HAAL AHWAL

Selected News on Food and Agriculture

June, 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

HAAL AHWAL

Selected News on Food and Agriculture

June, 2026

Editor
Azra Talat Sayeed

Sub-Editor
Mujtaba Zaidi

Contributors
Imamuddin
Mudassir Shahzad

Roots for Equity

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Particular	June 2026 (PKR)		
	1st	30th	Max Rate
USD[1]	280	279	280 (1st day)
Gold[1] (1 Tola)	473,861	430,143	473,861 (1st day)
Silver[1] (1 Tola)	7,853	6,767	7,853 (1st day)
Petrol[2] (1 Litre)	381.78	299.50	381.78 (1st day)
Diesel[2] (1 Litre)	380.78	311.47	380.78 (1st day)
Kerosene[2] (1 Litre)	272.00	227.05	272.00 (1st 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

ADB: Asian Development Bank

ADP: Annual Development Programme

AFIC: Armed Forces Institute of Cardiology

AGEGA: All-Government Employees Grand Alliance

AIP: Accelerated Implementation Programme

AJK: Azad Jammu and Kashmir

ATC: Anti-Terrorism Court

BBTV: Banana Bunchy Top Virus

BCI: Business Confidence Index

BGA: Balochistan Grand Alliance

BNP: Balochistan National Party

BVH: Bahawal Victoria Hospital

BYC: Baloch Yakjehti Committee

CACs: Central Asian Countries

CBA: Electric Workers Union

CDWP: Central Development Working Party

CJ: Chashma-Jhelum

CJP: Cockroach Janta Party

CNIC: Computerised National Identity Card

CPI: Consumer Price Index

DRAP: Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan

DTU: Technical University of Denmark

EAD: Economic Affairs Division

ECNEC: Executive Committee of the National Economic Council

EDF: Export Development Board

EFF: Extended Fund Facility

EFS: Export Refinance Scheme

ENPPI: Engineering for Petroleum and Chemical Industries

ERE: Employees Related Expenditure

EWR: Electronic Warehouse Receipt

FAO: Food and Agriculture Organisation

FBR: Federal Board of Revenue

FCC: Federal Constitutional Court

FDI: Foreign Direct Investment

FEA: Foreign economic assistance

FED: Federal Excise Duty

FFSs: Farmers Field Schools

FIR: First Information Report

FMD: Foot-and-Mouth Disease

G2B: Government-to-Business

G2G: Government-to-Government

GCF: Green Climate Fund

GDP: Gross Domestic Product

GLOFs: Glacial Lake Outburst Floods

GMOs: Genetically Modified Organisms

HRCP: Human Rights Commission of Pakistan

ICE: Immigration and Customs Enforcement

IESCO: Islamabad Electric Supply Company

IFC: International Finance Corporation

IFIs: International Financial Institutions

IMF: International Monetary Fund

IRSA: Indus River System Authority

IsDB: Islamic Development Bank's

ITP: Insurance Transformation Programme

IZP: InfraZamin Pakistan

JAAC: Joint Awami Action Committee

JBC: Joint Business Council

KDA: Karachi Development Authority

KKH: Karakoram Highway

KPC: Karachi Press Club

KUTS: Karachi University Teachers' Society

KWSC: Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation

LHC: Lahore High Court

LNG: Liquefied Natural Gas

LUH: Liaquat University Hospital

MIP: Minimum Indicative Price

MMT: Million Metric Tonnes

MNC: Manager Multinational Corporation

MNFS&R: Ministry of National Food Security and Research

MoM: Month-on-Month

MoU: Memorandum of Understanding

NAB: National Accountability Bureau

NABP: National Agricultural Biotechnology Policy

NARC: National Agricultural Research Centre

NBC: National Biosafety Committee

NDMA: National Disaster Management Authority

NEOC: National Emergency Operations Centre

NFEH: National Forum for Environment & Health

NGOs: Non-Governmental Organisations

NIH: National Institute of Health

NIHD: National Institute of Heart Diseases

NSDRA: National Seed Development and Regulatory Authority

NSMC: National Seismic Monitoring Centre

NWC: North Western Canal

PAEC: Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission

PARC: Pakistan Agricultural Research Council

PBICL: Pak Brunei Investment Company Ltd

PBL: Policy-Based Loan

PBS: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics

PDMA: Provincial Disaster Management Authority

PGDLs: Potentially Dangerous Glacial Lakes

PIA: Pakistan International Airlines

PMA: Pakistan Medical Association

PMD: Pakistan Meteorological Department

PMEX: Pakistan Mercantile Exchange Limited

PNDS: Pakistan Nutrition and Dietetic Society

PPA: Pakistan Poultry Association

PPH: Postpartum Haemorrhage

PRAC: Policy Research and Advisory Council

PSDP: Public Sector Development Programme

PSEs: Public Sector Enterprises

PSMA: Pakistan Sugar Mills Association

PSQCA: Pakistan Standards and Quality Control Authority

PTI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf

SAB: Sindh Abadgar Board

SAU: Sindh Agriculture University

SBP: State Bank of Pakistan

SIDH&RC: Sindh Infectious Disease Hospital & Research Centre

SIFC: Special Investment Facilitation Council

SOEs: State-Owned Enterprises

SUPARCO: Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission

TAC: Technical Advisory Committee

TAC: Tobacco Action Committee

TSG: Technical Supplementary Grant

TVET: Technical and Vocational Education and Training

TXA: Tranexamic Acid

USTR: US Trade Representative

WAP: Weighted Average Price

WCS: Wildlife Conservation Society

WMO: World Meteorological Organisation

YDA: Young Doctors Association

YoY: Year-on-Year

Back

NEWS EXCERPTS

NATIONAL NEWS

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION RESOURCES

- Sindh Chamber of Agriculture Senior Vice President Nabi Bux Sathio warned that reliance on hybrid seeds in crops like rice, onion and chilli could be unsustainable in the long run. Rs4.18bn research allocation was insufficient, as the sector required much greater funding.
- PM Shehbaz Sharif held a meeting with key stakeholders from Pakistan's agriculture sector ahead of the federal budget for fiscal year 2026-27, seeking recommendations to accelerate growth and unlock sector's economic potential.
- The stakeholders welcomed the recently introduced seed policy and broader agricultural reforms, describing them as a "game changer" for Pakistan's agriculture sector.
- To advance government's agricultural reform agenda and ensure sustainable development of sector, Shehbaz directed formation of a committee comprising experts and relevant stakeholders from across the country.
- Calling for immediate formulation of a comprehensive National Agriculture Policy, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif directed restructuring of Ministry of National Food Security, Research & Agricultural Reforms along modern lines.
