (*Business Recorder, November 17th, 2025, Page 3*)

4 # SUB – AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIONS

4.1 # Fishery

Blue economy can help generate up to USD150bn: Ateeq

Pakistan's blue economy can generate between USD 100 billion to USD 150 billion, if it is being expanded and modernised, said Ateeq ur Rehman, economic and financial analyst. In a research proposal, he said it is quite encouraging that the determined and firm endeavours on the development of maritime potentials of Pakistan have already started. He said the government of Pakistan and Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry, are doing a commendable job on maritime beside announcing outstanding work on ports, shipping and logistics. They have announced the plans for three new deep sea ports by formation of a high-level, multi-agency committee to identify sites for new deep-sea ports along Pakistan's extensive coastline, marking the start of an ambitious century long maritime expansion plan.

It may be noted that this significant milestone follows the submission and acceptance of the research proposal "Dire Need of Mini Sea Ports," initiated by Ateeq ur Rehman. He said this honour reflects the importance of the study and the growing national focus on strengthening Pakistan's maritime infrastructure. The paper highlighted Pakistan's urgent requirement to expand its maritime infrastructure through the development of mini and deep sea ports an essential step for enhancing national trade capacity, reducing port congestion, strengthening the blue economy, and positioning Pakistan as a competitive maritime hub in the region. The commencement of work on different maritime projects specially the new deep sea ports marks a major step forward for the country's trade, blue economy, and regional connectivity. Pakistan's coastline of 1001km is home to many different species of maritime animals, plants and mineral resources. (*Business Recorder, November 18th, 2025, Page 7*)

World Fisheries Day: country's marine fisheries sector faces ecological and economic crisis

As the world marks World Fisheries Day on November 21, the spotlight falls squarely on the escalating crisis facing Pakistan's marine fisheries resources, which are now heavily overfished and overexploited, WWF-Pakistan said. Stagnant and in many cases declining, it showed concerns, fish landings have become a clear indicator of mounting pressure on coastal and offshore stocks. World Fisheries Day, observed globally on 21 November every year, serves as a stark reminder of the mounting threats facing marine ecosystems. Beyond celebrating the value of fisheries, this day underscores the urgent need for sustainable resource management, the protection of small-scale fishing communities' rights, the improvement of working conditions, and the elimination of illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing. It calls attention to a reality we can no longer ignore: the world's fisheries are under overwhelming pressure, and immediate action is critical. It is now well-known that more than two-thirds of the world's fisheries have been overfished or are fully harvested, and more than one-third are in a state of

decline because of factors such as the loss of essential fish habitats, pollution, and climate change. The situation in Pakistan is no different, as most of the fish stocks in coastal and offshore waters are now overexploited.

This is evident from the stagnancy in fish landings, which are not static but rather declining. Major post-harvest losses, high bycatch of endangered and threatened species such as cetaceans, turtles, and other megafauna, along with the uncontrolled increase in the fishing fleet, have significantly threatened marine biodiversity. WWF-Pakistan, the country's largest conservation organization, considers fisheries an important sector of the national economy, supporting around one million fishermen and those involved in ancillary industries. (*Business Recorder, November 21st, 2025, Page 4*)

Blue economy: Projects aimed at unlocking potential initiated

Pakistan has initiated USD 100 billion worth of development projects to unlock the country's blue-economy potential, with the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) driving fast-track reforms and investment pipelines across the maritime sector. According to the Ministry of Maritime Affairs, these projects form the backbone of the national "Maritime @100" programme, which aim at positioning Pakistan as a regional blue-economy hub by 2047. The programme includes major expansions in shipping, fisheries, logistics, and coastal infrastructure to boost exports, strengthen foreign exchange reserves, and create large-scale employment opportunities along the coastline.

As part of the plan, 15 new vessels will be added to the Pakistan National Shipping Corporation (PNSC) fleet over the next three years, reducing reliance on foreign carriers and improving export competitiveness. A landmark sustainability initiative — Pakistan's first green ship-repair and recycling yard, "Sea to Steel", will be established at Port Qasim, enabling the country to enter the global green-ship recycling market. Side by side, the Gadani Ship-Breaking Yard is set for a USD 43m modernisation overhaul to enhance safety standards, environmental compliance, and operational performance. The National Fisheries Policy 2025–2035 is being implemented to strengthen seafood exports through deep-sea regulatory reforms, modern fishing facilities, cold-chain improvements, and scientific resource management. Officials noted that maritime sector modernisation will significantly enhance national shipping capacity, support economic stability, & attract new investment. (*Business Recorder, November 28th, 2025, Page 3*)

4.2 # Livestock

'Mysterious' disease kills 28 camels in Cholistan

At least 28 camels have died during the last three weeks due to an influenza-like "mysterious" disease at various villages located deep in the Cholistan desert areas falling in the district. According to district livestock department sources, there are four MVD units to provide livestock treatment facilities in remote Cholistan areas. They say that the tehsil and district level livestock officers were mostly busy in performing

magisterial or other administrative duties for price control and monitoring, assigned by district administration, ignoring their actual job. (*Dawn, November 24th, 2025, Page 8*)

4.3 # Poultry

Chicken rates fall significantly in Karachi amid border closure with Afghanistan

The poultry prices across the metropolis have witnessed a significant decline, thanks to the closure of borders with Afghanistan which has resulted in suspension of trade. Consumers in local markets express surprise at the decline in rates and suspect it is due to the “spread of some kind of disease” among the birds. However, Sindh Poultry Wholesalers Association (SPWA) general secretary Kamal Akhtar Siddiqui ruled out any disease in the poultry. (*Dawn, November 24th, 2025, Page 13*)

5 # TRADE

Govt unveils 100-year maritime roadmap to become global trade hub

Minister for Maritime Affairs Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry unveiled a century-long roadmap to transform Pakistan into a major global maritime hub, setting out an ambitious framework titled ‘Pakistan’s Maritime Century (2047-2147)’. Addressing the launch of Pakistan Maritime Week 2025, Chaudhry described the initiative as a comprehensive plan to harness Pakistan’s strategic location, coastline and port infrastructure to drive sea-led economic growth and innovation. The long-term vision, he said, aims to position Pakistan as a leading player in the global blue economy while strengthening its maritime independence and sustainability.

Outlining a five-pillar strategy for the sector’s growth, the minister said the plan focuses on expanding port capacity, modernising the shipping fleet, developing shipbuilding and recycling facilities, promoting green maritime technology, and investing in human resource development. The minister announced that the Pakistan National Shipping Corporation (PNSC) will expand its fleet to 30 ships within a year and 60 ships over the next 3 years. Goal is to reduce the country’s \$5 billion annual sea freight bill by building self-sufficiency in maritime logistics. (*The News, November 2nd, 2025, Page 17*)

Trade deficit surges 56pc in October

Pakistan’s economic recovery faces mounting pressure as key indicators, including trade deficits and inflation, show worrying trends. The trade deficit in October surged 56 pc year-on-year to \$3.2bn, according to data released by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics. While this was 4pc lower than September’s deficit, sharp rise reflects sustained pressure on country’s external account. Cumulative figures for July-October FY26 show the trade deficit widened 38pc YoY to \$12.582bn, up from \$9.115bn during the same period last fiscal year. Analysts attribute this increase to a combination of rising imports and declining exports. Exports during the first four months fell 4pc YoY to \$10.448bn, while imports surged 15pc to \$23.03bn. October exports were 4pc higher than September, but monthly imports crossed the \$6bn mark for the first time in nearly three years, compared to \$5bn in October FY25. (*Dawn, November 5th, 2025, Page 9*)

Trade gap with Middle East narrows in first quarter

Pakistan's trade deficit with Middle Eastern countries contracted by 3.99 per cent in the first quarter of FY26, mainly due to a simultaneous decline in imports and exports, according to data released by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The trade gap with the region fell to \$3.558bn during July-September FY26, from \$3.706bn in the same period last year. In contrast, the deficit had widened 7.37pc to \$13.974bn in FY25, compared to \$13.014bn a year earlier. Imports from the Middle East dropped 5.48pc to \$4.274bn in the first quarter, from \$4.522bn in the corresponding months of last year. The decline largely reflected lower oil imports, particularly from the United Arab Emirates (UAE), as Pakistan began sourcing crude from the United States under a new energy arrangement. Exports to the region fell 12.19pc to \$715.63m, compared to \$815.04m a year earlier. In FY25, exports had slipped 1.52pc to \$3.107bn, while imports rose 5.64pc to \$17.081bn, widening the annual trade gap. (*Dawn, November 9th, 2025, Page 9*)

Month-long Torkham border closure inflicts \$45 million trade losses

The month-long closure of Torkham border crossing has caused a cumulative loss of over \$45 million and another Rs16.5 billion in terms of exports and imports respectively through Pakistan's trade with Afghanistan. Sources among official and trading circles told that Pakistan had already lost over 65pc of Afghan market to Iran, some Central Asian States, Turkiye and even India due to hostile and aggressive trade policies dictated by security issues since installation of Taliban regime in Kabul in August 2021.

They said that while big time Pakistan and Afghan exporters had lifted their capital from the export-import business between the two neighbouring countries due to the repeated border closure and a hostile environment for traders and investors, the month-long closure of all border points had seriously dented the confidence of remaining "bunch" of small traders. The sources said that while the uncertain situation had also dealt a severe blow to the burgeoning local manufacturing industry in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the border closure had seriously impacted manufacture of hundreds of daily items in Punjab and Sindh, which were exported to Afghanistan under head of the miscellaneous items daily prior to closure of border. (*Dawn, November 11th, 2025, Page 8*)

Pak trade delegation secures USD8m orders from Argentina

The Trade Development Authority of Pakistan, in collaboration with Pakistan's Mission in Buenos Aires, organised a high-level business delegation to Argentina from 10th to 14th November, 2025. The delegation consisted of 13 leading Pakistani companies representing textiles, leather, and sportswear. During the visit, Trade and Investment Counsellor Buenos Aires arranged focused B2B sessions that brought together more than 150 Argentine importers, distributors, and re-exporters. (*Dawn, November 16th, 2025, Page 5*)

Jul-Oct trade deficit jumps 39pc to USD12.7bn YoY

Negative growth in all major exportable categories apart from textile and an upsurge in petroleum imports ballooned the trade deficit to USD12.7 billion, showing an increase

of 39 percent in the July-October period of 2025-26. According to an advance release on external trade statistics issued by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, on a year-on-year (YoY) basis, exports declined by 4 percent to USD10.4 billion in the first four months of FY26. Whereas the imports increased by 15.5 percent in the same corresponding period of FY26 to 12.7 billion.

In October FY26, the exports declined by 4.5 percent on a YoY basis, but on a month-on-month (MoM) basis, they increased by 14 percent, reaching USD2.8 billion. The imports in October on a YoY basis increased by 21.65 percent, and on a MoM basis, they are up by 4.84 percent to reach USD6.13 billion. In the July-October FY26 period, food exports declined by 35 percent. Among food items, the major casualty is rice, which exports nosedived by 46.4 percent with a decline of 39 percent in Basmati rice and a 49.65 percent reduction in IRRI-6 & 9 rice. The aftermaths of flood hit the vegetable and tobacco exports badly which down by 41 percent and 28.5 percent respectively. During the corresponding period, among food group only fish & fish preparations and fruit exports increased by 12.8 percent and 11.78 percent, respectively.

The textile exports in the July-October FY26 period nominally increased by 4 percent. A major increase is witnessed in the exports of tents, canvas & tarpaulin by 32.34 percent. Whereas knitwear exports increased by 8.23 percent, cotton yarn by 7.74 percent, non-cotton yarn by 7.50 percent, bedwear by 6.94 percent, and readymade garments by 5.11 percent. Whereas exports of cotton cloth declined by 12.75 percent, and towels by 0.28 percent, and art, silk & synthetic textile by 0.98 percent respectively. Among other major items, carpet, rug, and mat exports declined by 12 percent, and leather tanned by 2.45 percent. The sports goods exports increased by 17.74 percent, among which football exports increased by 26 percent and gloves exports reduced by 9.18 percent. The exports of leather products are nominally down by 0.34 percent. Whereas footwear exports witnessed an increase of only 1.12 percent. (*Business Recorder, November 19th, 2025, Page 1*)

Rs4.4trn losses prompt Afghan border closure: officials

Closure of Pakistan's Afghan border on October 11 was prompted by massive economic losses, over PKR 3.4tr yearly from smuggling, plus nearly PKR 1tr in illegal backflow of Afghan transit goods. Pakistani officials insist move is not a reaction to political tensions but a calculated, long-term strategy to dismantle an illicit trade corridor long linked to narcotics trafficking, illegal weapons movement, and militant infiltration. Authorities point out that only those routes were closed that had become primary channels for smuggling, drug trafficking, and cross-border terrorism. The decision reinforces national security, strengthens economic sovereignty, and helps restore state control over key trade arteries. (*Business Recorder, November 23rd, 2025, Page 1*)

5.1 # Export

Oct textile exports surge 2.5pc MoM

Pakistan's textile exports registered an increase of 2.5 percent in October on a month-on-month (MoM) basis, whereas they registered a decline by 0.61 percent on a year-on-year (YoY) basis. According to the textile sector's sources, the total textile exports in October 2025 stood at USD1.62 billion, compared to USD 1.58 billion in September 2025 and USD 1.63 billion in October 2024. The total exports in the first four months (July-October) of the FY2026 reached USD 6.39 billion compared to USD 6.15 billion, showing an increase of 3.9 percent. It may be mentioned here that because of the overall slow performance of the textile sector and decline in food exports, especially rice, the overall exports declined by 4.04 percent in the first four months of the FY26.

However, the total trade deficit in the (Oct-July) period of the FY26 swelled by 38 percent is USD12.58 billion, compared to USD9.1 billion in the corresponding period of the last year. Total exports in the four months of the FY26 reached USD 10.45 billion compared to USD10.89 billion in the corresponding period of last year. Whereas imports in the July-October period increased to USD 23 billion compared to USD20 billion in the same period of the previous year. On the MoM basis, the total exports in October increased by 14 percent and they reached USD2.85 billion compared to USD2.5 billion in September. However, on a YoY basis, the total exports declined by 4.46 percent to USD2.85 billion in the FY26 compared to USD2.98 billion in October FY25. However, in October, on the MoM basis, imports increased by 3.57 percent as they reached USD6 billion, compared to USD5.85 billion in September. On a YoY basis, the imports in October increased by 20 percent to reach USD6 billion compared to USD 5 billion in the corresponding period of last year. (*Business Recorder, November 6th, 2025, Page 16*)

Aurangzeb lauds 34pc growth in pharma exports

Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb has lauded pharma sector's 34 percent export growth. The delegation said the Pakistan Pharmaceutical Manufacturers' Association (PPMA) is aiming for USD 10 billion exports. They discussed the establishment of PharmEx Pakistan, a dedicated pharmaceutical export platform to plan and execute strategies for achieving USD 3 billion in pharmaceutical exports within the next three years, and USD 10 billion over the subsequent five years. The global pharmaceutical market currently stands at over USD 1.6 trillion, and Pakistan's pharmaceutical sector driven by deregulation of non-essential drugs and supportive regulatory and budgetary measures has emerged as a strong growth area. (*Business Recorder, November 7th, 2025, Page 1*)

Exports to Europe rise to \$3.2bn

Pakistan's exports to European countries recorded a year-on-year growth of 5.66 percent in the first four months of 2025-26, driven primarily by increased shipments to southern, eastern and northern European states. In absolute terms, export earnings from

the European Union (EU) rose to \$3.174 billion in July-October, up from \$3.004bn over the corresponding months of last year, according to figures compiled and released by the State Bank of Pakistan. In FY25, the exports to the EU rose 7.44pc to \$8.863bn up from \$8.249bn in the previous fiscal year. In FY24, Pakistan's exports to the EU dipped 3.12pc to \$8.240bn despite its GSP+ status, which allows duty-free entry into most European markets. (*Dawn, November 18th, 2025, Page 9*)

Textile exports drift lower for third month

Amid growing concerns over the country's export performance, Pakistan's textile and clothing sector recorded a 0.67 percent decline in October, which was the third straight month of negative growth, signalling persistent challenges in one of the country's key industries. The October decline extends a trend of volatility in the textile and clothing industry, which had seen a sharp rebound of over 30pc in July. The stark contrast highlights unstable global demand and ongoing domestic challenges that continue to weigh on the sector's performance. Official data released by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) showed that textile and clothing exports fell to \$1.616bn from \$1.625 billion in October 2024. This sustained downturn signals persistent challenges facing the country's largest export-earning industry. In September, textile and clothing exports declined by 1.99pc and 7.34pc year-on-year in August. (*Dawn, November 19th, 2025, Page 9*)

NA panel for steps aimed at safeguarding rice exports

The National Assembly's Standing Committee on National Food Security and Research recommended that the government urgently pursue Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) and trade facilitation arrangements, particularly with the United Kingdom, to safeguard and expand Pakistan's rice exports, after India gained a competitive edge through its FTA-linked relaxation of Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) in the UK market. The committee issued the recommendation during a meeting, where members were briefed in detail on research, development, and export challenges facing Pakistan's rice sector. Lawmakers stressed that Pakistan must respond strategically to India's advantage by seeking similar trade concessions to enhance market access and strengthen the country's export position.

