HAAL AHWAL

Selected News on Food and Agriculture

April, 2026

Roots for Equity

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

1 Hectare = 2.471 Acres

1 Acre = 4,840 Square Yards

1 Mann = 40 Kilo Grams (Kgs)

1 Ton = 25 Mann = 1000 Kgs

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Particular	April, 2026 (PKR)		
	1st	30th	Max Rate
USD[1]	280.25	280	280.25 (1st day)
Gold[1] (1 Tola)	481,893	474,893	502114 (17th day)
Silver[1] (1 Tola)	7,707	7,470	8246 (17th day)
Petrol[2] (1 Litre)	393.35	393.35	458.41 (3rd day)
Diesel[2] (1 Litre)	380.19	380.19	520.35 (3rd day)
Kerosene[2] (1 Litre)	433.40	365.21	467.48 (3rd day)

References: 1. https://www.forex.com.pk
2. https://psopk.com/fuel-prices/pol/archives?page=1

Preface

Back

The publication addresses 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).

The publication is based on selected compilation of national and international news items, highlighting issues in this period, considered of importance by the editorial team. For both national and international news, we have provided a section based on excerpts that are a further condensation of the news items covered by the publication.

Please note, that both national and international news begins with a detailed listing of news sub-headings that help readers to find topics of interest. *Haal Ahwal* is based on news coverage from two major newspapers namely the "Dawn" and "Business Recorder." Only the Sunday newspaper is used for news coverage from "The News."

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

Glossary

Back

ADB: Asian Development Bank

ADO: Asian Development Outlook

AGEGA: All Government Employees Grand Alliance

AIDS: Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome

AJK: Azad Jammu and Kashmir

AKUH: Aga Khan University Hospital

API: Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients

ASD: Autism Spectrum Disorder

BoDs: Board of Directors

BYC: Baloch Yakjehti Committee

CAREC: Central Asian Regional Economic CorridoR

CAT: City Anjuman Tajraan

CCHF: Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever

CCP: Competition Commission of Pakistan

CDA: Capital Development Authority

CDC: Centres for Disease Control and Prevention

CDWP: Central Development Working Party

CFS: Committee on World Food Security

CPI: Consumer Price Index

CPP: Pakistan Climate Prosperity Plan

CRI: Cotton Research Institute

CRP: Coordinated Research Project

DBA: District Bar Association

DFC: District Food Controller

ECC: Economic Coordination Committee

ECNEC: Executive Committee of the National Economic Council

FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization

FBR: Federal Board of Revenue

FCA: Federal Committee on Agriculture

FDI: Foreign Direct Investment

FMPAC: Fertilizer Manufacturers of Pakistan Advisory Council

FPCCI: Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry

GDP: Gross Domestic Product

GPI: Green Pakistan Initiative

GSP: Generalised Scheme of Preferences

HBWWF: Home-Based Women Workers Federation

HEC: Higher Education Commission

HIV: Human Immunodeficiency Virus

HKH: Hindu Kush-Himalaya

HRCP: Human Rights Commission in Pakistan

HW&SC: Hyderabad Water and Sewerage Corporation

HWA: Hari Welfare Association

IAEA: International Atomic Energy Agency

IBIS: Indus Basin Irrigation System

ICIMOD: International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development

IEA: International Energy Agency

IFIs: International Financial Institutions

ILO: International Labour Organisation

IMF: International Monetary Fund

INWP: Interim National Wheat Policy

IPC: Integrated Food Security Phase Classification

IRSA: Indus River System Authority

IUCN: International Union for Conservation of Nature

IWT: Indus Water Treaty

JPMC: Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre

KBP: Kisan Board Pakistan

KKH: Karakoram Highway

KMC: Karachi Metropolitan Corporation

KPC: Karachi Press Club

LESCO: Lahore Electric Supply Company

LFI: Left France Unbowed

MAF: Million Acre-Feet

MAR: Managed Aquifer Recharge

MMIDSP: Microbiology and Infectious Diseases Society of Pakistan

MMT: Million Metric Tons

MoNFS&R: Ministry of National Food Security and Research

MoU: Memorandum of Understanding

MTBs: Market Treasury Bills

NCJP: National Commission for Justice and Peace

NDCs: Nationally Determined Contributions

NFDC: National Fertilizer Development Center

NHA: National Highway Authority

NSMC: Pakistan Meteorological Department's National Seismic Monitoring Centre

NTUF: National Trade Union Federation Pakistan

OIC: Organisation Islamic Cooperation

PASSCO: Pakistan Agricultural Storage and Services Corporation

PBS: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics

PCMMDC: Punjab Cattle Market Management and Development Company

PCS: Pakistan Cardiac Society's

PDMA: Provincial Disaster Management Authority

PDWP: Provincial Development Working Party

PERA: Punjab Enforcement and Regulatory Authority

PFF: Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum

PHA: Punjab Horticulture Authority

PKI: Pakistan Kisan Ittehad

PKRC: Pakistan Kisan Rabita Committee

PMA: Pakistan Medical Association

PMD: Pakistan Meteorological Department

RMT: Rail, Maritime and Transport

RWMC: Rawalpindi Waste Management Company

SAB: Sindh Abadgar Board

SAI: Sindh Abadgar Ittehad

SAU: Sindh Agriculture University

SBP: State Bank of Pakistan

SCO: Shanghai Cooperation Organisation

SFD: Saudi Fund for Development

SIDH&RC: Sindh Infectious Diseases Hospital and Research Centre

SOPs: Standard Operating Procedures

STEM: Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics

SUP: Sindh United Party

UAF: University of Agriculture Faisalabad

UNDP: United Nations Development Programme

UoP: University of Peshawar

USGS: US Geological Survey

WAF: Women's Action Forum

WEO: World Economic Outlook

WFP: World Food Programme

WSMC: Wheat Stock Management Company

YoY: Year-on-Year

ZAT: Zilaee Anjuman Tajraa

Back

NEWS EXCERPTS

NATIONAL NEWS

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION RESOURCES

- The ongoing geopolitical tensions in the Hormuz Strait and the partial disruption of maritime routes have significantly affected the global agricultural economy and fertilizer supply chains.
- At the global level, notable increases have been recorded in the prices of key fertilizers such as urea and ammonia.
- This escalation is increasing agricultural production costs and raising concerns regarding food security.
- Urea prices at the New Orleans hub have risen from $516 to $683 per ton, while in certain Middle Eastern markets prices have increased by up to 50 percent, exceeding $700 per ton.
- Ammonia prices have also increased by 20 to 24 percent, posing a significant threat to global food security.
- Gulf countries remain major producers of urea, and the disruption has impacted millions of tons of fertilizer supplies annually.
- Sindh Agriculture University (SAU), Tandojam, in collaboration with private sector organisations, has agreed to develop farmer-centric models aimed at strengthening agricultural value chains, improving crop quality, and increasing farmers' incomes across the province.
- Protest demonstrations were organised in more than 100 cities across the country at the call of the Pakistan Kissan Rabita Committee (PKRC) to mark the International Day of Peasant Struggles.
- The protesters demanded that the minimum support price of wheat be fixed at Rs4,000 per maund, corporate farming be abolished, eviction notices issued to tenant farmers be withdrawn and the plan to procure wheat through 11 private companies be scrapped.
- Sindh government has expressed grave concern over 'persistent delays' in Tarbela Dam infrastructure works by Wapda, which have been causing severe operational constraints for Sindh and posing an imminent threat to the kharif crop season.
- Despite having sufficient water resources provided by nature, Pakistan's irrigation network is expected to cause a 15-35 per cent shortage to agriculture, mainly during the ongoing kharif crop sowing season, largely due to delays in dam construction.
- India has gone against international commitment and World Bank guarantee after holding Indus Water Treaty (IWT) in abeyance.

- Hundreds of thousands of farmers across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, largely depends on the steady flow of water from the Indus River system. Lately, that flow feels uncertain due to concerns over IWT violations.
- The Indus River Basin, the lifeline of Pakistan, is facing a looming threat of water scarcity, as snow cover across the Hindu Kush-Himalaya (HKH) region has fallen to 27.8 per cent below the long-term average, thus posing an immediate and escalating threat to water security for nearly two billion people who depend on the 12 major basins originating in the region.
- The report reveals that the Indus Basin continues to experience a reduction in snow persistence by 18pc.
- From a high of 19.5pc in 2020, the Indus Basin saw a sharp drop to 24.5pc below normal in 2024 — the lowest level recorded in the past 24 years. The deficit persists in 2026, recorded at 18.1pc below normal.
- The water regulator has reported worsening water quality due to pollution, salinity, odour and other factors in the Indus Basin Irrigation System (IBIS).
- Nearly 90 per cent of irrigation in IBIS is carried out through its vast canal network, making the country's agriculture, food production and food security heavily dependent on the Indus River System.

AGRICULTURAL INPUTS

- Wheat price plummeted from Rs4,000/40kg in January 2024 to Rs2,200/40kg by April 2024 due to government's inept policies.
- Although prices have since edged up to Rs3,500/40kg, the cost of production for the 2025-26 cycle has already climbed to Rs4,000.
- A one-time subsidy of Rs1,500 per acre is negligible compared to Rs12,000 per acre increase in costs triggered by latest fuel price rise.
- According to the 2025 agricultural census, there are approximately 2.6 million farming households in Sindh — 90 per cent of whom are smallholders with less than 25 acres.
- The hari card has been issued to only 330,000 farmers, ensuring the vast majority of those in need receive no relief.
- Punjab Agriculture Minister Syed Ashiq Hussain Kirmani reiterated that in light of the increase in diesel prices amid the Iran war, the government is extending financial support to wheat farmers at the rate of PKR 1,500 per acre.
- Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz unveiled a relief package for farmers, particularly wheat growers, offering financial assistance to those owning up to 25 acres of land. The scheme includes a subsidy of Rs150 per litre on 10 litres of diesel per acre.
- Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah announced Rs3 billion relief package for 366,000 small farmers to help with rising diesel costs during wheat harvest.

- Pakistan’s leading digital microfinance bank, Mobilink Bank has signed a crucial partnership with HBL Zarai Services Limited to advance agricultural financing for underserved communities under the ‘Zarkhez-e’ Asaan Digital Zarai Qarza Scheme.
- Government of Sindh is soon introducing projects through which small farmers will be provided with loans on easy terms and modern medical facilities so that the eradication of poverty in rural areas becomes possible.
- Provincial Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Sindh, Muhammad Ali Malkani has said that we must focus on modern gene technology and value addition to bring milk and meat production up to international standards.
- The Lahore High Court, Multan Bench, has categorically held that agricultural income is beyond the taxing jurisdiction of the Federal Government and falls exclusively within the provincial domain under Entry 50 of the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution of Pakistan, 1973. In this regard, the LHC has issued a judgment in the Income Tax Reference number 51 of 2024.
- Punjab Assembly has declared government notifications revising agricultural income tax rates “illegal, unconstitutional and void ab initio,” effectively nullifying all collections made under the disputed regime.
- In a significant turnaround, the Punjab Assembly restored the agricultural income tax raise notifications that it had suspended a day earlier through a ruling of the speaker, after the House unanimously overlooked delays in their prior presentation.
- Expressing satisfaction with the availability of fertilisers for the coming kharif season, the federal government said that a buffer stock of about 500,000 tonnes has been maintained.
- The federal government announced a special subsidy programme for farmers to mitigate the adverse impact of the global energy crisis.
- The government would provide a subsidy of Rs1,500 per acre to farmers owning less than 12 acres of land.
- Punjab reported that more than one million farmers now hold Kissan Cards, and that total wheat sowing has exceeded 16 million acres.
- Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah announced a Rs3bn relief package for 366,000 small farmers to help offset rising diesel costs during wheat harvesting.
- Balochistan government has launched the implementation of the Thresher Subsidy Scheme to provide relief to small landowners and especially farmers cultivating wheat.
- Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti said that subsidy amounts have already been transferred to the accounts of 3,102 farmers, while 13,128 more farmers will receive the subsidy within the next two to three days.
- The number of wheat growers in Balochistan stands at 68,972, while 50,329 farmers own 12.5 acres or less agricultural land.

AGRICULTURAL OUTPUTS

- The Federal Committee on Agriculture (FCA) fixed a production target of 9.17 million tonnes for rice, an important Kharif cash crop, to be cultivated over 3.39 million hectares.
- Paddy seed availability stands at 60,190.69 metric tonnes, including 3,660.04 metric tonnes of imported seed, which is 110 per cent of the total national requirement of 54,916 metric tonnes.
- The production target for sugarcane has been set at 80.3 million tonnes over an area of 1.14 million hectares.
- Sugar production for 2025-26 is projected at 6.15m tonnes, a 6pc decline from previous year due to flood damage, lower yields, & reduced sucrose recovery.
- FCA set a cotton production target of 9.64 million bales over an area of 2.16 million hectares.
- Cotton production during 2025–26 reached 7.054 million bales against a target of 10.18 million bales, achieving only about 69 per cent, indicating a significant shortfall.
- Floods in Punjab destroyed approximately 5.2 per cent of the cultivated cotton area, further constraining production.
- Total availability of urea during Kharif 2026 is estimated at 4,348 thousand tonnes, while DAP availability is estimated at 757 thousand tonnes.
- A State Bank representative stated that institutional agricultural credit is expected to reach Rs3,062 billion in fiscal year 2026.
- Punjab is embarking on a transformative agricultural journey aimed at replacing expensive soybean imports with robust local production within the next three to five years.
- Currently, non-GMO soybean varieties are being successfully cultivated on a commercial scale across the province.
- Approximately 4,500 acres are presently under cultivation in key districts.
- The provincial government (Punjab) has launched an ambitious plan to scale up soybean cultivation to between 1.5 million and 2 million acres over the next three years.
- Sindh food department has notified ‘Wheat Procurement Policy Guidelines Crop 2025-26’ as it is set to establish procurement centres to purchase the commodity.
- The cabinet fixed the indicative wheat price at Rs3,500 per 40kg.
- To promote transparency and directly benefit genuine farmers, procurement will be limited to growers (over 332,000) registered under the ‘Sindh Wheat Growers Support Programme’, who had earlier received DAP fertiliser subsidy.

- The small farmers having 1-25 acres of landholding were given cash subsidy by Sindh government through the Benazir Hari Card whose applicability during current wheat procurement would also be seen for the first time.
- The Economic Coordination Committee of the Cabinet has reportedly deferred approval of Rs31.56 billion in financing for wheat procurement for 2025-26.
- Wheat is cultivated over an average area of 22 million acres, with annual production ranging between 28 and 30 million metric tons.
- Pakistan is moving to operationalise a Rs350 billion wheat company to replace the failing Pakistan Agricultural Storage and Services Corporation (PASSCO), and absorb more than Rs527 billion in debt.
- Sindh Minister for Food Makhdoom Mehboob-uz-Zaman has said that the provincial government will procure one million tonnes of wheat from growers at an estimated cost of Rs87.5 billion.
- The expected wheat production during the current season was approximately 4.5 million tonnes.
- To provide market stability, the government has fixed the wheat price at Rs3,500 per 40 kilograms.
- Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has announced an immediate commencement of wheat procurement at Rs3,500 per maund and the provision of free gunny bags worth Rs6 billion to the farmers across the province.
- It may be noted that the provincial cabinet (Sindh) has set a wheat procurement target of one million metric tons for the current crop at a support price of Rs3,500 per 40kg.
- Food Minister Makhdoom Mahboob informed the meeting that against the procurement target of 973,900 metric tons, only 1,061.600 metric tons had been procured, and the procurement process had been intensified.
- Pakistan is likely to produce 29.31 million tons of wheat during the 2025–26 Rabi season, slightly below the target of 29.678 million tons, from an area of 9.385 million hectares.
- Wheat output is projected to decrease by 1.24 percent against the set target.
- The estimated production reflects a 3.13 percent increase compared to last year, when the country produced 28.42 million tons from 9.1 million hectares.
- According to provincial estimates, of the total projected wheat output of 29.31 million tons, Punjab is likely to produce 22.040m tons, Sindh 4.402m tons, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa 1.411m tons, and Balochistan 1.450 million tons.
- FCA also deliberated on production targets for Kharif crops (2026–27). The meeting fixed a cotton production target of 9.64 million bales from an area of 2.16 million hectares, and a rice production target of 9.17 million tons from 3.39 million hectares of land. It also set the sugarcane production target for 2024–25 at 80.3 million tons from an area of 1.14 million hectares, along with targets for maize, mung, mash, and chilies.

- The Sindh government abolished the five bags per acre limit in wheat procurement and allowed small farmers to sell their wheat to government without any quantity restriction.
- The Punjab government's negotiations with commercial banks to secure a credit line for wheat procurement in the 2026-27 marketing season have been unsuccessful.

SUB – AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIONS

- Punjab government has decided to rehabilitate barren lands across province by converting them into economic zones under the Blue Economy Programme.
- Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz said that progress had been achieved in developing infrastructure for shrimp farming projects in Sargodha Estate, Aliwala and Shahgarh.
- Pakistan produces approximately 65–70 million tonnes of milk annually, ranking among the leading milk-producing countries, with per capita consumption of around 170 kilograms per year.
- Poultry sector remains strong, producing over 20 billion eggs annually.

TRADE

- Pakistan's trade deficit has widened by 22.65 percent to USD27.8 billion in the first nine months of Financial Year 2025-26, with exports recorded at USD22.731 billion and imports at USD50.536 billion.
- The country's exports in same period of the last financial year were recorded at USD24.72 billion and imports USD47.388 billion, reflecting a USD 22.67 billion trade deficit.
- Pakistan's merchandise exports declined by 14.4 per cent in March.
- Export proceeds fell 14.4pc to $2.26 billion in March from $2.65bn a year ago.
- In the nine months (July-March), export proceeds recorded a negative growth of 8pc, falling to $22.73bn from $24.72bn in corresponding period last year.
- Pakistan's merchandise exports to North America increased by 3.21 per cent to $4.411 billion during the first eight months of 2025-26 compared to $4.274bn in the same period last year.
- Imports from North America rose 34.4pc to $2.239bn in 8MFY26 from $1.663bn a year ago.
- Pakistan`s textile and clothing exports fell 7.06 per cent in March compared with the same month last year.
- Pakistan exported a total of 434,165 tonnes of rice in March.
- Punjab will export livestock and meat as provincial government signed a MoU with seven institutions, including a Chinese company.
- Under the agreement one million livestock will be exported.

- In comparison, in FY24, Pakistan's exports to EU had dipped 3.12pc to $8.24bn despite its GSP+ status.
- Pakistan's food import bill surged 15.22 per cent to $7.09 billion in the first nine months of the current fiscal year from $6.15bn in the same period last year, driven mainly by higher purchases of sugar and edible oil.
- Exports of raw food items recorded a steep decline, falling to $3.80bn in 9MFY26 from $5.75bn a year earlier, a contraction of 33.90pc.
- Pakistan imported 308,937 tonnes of sugar in9MFY26, marking an unprecedented increase of 11,457.69pc, compared with just 2,673 tonnes in the same period last year.
- In value terms, sugar imports surged 6,554.38pc to $174.744 million in 9MFY26 from $2.626m a year earlier.

INTERNATIONAL AID / LOAN / INVESTMENT

- Foreign Direct Investment into the country declined sharply by 33.4 percent in first eight months (July-February) of the current fiscal year (FY26), while portfolio investment remained in negative territory (-490.8m USD against - 211m USD in same period last year).
- FDI totalled USD1.194bn during July–February fiscal year 2026, down from USD1.793bn in corresponding period of fiscal year 2025.
- However increase was witnessed in February 2026 when it increased to USD213.5 million against USD132.7 million in February 2025.
- Federal Minister for Investment Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh admitted that foreign investment inflows have declined by 22 percent from USD 3.089 billion to USD 2.409 billion during the current financial year 2025–26 (July–February) due to regional and global geopolitical conflicts.
- Despite a relatively small sum, FDI surged by 165 per cent in March.
- The country received $167 million in March compared to just $63m a year ago; an increase of $104m.
- Saudi Arabia has committed an additional $3 billion in deposits for Pakistan and extended its existing $5bn facility for three years.
- 025 floods killed at least 1,000 people and affected nearly seven million people.

INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS (IFIs)

- The Asian Development Bank upgraded Pakistan's economic growth forecast to 3.5 per cent for the current fiscal year but warned of significant downside risks stemming from global uncertainty, particularly the Middle East crisis.
- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) made fresh commitments worth $3.672 billion to Pakistan in 2025, up 22 per cent from $2.995bn the previous year.

- The bank will also provide advisory support to Pakistan to help prepare road maps for digital skills development, in addition to investing in girls' education and participation in science, technology, engineering, & mathematics subjects.

POLICY

- In July-March 2026, Public Sector Development Programme's expenditure (disbursement) was 70.4 percent of the total authorization and 45.5 percent of the total revised budgeted PSDP for the current fiscal year.

SOCIO – ECONOMIC CONDITION

- Power Division has claimed that the stock of circular debt stood at Rs. 1,837 billion as of February 2026.
- Pakistan's public debt continued its upward climb, rising by 1.1 percent equivalent to USD6.8 billion in the first half of current fiscal year 2026 to reach a staggering Rs81,374 billion (USD290.6 billion).
- The public debt stock is comprised of 68 percent domestic debt and 32 percent external debt.
- Pakistan's central government debt continued upward trajectory, rising by nearly Rs2tr during the first eight months of the current fiscal year (FY26).
- The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) reported that the country's total debt stocks including both domestic and external debt liabilities, surged to Rs79.882 trillion by the end of February 2026.
- This represents an increase of Rs1.994 trillion, or 2.5 percent, in the overall debt, compared with Rs77.888 trillion at the end of June 2025.
- The sharp rise in the food import bill, coupled with a steep decline in exports, reflects agricultural policy failures.
- Pakistan remains one of the 10 fragile countries where global acute food insecurity is most concentrated.
- Pakistan was among the world's 10 largest food crises in 2025, with about 11 million people facing acute food insecurity. Of those affected in Pakistan, 9.3m people were classified in "crisis" conditions and 1.7m in "emergency", the two most severe categories short of famine.
- In 2025, severe floods were recorded worldwide, affecting livelihoods and food security. In Pakistan, heavy monsoon rains and flash floods affected more than 6 million people, destroying cropland and infrastructure.
- In total, 266m people across 47 countries and territories faced high levels of acute food insecurity in 2025, nearly double the share recorded in 2016.
- 1.4m people faced catastrophic conditions in parts of Haiti, Mali, Gaza, South Sudan, Sudan and Yemen.

- In 2025 alone, 35.5m children worldwide were acutely malnourished, including nearly 10m suffering from severe acute malnutrition.
- A New UN-backed report has listed Pakistan among 10 countries where acute food insecurity is most concentrated.
- Inflation growing by up to 8.5pc for March.
- Consumer inflation rose to 7.3 per cent in March from 7pc in February.
- Inflation between July and March was recorded at 5.67pc in 2025-26, slightly higher than 5.25pc over the corresponding period last year.
- The average annual inflation for FY25 dropped sharply to 4.49pc from 23.41pc in the previous year.
- Food inflation in March increased by 2.9pc in urban areas and 4.5pc in rural areas.
- Non-food inflation reached 10.3pc in urban areas and 9.7pc in rural regions.
- In March, core inflation — excluding volatile food and energy components — stood at 7.4pc in urban areas and 8.4pc in rural areas.
- World Bank stated that Pakistan’s real GDP growth, initially projected to accelerate to 3.4pc in fiscal year 2026, was now expected to remain at 3pc.
- Inflation is projected to remain elevated, averaging 4.5 percent in fiscal year 2025 before rising to 7.4 percent in fiscal year 2026.
- Average inflation in Pakistan rose to 5.7 percent during July–March FY2025–26, compared to 5.3 percent in the same period last year.
- In a major step toward legal reforms, a high-level committee of the Punjab Assembly has declared that a controversial colonial-era law effectively criminalises poverty and must be abolished.
- The poverty level in the country increased by 7 percent between 2018–19 and 2024–25, with around 70 million people estimated to be living below the national poverty line.

ENVIRONMENT

- Some estimates put the number at 350,000 children with autism in Pakistan.
- The alarming rise in the early-onset type 2 diabetes among Pakistani adolescents is being driven by lack of breastfeeding during infancy.
- Pakistan already carries one of the heaviest diabetes burdens in the world, with around 35 million adults living with the condition.
- The healthcare sector in Balochistan faced a serious crisis as more than 80 per cent of the population in the province was deprived of primary healthcare facilities despite supposed reforms introduced by the provincial government.
- Pakistan recorded 53 confirmed mpox cases in 2025.
- Three hospitals in Karachi have recorded a dramatic increase in the number of paediatric human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) cases over the last nine months and their numbers continue to grow.

- According to official data, of the 71 children died of measles across the country Sindh topped the list with 40 deaths followed by 12 each in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and four in Balochistan in the first four months.
- At least 100 heart attacks are being reported every day in Karachi as the city faces a worsening cardiovascular crisis.

CLIMATE CHANGE

- Pakistan's climate-related losses could reach up to 6pc of GDP by 2050 if urgent action is not taken, as country— already among top five most climate-vulnerable nations— faces intensifying floods, heat waves, and water scarcity.
- Sudhnoti, one of the largest forest-covered areas in Azad Jammu and Kashmir, remains highly vulnerable to perils of climate change.
- Several cities in the province set new records for heavy rains and lowest night and daytime temperatures for the month of April.
- The month of March 2026 witnessed 2.3°C rise in national mean temperature, which was 21.6°C, warmer than the country-average of 19.3°C.
- While the international community strives to keep global warming below 1.5 degrees Celsius by 2030, Pakistan appears to already be breaching some extreme temperature thresholds despite its minimal contribution to greenhouse gas emissions.
- In a first, Pakistan has signed with Norway a bilateral agreement that allows Pakistan to enter into carbon trading with other countries.

CLIMATE DISASTER

- Around 3.3 million jobs may have been affected by the 2025 floods in Pakistan.
- Rural areas accounted for nearly 78 per cent of the total estimated employment losses, with agriculture emerging as the most affected sector.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION RESOURCES

- IAEA has announced a new research project that would strengthen global efforts to detect, monitor and manage transboundary crop diseases threatening food security.
- World Bank and 10 multilateral development banks and development finance institutions launched an initiative to improve water security for one billion people around the globe by 2030.
- Some four billion people — half the world's population — face water scarcity, due in part to "unclear policies, weak regulations, and financially unsustainable utilities that have slowed progress and deterred investment.

AGRICULTURAL INPUTS

- Bangladesh launched a “Farmers’ Card” scheme aimed at expanding direct support to millions of farmers and streamlining subsidies.

AGRICULTURAL OUTPUTS

- Extreme heat threatens to push global agrifood systems to the brink, with rising temperatures posing severe hazards to people, crops, livestock and fish.