- The establishment of an apex forum for the agricultural sector to promote innovation and improve crop yields.
- The prime minister also directed that a nationwide awareness campaign be launched for the Zarkhez Agricultural Loan Programme to enable farmers to access agricultural financing more easily.
- Officials of the National Agricultural Research Centre said an AI-based mobile application was being developed to help farmers identify crop diseases and pests and recommend effective control measures.
- National Seed Policy and the National Agriculture Biotechnology Policy had recently been approved.
- Consultations were underway on a National Wheat Policy, as well as several policies relating to the livestock sector.
- During 2025 alone, more than one million acres of state land were retrieved, resulting in recoveries estimated at Rs1,370 billion.
- Water crisis in Sindh and Balochistan continues to deepen with each passing day as the Indus River System Authority (Irsa) remains indifferent to their hue and cry constantly being raised over the last few weeks.
- Pakistan has been ranked 14th among countries facing severe water scarcity, highlighting a critical threat to agriculture, food security and the national economy.

- Inefficient irrigation systems, declining soil fertility, excessive use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, continuous monocropping and poor policy implementation have intensified impacts of floods, droughts and heatwaves.
- Agriculture is described as the backbone of Pakistan's economy, contributing around 24pc to GDP and providing employment to more than 37pc of workforce.
- It also supports the food and livelihood needs of over 240 million people, yet the sector is currently under severe pressure.
- Nearly 90 per cent of agriculture depends on the Indus Basin irrigation system, further increasing pressure on limited water resources.

AGRICULTURAL INPUTS

- Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) is implementing a project "Transforming the Indus basin with climate resilient agriculture and water management" in five districts of Punjab and three districts of Sindh.
- The Agri-Storage Portfolio Financing Facility will mobilise up to Rs7.1 billion in private sector capital for agricultural storage investment, comprising Rs5bn in debt and Rs2.1bn in equity, across farming communities in Pakistan.
- The Sindh province's agriculture development portfolio, inclusive of the livestock sector, has been allocated Rs6.12 billion, about 1.66 per cent of the total Annual Development Programme of the Sindh government for 2026-27.
- Rs1.4129bn has been allocated for the livestock sector.
- Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said Sindh contributes 35-40pc of Pakistan's rice production, 30-35pc of cotton, 25-30pc of sugarcane and 12-15pc of wheat production.
- Sindh is prone to extreme weather events. The super floods of 2010, followed by devastating rains in 2011, 2020, 2022 and 2023, repeatedly inflicted heavy losses on standing crops and damaged water infrastructure.
- Pakistan has sought Germany's partnership in modernizing its agriculture sector and enhancing livestock development.
- Pakistan Mercantile Exchange Limited (PMEX) and the International Finance Corporation (IFC) have entered into a Cooperation Agreement to strengthen Pakistan's agricultural commodities futures market and support the implementation of the Electronic Warehouse Receipt (EWR) regime.
- Maize, rice, cotton, and wheat have been identified as priority commodities for futures trading on the PMEX platform.

AGRICULTURAL OUTPUTS

- The agriculture sector grew 2.89 per cent in 2025-26 despite the devastating floods of 2025.

- The survey showed that agriculture, which contributes 23.4pc to national GDP – slightly down from 23.62pc last year – employs over 33pc of workforce.
- The crop sector returned to positive territory with 1.44pc growth, while livestock, the largest component of agriculture, expanded by 3.75pc.
- Among major crops, sugarcane registered the highest growth of 6.2pc, with production rising to 89.45 million tonnes. Wheat output increased by 4.3pc to 29.61mt, while rice production rose 2.8pc to nearly 10mt. However, maize and cotton production declined by 2.7pc and 0.5pc, respectively.
- Livestock continued to underpin agricultural growth, accounting for 62.4pc of agriculture's value addition and 14.6pc of GDP.
- Milk production reached 74.7mt and meat production climbed to 6.31mt.
- The government claims it has launched a major transformation plan for the meat sector, aiming to increase exports from around $500m to nearly $700m by 2028 through improved disease control, livestock genetics, processing facilities and export-oriented value chains.
- Poultry industry also maintained strong growth, producing 2.83mt of meat and over 28 billion eggs during the year.
- The fisheries sector produced 642,180 tonnes of fish during the first nine months of FY2026 and earned $405 million through exports.
- Pakistan's agriculture sector has missed the growth target of 4.5 percent set for the outgoing financial year and grew by 2.89 percent, according to the Economic Survey 2025-26.
- Wheat was cultivated over an area of 9.48 million hectares, compared to 9.07 million hectares last year, reflecting an increase of 4.4 percent, wheat production increased by 4.3 percent to 29.61 million tons, compared with 28.40 million tons last year.
- During 2025-26, despite 3.6 percent decline in area as compared to last year, the production of rice increased by 2.8 percent to 9.99 million tons from 9.72 million tons. The increase was driven by a 6.6 percent improvement in yield, which reached 2,660 kg/hectares.
- The Survey noted that the area under sugarcane cultivation expanded by 2.4 percent to 1.22 million hectares during 2025-26 and production increased by 6.2 percent to 89.45 million tons, driven by a 3.7 percent improvement in yield to 73,200 kg/hectares.
- Maize was sown on 1.59 million hectares showing a decrease of 0.1 percent over last year whereas its production declined by 2.7 percent to 8.79 million tons from 9.04 million tons.
- A combination of an unprecedented heatwave, acute water shortages and a crumbling irrigation infrastructure has pushed standing crops across Sindh to brink of devastation.