A detailed review of the national seed sector was also presented, covering seed production, certification, quality standards, and cross-provincial movement challenges. The Seed Association of Pakistan (SAP), representing around 200 companies, proposed reforms including soft loans for storage infrastructure, private-sector participation in pre-basic seed production, improved variety evaluation, and easing interprovincial movement. The SAP strongly opposed the introduction of genetically modified (GMO) corn, arguing that Pakistan's existing non-GMO maize varieties already outperform GMO-adopting countries in yield and that no major pest pressures justify GMO deployment. (*Business Recorder, November 21st, 2025, Page 2*)

Food exports stand at around \$3bn: official

Pakistan's food exports currently stand at around US \$3 billion, with the potential to rise to US \$10 billion, said Director General Punjab Food Authority Muhammad Asim Javed. He was speaking to the media after attending the "Mera Brand Pakistan" Expo, organized by the Pakistan Business Forum at the Lahore Expo Centre. The expo featured stalls of national brands and high-quality local products and continued for two days. Speaking to the media on the occasion, the DG Food Authority said that a Business Facilitation Center has been established to promote business networking and raise awareness about food safety. At this centre, food business operators are provided with guidance regarding the food industry. He added that the Punjab Food Authority is extending full cooperation to the business community in matters related to food exports. (*Dawn, November 23rd, 2025, Page 9*)

PM Shehbaz eliminates 0.25pc export surcharge

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif eliminated the 0.25 per cent Export Development Surcharge (EDS) to relieve exporters and boost Pakistan's competitiveness on international markets. (*Dawn, November 25th, 2025, Page 9*)

Jan-Oct salt export to China jumps 26pc

Pakistan's salt export to China rose 26 percent in the first 10 months of 2025, driven by growing demand for industrial and food-grade products, the customs data showed. According to the data, exports of salt (commodity to China totaled USD6.04 million from January to October, up from USD4.79 million in the same period a year earlier. Total export volume for the period reached 39.93 million kilograms. Industry experts attributed the growth to improved trade facilitation and the increasing popularity of Pakistan's Himalayan pink salt, which has gained traction in China due to its mineral composition and branding. According to Gwadar Pro the data release comes ahead of the Food and Agri Expo in Karachi (Nov 25-27). A Chinese business delegation is expected to attend the event, where Pakistan's top salt companies will seek to negotiate new export deals and joint ventures. (*Business Recorder, November 25th, 2025, Page 7*)

Afghan border closure chokes crucial exports

Following closure of the Pakistan - Afghanistan border on Oct 11 amid rising tensions between the two countries, stakeholders have offered mixed views on its impact on trade, while analysts warn of more pressure on Pakistan's exports if deadlock persists. At the same time, some analysts believe the closure may slow the influx of smuggled goods into Pakistan from Afghan territory. (*Dawn, November 30th, 2025, Page 9*)

Exports to N. America post paltry growth

Pakistan's merchandise exports to North America saw a paltry growth of 7.15 percent in four months of 2025, reaching \$2.323bn, up from \$2.168bn in the corresponding months of the previous year. The uptick in exports was largely fuelled by increased shipments to United States, signalling a strengthening trade relationship between

Islamabad and Washington. Nearly 94pc of Pakistan’s exports to North America were destined for the US market, with the remainder primarily directed toward Canada. In FY25, Pakistan’s merchandise exports to North America rose by 9.97pc to \$6.415bn, up from \$5.833bn in corresponding period of previous year. The rise in exports to region is primarily due to a surge in textile and clothing exports to US, according to data compiled by State Bank of Pakistan. The revival of exports to the region was recorded in current fiscal year, mainly due to a rise in textile and clothing exports following a slowdown in exports from Bangladesh and Vietnam. The Trump administration has enacted a 19pc tariff on products from Pakistan, primarily targeting textile sector. However, exporters are still reviewing impact of additional tariff on Pakistan’s exports to United States.

In the same region, Pakistan’s exports to Latin America stood at \$18.12m in 4MFY26, down from \$18.78m in the previous year, a decline of 3.52pc. Pakistan’s exports to Latin America stood at \$73.521m in FY25, down from \$79.502m the previous year, a 7.52pc fall. Pakistan’s exports to Central America stood at \$62.23m in 4MFY26 from \$60.35m over previous year, a growth of 3.12pc. In Central America, Pakistan’s main export destination is Mexico, which stagnated at \$46.44m in 4MFY26 from \$46.27m over corresponding months of last year. Exports to South America — Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, etc. — stood at \$127.32m in 4MFY26, up from \$111.72m over corresponding months of last year, a rise of 13.96pc. (*Dawn, November 30th, 2025, Page 9*)

5.2 # Imports

Growers uneasy over import of tomatoes, sugar

The Sindh Abadgar Ittehad (SAI) has called upon the federal government to announce tariff for the import of tomato in the country because there will be no justification to go for its import when the crop of Sindh starts reaching market. Presided over by SAI President Nawab Zubair Talpur, the meeting also expressed concern over import of sugar and said that sugar cane crushing season was about to commence now. Still, sugar was being imported from Brazil and the UAE although sufficient sugar stocks were available in the country. The meeting noted that there was no reason why sugar’s import was allowed. (*Dawn, November 7th, 2025, Page 15*)

‘Edible oil imports to hit 3.5m tonnes in 2025’

Pakistan’s edible oil imports are estimated to jump to 3.4-3.5 million tonnes this year as domestic demand rises, Abdul Rasheed Jan Mohammad, Chief Executive of the Westbury Group, a major local player in Pakistan’s edible oil sector, said. Over the January-October period, Pakistan’s edible oil imports stood at 3.07m tonnes, surpassing the 3m tonnes imported in 2024. “This is a huge increase going on ... and this is primarily because of the surge in the population growth and also certain economic development,” Jan Mohammed told an industry conference on Indonesia’s resort island of Bali. The country imported around 2.9m tonnes to 3 million tonnes per year from 2022 to 2024. Over the January-October period, it imported 2.2m tonnes of oilseeds. (*Dawn, November 15th, 2025, Page 9*)

Scrap imports surge to 382,000 tonnes in October, nearing 2021 high

Pakistan's imports of iron and steel scrap climbed to 381,991 metric tonnes in October 2025, the highest monthly total since the 464,415 tonnes recorded in November 2021, according to Topline Research data based on the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS). The sharp rebound signals a sustained recovery in demand for secondary steel feedstock after a prolonged period of weakness. The time-series chart from Topline shows a steep fall in scrap inflows after the November 2021 peak, followed by a trough in early 2023 and a gradual, then accelerating, upswing through 2024 and 2025. That recovery gathered momentum in the second quarter of 2025 and culminated in the October figure, underscoring strengthening construction activity and higher rebar and structural-steel output by local millers. (*The News, November 30th, 2025, Page 17*)

6 # CORPORATE SECTOR

10 sugar mills in Punjab issued notices for failing to start crushing

As many as 10 sugar mills in Punjab have been issued show-cause notices for failing to begin crushing by 15 November in violation of the government notified schedule. Taking strict notice of the lapse, Cane Commissioner Punjab Amjad Hafeez initiated action under Section 21 of the Punjab Sugar Factories Control Act, 1950. (*Business Recorder, November 23rd, 2025, Page 8*)

Only five sugar factories start cane crushing

Five sugar factories have started crushing – four in upper and one in lower Sindh – to mark the beginning of sugar cane crushing season 2025-26. Still, the majority of sugar mills have not commenced crushing amidst growers' reservations over much-talked about deregulation of sugar market. (*Dawn, November 27th, 2025, Page 15*)

Competition Commission of Pakistan issues notices to 10 sugar mills over collusion

The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has issued show-cause notices to 10 sugar mills in Punjab for colluding on the start of the crushing season and fixing the sugarcane procurement price at Rs400 per 40kg. The commission's review found that the representatives of these mills held a meeting on Nov 10 this year, hosted by Fatima Sugar Mills, where they collectively decided to begin crushing on Nov 28 instead of the officially notified date of Nov 15 set by the Punjab Sugarcane Commissioner. The CCP said the mills also agreed to fix the cane purchase price at Rs400 per 40kg, which amounts to collusive decision-making. (*Dawn, November 29th, 2025, Page 9*)

7 # INTERNATIONAL AID / LOAN / INVESTMENT

Foreign investment plunges 26pc

Despite various government-led initiatives, the inflow of foreign investment has remained disappointing so far this fiscal year. The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) data showed that the foreign direct investment (FDI) fell by 26 per cent during the first four months of 2025-26. During July-October, Pakistan received a total of \$747.7 million in FDI, compared to \$1.01bn during the same period of the previous fiscal year, a decrease

of \$263 million. Some experts said the departure of several multinational companies from Pakistan and uncertainties regarding a war-like situation with Afghanistan and India could never be an ideal situation to invest in Pakistan. He said the government must make an effort to resolve the situation, but a hard-hitting statement against India and Afghanistan is appearing in the media almost daily. It can only destroy hope for any foreign investment, he said.

The inflows from China, which were still the largest in July-October 2025-26, fell to almost half of last year's levels. The FDI from China this year was \$226.7m, down from \$544.4m in the previous year. Another significant inflow came from Hong Kong, which invested \$120m, down from \$165m last year. The inflows from the UK and the UAE were \$61m and \$86m, respectively, during July-October. However, inflows from the US remained insignificant at just \$8.4m compared with \$6.4m in the same period last year. US president Donald Trump assured in his statement that his country would invest in mining and offshore oil drilling in Pakistan. (*Dawn, November 18th, 2025, Page 9*)

Foreign loan inflows surge 33pc in July-Oct

Foreign loan inflows to Pakistan increased by more than 33 per cent to \$2.293 billion in the first four months of 2025-26, mainly on the back of support from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). This allowed the government to begin the new fiscal year on a positive note, unlike last year's weak start due to the absence of IMF support. The total inflows, both loans and grants, in July-October amounted to \$2.293bn when compared to \$1.723bn last year, an increase of 33.24pc. Inflows in October alone amounted to \$471m, slightly higher than \$414m in the same month last year. Of the total, foreign loan inflows amounted to \$1.822bn this year compared to \$1.308bn last year, showing an increase of more than 39pc. Grants, on the other hand, amounted to just \$50.56m compared to \$87.66m of last year, a fall of 73pc.

The target for total foreign inflows for FY26 has been set at \$19.9bn compared to \$19.4bn last year. In July-October of 2023, Pakistan was able to materialise more than \$3.85bn mainly because of signing of the nine-month Stand-By Agreement (SBA) with the IMF. As a result, the country 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 a significant inflow of \$1.2bn from the IMF and \$1bn from the UAE. The Ministry of Economic Affairs said that it had received \$2.293bn in total foreign inflows in 4MFY26 compared to \$1.723m of the same month last year. The EAD said that out of \$2.293bn inflows, the \$773m were received for project financing, while non-project inflows amounted to \$1.52bn. (*Dawn, November 20th, 2025, Page 9*)

Profit repatriation jumps 39pc in four months

Repatriation of profits and dividends on foreign investments during the first four months of the current fiscal year (FY26) rose by 39 per cent compared to the same period last year. The State Bank's latest data showed that outflows during July-October FY26

reached \$1,137 million, up from \$818m last year, an increase of \$319m or 39pc. The outflow in October this year alone was notably high, accounting for 34pc of the four-month total. October's repatriation stood at \$386m, with China (\$167m) and the UK (\$96m) receiving the largest shares. Foreign investment inflows, however, remained weak. FDI fell by 26pc during the first four months of FY26. Due to a severe dollar shortage, the government had kept profit repatriation restricted in FY24, easing it gradually in FY25. The new fiscal year appears more open to foreign investors as profit outflows have continued to rise. China emerged as largest recipient during the period, receiving \$372m, sharply higher than the \$84m it received in the same period last year.

Both the UK and the US received lower profits this year compared to last year, though the former still ranked second with \$258m (against \$292m in FY25). The US received \$77m, down from \$129m last year. The Netherlands and the UAE received \$114m (\$21m last year) and \$95m (\$62m last year), respectively. Sector-wise data showed the power sector accounting for the highest outflows at \$342m during July-October FY26, compared to \$128m during the same period last year. Profits repatriated from the finance (banking) and insurance sector amounted to \$229m, up from \$95m last year. (*Dawn, November 20th, 2025, Page 9*)

7.1 # Countries / Regions

US mineral firm explores investment opportunities in Pakistan

A US-based minerals exploration and development company has expressed strong interest in exploring investment opportunities in Pakistan's mineral and mining sectors. The company is likely to establish technical collaborations, knowledge-sharing, and feasibility studies to assess specific investment projects in partnership with local entities. Nova Minerals is a dual Nasdaq and ASX-listed gold, antimony and critical minerals mining exploration and development company, and its delegation, led by Chief Executive Officer, Christopher Gerteisen, held a meeting with Minister for Board of Investment, Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh and showed interest particularly in antimony and rare earth minerals. (*Dawn, November 14th, 2025, Page 9*)

Chinese firm to invest USD1.5bn in Punjab Industrial Park

A Chinese investor group has signed a major agreement with the Punjab government to develop a 300-acre industrial park in the province, sources in the Punjab Industries, Commerce, Investment and Skills Development (ICISD) Department told. According to the agreement, Sino Pak Tech Industry (Pvt) Ltd will bring USD1.5 billion in foreign direct investment to establish the new industrial zone. The park will host manufacturing units in textiles, automotive, pharmaceuticals, and other sectors, generating thousands of jobs as production scales up. "The Government of Punjab is providing every possible facility to foreign investors," Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce Chaudhry Shafay Hussain said, adding that the new investment will usher in a fresh era of employment and industrial development in the province. (*Business Recorder, November 30th, 2025, Page 1*)

8 # INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS (IFIs)

8.1 # Asian Development Bank (ADB)

Balochistan water project: ADB approves USD48m more loan

Asian Development Bank approved an additional USD48 million loan to Pakistan for the Balochistan Water Resources Development Sector Project, aiming to address critical water management challenges in the province. The funding will enable the completion of key project components, including the Churi Infiltration Gallery subproject, development of Siri Toi Dam command area, and watershed management activities, all of which had been delayed due to budget constraints. The province faces severe water scarcity, aggravated by climate change and economic challenges, making it one of the most water-stressed areas in the country. Agriculture, the backbone of Balochistan's economy, contributes nearly two-thirds of the province's economic output and employs 60% of its 13 million residents. (*Business Recorder, November 27th, 2025, Page 1*)

8.2 # International Monetary Fund (IMF)

IMF official highlights impediments to growth

Mahir Binici, the IMF Resident Representative for Pakistan, has said that Pakistan needs to increase its tax-to-GDP ratio to 15 percent to overcome its economic and climate change challenges. He stated this in a panel discussion titled 'Financing Sustainable Development in the Emerging World Dis/Order' organized on the occasion of the 28th Sustainable Development Conference and hosted by Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI). The IMF representative said the narrow tax and export base, inefficient energy sector, and the loss-making state-owned enterprises (SoEs) are the biggest hurdles holding back Pakistan's growth. However, he said Pakistan's newly approved USD 1.4 billion arrangement under the Resilience and Sustainability Facility (RSF) will play a vital role in strengthening the country's economic resilience and capacity to withstand environmental shocks. (*Business Recorder, November 8th, 2025, Page 1*)

USD2.69bn interest paid against various IMF lendings: EAD

Pakistan paid a total of SDR 1.90 billion (equivalent to USD 2.69 billion) in interest under various IMF programmes, which includes surcharges amounting to SDR 401.24 million from 2008 to June 2025. According to the document of the Economic Affairs Division, the year-wise disbursement under the IMF Programme to Pakistan amounted to SDR 17.45 billion during the last 17 years. Under the Standby Arrangement 2008-2010, the government received SDR 4.94 billion, under "the Emergency Natural Disaster Assistance 2010", SDR 297 million under "the Extended Fund Facility (EFF) 2013", SDR 4.39 billion under "the EFF", SDR 3.04 billion under "the Rapid Financing Instrument Loan 2020", SDR 1.02 billion under the Standby Arrangement 2023", SDR 2.25 billion under "the EFF 2024", SDR 1.52 billion under 'the Standby Arrangement Programme 2008'".