SOCIO – ECONOMIC CONDITION

- South Asia’s growth is expected to slow to 6.3pc in 2026 from 7.0pc in 2025.
- The momentum of economic growth in Asia-Pacific developing countries slowed to 4.6 per cent in 2025 and is projected to drop to 4pc in 2026.
- UN-ESCAP said that the average economic growth in the region moderated to 4.6pc in 2025 from 4.8pc in 2024, and 5.3pc in 2023.
- The war in the Middle East has pushed food commodity prices higher due to higher energy and fertiliser costs.
- FAO said its Food Price Index, which measures the monthly changes in international prices of a basket of food commodities, had increased 2.4 per cent in March from February.
- IMF forecast Pakistan’s current account deficit to widen alongside a 3.6 per cent growth rate for the current year, as the US-Israel misadventure in the Middle East darkens global growth prospects and fuels higher inflation.
- IMF said the Middle East conflict had halted the economic growth momentum that had revived after the US trade policy shock and had darkened the global economic outlook.
- IMF projected global growth at 3.1pc in 2026 and 3.2pc in 2027, slower than its recent pace of about 3.4pc in 2024-25.
- Global headline inflation is expected to rise to 4.4pc in 2026 before declining to 3.7pc in 2027, marking upward revisions for both years, the IMF said.
- More than 30 million people will be pushed back into poverty by the impacts of the Iran war including disruptions to fuel and fertiliser supplies just as farmers are planting crops.
- The US-Israeli war on Iran could plunge more than 30 people into poverty.

CLIMATE DISASTER

- The year 2025 saw 358 natural hazard-related disasters, resulting in over 16,000 fatalities, affecting 110.2 million people and causing $169.68 billion in economic losses.

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1 # AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION RESOURCES

ME tensions: Agri economy, fertilizer supply chains disrupted

The ongoing geopolitical tensions in the Hormuz Strait and the partial disruption of maritime routes have significantly affected the global agricultural economy and fertilizer supply chains. As a result, fertilizer prices in international markets are rising rapidly, while supply uncertainties have intensified, with repercussions being felt across major agricultural economies, including Pakistan. At the global level, notable increases have been recorded in the prices of key fertilizers such as urea and ammonia. This escalation is increasing agricultural production costs and raising concerns regarding food security. Experts indicate that disruptions along the trade routes passing through the Hormuz Strait have adversely impacted the global movement of fertilizers, as a substantial volume of agricultural raw materials and fertilizer shipments is transported through this strategic corridor.

Agricultural expert and Head of the Transfer of Technology Department at the Cotton Research Institute (CRI) Multan, Sajid Mahmood, stated that the crisis, persisting since late February, has led to a sharp increase in global urea prices. He noted that urea prices at the New Orleans hub have risen from $516 to $683 per ton, while in certain Middle Eastern markets prices have increased by up to 50 percent, exceeding $700 per ton. He further highlighted that ammonia prices have also increased by 20 to 24 percent, posing a significant threat to global food security.

He explained that approximately one-third of global fertilizer trade passes through this route, including significant volumes of urea and ammonia. Gulf countries remain major producers of urea, and the disruption has impacted millions of tons of fertilizer supplies annually. In the United States, farmers are shifting from corn, which requires higher fertilizer input, toward soybean cultivation. This transition may affect overall grain availability and could also contribute to rising prices of meat and dairy products due to reduced feed supply.

Regarding Pakistan, Business Recorder reports that since the country is a major importer of fertilizers, fluctuations in global prices are likely to have a direct impact on the domestic market. Sources further indicate that Pakistan will need to focus on a long-term strategy aimed at enhancing domestic fertilizer production, diversifying import sources, and ensuring continued support for farmers, as normalization of global supply chains may take considerable time. *(Business Recorder, April 3rd, 2026, Page 13)*

Farmers urge govt to declare agricultural emergency

Farmers' representatives have urged government to ensure due return against their products, hike wheat rate, especially due to diesel price hike and open border trade in order to facilitate food trade. Pakistan Kisan Ittehad (PKI) President Khalid Khokhar asked the government to declare an agricultural emergency to address the challenges facing the country's farming sector. Khokhar and other leaders emphasised that Pakistan has achieved self-sufficiency in food production, but farmers are struggling to reap benefits due to inadequate policies and politicisation of agriculture.

Khokhar demanded that farmers be guaranteed at least 25 percent profit margin over their production costs, citing the need to incentivize farming and boost exports. He lamented that agriculture, which contributes significantly to Pakistan's exports, has become a victim of politics. The PKI leader called for an end to this trend and urged the government to focus on developing the sector. *(The News, April 5th, 2026, Page 2)*

SAB sees crisis in farm sector
The Sindh Abadgar Board (SAB) has warned of a deepening agricultural crisis, urging the government to immediately overhaul a farm policy which, they claim, is "strangling" the country's food producers. The board highlighted a stark contradiction in state priorities, noting that while the agriculture sector employs 40 per cent of the national workforce and remains the primary export engine, the 2025 Pakistan Economic Survey reveals a historic decline in five major crops. The leaders claimed that the country is currently witnessing a continuous decline in yields not seen in 25 years, suggesting that the sector is facing a structural failure rather than a mere seasonal fluctuation. *(Dawn, April 17th, 2026, Page 15)*

1.1 # Agricultural Policy

SAU to develop models to strengthen agricultural value chains
Sindh Agriculture University (SAU), Tandojam, in collaboration with private sector organisations, has agreed to develop farmer-centric models aimed at strengthening agricultural value chains, improving crop quality, and increasing farmers' incomes across the province. The initiative envisions active farmer participation to enhance production and market value of fruits, vegetables and major crops in Sindh. VC Prof Dr Altaf Siyal said that SAU has long been producing skilled graduates in agriculture and allied sciences, and such partnerships would provide practical exposure to students while strengthening the province's agricultural systems.

He said that strengthening value chains was essential to reduce post-harvest losses, improve food availability, and ensure better returns for farmers. By integrating research, extension services, and private sector innovation, he said, a resilient and sustainable agricultural system could be developed to cope with climate challenges. He stressed the need to train both students and farmers in climate-smart agriculture, digital farming tools, and efficient resource management. Dr Rashid Bajwa briefed the participants about SAU's partnership for advancing crop value chain initiatives. He shared targeted programmes focusing on cotton and wheat value chains being planned in Sindh to enhance productivity, improve market linkages, and create better income opportunities for farmers. *(Dawn, April 19th, 2026, Page 15)*

1.2 # Farmers

Rules for law on women farm workers' rights discussed

Speakers at a dialogue organised by Hari Welfare Association (HWA) discussed the rules recently approved by the Sindh cabinet for the 'Sindh Women Agriculture Workers' Act, 2019'.They lamented that the feedback of women trade unions was not incorporated in the approved rules. They said that formal recommendations and objections would be submitted to the labour department. Legal channels might be pursued, if necessary, to ensure rights-based standards are upheld, they added. *(Dawn, April 5th, 2026, Page 15)*

Official rebuts SAI claim of neglecting farmers

The Director Information, Agriculture Extension, Mohsin Sahito, rebutted the claims made by leaders of the Sindh Abadgar Ittehad (SAI). The SAI leaders had criticised performance of the farm sector and the meager subsidy offered to the farming community. Mr Sahito said the farmers' body presented one-sided picture. He said that while challenges such as increased prices of fuel, fertilisers and other inputs were acknowledged, these were largely influenced by broader national and global economic factors. He said Sindh government was actively supporting farmers through a range of targeted initiatives aimed at strengthening the agricultural sector.

In addition assistance in form of agricultural machinery including threshers in lieu of diesel support, Rs1,500 per acre would help reduce the harvesting costs and improve operational efficiency for farmers. He said government was also promoting modern farming techniques, strengthening extension services, enhancing digital outreach to farmers, and improving water management practices across the province. Furthermore wheat support price was fixed at Rs3,500/40kg plus bag price ensuring a reasonable and guaranteed return for farmers, particularly those benefiting from Sindh Wheat Growers Support Programme through the Benazir Hari Card. *(Dawn, April 15th, 2026, Page 15)*

Global peasant day marked by nationwide protests

Protest demonstrations were organised in more than 100 cities across the country at the call of the PKRC) to mark the International Day of Peasant Struggles. The protesters demanded that the minimum support price of wheat be fixed at Rs4,000 per maund, corporate farming be abolished, eviction notices issued to tenant farmers be withdrawn and the plan to procure wheat through 11 private companies be scrapped.

According to the PKRC, in Punjab, demonstrations were held in Lahore, Bahawalpur, Toba Tek Singh, Jhang, Khanewal, Kabirwala, Kacha Khooh, Jahanian, Iqbal Nagar, Sahiwal, Sargodha, Bhakkar, Pakpattan, Arifwala, Vehari, Hasilpur, Multan, Kot Addu, Qadirabad, Chishtian, and Burewala. In Sindh, protests took place in Shikarpur, Sukkur, Tando Allah Yar, Sakrand, Nawabshah, Moro, Naushahro Feroze, Qazi Ahmed, Ghotki, Mirpurkhas, Badin, Hyderabad, Shahdadkot, Nagarparkar, Sanghar, Thatta, & Larkana.

In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, demonstrations were held in Peshawar, Kohat, Charsadda, Malakand, Swabi, Buner, Nowshera, Mohmand, Swat, Bajaur, Lower Dir, Upper Dir, Mansehra, Abbottabad, Takht Bhai, Bannu, Karak, Hangu, Lakki Marwat, and Dera Ismail Khan. In Balochistan, the PKRC added, protests were organised in Qila Abdullah, Naseerabad, Jhal Magsi, Quetta, Mastung, Jaffarabad, Usta Muhammad, Sohbatpur, and Kalat. *(Dawn, April 18th, 2026, Page 3)*

Private companies marginalised small-scale farmers: PTI

PTI Kissan Wing Central Information Secretary Khalid Nawaz Sadraich said that absence of officially designated private companies for wheat procurement in major wheat-producing hubs of small-scale farmers has triggered a wave of panic, leaving "growers vulnerable to middlemen purchasing harvests at throwaway prices". In a statement, Sadraich said that based on field reports gathered from different parts of Punjab, the provincial government's designated private companies have marginalised small-scale farmers in the wheat procurement process, registering only 65,000 out of more than four million farmers despite two weeks of the purchasing drive. *(Dawn, April 27th, 2026, Page 3)*

1.3 # Water

Sindh flags Tarbela delays, warns of Kharif water crisis

Sindh government has expressed grave concern over 'persistent delays' in Tarbela Dam infrastructure works by Wapda, which have been causing severe operational constraints for Sindh and posing an imminent threat to the kharif crop season. Sindh Irrigation Minister Jam Khan Shoro wrote to federal Minister for Water Resources Mian M Mueen Wattoo that Wapda had failed to complete projects within 33-month timeline approved by Irsa in 2022. The deadline expired in June 2025, but work remains unfinished. Indus River System Authority (Irsa), whose advisory committee is scheduled to discuss water availability and shortages for upcoming kharif season under the Water Apportionment Accord, 1991, on April 7. *(Dawn, April 6th, 2026, Page 12)*

Irsa approves water shortfalls for kharif

Despite having sufficient water resources provided by nature, Pakistan's irrigation network is expected to cause a 15-35 per cent shortage to agriculture, mainly during the ongoing kharif crop sowing season, largely due to delays in dam construction. The Advisory Committee of the Indus River System Authority (Irsa) "unanimously approved the system shortfall as 15pc for April and 35pc for early kharif (April- June 10), subject to review in the first week of May. The shortfall for late kharif was approved at 5pc," said an official statement. *(Dawn, April 8th, 2026, Page 9)*

'India goes against World Bank guarantee by holding IWT in abeyance'

Former Ambassador Manzoorul Haq said that India has gone against international commitment and World Bank guarantee after holding Indus Water Treaty (IWT) in abeyance. Talking to APP, he said that repeated violations of IWT by India has threatened inviolability of international treaties and inter-state relations and fascist Modi regime should be made accountable for it. He said holding of IWT in abeyance by India in April last year has put peace of the subcontinent into jeopardy, and repercussions of another war between two nuclear powers, especially on water, will reach beyond borders. *(Business Recorder, April 13th, 2026, Page 4)*

Water worries grip KP farmers amid Indus Treaty concerns

At sunrise in a quiet village of Dera Ismail Khan, 49-year-old farmer Adnan Khan kicks his motorbike to life and heads toward his wheat fields, worried about possible violations of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) by India. The earth is still damp from recent rainfall, usually a welcome sign before harvest. Today, however, his routine inspection carries a different weight. Slinging a sickle over his shoulder in Paharpur, he scans the soil not just for moisture, but for reassurance.

Like hundreds of thousands of farmers across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Adnan's livelihood largely depends on the steady flow of water from the Indus River system. Lately, that flow feels uncertain due to concerns over IWT violations. "We live by this water," he says quietly. "If it stops, everything stops." For generations, farmers in Dera Ismail Khan have relied on the Indus River to irrigate their wheat, maize, rice, and other crops, as well as orchards and vegetables.

Under the historic Indus Waters Treaty, Pakistan was granted rights over the western rivers, namely the Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab. The agreement, brokered by the World Bank in 1960, has long been considered a rare example of cooperation between Pakistan and India after it was signed by President Ayub Khan and Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. However, for Adnan and many like him, that trust is eroding following fascist Modi government's decision to hold the treaty in abeyance in April last year, showing disregard for international treaties and guarantees of the World Bank. *(Dawn, April 20th, 2026, Page 3)*

Shrinking snow forebodes water scarcity in Indus basin

The Indus River Basin, the lifeline of Pakistan, is facing a looming threat of water scarcity, as snow cover across the Hindu Kush-Himalaya (HKH) region has fallen to 27.8 per cent below the long-term average, thus posing an immediate and escalating threat to water security for nearly two billion people who depend on the 12 major basins originating in the region. The decline in snow cover has broken last year's record low and marks the fourth consecutive year of below-normal snow persistence, according to the Snow Update Report 2026 released by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD). Snow persistence has been below normal in 10 of the 12 major river basins in the HKH region, including the Indus Basin.

The report reveals that the Indus Basin continues to experience a reduction in snow persistence by 18pc. This steady decline in seasonal snow, combined with below-normal spring precipitation, may lead to reduced runoff, increased groundwater extraction, and heightened risks of drought across the region. From a high of 19.5pc in

2020, the Indus Basin saw a sharp drop to 24.5pc below normal in 2024 — the lowest level recorded in the past 24 years. The deficit persists in 2026, recorded at 18.1pc below normal. This decline is likely to exacerbate early summer water scarcity in a basin where nearly half of runoff comes from meltwater. It threatens almost 300 million people and underscores the need for stronger water management strategies, the report warns. *(Dawn, April 28th, 2026, Page 1)*

Irsa raises alarm over polluted rivers

Taking notice of deteriorating water quality in the country's rivers and irrigation systems, the Indus River System Authority (Irsa) has asked the provincial governments to ensure that untreated wastewater does not enter rivers and natural streams. The water regulator has reported worsening water quality due to pollution, salinity, odour and other factors in the Indus Basin Irrigation System (IBIS). "Recent studies and reports have highlighted an alarming deterioration of water quality in Pakistan's rivers due to the discharge of untreated wastewater," Irsa Chairman Amjad Saeed said.

Nearly 90 per cent of irrigation in IBIS is carried out through its vast canal network, making the country's agriculture, food production and food security heavily dependent on the Indus River System. The Irsa chief pointed out that the Ravi and Sutlej rivers, in particular, are reported to be severely polluted. In the lower Indus, salinity levels increase from upstream to downstream, particularly during low-flow months, while water in Manchar Lake has been reported unfit for drinking or irrigation due to high salinity. *(Dawn, April 29th, 2026, Page 12)*

2 # AGRICULTURAL INPUTS

Punjab farmers decry diesel exclusion from govt relief measures

Farmers' organisations have forcefully rejected the recent fuel price hike, arguing that the government's exclusion of the agricultural sector from relief measures leaves farmers especially vulnerable and demanding an immediate withdrawal of the increase. The Pakistan Kisan Rabita Committee (PKRC) and Kisan Board Pakistan (KBP) have strongly condemned the recent increase in petrol and diesel prices, calling the move unjustified and oppressive. The leaders questioned why the government did not announce any relief for the agriculture sector, while it simultaneously cut petrol rates for urban consumers and allocated Rs 6 billion as a subsidy for the transport sector to offset the petroleum price hike. *(Dawn, April 6th, 2026, Page 3)*

SAB slams 'unbearable' hike in diesel price, warns of agriculture sector's collapse

The Sindh Abadgar Board (SAB) has strongly condemned the provincial government's decision to raise diesel prices to "unbearable" levels, dismissing the newly-announced subsidy for Benazir Hari Card-holders as woefully inadequate. The board noted that while the Hari card initiative is a positive step in principle, it currently covers fewer than 20 per cent of small-scale growers.

The wheat price plummeted from Rs4,000/40kg in January 2024 to Rs2,200/40kg by April 2024 due to government's inept policies. Although prices have since edged up to Rs3,500/40kg, the cost of production for the 2025-26 cycle has already climbed to Rs4,000. The SAB laid the blame squarely at government's door, citing a series of policy failures including importing agricultural commodities during local harvests; halting exports at critical times for growers; allowing input costs to soar without providing institutional support for seeds, technology, or R&D; severe credit shortages, with only $8bn in agricultural credit available for a $65bn agricultural economy.

The board pointed out that a one-time subsidy of Rs1,500 per acre is negligible compared to the Rs12,000 per acre increase in costs triggered by the latest fuel price rise. Furthermore, while the subsidy is a one-off payment, the increased fuel costs will recur every cropping cycle. Demographics further complicate the issue. According to the 2025 agricultural census, there are approximately 2.6 million farming households in Sindh — 90 per cent of whom are smallholders with less than 25 acres. However, the hari card has been issued to only 330,000 farmers, ensuring the vast majority of those in need receive no relief. *(Dawn, April 6th, 2026, Page 15)*

2.1 # Agricultural Loan & Finances

Sindh Abadgar Ittehad warns of agricultural collapse amid rising costs

Sindh Abadgar Ittehad (SAI) has issued a stern warning regarding the precarious state of the national economy, asserting that continued neglect of agriculture sector threatens to bring country's progress to a grinding halt. In a high-level meeting, the body outlined a series of grievances ranging from restrictive trade policies to controversial water projects. Historical data suggests that such restrictions invariably penalise producers while distorting market dynamics. It also set a firm benchmark for the forthcoming season, demanding that the cotton support price be fixed at Rs10,000 per 40kg to offset the skyrocketing cost of production. *(Dawn, April 2nd, 2026, Page 15)*

Farmers to get Rs1500 per acre relief

Punjab Agriculture Minister Syed Ashiq Hussain Kirmani reiterated that, in light of the increase in diesel prices amid the Iran war, the government is extending financial support to wheat farmers at the rate of PKR 1,500 per acre. He added that the Chief Minister Punjab will personally oversee the disbursement of this assistance to ensure transparency and timely delivery. He was chairing an emergency meeting of field formations via video link. Addressing the meeting, the Minister for Agriculture directed the concerned formations to engage with service providers to bring down wheat harvesting charges at the earliest. *(Business Recorder, April 5th, 2026, Page 3)*

Maryam announces relief package with fuel subsidies for bikers, farmers

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz announced a major relief package, abolishing motorbike registration and transfer fees while introducing fuel subsidies for bike owners and financial assistance for farmers across the province. Chief Minister unveiled a relief package for farmers, particularly wheat growers, offering financial assistance to those owning up to 25 acres of land. The scheme includes a subsidy of Rs150 per litre on 10 litres of diesel per acre. She said the measures were aimed at reducing the financial burden on citizens amid rising fuel prices driven by global economic challenges. *(The News, April 5th, 2026, Page 9)*

Murad announces Rs3bn relief package for 366,000 small farmers in Sindh

Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah announced Rs3 billion relief package for 366,000 small farmers to help with rising diesel costs during wheat harvest. Presiding over a meeting, he reviewed the implementation of a targeted public transport subsidy programme and approved additional financial support for small growers, as part of a broader strategy to cushion the impact of rising global fuel prices on citizens and key economic sectors. The subsidy will be disbursed directly to eligible farmers, particularly those owning small landholdings, i.e. one to 25 acres, to assist with diesel expenses for threshing and harvesting. *(Dawn, April 9th, 2026, Page 15)*

Mobilink Bank partners with HBL Zarai Services to strengthen agri financing

Pakistan's leading digital microfinance bank, Mobilink Bank has signed a crucial partnership with HBL Zarai Services Limited to advance agricultural financing for underserved communities under the 'Zarkhez-e' Asaan Digital Zarai Qarza Scheme. Under this partnership, Mobilink Bank will expand access to structured, in-kind agricultural financing for farmers across Pakistan. The Bank, in collaboration with HBL Zarai services, will link financing with essential agricultural inputs and services to help ensure that credit is utilized for productive purposes and contributes to improved farm-level outcomes. *(Business Recorder, April 14th, 2026, Page 3)*

Easy loans, modern medical facilities: Sindh govt to introduce projects for small farmers soon: Malkani

Provincial Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Sindh, Muhammad Ali Malkani has said that the Government of Sindh is soon introducing projects through which small farmers will be provided with loans on easy terms and modern medical facilities so that the eradication of poverty in rural areas becomes possible. He emphasized that in the current era, breeding livestock on scientific bases instead of traditional farming is need of hour. Inaugurated "Dalfa Cattle Show Season 5" at Karachi Expo Center, he said that we must focus on modern gene technology and value addition to bring milk and meat production up to international standards. *(Business Recorder, April 18th, 2026, Page 11)*

Farmers urged to repay Kisan Card loans on time in Rawalpindi

Punjab Agriculture Department advised farmers to deposit interest-free loan payment of Chief Minister Punjab Kisan Card timely and get a chance to win prizes worth millions of rupees through a lucky draw. According to the spokesperson of the Agriculture Department, Punjab, the deposit of dues has been in progress under the third phase of the Punjab Kisan Card since April 16, 2026. *(Dawn, April 22nd, 2026, Page 4)*

2.2 # Agricultural Tax

Provinces, not Centre, to levy agri income tax: LHC

The Lahore High Court, Multan Bench, has categorically held that agricultural income is beyond the taxing jurisdiction of the Federal Government and falls exclusively within the provincial domain under Entry 50 of the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution of Pakistan, 1973. In this regard, the LHC has issued a judgment in the Income Tax Reference number 51 of 2024. As per facts of the case the department attempted to tax declared agricultural income on which provincial agricultural income tax was not paid by treating it as "income from other sources" under section 111 and 39 of Income Tax Ordinance, 2001; however, the Court upheld the findings of CIR(A) and the Tribunal noted that the taxpayer had duly discharged provincial agricultural income tax liability after the assessment.

Rather, the Tribunal had observed that even if the agricultural income tax is not paid, then the assessing officer would refer the matter to provincial authorities instead of imposing federal income tax. The LHC has decided the question of law against the department and in favor of the taxpayer. Therefore, the reference application has been dismissed. The Lahore High Court has set a clear legal boundary on the taxation of agricultural income, ruling that once a taxpayer establishes payment of provincial agricultural income tax, the federal tax authorities cannot reclassify such income as "income from other sources" under the Income Tax Ordinance, 2001.

The case arose from tax year 2009, where the taxpayer had declared a total income of Rs. 801,696, including Rs. 750,000 as agricultural income claimed as exempt. The Federal Board of Revenue authorities challenged this claim, arguing that the taxpayer had failed to demonstrate payment of agricultural income tax to the Punjab Revenue Department. Consequently, assessing officer treated the declared agricultural income as taxable under Section 111 and recalculated the total taxable income at Rs. 1.55 million, raising a tax demand of Rs. 387,927. *(Business Recorder, April 16th, 2026, Page 12)*

Punjab Assembly terms revised agriculture tax null and void

In a sweeping assertion of parliamentary supremacy, the Punjab Assembly has declared government notifications revising agricultural income tax rates "illegal, unconstitutional and void ab initio," effectively nullifying all collections made under the disputed regime. The landmark ruling, delivered by Speaker Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan, holds that the Punjab government violated mandatory legal and constitutional requirements by failing to present rate-altering notifications before the assembly at the time of the FY 2025-26 budget. *(Dawn, April 21st, 2026, Page 2)*

Agri income tax raise restored: PA speaker 'eats his own words' within 24 hours

In a significant turnaround, the Punjab Assembly restored the agricultural income tax raise notifications that it had suspended a day earlier through a ruling of the speaker, after the House unanimously overlooked delays in their prior presentation. The session, chaired by Speaker Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan, began with a delay of two hours. At the out- set, the House reinstated the tax notifications and approved a motion by Law Minister Rana Iqbal to condone the delay in laying them before the Assembly.

Explaining his earlier ruling, the speaker said the notifications had not been presented to the House for approval despite ongoing discussions in a relevant committee on changes to the agricultural income tax. He noted that the issuance of an SRO (statutory regulatory order) during the committee's deliberations had created ambiguity regarding authority, making it necessary to clarify the legal position. Asserting parliamentary supremacy, the assembly had declared government notifications revising agricultural income tax rates "illegal, unconstitutional and void ab initio," effectively nullifying all collections made under the disputed regime. *(Dawn, April 22nd, 2026, Page 2)*

2.3 # Fertilizer

Manufacturers asked to boost fertiliser supply

Expressing satisfaction with the availability of fertilisers for the coming kharif season, the federal government said that a buffer stock of about 500,000 tonnes has been maintained. The Fertiliser Review Committee met for a comprehensive review of the supply-and-demand situation for urea and other key fertilisers, with a focus on kharif projections and preparedness for rabi 2026-27.

The meeting noted that urea demand may trend upward during kharif due to improved farm economics compared to last year. However, serious concerns were raised about potential smuggling along the western border due to a significant price differential between domestic and international markets, with local prices at around Rs4,500 per 50kg bag compared to approximately Rs14,000 internationally.

The meeting was informed that the urea situation during the rabi season remained largely stable and well-managed. The opening inventory stood at approximately 1.15 million tonnes, while domestic production reached around 3.23m tonnes, bringing total availability to 4.38m tonnes. Offtake remained steady at 3.56m tonnes, with no signs of panic buying, reflecting market stability and effective supply chain management. The closing stock is estimated at around 8 lac tonnes, which will serve as the opening inventory for the upcoming kharif season. *(Dawn, April 10th, 2026, Page 9)*

Adulterated fertilisers: Punjab asks LEAs, agri authorities to act against culprits

Punjab government has directed law enforcement agencies and agriculture authorities to take action against all individuals involved in production and distribution of adulterated fertilisers, rather than targeting only easily accessible retailers. The directives have been issued by Prosecutor General Punjab in a comprehensive set of guidelines for investigation and prosecution under Punjab Fertiliser Control Act, 2025, in compliance with a February 25, 2026, judgment of Lahore High Court in a criminal case titled Muhammad Arshad versus State. *(Business Recorder, April 26th, 2026, Page 1)*

FMPAC warns Punjab Fertilizer Act enforcement may hurt compliant firms

Fertilizer Manufacturers of Pakistan Advisory Council (FMPAC) has raised serious concerns over the enforcement approach under the Punjab Fertilizer Control Act, 2025, cautioning that the current guidelines may expose compliant manufacturers to undue legal and reputational risks while failing to effectively target actual offenders. In a letter addressed to the Prosecutor General Punjab, Executive Director FMPAC Brig, Sher Shah Malik (retired) stated that the operational guidelines issued on March 16, 2026, could lead to “misplaced liability” due to their heavy reliance on label-based attribution of responsibility. *(Business Recorder, April 27th, 2026, Page 1)*

2.4 # Subsidy

Special subsidy for farmers announced

The federal government announced a special subsidy programme for farmers to mitigate the adverse impact of the global energy crisis. According to an official announcement, farmers owning less than 12 acres of land will be eligible for the subsidy. Eligible farmers can register for three easy subsidy packages through the Pakistan Asaan Khidmat application. Farmers can enroll in the programme by uploading their personal and other relevant information, along with documentary evidence, on the application.