- Punjab has recorded a sharp decline in cotton cultivation during the current cotton year 2026-27, missing the provincial target by 18 per cent.
- The Punjab government had set a target of cultivating cotton on 3.2 million acres for the 2026-27 season.
- Cotton was cultivated on only 2.614m acres, falling short of the target by 586,000 acres.
- The government is likely to renew licences for the commercialisation and cultivation of genetically modified maize throughout Pakistan, even as several nations, including the European Union, have prohibited its cultivation on their soils and its use in animal feed if it exceeds a certain threshold.
- In May 2019, all biosafety licences regarding import and field trials of GMO maize in the country were suspended allegedly due to its health and environmental concerns.
- Flour prices across Sindh have spiked dramatically after the provincial food department missed its annual wheat procurement target by more than 90 per cent, sparking fears of an acute food security crisis and forcing millers to call for emergency imports.
- Untimely rains in April badly damaged the mango crop and the output would be 40 percent less than what it was last year.

SUB – AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIONS

- Dr A.Q. Khan Institute of Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering (KIBGE) at the University of Karachi has completed the full genome sequencing of the country's valuable indigenous breed, Red Sindhi cattle.
- Days before the announcement of the budget, the Federal Constitutional Court (FCC) has affirmed that poultry feed manufacturers and poultry farmers were not liable to pay additional tax under Section 3(1A) of the Sales Tax Act, 1990.

TRADE

- The trade deficit dipped 13.68pc to $2.58bn in May from $2.99bn over the corresponding month of last year.
- The trade deficit swelled 17.48pc to $34.76bn in July-May 2025-26, up from $29.58bn over the corresponding period last year.
- The trade deficit for FY25 widened by 9pc to $26.27bn, up from $24.11bn in the preceding year.
- The country's exports declined by 5.6 percent to USD 27.904 billion from USD 29.563 billion recorded during the same period last year. Meanwhile, imports increased by 5.94 percent to USD 62.66 billion in the first 11 months of this fiscal year, compared with USD 59.148 billion in the corresponding period of the previous year.

- Pakistan’s exports to five Central Asian Countries (CACs) fell year on year by 8.62 per cent in the first 10 months of 2025-26.
- The Economic Survey 2025-26 has revealed that Pakistan’s net exports remained negative.
- The merchandise trade deficit widened to USD 27.9 billion from USD 22.7 billion last year, driven by a 6.9 percent increase in imports amid recovering domestic economic activity.
- Exports remained stagnant at approximately 9 percent of GDP, while imports stayed elevated at around 16 percent.
- Total domestic sugar stocks have reached 7.9 million metric tonnes (MMT) against country’s annual consumption requirement of approximately 6.6 MMT, including projected population growth.
- Pakistan’s merchandise exports recorded a contraction of 5.61 per cent during the first 11 months of 2025-26, while the trade deficit widened amid a rise in imports and relatively modest export performance.
- US Trade Representative (USTR) has proposed to the Trump administration to slap 10pc additional duties on imports from Pakistan, Canada, Bangladesh, Ecuador, Indonesia, Mexico, Argentina, Taiwan, Britain and European Union.
- Importers in the United States had approached the Supreme Court against President Trump’s new tariff regime, which jolted the global market since the tariffs on imports were too high.
- The Ministry of Commerce has reportedly sought Rs 20 billion budget support already extended to the rice exporters to make them compatible with India in the international market.
- Government has expanded the Export Refinance Scheme to Rs88 billion.
- In macroeconomic framework for 2026-27, government set combined export target at $44.2bn — $32.9bn in merchandise and $11.3bn in services exports.

CORPORATE SECTOR

- A parliamentary committee has expressed concern about a decline in mango production, alongside the growing use of artificial sweeteners in beverages, which has adversely affected demand for natural mango-pulp-based products in the wake of changes to the country’s regulatory framework.
- Federal breastfeeding and child nutrition laws prohibited the promotion of breast-milk substitutes throughout Pakistan.

INTERNATIONAL AID / LOAN / INVESTMENT

- 70-80 percent of foreign businesses in the country are postponing or reviewing new investment decisions.

- The total inflows (excluding IMF), both loans and grants, in the first 11 months of the current fiscal year, amounted to $12.106bn, up from $6.891bn last year, an increase of 75.7pc.
- Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) dropped sharply 28.4 percent during the first eleven months of this fiscal year (FY26).
- Pakistan fetched FDI amounted to USD1.623 billion in July-May FY26 compared to USD 2.267 billion in same period of last fiscal year (FY25), showing a decline of USD 644 million.

POLICY

- The Punjab government unveiled a scaled-down Rs752 billion Annual Development Programme (ADP) for the next fiscal year, down about 40 per cent from last year's Rs1,240bn.
- Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah cut development spending by a steeper 29 per cent to Rs720 billion for 2026-27.
- The Balochistan government has allocated Rs206 billion for the Annual Development Plan (ADP) for the 2026-27 financial year.
- The Sindh government has said to have allocated a total of Rs108.1 billion for several Karachi development schemes in its budget for financial year 2026-27.
- Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Sohail Afridi unveiled a total development outlay of Rs524.3 billion for the 2026-27 fiscal yea.
- The federal government has set the privatization target of Rs 160.500 billion for fiscal year 2026-27.