The government paid interest of SDR 257.5 million during the period 2009-15. Under the Emergency Natural Disaster Assistance 2010, it paid SDR 14.5 million mark-up during the period 2010-15, whereas under the EFF, the government paid SDR 543.6 million during the 2013-25 period. Apart from this, the government paid interest of SDR 411.4 million on the Extended Facility 2019 during the period 2019-25. Under the Rapid Financing Instrument Loan 2020, the government bore interest of SDR 110.1 million during the period 2020-25, whereas under the Standby arrangement 2023, it paid SDR 142.23m as interest during period 2023-25. Under the EFF 2024, the government paid SDR 17.6m during period 2024-25. (*Business Recorder, November 12th, 2025, Page 1*)

Pakistan may get \$1.2bn from IMF on Dec 9

International Monetary Fund has scheduled a meeting of its executive board on Dec 8 to approve immediate disbursement of \$1.2 billion to Pakistan under two concurrent programmes. Pakistan and the IMF reached a Staff-Level Agreement (SLA) on the second review of the \$7bn Extended Fund Facility (EFF) and the first review of the \$1.4bn Resilience and Sustainability Fund (RSF) on Oct 14. Under the SLA, Pakistan will receive \$1bn in disbursements under the EFF and \$200m under the RSF. The \$1.2bn disbursement is expected to land in Pakistan's account on Dec 9, bringing total disbursements under the two arrangements to about \$3.3bn. The executive board would hold two separate meetings on Dec 8 to approve SLAs with Pakistan and Somalia, according to IMF's executive board calendar. (*Dawn, November 13th, 2025, Page 9*)

8.3 # World Bank

World Bank asks Pakistan to overhaul skewed trade pacts

The World Bank has asked Pakistan to improve its skewed preferential trade agreements with 10 bilateral partners, ensure a market-determined and flexible exchange rate and push deeper reforms to lower energy and other input costs to turbocharge over three decades of declining exports for sustainable economic growth. In a policy advice to the government, the bank observed that nearly all countries that have achieved rapid and durable growth have done so by tapping into global markets, but Pakistan has struggled to follow this path. "Exports have declined from 16pc of GDP in the 1990s to just around 10pc in 2024, with export basket still concentrated in low-value textile and agricultural products," it said, adding that economic upturns had been fuelled instead by debt and remittance-financed consumption, rather than export dynamism. The Washington-based lending agency has asked Pakistan to maintain a flexible exchange rate to ensure export competitiveness and complement tariff reform. (*Dawn, November 3rd, 2025, Page 1*)

9 # POLICY

9.1 # Development Policy

Rs2.77bn released for Balochistan PSDP projects

Federal government has released Rs2.77 billion for Balochistan-related development schemes listed under the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) for fiscal year

2025-26. An official working paper shared with the Senate Standing Committee on Planning, Development and Special Initiatives showed that against a revised allocation of Rs24.49 billion for Balochistan schemes under “Demand No. 109 – Other Development Expenditure, Provinces and Special Areas,” the cash releases booked so far was total Rs 2,772.650 million. The combined revised allocation for all provinces is Rs92.79 billion, with total releases of Rs 3.01 billion to date, implying that Balochistan accounts for the overwhelming share of cash flows issued under this demand head at this stage of the fiscal year. (*Business Recorder, November 10th, 2025, Page 3*)

Govt spends just Rs76bn on development in four months

Spending under the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) is struggling to take off as the government keeps a tight lid on disbursements to show fiscal discipline to the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The total spending on PSDP in the first four months (July-October) of 2025-26 amounted to Rs76 billion — just 7.6pc of the Rs1 trillion allocation for the year, which was lower than the previous fiscal year. The actual utilisation was far lower than Rs330bn authorised by the Planning Commission.

This alarming spending pattern about public interest projects having impact on living standards of the people and economic growth has come about despite a rare 1.6pc budget surplus posted in first quarter of the year amid whopping State Bank of Pakistan profit and petroleum levy collection and the closure of hundreds of projects on the tight fiscal requirements of the IMF programme to shift focus on completion of strategic projects at advanced stages of development for their early completion.

Data released by the Ministry of Planning and Development showed that, excluding corporations, the total PSDP expenditure by about 35 ministries and divisions amounted to a meagre Rs54bn in the first four months, or about 8pc of the total allocation worth Rs682bn. The corporatisations — chiefly the power sector and the national highway authority — together spent Rs22bn or 6.9pc against their budget allocation of Rs318bn for the whole year. Power sector utilised only Rs1.9bn or just 2pc of Rs91bn allocation. (*Dawn, November 13th, 2025, Page 9*)

Rs330.43bn authorised for uplift projects under PSDP

The Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives has authorised Rs 330.43billion (33percent) for development projects under Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) 2025-26 against Rs 1 trillion budgeted allocation during July-October, while the actual expenditures stood at Rs 75.97 billion. According to Ministry of Finance’s notification, the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives authorised 15 percent funds for the first quarter, 20 percent for the second quarter, 25 percent for the third quarter, and 40 percent for the fourth quarter under the PSDP.

According to data of Ministry of Planning, the ministry authorised Rs 219.2 billion (32 percent) for development projects of various federal ministries, divisions, and other departments against Rs 682.26 billion, including Rs 102 billion foreign loan budgeted

allocation for the financial year 2025-26. A total of Rs 53.93 billion has been expended so far on the development projects being executed by various federal ministries, divisions, and departments. (*Business Recorder, November 13th, 2025, Page 1*)

CDWP clears seven projects worth Rs34.6bn

Central Development Working Party (CDWP) approved seven development projects worth Rs34.66 billion and referred two major projects totalling Rs44.62bn to Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecneec) for final approval. Planning and Development Minister Ahsan Iqbal chaired the meeting. It was attended by Secretary for Planning, Awais Manzur Sumra, and senior representatives from relevant federal ministries and provincial governments. (*Dawn, November 16th, 2025, Page 9*)

756 development schemes underway in Karachi: Sharjeel

Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon said that under the Sindh government's focused and active policy, 756 development schemes are underway in Karachi to strengthen and modernize the city's infrastructure. In a statement, he said that 76 schemes of the Karachi Development Authority are in progress at a cost of Rs 13 billion, while Rs 18.36 billion are being spent on 200 schemes of the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation. (*Business Recorder, November 24th, 2025, Page 5*)

'Record' Rs1.018tr allocation for FY26 development schemes in Sindh reviewed

Sindh CM reviewed provincial development portfolio for fiscal year 2025-26, with a "record" development scheme of Rs1.018tr. He was presiding over a meeting at Chief Minister House which focused on major allocations for Karachi's water, sanitation, roads, mass transit and post-flood rehabilitation projects, as well as progress on key social and infrastructure initiatives across the province. A substantial share of this allocation, Rs85.5bn, has been earmarked for major Karachi initiatives under Local Government Department. These include key water and sanitation schemes such as K-IV, KWSSIP-II, Hub Canal, new storm-water drains and 228 related projects. (*Dawn, November 28th, 2025, Page 13*)

9.2 # Neo – Liberal Policy

Govt moves to deregulate wheat, sugar sectors

Government is preparing to deregulate the wheat and sugar sectors — a key structural reform under IMF Extended Fund Facility — though a formal timeline has yet to be announced. Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb, speaking at the 9th Edition of The Future Summit, said both sectors would be fully deregulated, ending government intervention across the value chain. "Deregulation has to be end-to-end; it's not possible for the government to control one part of chain and leave rest to market," he said. "Government has to come out of entire value chain — that's the direction we're heading towards." The move would shift price determination from state-controlled support rates to market-based mechanisms of supply and demand. Analysts see it as a major step toward improving efficiency in agriculture sector, which has long been plagued by distortions from subsidies and price controls. (*Dawn, November 6th, 2025, Page9*)

Major airports up for privatisation

The Board of Privatisation Commission took key decisions regarding the divestment of Pakistan International Airlines Corporation Ltd (PIACL) and the management of Islamabad, Lahore, and Karachi international airports. The meeting, chaired by the Adviser to the Prime Minister on Privatisation, approved the inclusion of AKD Group Holdings (Pvt) Ltd in the consortium led by Arif Habib Corporation Ltd (AHCL), following the consortium's request. The inclusion complies with the conditions outlined in the Statement of Qualifications (SOQ). The AHCL consortium is among four pre-qualified bidders participating in ongoing privatization process of PIACL. (*Dawn, November 8th, 2025, Page 9*)

Price deregulation raises medicine costs by 32pc

Prices of more than a hundred commonly used medicines have increased by an average of 32 per cent since February last year, after the caretaker government lifted price controls under its deregulation policy, prompting concern among officials and calls for the pharmaceutical industry to explain the steep hikes, according to officials and industry sources. The steep rise has not only fuelled public anger but also caught the authorities off guard, as they had expected that price deregulation would promote competition and eventually bring down costs for consumers. However, the outcome appears to be quite the opposite. The surge in medicine prices came to light through recent findings of an ongoing national survey ordered by the prime minister, following complaints from citizens, hospitals, and provincial health departments about soaring drug costs. (*Dawn, November 10th, 2025, Page 12*)

PSMA advocates early approval of deregulation policy

The Pakistan Sugar Mills Association (PSMA) has stated that policy on deregulation of the sugar sector should be approved at the earliest so that sugarcane growers get best prices for their sugarcane crops. In a statement, a PSMA spokesman said that last year sugarcane farmers got better rates for their crop due to the government's non-interference. The cooperation of the governments of Punjab and Sindh along with the sugar industry further facilitated it.

It is pertinent to mention here that sugar mills have always operated below their crushing capacity. Unless the sugar sector is completely deregulated, Pakistan's sugar sector will neither be able to compete with the international market, nor will farmers be able to get international rates. They will not cultivate more sugarcane resulting in lesser sugar production and the government may need to import it, burdening the national exchequer. (*Business Recorder, November 12th, 2025, Page 12*)

Drug prices up by 15pc, not 32pc, since deregulation policy: PPMA

The Pakistan Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association (PPMA) day insisted that medicine prices have increased by an average of 15 per cent since the government announced the deregulation policy in February 2024, not 32pc as claimed by the

authorities recently. In a statement, the association said that the figure of 32pc represents the cumulative increase over the past two years, not just after deregulation. “The actual increase of 15pc includes around 2.5pc growth in production units and new product introductions, meaning the real impact on existing medicines is closer to 13.5pc”. (*Dawn, November 13th, 2025, Page 5*)

Wapda CBA vows agitation against privatisation

Central President of the All Pakistan WAPDA Hydro Electric Workers Union (CBA) and Chairman of the Trade Union Federation of Pakistan, Abdul Latif Nizamani, has warned the federal government of a strong countrywide protest if it proceeds with the privatisation of power distribution companies. Speaking at a workers’ convention and later to the media, Mr Nizamani accused the government of following IMF and World Bank dictates, and pursuing policies that threaten Pakistan’s sovereignty. He said privatisation of national institutions was an “anti-worker and anti-people” policy. He said Wapda employees would resist any move to sell away public assets. (*Dawn, November 13th, 2025, Page 15*)

Struggling PIA: Govt says 75pc shares to be privatized

In a high-stakes move that could either salvage or seal the fate of the country’s ailing national airline, PM Shehbaz Sharif was informed of the imminent privatisation of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA), with an astonishing 75 percent of the flag carrier’s shares set to be sold off to private buyers. During a high-level meeting chaired by the Prime Minister, officials presented a detailed plan for PIA’s privatisation, outlining the next steps in the process and progress made thus far. One of the key stipulations revealed was that, despite the sale, PIA’s name and branding will remain unchanged.

A statement from the Prime Minister’s Office confirmed that the privatisation process is poised to enter its critical bidding phase, where the future ownership of the beleaguered airline will be determined. Officials disclosed that four parties have already been pre-qualified to participate in the bidding. They also outlined a transformative business plan for PIA, which includes a significant expansion of its fleet. The number of airworthy aircraft is set to grow from 18 to 38 by 2029. The airline’s route network, currently serving over 30 cities, will also be extended to more than 40 cities by the same year. (*Business Recorder, November 21st, 2025, Page 1*)

Beleaguered PR outsources four trains

The ailing Pakistan Railways (PR), long plagued by inefficiency and mounting losses, has outsourced four trains and begun the process for 11 more, officials told Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, a move expected to bring in an additional Rs8.5 billion as the cash-strapped state enterprise fights to stay afloat. (*Business Recorder, November 23rd, 2025, Page 1*)

10 # SOCIO – ECONOMIC CONDITION

Overall public debt rises Rs9.3tr in FY25

With a track record of 3.6 percent increase in the overall public debt-to-GDP ratio to 74.5 per cent during FY25, the Ministry of Finance (MoF) hoped to reduce it to almost 70pc in the current year and to 63.3pc by FY28. In its Debt Sustainability Analysis Report 2026-28, MoF projected the public debt to remain sustainable over the medium term, supported by macroeconomic stability and continued fiscal consolidation, albeit with ‘a moderate risk arising from gross financing needs (GFN)’.

“As of the end of June 2025, the Public and Publicly Guaranteed (PPG) debt-to-GDP ratio stood at 74.5pc, depicting a year-on-year increase of 3.6 percentage points from 70.9pc at the end of June 2024”, reads the report. It attributed the increasing debt-to-GDP ratio to depreciation of the rupee against major currencies, coupled with easing inflation and a persistently high policy rate (as compared to inflation), which raised the real interest rate.

In contrast, the slight increase in real GDP growth and the rise in the primary surplus helped reduce PPG debt as a percentage of GDP. Overall, the domestic PPG debt-to-GDP ratio rose to 49.8pc in FY25 from 46.2pc in FY24, while the external PPG debt-to-GDP ratio remained broadly unchanged. In absolute terms, overall PPG debt reached Rs84.79tr (74.5pc of GDP), compared to Rs74.62tr (70.9pc of GDP) in June 2024.

Total public debt stood at 70.8pc of GDP by the end of June 2025, the MOF noted, and was expected to decline to 60.8pc by FY28. Moreover, guarantees are 3.8pc of GDP by the end of June 2025, expected to decline to 2.5pc by FY28. As such, the public and publicly guaranteed (PPG) debt is expected to remain sustainable over the medium term (FY26-FY28). The decrease in public debt would be mainly driven by prudent economic management and fiscal consolidation, it promised.

As of end-June 2025, Pakistan’s public debt was recorded at Rs80.52 trillion (70.8pc of GDP), up from Rs71.24tr in June 2024 (67.7pc of GDP), an increase of almost 9.3tr in a single year. Domestic debt accounted for the largest share and showed a relatively higher rise, whereas external debt remained broadly stable in dollar terms. “This shift reflects the government’s policy to rely more on domestic sources, thereby reducing exposure to exchange rate volatility and external refinancing risks.”