Meanwhile, a senior official told Dawn that the government would provide a subsidy of Rs1,500 per acre to farmers owning less than 12 acres of land. The amount, he said, will be transferred directly into farmers’ bank accounts or through mobile wallets such as JazzCash and Easypaisa. On April 3, the federal government announced targeted relief measures for motorcyclists, small farmers and transporters.

Punjab reported that more than one million farmers now hold Kissan Cards, and that total wheat sowing has exceeded 16 million acres. It has also been stated that farmers and goods transporters have been provided digital access through Kissan Cards, digital accounts, or cash vouchers. Earlier, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah announced a Rs3bn relief package for 366,000 small farmers to help offset rising diesel costs during wheat harvesting. *(Dawn, April 16th, 2026, Page 1)*

Balochistan govt launches scheme to help farmers

The Balochistan government has launched the implementation of the Thresher Subsidy Scheme to provide relief to small landowners and especially farmers cultivating wheat. The initiative aims to reduce the financial pressure on farmers caused by rising fuel prices. Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti said that subsidy amounts have already been transferred to the accounts of 3,102 farmers, while 13,128 more farmers will receive the subsidy within the next two to three days.

According to the Agriculture Department’s data, 85,821 farmers have been registered across the province, out of which 74,202 have already been verified. The number of wheat growers in Balochistan stands at 68,972, while 50,329 farmers own 12.5 acres or less agricultural land. The chief minister said that rising fuel prices during regional tensions have severely impacted agriculture sector, particularly small farmers whose wheat crops are ready and have entered threshing stage. *(Dawn, April 16th, 2026, Page 5)*

3 # AGRICULTURAL OUTPUTS

Govt sets Kharif targets amid water stress, cotton shortfall

As the Rabi crop season nears completion, with wheat as the strategic crop ensuring the country's food security, the federal government announced production targets for the upcoming Kharif crop season. Soil moisture, especially in major agricultural plains, remains under stress due to drier conditions in previous months.

The Federal Committee on Agriculture (FCA), a high-powered body chaired by Minister for National Food Security and Research Rana Tanveer Hussain, fixed a production target of 9.17 million tonnes for rice, an important Kharif cash crop, to be cultivated over 3.39 million hectares. For the upcoming Kharif sowing season, paddy seed availability stands at 60,190.69 metric tonnes, including 3,660.04 metric tonnes of imported seed, which is 110pc of the total national requirement of 54,916 metric tonnes.

The availability of quality paddy seed in Punjab is 45,323.80 metric tonnes (126 per cent), Sindh 8,832 metric tonnes (56 per cent), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa 1,116.07 metric tonnes (114 per cent), and Balochistan 1,258.78 metric tonnes (58 per cent) of their respective provincial requirements. During 2025-26, total paddy seed availability was 44,613 metric tonnes.

Sugarcane

The production target for sugarcane has been set at 80.3 million tonnes over an area of 1.14 million hectares. Sugarcane provides raw material to the country's second-largest agro-based industry, generating employment for millions in rural farming and non-farming communities. It is also a major source of livestock fodder during the winter season. Sugar production for 2025-26 is projected at 6.15 million tonnes, a 6pc decline from the previous year due to flood damage, lower yields, and reduced sucrose recovery.

Cotton

The FCA set a cotton production target of 9.64 million bales over an area of 2.16 million hectares for the upcoming season. Cotton production during 2025–26 reached 7.054 million bales against a target of 10.18 million bales, achieving only about 69 per cent, indicating a significant shortfall. In Punjab, the area under cotton cultivation is declining as farmers shift towards more profitable alternative crops. A severe heatwave in June caused significant stress to cotton plants, adversely affecting pollination and increasing fruit shedding. Floods in Punjab destroyed approximately 5.2 per cent of the cultivated cotton area, further constraining production.

Targets for other crops such as mung, mash, and chilies were also set. The production target for mung beans is 156.4 thousand tonnes over 170.6 thousand hectares, while mash is targeted at 8.9 thousand tonnes over 10 thousand hectares. Chili production is set at 154.4 thousand tonnes over 58.4 thousand hectares.

The government is making progress in exploring new international markets for exporting potatoes and other agricultural commodities. This will help manage surplus production, enhance export potential, and strengthen the rural economy, he said. Total availability of urea during Kharif 2026 is estimated at 4,348 thousand tonnes, while DAP availability is estimated at 757 thousand tonnes. The committee was also informed that rice and maize seed availability will remain sufficient. A State Bank representative stated that institutional agricultural credit is expected to reach Rs3,062 billion in fiscal year 2026. *(Dawn, April 15th, 2026, Page 1)*

3.1 # Cash Crop

Cotton cess increase still unimplemented

Despite repeated high-level meetings, clear policy directives, and an approved formula by the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC), the long-pending increase in cotton cess rates has yet to be implemented. The continued delay is raising serious concerns about a worsening financial crisis at the Pakistan Central Cotton Committee and is undermining efforts to revive country's cotton sector. *(Dawn, April 5th, 2026, Page 9)*

KP Governor assures support to tobacco growers

A delegation of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Tobacco Action Committee called on Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi and discussed the challenges faced by tobacco growers in the province. The delegation informed the Governor that farmers in Charsadda, Mardan, Swabi, Nowshera, Buner and Mansehra were facing severe difficulties due to excessive taxation and low prices of tobacco. They said that instead of resolving their issues, government policies were aggravating their problems, adding that taxes were being increased every year. The delegation maintained that despite contributing over Rs 3.25 billion to provincial economy, current policies were forcing farmers to abandon tobacco cultivation. *(Business Recorder, April 13th, 2026, Page 7)*

Reviving Pakistan's 'white gold': experts call for radical overhaul of cotton sector

Pakistan's once-thriving cotton industry stands at a critical crossroads, with experts warning that only a "science-driven and long-term strategy" can reverse years of dwindling yields and systemic inefficiency. A two-day international summit, hosted by Sindh Agriculture University (SAU) Tandojam in partnership with the Higher Education Commission (HEC), concluded with a stark ultimatum for policymakers: modernise or face economic stagnation. The conference, titled "Cotton Seed Production and Development: Issues and Solutions," brought together a global coalition of scientists and industry leaders to address the crisis. *(Dawn, April 16th, 2026, Page 15)*

Punjab eyes soybean self-reliance in 3-5 years

With a view to slash national import bill, Punjab is embarking on a transformative agricultural journey aimed at replacing expensive soybean imports with robust local production within the next three to five years. Currently, non-GMO soybean varieties are being successfully cultivated on a commercial scale across the province, including traditional corn belt, extending as far south as the desert regions of Bahawalpur. Approximately 4,500 acres are presently under cultivation in key districts, including Kasur, Okara, Sahiwal, Lodhran, Khanewal and Bahawalpur, all utilising high-quality seeds developed specifically for local climate by University of Agriculture Faisalabad.

According to Prof Dr Zaheer Ahmed, incharge of the Soybean Lab at UAF, these varieties have demonstrated remarkable resilience, particularly regarding heat tolerance amid harsh weather due to climate change. This specific trait has allowed the crop to thrive even in the challenging arid environment of Bahawalpur. While the current provincial average yield stands at approximately 25 to 30 maunds per acre, Dr Ahmed notes that progressive farmers in high-potential areas like Sahiwal and Okara have already achieved impressive peaks of over 40 maunds (1,600 kg) per acre.

UAF researchers anticipate that most farmers in the maize belt can consistently produce between 25 to 30 maunds per acre and with the adoption of optimised agricultural practices and better inputs availability, its production can be enhanced up to 50 maund. The provincial government has launched an ambitious plan to scale up soybean cultivation to between 1.5 million and 2 million acres over the next three years. The province pushes local soybean production with a view to cut the import bill in the next three to five years. *(The News, April 19th, 2026, Page 17)*

Ginners term federal target of 9.6m bales 'unrealistic'

Pakistan's cotton sector is once again facing uncertainty as the Federal Committee on Agriculture (FCA) has set what stakeholders call "unrealistic" production targets for 2026-27, despite repeatedly missing goals over the past decade. Stakeholders warn that the move could create fresh confusion for stakeholders, particularly cotton importers trying to plan their business strategies. Criticising the target-setting process, they say that unlike global practices, where satellite surveys and stakeholder consultations guide crop estimates, Pakistan continues to fix targets "in drawing rooms," resulting in wide gaps between official figures and actual output.

Chairman of the Pakistan Cotton Ginners' Forum Ihsanul Haq noted that the 2025-26 target of 10.2 million bales yielded only about 5.6m bales. Similarly production remained far below targets in previous years, including 2024-25, 2023-24, and 2022-23, when output dropped to historic lows. Despite this trend, the FCA has now set a new target of around 9.64m bales for 2026-27, which stakeholders believe is again unattainable, especially in the absence of any concrete revival plan or enforcement of crop zoning laws. *(Dawn, April 20th, 2026, Page 3)*

3.2 # Food Crop

Strict controls announced ahead of wheat procurement in Sindh

The Sindh food department has notified 'Wheat Procurement Policy Guidelines Crop 2025-26' as it is set to establish procurement centres to purchase the commodity. The Sindh cabinet approved the policy for the Rabi 2025–26 season, setting a target of one million metric tonnes to ensure food security and maintain price stability across the province. The cabinet fixed the indicative wheat price at Rs3,500 per 40kg, in line with international parity and estimated import costs. To promote transparency and directly benefit genuine farmers, the procurement will be limited to the growers (over 332,000) registered under the 'Sindh Wheat Growers Support Programme', who had earlier received DAP fertiliser subsidy.

The small farmers having 1-25 acres of landholding were given cash subsidy by Sindh government through the Benazir Hari Card whose applicability during current wheat procurement would also be seen for the first time. Such cash subsidy was disbursed through the card in farmers' bank accounts. Cash disbursement of a DAP and two bags of urea per one acre each was made through the card. Now the support price would be offered while using this card. *(Dawn, April 1st, 2026, Page 15)*

Wheat procurement: ECC defers approval of Rs31.56bn

The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet has reportedly deferred approval of Rs31.56 billion in financing for wheat procurement for 2025-26, including the operationalisation plan, until May 2026, subject to further refinement of the proposal. The Ministry of National Food Security and Research (MoNFS&R) briefed the ECC in its recent meeting that wheat is cultivated over an average area of 22 million acres, with annual production ranging between 28 and 30 million metric tons. It was informed that in compliance with the Federal Cabinet decision of November 19, 2025, the Interim National Wheat Policy (INWP) 2025-26 had been approved.

The MoNFS&R apprised the ECC that in pursuance of the INWP, the federal and provincial governments were mandated to procure 6.25 million metric tons (MMT) of wheat for strategic reserves through private sector participation. The federal government would procure 1.5 MMT of wheat including annual requirement of Azad Jammu & Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan, while the remaining 4.75 MMT would be procured by the provincial governments with the break up; i.e., Punjab 2.5 MMT, Sindh 1.0 MMT, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa 0.75 MMT, and Balochistan 0.5 MMT. *(Business Recorder, April 5th, 2026, Page 1)*

Pakistan to launch Rs350bn wheat firm, scrap Passco

Pakistan is moving to operationalise a Rs350 billion wheat company to replace the failing Pakistan Agricultural Storage and Services Corporation (PASSCO), and absorb more than Rs527 billion in debt. The move targets chronic inefficiencies in wheat storage, mounting fiscal pressure and recurring food security risks. The Wheat Stock

Management Company (WSMC) public limited is a special-purpose vehicle with authorised capital of Rs350 billion created to replace the debt-ridden PASSCO, take over national wheat reserves and absorb the debt. *(The News, April 5th, 2026, Page 1)*

Govt to buy wheat worth Rs87.5bn, says minister

Sindh Minister for Food Makhdoom Mehboob-uz-Zaman has said that the provincial government will procure one million tonnes of wheat from growers at an estimated cost of Rs87.5 billion, ensuring stability in the market and safeguarding the interests of growers. He said this while chairing a meeting of senior food officials to review his department's preparedness and operational plan for wheat procurement across the province. The meeting undertook a comprehensive review of the procurement arrangements for the next 30 days.

The meeting was informed that the expected wheat production during the current season was approximately 4.5 million tonnes. The minister directed the officials to establish 109 procurement centres and make them fully functional with proper location mapping, staffing and coordination mechanisms to facilitate farmers. Highlighting the Bardana (gunny bag) management plan, he directed that Rs60 per bag of 50kg wheat should be provided to growers to support the procurement process. He also called for proper staffing, including posting of deputy directors and additional personnel wherever required to facilitate the operations. *(Dawn, April 7th, 2026, Page 15)*

Loadshedding, restrictions affecting wheat harvesting

Farmers and thresher manufacturers have been facing difficulties due to unprecedented demand as the wheat harvesting season begins amid prolonged loadshedding and government's orders to close businesses by 8pm. Thresher manufacturers said that productivity of their factories were being severely affected due to unannounced and prolonged loadshedding during the day, while government's orders to close businesses early had made the situation even worse. They claimed that they used to complete most of their production during the night, but due to the current restrictions, it had become almost impossible to fulfill orders on time. *(Dawn, April 12th, 2026, Page 2)*

Govt warned of wheat crop damage due to delays in harvesting

PTI Kisan Wing spokesman Khalid Nawaz Sadhraich warned that the ready-to-harvest wheat crop could face serious damage unless the government urgently addresses key issues affecting the harvesting process. He pointed out that farmers across Punjab and other provinces are facing growing difficulties. Thresher manufacturing units are currently paralysed due to prolonged and unannounced power outages, as well as restrictions such as the 8pm business closure policy. *(Dawn, April 13th, 2026, Page 3)*

Strategy chalked out for wheat procurement in Larkana district

Deputy Commissioner Tariq Manzoor Chandio presided over a high-level meeting to finalise the 2026 Wheat Procurement Campaign. The session, attended by ADC-I Larkana, the district food controller (DFC), and local administrative officials, outlined a rigorous strategy to protect both the grain supply and the farmers' interests. The DFC confirmed that seven procurement centres (PRCs) have been established across the district. A total of 14,771 registered growers are eligible to participate in the campaign. To provide market stability, the government has fixed the wheat price at Rs3,500 per 40 kilograms. *(Dawn, April 13th, 2026, Page 15)*

Wheat worries

It is once again that time of year when wheat producers, particularly smallholder farmers, worry about recovering their costs, fearing that they will not receive a fair price for the crop that feeds a nation facing significant hunger. The wheat harvest has rarely provided relief to farmers. Besides being disrupted by a combination of policy gaps, administrative lethargy and adverse weather, what has added to their worries this year is the reduced availability of threshers, caused by disruptions in manufacturing due to power outages and restrictive business hours at the peak of the harvesting season. The concern, raised by the PTI Kissan Wing spokesman, is a symptom of policy failure when timing is critical for farmers. The shortage of threshers is not an insignificant issue as it risks substantial damage to the crop due to grain shattering, while exposure to untimely rains can degrade quality and cause losses to growers. Such avoidable losses are hard to ignore when we are already grappling with rising food insecurity.

Equally troubling is the policy incoherence surrounding wheat pricing and procurement. The belated announcement of the official price at Rs3,500 per maund has failed to reassure farmers, many of whom have reportedly sold their produce to middlemen at distress prices, particularly in south Punjab. With input costs having risen sharply from fertiliser to diesel, the demand for an even higher support price underscores concerns over potential losses at current market rates. This year's harvest is further overshadowed by weather-related shocks. Recent rain and hailstorms have already caused visible damage in parts of south and central Punjab, raising concerns about output. *(Dawn, April 14th, 2026, Page 6)*

Punjab launches wheat procurement at official rate of Rs3,500 per maund

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has announced an immediate commencement of wheat procurement at Rs3,500 per maund and the provision of free gunny bags worth Rs6 billion to the farmers across the province. Registered farmers will be provided 10 gunny bags per acre through the purchase centres. Presiding over a meeting on wheat procurement, gunny bags distribution and the Green Tractor Scheme, the chief minister directed that procurement from farmers be started without delay. It was decided in principle that wheat would be purchased on a priority basis from farmers holding Kissan Card. *(Dawn, April 15th, 2026, Page 2)*

CM orders officials to accelerate wheat procurement in Sindh

Taking notice of the slow pace of wheat procurement across the province, Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah directed the food department and district administrations to accelerate procurement operations immediately. "The current pace is not satisfactory. All districts must activate their procurement mechanisms and ensure that targets are met without delay," he said while chairing a meeting to review wheat procurement for the Rabi crop 2025-26. It may be noted that the provincial cabinet (Sindh) has set a wheat procurement target of one million metric tons for the current crop at a support price of Rs3,500 per 40kg. As per policy, procurement is being carried out exclusively from those growers who benefited from the Sindh Wheat Growers Support Programme, under which subsidised DAP fertiliser was provided.

The chief minister said that achieving the procurement target is essential not only for supporting farmers but also for ensuring food security and price stability across Sindh. Food Minister Makhdoom Mahboob informed the meeting that against the procurement target of 973,900 metric tons, only 1,061.600 metric tons had been procured, and the procurement process had been intensified.

According to the district-wise breakdown, Jamshoro showed comparatively better performance with 450 metric tons procured against a target of 23,150 metric tons, followed by Umerkot (122.60 MT), Badin (74.40 MT), Sanghar (63.10 MT), and Mirpurkhas (45.50 MT). Moderate procurement was reported from Thatta (34 MT), Tando Muhammad Khan (35 MT), Hyderabad (28 MT), and Naushahro Feroze (34 MT). The meeting was also briefed on prevailing wheat prices in open market, which are influencing procurement trends across province. *(Dawn, April 15th, 2026, Page 15)*

Rabi season: 29.31m tons of wheat likely to be produced

Pakistan is likely to produce 29.31 million tons of wheat during the 2025–26 Rabi season, slightly below the target of 29.678 million tons, from an area of 9.385 million hectares. According to provincial governments' estimates presented at the Federal Committee on Agriculture (FCA) meeting, chaired by Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research Rana Tanveer Hussain, wheat output is projected to decrease by 1.24 percent against the set target.

The FCA held on October 24, 2025, set a wheat production target of 29.678 million tons for the Rabi season 2025-26, to be produced from 9.648 million hectares. However, the estimated production reflects a 3.13 percent increase compared to last year, when the country produced 28.42 million tons from 9.1 million hectares. According to provincial estimates, of the total projected wheat output of 29.31 million tons, Punjab is likely to produce 22.040 million tons, Sindh 4.402 million tons, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa 1.411 million tons, and Balochistan 1.450 million tons.

The meeting also reviewed the performance of other Rabi crops. The FCA was informed that onion production is estimated at 2.70178 million tons from an area of 0.16375 million hectares, reflecting a slight decline in both cultivated area and output compared to last year. Similarly, tomato production is estimated at 1,555,720 tons from an area of 41,990 hectares, showing a decline of 11.9 percent due to a reduction in cultivated area of 12.1 percent. In contrast, potato production is estimated at 12.171 million tons from an area of 0.46656 million hectares, indicating a 23.2 percent increase over last year. Gram production is estimated at 262,030 tons from an area of 782,240 hectares, showing a 52.4 percent increase compared to the previous year.

FCA also deliberated on production targets for Kharif crops (2026–27). The meeting fixed a cotton production target of 9.64 million bales from an area of 2.16 million hectares, and a rice production target of 9.17 million tons from 3.39 million hectares of land. It also set the sugarcane production target for 2024–25 at 80.3 million tons from an area of 1.14 million hectares, along with targets for maize, mung, mash, and chilies.

An official said the availability of agricultural inputs for Kharif crops (2026) was discussed in detail, and the committee was informed that water availability at canal heads will remain 67.451 million acre-feet (MAF) during the Kharif season. Regarding seed and fertilizer availability, he said that the committee was informed that the supply of rice and maize seed is expected to remain sufficient. The National Fertilizer Development Center (NFDC) stated that urea availability will remain comfortable due to local production and existing stocks, he said.

The minister chairing the meeting said that achieving food security requires a clear focus on improving domestic agricultural productivity, particularly by increasing per-acre yields. He said that the Interim National Wheat Policy 2025–26, approved by the Federal Cabinet on November 19, 2025, is being implemented across the country to support the farmer community and encourage private sector investment in the wheat sector value chain. *(Business Recorder, April 15th, 2026, Page 2)*

Wheat procurement process hits snags as eight district food officers removed

In what is being seen as major practical action in line with the Sindh government's 'zero-tolerance' to corruption and negligence, as many as eight district food controllers (DFCs) have been removed. An official statement issued in this regard said that the food department has removed them on an immediate basis under special directives from Food Secretary Ghulam Abbas Naich. The removed officers have been asked to report to the department's secretariat. *(Dawn, April 17th, 2026, Page 15)*

Murad removes quantity restriction to meet wheat procurement target

The Sindh government abolished the five bags per acre limit in wheat procurement and allowed small farmers to sell their wheat to government without any quantity restriction. The decision was taken at a meeting held at the CM House to review the ongoing wheat procurement campaign with Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in the chair.

The meeting was informed that the wheat procurement campaign that began on April 1 with a target of one million tonnes at a support price of Rs3,500 per 40kg was in full swing. The campaign covers over 332,000 farmers cultivating wheat on approximately 1.94 million acres across the province. The food minister said that approximately 8,958 tonnes of wheat had so far been procured against overall target of 973,900 metric tonnes. The meeting was told that payments to farmers had been significantly expedited, with funds now being transferred within one day through Sindh Bank. So far, Rs198.3 million has been disbursed among growers. *(Dawn, April 21st, 2026, Page 15)*

Punjab's Wheat procurement drive termed 'zero'

In a scathing attack on the Punjab government, PTI Kisan Wing Punjab General Secretary Ejaz Shafi declared the province's wheat procurement drive as 'virtually zero', warning that the farmers are being pushed towards starvation with policy failures. In a statement, he termed the sluggish wheat procurement campaign a reflection of "government incompetence," claiming that despite the harvest nearing completion, only around 40,000 farmers had been registered and no meaningful procurement had taken place. He alleged that the government had failed to finalise terms with banks for providing up to 70pc interest-free loans to companies, resulting in banks' reluctance to finance the aggregators. This, he said, has derailed the 2026-27 procurement campaign. *(Dawn, April 22nd, 2026, Page 2)*

Govt to resume wheat procurement through cash to support farmers

Adviser to the chief minister on finance, Muzzammil Aslam, said that the provincial government would resume wheat procurement through cash this year to support farmers and strengthen strategic wheat reserves, ensuring that the commodity was made easily available to consumers during difficult times. In a statement issued here, Aslam claimed that due to the provincial government's timely measures, the wheat price had dropped from Rs13,500 to Rs9,000 per 100kg bag, which led to a reduction in flour rate.

He said the government released wheat stocks at a time when prices were rising across the country, while the Punjab government had 'illegally' restricted the supply of wheat and flour to his province. Aslam said that, in compliance with the decision of the provincial cabinet, 136,000 metric tons of wheat was released at an average landed cost of Rs10,414 per 100kg, while ex-mill and retail flour prices were fixed at Rs2,190 per 20kg and Rs2,220 per 20kg, respectively. *(Dawn, April 22nd, 2026, Page 8)*

Sindh govt's new wheat policy to benefit small farmers: Sharjeel

Sindh Senior Minister and Provincial Minister for Information, Transport and Mass Transit, Sharjeel Inam Memon, has said that abolishing the wheat sale limit and the five-sacks-per-acre condition is a highly important decision. The Sindh government's move will directly benefit small farmers, enabling them to sell their produce at government centers without any hindrance. In a statement, Sharjeel Inam Memon said that setting the wheat support price at Rs3,500 and fixing the procurement target at 1 million metric tons reflects the government's farmer-friendly policies. Instructions to accelerate the wheat procurement campaign and take measures in districts with low procurement will help ensure that the target is achieved. *(Business Recorder, April 22nd, 2026, Page 7)*

Farmers threaten protest over wheat prices in Punjab

Pakistan Kissan Ittehad President Khalid Mahmood Khokhar warned that farmers would be "forced onto the streets" if their demands are not met within three days, as he called for an autonomous commission to investigate massive losses in the wheat sector. Addressing a press conference, Khokhar alleged that farmers had suffered losses amounting to Rs2,200 billion over the past two years due to flawed policies, poor pricing and bureaucratic mismanagement. He demanded that a high-level, independent commission headed by the Speaker of the Punjab Assembly be formed to probe the past three years and fix responsibility. *(Dawn, April 25th, 2026, Page 2)*

After no credit line: Punjab to procure wheat through private funds

The Punjab government's negotiations with commercial banks to secure a credit line for wheat procurement in the 2026-27 marketing season have been unsuccessful. As a result, the provincial government will now implement a revised plan under which wheat will be procured through aggregators financed entirely from their own resources. The Punjab government decided to shift to private financing for wheat procurement after negotiation with banks could not be materialised, a senior official said. When asked who would finance procurement in the absence of banks this season, the official said that LDC, a major private firm active in the agricultural commodities market, would pick up between 0.5 million to 01 million metric tons using its own financing.

He added that another firm, Green Pakistan Initiative (GPI), would also procure 01 million metric tons, while 11 other authorised aggregators would buy wheat with 100 percent private equity. All these companies, which are called as aggregators, are among the dozen firms authorised by the Punjab government to purchase wheat directly from farmers. The official emphasised that farmers were receiving a good rate in the ongoing procurement season, which he termed an achievement. He said the next target was to procure enough wheat to ensure food security. *(The News, April 26th, 2026, Page 12)*

Provinces confident on wheat targets

The provinces are confident of meeting their wheat production targets for the 2025-26 rabi season as harvesting is in full swing, Minister for National Food Security and Research Rana Tanveer said. Wheat prices in the domestic market range from Rs3,500 to Rs4,000 per 40kg, in line with international trends, ensuring fair returns for farmers while keeping the staple affordable for consumers. *(Dawn, April 30th, 2026, Page 9)*

4 # SUB – AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIONS

4.1 # Fishery

Shrimp farming projects reviewed in Punjab

The Punjab government has decided to rehabilitate barren lands across the province by converting them into economic zones under Blue Economy Programme. CM Maryam Nawaz said that progress had been achieved in developing infrastructure for shrimp farming projects in Sargodha Estate, Aliwala and Shahgarh. In the Sargodha shrimp farming project, excavation of 118 ponds has been completed, while boring of 116 tubewells and 100 per cent land clearing and survey over 365 acres have been finalised.