SOCIO – ECONOMIC CONDITION

- Pakistan's central government debt surged by massive Rs 1.4tr in April alone.
- The central government's total debt stock climbed to an unprecedented Rs81.930 trillion by the end of April 2026, up from Rs80.524tr in March 2026.
- According to SBP data, external debt stocks jumped by Rs882 billion in a single month, climbing from Rs22.959 trillion at the end of March 2026 to Rs23.841 trillion by the end of April 2026.
- Amid a 17 per cent cut in allocations during the outgoing fiscal year, government and its agencies struggled to implement Public Sector Development Programme, utilising only about half of the budget earmarked for public welfare projects during the first 11 months of FY26.
- The government borrowed over Rs4.9 trillion from banks by June 12, compared with Rs3.7 trillion in the corresponding period last year.
- The devastating floods of 2025 caused losses amounting to Rs822bn, claimed 1,039 lives, and displaced more than four million people.

- Punjab alone incurred losses of Rs631bn– more than 76pc of nationwide damages – and accounted for 77pc of all deaths and displacements caused by disaster.
- The disaster also sent shock waves through the labour market, with more than 200,000 people losing their jobs.
- Agriculture emerged as the worst-affected sector, suffering losses estimated at Rs430bn. Crop damages alone amounted to Rs422bn.
- Despite the massive destruction, Economic Survey noted that agricultural sector demonstrated remarkable resilience, recording growth of 2.89pc in FY2026.
- While Pakistan continues to spend less than 1pc of GDP on health, its economic indicators are one of the worst in South Asia (SA).
- The Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) allocation for health was just Rs19.37 billion.
- National poverty rate has surged by seven per cent, pushing approximately 27m additional people into financial distress over the last six years and bringing the total number of impoverished population of the country to 70m.
- The government has allocated Rs4.183 billion for Ministry of National Food Security and Research (MNFS&R) in the annual budget for fiscal year 2026-27 under PSDP, compared to Rs4.25 billion in the budget 2025-26.
- 40 percent of children under five in Pakistan suffered from stunting growth while more than half of women and children had been affected by anaemia.
- Nutrition remains neglected in the federal budget, with up to 75 percent financing gaps at provincial levels, costing Pakistan nearly 17 billion dollars annually in lost productivity, healthcare expenses, and human capital losses.
- The people of the Kachho belt in the western part of Dadu district are facing one of the worst water crises as prolonged dry weather and poor rainfall have pushed the region towards famine-like conditions.
- Consumer inflation rose 11.7 per cent year-on-year in May.
- The average inflation during July-May FY26 was recorded at 6.69pc, compared with 4.61pc in the corresponding months last year.
- Poverty rose from 21.9pc in 2018-19 to 28.9pc in 2024-25.
- The increase comes after more than a decade of progress, during which Pakistan reduced poverty from 50.4pc in 2005-06 to 21.9pc in 2018-19.
- Poverty in rural areas has risen from 28.2pc to 36.2pc, while urban poverty has increased from 11pc to 17.4pc.
- Nearly half of Balochistan’s population now lives below the poverty line, while conditions have worsened markedly in Sindh and KP. Punjab, too, has recorded a significant increase.

ENVIRONMENT

- An eight-hour fire destroyed forest vegetation and shrubs over an estimated 30 to 35 acres in the Lal Sohanra National Park.

- Pakistan is losing an estimated 11,000 hectares of forest area every year due to persistent deforestation, posing severe threats to country's ecological balance.
- Pakistan's total forest cover currently stands at an estimated 4.11 million hectares, representing a meager 4.7 percent of the nation's total land area.
- The Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (Suparco) has identified 130 potentially dangerous glacial lakes (PGDLs) with possible risks to downstream settlements from glacial lake outburst floods (Glofs).
- Pakistan recorded its second-warmest year in 65 years in 2025, intensifying extreme floods and creating a systemic risk to the nation's economy.
- Pakistan's hottest year was 2024, the survey reported 2025 as second-warmest year in 65 years, marking consecutive years of record high temperatures.
- Over the last 50 years, the annual mean temperature in Pakistan has increased by approximately 0.5°C.
- The World Bank previously estimated baseline climate-resilient investment needs at $348 billion up to 2030, implying an additional requirement of approximately $217.7bn to meet the $565.7bn total investment needed.
- More than 200,000 lives have been lost to the "silent killer" of heat in Europe since 2022.
- The government has allocated Rs53.3 billion for different health projects, including Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP), in the proposed budget for the fiscal year 2026-27.
- The health sector's share in the overall social sector development budget stands at 2.2 per cent of the total Rs187.2 billion social sector allocation for the FY 2026-27.
- Furthermore, ongoing federal health schemes carry throw-forward liabilities exceeding Rs121 billion, legally tying the hands of future policymakers and locking public capital into brick-and-mortar projects for years to come.
- The Sindh government has allocated Rs393.16 billion for the health sector for the financial year 2026-27.
- The Balochistan government has increased health sector funding and allocated Rs96 billion for the fiscal year 2026-27, reflecting a 30 per cent rise compared to the current year's Rs71bn.
- The recently released Auditor-General of Pakistan's Audit Report has identified irregularities of Rs3.41 billion in various ancillary departments of the Ministry of National Health Services.

CLIMATE CHANGE

- Pakistan remained on the frontline of the global climate crisis in FY2026 as the 2025 floods alone caused damages worth Rs 822 billion, claimed more than 1,039 lives and displaced over four million people.