Publicly guaranteed debt stood at Rs4.27tr, up from Rs3.38tr a year earlier. This increase in publicly guaranteed debt was mainly due to the incorporation, for the first time, of guarantees from commodities operations into the total guarantees issued limit as contingent liabilities. (*Dawn, November 1st, 2025, Page 9*)

NA told: Public debt skyrockets by Rs9.3trn in FY25

The National Assembly was informed that the country’s public debt surged by an alarming Rs9.3 trillion during the 2024-25 fiscal year, equating to a daily increase of

Rs25.4 billion – an unsettling figure that questions fiscal oversight. In a written response to questions raised by lawmakers, Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb confirmed that the public debt had risen by Rs9.3 trillion to Rs80.5 trillion by June 2025, equating to a daily increase of Rs25.4 billion.

However, the minister clarified that under the Fiscal Responsibility and Debt Limitation Act (FRDLA) of 2005, which offers a narrower definition of public debt, the increase was Rs8.2 trillion, or Rs22.3 billion per day. As a result, Pakistan’s public debt-to-GDP ratio climbed to 70.8% in FY25, up from 67.8% in FY24. Under the FRDLA definition, the ratio stood at 64.4%. The minister outlined a series of fiscal consolidation measures the government has introduced in an effort to manage the mounting debt burden. These measures include generating primary surpluses for two consecutive fiscal years to reduce deficit financing, shifting the borrowing strategy towards longer-term securities to mitigate refinancing risks, and conducting Pakistan’s first-ever sovereign debt buybacks.

In FY25, the government bought back Rs1.5 trillion in debt, with another Rs1.1 trillion buyback scheduled for FY26. Aurangzeb also revealed that the government had successfully extended the average maturity of domestic debt from 2.8 years to 3.8 years, delivering interest expense savings of over Rs880 billion in FY25. Meanwhile, Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal confirmed that eight China-Pakistan Economic Corridor projects, valued at around USD759.56 million, are currently under implementation. (*Business Recorder, November 15th, 2025, Page 1*)

District Vulnerability Index launched

Minister for Finance Muhammad Aurangzeb has said the country’s long-term economic prospects depend on effectively confronting the dual national challenges of rapid population growth and climate vulnerability. He made the observation while addressing the launching ceremony of the District Vulnerability Index for Pakistan (DVIP), organised by Population Council in collaboration with the Foreign and Commonwealth Development Office (FCDO).

The finance minister said the impacts of high population growth are visible in persistent human development challenges, including child stunting, learning poverty and a workforce insufficiently equipped for the future. He commended the Population Council for producing a comprehensive, data-driven District Vulnerability Index based on three years of research. He emphasised that the index provides actionable management information through its detailed analysis across six domains, offering meaningful insights into geographic disparities and identifying districts most at risk, particularly in Balochistan and Sindh. (*Dawn, November 19th, 2025, Page 3*)

1.4m more jobless in four years

Pakistan’s unemployed population surged by a staggering 31 per cent, or 1.4 million, rising from 4.5m in 2020-21 to 5.9m in 2024-25, highlighting mounting challenges in

the country's labour market. The rise in unemployment was observed across all age groups and both genders over the past four years, indicating a broad-based deterioration in labour market conditions, according to a government report released by Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal.

The unemployment rate also showed an upward trend across all age groups. For the prime age group of 15-24 years, it was estimated at 12.6pc in 2024-25, up from 11.1pc in 2020-21. Among individuals aged 15-29, rate rose to 11.5pc from 10.3pc, reflecting growing joblessness among youth. Overall, the average unemployment rate increased to 6.9pc, compared to 6.3pc in the previous labour force survey. Among males, unemployment rate climbed from 5.5pc to 5.9pc, while for females it increased more sharply from 8.9pc to 9.7pc. In rural areas, unemployment rose from 5.8pc to 6.3pc, and in urban areas, it edged up from 7.3pc to 8pc. (*Dawn, November 26th, 2025, Page 9*)

10.1 # Food

Guarantee of quality sought before any hike in milk price

The city administration has linked the increase in fresh milk price to quality, requiring dairy farmers and retailers to provide a written guarantee of supplying unadulterated and 100 per cent pure milk. Official sources said that the decision to this effect was taken at a meeting held to review the report of a review committee set up to check the quality of milk. (*Dawn, November 22nd, 2025, Page 14*)

Fresh milk retail price fixed at Rs220/litre

The city administration fixed the maximum retail price of fresh milk at Rs220 per litre. According to a notification, Karachi Commissioner Syed Hassan Naqvi notified the price under Section 7 of the Sindh Essential Commodities Price Control and Prevention of Profiteering and Hoarding Act, 2005 (Amended in 2008 and 2023). The milk price at the dairy farm and wholesale level was fixed at Rs200 and Rs208 per litre, respectively. The quality and hygiene of milk will be ensured as per the standard operating procedures (SOPs). (*Dawn, November 28th, 2025, Page 14*)

FoodAg Pakistan 2025 concludes on highly positive note

The 3rd International Food and Agriculture Exhibition of Pakistan, FoodAg 2025, concluded at the Expo Centre Karachi on a high note, announcing locked business deals worth USD 641 million generated over the first two days. Held from November 25-27 under the theme "Harvesting Innovation, Cultivating Sustainability," the event has been hailed as a resounding success, showcasing Pakistan's immense potential as a global agro-food hub. In his opening remarks, Faiz Ahmad, Chief Executive of TDAP, stated, "FoodAg 2025 has been a monumental success, exceeding our expectations. Under our theme of harvesting innovation and cultivating sustainability, we have successfully showcased the quality, diversity, and competitiveness of Pakistan's agro-food sector to the world. The results speak for themselves." The event, organized by the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), brought together over 370 Pakistani

exhibitors from more than 20 agro-food subsectors and attracted an unprecedented gathering of over 850 international buyers from 80+ countries, including some of the world's largest food importers. (*Business Recorder, November 28th, 2025, Page 4*)

10.2 # Inflation

Inflation jumps to 6.24pc in October

Food items and energy spiked the inflation, measured by Consumer Price Index (CPI), to 6.24 per cent in October against 5.6pc in September, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported. As a result, average inflation in the first four months (July-October) of FY26 also moved up to 4.73pc when compared to the same period of last fiscal year. A month-on-month increase in CPI was reported at 1.83pc in October over September.

Rural areas suffered the most due to rising prices as rural CPI was reported to have increased by 2.26pc in October while their urban compatriots faced 1.54pc increase in inflation. The PBS said the 6.24pc increase for October was caused by an across-the-board rise in prices, except recreation and culture, which dropped by 3.7pc. On the other hand, national prices of food and beverages (non-alcoholic) increased by 5.6pc, clothing and footwear by 8.07pc, housing, water, fuels and energy by 4.24pc, health 9.7pc, transport 6.7pc, education 10.6pc and other goods and services by 18.2pc. (*Dawn, November 4th, 2025, Page 9*)

Business confidence slides 'slightly', inflation top concern

A Gallup Pakistan's survey for Q4-2025 (October-December) reveals a decline in confidence since Q2-2025 but remains stronger than last year. The findings show a 'moderate' decline across all three components - current business performance, future expectations and perceptions of the country's direction of the index compared with Q2-2025. (*Dawn, November 18th, 2025, Page 2*)

Food prices & agri output depressed: Inflation likely to stay within 5-6pc range

Amid decline in production of major crops including cotton and rice, inflation is expected to remain in the range of 5–6 percent in November, driven by pressures on food prices and agricultural output. This was stated by the Finance Division in its 'Monthly Economic Update and Outlook November 2025' released. It further noted that Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) into the country declined sharply by 26 pc in the first four months (July-October) of fiscal year 2026, compared to the same period last year.

FDI totaled USD747.7 million during July–October fiscal year 2026, down from USD1.01 billion in the corresponding period of fiscal year 2025. The decline came despite a strong monthly performance in October 2025 FDI when it rose to USD178.9 million against USD145.9 million in October 2024 – a rise of 22.6 percent. Main sources of inflow were China (USD226.7 million) and Hong Kong (USD120.1 million). Sector-wise, power (USD297.0 million) and financial services (USD259.8 million) attracted the most FDI. (*Business Recorder, November 29th, 2025, Page 1*)

11 # ENVIRONMENT

NDMA warns of even stronger monsoon next year

The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has warned that the country is likely to experience 22-26 per cent above-normal rainfall during the 2026 monsoon season, stressing that weather extremes are intensifying and urgent preparations are required to minimise potential losses. NDMA Chairman Lt Gen Inam Haider Malik revealed that 3.1 million people had been relocated to safe areas during this year's monsoon. (*Dawn, November 20th, 2025, Page 3*)

11.1 # Atmosphere

Citizens' health at risk in Karachi as 'hazardous' clouds of dust, smog hang in the air

With a significant drop in minimum temperature, Karachi has been experiencing what the Met Office has described as "hazardous smog" that poses a serious health risk to people, particularly children. Health experts have called upon the general public and vulnerable citizens to wear face masks to protect themselves from cold and raise their immunity levels by eating nutritious food. The situation, they said, had worsened due to clouds of dust being generated throughout the day from the many under-construction sites in the city. According to the Air Quality Index (AQI) report, Karachi has been ranked the fourth most polluted city in the world. The air quality has been declared "hazardous" to human health. (*Dawn, November 8th, 2025, Page 13*)

70pc decline in stubble-burning incidents, claims Punjab govt

The Punjab government reported a 70pc decline in stubble-burning incidents across the province following establishment of 67 quick response centres (QRCs) along the major motorways and in key agricultural districts. However, despite the claim, Lahore remained as most polluted city of the world throughout day with its air quality index. The air quality in other cities, including Sialkot, Gujranwala and Jhelum, also remained very unhealthy. Senior Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb inaugurated the rapid response initiative to curb crop-residue burning and mitigate the annual smog crisis. Officials say the QRCs have so far extinguished fires across hundreds of acres of farmland while 117 cases have been registered against those involved in burning crops, residue and waste. The province implemented a coordinated surveillance-and-response mechanism ahead of harvesting season, integrating real-time monitoring with immediate field-level fire suppression.

An environmental expert told that the government claim was not right as most of the crops were destroyed during floods in the province and the farmers did not have stubble to burn. He accepted that there was betterment in air quality as compared to last year but advised the government to stop making false claims and increase efforts to control smog. Under the "Lungs of Lahore," Parks and Horticulture Authority (PHA) launched efforts to combat air pollution and smog in the provincial capital Lahore. The PHA launched a tree-washing campaign on major roads and heavily trafficked areas of the city in the morning and evening to remove dust from leaves and enhance trees' oxygen-producing capacity. (*Dawn, November 19th, 2025, Page 2*)

11.2 # Pollution

Lahore again ranked most-polluted city globally

Lahore was again ranked the most-polluted city in the world, recording an alarming citywide Air Quality Index (AQI) of 475, with a severe smog crisis engulfing most of Punjab, posing serious health risks to millions. The hazardous air poses serious health risks to residents, who continue to breathe toxic air. The situation is even direr in different areas of Lahore, with AQI on Syed Maratab Ali Road reaching 804, followed by Gulberg's 678 and DHA's 569. Other major cities of Punjab were also severely affected, with Faisalabad's AQI surging to 626, Sialkot's 601, and Gujranwala's to 515 during the morning hours.

Meanwhile, the provincial authorities held a high-level meeting to review the 'Smog Mitigation Action Plans 2025–26' and re-launch an upgraded Smog Mitigation Projects Tracking Dashboard (SMPT 2.0). Planning & Development (P&D) Board Secretary Razaqat Ali chaired the meeting aimed to enhance real-time monitoring and inter-departmental coordination. The agriculture department claimed there is a 25 percent reduction in stubble burning this year, with over 4,700 "super seeders" delivered to farmers. (*Dawn, November 15th, 2025, Page 2*)

11.3 # Health

KP records 80 more dengue cases

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa recorded 80 more dengue cases, taking the number of patients to 5,150 this year. A report released by Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response System of the health department said that the current tally of hospitalised patients had reached 42 as 29 more people checked into hospitals due to the mosquito-borne disease. The province has so far recorded two deaths, both from Mardan, one of the high-risk districts. (*Dawn, November 6th, 2025, Page 8*)

Over 4,000 test positive for dengue in five days in Sindh

Over 4,000 cases of dengue fever have been reported this month (in Sindh), with a death in Hyderabad in the last 24 hours, raising the tally to 21 in more than a month. According to the department's data, more than half of this month's total cases have been reported in Hyderabad (2118), followed by Karachi (1,857). A total of 9,638 cases have been reported this year. Sources said the situation was far more serious than what is presented by official data and that the official figures didn't represent the ground reality. They pointed out that there was no official mechanism in place to get feedback from private clinics operating in every nook and corner of a locality, as well as private hospitals. Many people constrained by their financial resources didn't even opt for laboratory tests. (*Dawn, November 6th, 2025, Page 15*)

Sindh reports 1,124 new dengue cases in 24 hours

The Sindh Health Department reported 1,124 new dengue cases across the province during the past 24 hours. According to the department's daily update, 5,393 dengue tests

were conducted province-wide, of which 4,001 were from the Karachi Division and 1,392 from Hyderabad. Karachi recorded 589 new cases, while Hyderabad confirmed 535. (*Dawn, November 8th, 2025, Page 14*)

13 years on, Sindh yet to produce anti-snakebite vaccine, PAC told

The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of the Sindh Assembly was informed that around 54,000 cases of snakebite are reported every year in the province (Sindh), but the government is still awaiting an anti-venom vaccine for which it had spent hefty funds since 2012. During a meeting of the PAC, it was revealed that the provincial health department had spent Rs1.7 billion between 2012 and 2023 on developing an anti-snake venom vaccine, but to no avail, and the project was transferred to the livestock department in 2024.

The meeting was told that the provincial government had released Rs350 million to the livestock department for the preparation of a vaccine against snakebite; however, not a single dose had been prepared from 2024 to 2025. The PAC was informed that the Sindh Institute of Animal Health, under the livestock department, had approved a tender worth Rs300m for the purchase of machinery and other equipment from Germany, Switzerland and the United States to prepare a vaccine against snakebite within a year.

The DG livestock told the PAC that there were “55 types of snakes”, out of which “13 were poisonous and seven of them were deadly”, including cobras and two-mouthed snakes. He said around 54,000 snakebite cases were reported in Sindh every year; however, due to the “low” presence of deadly snakes, the annual death rate was estimated to be “between 500 and 1,000”. (*Dawn, November 14th, 2025, Page 13*)

Measles claims seven lives in Bajaur

Health officials revealed that the measles infection had claimed the lives of seven children and infected 550 others during the recent outbreak in Bajaur. In this season [winter] seven children have died and 550 others were infected by measles in Bajaur recently, said Dr Hayat Afridi, acting district health officer, while speaking to media during the inauguration ceremony of the 14-day anti- measles and rubella campaign. (*Dawn, November 16th, 2025, Page 8*)

Mayo Hospital received 1,796 dog-bite cases in 14 months, LHC told

The Lahore High Court (LHC) was informed that the Mayo Hospital received over 1,700 dog-bite cases during the last 14 months. A report submitted by an additional medical superintendent (AMS) of the hospital says that its accident and emergency department treated 1,796 patients, including children, who suffered dog bites, since Sept 24, 2024. (*Dawn, November 18th, 2025, Page 2*)

KP govt to save Rs7bn through new funding model of free treatment scheme

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has decided to adopt fund management model for free treatment of people under Sehat Card Plus scheme to save money, according to

officials. Currently, the programme operates under insurance model under which the government pays Rs4,000 premium per family to State Life Insurance Corporation (SLIC), the implementer of the scheme on annual basis. In line with fund management model, the government will pay actual cost of patients' treatment in addition to 5.6 per cent (Rs1.8 billion) as administrative cost to the firm. The programme has benefitted about five million patients at a cost of Rs125 billion so far. Currently, there are 166 empanelled hospitals in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the total number of empanelled hospitals throughout the country is 700. (*Dawn, November 18th, 2025, Page 8*)

DG Health issues report on dengue cases

The Director General of Health Sindh has issued the daily report regarding the dengue situation in the province. During the last 24 hours, 63 new dengue patients were admitted to government hospitals, while 52 cases were confirmed in private hospitals. With these new cases, the total number of patients currently under treatment across the province has reached 114. (*Business Recorder, November 22nd, 2025, Page 2*)

12 # CLIMATE CHANGE

COP30: Pakistan calls for urgent climate finance

Pakistan called for urgent, predictable and equitable climate finance, enhanced technology transfer and stronger global cooperation to support climate-vulnerable countries at a series of high-level side events organised by the Ministry of Climate Change & Environmental Coordination (MoCC&EC) on the sidelines of the UN Climate Summit (COP30) in Belem, Brazil. "The events organised by the Ministry served as a major platform to showcase Pakistan's climate challenges, adaptation priorities and ongoing initiatives. They also highlighted the country's growing diplomatic role in advancing climate justice, resilience-building and system-wide reform in global climate governance," Ministry spokesperson highlighted.