Construction of the warehouse is 90pc complete, while work on the admin block and feed store is progressing rapidly. The project spans a total area of 500 acres, the CM was told. For the Aliwala shrimp estate, 90pc of the allocated 1,267 acres have been cleared. Excavation of 642 out of 737 ponds has been completed, while 91pc of work on the drainage system and 100pc excavation of MDC drains have been finalised. A survey and clearing of a 9,000-metre road network is completed and 80pc earth filling work achieved. Construction foundations for the admin office, hostel, warehouse and labour residences have been completed.

At the Shahgarh shrimp farm, 90pc of work on water supply, 95pc electrification and 97pc construction of the access road have been completed. Experts have submitted their reports to the authorities. The chief minister said that promotion of aquaculture and shrimp farming of international standards would help rehabilitate barren lands, create employment opportunities and boost exports. The Blue Economy Programme has been launched to develop unused lands across Punjab. *(Dawn, April 21st, 2026, Page 2)*

Fisherfolk demand fair transition from fossil fuels

The Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum (PFF) organised a demonstration in Ibrahim Hyderi, calling for an equitable transition to a fossil-free future. Addressing the demonstration, PFF's senior vice chairperson Fatima Majeed stated that thousands were also participating in similar protests across India, Bangladesh, Nepal and the Philippines, making it part of a global mobilisation. Fatima Majeed further remarked that the current energy crisis had demonstrated that dependence on fossil fuels must be dismantled, as it has shackled Asia's economies to the extraction of coal, oil and gas.

"There can be no pathway to global peace, stability and climate justice as long as our energy supply remains tied to the volatility of fossil fuels," she said. Fisherfolk in Pakistan and other parts of Asia are heavily reliant on fossil fuels; Pakistani fishermen are awaiting cheaper diesel for their boats. In Pakistan, which was the first country to declare a national energy emergency a month ago, hundreds gathered in fishing villages, noting that when fuel prices rise, ordinary Pakistanis bear the brunt, as essential goods become more expensive, workers' purchasing power diminishes, family budgets are strained, and the burden on women increases. *(Dawn, April 27th, 2026, Page 14)*

4.2 # Livestock

SAU alumnus highlights livestock sector at SCO Youth Conference

A graduate of Sindh Agriculture University (SAU), Tandojam, Dr Waseem Laghari, represented Pakistan at Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Youth Conference held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, where he presented recommendations highlighting the country's progress in livestock and veterinary sectors. Dr. Waseem said that Pakistan's mixed farming system effectively connects smallholder farmers with organized milk and meat supply chains, while the commercial poultry sector is rapidly expanding and playing a key role in food security and rural livelihoods.

Dr Laghari noted that Pakistan produces approximately 65–70 million tonnes of milk annually, ranking among the leading milk-producing countries, with per capita consumption of around 170 kilograms per year. He added that the poultry sector remains strong, producing over 20 billion eggs annually. Highlighting cost competitiveness, he said farm-level egg production in Pakistan ranges between Rs10 and Rs18 per egg, significantly lower than in Central Asian countries due to higher feed costs, climatic challenges and production limitations. He said this cost advantage creates strong potential for expanding regional trade in poultry and livestock products among SCO countries. *(Business Recorder, April 5th, 2026, Page 9)*

Over 100 sheep die mysteriously in Cholistan

Over 100 sheep worth hundreds of thousands of rupees died mysteriously in Cholistan desert area around Derawar Fort in the last 48 hours. *Dawn* learnt from local sources in desert areas that the actual number of the dead sheep could be over 150, but the Cholistan livestock department officials are claiming lower mortalities. Cholistan Division Livestock Director Dr Sibtain confirmed the death of 90 sheep.

He said the cause of the deaths was not any epidemic disease. He claimed the sheep died because of drinking water after consuming leftover wheat grains while grazing in the fields, which caused a condition called "Asiodosis". According to the director, the sheep belonged to different shepherds. He said he dispatched mobile teams, along with medicines and laboratory equipment, to the affected area, which are providing treatment to the sick animals. *(Dawn, April 8th, 2026, Page 2)*

15 buffaloes electrocuted in canal

Fifteen buffaloes worth millions of rupees were electrocuted when live electricity wires crossing over a minor canal fell into it at Adda Fazil near Bucheki in Nankana Sahib district. Dairy farm owner Rai Muhammad Akram said his buffaloes were taking bath in the canal when low intensity lines crossing over the canal snapped and fell into canal. As a result, his 15 buffaloes received electric shocks and were electrocuted. He seeks compensation from government and Lahore Electric Supply Company for his loss.

In another similar incident, 30 acres of wheat crop was reduced to ashes as a result of fire which broke out due to fall of high intensity electricity transmission lines on the fields at Baseedhpur village near Mor Khanda in Nankana Sahib district. The affected farmers, Rai Bilal Ashraf, Haji Muhammad Anwar Bhutta, Munir Ahmad Suleman, and their families staged a protest against Lesco. They termed the electric company responsible for their loss and demanded compensation from it. DSP Rai Ayub Sahi reached site of protest and convinced them to end it. *(Dawn, April 18th, 2026, Page 2)*

5 # TRADE

Trade deficit

According to PBS data, imports fell 5.4pc to $4.99bn in March from $5.28bn in the same month last year, while on a month-on-month basis imports declined by 5.57pc. In the first nine months of FY26, the import bill increased by 6.64pc to $50.54bn from $47.38bn in the corresponding period last year. Imports rose 6.57pc to $58.38bn in July-January FY25 compared to $54.78bn a year earlier. The trade deficit widened by 3.7pc to $2.73bn in March from $2.63bn in the same month last year. In July-March FY26, the deficit surged by 22.65pc to $27.8bn from $22.67bn in the corresponding period last year. For FY25, the trade deficit increased by 9pc to $26.27bn compared to $24.11bn in the previous year. *(Dawn, April 3rd, 2026, Page 9)*

Trade deficit widens 22.65pc to USD27.8bn in 9 months

Pakistan's trade deficit has widened by 22.65 percent to USD27.8 billion in the first nine months of Financial Year 2025-26, with exports recorded at USD22.731 billion and imports at USD50.536 billion. Trade data released here by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) said that the country's exports in the same period of the last financial year were recorded at USD24.72 billion and imports USD47.388 billion, reflecting a USD 22.67 billion trade deficit. According to the PBS data, the exports totalled USD22.731, showing a decline of 8.04 percent compared to exports of USD 24.718billion during July–March of the 2024–25 fiscal year.

On the other hand, imports into the country increased by 6.64 percent, rising from USD47.388 billion last year to USD 50.54 billion during the July–March 2025–26 period. Based on the figures, the trade deficit during the first nine months was recorded at USD27.805 billion against the deficit of USD22.67 billion last year, showing an increase of 22.65 percent. Meanwhile, on a year-on-year (YoY) basis, the exports in March 2026 recorded a decline of 14.40 percent to USD2.264 billion compared to USD2.645 billion in March 2025. On an annual basis, the country's imports also witnessed a reduction of 5.37 percent, declining from USD5.278 billion to USD 4.995 billion during the period under review. *(Business Recorder, April 3rd, 2026, Page 1)*

FPCCI forms global trade committees

The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) has announced the formation of national committees for various international forums, including Economic Cooperation Organisation Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ECO CCI), Pakistan–EU Business Forum, Confederation of Asia-Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CACCI), Pakistan-ASEAN Business Forum, Commonwealth, D-8 CCI and Organisation of Islamic Cooperation(OIC). It has also launched a membership drive among trade bodies, chambers and associations across the country. *(The News, April 26th, 2026, Page 17)*

Pakistan notifies 6 land routes for transportation of goods to Iran

Pakistan has notified six routes for the transportation of goods to Iran against an encashable bank guarantee amid reports that thousands of containers destined for Iran are awaiting clearance at Pakistani ports. For this to come into force, the Ministry of Commerce has issued a statutory regulatory order, Transit of Goods through Territory of Pakistan Order 2026. According to the order, following routes have been designated for the transit of goods:

- Gwadar-Gabd
- Karachi/ Port Qasim-Lyari-Ormara-Pasni-Gabd
- Karachi/ Port Qasim- Khuzdar-Dalbandin-Taftan
- Gawadar-Turbat-Hoshab-Panjgur-Nagg-Besima-Khuzdar-Quetta/ Lakpass-Dalbandin-Nokundi-Taftan
- Gwadar-Liari-Khuzdar-Quetta/ Lakpass-Dalbandin-Nokundi-Taftan
- Karachi/ Port Qasim -Gwadar- Gabd

Meanwhile, it has been reported that more than 3,000 containers destined for Iran have been stuck at the Karachi port for the past few days. This has been reported as the blockade of the Strait of Hormuz — which was the route for one-fifth of the world's oil and gas supply in peacetime — and that of Iranian ports continues amid a conflict between the US and Iran. *(Dawn, April 27th, 2026, Page 1)*

5.1 # Export

Exports shrink 14pc as Mideast crisis bites

Pakistan's merchandise exports declined by 14.4 per cent in March, marking a second consecutive monthly contraction as disruptions linked to the Middle East crisis weighed on external trade. The export sector had already been under pressure in the months leading up to February, but the situation has worsened due to the conflict. The disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz have pushed up shipping costs for exporters and disrupted supply chains.

Trade analysts warn that the continuation of the Middle East war could weigh further on export performance, particularly by disrupting trade routes, dampening demand in key regional markets and adding uncertainty to global supply chains. In absolute terms, export proceeds fell 14.4pc to $2.26 billion in March from $2.65bn a year ago, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) said. On a month-on-month basis, export proceeds dipped by 0.55pc in March. Negative growth in exports has continued since August of current fiscal year, except in July, when proceeds grew by 16.4pc year-on-year. Export earnings posted negative growth, with proceeds declining by 20.4pc in December.

This follows a 14.54pc drop in November, 4.46pc in October, 3.88pc in September, and 12.49pc in August, reflecting persistent pressures on the country's external trade performance. However, in January, exports posted modest 3.3pc growth, but returned to negative growth of 8.76pc in February. In the nine months (July-March), export proceeds recorded a negative growth of 8pc, falling to $22.73bn from $24.72bn in the corresponding period last year. Two months ago, the government announced several measures, including a reduction in energy rates, to minimise pressure on the country's trade performance. Currently, the exporters are grappling with subdued global markets and the high cost of doing business in the country. In FY25, export proceeds rose 4.7pc to $32.1bn against $30.68bn in the preceding year. *(Dawn, April 3rd, 2026, Page 9)*

Exports to N. America rise in July-February

Pakistan's merchandise exports to North America increased by 3.21 per cent to $4.411 billion during the first eight months of 2025-26 compared to $4.274bn in the same period last year. The US remained the dominant market, accounting for nearly 95pc of Pakistan's total exports to North America, with the remaining share going mainly to Canada and other countries.

In FY25, Pakistan's merchandise exports to North America rose by 9.97pc to $6.415bn, up from $5.833bn in the corresponding period of the previous year, driven mainly by higher textile and clothing shipments to the United States. Within the region, exports to the United States increased to $4.156bn during the first eight months of FY26, up from $4.011bn a year earlier, reflecting growth of 3.62pc.

In FY25, exports to US stood at $6.028bn, up 10.72pc from $5.444bn in corresponding period of the previous year. Pakistan's exports to Canada recorded a negative growth of 2.64pc to $226.28m in 7MFY26 from $232.42m over the corresponding months of last year. In FY25, Pakistan's exports to Canada stood at $254.35m, down 3.26pc from $262.92m in the previous year.

Imports from North America rose 34.4pc to $2.239bn in 8MFY26 from $1.663bn a year ago. Imports from North America surged 26.98pc to $2.588bn in FY25 from $2.038bn the preceding year. Maximum imports originated from US. Under the new agreement, Pakistan will import an additional $2.5bn worth of goods from the US to balance trade deficit in the current fiscal year. As a result of this agreement, imports from the region, especially the US, posted an impressive growth. Imports from the US rose 27.78pc to $1.918bn in 8MFY26 from $1.501bn in the corresponding months of last year.

In the same region, Pakistan's export to Latin America stood at $48.67m in 8MFY26 against $48.54m over the previous year, indicating a paltry growth of 0.26pc. Pakistan's exports to Latin America stood at $73.521m in FY25, down 7.52pc from $79.502m in the previous year. Pakistan's exports to Central America stood at $113.10m in 8MFY26 from $113.77m over the previous year, a decline of 0.58pc. *(Dawn, April 9th, 2026, Page 9)*

Textile exports drop 7.06pc

Pakistan`s textile and clothing exports fell 7.06 per cent in March compared with the same month last year, marking a second consecutive monthly decline and signalling weakening global demand. The fall follows a brief recovery in January, when the sector posted a modest year-on-year increase of 3.14pc. The contraction highlights the volatility facing one of the country`s key export industries, where fragile external demand and high domestic costs continue to limit sustained growth. Export proceeds from the sectors have recorded a negative growth since October. The exports fell by 8.56pc in December, 2.57pc in November and 0.57pc in October. Data show that textile and clothing exports fell slightly to $1.328bn in March 2026 from $1.430bn in March 2025. *(Dawn, April 17th, 2026, Page 9)*

16 fisheries exporters registered with Russia

In a significant development for Pakistan's seafood export sector, the Marine Fisheries Department of the Ministry of Maritime Affairs has successfully secured the registration of 16 Pakistani fisheries exporters with the Russian Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance (ROSSELKHOZNADOR/ FSVPS). This milestone opens the doors to the vast and lucrative Russian market for Pakistani seafood and fisheries products. The breakthrough follows the submission of complete dossiers of the 16 exporters to the Russian agency in 2024. Despite prolonged efforts, the process faced delays until a high-level diplomatic push in early 2025 resolved outstanding issues. *(Business Recorder, April 17th, 2026, Page 12)*

Basmati exports defy war jolt

Pakistan's basmati rice exports have largely withstood the shockwaves of the US-Iran conflict, showing a notable recovery despite earlier setbacks and ongoing trade challenges. Pakistan exported a total of 434,165 tonnes of rice in March. This included 49,149 tonnes of basmati rice, excluding shipments to Iran under barter trade, and 385,016 tonnes of non-basmati varieties.

Basmati exports in March remained largely insulated from the war's impact, reaching 49,149 tonnes — only an 11pc decline compared to March 2025. This reflects a significant recovery trend, as the export deficit for basmati, which stood at 49pc during July-December 2025-26, narrowed to just 14pc over the nine-month period ending March. Pakistan exported 558,200 tonnes of basmati rice in 9MFY26 compared with 658,700 tonnes, a 14pc decrease. According to 2026 data from Iran Customs, Pakistan's rice exports to Iran surged to 523,000 tonnes during the Iranian financial year from March 21, 2025, to March 20, 2026. *(Dawn, April 18th, 2026, Page 9)*

Punjab to export livestock, meat; signs MoU

Punjab will export livestock and meat as provincial government signed a MoU with seven institutions, including a Chinese company. Under the agreement one million livestock will be exported. The meeting was informed that China's Global Meat

Company would install a boiler unit in collaboration with the government-owned Punjab Agriculture and Meat Company in the province. The boiler unit will prepare boiled meat on a large scale for export. Meat companies will import the meat of 300,000 animals ready for export. A target is set for fattening 300,000 buffaloes and cows, and 300,000 sheep and goats. Some 100,000 goats and sheep will be raised for export. The state-of-the-art veterinary hospitals will be established in every tehsil of the province. The government will provide up to 60pc subsidy on livestock machinery. Some 9,255 animals will be distributed to widowed and divorced women in 12 districts of south Punjab. *(Dawn, April 26th, 2026, Page 2)*

Exports to major European markets slow down despite GSP+ status

Pakistan's exports to major Western and Northern European markets have recorded negative growth in the first nine months of the current fiscal year compared with a year ago, despite the continuation of GSP+ status, raising concerns about weakening demand for Pakistani goods. Pakistan's exports to European countries recorded a paltry year-on-year growth of 0.94 per cent to $6.86 billion in the nine months (July to March) of fiscal year 2025-26 (9MFY26) against $6.79bn over the last year. The slowdown is mainly driven by a decline in shipments to northern and western European states. In FY25, the exports to the EU rose 7.44pc to $8.86bn, up from $8.24bn in the previous fiscal year. In comparison, in FY24, Pakistan's exports to EU had dipped 3.12pc to $8.24bn despite its GSP+ status. *(Dawn, April 27th, 2026, Page 12)*

Export of donkey meat, hides to China allowed

The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) approved the export of donkey meat and hides from Gwadar Port to China. The ECC gave its approval after taking up a summary submitted by the Food Security Division. *(Dawn, April 28th, 2026, Page 9)*

Govt allows mango exports

The government has decided to allow export of mangoes for the 2026 crop year from June 1, 2026, following requests from stakeholders, according to the Ministry of Commerce. The decision was taken by a committee constituted under the Export Policy Order 2022, which reviewed the concerns of exporters and other stakeholders before approving the revised export schedule. *(Business Recorder, April 28th, 2026, Page 12)*

5.2 # Import

Govt allows cottonseed imports with conditions

Pakistan's long-awaited decision to allow cottonseed imports after decades has been overshadowed by an inordinate delay in issuing SOPs. As the sowing season nears its end, there are concerns that the move may have no impact this year. Under the newly released SOPs, importers are permitted to bring in hybrid cottonseed only on a trial basis. The seed must undergo two years of successful cultivation in different cotton zones and receive certification from relevant authorities before commercial imports can begin. *(Dawn, April 14th, 2026, Page 9)*

Food import bill jumps to $7.09bn

Pakistan's food import bill surged 15.22 per cent to $7.09 billion in the first nine months of the current fiscal year from $6.15bn in the same period last year, driven mainly by higher purchases of sugar and edible oil. However, exports of raw food items recorded a steep decline, falling to $3.80bn in 9MFY26 from $5.75bn a year earlier, a contraction of 33.90pc. The drop in exports was broad-based, with volumes declining across nearly all major food categories, except meat, which showed some resilience during the period. Rice exports suffered the most pronounced setback, with both basmati and non-basmati shipments declining significantly in March and over the nine-month period.

Analysts say the widening gap between imports and exports highlights increasing reliance on foreign food supplies, amid weakening domestic output and supply constraints, particularly in pulses. Pakistan imported 308,937 tonnes of sugar in9MFY26, marking an unprecedented increase of 11,457.69pc, compared with just 2,673 tonnes in the same period last year. In value terms, sugar imports surged 6,554.38pc to $174.744 million in 9MFY26 from $2.626m a year earlier after the government's decision to allow large-scale imports to address domestic shortages and contain rising prices in local markets. Retail sugar prices have remained volatile, hovering between Rs160 and Rs180 per kg in different cities, prompting authorities to step in and improve supply through imports. Officials say the move was aimed at stabilising the market amid tight domestic availability, as the country increasingly relied on external supplies to meet demand. *(Dawn, April 19th, 2026, Page 9)*

6 # CORPORATE SECTOR

Pharmaceuticals earn record Rs42.2bn in 2025

Pakistan's listed pharmaceutical sector recorded an all-time high in profitability, surging 78 per cent year-on-year to Rs42.2 billion in 2025, primarily driven by higher sales, lower active pharmaceutical ingredients (API) costs, and reduced finance costs. Similarly, on a quarter-on-quarter basis, the earnings rose 53pc to Rs14.2bn from Rs9.3bn in 4Q2024. Net sales increased by 14pc YoY to Rs365.7bn in 2025, up from Rs319.6bn in 2024, largely owing to price-led growth amid deregulation of nonessential drugs. Similarly, in 4Q2025, sales rose by 18pc YoY to Rs102.1bn. During 2025, the major sales contributions came from Abbot (21pc), Glaxo (18pc), Haleon (12pc), and The Searle (8pc), respectively. Muhammad Abdur Rafay of Top Line Securities said the sector disbursed dividends of Rs21.1bn (payout: 50.3pc) in 2025 versus Rs12.0bn (payout: 50.6pc) in 2024. *(Dawn, April 11th, 2026, Page 9)*

7 # INTERNATIONAL AID / LOAN / INVESTMENT

Jul-Feb FDI declines 33.4pc YoY: FD

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) into the country declined sharply by 33.4 percent in first eight months (July-February) of the current fiscal year (FY26), while portfolio investment remained in the negative territory (-490.8 million USD against - 211 million

USD in the same period last year). Moreover, Pakistan's stock market index rose by a whopping 24.6 percent, market capitalisation by 13.6 percent and incorporation of companies by 26 percent. All data released by the Finance Division in 'Monthly Economic Update and Outlook March 2026' were pertained to July-February (FY2026) and not included March when the Middle East conflicts were erupted.

FDI totalled USD1.194 billion during July–February fiscal year 2026, down from USD1.793 billion in the corresponding period of fiscal year 2025. However increase was witnessed in February 2026 when it increased to USD213.5 million against USD132.7 million in February 2025. Main sources of net inflows were China ($635.7 million) and Hong Kong (USD219.0 million). Sector-wise, power (USD627.4 million) and financial business (USD523.2 million) attracted the most FDI. Total foreign investment dropped substantially to USD704.1 million in July–February 2025-26, down from USD1.582 billion a year earlier. Portfolio investment recorded at –490.8 million, compared to -211 million in the same period last year.

The report noted that for the Rabi season 2025-26, wheat production is targeted at 29.7 million tonnes (last year production: 28.4 million tonnes). The sowing position remained better compared to last year due to government's support. However, the final yield will largely depend on weather conditions, particularly at the crop's maturity stage. The imports of agricultural machinery & implements recorded an increase of 17.1 percent to USD90.8 million during July-February (FY2026) from USD77.5 million last year. During Rabi 2025-26 (October-February), Urea offtake recorded at 2,994 thousand tonnes (7.1 percent higher than Rabi 2024-25), whereas DAP offtake stood 685 thousand tonnes. *(Business Recorder, April 1st, 2026, Page 1)*

Jul-Feb foreign investment inflows decline 22pc YoY: minister

Federal Minister for Investment Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh admitted that foreign investment inflows have declined by 22 percent from USD 3.089 billion to USD 2.409 billion during the current financial year 2025–26 (July–February) due to regional and global geopolitical conflicts. However, the minister said that profit remittances were recorded at approximately USD 771.52 million from the energy and services sectors during July–January of the financial year 2025–26. In a written reply to questions of the members of the National Assembly, the reason for the decline in investment inflows is owing to regional and global geopolitical tension, like the Russia-Ukraine fights, the Gaza Tragedy, Indo-Pak and Pakistan-Afghanistan tensions, and recent Iran-US-Israel war.

He said that foreign investment inflows in the last two financial years, 2023-24 and 2024-25, stood at USD3.166 billion and USD 4.28 billion, respectively, which is higher than the last period. He said that between the two financial years 2023–24 and 2024–25, the present government achieved a notable economic turnaround: inflation fell sharply from nearly 30 percent to around 5.5 percent, interest rates were cut from 22.5 percent to 10.5 percent, and IT exports surged to USD3 billion annually. About foreign investment inflows, the Minister said that sectoral data indicate that during July–January FY2025–26, profit remittances were recorded at approximately USD 400.19m from the energy sector and USD 371.33m from financial services. He said these figures primarily reflect returns on investments by foreign companies operating in power generation, oil and gas, and banking sectors. *(Business Recorder, April 3rd, 2026, Page 14)*

FDI surges to $167m in March

Despite a relatively small sum, foreign direct investment (FDI) surged by 165 per cent in March, even as the region remained engulfed in full-scale conflict. The data posted by the State Bank of Pakistan showed that the country received $167 million in March compared to just $63m a year ago; an increase of $104m. However, the country recorded a 27pc plunge in FDI inflows to $1,354m during July-March FY26 compared to $1,856m in the same period last year.

Most of the inflows came from a few countries. For example, China has been the largest investor for many years and has remained at the top of the list. In March, total FDI was $167m, with China and Hong Kong together accounting for $78m, of which China contributed $43m and Hong Kong $35m. During July-March FY26, FDI inflows from China and Hong Kong were $678.6m and $253m, respectively; the two countries collectively invested $928m of the total $1.354bn. Other significant inflows were $144m from the UAE; $153m from Switzerland; $88m from the UK and $66m from Japan. *(Dawn, April 17th, 2026, Page 9)*

Profit outflows rise to $1.83bn

Despite rising uncertainty and a volatile external environment, Pakistan succeeded in sending out higher profits on foreign investments than last year. Data for the first nine months issued by State Bank of Pakistan shows that the outflow of profits and dividends increased to $1.828 billion during July-March FY26, compared to $1.718bn in the same period last year; an increase of $110 million. Pakistan has been facing a tough time due to the Gulf war, as rising imported oil and gas prices have fueled inflation. Export markets in the Middle East have been temporarily disrupted, and production costs have increased due to higher diesel and petroleum prices. *(Dawn, April 21st, 2026, Page 9)*

7.1 # Country / Region

Riyadh, Doha to provide $5bn lifeline to Islamabad

Pakistan is set to receive $5 billion in financial support from Saudi Arabia and Qatar, offering a critical buffer for its fragile external position, as Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb departed for Washington to attend the IMF-World Bank Spring Meetings and advance the country's economic diplomacy. The expected inflows come at a crucial juncture, with Islamabad preparing to repay $3.5bn to the United Arab Emirates this month and facing pressure on its foreign exchange reserves, even as it seeks to leverage its role in facilitating US-Iran dialogue to secure economic support from global lenders. *(Dawn, April 12th, 2026, Page 1)*

Saudi Arabia pledges $3bn, extends $5bn facility till 2028
Saudi Arabia has committed an additional $3 billion in deposits for Pakistan and extended its existing $5bn facility for three years, Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb announced in Washington. Briefing journalists at the Pakistan Embassy, Mr Aurangzeb said the Saudi support provides a major boost to the country's external financing position. The minister said the fresh $3bn deposit would be disbursed in the coming week. Under the new arrangement, the existing $5bn Saudi deposit — previously subject to annual rollovers — has been extended until 2028, providing longer-term certainty to Pakistan's external financing framework.

The finance minister reiterated that Pakistan remains committed to maintaining foreign exchange reserves in line with market obligations and the programme agreed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). He said the government aims to build reserves to around $18bn by the end of the current fiscal year, equivalent to roughly 3.3 months of import cover. Highlighting Pakistan's recent external payments performance, Mr Aurangzeb noted that the country repaid its $1.4bn Eurobond last week, describing the transaction as a "non-event due to smooth execution". *(Dawn, April 16th, 2026, Page 1)*

Japan to give $2m to help people hit by climate disasters
Japan has announced it will give $2 million to support vulnerable communities affected by disasters across Pakistan, a move welcomed by the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), says a press release. "This contribution will enable WFP to provide food assistance to more than 45,000 people, impacted by monsoon floods and other shocks. It will also help communities restore assets and stabilise livelihoods for a stronger future," the statement said.