- The federal government, in the annual budget 2026-27, has allocated Rs 2.78 billion for the climate change sector.
- Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination (MoCC&EC) has secured an allocation of Rs2.478 billion under Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) for fiscal year 2026-27 beginning July 1.
- Agriculture contributed 23.4 percent to GDP and employing over 33.1 percent of the labour force. The sector grew by 2.89 percent in FY2025-26, nearly doubling last year's 1.53 percent expansion.
- The sector's performance was largely driven by a 3.75pc growth in livestock, alongside 1.66 percent increase in fisheries and a 2.02 percent rise in forestry.
- The climate shocks threaten agriculture, food security, rural livelihoods and economic stability of the country.
- Nearly 70 percent of farmers cultivate fewer than five acres, while less than two percent of agricultural losses are insured.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

AGRICULTURAL INPUTS

- Global trade in fertilisers crucial to agriculture harvests worldwide have slumped 30 percent since the start of the year, as the Mideast war sent prices soaring and led several countries to restrict exports.
- Trade volumes fell to 41 million tonnes in the first four months of this year, down from 58 million tonnes in the period last year.
- A third of the world's fertiliser supply passed through the Strait of Hormuz before the war that erupted on February 28, and officials have warned that farmers could face shortages during the summer growing season.

TRADE

- The US trade deficit in goods swelled to a 14-month high in May as businesses boosted imports, likely to avoid shortages and higher prices related to the Middle East conflict.
- The goods trade gap increased 27.4 percent to USD105.8 billion last month, the highest level since March 2025.

INTERNATIONAL AID / LOAN / INVESTMENT

- Britain and Japan sealed a sweeping economic and technological partnership, expected to generate over £18 billion (USD24 billion) in investment.

- Total trade between the United Kingdom and Japan is currently worth around £140 billion.

INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS (IFIs)

- The World Bank approved $1.1 billion in emergency financing for Bangladesh to help secure food supplies, support vulnerable households and businesses due to the rising prices of fertiliser, fuel and food from the Middle East conflict.

SOCIO – ECONOMIC CONDITION

- G7 leaders pledged to step up efforts to address high debt burdens among developing countries, including middle-income countries not currently eligible for a debt relief initiative launched by the broader Group of 20 large economies during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- United Nations warned that dramatic funding cuts for aid, at a time of multiple crises, have created unparallelled gaps, leaving tens of millions going hungry.
- The Middle East conflict is pushing millions of people closer to hunger.
- In March, the WFP forecast as many as 45 million people could fall into acute food insecurity if oil prices remained around $100 per barrel through June.
- In Somalia, 6.5m people — roughly a third of the population — are expected to face severe hunger in 2026, while Afghanistan could see 17.4m people affected.
- The clinical investigation spread over six years involved 15,068 women with moderate and severe anaemia giving birth in hospitals in Pakistan, Tanzania, Nigeria and Zambia. Of them, 1,1025 women — the highest number — were from Pakistan.
- The majority of pregnant women in Pakistan are anaemic. A 2024 local study suggests its prevalence up to 70 per cent.
- Sri Lanka began enforcing a ban on fast food and sweets in schools to tackle what government says are rising cases of diabetes and heart disease in children.

ENVIRONMENT

- Nearly 500 Ebola cases have now been confirmed in the deadly outbreak raging in central Africa.
- World Health Organisation tallied 452 confirmed cases, including 82 deaths, in the Democratic Republic of Congo.
- Thirty people have died since the start of May in one camp for displaced civilians in northeastern Congo, a death rate that camp officials said was unprecedented, with some confirmed to have died from Ebola in a sign the disease could be spreading fast there.

- The Central African Republic has declared a cholera outbreak after confirming 24 deaths and 197 cases near the capital Bangui.

CLIMATE CHANGE

- Greenland's glaciers are releasing four times more icebergs than 25 years ago as a result of climate change.
- Scientists have identified nearly 166,000 sq km of coral reefs that are capable of surviving and recovering from climate change, three times more than previously estimated.
- An analysis of 45,000 coral surveys together with decades of climate and ocean data has identified climate-resilient reefs across 71 countries and 100 territories.

CLIMATE DISASTER

- The UN system has repeatedly warned that the impact of extreme heat are already most severe in vulnerable regions, particularly South Asia.
- Forty people have drowned in France over recent days as they sought to cool down to escape record heat as a heatwave swept across much of Europe. Britain, Italy, Switzerland and Spain were also sweltering in extreme heat, with record temperatures.

NATURAL DISASTER

- At least 35 people were killed and 134 injured after a powerful 7.8-magnitude earthquake struck off the Philippine island of Mindanao.
- The Philippine seismology agency recorded more than 200 aftershocks, with the strongest measuring a magnitude 6.7.
- Thousands of Venezuelans were feared dead after two powerful earthquakes wreaked havoc in and around the capital Caracas.
- A magnitude 7.2 earthquake hit about 160km west of Caracas, followed less than a minute later by a magnitude 7.5 tremor.
- Death toll from Venezuela's devastating twin earthquakes rose above 1,400.

NATIONAL NEWS LISTING

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NATIONAL NEWS

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1 # AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION RESOURCES

Agriculture largely ignored

While industrialists noted some positive budgetary proposals, leaders of the farming community complained that the agriculture sector was largely ignored. Sindh Chamber of Agriculture Senior Vice President Nabi Bux Sathio said. Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb had not given adequate attention to the agriculture sector in his budget speech. He pointed out that Rs4.18 billion had been allocated for research, but without clarity on targeted areas. He said the agriculture sector was increasingly vulnerable to climate change and stressed the need for climate-resilient, high-yield seeds for major crops such as wheat, cotton, rice and sugarcane.

He warned that reliance on hybrid seeds in crops like rice, onion and chilli could be unsustainable in the long run. Mr Sathio said even the Rs4.18bn research allocation was insufficient, as the sector required much greater funding. He also referred to Rs7.3bn allocated for cold storage facilities, questioning the nature of such infrastructure and stressing that allocations must be linked to transparent utilisation and accountability. Mr Sathio said there was no mention of the livestock sector, despite its significant contribution to agriculture's share in GDP. He suggested that the Rs7.3bn allocated for cold storage should instead be directed towards the livestock sector to promote milk processing, meat production and exports.