He said further that MoCC&EC Secretary Aisha Humera Moriani, who led the planning and coordination of Pakistan's engagements at COP30, said the ministry was focused on ensuring that Pakistan's climate narrative was backed by solid evidence, technical insights and clear policy direction. She noted that Pakistan's pavilion had become a hub for discussion on climate adaptation needs of developing countries and the importance of international support systems that were designed "for the realities of those most at risk." At a session titled "Cryosphere Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction: Lessons Learned and Next Steps for the Hindu Kush–Karakoram–Himalaya", Pakistan warned that accelerating glacial melt across the region posed a rapidly escalating threat to rural communities, infrastructure, water systems, agriculture and economic security. (*Business Recorder, November 23rd, 2025, Page 3*)

12.1 # Climate Policy

Balochistan introduces new climate change policy

A new climate change policy has been introduced in Balochistan, with Rs500 million initially allocated to set up the Balochistan Climate Change Fund, officials informed the provincial assembly's Standing Committee on Climate Change, Environment, Forests and Wildlife. Department of Climate Change and Environment officials outlined new measures, including converting 45 brick kilns to modern zigzag technology and relocating 28 chromite grinding mills away from populated areas.

The efforts to curb pollution also include the installation of 29 effluent treatment plants and 18 scrubbers in various industrial units, officials presented the Balochistan Environmental Protection Agency' performance to the committee. The committee learned that the department seizes between 11,000 to 12,000 kilograms of illegal plastic bags monthly and is currently trying 146 environmental cases. Furthermore, completion of plantation and greening projects spanning over 41,000 acres has been achieved, and a management plan plus a Wildlife Endowment Fund have been established for Astola Island. (*Dawn, November 14th, 2025, Page 5*)

13 # CLIMATE DISASTER

13.1 # Flood

Rs824bn flood protection plan sent to CCI

The Ministry of Water Resources has submitted National Flood Protection Programme–IV (NFPP-IV), costing Rs 824.493 billion, to the Council of Common Interests (CCI) for approval, as provinces have declined to contribute their financial shares. Testifying before Senate Standing Committee on Water Resources, chaired by Senator Shahadat Awan, Secretary Water Resources Syed Ali Murtaza stated that a total of 375 schemes are included under NFPP-IV. (*Business Recorder, November 25th, 2025, Page 1*)

13.2 # Rainfall

504 killed in 2025 monsoon floods in KP, court informed

National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has informed Peshawar High Court that 504 persons including 338 men, 76 women and 90 children lost lives during this year devastating monsoon flooding in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. The authority provided the information in its comments submitted to the high court in a petition filed for developing and implementing a comprehensive disaster management plan and providing adequate compensation and relief to victims of this year natural disasters in the province.

The authority informed the court that prime minister had also approved payment of Rs2 million to next of kin of each of the deceased person. Apart from NDMA, KP relief, rehabilitation and settlement department and ministry of climate change, who are also respondents in the petition, have also submitted their comments to the court. Moreover, 218 persons had also received injuries during floods in different districts in the province.

NDMA also said that a total of 3,222 houses were damaged including 701 fully and 2521 partially damaged. A total of 5,467 livestock deaths were also recorded in KP. (*Dawn, November 24th, 2025, Page 9*)

13.3 # Wildfire

Wildfire on Nawagai mountains extinguished

A wildfire on three mountains was finally extinguished after it continued for three days, destroying scores of trees in Bajaur's Nawagai town. (*Dawn, November 23rd, 2025, Page 8*)

14 # NATURAL DISASTERS

14.1 # Earthquake

Another tremor felt in Karachi

The Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) recorded a low-intensity tremor in Karachi. According to the PMD's data, the earthquake of 2.2-magnitude occurred, with its epicentre located 24 kilometres north of DHA City, at a depth of 10km. Chief Meteorologist Ameer Hyder Laghari said that the seismic activity was caused by the (active) fault passing close to the Thana Bola Khan. "It's the second low-intensity tremor generated by this fault line this month. The first one was recorded early this month (October)," he said, adding that over 10 tremors had been recorded in two days in the Gilgit-Baltistan region. (*Dawn, November 1st, 2025, Page 13*)

Tremor shakes Ziarat, surrounding areas

Earthquake shook Ziarat and surrounding areas, registering a magnitude of 5.0, the National Seismic Monitoring Centre (NSMC) of Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) reported. The quake's epicentre was located 67 kilometres northeast of Quetta. No immediate reports of damage or casualties have emerged. Tremors and aftershocks continued into the night without any let-up, scaring thousands to flee their shelters and seek safety outdoors. While other districts, including Pishin, Bolan, Chaman and Quetta, also reported casualties and damage. (*Business Recorder, November 9th, 2025, Page 12*)

14.2 # Landslide

Karakoram Highway landslide buries six vehicles, sweeps two into river

A landslide hit the Karakoram Highway (KKH) near the Gonarfarm area in the Chilas city of Diamer district, burying six vehicles under debris and sweeping two others into the Indus River. No casualties were confirmed. (*Dawn, November 12th, 2025, Page 3*)

Landslide renders 15 families homeless in Chitral

An ongoing landslide in Yurjogh Village, part of the Injigan Valley in the remote Lot Koh area, has turned into a humanitarian crisis, leaving 15 families of the 54-household community homeless. The natural disaster attributed to persistent water seepage from an irrigation channel, has rendered numerous homes uninhabitable. (*Dawn, November 15th, 2025, Page 8*)

15 # RESISTANCE

JI protests against delay in completion of Red Line BRT project

A large number of people marched on University Road, demanding a final deadline for completion of the long overdue Red Line BRT project. Jamaat-e-Islami's Public Aid Committee and the Red Line Awami Action Committee jointly organized the protest march under the leadership of JI Karachi Ameer Monem Zafar Khan. The march began at Bait-ul-Mukarram Mosque and ended at Hassan Square along Main University Road. The protestors demanded that the Sindh government immediately complete the Red Line project. (*Business Recorder, November 2nd, 2025, Page 2*)

Residents protest 'illegal' mining in Lower Dir village

Elders and residents of Katon Dushkhel area demonstrated against what they called illegal mining in the area and demanded immediate cancellation of the mountain lease. The protesters, carrying placards and chanting slogans, warned of expanding their protest if their demands were not met. Addressing the gathering, Dr Riazuddin, Mujibur Rehman, Sahib Ghani and others alleged a contractor had been extracting precious stones from the Katon mountains for the past eight years and selling them at throwaway prices to other districts. They said the mining activities had caused severe environmental pollution, while repeated blasts during excavation had led to several unpleasant incidents. The speakers claimed the contractor had lodged fake complaints with the police to pressure local elders and suppress the protest movement. (*Dawn, November 3rd, 2025, Page 9*)

JSM-R holds sit-in against 'victimisation'

Activists of Jeay Sindh Mahaz-Riaz staged a sit-in at Wadhu Wah in Qasimabad against alleged incidents of enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings, as well as registration of FIRs against activists. (*Dawn, November 3rd, 2025, Page 15*)

Engineers' protest continues to affect PIA operations

The PIA managed to "partially restore its flight operations" amid a protest by aircraft engineers under the umbrella of the Society of Aircraft Engineers of Pakistan (SAEP). The tiff between the PIA management and the SAEP has been going on for three days over the safety of aircraft, causing delays in the departure of domestic and international flights at multiple major airports. PIA cancelled six flights to adjust the schedule of already delayed flights. (*Dawn, November 6th, 2025, Page 12*)

'Workers to resist bid to privatise Wapda'

The All Pakistan Wapda Hydro Electric Workers Labour Union staged rallies in parts of Sindh in protest against the proposed privatisation of power distribution companies, and water and power authority. In Larkana, Sepco workers under the union flag took out a procession from the office of the superintendent engineer in the lead of union's Regional Chairman Nisar Shaikh. They said inflation, unemployment and the sale of profitable national resources and institutions continued to accelerate, but instead of

realising the gravity of the situation, the government was busy in blindly implementing anti-worker policies. In Badin, the union staged a large protest rally against the proposed privatisation of the Water and Power Development Authority (Wapda). The participants marched from the Hesco Divisional Office and proceeded towards Allah Wala Chowk in the lead of union's Divisional Chairman Ghousa Khan Pathan, along with other senior leaders. (*Dawn, November 6th, 2025, Page 15*)

Demolition drive victims continue protest outside Supreme Court Registry in Karachi

The displaced residents of Gujjar, Orangi and Mehmoodabad Nullahs staged a protest outside the Karachi Registry of the Supreme Court to demand the rental payments and housing compensation promised to them after their homes were demolished more than four years ago. The demonstrators have been protesting for the fourth consecutive day from the platform of the civil society group called Karachi Bachao Tehreek (KBT). The KBT said that around 9,000 homes were demolished in the said year near the Gujjar, Orangi and Mehmoodabad Nullahs, leaving more than 50,000 people homeless. But despite court rulings in favour of compensation and resettlement, "official delays and corruption have obstructed relief," it maintained. (*Dawn, November 8th, 2025, Page 14*)

Highway blocked after trailer kills woman, her three children

The Sultankot section of Indus Highway remained blocked for more than five hours due to a protest demonstration held after death of a woman and her three young children in a road accident. (*Dawn, November 8th, 2025, Page 15*)

Nanbais' strike enters fourth day in Pindi

The strike by nanbais (bakers) in the garrison city entered its fourth consecutive day, creating difficulties for residents in obtaining roti from tandoors. Most tandoors remained closed, though a few opened in some areas. However, the All Pakistan Nanbai Association said the strike would continue until their demands were met. Shafiq Qureshi, President of the All Pakistan Nanbai Association, told *Dawn* that it was not possible for bakers to sell roti at Rs14 when a sack of wheat flour now costs Rs11,000. (*Dawn, November 9th, 2025, Page 4*)

Clifton residents in Karachi protest commercialisation of neighbourhood parks

Residents of Clifton Block 5 held a peaceful protest at The Justice Rana Bhagwandas Family Park to oppose the conversion of neighbourhood parks into padel courts and the commercialisation of quiet residential areas. (*Dawn, November 9th, 2025, Page 13*)

Many activists briefly detained after rally against 27th Amendment

Activists of different nationalist parties and groups staged a protest demonstration outside the local press club to condemn the passage of 27th amendment. Several activists were arrested following the protest for violating the Section 144. The call for the protest was given by the Sindh Action Committee (SAC) which has been revived only recently at a meeting of like-minded parties held at the residence of Sindh United Party (SUP) chief Syed Zain Shah. (*Dawn, November 12th, 2025, Page 15*)

JUI holds protest rally

Expressing solidarity with the framers and growers, a protest rally was held under the umbrella of Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam-Fazal (JUI-F) in Larkana to press the government for fixing reasonable support procurement price of paddy. Party leaders said that the farmers and growers of Sindh were facing severe economic hardship due to unfair deductions, exploitation, and the government's failure to provide fair prices for paddy crops. (*Dawn, November 14th, 2025, Page 15*)

Clifton residents protest against 'encroachments' in public parks

Residents of Clifton staged a demonstration in front of Bagh Ibne Qasim in protest over encroachments and commercialisation of public parks. Carrying banners and placards inscribed with slogans against the city mayor and operations of padel courts in public parks, the protesters, including women and children, were also joined by local Jamaat-i-Islami leadership. (*Dawn, November 17th, 2025, Page 13*)

Awami Tehreek stages rally against 27th Amendment, 'exploitation' of Sindh resources

A large number of activists from the Awami Tehreek and its women's wing, Sindhiyani Tehreek, organised a march against the 27th Amendment, corporate farming, new canals on the Indus River, so-called honour killings and the exploitation of the province's resources. The march started from Jail Road and concluded at the local press club, where it was addressed by party leaders. (*Dawn, November 17th, 2025, Page 15*)

PTI holds walk against 27th Amendment in Lahore

The Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf MPAs held a walk from the Punjab Assembly to Charing Cross on The Mall to record their protest against the passing of the 27th Amendment. After submitting a requisition at the Punjab Assembly seeking debate on the 27th Amendment, the PTI MPAs, led by party's secretary-general Salman Akram Raja, marched from Punjab Assembly to Charing Cross. They were carrying party flags and placards bearing inscriptions "We reject 27th constitutional amendment." (*Dawn, November 18th, 2025, Page 2*)

Opposition marches from parliament to apex court

Opposition lawmakers marched from Parliament House to the Supreme Court, only a couple of minutes away, to express their reservations against the 27th Amendment, which relegated the status of the apex court in favour of the Federal Constitutional Court. (*Dawn, November 19th, 2025, Page 1*)

Lawyers observe strike against conviction of colleagues

Lawyers observed strike in Peshawar High Court principal seat and attached districts against conviction of their two colleagues by an additional district and sessions judge in Charsadda for 'disrupting' court proceedings. The lawyers mostly stayed away from proceedings of courts including PHC and subordinate courts in Peshawar and attached districts of Nowshera, Charsadda, Mardan, Swabi, Mohmand, Khyber, Kohat and Hangu etc. (*Dawn, November 19th, 2025, Page 8*)

SAI protests delay in cane crushing in Sindh

Sindh Abadgar Ittehad (SAI) president Nawab Zubair Talpur has announced to holding a protest here on Nov 24 (tomorrow) against delay in the commencement of crushing season. In a statement issued, he said that an SAI's petition on that issue was already pending. He stated that November was going to end, but crushing of sugar cane had not started by sugar mills in Sindh. He said the sugar mills should have started crushing by October, but even after passage of considerable time in November, they had not started the crushing. He said that some mills in Punjab had started crushing of sugar cane.

He stated that when sugar's price was Rs120 per kg, sugar mills were procuring cane for Rs400 to Rs500 per 50kg. He said that now sugar's price stood at Rs230 but still Rs400 was offered to farmers. He termed it the economic murder of farmers and said that if sugar cane was not harvested, how wheat cultivation would begin. He said that initially it was cotton and then paddy crop for which farmers faced inadequate price issue and now it was sugar cane's turn. (*Dawn, November 20th, 2025, Page 15*)

Opposition protests 'state oppression', fresh tweaks

The Tehreek-i-Tahaffuz Ayeen-i-Pakistan (TTAP), a coalition of several opposition parties including the PTI, staged protests across the country against the 27th Amendment and "state oppression". From Islamabad to Peshawar, Lahore and Karachi, protesters wearing black armbands chanted slogans for the "supremacy of the Constitution" and the release of incarcerated PTI founder Imran Khan. Speakers at several venues denounced the 26th and 27th constitutional amendments and recent changes to cybercrime laws, calling the moves an attempt to shield "powerful personalities" from accountability and tighten the establishment's grip on power. (*Dawn, November 22nd, 2025, Page 1*)

Activists briefly detained for protest against 27th Amendment

Police briefly detained about half a dozen people to prevent them from moving towards the Karachi Press Club (KPC) to take part in a protest organised by the opposition alliance Tehreek-i-Tahafuz Ayeen-i-Pakistan (TTAP). All roads leading to the venue of the protest were closed by the police after buses and other heavy vehicles were parked to block access. Contingents of female personnel were also deployed in addition to other personnel. Some protesters were detained as they attempted to reach KPC.