The press release said that Pakistan faces major climate risks including heatwaves, dry spells and glacial lake outburst floods. It said that communities were still recovering from the 2025 monsoon floods that affected 6.9 million people. According to figures compiled by NDMA, the 2025 floods killed at least 1,000 people and affected nearly seven million people. Punjab suffered the most damage, followed by KPK and parts of Gilgit-Baltistan, where vast areas of farmland were destroyed, homes were swept away, and many communities were forced to relocate. *(Dawn, April 17th, 2026, Page 3)*

Islamabad, Riyadh ink deal to extend $3bn deposit
Pakistan and Saudi Arabia signed an agreement to extend a $3 billion deposit from the Saudi Fund for Development (SFD). Saudi Arabia, earlier this week, pledged an additional $3 billion in deposits for Pakistan and extended its existing $5bn facility for a further three years. "The agreement, signed between the Saudi Fund for Development (SFD) and the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), provides for the extension in the maturity of a USD 3 billion deposit placed by SFD with the [SBP]," said a post on X by the finance ministry. *(Dawn, April 18th, 2026, Page 12)*

Saudi deposit completes $3bn support package

State Bank of Pakistan received the remaining part of the promised $3 billion from Saudi Arabia with an inflow of $1bn. Earlier this month, UAE withdrew a deposit of $3.5bn with the State Bank, but the amount was not free of cost as interest on the loan was reportedly as high as six percent. UAE's sudden decision to withdraw its support of $3.5bn could have put Pakistan in trouble, but Saudi Arabia stepped in with a deposit of $3bn to fill the gap. Pakistan received $2bn on April 17, while country has already paid $2bn to UAE and another $1.4bn against maturity of Eurobonds. Another $1bn is expected to be paid to UAE on April 23. Government had already paid $500 million to that country before the $2bn payment. *(Dawn, April 22nd, 2026, Page 9)*

EIB commits €160m to rebuild Sindh

The European Investment Bank's international development arm, EIB Global, is committing a total of €160 million to help Pakistan rebuild homes in Sindh and to improve water quality in Karachi. The pledges mark a return of EIB Global financing in Pakistan after a decade. The announcement came at the conclusion of the two-day EU-Pakistan Business Forum. EIB Global is providing a €100 million loan to the Pakistani government for the Sindh housing initiative, which is the world's largest ongoing reconstruction programme and aims to rebuild around 2.1 million rural homes damaged by devastating floods in 2022. The project has a total cost of almost $2 billion and covers 40 per cent of rural households in Sindh. The EIB financing forms part of the EU's "Global Gateway" strategy to mobilise €400bn of investments in the 2021-2027 period. *(Dawn, April 30th, 2026, Page 9)*

8 # INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS (IFIs)

8.1 # Asian Development Bank (ADB)

Govt faces ADB loan deadline crunch

The cash-strapped government, already facing an acute economic crisis due to the Gulf war, may lose a $360 million loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) allocated to an international highway project, as April 5 is the disbursement deadline. After addressing all deficiencies and flaws in the award process of the Central Asian Regional Economic Corridor (Carec) Tranche-III project, the decision now rests with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who must determine whether the project should be executed by the National Highway Authority (NHA). *(Dawn, April 4th, 2026, Page 9)*

ADB sees stronger growth, but warns of Middle East risks

ADB upgraded Pakistan's economic growth forecast to 3.5 per cent for the current fiscal year but warned of significant downside risks stemming from global uncertainty, particularly the Middle East crisis. "Pakistan is expected to sustain its economic performance in medium term, with real GDP growth forecast at 3.5pc in FY2026 and 4.5pc in FY2027, from 3.1pc in FY2025, as manufacturing recovers and investment increases," agency said in April 2026. *(Dawn, April 11th, 2026, Page 1)*

ADB boosts Pakistan commitments to $3.7bn

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) made fresh commitments worth $3.672 billion to Pakistan in 2025, up 22 per cent from $2.995bn the previous year, as it ventured into new areas such as the minerals sector. In its Annual Report 2025, the Manila-based lending agency also reported new financial support commitments of $1.485bn to the public sector for the year, a one-third increase from $1.113bn in 2024. Most of these loans were extended on ordinary commercial terms. "In Pakistan, a policy-based guarantee is helping to mitigate credit risk for commercial bank lending to smaller enterprises and mobilise $1bn in commercial financing," the bank said.

The bank will also provide advisory support to Pakistan to help prepare road maps for digital skills development, in addition to investing in girls' education and participation in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) subjects. In 2025, ADB committed an $800m package — including a $300m policy-based loan and up to a $500m policy-based guarantee — enabling the government to mobilise an additional $1bn in financing. The programme aims to reduce fiscal deficits and public debt to create more space for social spending. It focuses on improving tax policy, administration, and compliance; enhancing public expenditure and cash management; and promoting digitalisation and private investment. *(Dawn, April 24th, 2026, Page 9)*

8.2 # World Bank

Sindh to get $300m for hygiene, sanitation services

The World Bank will provide $300 million for a Sindh government project to increase access to safe water supply, sanitation and hygiene services in selected rural areas of the province. *(Dawn, April 9th, 2026, Page 3)*

9 # POLICY

Pakistan taps UN committee to reshape national food policy

Pakistan has initiated dialogue with the United Nations Committee on World Food Security (CFS), seeking policy guidance to shape its national strategies on food security, officials said, as the country works to address challenges affecting access to food. *(Dawn, April 26th, 2026, Page 3)*

9.1 # Developmental Policy

PDWP approves six schemes

Provincial Development Working Party (PDWP - Punjab) approved six development schemes at an estimated cost of Rs10.305bn. *(Dawn, April 8th, 2026, Page 2)*

AJK govt approves Rs34.85bn development projects

Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Cabinet Development Committee (CDC) approved 44 projects of over Rs34.85 billion in key sectors, including communication and works, public health, education, local government, water resources and energy, information technology, and food. *(Dawn, April 8th, 2026, Page 5)*

ECNEC approves projects worth over Rs280bn

Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) approved major infrastructure and social sector projects worth over PKR 280 billion. The schemes, which include highways, healthcare, and urban development, are aimed at strengthening connectivity, expanding public services, and supporting growth. *(Business Recorder, April 9th, 2026, Page 1)*

URAAN Pakistan Initiative: CDWP approves 7 uplift projects worth Rs24.385bn

The Central Development Working Party (CDWP) approved seven development projects worth PKR 24.385 billion under the URAAN Pakistan Initiative, aimed at strengthening the country's development and promoting sustainable economic growth. *(Business Recorder, April 9th, 2026, Page 18)*

Jul-Mar period: 70.4pc of PSDP allocation disbursed

In July-March 2026, Public Sector Development Programme's expenditure (disbursement) was 70.4 percent of the total authorization and 45.5 percent of the total revised budgeted PSDP for the current fiscal year. The government had budgeted one trillion rupees for the PSDP in the current year, but revised it downward to Rs 910 billion. The Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives authorised Rs 588.76 billion for development projects under the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) during the July–March period, against a budgeted allocation of Rs 910 billion for the current fiscal year. Actual expenditures stood at Rs 414.96 billion during the first nine months. *(Business Recorder, April 16th, 2026, Page 1)*

10 # SOCIO – ECONOMIC CONDITION

Circular debt stock stands at Rs1.8trn as of Feb 2026: PD

Power Division has claimed that the stock of circular debt stood at Rs. 1,837 billion as of February 2026. The observed increase since June 2025 is temporary and primarily due to timing differences. The circular debt flow remains within the prescribed targets and is expected to be fully cleared by the end of the fiscal year, in line with Circular Debt Management Plan. Such seasonal or monthly fluctuations are routine and do not affect consumers. *(Business Recorder, April 1st, 2026, Page 1)*

Total debt crosses Rs 81.4trn mark

Pakistan's total public debt has surged past Rs 81.4 trillion, comprising both domestic and external components, with external debt exceeding Rs 21 trillion. Consequently, the per capita debt stands at approximately Rs 325,000. This was stated by the Director of the Debt Office, the Ministry of Finance, while briefing the Senate Standing Committee on Economic Affairs held here under the chairmanship of Senator Saifullah Abro. He further informed that, based on the latest census, the per capita debt burden stands at approximately Rs. 325,000. The panel was told that the persistent rise in federal fiscal debt is primarily due to government expenditures exceeding revenues, with oil imports being a major contributing factor.

An important point highlighted during the briefing was that while government regularly services domestic debt, it often does so by acquiring additional loans. The chairman of the Senate body expressed serious concerns over the ever-growing national borrowing, adding that government is not considering cuts in grants to parliamentarians, and urged Finance Division to formulate policies that are financially beneficial for the nation. The chairman further sought details regarding a Rs 65 billion loan extended to banks by the State Bank of Pakistan. *(Business Recorder, April 3rd, 2026, Page 1)*

Public debt rises 1.1pc to USD290bn in HI

Pakistan's public debt continued its upward climb, rising by 1.1 percent equivalent to USD6.8 billion in the first half of current fiscal year 2026 to reach a staggering Rs81,374 billion (USD290.6 billion), according to the Finance Division. The public debt stock is comprised of 68 percent domestic debt and 32 percent external debt. The Division in its 'debt bulletin 1H fiscal year 2026', noted that domestic debt increased by 1.6 percent to reach Rs 55,363 billion, in comparison to 5.8 percent increase during 1H fiscal year 2025. External debt increased by only 1.2 percent to reach $92,873 million. Domestic debt increased by 1.6 percent during 1H fiscal year 2026, reaching Rs 55,363 billion, in comparison to an increase of 5.8 percent during 1H fiscal year 2025. *(Business Recorder, April 3rd, 2026, Page 1)*

Jul-Feb govt debt surges Rs2trn to Rs79.88trn

Pakistan's central government debt continued upward trajectory, rising by nearly Rs2 trillion during the first eight months of current fiscal year (FY26), primarily driven by a sharp increase in domestic borrowing. State Bank of Pakistan reported that country's total debt stocks including both domestic and external debt liabilities, surged to Rs79.882 trillion by the end of February 2026. This represents an increase of Rs1.994 trillion, or 2.5 percent, in the overall debt, compared with Rs77.888 trillion at the end of June 2025.

Analysts said external debt has not increased during the period, however, a sharp rise has witnessed in the domestic debt as government borrowed more from the domestic banking system to bridge the financing gap. Overall, revenue collection has improved during the current fiscal year, however it remains insufficient to fully meet government expenditures. On the domestic front, debt stocks increased by 4 percent, or Rs 2.207 trillion, during July-Feb of FY26. Domestic debt reached Rs 56.679 trillion by the end of February 2026, compared with Rs54.472 trillion end of June 2025. *(Business Recorder, April 10th, 2026, Page 1)*

10.1 # Food

Milk prices in Karachi soar, but sellers push for more

In a move that has sent shockwaves through the city's residents, the authorities have hiked the retail price of loose milk by Rs20, pushing the new price to Rs240 per kg. According to a notification, issued by commissioner Syed Hasan Naqvi, the new pricing structure sets the price for farmers at Rs215 per kg, Rs225 for wholesalers, and Rs240 for retailers per kg. The decision, effective immediately, adds to the woes of consumers already grappling with soaring living costs. *(Dawn, April 2nd, 2026, Page 13)*

Integration of climate resilience into food systems underscored

Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change Rozina Khurshid Alam emphasised the urgent need to integrate climate resilience into the country's food systems. "Climate-smart agriculture, efficient resource utilisation and reduced wastage are key to long-term food security," she told. *(The News, April 5th, 2026, Page 5)*

New customs values for imported infant milk fixed

The Directorate General of Customs Valuation, Karachi, has fixed new customs values for milk preparation for infants imported from Europe, Australia, New Zealand, the Far East, Saudi Arabia, and all other origins. To implement new values, the directorate has issued a valuation ruling number 2060 of 2026. The new customs values would be applied to the import of milk preparation for infant use, infant formula, follow-up formula, grown-up formula in tin packing, as well as soft packing, and milk preparation for infant use(lactose-free formula) and milk preparation for infant use (premature formula). *(Business Recorder, April 9th, 2026, Page 18)*

Food dependency

Pakistan's latest food trade figures highlight the persistence of a disturbing trend that policymakers have ignored for years: a country where nearly half the workforce is tied to agriculture is becoming increasingly dependent on imports to feed its population. The sharp rise in the food import bill, coupled with a steep decline in exports, reflects agricultural policy failures. The surge to over $7bn in food imports within nine months of the present fiscal year is difficult to digest for a country endowed with vast arable land, diverse climate and a large workforce. That this increase is driven by items such as sugar, edible oil and pulses makes it even more troubling.

These are staples that Pakistan should, with the right policies, be producing in sufficient quantities domestically. This growing reliance is, in many ways, self-inflicted. For decades, Pakistan's agricultural strategy has revolved narrowly around major crops, including wheat, cotton, sugarcane and maize. While these crops are important, the policy bias in their favour through subsidies, support prices and water allocation has pushed farmers away from other critical areas such as oilseeds, pulses and high-value crops. *(Dawn, April 21st, 2026, Page 6)*

10.2 # Food Scarcity

Pakistan among top 10 countries facing acute food crisis

Pakistan remains one of the 10 fragile countries where global acute food insecurity is most concentrated, according to a UN-backed report released, as intensifying climate extremes and persistent economic challenges continue to strain the nation. The 2026

Global Report on Food Crises names Pakistan alongside Afghanistan, Bangladesh, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Myanmar, Nigeria, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria and Yemen as the primary centres of acute hunger.

According to the report, Pakistan was among the world's 10 largest food crises in 2025, with about 11 million people facing acute food insecurity. Of those affected in Pakistan, 9.3m people were classified in "crisis" conditions and 1.7m in "emergency", the two most severe categories short of famine. The classification system used in the report, known as the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), defines a food crisis as a situation requiring urgent action to protect lives and livelihoods. Acute food insecurity arises when access to food becomes so limited that it threatens survival.

Deeper crisis

The report highlights extreme weather as a continuing driver of food insecurity in Pakistan, pointing in particular to heavy rains and flooding that caused localised crop losses. "In 2025, severe floods were recorded worldwide, affecting livelihoods and food security. In Pakistan, heavy monsoon rains and flash floods affected more than 6 million people, destroying cropland and infrastructure," the report said. Pakistan also appears in the report's nutrition analysis, with Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh identified as areas of concern.

According to the report, Pakistan's inclusion in the top ten reflects both the severity of need and a broader expansion of data coverage. The analysis was extended from 43 rural districts in 2024 to 68 districts in 2025, covering parts of Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh. As a result, the share of Pakistan's population included in the analysis rose from 16pc to 21pc, adding more than 14m people to the dataset. Even so, the report cautions that trends must be interpreted carefully. Pakistan's apparent increase in food insecurity over recent years is partly due to this expanded coverage, which rose from just 2pc of the population in 2020 to 21pc in 2025.

A global crisis

Globally, conflict, drought and shrinking humanitarian aid are expected to keep hunger at critical levels this year, with the overall outlook for 2026 described as bleak. A third of people facing the crises were in Sudan, Nigeria, and the Congo alone, according to the 10th edition of annual hunger monitor, published by development and humanitarian organisations. Based on data from United Nations, European Union and humanitarian agencies, the report found that conflict remained the main driver of acute food insecurity worldwide.

However, with conflicts and climate extremes likely to sustain or worsen conditions in many countries, the ripple effects are being felt globally. For the first time in the report's 10-year history, famine was confirmed in two separate contexts in the same year: Gaza and parts of Sudan. In total, 266m people across 47 countries and territories faced high levels of acute food insecurity in 2025, nearly double the share recorded in 2016. Furthermore, 1.4m people faced catastrophic conditions in parts of Haiti, Mali, Gaza, South Sudan, Sudan and Yemen.

The toll on the youngest and most vulnerable populations has been particularly severe. In 2025 alone, 35.5m children worldwide were acutely malnourished, including nearly 10m suffering from severe acute malnutrition. Looking ahead to this year, the report said severity levels remained critical. Only Haiti is expected to escape from the worst "catastrophic" band, thanks to a slight improvement in security and increased humanitarian aid. Improvements in some countries, such as Bangladesh and Syria, were almost fully offset by notable deteriorations in Afghanistan, Congo, Myanmar and Zimbabwe. *(Dawn, April 25th, 2026, Page 1)*

'Quetta valley wells may run dry soon'

Water experts have warned that groundwater in Balochistan's capital is depleting at an alarming rate, with many wells in the Quetta valley likely to run dry within five to ten years if urgent action is not taken. The warning was issued during a workshop on Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR), where scientists, engineers and policymakers stressed the need for immediate intervention to reverse decades of over-extraction. *(Dawn, April 25th, 2026, Page 5)*

Food-insecure nation

A New UN-backed report has listed Pakistan among 10 countries where acute food insecurity is most concentrated. This finding may seem surprising for a country with a large agricultural base. But it should not be. Essentially, the concentration of food insecurity in Pakistan is the predictable outcome of the deep-rooted weaknesses in the country's agriculture sector, rocked by repeated climate shocks and persistent economic fragility. The Global Report on Food Crises merely quantifies what has long been known: food insecurity in Pakistan is chronic rather than temporary or cyclical. The only consolation is the finding that fewer people were classified in the most severe categories in 2025 compared to the previous year, suggesting that emergency responses and some stabilisation in prices may have had an effect. Nonetheless, this is not a turnaround. *(Dawn, April 27th, 2026, Page 6)*

10.3 # Inflation

Inflation seen near 8.5pc in March

Showing cautious optimism about the short-term economic outlook, the government warned that rising global oil prices pose a risk to the country's import bill and macroeconomic conditions in the longer term. "Rising global oil prices and potential supply chain disruptions may exert pressure on industrial input costs", said the Ministry of Finance in its Monthly Economic Update and Outlook, which estimates inflation growing by up to 8.5pc for March. *(Dawn, April 1st, 2026, Page 9)*

Energy costs push March inflation to 7.3pc

Consumer inflation rose to 7.3 percent in March from 7pc in February, maintaining an upward trend largely driven by higher energy prices amid the fallout of the Middle East war. The continued increase in monthly inflation, measured by Consumer Price Index, has pushed it beyond the earlier comfort range as domestic energy tariffs registered a sharp rise during March. The finance ministry also reported that inflation would remain in the range of 7.5pc to 8.5pc in March, citing high energy costs due to the West Asia war. State Bank kept its policy rate unchanged at 10.50pc in response to rising inflation, warning that inflation could remain above its 5-7pc medium-term target range for a few months, even as economic activity gathers pace and rising imports widen trade deficit.

On a month-on-month basis, inflation increased by 1.2pc compared to the previous month, according to data released by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS). Inflation between July and March was recorded at 5.67pc in 2025-26, slightly higher than 5.25pc over the corresponding period last year, despite a high base effect. The average annual inflation for FY25 dropped sharply to 4.49pc from 23.41pc in the previous year, aided by a high base effect, declining food prices, and lower transport costs. The government has projected an inflation target of 7pc for the current fiscal year.

Food inflation in March increased by 2.9pc in urban areas and 4.5pc in rural areas. On a month-on-month basis, food inflation rose by 0.1pc in urban areas but declined by 0.6pc in rural areas. Non-food inflation reached 10.3pc in urban areas and 9.7pc in rural regions, indicating that non-food inflation remains high and has been steadily rising in recent months. In March, core inflation — excluding volatile food and energy components — stood at 7.4pc in urban areas and 8.4pc in rural areas. *(Dawn, April 2nd, 2026, Page 9)*

Inflation projected to remain elevated: Real GDP growth likely to stay at 3pc: World Bank

Amid projections of further hike in inflation, the World Bank stated that Pakistan's real GDP growth, initially projected to accelerate to 3.4 percent in fiscal year 2026, was now expected to remain at 3 percent. The Bank, in its latest report on Middle East, North Africa, Afghanistan & Pakistan Economic Update (April 2026), noted Pakistan's GDP growth at 3.1 percent in fiscal year 2025, which is projected at 3 percent for the current fiscal year. The Bank, earlier in October 2025, had projected Pakistan's GDP at 3.4 percent for the current fiscal year.

Inflation is projected to remain elevated, averaging 4.5 percent in fiscal year 2025 before rising to 7.4 percent in fiscal year 2026. On the external front, the current account balance is expected to shift from a surplus of 0.5 percent of GDP in fiscal year 2025 to a deficit of 1.2 percent in fiscal year 2026. Fiscal account balance is projected at negative 4.3 percent for fiscal year 2026 compared to negative 5.4 percent of GDP in 2025. *(Business Recorder, April 10th, 2026, Page 1)*

Average inflation rises 5.7pc in July-March FY2025-26: Ahsan
Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal said that average inflation in Pakistan rose to 5.7 percent during July–March FY2025–26, compared to 5.3 percent in the same period last year. He added that monthly inflation in March 2026 surged sharply to 7.3 percent, up from just 0.7 percent in March 2025, driven mainly by rising energy costs and non-food price pressures. *(Business Recorder, April 21st, 2026, Page 12)*

10.4 # Poverty

Punjab moves to 'decriminalise poverty'
In a major step toward legal reforms, a high-level committee of the Punjab Assembly has declared that a controversial colonial-era law effectively criminalises poverty and must be abolished, beside fast-tracking the long-delayed creation of an independent police oversight body. The committee described the provision as an outdated `colonial relic' that criminalises poverty rather than criminal conduct and conflicts with fundamental constitutional rights. *(Dawn, April 7th, 2026, Page 2)*

NA panel told: Poverty increased by 7pc between 2018-2025
The poverty level in the country increased by 7 percent between 2018–19 and 2024–25, with around 70 million people estimated to be living below the national poverty line. This was disclosed by senior Planning Commission officials during the meeting of the National Assembly Special Committee on Gender Mainstreaming. During the briefing, Planning Commission provided information about poverty measurement methodologies currently in use, with particular emphasis on integration of gender-disaggregated data to support inclusive and evidence-based policymaking. *(Business Recorder, April 8th, 2026, Page 4)*

HW&SC worker waiting for 15 months' wage dies by suicide
A daily-wage worker of the Hyderabad Water and Sewerage Corporation (HW&SC) died by suicide due to financial distress. *(Dawn, April 14th, 2026, Page 15)*

Supreme Court urged to uphold stay issued in 2015 against summary eviction of slums
Human rights activists, political workers, lawyers and ordinary citizens meeting, convened by the Human Rights Commission in Pakistan (HRCP) appealed to the judges of the superior courts to uphold the 2015 Supreme Court stay order against summary evictions of katchi abadis, and thereby ensure the constitutional right to housing of the working poor in urban centres.

A statement issued by the HRCP said that the meeting was held in the face of an ongoing demolition drive launched by Capital Development Authority (CDA) in contravention of the SC stay order, which had targeted Muslim and Christian katchi abadis across the federal capital, as well as historic villages like Saidpur, Malpur and Nurpur Shahan. *(Dawn, April 15th, 2026, Page 4)*

11 # ENVIRONMENT

11.1 # Biodiversity

Punjab directs major cities to establish biodiversity corridors

Horticulture agencies across major cities in Punjab have been directed to implement the Climate Resilient Punjab Programme by establishing dedicated biodiversity corridors to protect the climate and natural habitats. The direction was issued by the Punjab Horticulture Authority (PHA) through a recent letter sent to the managing directors of horticulture agencies in Faisalabad, Multan, Rawalpindi, Sahiwal, Bahawalpur, DG Khan, Sialkot, Gujranwala and Sargodha. *(Dawn, April 13th, 2026, Page 3)*

Several turtles found dead along Balochistan seashore

The fishing community and several environmentalists have reported an increase in the frequency of dead turtles being spotted along the Balochistan coast over the past 20 days, the World Wide Fund for Nature-Pakistan (WWF-P) stated. According to WWF-P officials, carcasses of at least three turtles — loggerhead, green and olive ridley — were found at Gwadar (West Bay) on a single day (April 13). The mortalities have been attributed to their entanglement in fishing gear. *(Dawn, April 15th, 2026, Page 13)*

11.2 # Health

Autism cases surge as data remains unavailable

The consolidated data on Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is unavailable, but there is a noticeable increase in the number of children being diagnosed with the disease. This was informed by speakers during an event, organised in connection with World Autism Awareness Day. Some estimates put the number at 350,000 children with autism in Pakistan. They are not easily identifiable, as it is not a physical disease that can be diagnosed easily by tests. But in the USA, the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) determined that approximately 1 in 59 children is diagnosed with ASD. *(Dawn, April 5th, 2026, Page 4)*

Khairpur sees mpox outbreak as seven babies test positive

An outbreak of mpox, the first local outbreak of the zoonotic viral infection in the country, has claimed the lives of at least four newborns in Khairpur. The worrisome child health situation involving death of seven newborns in two Khairpur hospitals took an alarming turn when the provincial health department confirmed that “initial findings showed that four of the seven children [who died] were affected by mpox”. *(Dawn, April 5th, 2026, Page 13)*

‘Type 2 diabetes rising among Pakistani children due to lack of breastfeeding’

The alarming rise in early-onset type 2 diabetes among Pakistani adolescents is being driven by lack of breastfeeding during infancy, experts have warned as pediatricians and endocrinologists report a growing number of teenagers developing a disease once largely confined to adults. They link this shift primarily to growing practice of formula feeding, combined with sedentary lifestyles, excessive screen time and unhealthy diets.

Pakistan already carries one of the heaviest diabetes burdens in the world, with around 35 million adults living with the condition. Experts warn that the emergence of diabetes in children signals a far more dangerous trajectory, where complications such as heart disease, kidney failure, stroke and blindness could begin much earlier in life, shortening life expectancy and placing an enormous burden on the healthcare system. *(The News, April 5th, 2026, Page 16)*

'80pc provincial population lack primary healthcare'

The healthcare sector in Balochistan faced a serious crisis as more than 80 per cent of the population in the province was deprived of primary healthcare facilities despite supposed reforms introduced by provincial government. Balochistan Health Secretary Mujeebur Rehman claimed more than 15 major reforms and initiatives had been introduced during the past one and a half years. Balochistan health secretary says 'difficult decisions' required, advocates 'relaxation' in rules Drawing a comparison with Punjab, he said Punjab's health department budget was around Rs550 billion while Balochistan's total development budget was about Rs250 billion to cover all sectors, which made governance a major challenge. *(Dawn, April 7th, 2026, Page 3)*

Alarm raised over outbreak of mpox in Khairpur

Raising concern over mpox outbreak in Khairpur, experts at the Aga Khan University Hospital (AKUH) urged healthcare providers and policymakers to treat the viral disease as an immediate public health concern. Last week, an outbreak of mpox was reported from Khairpur when Sindh health department said lab results confirmed that seven newborn babies had the zoonotic viral infection and four of them died. Pakistan recorded 53 confirmed mpox cases in 2025, majority of them were travel-related. But this year pattern seemed to have changed. *(Dawn, April 9th, 2026, Page 13)*

Study detects high prevalence of rabies virus in Karachi's street dogs

A study published in an international journal has found that the rabies virus — one of the deadliest infectious diseases in the world — is widely circulating among the city's dog population, highlighting a high risk of exposure to the virus and an urgent need for prevention, surveillance, and prompt treatment. *(Dawn, April 12th, 2026, Page 13)*

Mpox cases rise to 25 as two more test positive in Sindh

Two more patients have tested positive for mpox — one in Karachi and the other in Khairpur — raising the provincial tally to 25 with, nine deaths this year. Officials said Khairpur is currently the hotspot for mpox in the province, with a total of 18 confirmed cases, followed by four cases in Karachi and three cases in Sukkur. *(Dawn, April 15th, 2026, Page 13)*

Karachi records dramatic increase in paediatric HIV cases

Three hospitals in Karachi have recorded a dramatic increase in the number of paediatric human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) cases over the last nine months and their numbers continue to grow. 10 HIV positive children were admitted to the Sindh

Infectious Diseases Hospital and Research Centre in 2024 and their number rose to over 70 in 2025. This year, 30 children with HIV positive status were admitted to the hospital.