Sindh Abadgar Board President Mahmood Nawaz Shah also felt that the agriculture sector had not been given serious attention in the budget speech. He said the agriculture sector had shown resilience even after the 2025 floods that mainly affected Punjab. He pointed out that water infrastructure allocations were mentioned, but major crops received little attention in the budget. The oilseed sector had also been ignored, despite its potential to reduce country's food import bill. *(Dawn, June 14th, 2026, Page 9)*

1.1 # Agricultural Policy

PM Shehbaz consults agriculture stakeholders ahead of budget, announces reform push

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif held a meeting with key stakeholders from Pakistan's agriculture sector ahead of the federal budget for fiscal year 2026-27, seeking recommendations to accelerate growth and unlock the sector's economic potential. The meeting was attended by representatives of farmers' organizations, dairy and livestock businesses, value-added agricultural industries, seed companies, as well as national and multinational firms operating in sector. The consultation was part of the government's pre-budget engagement process aimed at incorporating the views of stakeholders into policy and budgetary planning for the upcoming fiscal year. The stakeholders also welcomed the recently introduced seed policy and broader agricultural reforms, describing them as a “game changer” for Pakistan’s agriculture sector. Addressing the meeting, PM Shehbaz said agriculture has the capacity to bring about a transformative change in Pakistan’s economy and play a central role in the country’s recovery and long-term growth. He said the government was modernising the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) with the support of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences to accelerate agricultural research and innovation. The prime minister emphasized the need for technology-driven farming, improved productivity and stronger linkages between research institutions and farmers to enhance the sector’s competitiveness. To advance the government’s agricultural reform agenda and ensure sustainable development of the sector, Shehbaz directed the formation of a committee comprising experts and relevant stakeholders from across the country.

The committee will provide recommendations to support agricultural modernization, improve policy implementation and address challenges faced by farmers and agribusinesses, according to an official statement. The consultation comes as the government prepares to unveil the federal budget for FY2026-27, with agriculture expected to remain a key focus area due to its significant contribution to employment, exports and food security. *(Business Recorder, June 10th, 2026, Accessed from https://www.brecorder.com/news/40424679/pm-shehbaz-consults-agriculture-stakeholders-ahead-of-budget-announces-reform-push)*

PM consults agriculture stakeholders

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif underscored the transformative potential of the country’s agricultural sector, describing it as pivotal to reviving the national economy. He made the remarks during a consultative meeting with a delegation of agricultural stakeholders ahead of federal budget for fiscal year 2026-27. Delegation comprised representatives from farmer organisations, the dairy and livestock sectors, the value-added sector, seed companies, and both national and multinational institutions. The meeting aimed to seek stakeholder input on the upcoming budget and discuss strategies to strengthen and modernise agricultural sector. *(Business Recorder, June 10th, 2026, Page 1)*

PM Shehbaz directs major overhaul of agriculture sector

Calling for the immediate formulation of a comprehensive National Agriculture Policy, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif directed the restructuring of the Ministry of National Food Security, Research and Agricultural Reforms along modern lines. He also ordered the establishment of an apex forum for the agricultural sector to promote innovation and improve crop yields. The prime minister also directed that a nationwide awareness campaign be launched for the Zarkhez Agricultural Loan Programme to enable farmers to access agricultural financing more easily. He emphasised that the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council should be transformed into a genuine centre of excellence for agricultural research. The prime minister said the agriculture sector had the potential to put Pakistan on the path to sustainable economic growth.

He said the use of improved seeds, modern farming technologies, and the timely availability of water and fertilisers would significantly increase per-acre crop yields. He also stressed the need to focus on value addition in agricultural produce, improved warehousing, and modern storage facilities. During the meeting, participants were given a detailed briefing and presented proposals for reforms in the agricultural sector.

Officials of the National Agricultural Research Centre informed the meeting that the centre was producing multi-grain flour on a pilot basis. They also said an AI-based mobile application was being developed to help farmers identify crop diseases and pests and recommend effective control measures. The meeting was informed that the National Credit Guarantee Company Limited would provide financial support to improve farmers' access to affordable agricultural loans. Officials further informed the meeting that the National Seed Policy and the National Agriculture Biotechnology Policy had recently been approved. Consultations on the Pakistan National Olive Value Chain Policy have also been completed, and the policy will soon be submitted to the federal cabinet for approval. The meeting was further informed that consultations were underway on a National Wheat Policy, as well as several policies relating to the livestock sector. *(Dawn, June 30th, 2026, Page 3)*

1.2 # Farmer

PTI accuses govt of 'anti-farmer' policies, warns of agriculture crisis

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) lawmakers strongly criticised government for allegedly pursuing anti-poor and anti-farmer policies that are systematically weakening the country's economy, also decried relief in super tax to the benefit of the wealthy. They claimed that these policies were burdening the underprivileged with rising taxes, and deliberately slashing public sector development spending to make room for its own royal-style expenditures. *(The News, June 21st, 2026, Page 9)*

PTI farmers wing calls for revival of farmer field schools

Central Information Secretary of Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf Farmers Wing Khalid Nawaz Sadhraich has called for the revival and activation of Farmers Field Schools (FFSs) to ensure that modern agricultural technologies developed by research institutions reach farmers directly and contribute to increased crop productivity. Mr Sadhraich said valuable agricultural research conducted by the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (Parc), National Agricultural Research Centre (Narc) and provincial agricultural research institutions remained largely confined to files instead of benefiting farmers in the field. *(Dawn, June 22nd, 2026, Page 4)*

1.3 # Land

5 killed as rivals trade fire over land dispute in South Waziristan

At least five persons were killed and two others sustained injuries when two rival families traded fire over a long-standing land dispute in the Gul Kach area of Toi Khullah tehsil of Lower South Waziristan district. The sources said that the dispute between the families of Malik Adam Khan and Gul Shah Khan had persisted for years over the ownership of a piece of land. Tribal elders and local notables have reportedly stepped in to mediate between the two sides in an effort to prevent further violence and restore calm. *(The News, June 7th, 2026, Page 3)*

Three sisters get back inherited land after 30 years

Thirty-five kanals of private hereditary agricultural land, valued at Rs35 million, was retrieved from an illegal occupant after around three decades and handed over to three sisters, who are rightful owners, at 99/6-R village. *(Dawn, June 8th, 2026, Page 8)*

Balochistan govt, NAB retrieve state land in several towns

In a major development aimed at safeguarding national resources and restoring the writ of the state, the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Balochistan, in collaboration with the provincial government, has successfully reclaimed state land worth billions of rupees. According to details, preliminary scrutiny of forest land in 2025 revealed that no formal government record existed for the transfer of approximately 2.8 million acres of land belonging to the Forest Department. Taking serious notice of this lapse, NAB Balochistan launched prompt and across-the-board action under the directives of the NAB chairman.