Also detained was civil society activist Alifya Sohail, not part of the TTAP protest, who was initially taken to the Artillery Maidan police station, where her phone was taken from her and she was not permitted to contact anyone. Civil rights activist and lawyer Jibran Nasir also highlighted the matter and claimed that she and another female activist were reportedly taken to the Women police station situated on Sharae Faisal. PTI-Sindh spokesperson Mohammed Ali Bozdar told that "more than two dozen protesters" were detained near the KPC. In the evening, a senior police officer said that all the detained activists were released. (*Dawn, November 22nd, 2025, Page 13*)

Police, lawyers clash during protest against 27th Amendment

Clashes broke out between police and lawyers after lawyers were barred from holding a convention against the 27th Constitutional Amendment at the Sindh High Court (SHC). Lawyers had announced a convention inside the SHC premises, but the court administration denied them permission. Sindh High Court Bar Association President Barrister Mohammad Sarfaraz Ali also formally cancelled event. The lawyers brought out a rally to the Sindh High Court. (*Business Recorder, November 23rd, 2025, Page 8*)

Residents of Karachi's district Central stage protest against water shortage

Residents of district Central staged a protest at the Sakhi Hasan hydrant against a severe water crisis in their localities. A number of people living in Nusrat Bhutto Colony and some other areas in North Nazimabad Town entered the hydrant and stopped the filling of tankers. They demanded that water be supplied to their areas before being given to tankers. The protesters chanted slogans against KWSC and the provincial government. Later, they dispersed peacefully. (*Dawn, November 24th, 2025, Page 13*)

'Matter of life and death': citizens protest commercial use of parks

Civil society members sounded the alarm on the rapid conversion of public parks into commercial ventures and its impacts on the environment and the ecosystem. Speaking at a press conference from the platform of the Karachi Residents' Committee at the Karachi Press Club, city residents, representatives of the civil society and well-known environment activists said as many as 13 parks in Clifton, PECHS and adjacent areas had already been converted into padel courts, commercial sports facilities and other profit-driven activities. (*Dawn, November 26th, 2025, Page 13*)

Lawyers march on CM House for withdrawal of govt appeal before FCC in Karoonjhar mining case

The legal fraternity took out rallies and staged demonstrations near the Chief Minister House demanding withdrawal of an appeal of Sindh government challenging a judgement of the Sindh High Court handed down for the protection and preservation of the Karoonjhar mountain range. The confrontation between police and lawyers' rallies, separately organised by Sindh High Court Bar Association (SHCBA) and Karachi Bar Association (KBA), led to the suspension of vehicular traffic. After marching through various thoroughfares, the protesting lawyers staged sit-ins at the PIDC roundabout, as a heavy contingent of police was already deployed there, and containers had been placed to stop them from reaching CM House. (*Dawn, November 27th, 2025, Page 13*)

Lawyers call off sit-in in Karachi

Negotiations between Sindh government and representatives of the lawyers' community proved successful, which resulted in peaceful dispersion of the lawyers from PIDC Chowk. The lawyers' organisations gave the Sindh government a 15-day deadline to address their 'charter of demands'. (*Business Recorder, November 27th, 2025, Page 4*)

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

1 # AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION RESOURCES

Pakistan among nations using water ‘inefficiently’ [P. 48]

2 # AGRICULTURAL INPUTS

Not any preferable news to be included in this month.

3 # AGRICULTURAL OUTPUTS

Soybeans hits new 17-months high on Chinese purchases [P. 48]

4 # SUB – AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIONS

Not any preferable news to be included in this month.

5 # TRADE

APEC leaders for shared trade benefits [P. 49]

Beijing lifts some tariffs on US farm goods [P. 49]

6 # CORPORATE SECTOR

Not any preferable news to be included in this month.

7 # INTERNATIONAL AID / LOAN / INVESTMENT

Global foreign direct investment slumps [P. 49]

Arab-Islamic leaders call for provision of humanitarian aid to Palestinians [P. 50]

Trump hails \$1trn Saudi investment pledge [P. 50]

8 # INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS (IFIs)

8.1 # Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)

Only \$3.7bn of health-climate funds spent on adaptation: AIIB [P. 50]

9 # POLICY

Not any preferable news to be included in this month.

10 # SOCIO – ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

10.1 # Food

Bangladesh must confront unseen hunger [P. 51]

Republicans accused of weaponising hunger [P. 52]

Judge blocks Trump move for states to ‘undo’ food aid benefits [P. 52]

UN says it needs billions of dollars to fight hunger [P. 52]

10.2 # Poverty

Experts for global panel to tackle ‘inequality crisis’ [P. 53]

G20 billionaires’ one-year earnings could end world poverty: Oxfam [P. 53]

11 # ENVIRONMENT

11.1 # Health

Cervical cancer vaccine push has ‘saved 1.4m lives’ [P. 54]

11.2 # Pollution

Mussels reveal microplastic pollution in Greek waters [P. 54]

12 # CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate summit sees its first major protest [P. 54]

Strong action urged at COP30 to save glaciers [P. 55]

First draft of climate pact lands at COP30 [P. 55]

COP30 deal under threat amid clash over fossil fuels [P. 56]

Nations secure ‘compromise’ pact at COP30 [P. 56]

13 # CLIMATE DISASTERS

Disasters inflict \$3.26tr blow on global agriculture: FAO [P. 56]

13.1 # Cyclone

Thousands of Australians without power after cyclone hits [P. 57]

Cyclone Ditwah claims 46 lives in Sri Lanka [P. 57]

Pakistan offers help to Sri Lanka as cyclone toll rises to 153 [P. 58]

13.2 # Drought

Iran begins cloud seeding operations as severe drought bites [P. 58]

Iran halts power generation at key dam over drought [P. 58]

13.3 # Flood

Vietnam flooding submerges homes, kills 41 [P. 58]

33 die as floods ravage Thailand, Malaysia [P. 59]

Rescuers step up recovery operations as Southeast Asia flood deaths reach 321 [P. 59]

Sri Lanka deploys troops as floodwaters rise, death toll hits 69 [P. 59]

Thailand, Indonesia begin clean-up after massive floods kill over 400 [P. 59]

13.4 # Hurricane

Hurricane claims 50 lives across Caribbean [P. 59]

13.5 # Typhoon

Typhoon flooding kills 26, strands thousands in central Philippines [P. 60]

100 die as typhoon wreaks havoc in Philippines [P. 60]

Typhoon threatens Vietnam after killing 140 in Philippines [P. 60]

Second typhoon in a week displaces over one million in Philippines [P. 60]

13.6 # Wildfires

Tehran seeks help to douse blaze threatening Unesco-listed forests [P. 60]

14 # NATURAL DISASTERS

14.1 # Earthquake

20 dead, over 500 injured as quake jolts Afghanistan [P. 61]

Five killed as quake jolts Bangladesh [P. 61]

14.2 # Volcanic Eruption

Volcano erupts near Bali, sending ash into the sky [P. 61]

Hundreds flee after volcano erupts in Java [P. 61]

Ash cloud from African volcano hits ME air routes [P. 61]

15 # RESISTANCE

News Makers: Paris (France): [P. 62]

‘I miss breathing’: Delhi protesters demand action on pollution [P. 62]

New Delhi police detain dozens in anti-pollution protests [P. 62]

Protesters force their way into COP30 venue, clash with police [P. 62]

Indigenous protesters block entrance to COP30 summit in Brazil [P. 62]

Rally in Dhaka against minority group [P. 63]

120 hurt in clashes amid Mexico City anti-crime protests [P. 63]

Massive march in Brazil marks first big UN climate protest in years [P. 63]

News Makers: Athens (Greek): [P. 64]

Indian trade unions plan protests against labour law [P. 64]

Thousands rally in France after murder linked to anti-drug activism [P. 64]

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

[Back](#)

1 # AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION RESOURCES

Pakistan among nations using water ‘inefficiently’

The report, “Continental Drying: A Threat to Our Common Future,” says about one-quarter of inefficient water consumption in rain-fed agriculture and one-third in irrigated agriculture are concentrated in regions experiencing declining freshwater availability. These hot spots, where water inefficiency coincides with drying trends, are most pronounced in Western Asia, Eastern Europe, & North Africa. On a national level, the highest share of inefficient agricultural water consumption under drying conditions is observed in Algeria, Cambodia, Mexico, Pakistan, Thailand, Tunisia and Romania.

Drawing on two decades of satellite data enhanced through new modelling techniques, the report provides an unprecedented view of how land and water management decisions are shaping water availability. The past two decades have seen a global shift toward the cultivation of more water-intensive crops. Among drying countries, 37 have transitioned to more water-intensive agriculture, including 22 located in arid and semi-arid regions. This structural shift, coupled with inefficiency, further intensifies water demand in already water-stressed countries.

More than two-thirds of inefficient irrigation in drying areas is linked to the cultivation of water-intensive crops, underscoring the need for smarter crop choices that align agricultural practices with water sustainability. The report reveals that the world is losing 324 billion cubic metres of freshwater every year, enough to meet the needs of 280 million people annually. These losses are driven by worsening droughts and unsustainable practices, including poor pricing policies, weak coordination, deforestation and wetland degradation. Global water use has risen 25 percent since 2000, with a third of that increase occurring in areas already drying out. (*Dawn, November 6th, 2025, Page 12*)

2 # AGRICULTURAL INPUTS

Not any preferable news to be included in this month.

3 # AGRICULTURAL OUTPUTS

Soybeans hits new 17-months high on Chinese purchases

Chicago soybean futures rose slightly to reach their highest level since June last year, still supported by China’s hefty purchases of US beans. Wheat also reached a multi-month high while corn futures edged higher. Prices have climbed by nearly 14percent over the last month. Chinese state-owned grain trader COFCO bought at least 14 cargoes of US soybeans - around 840,000 metric tons - for shipment in December and January. China has largely shunned US soybeans amid a trade war with Washington. (*Business Recorder, November 19th, 2025, Page 9*)

4 # SUB – AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIONS

Not any preferable news to be included in this month.

5 # TRADE

APEC leaders for shared trade benefits

Facing deepening fractures in the global trade order, Asia-Pacific leaders adopted a joint declaration that emphasised the need for resilience and shared benefits in trade at the end of the annual APEC summit. The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation meeting, hosted by South Korea this year, unfolded under the shadow of rising geopolitical tensions and aggressive economic strategies - ranging from US tariffs to China's export controls - that have pressured global trade. Ahead of the gathering, US President Donald Trump announced trade deals with a number of countries, including China and South Korea. (*Business Recorder, November 2nd, 2025, Page 1*)

Beijing lifts some tariffs on US farm goods

China will suspend retaliatory tariffs on US imports, including duties on farm goods, after last week's meeting of the two countries' leaders, Beijing confirmed, but imports of US soybeans still face a 13 percent tariff. The tariff commission of the State Council, or cabinet, will scrap duties of up to 15 percent imposed on some US agricultural goods from November 10, while keeping levies of 10 percent introduced in response to President Donald Trump's "Liberation Day" duties. Investors on both sides of the Pacific were relieved when Trump met Chinese leader Xi Jinping in South Korea, easing fears that the world's two largest economies might abandon talks to resolve a tariff war that has disrupted global supply chains.

Trump and the White House were quick to issue their take on the meeting, but the Chinese side did not immediately give a detailed summary of what it had agreed. "Broadly, it's a great sign that the two sides are making rapid progress in putting the deal into effect," said Even Rogers Pay, a director at Beijing-based Trivium China. "It shows they're aligned and that the agreement is likely to hold up." The tariff cut nonetheless leaves Chinese buyers of US soybeans facing tariffs of 13 percent, a cost traders said makes US shipments still too expensive for commercial buyers, compared to Brazilian alternatives. (*Business Recorder, November 6th, 2025, Page 1*)

6 # CORPORATE SECTOR

Not any preferable news to be included in this month.

7 # INTERNATIONAL AID / LOAN / INVESTMENT

Global foreign direct investment slumps

Global FDI fell three per cent in the first half of 2025, extending a two-year slump, as trade tensions, high interest rates, and geopolitical uncertainty kept investors cautious, the UN Conference on Trade and Development said in its latest 'Global Investment Trends Monitor'. The drop was driven by developed economies, where cross-border

mergers and acquisitions (M&As) — which normally make up a large share of their FDI — fell 18pc to \$173bn. Developing economies fared better overall, with flows remaining flat. But trends diverged by region. Inflows rose 12pc in Latin America and the Caribbean and 7pc in developing countries in Asia, but fell 42pc in Africa. High borrowing costs and economic uncertainty continued to squeeze investment in industry and infrastructure in first half of 2025. Announcements of greenfield projects — when firms build new operations abroad — fell 17pc in number, driven by a 29pc decline in supply-chain-intensive manufacturing such as textiles, electronics and automotive, amid tariff uncertainty. International project finance — critical for infrastructure development — also declined, with deal numbers down 11pc and value 8pc. The trend was more positive in developing economies, where project finance deals fell only 2pc after two years of sharp declines. (*Dawn*, November 2nd, 2025, Page 9)

Arab-Islamic leaders call for provision of humanitarian aid to Palestinians

The Arab-Islamic leaders have jointly called for provision of humanitarian assistance to the Palestinians and condemned Israeli ceasefire violations. They demanded Israel’s withdrawal from the Occupied Palestinian Territory and emphasized the rebuilding of devastated Gaza. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, along with other Arab-Islamic Foreign Ministers, deliberated on way forward for a lasting ceasefire and sustainable peace in Gaza, said a Foreign Office statement issued. The foreign ministers of Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Jordan, Pakistan, and Indonesia attended meeting on ceasefire developments and the humanitarian situation in Gaza. (*Business Recorder*, November 4th, 2025, Page 3)

Trump hails \$1trn Saudi investment pledge

Donald Trump defended Saudi Arabia’s Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman over the murder of a journalist and hailed a \$1 trillion investment pledge as the US president laid on a lavish welcome at the White House. The heir to the throne then delighted Trump by announcing that he was increasing the \$600 billion Saudi investment he promised Trump when the US president visited the country in May. “We can announce that we are going to increase that \$600 billion to almost \$1 trillion for investment,” Prince Mohammed said in the Oval Office. The president has made a priority of boosting ties with the oil-rich Gulf kingdom, particularly as he seeks to turn the ceasefire between Israel and Hamas in Gaza into a longer-lasting regional peace. Trump said he had pushed the prince to normalize relations with Israel as part of the Abraham Accords that he launched in his first term. (*Business Recorder*, November 19th, 2025, Page 1)

8 # INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS (IFIs)

8.1 # Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)

Only \$3.7bn of health-climate funds spent on adaptation: AIIB

Assessing all health-sector investments made by multilateral development banks between 2019 and 2023, a report by the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)

reveals that while major funders have invested \$42.2 billion in health and climate initiatives over the past five years, only \$3.7bn has been directed towards adaptation. Immunisation against climate-sensitive diseases and the strengthening of health infrastructure have some of the highest climate-adaptation values among health sector investments. For every \$100 invested in these activities, up to \$36.50 goes towards addressing the additional disease burden caused by climate change.

The report, titled “Protecting Our Future: An Investment Framework for Quantifying the Climate Adaptation Benefits of Health and Immunisation Investments”, proposes a quantitative framework that enables key funders and national governments to identify health sector investments — such as strengthening healthcare infrastructure, early warning and health surveillance systems, improving vaccine delivery and cold-chain systems, and bolstering immunisation and disease-outbreak preparedness — that simultaneously advance both health and climate objectives.

Collectively, multilateral development banks (MDBs) have invested nearly \$2bn between 2019 and 2023 in making health systems more resilient to the effects of climate change. Despite the urgent need to build health resilience among vulnerable populations facing escalating climate-driven threats, less than 0.5 per cent of global climate finance currently supports human health interventions, leaving a critical gap in adaptation strategies, notes the report. (*Dawn, November 16th, 2025, Page 12*)

9 # POLICY

Not any preferable news to be included in this month.

10 # SOCIO – ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

10.1 # Food

Bangladesh must confront unseen hunger

A new report on food security in Bangladesh offers a lesson that managing a crisis is not the same as solving it. While the number of people facing high levels of acute food insecurity has dropped from 2.35 crore in 2024 to 1.6 crore this year, the figure is still an indictment of a system that continues to fail the most vulnerable. Among them are 3.61 lakh people who are in “emergency” conditions, a technical term that belies the brutal reality of empty stomachs and fading hope. This is a crisis unfolding in slow motion. The report, prepared by the Bangladesh government in concert with United Nations agencies and humanitarian partners, is commendable for its clarity and rigour and leaves little room for ambiguity. The epicentre of this food insecurity crisis is Cox’s Bazar, where the confluence of two vulnerable populations — Rohingya refugees and their host communities — creates a perfect storm of need.