At the Indus Hospital, 144 HIV positive patients were reported in 2024, whose number rose to 176 in 2025. In the first quarter of this year, 69 HIV patients have been reported at the facility. The third hospital in Karachi, which has recorded an increase in the number of paediatric HIV cases, is a major tertiary care children's hospital. Information gathered from there indicated that over 60 children — majority of them from Thatta and other parts of interior of Sindh — had tested positive for HIV during a screening test. *(Dawn, April 18th, 2026, Page 13)*

Zinc deficiency under-recognised health issue in Pakistan: survey
Zinc deficiency is a widespread but under-recognized public health issue in Pakistan, with significant implications for child growth, immunity, and overall population health. Like much of South Asia, Pakistan faces a high burden of micronutrient deficiencies, and zinc is among the most critical. National data (like Pakistan's National Nutrition Survey 2018) shows about 18–22 percent of children are zinc deficient. Around 1 in 5 women of reproductive age is also deficient More broadly, over 60 million Pakistanis have inadequate zinc intake. The Survey has also consistently shown high rates of stunting—affecting roughly 35–40 percent of children under five—which is closely associated with inadequate zinc intake. *(Business Recorder, April 18th, 2026, Page 5)*

Call for enforcing infection control protocols amid HIV, mpox surge
Expressing serious concern over the recurring healthcare-associated disease outbreaks in the country, experts called for strict nationwide enforcement of single-use syringe policies and infection control protocols at health facilities. Against the backdrop of the escalating situation of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) / acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) and Mpox in Pakistan, the Medical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases Society of Pakistan (MMIDSP) organised a press conference at the Karachi Press Club. *(Dawn, April 19th, 2026, Page 13)*

PMA warns of surge in hepatitis cases on World Liver Day
While World Liver Day was observed under the theme 'Solid Habits, Strong Liver', the representative body of the medical fraternity, Pakistan Medical Association (PMA), expressed grave concern over the rising trend of liver-related ailments in the country. The association emphasised that the liver is a silent powerhouse that often does not manifest symptoms until significant damage has already occurred. With millions of Pakistanis affected by Hepatitis B and C, along with the increasing prevalence of Metabolic Dysfunction-Associated Steatotic Liver Disease, need for proactive prevention has never been more urgent. *(Dawn, April 20th, 2026, Page 5)*

Measles claims lives of two cousins in Naudero
A double tragedy has struck the town of Naudero after two young children from the same household died of measles within 12 hours of each other, sparking fears of a wider

outbreak in the Garibabad locality. Arshad Ali Jogi, the 18-month-old son of Ayaz Jogi, succumbed to the viral infection. His cousin, two-year-old Zainab, daughter of Imran Jogi, passed away just hours later. *(Dawn, April 22nd, 2026, Page 15)*

Province records year's first death from Congo fever
The province of Sindh saw its first death from Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) this year. Sources said the 17-year-old victim was a worker at a cattle farm in Tando Adam. He initially reported at the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre (JPMC) and was later referred to the SID&HRC. "He presented to us with fever and bleeding yesterday. Upon clinical evaluation, the patient was suspected to be a CCHF case," said Dr Yahya Tunio, deputy executive director at JPMC. *(Dawn, April 23rd, 2026, Page 13)*

Measles claims third child's life in Naudero in three days
A five-year-old boy has died from measles in a village near Naudero, bringing the total number of measles-related deaths in the area to three within just three days. The deceased, Ali Abbas, son of Noor Muhammad Soomro, was a resident of Nau Gath on the outskirts of Naudero. *(Dawn, April 23rd, 2026, Page 15)*

Measles claims lives of 71 children across country in four months
Seventy-one children, including 40 in Sindh, have already lost their lives to measles in the first four months of this year as the provincial government held a series of public awareness activities in connection with World Immunisation Week. The week 2026 — being observed globally from April 24 to April 30 — is dedicated to the theme 'For Every Generation, Vaccines Work' — aims to create public awareness and increase rates of immunisation.

According to official data, of the 71 children died of measles across the country Sindh topped the list with 40 deaths followed by 12 each in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and four in Balochistan in the first four months. Sources said a total of 4,541 confirmed measles' cases were reported in the first quarter of this year in the country with 1,712 in KP, 1,198 in Punjab, 1,183 in Sindh, 197 in Balochistan, 151 in Azad Jammu and Kashmir, 55 in Islamabad and 45 in Gilgit-Baltistan. *(Dawn, April 26th, 2026, Page 13)*

Cardiologists worried as Karachi reports 100 heart attacks daily
At least 100 heart attacks are being reported every day in Karachi as the city faces a worsening cardiovascular crisis driven by unhealthy lifestyles, rising risk factors and weak focus on prevention, prompting the Pakistan Cardiac Society's (PCS) Karachi chapter to unveil a new clinical platform and a prevention focused roadmap for 2026. The warning came at a strategic session titled 'Clinical Innovation and Strategic Continuity' recently held at Tabba Heart Institute where leading cardiologists called for an urgent shift from treatment to prevention. *(The News, April 26th, 2026, Page 16)*

Sindh's second largest hospital lacks essential services, health secretary told
In the wake of a recent visit to the Liaquat University Hospital by Commissioner Fayyaz Abbasi and Deputy Commissioner Zain Ul Abiden, the provincial health secretary has

been informed that no fewer than 45 machineries and equipment are lying dysfunctional at the institution — Sindh's second largest tertiary care hospital. A report submitted to the health secretary on April 17 highlighted the deficiencies that have been impacting the 'economically disadvantaged' patients coming to the hospital from across the district and many other parts of the interior of Sindh. *(Dawn, April 27th, 2026, Page 15)*

Health card scheme providing free treatment: CM Bugti

Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti has said that the Balochistan Health Card Programme is ensuring free and quality medical treatment of people in the province and beyond. Mr Bugti said that under the programme, every citizen's national identity card serves as his/her health card, making access to healthcare simple and universal. He said the programme's network has been extended to include major public and private hospitals not only in Balochistan but also across the country. According to official figures, 345,000 patients belonging to Balochistan have received treatment under the programme. *(Dawn, April 28th, 2026, Page 5)*

12 # CLIMATE CHANGE

CCP warns climate losses may hit 6pc of GDP by 2050

Pakistan's climate-related losses could reach up to 6 percent of GDP by 2050 if urgent action is not taken, as the country— already among the top five most climate-vulnerable nations— faces intensifying floods, heat waves, and water scarcity, according to a study by the CCP. The CCP study, titled "Unlocking Green Potential: A Market Competition Study of Solar Energy in Pakistan," underscores the urgent need to shift toward environmentally sustainable power generation, particularly solar energy, which remains significantly underutilised despite the country's vast potential. The report highlights that Pakistan's solar potential offers one of most viable pathways to reduce environmental risks while supporting sustainable economic growth. *(Business Recorder, April 11th, 2026, Page 8)*

AJK's largest forest-covered area vulnerable to climate change

Sudhnoti, one of the largest forest-covered areas in Azad Jammu and Kashmir, remains highly vulnerable to perils of climate change, and to mitigate effects of disasters in the region, the Food and Agriculture Organisation is completing a project funded by the Italian government. With the objective to conduct vulnerability assessments of natural resources in mountain regions of selected districts in Pakistan, the FAO is progressively completing the project which is part of a regional technical project being implemented in Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Montenegro and Pakistan. *(Dawn, April 23rd, 2026, Page 3)*

12.1 # Climate Crisis

Karachi, other Sindh cities set new weather records for April

Several cities in province set new records for heavy rains and lowest night and daytime temperatures for the month of April. According to the Met department's data, Karachi saw 38.7mm of rain within 24 hours — the heaviest rain ever recorded in the month of April in city. Previously, highest rainfall for April in a 24-hour period in Karachi was

37mm, which was recorded on April 2, 1985. In rural parts of the province, light to moderate showers were observed with Dadu seeing 23mm rain in 24-hours, breaking its earlier record of 22mm set on April 14, 2017. *(Dawn, April 4th, 2026, Page 13)*

March 2026 among warmest on record in Pakistan, PMD reports

The month of March 2026 witnessed 2.3°C rise in national mean temperature, which was 21.6°C, warmer than the country-average of 19.3°C. A report issued by PMD revealed that the country-level nighttime (minimum) temperature of 14.7°C was warmer by +2.7°C than countrywide average of 12°C and ranked 2nd highest (record 15°C in 2022) while daytime (maximum) temperature was 28.5°C at country-level, warmer with a positive anomaly of +2.0°C. The report said that national area-weighted rainfall of 38.9mm was slightly above average with a positive departure of +24% in March 2026.

The report added that the coldest night temperature of -2.0°C of the month was recorded at Skardu (Gilgit-Baltistan) on March 3. However, the station Kalam (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa) happened to be coldest place with mean monthly minimum temperature of 2.5°C. The heaviest one-day rainfall of 74mm occurred at Malam Jabba (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa) on March 31 and coincidentally the same station was the wettest place with monthly total of 315.0mm. *(The News, April 5th, 2026, Page 9)*

Pakistan breaching temperature thresholds set for 2030

While the international community strives to keep global warming below 1.5 degrees Celsius by 2030, Pakistan appears to already be breaching some extreme temperature thresholds despite its minimal contribution to greenhouse gas emissions. The PMD, in a special summary of observations, reported that the nation experienced several temperature extremes during recently concluded month of March. *(Dawn, April 6th, 2026, Page 1)*

12.2 # Climate Financing

Pakistan, Norway seal first-ever carbon market deal

In a first, Pakistan has signed with Norway a bilateral agreement that allows Pakistan to enter into carbon trading with other countries. The said agreement has been signed under Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement that enables the countries to bilaterally trade emissions reductions. “This agreement would strengthen Pakistan’s position in international carbon markets and create new opportunities for the country’s emerging green economy,” said Climate Change Minister Musadik Malik at the signing ceremony of a related Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two countries.

Under the agreement, Pakistan will be able to develop carbon-credit generating projects in sectors such as clean energy, agriculture, transport and waste management, and potentially sell the resulting emission reductions to Norway. Pakistan has already put in place the country’s first national policy guidelines for carbon trading, approved by the federal cabinet in January 2025, and is now moving to establish rules, reporting systems and bilateral arrangements needed to operationalise the market, the minister said. *(Business Recorder, April 2nd, 2026, Page 1)*

Punjab's cattle markets can become significant source of climate finance

A feasibility study has revealed that cattle markets can emerge as a significant source of climate finance, as the manure generated across major markets can be converted into biogas, organic fertiliser, and internationally tradable carbon credits under a structured waste-to-energy programme. The study was conducted by the Punjab Cattle Market Management and Development Company (PCMMDC), a subsidiary of the Punjab government's local government and community department and had been presented to the company's board of directors (BoDs).

The PCMMDC manages eight modern cattle markets among many others, which are also Punjab's largest cattle markets. These include markets in Multan, Chichawatni, Arifwala, Sheikhupura, Shahpur Kanjran in Lahore, and Jhang. Together, these markets handle around 80,200 animals per week and generate roughly 87,130 kilograms of manure per day. At present, much of this waste is left to decompose in the open, releasing methane, a greenhouse gas significantly more potent than carbon dioxide. Feasibility study says manure generated across province's major markets can be converted into biogas, organic fertiliser, and internationally tradable carbon credits. *(Dawn, April 20th, 2026, Page 2)*

UNDP, Japan partner to boost climate resilience

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Japanese government are launching a project to strengthen community resilience and disaster preparedness in Pakistan with a $400,000 contribution from Japan. The initiative will be implemented as part of the UNDP's broader support to recovery and resilience efforts in Pakistan, in collaboration with national and provincial partners, the Japanese embassy announced. 12-month project will focus on strengthening community-based disaster preparedness in flood-affected areas of southern Punjab. *(Dawn, April 21st, 2026, Page 3)*

12.3 # Climate Policy

'Pakistan Climate Prosperity Plan' launched

The government launched the Pakistan Climate Prosperity Plan (CPP), a multi-phase strategy designed to turn climate vulnerability into economic opportunity, with projected investments of up to USD1.6 trillion by 2050. The Finance Division released the CPP, which cites World Bank projections warning that under current warming trajectories, Pakistan's GDP could be 18-20 percent lower by 2050. The plan seeks to align climate action with growth by accelerating renewable energy, climate-smart agriculture, resilient infrastructure, and green industry, while expanding access to finance for vulnerable communities.

According to official estimates, Pakistan's climate and development ambitions will require annual investments of around USD65 billion, broadly in line with targets under its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). Cumulatively, investment flows are projected to reach USD565.7 billion by 2035, rising to USD1.6 trillion by mid-century.

Authorities argue that such spending is essential to avoid mounting economic losses from climate shocks and to sustain long-term growth. Implementation will be coordinated through a "country platform" led by the Ministry of Finance, in collaboration with climate, planning, and provincial authorities, alongside private sector and civil society stakeholders. *(Business Recorder, April 29th, 2026, Page 12)*

13 # CLIMATE DISASTER

13.1 # Flood

Floods may have impacted around 3.3m jobs: ILO

Around 3.3 million jobs may have been affected by the 2025 floods in Pakistan, according to an assessment conducted by the International Labour Organisation (ILO). The ILO announced that it had undertaken an employment and livelihoods loss assessment for 14 of the worst-affected districts of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. According to the ILO, the assessment showed that the majority of employment losses and disruptions were borne by the nine flood-affected districts in Punjab.

It further indicated that rural areas accounted for nearly 78pc of the total estimated employment losses, with agriculture emerging as most affected sector, followed by services and industry. According to statement, assessment was in support of the review and validation by Preliminary Assessment of 2025 Flood Damages, a collective exercise supported by United Nations, Asian Development Bank, European Union, and World Bank, with UNDP as overall technical coordination lead. *(Dawn, April 22nd, 2026, Page 3)*

13.2 # Lightening

18 girls injured as lightning strikes madressah in Tirah

At least 18 girl students were injured after a lightning struck a girls seminary in the remote Tirah Valley of Khyber district. The incident occurred in the area of Bazaar Zakhakhel Painda China, where lightning struck a madressah. The natural disaster caused panic and left multiple students injured. Hospital officials confirmed that the injured students, aged between 12 and 16 years, were currently in stable condition and out of danger. *(Dawn, April 24th, 2026, Page 8)*

Four people killed, 200 cattle perish in lightning strikes

At least four people were killed and 200 livestock perished as lightning struck two different places in Nasirabad district during heavy rain and thunderstorm. In first incident, three people were killed in a village in Babakot area of Nasirabad district during heavy rain and thunderstorm that lashed area. *(Dawn, April 29th, 2026, Page 5)*

13.3 # Rainfall

Heavy rains, flash floods wreak havoc across Balochistan

A fresh spell of heavy, intermittent rain accompanied by strong winds, thunder and hail has pummelled more than 30 districts across Balochistan over the past 24 hours, triggering flash floods that have caused widespread disruption, infrastructure damage and at least one fatality. Widespread heavy rainfall was reported in Quetta, Khuzdar, Kalat, Surab, Lasbela, Hub, Kech, Gwadar, Qila Saifullah, Qila Abdullah, Zhob, Harnai, Loralai, Kohlu, Awaran, Kharan, Mastung, Sherani, Ziarat and other areas, creating flood-like conditions in many localities. *(Dawn, April 2nd, 2026, Page 1)*

Seven dead as rains, flash floods ravage Balochistan

Rains and flash floods have caused widespread devastation across Balochistan, leaving seven people dead, four injured, and hundreds of homes, livestock, and crops destroyed, according to the Provincial Disaster Management Authority. The floods have severely affected districts, including Harnai, Kohlu, Turbat, Jaffarabad, Loralai, Kachhi, Nasirabad, Jhal Magsi, Dera Bugti, Sibi, and Bolan. *(Dawn, April 3rd, 2026, Page 3)*

Four die of electrocution as heavy rain batters Karachi

At least five persons were killed, four of whom died of electrocution, as heavy rains battered the metropolis, leaving roads submerged and residential areas without electricity for hours. According to Met Office, varying levels of rainfall were recorded across the city, with Nazimabad receiving the highest amount at 69.6 millimetres, followed by Keamari 56mm, Bahria Town 43.5mm, University Road 44.2mm, Saadi Town 48mm, Orangi Town 39.4mm, Gulshan-i-Maymar 36mm, Surjani Town and Jinnah Terminal received 35mm of rainfall each. *(Dawn, April 3rd, 2026, Page 13)*

Province-wide rainfall disrupts life, causes flooding and power outages

Widespread rainfall was reported right from Hyderabad to Kashmore with some casualties occurring in Hyderabad, Khairpur and Mirpurkhas. Different areas received heavy, moderate and light spells of rain in Hyderabad, Larkana, Mirpurkhas, Badin, Sukkur, Jacobabad, Shikarpur, Ghotki, Kandhkot-Kashmore, Shaheed Benazirabad, Sanghar, Naushahro Feroze and other districts. In Hyderabad, heavy rain lashed the city and its adjoining areas. *(Dawn, April 3rd, 2026, Page 15)*

Rain, hailstorm damage mature wheat crop across Punjab

Heavy rain accompanied by a hailstorm over the last two days damaged wheat crops and solar power installations in parts of south Punjab, including Multan, Muzaffargarh, Kot Adu and Layyah. The weather system brought intermittent downpours, strong winds and hail in several areas, including Lahore. Farmers in Muzaffargarh and Kot Adu reported losses where hailstones struck fields, while similar damage was reported from Layyah. Residents also reported damage to solar panels installed at homes and agricultural tubewells, with hailstones cracking panels and disrupting power supply in some areas. *(Dawn, April 4th, 2026, Page 2)*

Rains in KP, Punjab kill six amid new spell forecast

While rain and windstorms killed at least six people across Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, authorities have warned that the impact may worsen, with a fresh spell of rains forecast in the coming days across the country. There are concerns about urban flooding, infrastructure damage and crop losses as well.

In Balochistan, snowfall in Ziarat and surrounding areas led to a drop in temperatures in Quetta, with cold winds persisting. Snow also fell in Muslim Bagh, Khanozai and Kan Mehtarzai. Locals reported that the unusual April snowfall has affected fruit orchards. *(Dawn, April 5th, 2026, Page 1)*

At least 30 dead, 85 injured in various districts of KP since March 25: PDMA

Atleast 30 people, including children and women were killed, while more than 85 were injured in rain-related incidents in various districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa released a report detailing the human and material losses caused by ongoing rains across the province since March 25 last month. *(Business Recorder, April 5th, 2026, Page 10)*

Heavy rains trigger landslides in Murree

Rains triggered landslides in different parts of Murree, prompting the district administration to move residents to safety. *(Dawn, April 6th, 2026, Page 4)*

Rain claims six more lives

Six people were killed, and several others were injured in rain-related incidents in Swabi, Dera Ismail Khan and Lower Dir districts. *(Dawn, April 6th, 2026, Page 9)*

Heavy rainfall may damage crops

Heavy rainfall may cause flash flood and damage to crops in different parts across the country. Due to heavy rainfall, flash flood may occur in local nullas of north-eastern Balochistan, lower Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and hill torrents of Dera Ghazi while landslides and flash flooding in local nullas of Kashmir, upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Murree, Galiyat on 7 and 8 April. *(Business Recorder, April 6th, 2026, Page 12)*

Death toll rises to 11 in Balochistan as rain lashes much of country

The death toll in rain-related incidents has reached 11, while over a dozen people have been injured in different areas of Balochistan, with five more people losing their lives as heavy rains with thunderstorms continued in 30 out of 41 districts of the province. *(Dawn, April 7th, 2026, Page 3)*

Wheat fields, orchards again battered by widespread rain, hails

Heavy rain accompanied by hailstorm battered several districts of Punjab over the past 24 hours and damaged wheat and other crops in southern parts of the province. *(Dawn, April 8th, 2026, Page 2)*

Over 200 evacuated as downpour triggers flooding in Peshawar nullah

With rain lashing large parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for the second consecutive day, more than 200 people were evacuated from low-lying areas of the provincial capital after the Budhni nullah burst its banks. It warned that high flood could not only affect Peshawar, Charsadda, Nowshera but also hit areas downstream of Attock. *(Dawn, April 8th, 2026, Page 8)*

Rains leave three dead, 17 injured
Heavy rains and storms in Punjab over the past 24 hours have left three people dead and 17 others injured. *(Dawn, April 9th, 2026, Page 2)*

Three killed, 14 injured in rain-related incidents in KP
Three people were killed and 14 injured in rain-related incidents in Peshawar, Mohmand and Nowshera districts. Also, 120 people were evacuated from two flooded villages on the outskirts of the provincial capital. *(Dawn, April 9th, 2026, Page 8)*

14 # NATURAL DISASTER

14.1 # Earthquake

Earthquake rocks Kalat
A 4.8 magnitude earthquake struck Kalat and surrounding areas, causing panic among residents and forcing many to abandon their houses and come out on the streets. Officials said the tremor struck Kalat and Zehri. The earthquake monitoring centre recorded a magnitude of 4.8 on the Richter scale, and its depth was 11 kilometres while its epicentre was located 50 km southeast of Kalat. *(Dawn, April 10th, 2026, Page 5)*

Earthquake of 4.5 magnitude jolts Pasni
A 4.5-magnitude earthquake jolted Balochistan's coastal town of Pasni in Gwadar district, prompting residents to flee their homes. The tremors were felt in Pasni and surrounding areas. The earthquake had a depth of 13 kilometres, and its epicentre was located 48 kilometres southwest of Pasni. *(Dawn, April 19th, 2026, Page 5)*

3.4-magnitude quake shakes Karachi, adjoining areas
An earthquake of 3.4 magnitude struck Karachi and its adjoining areas, the Pakistan Meteorological Department's National Seismic Monitoring Centre (NSMC) said. The epicentre of the earthquake was located 24 kilometres northwest of the Malir area, with the depth of the earthquake recorded at 10 kilometres. It was the third earthquake to strike the country in 24 hours. Tremors were felt in the city hours after a 5.5-magnitude earthquake struck the Hindu Kush region in Afghanistan, jolting Islamabad, Peshawar and several parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The seismological centre said earthquake measured 5.5 in magnitude and occurred at a depth of 199 kilometres. Separately, earthquake tremors were also felt in the Pasni area of Gwadar. According to the NSMC, the Pasni earthquake measured 4.5 in magnitude and occurred at a depth of 13 kilometres. *(The News, April 19th, 2026, Page 13)*

14.2 # Landslide

Landslide at coal mine claims one life in Harnai
A miner was killed and another injured when a mound of earth collapsed at a coal mine in the Khost area of Harnai district. The incident occurred at a coal mine operated by a private company in Khost town, where a sudden landslide buried two workers. *(Dawn, April 22nd, 2026, Page 5)*

15 # RESISTANCE

Police teams deployed at pumps as people take to the streets

People from all walks of life took to the streets to join the rallies and demonstrations held across Sindh to condemn the unprecedented hike in fuel prices announced by federal government a day earlier. Fearing the reaction to turn violent, police teams have been deployed at all fuel stations located in sensitive areas to protect them from any possible attack. Some of the protest rallies and demonstrations, held after Juma prayers, were organised by Jamaat-i-Islami, Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf, Pakistan Muslim League-Functional and Sindhi nationalist entities including Sindh United Party, Jeay Sindh Mahaz, Qaumi Awami Tehreek and Awami Tehreek. *(Dawn, April 4th, 2026, Page 15)*

Protest held over 'forced conversion' of Christian girl

Activists of religious minorities' rights staged a protest demonstration outside the Hyderabad Press Club against the alleged forced conversion of a Christian girl, Maria Shahbaz, in Lahore. Organised by the National Commission for Justice and Peace (NCJP), the protest was led by Fr Jamil Albert, Director of NCJP Hyderabad. Advocate Ramesh Gupta and others also spoke. The protesters said that most of the laws were drafted keeping in view the requirements of the "majority". They said that religious minorities have their own issues, cultural norms and requirements. They said that religious minorities' sensitivities should be taken into account, but it was being observed that forced conversions of Hindu and Christian girls were being reported. *(Dawn, April 5th, 2026, Page 15)*

Diamer-Bhasha Dam land-affected people block Karakoram Highway

The protest sit-in for the rights of Diamer-Bhasha Dam land-affected people intensified as protesters blocked the Karakoram Highway (KKH) at various locations in Diamer district and warned that they would stage a long march towards the dam's construction site if their demands were not met. The Diamer-Bhasha Dam land-affected committee, under the '*Huqooq Do, Dam Banao'* (Ensure rights, then build the dam) movement, has been holding a protest sit-in in Chilas and Thore areas of Diamer for the past five days.

The protest was launched against the non-implementation of the agreement made between the protesters and the federal government last year. The organisers gave a call for a mass protest in Thore valley of Diamer. Organisers alleged that people from Chilas, Goner Farm, Goharabad and other areas of Diamer had started marching towards Thore valley to join the protesters. However, police and security forces blocked the KKH in the Ghichi and Hudor areas to prevent them from reaching Thore. Protesters also took to the roads and blocked the KKH at various points. A large number of demonstrators in Thore valley staged a sit-in. Thousands of passengers travelling to and from other parts of the country to Gilgit-Baltistan were stranded, with long queues of vehicles forming on the Karakoram Highway. *(Dawn, April 6th, 2026, Page 3)*

JI stages protest against fuel price hike in Quetta

Workers and supporters of Jamaat-i-Islami staged a protest against a sharp increase in petroleum prices, criticising the government's economic policies and rising inflation. The demonstration took place outside the Quetta Press Club, where participants gathered under the leadership of district Emir Abdul Naeem Rind. Protesters carried banners and placards condemning repeated fuel price hikes and calling for immediate relief for the public.

Chanting slogans against the government, the demonstrators accused authorities of placing an excessive financial burden on citizens through escalating costs of living. Jamaat-i-Islami leaders issued a strong statement denouncing the rise in petrol and diesel prices, saying it would allow profiteers to arbitrarily increase the cost of essential goods. Addressing the crowd, speakers said the government had failed to reduce its own expenditures and instead imposed what they described as a petrol bomb on the population, further intensifying economic hardship. *(Dawn, April 6th, 2026, Page 5)*

Sindh-wide protests against heavy increase in fuel prices intensify

Widespread protests and rallies were held across Karachi, Hyderabad, Sukkur, Jacobabad and several other districts of Sindh as citizens and political workers took to the streets against the recent sharp hike in petroleum prices and spiralling inflation. The Sindh United Party (SUP) in Sukkur staged a unique and sombre protest in front of the local press club. A large number of workers appeared wearing shrouds (kafans) and observed a symbolic hunger strike.

Addressing the crowd, SUP leader Eidan Jagirani criticised the government's recent "deceptive" Rs80 reduction in the prices of petrol after a staggering increase of Rs137 per litre over the past month. He warned that the "genie of inflation" had been unleashed, making essential food items unaffordable for the working class.