During 2025 alone, more than one million acres of state land were retrieved, resulting in recoveries estimated at Rs1,370bn — one of largest land recovery operations in Pakistan's history. Maintaining the momentum, operations were intensified in 2026, leading to the recovery of around 260,000 acres of land in Quetta, Sibi, Sherani, Hub, Lasbela and Gwadar, with a total estimated value of Rs414.2bn. In Quetta, over 47,000 acres were reclaimed, translating into recoveries worth Rs363bn. Similar operations in other districts yielded significant results: approximately 176,000 acres in Gwadar (Rs25bn), 17,000 acres in Lasbela (Rs2bn), 153 acres in Hub (Rs500m), 15,000 acres in Sherani (Rs29bn) and 2,861 acres in Sibi (Rs2bn). *(Dawn, June 15th, 2026, Page 5)*

Land dispute claims three lives in Mardan

A land dispute claimed lives of three persons, including two women, in the Kandharay area of Garikapura tehsil of Mardan district. *(Dawn, June 17th, 2026, Page 8)*

1.4 # Water

Irrigation water shortage in Sindh reaches alarming level

The Right Bank Canal System of Sukkur Barrage is currently experiencing a critical irrigation water shortage, severely impacting command areas of Larkana an Qambar-Shahdadkot districts, as well as the lands in Balochistan, fed through the North West Canal (NWC) during the peak Kharif crop season. The impact is also affecting Dadu Canal, Rice Canal and those irrigating the Sukkur district. Sources privy to the situation told that the prevailing shortfall across the canal network has reached an alarming level — North West Canal (-) 64.1%, Rice Canal (-) 38.0% and Dadu Canal (-) 82.0%.

Credible data obtained from sources in Sindh's irrigation department indicates that Punjab is currently drawing 53,394 cusecs against its allocated share of 44,000 cusecs — an excess withdrawal of around 21.35%. Similarly, Taunsa Barrage is lifting 25,694 cusecs against its entitled share of 24,000 cusecs, reflecting an over-withdrawal of approximately 9.3%. *(Dawn, June 7th, 2026, Page 15)*

Sindh, Balochistan cry foul as Irsa keeps mum over deepening water crisis

Water crisis in Sindh and Balochistan continues to deepen with each passing day as the Indus River System Authority (Irsa) remains indifferent to their hue and cry constantly being raised over the last few weeks. The two smaller provinces have been expressing their strong reservations over "unfair" deduction in their share of the Indus water while Punjab continues to draw in excess of its allocated quantum.

Kotri Barrage reported 57pc reduction in flows on June 7 as Sindh's overall deficit in flows rose from 22pc to 39pc within the last fortnight while Punjab, through its controversial Chashma-Jhelum (CJ) link canal keeps withdrawing more water than Kotri. Balochistan has also come up with 71pc reduction in its share from Sukkur Barrage's right bank canal. The Balochistan irrigation department has taken up the issue with Irsa, pressing it to settle it with Sindh authorities in order to ensure its required share of 2,000 cusecs at Garang Regulator of North Western Canal (NWC). Balochistan is receiving just 571 cusecs, indicating 71pc lesser flows than its allocated share. *(Dawn, June 8th, 2026, Page 15)*

25pc cut in Sindh's water share resented

The Sindh Abadgar Board (SAB) which met under the chairmanship of its President Syed Mahmood Nawaz Shah resented the recent decision of Indus River System Authority (Irsa) to arbitrarily reduce water flows to Sindh by 25pc. It deplored that such a decision was taken despite surplus water being available in the system, and that too at a time when water requirement would be reaching its peak in coming days. The board urged Irsa to take a prudent step and release already available water to Sindh without further delay to prevent any major losses to the Kharif crops.

The meeting noted that Irsa decided to curtail water releases from Chashma to Sindh to 100,000 cusecs from the existing 133,000 cusecs. It would take another 10 days to reach the irrigation system of Sindh. It said that by that time, sowing of paddy, for which seed has already been planted, would need to be transplanted, meaning that additional 1.8m would be required. This is, in fact, in addition to other Kharif crops like cotton, sugar cane etc. The meeting noted that this reduction is being done when combined storages of Tarbela, Mangla and Chashma have more than 3.9MAF (million acre feet) and inflow in the system is more than the outflow, meaning that water is being stored in dams. It is important to understand that this arbitrary reduction is being carried out by Irsa on the pretext that Sindh used more water in last months. *(Dawn, June 9th, 2026, Page 15)*

Irsa increases flows to Sindh after crop damage

The Indus River System Authority (Irsa) has increased releases downstream of Chashma Barrage to meet Sindh's water requirements, but not before substantial damage had already been inflicted on the sowing of summer crops across the province. Improved releases of 200,000 cusecs were made downstream of Chashma on June 13 and 14. However, it is estimated that the additional water would take five days to reach Guddu Barrage and another seven days, meaning 10 to 12 days, to reach Kotri Barrage, where shortages are most acute. Sindh's indent is supplied at Chashma Barrage despite repeated demands that it should be released at Guddu Barrage to minimise transit losses. *(Dawn, June 15th, 2026, Page 3)*