The drivers of food insecurity are depressingly familiar. Climate shocks, such as the widespread flooding in 2024, have devastated agrarian livelihoods, washing away crops as well as the means of recovery. Economic shocks, in the form of persistent inflation

and market volatility, have also eroded the purchasing power of the marginalised. Perhaps most damning of all is the man-made crisis of neglect. As needs intensify, the international community is reducing the humanitarian funding that is a literal lifeline for hundreds of thousands. This is a failure of the international community's resolve. The world rallied with promises when the Rohingya fled genocide; it is now quietly renegeing on those promises, leaving Bangladesh to shoulder a burden that is rightfully the world's. (*Dawn, November 3rd, 2025, Page 10*)

Republicans accused of weaponising hunger

A top US congressional Democrat accused President Donald Trump and fellow Republicans of choosing to “weaponise hunger,” as a prolonged government shutdown disrupts critical food benefits for millions of low-income Americans. House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries warned that the Republican Party was “unserious” about reopening the government, which has remained shuttered for five weeks, delivering a multi-billion-dollar hit to the economy and leading to sharp accusations from both sides of the political aisle. He accused Trump's Republicans — many of whom have stayed away from Washington for weeks as the Republican leadership keeps the House of Representatives idle — of manufacturing a crisis, including the lapse of funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which provides food aid to more than 42 million Americans. (*Dawn, November 3rd, 2025, Page 11*)

Judge blocks Trump move for states to ‘undo’ food aid benefits

A federal judge temporarily blocked the Trump administration from forcing states to “undo” measures taken to issue full SNAP food aid benefits, according to a court notice. The move came after a federal appeals court allowed a judge's order to stand that directs the administration to fully fund this month's food aid benefits for 42 million low-income Americans. US Department of Agriculture had directed states to “undo” any steps taken to issue full SNAP benefits. The agency warned states they could risk financial penalties if they did not comply. (*Dawn, November 11th, 2025, Page 12*)

UN says it needs billions of dollars to fight hunger

The UN's World Food Programme warned that funding cuts mean it will struggle to feed even a third of the 318 million people facing severe hunger in 2026. “Declines in global humanitarian funding are forcing WFP to prioritise food assistance to roughly one third of those in need,” targeting 110 million of the most vulnerable, it said in a statement. That would cost \$13 billion, the agency estimated — but warned that “current funding forecasts indicate WFP may only receive close to half that goal”. The WFP's largest donor is the United States, which, under President Donald Trump, has cut foreign aid, including to UN agencies. Other big donors, including some European nations, have also shrunk their humanitarian budgets. The 318 million people facing acute hunger are more than double the figure recorded in 2019, as conflict, extreme weather, and economic instability have taken their toll, the WFP said. UN agencies this year declared famine in Gaza and parts of Sudan, something that WFP executive director

Cindy McCain called “completely unacceptable in the 21st century”. In a foreword to the WFP’s 2026 Global Outlook report, she said the world’s response “remains slow, fragmented and underfunded”.

“Global aid now covers less than half of total needs, with steep reductions in food assistance. Almost all operations have had to cut food and cash, and prioritise which vulnerable groups receive help,” she wrote. “At the same time, attacks on aid workers have surged, revealing a growing disregard for international humanitarian law.” For those facing hunger in 2026, 41 million people are classified as facing emergency or worse levels. Last week, both UN food agencies — WFP and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) — warned of 16 “hunger hotspots” around the globe, from Haiti to South Sudan, saying that funding shortfalls were worsening already dire conditions. (*Dawn, November 19th, 2025, Page 10*)

10.2 # Poverty

Experts for global panel to tackle ‘inequality crisis’

Wealth inequality is a global emergency that threatens democracy and social cohesion, experts warned, urging G20 leaders meeting in South Africa this month to establish a panel to tackle the crisis. The “inequality emergency” is leaving billions hungry and could worsen under the Trump administration’s “law of the jungle” approach to trade, a committee led by Nobel Prize-winning economist Joseph Stiglitz said in a new report.

The proposed panel on inequality was inspired by the UN’s expert Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which analyses the risks of global warming and proposes solutions. “Inequality is a choice. It is something we can do something about,” Stiglitz said at a briefing where he handed the report to President Cyril Ramaphosa. (*Business Recorder, November 5th, 2025, Page 12*)

G20 billionaires’ one-year earnings could end world poverty: Oxfam

Billionaires in the world’s leading economies made \$2.2 trillion last year, which would have been enough to lift all the world’s poor out of poverty, global campaign group Oxfam said. The British-based charity urged this weekend’s summit of the powerful G20 group of major economies to back initiatives by the host, South Africa, to address massive global wealth inequality and the debt undermining developing countries.

Billionaires in the 19 countries that are part of the grouping made \$2.2tr last year as their combined wealth grew to \$15.6tr, basing its figures on the Forbes list. “The annual cost to lift up the 3.8 billion people who currently live below the poverty line is \$1.65tr,” it said. Oxfam backed a recommendation that South Africa will present to November 22-23 summit for the establishment of an international panel to tackle inequality in the same way the UN’s IPCC works on the threat from global warming. “If the South African G20 establishes a new International Panel on Inequality, it will be a tremendous step in addressing the inequality emergency,” executive director Amitabh Behar said in

the statement. Oxfam also called for the world’s wealthy to be “fairly taxed in order to help end poverty and fight the climate breakdown”. It singled out the United States as championing “destructive policies — from reckless tariffs to regressive tax breaks and cuts to life-saving aid” that increase inequality between rich and poor. Calling for action on debt, it said 3.4bn people live in countries that spend more on interest repayments than on education or health. The G20 includes 19 countries as well as European Union and African Union, which together represent 85pc of global GDP and two-thirds of the world population. South Africa hopes its summit, the first G20 in Africa, will advance issues facing continent and developing countries in “Global South” before rotating presidency is handed to United States for 2026. (*Dawn, November 21st, 2025, Page 12*)

11 # ENVIRONMENT

11.1 # Health

Cervical cancer vaccine push has ‘saved 1.4m lives’

A three-year campaign to bring vaccines against human papillomavirus (HPV) to low-income countries has prevented 1.4 million cervical cancer deaths, the vaccine alliance Gavi said. “An estimated 86 million girls are now protected against the leading cause of cervical cancer, thanks to a concerted three-year effort by Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance and lower-income countries,” the organisation said. It added in a statement to mark World Cervical Cancer Elimination Day that “an estimated 1.4 million future deaths” had been prevented. Cancer caused by HPV disproportionately affects low-income countries, which often lack screening services and access to treatment. These countries accounted for 90 percent of the 350,000 cervical cancer deaths recorded in 2022, according to Gavi. (*Dawn, November 18th, 2025, Page 11*)

11.2 # Pollution

Mussels reveal microplastic pollution in Greek waters

Overtourism and heavy maritime traffic across the Mediterranean are contributing to a rise in pollution in Greece’s azure waters, say Greek scientists who have deployed thousands of mussels on seafloor to help detect microplastics. Mussels, filter-feeding organisms that absorb a range of contaminants into their tissue, including invisible microplastics, have been used globally for decades as a barometer of marine pollution. Researchers at the HCMR have been using them in Greece, whose pristine beaches and limpid seas lure millions of tourists annually. In May, they submerged cages with mussels at various depths and locations across Greece, from busy ports to remote islands. They retrieved them in September to analyse particles mussels had accumulated. To test surface water, they use a floating net device. (*Dawn, November 4th, 2025, Page 11*)

12 # CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate summit sees its first major protest

Thousands of people marched through the streets of Belem to press for action from negotiators holding tough talks at the UN’s COP30 climate conference in the Amazonian city. Under a baking sun, Indigenous people and activists gathered in a

festive atmosphere, blasting music from speakers, carrying a giant Earth ball, and holding a flag of Brazil emblazoned with the words “Protected Amazon”. It was the first major protest outside the annual climate talks since COP26 four years ago in Glasgow, as the last three gatherings were held in locations with little tolerance for demonstrations — Egypt, Dubai, and Azerbaijan.

Branded the “Great People’s March” by organisers, the Belem rally comes at the halfway point of contentious negotiations and follows two Indigenous-led protests that disrupted proceedings earlier in the week. “Today we are witnessing a massacre as our forest is being destroyed,” Benedito Huni Kuin, a 50-year-old member of the Huni Kuin Indigenous group from western Brazil, said. “We want to make our voices heard from the Amazon and demand results,” he said. “We need more Indigenous representatives at COP to defend our rights.” Tyrone Scott, a 31-year-old Briton from the anti-poverty group War on Want, said it was an “Indigenous-led, movement-led, people-powered march”. (*Dawn, November 16th, 2025, Page 11*)

Strong action urged at COP30 to save glaciers

Pakistan has called for stronger international commitments to address the rapid decline of the Himalayan Karakoram Hindukush (HKH) mountain ranges, warning that the consequences of accelerated glacier melt are being felt across the region. Climate Minister Dr Musadik Malik described the HKH region as the white rooftops of the world and a lifeline for millions in South Asia. Pakistan is home to around 13,000 glaciers that feed the Indus River system and underpin the nation’s food security, economy and ecosystems. Dr Malik said climate-driven glacier melt was proceeding at an unprecedented pace, leading to increasing hazards such as glacial lake outburst floods. (*Dawn, November 17th, 2025, Page 12*)

First draft of climate pact lands at COP30

COP30 hosts Brazil produced a first draft of an agreement between nations at the UN climate talks after negotiations on the sticking points stretched late into the night. The draft includes a sweep of options on the most difficult issues, reflecting the gulf between the nearly 200 nations in Belem and the work still ahead to refine a final compromise. The nine-page “Global Mutirao” document — a reference to an Indigenous concept of uniting toward a common goal — came after Brazil urged delegates to work day and night to produce an agreement by midweek.

The text leaves open a wide range of possibilities on the flashpoint issues in Belem — trade measures, finance for poorer nations, and the global inadequacy of carbon-cutting goals. But the quick turnaround of a draft on these thorny points suggested the COP30 presidency was confident it could soon have an outcome. The draft also raises the possibility of assessing national climate pledges annually, instead of every five years, to assess global progress in reducing greenhouse gas emissions more frequently. (*Dawn, November 19th, 2025, Page 12*)

COP30 deal under threat amid clash over fossil fuels

The European Union warned that the UN climate talks could end without a deal as oil-producing nations were accused of blocking any mention of a roadmap to phase out fossil fuels. After nearly two weeks of negotiations in the Amazonian city of Belem, the draft text unveiled by COP30 host Brazil made no mention of “fossil fuels” or the word “roadmap” that President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva had himself publicly supported.

More than 30 countries, including wealthy nations, emerging economies and small island states, had warned in a letter to Brazil that they would reject any deal that did not include a plan to move away from fossil fuels. Consensus is needed among the nearly 200 nations at the UN climate talks to land an agreement. Several NGOs also rejected the draft deal, with Greenpeace urging nations to send it back to the Brazilian chair for revisions. (*Dawn, November 22nd, 2025, Page 10*)

Nations secure ‘compromise’ pact at COP30

Nations clinched a deal at the UN’s COP30 climate summit in the Amazon without a roadmap for phasing out fossil fuels as demanded by the European Union, opting instead for a compromise to boost finance for poor nations. The approval of nearly 200 countries came after two weeks of fraught negotiations in the Brazilian city of Belem, marked by the notable absence of the United States as President Donald Trump shunned the event.

Applause rang out in the plenary session after COP30 President and Brazilian diplomat Andre Correa do Lago slammed a gavel signalling the deal’s approval, acknowledging the difficulties. The EU and other nations had pushed for a deal that would call for a “roadmap” to phase out fossil fuels, but those words do not appear in the text.

Instead, the agreement calls on countries to “voluntarily” accelerate their climate action and recalls the consensus reached at COP28 in Dubai. That 2023 deal called for the world to transition away from fossil fuels. The impasse between the European Union and the Arab Group of nations over fossil fuels pushed the talks past deadline, triggering all-night negotiations before a compromise could be reached. (*Dawn, November 23rd, 2025, Page 12*)

13 # CLIMATE DISASTERS

Disasters inflict \$3.26tr blow on global agriculture: FAO

Disasters have caused an estimated \$3.26 trillion in agricultural losses worldwide over the past 33 years — an average of \$99 billion annually, or roughly four per cent of global agricultural GDP — according to a new report released by Food and Agriculture Organisation. The report, titled Impact of Disasters on Agriculture and Food Security 2025, highlights how digital technologies are transforming the way farmers, governments and communities monitor risks, anticipate impacts and protect livelihoods.

Between 1991 and 2023, disasters wiped out 4.6bn tonnes of cereals, 2.8bn tonnes of fruits and vegetables, and 900m tonnes of meat and dairy. These losses translate to a

daily per capita reduction of 320 kilocalories — 13-16pc of average energy needs, the report estimated. The FAO report said Asia accounts for the largest share of global losses of 47pc, totaling \$1.53tr, reflecting both the scale of agricultural production and the region’s high exposure to floods, storms and droughts.

In Pakistan, monsoon floods affected over 9m people and destroyed 849,000 hectares of crops, coming just one year after the catastrophic 2022 floods from which the country is still recovering. The consecutive flooding events have fundamentally altered Pakistan’s agricultural landscape, with soil erosion, salinisation and infrastructure destruction creating long-term challenges for agricultural recovery.

Current assessment tools must be extended to systematically capture both direct and indirect impacts and take into consideration non-economic values, differentiated effects on vulnerable groups, biodiversity losses and long-term ecosystem disruptions, it said. Marine heatwaves alone are estimated to have caused \$6.6bn in fisheries losses (1985-2022), with 15pc of global fisheries affected and production losses exceeding 5.6m tonnes, demonstrating the severe yet largely unmeasured impacts on aquatic food systems. (*Dawn, November 15th, 2025, Page 9*)

13.1 # Cyclone

Thousands of Australians without power after cyclone hits

Thousands of people in Australia’s Northern Territory were without power after a tropical cyclone brought destructive winds to the region, including capital Darwin, overnight. Fina, a category three cyclone, was clocking wind gusts of up to 205 kph as it moved away from Darwin after passing the city as a “severe tropical cyclone”, the nation’s Bureau of Meteorology said. For residents of Darwin, population of around 140,000, Fina conjured painful memories of Cyclone Tracy, which wiped out much of the city on Christmas Day 1974, killing 66 people, in what was one of Australia’s worst natural disasters. (*Dawn, November 24th, 2025, Page 11*)

Cyclone Ditwah claims 46 lives in Sri Lanka

Cyclone Ditwah swept northward across Sri Lanka, leaving 46 people dead and 23 missing amid widespread floods, with torrential rain and strong winds expected to cause more flooding in the next 12 hours. Most deaths were caused by landslides triggered by more than 300mm of rainfall in the eastern and central regions. Nearly 44,000 people were affected nationwide, and many sought refuge in schools and public shelters.

Floods across other parts of Asia have claimed over 270 lives, with authorities working to rescue stranded citizens, restore power and communications and coordinate recovery efforts. Large parts of Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand have been stricken by cyclone-fuelled torrential rain for a week, with a rare tropical storm forming in Malacca Strait.