Awami Tehreek stages rally

The Awami Tehreek launched a major rally from Teer Chowk to Ghanta Ghar, followed by a sit-in. Leaders Noor Ahmed Katiar and advocate Sarwan Jatoi alleged that the government was using international conflict as a pretext to raise petrol to Rs378 and diesel to Rs520 per litre. The speakers were particularly critical of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah, describing recent subsidy announcements as "cosmetic measures" intended to discourage public resistance. They also condemned US and Israeli policies toward Iran, stating that such militarism threatened global peace.

Labour fronts protest in Karachi

In the provincial capital, a joint demonstration was organised by the National Trade Union Federation Pakistan (NTUF) and the Home-Based Women Workers Federation

(HBWWF). Protesters gathered to denounce not only the "petrol bomb" dropped on the masses but also what they termed imperialist aggression against Iran. The rally saw a significant turnout of workers alongside representatives from various political and human rights organisations. Participants carried placards demanding the immediate abolition of the petroleum levy and a wage increase in line with the current cost of living. Labour leaders, including Nasir Mansoor and Zahra Khan, rejected the economic frameworks of the IMF and World Bank, calling on the government to defer foreign debt repayments and withdraw all free fuel entitlements for officials.

Bicycle rally in Jacobabad

In Jacobabad, the Aam Insan Tehreek organised a bicycle rally to symbolise the public's inability to afford motorised transport. Starting from Shaheed Allah Bux Soomro Park, the rally traversed the city's main arteries before concluding at the local press club. Movement leaders, including Syed Ali Shah and Altaf Mirani, stated that the rulers had "snatched the morsel from the mouths of poor". They argued that instead of burdening public, government should drastically reduce its own "royal" expenditures and official protocols. Despite the highly charged atmosphere and heavy security presence across the province, no violent incidents were reported. *(Dawn, April 6th, 2026, Page 15)*

Dam protest paralyses Karakoram Highway

A protest sit-in by people affected by the Diamer-Bhasha Dam project continued, blocking the Karakoram Highway (KKH) and suspending land connectivity between Gilgit-Baltistan and the rest of Pakistan, leaving hundreds of passengers — including tourists and patients — stranded, with long queues of vehicles stuck on both sides of the highway. Protesters have been staging sit-ins in Chilas and Thore areas of Diamer for the past six days, demanding implementation of a 2025 agreement between the government and the dam-affected people, alleging that not a single clause has been enforced so far. The protest intensified, when demonstrators blocked the KKH for all kinds of traffic. A sit-in was also staged in Chilas, the district headquarters, where the highway was blocked near Masjid Aqsa. *(Dawn, April 7th, 2026, Page 5)*

Lawyers, opposition parties continue protests against fuel price hike

Protests in different parts of Sindh over the recent unprecedented hike in fuel prices continued involving various political parties. In Hyderabad, lawyers started their sit-in at by-pass near Wadhu Wah in the evening upon expiry of their 72-hours deadline given to the federal government for a downward revision of fuel prices. The sit-in drive has been launched under the aegis of the All Sindh Lawyers Action Committee. Activists of the Sindh United Party (SUP) and Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) joined in the protest. *(Dawn, April 10th, 2026, Page 15)*

KMC staff, pensioners protest over outstanding dues

A large number of employees and pensioners of the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) staged a protest outside the KMC head office building, raising serious concerns over unpaid dues, pensions and absence of salary increases. The demonstration, held under the banner of the Municipal Workers Trade Unions Alliance, coincided with a meeting of the KMC City Council, during which the protesters sought to have their demands presented through elected council members. However, the protesters were stopped from entering the premises, prompting them to stage a sit-in at the main gate of the head office. *(Dawn, April 11th, 2026, Page 14)*

Lawyers strike (The whole news is missing, this is just a little part of the news)
Sargodha District Bar Association President Rameez Farooka announced that lawyers' strike will continue for an indefinite period against the police for allegedly registering fake FIRs against lawyers and their relatives. *(Dawn, April 12th, 2026, Page 2)*

Protest called off after suspect's arrest in female student's suicide case
The heirs and relatives of a female medical student, who allegedly died by suicide, called off their two-day protest sit-in at the city's Toll Plaza following arrest of one suspect. The heirs of deceased Fehmida Leghari were demanding arrest of five suspects over constant "harassment leading to her extreme action". In their FIR, they nominated the principal and some students of the private college, where she had been studying. Ms Leghari was a third-year medical student who allegedly shot herself to death in her home. During the course of the protest, police raided some places and detained one of the nominated suspects, Dr Abid Leghari. Mirpurkhas SSP Syed Asad Ali Shah assured the protesters that all nominated suspects would be arrested as soon as they were located. On his assurance, protesters dispersed peacefully. *(Dawn, April 12th, 2026, Page 15)*

Pindi daily-wage sanitation workers seek regularisation of services
Sanitation workers of Rawalpindi Waste Management Company (RWMC) staged a protest to press the Punjab government to regularise their services and announced a series of protest from April 20 and a sit-in on May 4 if demands are not met. A protest demonstration was held outside the Rawalpindi Press Club. A large number of daily wage employees of the municipal corporation participated in the protest and raised slogans in favour of their demands. *(Dawn, April 15th, 2026, Page 4)*

Govt employees rally for restoring pension, leave encashment
Hundreds of All Government Employees Grand Alliance (AGEGA) workers staged a protest to demand restoration of leave encashment, pension and gratuity, 30 percent disparity allowance and 50pc increase in salaries. The government employees gathered outside the Civil Secretariat denouncing what they described as anti-employee policies and worsening economic conditions. They were carrying placards and banners and chanted slogans against inflation. AGEGA leaders said that the Punjab government had been subjecting employees to economic exploitation for the past three years. They claimed that key financial benefits had been withdrawn, while delays persisted in implementing their demands. *(Dawn, April 17th, 2026, Page 2)*

Protest held over woman's death during police action
A large number enraged Burdi community members, carrying the body of a woman, held a protest demonstration outside the B-Section police station in Khairpur. They alleged that the woman, Lalzadi Burdi, suffered a fatal cardiac stroke after the police took away two male members of her family. *(Dawn, April 18th, 2026, Page 15)*

Bajaur residents protest child's death in Smasai
Residents staged a protest against the killing of a child during a clash in the Smasai area of Khar tehsil in Bajaur. Residents of Smasai and its adjacent areas participated in the demonstration in the Rashkai area along the main Bajaur-Peshawar Highway. The demonstrators blocked the road for several hours, disrupting traffic. Scores of political and social activists also joined the protest. The protesters said an exchange of fire between security forces and militants took place in the Smasai area, leaving the child dead. *(Dawn, April 19th, 2026, Page 5)*

Traders protest against barring entry of all vehicles
Traders of around twelve different markets of the city protested against the district administration for installing computerised barriers in the markets and barring entry for all vehicular traffic. Dozens of traders under the banners of Zilaee Anjuman Tajraan (ZAT) and City Anjuman Tajraan (CAT) gathered at the Sadiq Bazaar Chowk on Shahid Road to protest the move. *(Dawn, April 20th, 2026, Page 8)*

Protests held in several districts against unabated 'honour killings'
A rights group calling itself 'Civil Society for Truth, Peace and Justice' organised rallies, demonstrations and street theatre in different parts of Sindh to highlight injustice to women folk in the name of the hate custom of karo-kari (murder for honour). In Hyderabad, participants of a protest rally converged on the local press club. It was joined in by activists of various civil society organsations, literati and media personnel. The protest was held in the wake of the alleged honour killing of Khalida Chandio, Shumaila Chandio and the alleged suicide by Fahmida Laghari (a medical undergraduate) in very recent incidents.

In Larkana, under the aegis of the same rights group, journalists, writers and civil society activists held a march in Larkana from local press club to Jinnah Bagh Chowk, where they held a demonstration. In Jacobabad, the group organised a rally from the local press club to the DC Chowk. Yet another protest march was held in Dadu, where protesting writers, media personnel and activists of political parties, nationalist groups and social organisations gathered at New Chowk and marched up to the local press club. People from other walks of life joined in march as well. *(Dawn, April 20th, 2026, Page 15)*

WAF holds sit-in at grave of honour killing victim
The Women's Action Forum (WAF) staged a "resistance sit-in" at the grave of Khalida Chandio, a woman brutally murdered in front of a crowd after being accused of an extramarital affair. The protest camp in Tando Masti, Khairpur district, followed a

province-wide call for action from the WAF. A large assembly of women, men and human rights defenders gathered to condemn the surge in "honour killings" and the entrenched social injustices facing women in Sindh. Following the murder, Ms Chandio was subjected to extreme dehumanisation. She was denied ritual washing (ghusl), a shroud (kafan) and formal prayers — and was buried hastily. The sit-in drew leaders and activists from across the region, including Karachi, Hyderabad and Larkana. *(Dawn, April 21st, 2026, Page 15)*

Women varsity employees protest delay in promotions

Employees of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University continued their protest against the long delay in promotions, urging the provincial government and relevant authorities to take immediate notice. *(Dawn, April 22nd, 2026, Page 8)*

Women hold sit-in over 'ill-treatment' by Khairpur Civil Hospital staff

Healthcare services at the Khairpur Civil Hospital were seriously disrupted due to protest by women over doctors' alleged ill-attitude towards patients. Disturbed by the protest and disruption, doctors and paramedics boycotted their duties, leaving several hundred patients without healthcare services. The unrest took place when a family argued with some doctors, who allegedly refused to examine a female patient and did not help her get a bed. *(Dawn, April 22nd, 2026, Page 15)*

Family protests suspect's death in police lock-up

Enraged family members and relatives of a suspect took to the streets and blocked a road after they were informed that he has died by suicide in police lock-up. The B-Section police had picked up the suspect, Rashid Bhatti, in a theft case (FIR No. 95/26) a couple of days ago and kept him in the lock-up. *(Dawn, April 22nd, 2026, Page 15)*

Protesters in Larkana demand end to 'honour killings' and feudal injustice

Activists from the Sindhiyani Tehreek and Qaumi Awami Tehreek staged a protest rally against the continued killing of women under the pretext of karo-kari (honour killing). The demonstrators also voiced their outrage over the practice of sang chatti — where women are given as compensation to settle blood feuds — the parallel jirga legal system, the harassment of female students in educational institutions and the forced conversion of abducted girls. *(Dawn, April 23rd, 2026, Page 15)*

Residents protest after excise dept seal houses with families inside

The Excise and Taxation department has been sealing houses of alleged property tax defaulters in Minawali with the families inside the homes. After the incident, many residents of the city rushed to areas to see the homes and they chanted slogans against the excise department and the Punjab government. *(Dawn, April 27th, 2026, Page 8)*

Court orders release of five women held for staging protest against 'enforced disappearance'

A judicial magistrate discharged five women, including a Baloch Yakjehti Committee activist, who were arrested for staging a protest outside the Karachi Press Club (KPC) a day before and booked in a sedition case. Police arrested BYC activist Fozia Baloch, her mother and their three other companions for staging the protest against the alleged enforced disappearance of her brother, Daad Shah. *(Dawn, April 27th, 2026, Page 13)*

105 rice mills, grain market in Shahdadkot shut over Rs1.3m robbery

The grain market in Shahdadkot and over 100 rice mills across the town were shut down in response to a call given by Rice Millers Association's local chapter in protest against unbridled lawlessness in this part of Qambar-Shahdadkot district. The call was given after a fresh incident of armed robbery in which a prominent trader, Nadir Shaikh, was robbed of Rs1.3 million in a locality falling within the jurisdiction of the A-Section police station. *(Dawn, April 27th, 2026, Page 15)*

Protest after Pera vehicle runs over five youths

Scores of people held a protest after a speeding official vehicle of the Punjab Enforcement and Regulatory Authority (Pera) ran over five young men in Khadimabad Colony. *(Dawn, April 28th, 2026, Page 2)*

UoP employees block road against non-payment of salaries, pension

The employees of University of Peshawar (UoP) staged protest demonstration against non-payment of their salaries and pension for the month of March. A large number of employees also blocked the busy Jamrud Road outside the university campus and chanted slogans against provincial government and university administration. *(Dawn, April 28th, 2026, Page 8)*

Protest over power outages paralyses traffic

Severe traffic congestion paralysed I.I. Chundrigar Road, Dr Ziauddin Ahmed Road and adjoining areas in the city's business district for hours after residents of Railway Colony staged a protest near Shaheen Complex against prolonged, "unannounced power outages lasting up to 16 hours" daily. *(Dawn, April 28th, 2026, Page 13)*

Rights activists demand ban on manual sewer cleaning

Rights activists and members of civil society have demanded an immediate end to the "inhumane" practice of sending sanitation workers into sewers for cleaning. The demand came during a protest outside the Karachi Press Club. The demonstration was staged to protest against the recent deaths of sanitation workers during cleaning work inside sewers. *(Dawn, April 28th, 2026, Page 13)*

Police in Peshawar allegedly open fire during protest by Khyber residents

Police in the provincial capital allegedly resorted to firing and tear gas to disperse a protest by tribesmen from Khyber district against a suspected quadcopter strike that killed a minor girl and injured six others. The protesters had gathered at the Hayatabad toll plaza to protest the death of a teenage girl in a suspected quadcopter strike in Bara's Akkakhel area. *(Dawn, April 29th, 2026, Page 8)*

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1 # AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION RESOURCES

Global project launched to fight cross-border crop diseases

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has announced a new research project that would strengthen global efforts to detect, monitor and manage transboundary crop diseases threatening food security. "The new coordinated research project will support countries in developing and validating technologies that improve surveillance, diagnostics and sustainable disease management. Nuclear and related biotechnologies offer tools to complement existing plant health strategies," IAEA said in its latest bulletin.

Advanced imaging and sensor-based technologies, including hyperspectral and near-infrared sensing, enable high-throughput phenotyping of crops. Combined with molecular diagnostics and field-deployable detection tools, these technologies allow researchers to detect diseases earlier and improve plant health surveillance systems. "Transboundary crop diseases are spreading faster than ever, threatening food security and the livelihoods of millions of farmers worldwide," the IAEA warned. "Climate variability, expanding international trade and the movement of infected planting materials are accelerating the spread of pathogens across borders," it added. *(Dawn, April 19th, 2026, Page 3)*

1.1 # Water

Bangladeshi farmers test solar irrigation as fuel costs bite

In Bangladesh's farm belt, solar-powered irrigation pumps are promoted as a way to cut diesel use, lower irrigation costs and, when pumps are idle, generate extra income for farmers who can sell surplus electricity to the grid. Solar panels installed in or beside crop fields to power groundwater irrigation pumps can be a better alternative to paying for rising cost of fuel for traditional generators, experts say. But the technology still has limited uptake. The Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation's latest irrigation survey found about 71 per cent of power-operated irrigation equipment was diesel-run and 29pc electric, while only 4,058 solar-powered units were identified nationwide. *(Dawn, April 3rd, 2026, Page 10)*

World Bank launches project to improve global water security

The World Bank and 10 multilateral development banks and development finance institutions launched an initiative to improve water security for one billion people around the globe by 2030. The push comes as part of the International Monetary Fund/ World Bank Group Spring Meetings which are underway in Washington. The platform dubbed Water Forward aims to align policy reforms and financing to expand water services and protect against droughts and floods. Many countries have unclear water policies and weak regulation and utilities, which slows progress and investment, the World Bank said. Initiative aims to develop "investment-ready" projects. When water systems work, farmers produce, businesses operate, and cities attract investment, said World Bank President Ajay Banga. Project partners include the Asian Development Bank, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the European Investment Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the New Development Bank. IMF says water is "macro-critical", and droughts, floods and weak water systems can hit growth, worsen budget and balance-of-payments crunches and raise social risks, especially in developing economies.

The "Water Forward" programme will "expand reliable water services and strengthen systems against droughts and floods." The Bank said its own funds and technical advice would help improve water supplies to about 400 million people by 2030, with balance coming from partners. Water "determines whether people are healthy enough to work, whether children have a childhood to learn and to explore, and whether businesses can operate and economies can grow," World Bank President Ajay Banga said.

The programme will see countries identify areas of priority, then "development banks, governments, philanthropies, most importantly, the private sector as well, align behind that plan," he said. "Some four billion people — half the world's population — face water scarcity, due in part to "unclear policies, weak regulations, and financially unsustainable utilities that have slowed progress and deterred investment," the Bank said. *(Dawn, April 16th, 2026, Page 11)*

2 # AGRICULTURAL INPUTS

War impact on fertilisers worries food producers

Even as Gulf tanker traffic slowly resumes, the road back to normal food production will be long and arduous, given the war's impact on fertiliser supplies, the UN has warned. With factories shuttered and soaring gas prices driving up production costs around the world, fertiliser prices have risen across the board and are unlikely to fall back easily. "If the Strait of Hormuz reopens immediately, i.e. not only a ceasefire but vessels moving, the impact would be significantly positive but incomplete and uneven," the Food and Agriculture Organisation's chief economist Maximo Torero said.

"The FAO is clear that damage has already been done." According to Argus Media, the price of urea from the Middle East has, for example, risen by 70 per cent in a matter of weeks. Gulf countries are major exporters of nitrogen fertilisers like urea, which provides plants with nitrogen to aid green leafy growth, as well as ammonia and phosphate. Italy notably called last week for a "humanitarian corridor" in the Strait of Hormuz for fertiliser as Torero warned that if high prices continue, farmers would face a stark choice: "Farm the same with fewer inputs, plant less, or switch to less intensive fertiliser crops," which would reduce food supply well into next year. *(Dawn, April 11th, 2026, Page 10)*

Bangladesh launches ‘Farmers’ Card’ to support agri sector

Bangladesh launched a “Farmers’ Card” scheme aimed at expanding direct support to millions of farmers and streamlining subsidies, as part of efforts to modernise the agriculture sector. The scheme focuses on small farmers, including sharecroppers who often lack access to banks and other institutional support, agriculture ministry officials said. Farmers registered under the programme will also gain access to subsidised fertiliser and seeds, agricultural machinery, low-interest loans, crop insurance and advisory services, among other benefits, cutting out intermediaries. *(Business Recorder, April 15th, 2026, Page 5)*

3 # AGRICULTURAL OUTPUTS

Extreme heat pushes global agrifood systems to brink, UN report warns

Extreme heat threatens to push global agrifood systems to the brink, with rising temperatures posing severe hazards to people, crops, livestock and fish, a new United Nations assessment report warned. Report, jointly released by World Meteorological Organisation and the Food and Agriculture Organisation to mark Earth Day, found that the frequency, intensity and duration of extreme heat events have risen sharply over the past half-century. It cautions that the risks to agriculture and ecosystems are set to soar in the future. “Extreme heat is increasingly defining the conditions under which agri-food systems operate,” WMO Secretary General Celeste Saulo said.

FAO Director General QU Dongyu added that the findings highlight how heat acts as a major risk multiplier. “This work highlights how extreme heat is a major risk multiplier, exerting mounting pressure on crops, livestock, fisheries and forests, and on the communities and economies that depend upon them,” he said.

Focusing on Pakistan, the report detailed how increasingly frequent and severe heatwaves in the rain-fed rural areas of Punjab are disrupting agricultural systems and undermining household food security. The effects on production have been stark, with heatwaves leading to significant declines in crop yields. Fruit productivity in high-rainfall zones of Punjab has fallen by as much as 50 per cent.

Livestock are also severely affected. Heat stress causes large ruminants to produce less milk, while smaller ruminants face increased outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease. The problem is compounded by the accelerated spoilage of perishable goods like vegetables and dairy products, which further reduces food availability and drives up local prices.

While entire communities are impacted, the report noted that women bear a disproportionate share of this burden. Rural women in Punjab, deeply involved in harvesting and other physically demanding tasks, face higher exposure to extreme heat and an increased risk of heat-related illnesses. It highlights the high predictability of heat as a key opportunity for developing agrometeorological advisories and early warning systems linked to anticipatory action. *(Dawn, April 23rd, 2026, Page 12)*

4 # SUB – AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIONS

Not any preferable news to be included in this month.

5 # TRADE

11 nations urge support for states facing Middle East war fallout

Almost one dozen nations called on the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank to provide “coordinated emergency support” to help states hit by disruptions from the war in the Middle East, as the US president said a peace deal was within reach. The war has prompted Iran to effectively shut the Strait of Hormuz, a vital artery for global crude and gas shipments, to ships other than its own, sharply reducing exports from the Gulf, particularly to Asia and Europe, and leaving energy importers scrambling for alternative supplies. In response, the US blockaded the Iranian ports and prevented several vessels from leaving the area.

In a joint statement issued by the UK government, the finance ministers from 11 countries asked the IMF and World Bank “to provide a coordinated emergency support offer for countries in need, tailored to country circumstances and drawing on the full range and flexibility of their toolkits”. “Renewed hostilities, a widening of the conflict or continued disruption in the Strait of Hormuz would pose serious additional risks to global energy security, supply chains, and economic and financial stability,” said the statement. “Even with a durable resolution of the conflict, impacts on growth, inflation and markets will persist,” it said, adding that they also reaffirmed their unwavering support for Ukraine. The countries that signed the statement were Australia, Finland, Ireland, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom, *AFP* reported. *(Dawn, April 16th, 2026, Page 1)*

India’s trade deficit shrinks in March as US export surge offsets Mideast hit

India’s merchandise trade deficit unexpectedly narrowed in March as a surge in exports to the US helped cushion the impact of the ongoing Iran war that has disrupted shipping routes and inflated energy costs. The deficit fell to a nine-month low of USD20.67 billion, with exports rising to USD38.92 billion in March from USD36.61 billion in the previous month and imports falling to USD59.59 billion from USD63.71 billion, data from the trade ministry showed. Exports to the US rose 17.4 percent month-on-month to USD8.02 billion, supported by a cut in tariffs to 10 percent following a US Supreme Court ruling. This has helped boost shipments of textiles and engineering goods to India’s largest export market that had imposed tariffs of up to 50 percent on a wide swath of goods. *(Business Recorder, April 16th, 2026, Page 5)*

India and South Korea plan $50 billion trade push with new deals

India and South Korea said that they would boost their economic ties by expanding cooperation in energy, critical minerals, shipbuilding, semiconductors and steel as they seek to double their trade to $50 billion by 2030. New Delhi and Seoul also agreed to resume and step up negotiations to give new energy to their 2010 trade agreement as

India wants their trade to be more balanced and South Korea wants greater market access to the world's fastest-growing major economy. South Korean President Lee Jae Myung is in India for a three-day visit, the first South Korean presidential state visit to the country in eight years. He is accompanied by around 200 South Korean businesspeople. *(Business Recorder, April 21st, 2026, Page 5)*

6 # CORPORATE SECTOR

Not any preferable news to be included in this month.

7 # INTERNATIONAL AID / LOAN / INVESTMENT

Gaza aid flotilla aims to break Israeli blockade

The Global Sumud Flotilla left Barcelona symbolically for Gaza, but delayed its departure into international waters due to adverse weather conditions, according to the Freedom Flotilla Coalition coordinator, Spanish public broadcaster RTVE reported. "Due to weather conditions, our mission will sail from this port today, but will not be sailing to international waters because we cannot make this journey safely today," said organiser Thiago Avila.

About 30 boats planned to leave the Mediterranean port city laden with medical aid and other supplies on the Global Sumud Flotilla, and more vessels are expected to join along the route towards Palestine. The Israeli military halted the roughly 40 boats assembled by the same organisation last October as they attempted to reach blockaded Gaza, arresting Swedish activist Greta Thunberg and more than 450 other participants. Israel, which controls all access to the Gaza Strip, denies withholding supplies for its more than two million residents. Yet Palestinians and international aid bodies say supplies reaching the territory are still insufficient, despite a ceasefire reached in October which included guarantees of increased aid. *(Dawn, April 13th, 2026, Page 12)*

8 # INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS (IFIs)

IEA, IMF and World Bank to coordinate response to ME war's impact

The heads of the International Energy Agency, International Monetary Fund, and World Bank said they will form a coordination group to maximize their response to the significant economic and energy impacts of the war in the Middle East. In a joint statement, the three global bodies noted that the war had caused major disruptions in the region and triggered one of the largest supply shortages in global energy market history. "At these times of high uncertainty, it is paramount that our institutions join forces to monitor developments, align analysis, and coordinate support to policymakers to navigate this crisis," the heads of the IMF, IEA and World Bank said. The new coordination group will assess the severity of impacts across countries, coordinate a response mechanism, and mobilize stakeholders to deliver support to countries in need, the international bodies said. *(Business Recorder, April 2nd, 2026, Page 5)*

Fallout of Iran war: Top World Bank official 'extremely concerned'

The World Bank is "extremely concerned" about the effect the war on Iran will have on inflation, jobs and food security, and is in talks with member states on how to address immediate needs in the crisis. Managing Director Paschal Donohoe's comments came as his organization announced a new partnership with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and International Energy Agency (IEA) to coordinate aid responses to the war.

Donohoe flagged that countries in Asia and Africa were particularly vulnerable to the energy, price and supply-side shocks of the crisis. "At the moment, we are consulting with many governments and countries in relation to what their needs will be, and I would anticipate within the next number of weeks that will become far clearer," Donohoe said. The United States and Israel launched strikes on Iran on February 28, igniting a war that has engulfed the Middle East, snarled key supply chains and sent energy prices soaring. The World Bank offers development assistance and immediate budgetary support to member nations in the form of loans and technical assistance. *(Business Recorder, April 2nd, 2026, Page 12)*

Venezuela, IMF, World Bank restore relations

The IMF and World Bank said they are restoring relations with Venezuela, further legitimizing the interim government and opening new doors to financial support. Within hours the Venezuelan government confirmed it too would recognize the relationship that has been frozen since 2019. "Guided by the views of International Monetary Fund members representing a majority of the IMF's total voting power, and consistent with long standing practice, the Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva today announced that IMF is now dealing with the Government of Venezuela, under the administration of acting President Delcy Rodriguez," the IMF said in a statement. On Venezuelan state television, Rodriguez said: "We are normalizing all processes that involve Venezuela's rights in the organization." *(Business Recorder, April 18th, 2026, Page 1)*

9 # POLICY

Not any preferable news to be included in this month.

10 # SOCIO – ECONOMIC CONDITION

World Bank says South Asia growth to slow to 6.3pc in 2026 amid ME conflict

South Asia's growth is expected to slow to 6.3 percent in 2026 from 7.0 percent in 2025 as the conflict in the Middle-East and disruptions in global energy markets weigh on the import-dependent region, the World Bank said. In its latest South Asia Economic Update, the bank said growth should recover to 6.9 percent in 2027, while the region would remain the fastest growing among emerging market and developing economies.

The World Bank said the outlook was highly uncertain because South Asia depends heavily on imported energy and is vulnerable to spillovers from the Middle East conflict. It warned that further energy market dislocation could raise inflation, force monetary tightening and weaken remittance flows. World Bank President Ajay Banga said the war in the Middle East would lead to slower global growth and higher inflation, regardless of how quickly it ended. The World Bank said India is expected to remain the main driver of regional growth, with output projected at 7.6 percent in fiscal 2025/26 before easing to 6.6 percent in 2026/27. It had forecast growth for the current financial year at 6.3 percent in October 2025. *(Business Recorder, April 9th, 2026, Page 5)*

Growth in developing Asia-Pacific states falters

The momentum of economic growth in Asia-Pacific developing countries slowed to 4.6 per cent in 2025 and is projected to drop to 4pc in 2026, as fallout from the Middle East situation weighs on energy prices, supply chains and external demand, due to the conflict in the Middle East, said a new UN report. The 2026 edition of the 'Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific' suggests that regional countries need to rely more on domestic and regional demand, while carefully managing the shift to clean energy to avoid short-term economic and social disruptions.