Floods in Indonesia

Flooding and landslides across Indonesia's Sumatra island have killed 84 people this week and dozens more are missing. Indonesia, along with neighbouring Malaysia and Thailand, has been hit by severe rains that have caused dozens of deaths across the region in recent days. In North Sumatra, "as of this morning, the number of fatalities is 62, with 95 people injured, both serious and minor injuries", said police spokesman Ferry Walintukan. (*Dawn, November 29th, 2025, Page 11*)

Pakistan offers help to Sri Lanka as cyclone toll rises to 153

Pakistan has offered to extend support in rescue and relief efforts as death toll from the landslides and flooding caused by Cyclone Ditwah rose to 153 in Sri Lanka, with 191 others missing and more than half a million affected nationwide. Sri Lanka declared a state of emergency and appealed for international assistance as the extreme weather system has destroyed more than 20,000 homes, sending 108,000 people to state-run temporary shelters. (*Dawn, November 30th, 2025, Page 12*)

13.2 # Drought

Iran begins cloud seeding operations as severe drought bites

Iranian authorities have launched cloud seeding operations to induce rainfall as the country faces its worst drought in decades, state media reported. "Today, a cloud seeding flight was conducted in the Urmia Lake basin for the first time in the current water year," which begins in September, IRNA news agency said. Urmia, in northwest, is Iran's largest lake, but has largely dried out and turned into a vast salt bed due to drought. IRNA added that further operations would be carried out in provinces of East and West Azerbaijan. Cloud seeding involves spraying particles such as silver iodide and salt into clouds from aircraft to trigger rain. It quoted country's meteorological organisation as saying rainfall had decreased by about 89 percent this year compared with long-term average. (*Business Recorder, November 17th, 2025, Page 10*)

Iran halts power generation at key dam over drought

Iranian authorities halted electricity production at one of the country's biggest dams due to a marked drop in the reservoir's water level, state media reported. (*Dawn, November 30th, 2025, Page 11*)

13.3 # Flood

Vietnam flooding submerges homes, kills 41

Rescuers plucked stranded people from the rooftops of submerged homes as widespread flooding inundated central Vietnam, where authorities said at least 41 people were killed. Relentless rain has lashed south-central Vietnam since late October and popular holiday destinations have been hit by several rounds of flooding. (*Business Recorder, November 21st, 2025, Page 5*)

33 die as floods ravage Thailand, Malaysia

Thailand airlifted patients and flew critical supplies, including oxygen tanks, into a submerged southern city as the death toll from some of the region's worst floods in years climbed to 33. Floods have swept through nine Thai provinces and eight in neighbouring Malaysia, as well as Indonesia, for a second successive year, prompting both countries to evacuate nearly 50,000 people. In Indonesia, 13 people are estimated to have died, while one has died in Malaysia. Three days of torrential rain starting last week dumped record volumes on Hat Yai, Thailand's southern commercial hub, flooding hospitals and stranding thousands on rooftops. City received 335mm of rain, its highest in a single day for 300 years. (*Dawn, November 27th, 2025, Page 10*)

Rescuers step up recovery operations as Southeast Asia flood deaths reach 321

The death toll from floods across large swathes of Southeast Asia rose to at least 321, with authorities working to rescue stranded citizens, restore power and communications and coordinate recovery efforts as the waters began to recede. Large parts of Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand have been stricken by cyclone-fuelled torrential rain for a week, with a rare tropical storm forming in the Malacca Strait. Another 46 people were killed by a cyclone in the South Asian island nation of Sri Lanka, authorities said. (*Business Recorder, November 29th, 2025, Page 8*)

Sri Lanka deploys troops as floodwaters rise, death toll hits 69

Sri Lankan troops were racing to rescue hundreds of people marooned by rising floodwaters as weather-related deaths rose to 69, with another 34 people declared missing. Helicopters and navy boats carried out multiple rescue operations, plucking residents from tree tops, roofs and villages cut off by floodwaters. The Disaster Management Centre (DMC) said the toll had climbed with the recovery of more bodies in the worst affected central region, where most victims had been buried alive as mudslides hit this week. (*Business Recorder, November 29th, 2025, Page 8*)

Thailand, Indonesia begin clean-up after massive floods kill over 400

The death toll from devastating floods and landslides in Southeast Asia climbed past 400 as clean-up and search-and-rescue operations got underway in Indonesia, Thailand, and Malaysia. Heavy monsoon rain overwhelmed swathes of the three countries this week and left thousands stranded. (*Dawn, November 30th, 2025, Page 10*)

13.4 # Hurricane

Hurricane claims 50 lives across Caribbean

Melissa, one of the strongest storms on record to make landfall in the Caribbean, began to dissipate after sowing devastation across much of Jamaica, cutting off communities in Cuba, drenching Haiti and leaving fifty people dead. Melissa was the most powerful storm ever to directly hit Jamaica, and the first major hurricane to do so since 1988. Forecaster AccuWeather estimated \$48 billion to \$52 billion in damage and economic loss across the western Caribbean. (*Dawn, November 1st, 2025, Page 11*)

13.5 # Typhoon

Typhoon flooding kills 26, strands thousands in central Philippines

At least 26 people have been killed and hundreds of thousands displaced as rains driven by Typhoon Kalmaegi flooded swathes of the central Philippines. Entire towns on the island of Cebu have been inundated, while cars, trucks and even massive shipping containers could be seen swept along by muddy floodwaters in videos verified by AFP. In Cebu alone, 21 people were now confirmed dead, civil defence deputy administrator Rafaelito Alejandro told, giving the storm's current death toll as 26. (*Business Recorder, November 5th, 2025, Page 5*)

100 die as typhoon wreaks havoc in Philippines

The death toll from Typhoon Kalmaegi in the central Philippines climbed past 100 as the devastating impact on Cebu province became clearer after the worst flooding in recent memory. Floodwaters described as unprecedented had rushed through the province's towns and cities a day earlier, sweeping away cars, riverside shanties and even massive shipping containers. (*Dawn, November 6th, 2025, Page 10*)

Typhoon threatens Vietnam after killing 140 in Philippines

Typhoon Kalmaegi made landfall in Vietnam's already storm-battered central belt, where thousands have been evacuated from areas in path of one of the world's deadliest cyclones this year. Kalmaegi cut a path of destruction through the Philippines this week, killing at least 140 people and leaving 127 missing after unleashing devastating floods. It crashed into central Vietnam, packing sustained winds of up to 149 kilometres per hour with much faster gusts. (*Dawn, November 7th, 2025, Page 10*)

Second typhoon in a week displaces over one million in Philippines

Entire villages lay submerged, and scores of towns remained without electricity as Typhoon Fung-wong left the Philippines after killing at least five people and displacing more than a million. Fung-wong, with a footprint that spanned nearly the entire archipelago, slammed into the eastern seaboard as a "super typhoon", uprooting trees and swamping towns in its path. It landed a week after Typhoon Kalmaegi swept through the islands of the central Philippines, killing at least 224 people. (*Dawn, November 11th, 2025, Page 10*)

13.6 # Wildfires

Tehran seeks help to douse blaze threatening Unesco-listed forests

Iran has requested foreign assistance in extinguishing a large fire that has ravaged Unesco World Heritage-listed forests in the north of the country for several days. The Hyrcanian forests stretch for about 1,000 kilometres along the Iranian coast of the Caspian Sea and into neighbouring Azerbaijan. Unesco recognised the forests as a World Heritage Site in 2019, deeming them unique for both their age — between 25 and 50 million years old — and their varied biodiversity, as home to more than 3,200 species of plants. (*Dawn, November 23rd, 2025, Page 10*)

14 # NATURAL DISASTERS

14.1 # Earthquake

20 dead, over 500 injured as quake jolts Afghanistan

A strong earthquake killed at least 20 people in northern Afghanistan, authorities said, just months after another deadly tremor that left the country reeling. The 6.3-magnitude quake struck overnight at a depth of 28 kilometres (17 miles) with the epicentre near the city of Mazar-i-Sharif, according to the US Geological Survey. “Based on the information we have so far, 534 people have been injured and more than 20 fatalities have been taken to hospitals in Samangan and Balkh provinces,” health ministry spokesman Sharafat Zaman told journalists. (*Dawn, November 4th, 2025, Page 12*)

Five killed as quake jolts Bangladesh

At least five people, including a child, were killed and around 100 were injured when a magnitude 5.7 earthquake struck Bangladesh with buildings damaged in many areas, including the densely populated capital Dhaka. Tremors were felt in the eastern states of neighbouring India that border Bangladesh, but there were no immediate reports of major damage, authorities said. (*Dawn, November 22nd, 2025, Page 10*)

14.2 # Volcanic Eruption

Volcano erupts near Bali, sending ash into the sky

A volcano on Indonesia’s main island of Java erupted throwing ash and gas kilometres into the sky and forcing officials to raise the alert status to its highest level. Mount Semeru in eastern Java, about 310 kilometres west of the tourist hotspot of Bali, spewing what are known as pyroclastic flows, Indonesian geological agency head Muhammad Wafid said. (*Dawn, November 20th, 2025, Page 10*)

Hundreds flee after volcano erupts in Java

Hundreds of Indonesians stayed in temporary shelters after a volcano on the main island of Java erupted, damaging houses and a school, with around 190 people evacuated from its slopes, authorities said. Mount Semeru in eastern Java erupted, throwing ash and gas more than 13 kilometres away and forcing officials to raise the alert status to its highest level. Volcanic activity had largely calmed down but was still fluctuating, according to the Indonesian geological agency. (*Dawn, November 21st, 2025, Page 11*)

Ash cloud from African volcano hits ME air routes

A massive volcano in northeastern Ethiopia erupted for the first time in tens of millennia, releasing a dangerous ash plume that has drifted across the Red Sea and disrupted operations on one of the world’s busiest air routes. The eruption of Hayli Gubbi, located in the volcanically active Afar region, sent a column of ash and smoke rising nearly 45,000 feet into the atmosphere. The volcano is located about 500 miles northeast of Addis Ababa, near the border with Eritrea. It sits within East African Rift, where tectonic plates are slowly moving apart. (*Dawn, November 25th, 2025, Page 1*)

15 # RESISTANCE

News Makers: Paris (France):

Activists belonging to Mouvement Enfants, a movement fighting against all forms of violence against children, hold a placard which reads as "Protect children, not Shein". Protesters took to the streets in the French capital against the opening of Asian e-commerce giant Shein's first physical store. (*Dawn, November 6th, 2025, Page 10*)

'I miss breathing': Delhi protesters demand action on pollution

Dozens of protesters rallied in New Delhi to demand government action on toxic air, as a thick haze containing dangerous microparticles shrouded the Indian capital. Parents in the crowd brought their children, who wore masks and waved placards, with one reading: "I miss breathing". New Delhi with its sprawling metropolitan region of 30 million residents is regularly ranked among the world's most polluted capitals. Acrid smog blankets the skyline each winter, when cooler air traps pollutants close to the ground, creating a deadly mix of emissions from crop burning, factories and heavy traffic. (*Dawn, November 10th, 2025, Page 10*)

New Delhi police detain dozens in anti-pollution protests

Indian police detained dozens of people during a rare protest at the famed India Gate monument in New Delhi demanding action to curb an annual scourge of toxic air swathing the capital and its surrounding region. Protest by crowds of all ages holding banners and chanting slogans before police bundled them away was a scarce event, even though Delhi and the national capital region have battled such fumes every winter for years. "We have only one problem, and that is of clean air," said Neha, a mask-wearing protester, who gave only one name. Visuals from the agency showed police dragging protesters, some holding banners that read, "Breathing is killing us," while others chanted slogans such as "Our right, clear air" into waiting buses before they were driven away. (*Business Recorder, November 11th, 2025, Page 5*)

Protesters force their way into COP30 venue, clash with police

Dozens of Indigenous protesters forced their way into the COP30 climate summit venue and clashed with security guards at the entrance to demand climate action and forest protection. Shouting angrily, protesters demanded access to the UN compound where thousands of delegates from countries around world are attending this year's UN climate summit in the Amazon city of Belem, Brazil. Some waved flags with slogans calling for land rights or carried signs saying, "Our land is not for sale." "We can't eat money," said Nato, an Indigenous leader from the Tupinamba community, who uses only one name. "We want our lands free from agribusiness, oil exploration, illegal miners, and illegal loggers." (*Dawn, November 13th, 2025, Page 10*)

Indigenous protesters block entrance to COP30 summit in Brazil

Dozens of Indigenous protesters blocked the front of the COP30 summit venue in Brazil, staging a sit-in that forced delegates to use a side entrance to resume their

negotiations on tackling climate change. Security guards stepped up checks during the peaceful protest, and delegates formed long lines waiting to enter the sprawling compound, which is built on the site of an old airport in the Amazon city of Belem. The venue is hosting the annual UN climate conference where delegates from 195 governments are seeking to secure progress on halting the rise in global temperatures that threatens delicate and essential ecosystems, including the Amazon rainforest.

The protesters are demanding that the Brazilian government halt development projects in the Amazon, including mining, logging, oil drilling and the building of a new railway for transporting mining and agricultural products. “President Lula, we are here in front of COP because we want you to listen to us. We refuse to be sacrificed for agribusiness,” read a statement from the Mundurucu Indigenous group that carried out the protest. (*Dawn, November 15th, 2025, Page 10*)

Rally in Dhaka against minority group

Tens of thousands of demonstrators gathered in Bangladesh’s capital to demand that followers of a small minority be declared infidels, in a show of force for hardliners ahead of elections. The Ahmadiya community have long been persecuted in Bangladesh. Mob attacks targeting its members were reported across the country when former prime minister Sheikh Hasina’s government fell last year in a student-led revolution. In the months since then, hardline Islamist groups that had been stifled under Hasina’s autocratic rule have returned to the fore, in part hoping to make headway in general elections set for February. The crowd in the heart of Dhaka included political leaders and senior Islamic preachers from India, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Egypt. (*The News, November 16th, 2025, Page 10*)

120 hurt in clashes amid Mexico City anti-crime protests

More than 100 people were injured and 20 arrested during a massive protest in Mexico City against the president’s handling of violent crime, local government officials said. Thousands marched on the capital’s historic main public square, the Zocalo, in a demonstration fuelled by young Mexicans with ties to a global wave of Generation Z protests as well as supporters of the domestic “Sombrero Movement,” which emerged after the recent assassination of a mayor known for his fight against organised crime. Participants of all ages taking part in the rally in front of the National Palace, where President Claudia Sheinbaum lives and works. Several protesters, some wearing balaclavas, toppled the metal barriers protecting the palace and threw paving stones at riot police, who responded with tear gas. (*Dawn, November 17th, 2025, Page 11*)

Massive march in Brazil marks first big UN climate protest in years

Tens of thousands of people thronged the streets of the Amazonian city hosting COP30 talks, dancing to thumping speakers in the first large-scale protest at a UN climate summit in years. As the first week of climate negotiations limped to a close with nations deadlocked, Indigenous people and activists sang, chanted and rolled a giant beach ball

of Earth through Belem under a searing sun. Others held a mock funeral procession for fossil fuels, dressed in black and pretending to be grieving widows as they carried three coffins marked with the words “coal,” “oil” and “gas.” (*Business Recorder, November 17th, 2025, Page 14*)

News Makers: Athens (Greek):

Greeks march during a commemoration of the 1973 students uprising against the US-backed junta. The uprising prompted the junta to send troops and eventually led to the ouster of the regime. (*Dawn, November 18th, 2025, Page 10*)

Indian trade unions plan protests against labour law

Ten large Indian trade unions condemned the government’s rollout of new labour codes, calling the biggest such overhaul in decades a “deceptive fraud” against workers. The unions, aligned with parties opposing Prime Minister Narendra Modi, demanded in a statement that the laws be withdrawn ahead of nationwide protests they plan to hold. Modi’s government implemented the four labour codes, approved by parliament five years ago, as it seeks to simplify work rules — some dating to British colonial rule — and liberalise conditions for investment. (*Dawn, November 23rd, 2025, Page 10*)

Thousands rally in France after murder linked to anti-drug activism

Thousands of people gathered in Marseille to honour the brother of an anti-drug activist murdered in France’s second largest city whose death sparked nationwide calls to confront drug crime. Demonstrators chanted “Justice for Mehdi” before observing a minute of silence at the roundabout where the 20-year-old Mehdi Kessaci was shot dead by a gunman in his parked car on Nov 13. Investigations are ongoing, but authorities consider the murder to be a “warning crime” linked to the anti-drug activism of his brother Amine Kessaci, 22, who was welcomed by cheers as he joined the crowd. (*Dawn, November 23rd, 2025, Page 11*)

About Us

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

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

Our Mission

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

Our Vision

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

Our Objectives

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

Roots for Equity

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