The annual survey released by the UN Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP) said that the average economic growth in the region moderated to 4.6pc in 2025 from 4.8pc in 2024, and 5.3pc in 2023. However, assuming that the conflict in the Middle East will not last more than a few months and that there will be a partial de-escalation and an easing of tensions later in 2026, the survey noted that the average economic growth may inch up to 4.3pc in 2027.

Under alternative scenario of a prolonged conflict, economic growth could be notably lower than currently projected, while inflation would be higher. Under this scenario, a surge in commodity prices and freight costs, as well as supply chain disruptions, will spike inflation and interest rates; weaker global demand will dampen merchandise exports, remittances and tourism; and subsequent job losses and plunging market sentiment will hurt consumer spending, business investment and economic growth. Meanwhile, the room for additional fiscal support has shrunk, given high public debt levels and debt servicing burdens in many countries. *(Dawn, April 21st, 2026, Page 5)*

10.1 # Food

Food commodity prices up on Mideast war: UN food agency

The war in the Middle East has pushed food commodity prices higher due to higher energy and fertiliser costs, the UN's food agency said. The UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) said its Food Price Index, which measures the monthly changes in international prices of a basket of food commodities, had increased 2.4 per cent in March from February. Within the index, the category of vegetable oil saw the sharpest rise, of 5.1pc over February, as palm oil prices reached their highest point since the middle of 2022, due to effects from spiking crude oil prices, FAO said. *(Business Recorder, April 4th, 2026, Page 1)*

Austria recalls baby food jars in rat poison scare

A supplier of baby food jars in Austria is recalling a line after discovering that rat poison may have been introduced through tampering. The HiPP brand said it was recalling its "entire line of baby food jars sold at SPAR Austria" as "it cannot be ruled out that a hazardous substance was introduced into the ´HiPP Carrot/Potato 190 grams´ product through tampering, and consumption could be fatal". Austria´s agency for food protection said police were investigating and that the rat poison may have been introduced as part of an extortion scheme.

Customers were asked not to consume the product, which can be identified by a white label with a red circle on the bottom of the jar, and instead return it to the store of purchase. Police in the eastern Burgenland region have put out a call for witnesses, according to the statement. The national food agency said that so far the contaminated jars had been found at a SPAR store in the east of the country and in two Tesco stores in neighbouring Czech Republic. *(The News, April 19th, 2026, Page 11)*

10.2 # Inflation

IMF sees Middle East conflict fuelling global inflation

The IMF forecast Pakistan's current account deficit to widen alongside a 3.6 per cent growth rate for the current year, as the US-Israel misadventure in the Middle East darkens global growth prospects and fuels higher inflation. In its unusually uncertain global economic outlook released during the ongoing spring meetings of the World Bank and IMF, World Economic Outlook — IMF's flagship publication — estimated the current account deficit to rise to 0.4pc of GDP during the current fiscal year and further expand to 0.9pc, compared to a current account surplus of 0.5pc of GDP.

The IMF said the Middle East conflict had halted the economic growth momentum that had revived after the US trade policy shock and had darkened the global economic outlook. "Once again, the global economy is threatened with being thrown off course — this time by the outbreak of war in the Middle East at the end of February 2026. Over the past year, headwinds from higher trade barriers and elevated uncertainty have been offset by tailwinds from technology-related investment, accommodative financial conditions, including a weaker US dollar, and fiscal and monetary policy support,"

The IMF added that the Middle East conflict presented a significant counterforce to these tailwinds through its impact on commodity markets, inflation expectations, and financial conditions. Given the difficulty of underpinning a consistent set of assumptions for projections in real time, the WEO presented a "reference forecast" — in lieu of the traditional baseline — based on the assumption that the war will have limited duration, intensity, and scope, with disruptions fading by mid-2026, consistent with commodity futures prices as of March 10. It also included alternative scenarios in which the conflict lasts longer or expands, with the likelihood of such scenarios increasing as hostilities and disruptions continue.

Global growth

Under the reference forecast, the IMF projected global growth at 3.1pc in 2026 and 3.2pc in 2027, slower than its recent pace of about 3.4pc in 2024-25, and expected it to settle around that level in the medium term, below the historical (2000-19) average of 3.7pc. The forecast for 2026 has been revised downward by 0.2 percentage points, while that for 2027 remains unchanged compared to the January 2026 WEO update.

Global headline inflation is expected to rise to 4.4pc in 2026 before declining to 3.7pc in 2027, marking upward revisions for both years, the IMF said. Absent the war, global growth would have been revised upward by 0.1pc point to 3.4pc for 2026. Therefore, the downward revision largely reflects disruptions from the Middle East conflict, partly offset by strong recent data and reduced tariff rates. *(Dawn, April 15th, 2026, Page 9)*

10.3 # Poverty

Israel-US war against Iran: More than 30m to be pushed back into poverty: UN

More than 30 million people will be pushed back into poverty by the impacts of the Iran war including disruptions to fuel and fertiliser supplies just as farmers are planting crops, UN development chief Alexander De Croo said. Fertiliser shortages - worsened by the blocking of cargo vessels through the Strait of Hormuz - have already lowered agricultural productivity, the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) told *Reuters*. That would likely hit crop yields later this year, the former Belgian prime minister added.

“Food insecurity will be at its peak level in a few months - and there is not much that you can do about it,” he said, also listing other fallouts of the crisis including energy shortages and falling remittances. “Even if the war would stop tomorrow, those effects, you already have them, and they will be pushing back more than 30 million people into poverty,” he said. Much of the world’s fertilizer is produced in the Middle East, and one-third of global supplies passes through the Strait of Hormuz, where Iran and the United States are jostling for control. Earlier this month, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the UN World Food Programme warned that the war will drive up food prices, further burdening the world’s most vulnerable populations. *(Business Recorder, April 24th, 2026, Page 1)*

Iran war could push 30m people into poverty: UN

The US-Israeli war on Iran could plunge more than 30m people into poverty, the head of UN Development Programme has warned. “It’s development in reverse,” Alexander De Croo tells *AFP* on the sidelines of a G7 development meeting in Paris. “It took decades to build stable societies, to develop local economies, and it took only several weeks of war to destroy that. “We did a study after six weeks of war and estimated that even if the conflict ended at that point, 32 million people would be pushed into precarity in 160 countries,” De Croo says. *(Business Recorder, April 30th, 2026, Page 16)*

11 # ENVIRONMENT

'Breakaway' nations backing fossil fuel exit dubbed 'a new power'

Around 60 nations are attending a world-first conference in Colombia to tackle an issue that has deadlocked the UN climate talks — how to exit the fossil fuels that cause global warming. Colombia's Environment Minister Irene Velez Torres has been prominent as host of this breakaway climate conference, which has drawn nations wanting to accelerate the fossil fuel phaseout despite the stalemate in the UN-led "COP" summits. These countries represent "a new power", said Velez Torres, a former mining and energy minister whose own country is navigating its exit from coal and oil. Major fossil fuel producers are joining the first-of-its-kind talks but the biggest greenhouse gas emitters — including the United States, China and Russia — are skipping the event. *(Dawn, April 28th, 2026, Page 11)*

Fossil fuel exit critical for energy 'independence', says EU climate envoy

The European Union's climate envoy Wopke Hoekstra said that the energy crisis stemming from the Iran war underlined an economic and energy security imperative to phase out fossil fuels. "We already had a very good reason to move on (from fossil fuels) for climate action... We now also have it for commercial reasons, and reasons of energy independence," Hoekstra said at the first global talks on exiting fossil fuels.

More than 50 nations gathered in Colombia launched the first global conference on phasing out fossil fuels, warning that the worldwide energy shock ignited by the Iran war drove home risks of relying on oil, gas and coal. Ministers and climate envoys aim to revive the transition from fossil fuels at the inaugural conference in Santa Marta against a backdrop of crippling global energy shortages and soaring fuel prices. "Let's make this a turning point in history," Colombia's Environment Minister Irene Velez Torres said as she opened the two-day talks. *(Dawn, April 29th, 2026, Page 11)*

11.1 # Biodiversity

Emperor penguins listed as 'endangered'

The emperor penguin has been declared an endangered species as climate change pushes the icon of Antarctica a step closer to extinction, the global authority on threatened wildlife announced. Its change of status from "near threatened" to "endangered", made by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), underscores the existential threat for ice-dependent species as global warming profoundly reshapes the frozen continent. *(Dawn, April 10th, 2026, Page 11)*

11.2 # Health

Measles outbreak kills 227 children in B'desh

Bangladesh has recorded 227 child deaths since March in one of its worst outbreaks of measles in decades, with the number of suspected cases reaching nearly 35,000. One of the hardest hit areas is Kurukpata in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, home to Indigenous communities, which border Myanmar. *(Dawn, April 30th, 2026, Page 11)*

12 # CLIMATE CHANGE

India says it won't host UN climate talks in 2028

India has withdrawn its offer to host the United Nations annual climate Conference of the Parties (COP33) in 2028, two government officials familiar with the matter said. India communicated its decision to not host the conference this month, the officials said, but it was not immediately clear why the government had pulled out. The officials declined to be named as they are not authorised to speak to the media. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had proposed hosting the summit in 2023. The federal ministry for environment and climate change did not immediately respond to a request for comment. *(Dawn, April 9th, 2026, Page 12)*

Avoiding 1°C warming could halve risks to heritage sites

The first global assessment examining all Unesco-designated World Heritage sites, Biosphere Reserves, and Global Geoparks reveals that every 1ºC of global warming avoided could halve the number of sites exposed to major disruption by the end of the century, it emerged. In its assessment, titled "People and nature in Unesco-designated sites: Global and local contributions", Unesco said that by failing to act now, pressures will intensify and natural systems in more than one in four sites could reach critical tipping points by 2050, potentially undermining both ecosystems and the communities that depend on them. *(Dawn, April 24th, 2026, Page 12)*

Climate scrubbed from G7 agenda 'to appease US'

Environment ministers from G7 nations launched a two-day meeting in Paris, with climate change kept off the agenda to avoid a row with the United States. The office of France's ecology minister Monique Barbut had said the Group of Seven would focus on "less contentious issues" to appease its largest and most powerful member, drawing criticism from activists. Barbut said the G7 "must remain a forum for convergence" and France as host was prioritising unity at a time when environmental protection was slipping down the global agenda. *(Dawn, April 24th, 2026, Page 11)*

13 # CLIMATE DISASTER

'More than 16,000 lives lost in over 350 disasters in 2025'

The year 2025 saw 358 natural hazard-related disasters, resulting in over 16,000 fatalities, affecting 110.2 million people and causing $169.68 billion in economic losses, according to Emergency Events Database maintained by the Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (Cred) at one of the oldest universities in Europe. The Cred at the University of Louvain in Belgium provides data on significant disasters to support research, humanitarian action, evidence-based decision-making in disaster preparedness and response, and disaster risk reduction. The database also helps assess community vulnerability and inform policy priorities.

Asia accounted for a disproportionately large share of disaster-related deaths, due largely to major earthquakes in Myanmar and Afghanistan. The year was also marked by a record-breaking drought in Syria, which left 80 per cent of the population in need of assistance; and by the Palisades and Eaton Fires, which ranked among the costliest wildfires ever recorded, both globally and in the United States. From June to September, Pakistan experienced a series of floods triggered by an intense monsoon season that peaked in mid-August, causing more than 1,000 deaths and affecting 6.9m people.

Climate impact figures still evolving

Cred says the 2025 impact figures are still evolving and may be revised. Despite heatwave in Pakistan, India, and Europe, reporting delays have meant that many heatwave deaths — as drought-related deaths — have not yet been considered. Data on natural disasters show that Asia had 175 disasters recorded in 2025, followed by Americas with 93 disasters. There were 63 natural disasters in Africa, 33 in the United States, 22 in Europe, 20 in Indonesia, 16 in India, 16 in the Philippines, 14 in Vietnam, 14 in Thailand, 10 in Brazil, 8 in Madagascar, 7 in Malaysia, and 5 in Oceania.

Asia recorded 72.8pc of deaths due to natural disasters, with economic losses of $53.6bn. Americas suffered loss of $110.6bn. The top ten total affected countries include Pakistan with 6.9m people. In 2025, Pakistan suffered 1037 mortality due to floods. Earthquakes in Myanmar and Afghanistan were the two deadliest disasters of 2025. In Myanmar, the earthquake caused at least 3,820 deaths with $11bn economic losses. The earthquake in Afghanistan caused an estimated 2200 deaths. *(Dawn, April 21st, 2026, Page 1)*

Wildfires threaten to displace over 3,200 in Japan

Hundreds of firefighters were battling wildfires in the forests of northern Japan, as authorities urged more than 3,200 people to evacuate from their homes, government officials said. Blazes in the mountainous areas of Iwate region had burned about 700 hectares (1,730 acres) since breaking out three days ago, local government officials said in a statement. *(Dawn, April 26th, 2026, Page 10)*

14 # NATURAL DISASTER

14.1 # Earthquake

Eight members of same family die in Afghan quake

An earthquake that struck Afghanistan overnight killed 12 people, including eight members of the same family, a government official and the Afghan Red Crescent Society said. The 5.8-magnitude quake struck at a depth of 186 kilometres (115 miles) at the epicentre in northeastern Badakhshan province, according to the US Geological Survey (USGS). A shallow magnitude 6 earthquake wiped out mountainside villages and killed more than 2,200 people in eastern Afghanistan in August, making it the deadliest tremor in the country’s recent history. *(Dawn, April 5th, 2026, Page 10)*

Magnitude 6.0 earthquake strikes off north Indonesia: USGS

A 6.0 magnitude quake struck off Indonesia's remote northern Talaud islands, the US Geological Survey (USGS) said, with no immediate reports of casualties or damage. The tremor struck at a depth of 99 kilometres (61 miles), some 90 kilometres southeast of Sarangani province on the Philippine island of Mindanao. A magnitude-9.1 quake struck Indonesia's westernmost Aceh province in 2004, causing a tsunami and killing more than 170,000 people in Indonesia. *(The News, April 5th, 2026, Page 10)*

7.7-magnitude earthquake rattles Japan

Japan issued a special advisory warning of an increased risk of earthquakes at magnitude 8.0 or stronger, after a powerful jolt rattled the country's north and prompted a tsunami warning. The Japan Meteorological Agency's advisory came a few hours after a 7.7-magnitude earthquake struck in Pacific waters off northern Iwate prefecture at 4:53 pm. The jolt was so intense that it shook large buildings in the capital Tokyo, hundreds of kilometres (miles) from the epicentre. *(Dawn, April 21st, 2026, Page 10)*

15 # RESISTANCE

'Don't bomb': Israelis call for ending Iran war

Carrying anti-war banners and chanting slogans against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, hundreds of Israelis have rallied in Tel Aviv to protest the war with Iran. Demonstrators gathered in a central square, holding signs that read: "Don't bomb — talk! End the endless war!" despite restrictions on mass gatherings imposed during the conflict with Iran. "Police are trying to silence our voice," Alon-Lee Green, the co-director of Israeli-Palestinian grassroots group Standing Together, told *AFP*.

"We are here to demand an end to the war in Iran, the war in Lebanon, and the war in Gaza, which is still going on, as well as an end to the pogroms in the West Bank," he added. "In Israel, there's always a war. So, if we're not allowed to demonstrate, we will never be allowed to speak." Protesters also voiced scepticism about the government's justification for the war with Iran. "I'm very suspicious of the reasons. I think the main reason is that Bibi wants to stop his trial," said Cecile, 62, who gave only her first name, referring to Netanyahu with his nickname. "The reasons for the war keep moving and changing all the time. We don't know what will be considered a success or a failure, and we don't know how long it's gonna take," *(Dawn, April 5th, 2026, Page 11)*

Thousands rally against racism in Paris suburb to defend mayor

Several thousand people marched through streets of Paris' largest suburb to denounce racism after the town's newly elected black mayor was subject to disparaging comments on social media and national television shows. Bally Bagayoko, 52, of the hard-left France Unbowed (LFI) party, was elected mayor of Saint-Denis in the first round of municipal elections on March 15. The Frenchman born to Malian parents and brought up in neighbourhood was almost immediately targeted by racist disinformation and remarks, aired on most watched news channels. *(The News, April 5th, 2026, Page 10)*

Tens of thousands of Sadr supporters rally in Baghdad against war
Tens of thousands of supporters of Iraqi Shiite leader Moqtada Sadr rallied in Baghdad and across the country, condemning Israel and the United States and demanding an end to the war. The massive crowds came as the Middle East war was due to enter its sixth week after strikes launched by the US and Israel against Iran on February 28. Iraq has been unwillingly drawn into the conflict, with strikes targeting US interests on its soil as well as attacks against pro-Iran groups in the country.

Tens of thousands of men and some women packed into the streets around Baghdad's central Tahrir Square, waving the national flag and chanting: "No, no to Israel" and "No, no to America". "What America and Israel are doing in their aggression against the countries of the region is not a war of a military nature, but a senseless war," Dhirgham Samir, attending the rally, told AFP. "Today's demonstration is an expression of rejection of aggression, arrogance, and injustice throughout the world, not just in Iraq," he said. *(The News, April 5th, 2026, Page 11)*

Protesters block Irish refinery over surging fuel prices
Irish police took action to clear protesters blockading the country's only oil refinery after a senior government minister said protests over surging fuel prices had created a "very dangerous economic moment" for Ireland. Protesters angered by a more than 20 per cent rise in diesel prices since the outbreak of the US-Israeli war against Iran, have used tractors and trucks to block the Whitegate refinery, two ports, a fuel terminal and a number of roads in the capital Dublin. *(Dawn, April 12th, 2026, Page 10)*

100 held at pro-Palestinian rally in London
Police in London arrested nearly 100 pro-Palestinian protesters at a demonstration in support of the banned group Palestine Action. Officers carried away activists to cheers and clapping from other demonstrators who gathered for the sit-down demonstration in the capital's Trafalgar Square. The protesters held placards in support of the banned group Palestine Action, making them liable for arrest. Palestine Action was proscribed as a terrorist organisation last July, making it a criminal offence to belong to or support the group, punishable by up to 14 years in prison. *(Dawn, April 12th, 2026, Page 11)*

Lufthansa union calls 2-day pilots' strike
The pilots' union for Lufthansa, Europe's biggest air transport group, called for a two-day strike in Germany over a salary and pensions dispute. The airline has already been hit by four strikes this year, the last one by another union. This latest two-day action will hit flights run by the main airline Lufthansa and its subsidiaries CityLine and Eurowings, said a statement from the Vereinigung Cockpit (VC) union. It will also affect Lufthansa Cargo. *(Business Recorder, April 12th, 2026, Page 8)*

Indian auto hub hikes minimum wage after protests over soaring costs due to Iran war
India's auto-making state of Haryana ordered a 35 per cent hike in minimum wages, after factory workers boycotted work and staged protests this week over rising living

costs as a result of the US-Israeli war on Iran. Haryana's government said it was raising the minimum wage for unskilled workers to $165 per month, from roughly $120, effective April 1, a move that helps workers but will raise cost pressures for India's auto industry at a time of rising input prices and supply chain disruptions. The decision comes a day after clashes between the police and workers in Manesar, located 30 miles south of New Delhi and home to companies like Maruti Suzuki, as well as hundreds of ancillary units that feed into it. *(Business Recorder, April 12th, 2026, Page 8)*

Over 500 held at pro-Palestinian rally in UK

Police in London said they had arrested more than 500 pro-Palestinian protesters at a demonstration in support of Palestine Action, a group that is banned in the UK. Officers carried away activists to cheers and clapping from other demonstrators who gathered for the sit-down demonstration in the capital's Trafalgar Square. The protesters held placards in support of Palestine Action, making them liable for arrest. London's Metropolitan Police said on social media platform X just before midnight that they had arrested 523 people aged between 18 and 87. Palestine Action was proscribed by the United Kingdom in July, making it a criminal offence to belong to or support the group, punishable by up to 14 years in prison. *(Dawn, April 13th, 2026, Page 12)*

700 flights cancelled as German pilots go on strike

Hundreds of Lufthansa flights were cancelled day as pilots kicked off a strike over pay and pensions, the latest walkout at the German aviation giant this year. Pilots at its CityLine and Eurowings subsidiaries are also participating in the walkout. Pilots' union Vereinigung Cockpit said that over 700 flights had been cancelled, adding in a statement that it was "ready for discussions at any time" so long as "realistic offers" were on the table. *(Dawn, April 14th, 2026, Page 10)*

Newsmakers: Chambery (France)

Lawyers gather with their mouths taped shut in front of a courthouse to protest a government proposal to introduce plea bargaining in criminal matters. Lawyers across France staged a "Justice morte" (Dead Justice) stoppage as the Senate opened debate on the bill. *(Dawn, April 14th, 2026, Page 10)*

Police fire tear gas as workers' protest in India's Noida turns violent

Police lobbed tear gas shells and used "minimum force" to quell a factory workers' protest in the Indian national capital's suburb of Noida, which turned violent on its fourth day, with vehicles torched and stones pelted in parts of the satellite city. Noida is among the largest planned industrial townships of Asia and houses thousands of industrial units. Living costs across the world have risen as the U.S.-Israeli war in Iran curbed fuel supplies. Similar protests in the auto-making state of Haryana last week led to the government ordering a 35% hike in minimum wages. *(Business Recorder, April 14th, 2026, Page 5)*

Newsmakers: Nairobi (Kenya)

Greenpeace activists protest outside the gates of Kenya's agriculture ministry against the proliferation of toxic pesticides. A report has exposed how toxic pesticides banned in Europe are poisoning Kenya's soils, water and food. *(Dawn, April 17th, 2026, Page 10)*

Leftist leaders gather in Spain to rally against rise of far right

Leftist leaders from around the globe met in Barcelona to rally against the threat to democracy from the far right, with Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez and Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum displaying closer ties. The gathering comes as democratic institutions and values are under pressure from advancing authoritarian and far-right forces, including in the West, where US President Donald Trump’s influence looms large. *(Dawn, April 19th, 2026, Page 10)*

Europe’s far right rails at migration ‘tsunami’ in Milan after Orban defeat

Far-right leaders from Europe gathered in Milan for a rally attended by thousands against irregular immigration and Brussels bureaucracy, the first since the electoral defeat of nationalist Viktor Orban in Hungary. Supporters of the Patriots for Europe party, the third-largest bloc in the European Parliament, rallied in front of Milan’s Duomo cathedral, separated by a significant police presence from a likewise thousands-strong rally by anti-fascist groups. *(Dawn, April 19th, 2026, Page 10)*

Thousands of Croatians protest for higher wages, pensions

Thousands of Croatians protested in the capital Zagreb to demand higher salaries and pensions amid rising inflation in the EU nation in recent months. The protest dubbed “Croatia Together for Higher Wages and Pensions” was held as the country in March registered inflation of 4.89 percent, the highest in the euro-zone. Carrying banners saying “Stop the tax of poverty” and “If everything got more expensive, why didn’t our salaries?”, protesters marched through downtown Zagreb before gathering at the main Jelacic square. *(Dawn, April 19th, 2026, Page 10)*

Mass rallies in Germany demand faster shift to renewable energy

Thousands of people demonstrated across Germany, urging a faster shift to renewable energy and accusing conservative Chancellor Friedrich Merz’s coalition of putting the brakes on the transition. In Berlin, Cologne, Hamburg and Munich, crowds took to the streets, waving placards with slogans such as “renewables are our life” and “escape the fossil fuel trap”. A coalition of campaign groups organising the demonstrations said about 80,000 people took part nationwide, although police gave lower figures. *(Dawn, April 19th, 2026, Page 12)*

Picture: Tel Aviv (Israel)

A protester holds up a placard next to a fellow protester dressed as the Israeli prime miniter during a demonstration organised by Israeli left-wing activists against the ongoing war with Iran and Lebanon and against the Israeli government, at HaBima square. *(The News, April 19th, 2026, Page 11)*

Newsmakers: Tokyo (Japan)

People take part in a 'No war! Don't change the Constitution!' rally outside the main gate of the National Diet (bicameral legislature of Japan), to call for the protection of Article 9 of the Constitution. The article is a clause stipulating that the people have renounced war as a sovereign right of the nation and the threat or use of force as means of settling international disputes. *(Dawn, April 20th, 2026, Page 10)*

Strike forces thousands of London commuters to walk to work

Workers streamed into the British capital by foot, bike and bus as strike action on the London Underground train network disrupted services. Members of the Rail, Maritime and Transport union walked out from 12pm for 24 hours over plans by Transport for London to condense the working week into four days. They will strike again for 24 hours from midday, causing disruption to services for the rest of the week. The strike resulted in services on London Underground being suspended or part suspended with severe delays on other parts of the network. *(Dawn, April 23rd, 2026, Page 10)*

Japanese rally against loosened arms export rules

Protesters gathered in Tokyo to rally against Japan's decision to ease decades-old arms export curbs, which critics argue erodes the country's post-war pacifist tradition. The new rules permitting the sale of lethal weapons overseas signal a major shift, as Japan ramps up its defence ambitions and seeks to enter the global arms market in part to boost economic growth. The move, announced this week by Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi, has been met with some criticism and unease among the Japanese public. Holding placards that read "Stop exporting lethal weapons" and "No war", dozens of protesters assembled in capital's Shinjuku area. *(Dawn, April 25th, 2026, Page 10)*

Newsmakers: Utrecht (Netherland)

Demonstrators from Extinction Rebellion, Utrecht 4 Palestine, and Debt for Climate take part in the blockade of a major road. They called for an immediate end to fossil fuel subsidies and diversion of the money for housing, healthcare and debt relief instead. *(Dawn, April 26th, 2026, Page 10)*

Newsmakers: Ankara (Turkiye)

Miners stage a sit-in protest outside Turkiye's energy ministry to demand unpaid wages. Hundreds of miners walked a 180-kilometre route in nine days to reach Ankara, calling on authorities to look into months of delayed payments and compensation claims. *(Dawn, April 28th, 2026, Page 10)*

Newsmakers: Toulouse (France)

Artist Damien Aspe in seen through the window case of his gallery, where he locked himself in a cage for a month as part of a performance to protest against the stranglehold of GAFAM on our lives. Gafam is an acronym for the five most dominant American technology companies Google, Apple, Facebook, Amazon and Microsoft. *(Dawn, April 29th, 2026, Page 10)*

About Us

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

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

Our Mission

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

Our Vision

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

Our Objectives

(i) Organizing and mobilizing grass root communities and movements for attaining basic rights;

(ii) Action research in collaboration with impacted vulnerable communities on issues and impacts of globalization, patriarchy, and feudalism;

(iii) Capacity building of grass root leaders and creating a grass roots knowledge base for attaining social justice;

(iv) Engaging with people's organizations and movements to amplify the voices of the most marginalized sectors of our society, locally, nationally and internationally.

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