Around 17 projects designed by India to alter river system: Dar

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister (DPM/FM) Ishaq Dar said that around 17 projects have been designed by India to significantly alter the river system as a whole, giving New Delhi the tools for the "hydro-hegemony" it seeks. DPM/FM issued a stern warning to India at the Brussels Conference titled; "Transboundary Water Resources: A Weaponised Global Common." Dar said that "it is important to underscore that our concerns are not merely based on Indian statements. India has followed up its belligerent statements with illegal actions; these include projects to create reservoirs such as Sawalkot, Kirthai, Kwar, etc.; the expansion of existing structures such as Baglihar and Salal; and most alarmingly, diversion projects on the Indus, Chenab, and Ravi rivers." *(Business Recorder, June 19th, 2026, Page 12)*

Climate change alone not behind agriculture crisis, says report

Pakistan has been ranked 14th among countries facing severe water scarcity, highlighting a critical threat to agriculture, food security and the national economy. This has been stated in a research report issued by Ampic Strategies titled "Sustainable agriculture in Pakistan: can Pakistan meet its future food requirements?" The report states that attributing Pakistan's agricultural crisis solely to climate change is misleading, as decades of weak governance and policy failures also play a significant role. Inefficient irrigation systems, declining soil fertility, excessive use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, continuous monocropping and poor policy implementation have intensified the impacts of floods, droughts and heatwaves.

Agriculture is described as the backbone of Pakistan's economy, contributing around 24 per cent to GDP and providing employment to more than 37 per cent of the workforce. It also supports the food and livelihood needs of over 240 million people, yet the sector is currently under severe pressure. The report notes that Pakistan's per capita availability of renewable freshwater has been steadily declining. In 1951, per person water availability was approximately 5,260 cubic metres, but it has now dropped to below 1,000 cubic meters, indicating a severe level of water stress. Nearly 90 per cent of agriculture depends on the Indus Basin irrigation system, further increasing pressure on limited water resources.

Climate change impacts include rising temperatures, irregular monsoon patterns, prolonged droughts and recurring floods, all of which are reducing agricultural productivity. Increased pest attacks and growing financial stress on farmers are further worsening the situation. The report adds that excessive irrigation, continuous monocropping and heavy reliance on chemical fertilizers are damaging both yields and the environment. As a solution, the report emphasises effective implementation of existing policies rather than introducing new legislation. These include the National Climate Change Policy, National Food Security Policy, Recharge Pakistan Programme and Green Taxonomy Framework, which already exist but suffer from weak enforcement. Recommendations include modern irrigation systems, land restoration, advisory services for farmers, climate-smart financial facilities and stronger collaboration between government, universities and the private sector. The report also calls for increased investment in agricultural extension services to provide farmers with better technology and guidance. *(Dawn, June 29th, 2026, Page 4)*

Pakistan 14th most water-scarce country: report

Pakistan has emerged as the 14th most water-scarce country in the world, with shrinking freshwater resources posing a serious threat to agricultural productivity, food security and long-term economic stability. A report titled "Sustainable Agriculture in Pakistan: Can Pakistan Meet Its Future Food Requirements?" by Ampic Strategies says unsustainable farming practices, coupled with decades of weak governance and poor policy implementation, have pushed the country's agriculture sector into a deepening crisis. *(Business Recorder, June 29th, 2026, Page 3)*

2 # AGRICULTURAL INPUTS

Farmers to get crop-specific climate advisories under FAO plan

Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) is implementing a project "Transforming the Indus basin with climate resilient agriculture and water management" in five districts of Punjab and three districts of Sindh, with south Punjab serving as a critical geographic focus for building climate resilience in agriculture. This project is funded by Green Climate Fund (GCF) and co-financed by the Punjab and Sindh governments. The project aims to transform agriculture in the Indus basin by increasing resilience among vulnerable farmers and strengthening institutional capacity to support climate adaptation. According to the GCF, the project is expected to benefit 1.3 million people directly and 16m indirectly.

Under the project, FAO in collaboration with Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has installed 24 automatic weather stations (15 in Punjab and nine in Sindh). To maximise the benefits of extended network in the project districts, FAO is working closely with meteorological department in generation of impact based weather forecasting (IBF) for Rabi and Kharif crops. It is worth mentioning that the IBF was designed, launched and disseminated for the Rabi 2025-26 wheat crop. *(Dawn, June 19th, 2026, Page 2)*

2.1 # Agricultural Loan & Finances

Govt encourages private agri storage financing

Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb has said that government is committed to encouraging private sector-led innovative financing solutions to address structural challenges in agriculture sector. He was addressing the launch of Agri-Storage Portfolio Financing Facility. The facility, led by InfraZamin Pakistan, aims to strengthen the country's agricultural value chains and address persistent post-harvest losses.

The finance minister said that no government guarantee is being offered, and InfraZamin has stepped up with a credit guarantee programme that will de-risk private sector participation and crowd in long-term investment into critical agri value chain infrastructure. Once fully deployed, the facility will mobilise up to Rs7.1 billion in private sector capital for agricultural storage investment, comprising Rs5bn in debt and Rs2.1bn in equity, across farming communities in Pakistan.

The facility is supported by Rs2.5bn or 50 per cent principal credit guarantee coverage from InfraZamin. Funds mobilised will be used towards renovation, upgrade and new development of agri warehousing, silos and cold storage across the country. This is being pioneered in partnership with leading financial institutions — Pak Brunei Investment Company Ltd (PBICL), Faysal Bank and Bank of Punjab — who will offer the facility to their corporate and SME customers. *(Dawn, June 5th, 2026, Page 9)*

Sindh Budget 2026-27: Sindh gets Rs6.1bn for agriculture, livestock uplift

The Sindh province's agriculture development portfolio, inclusive of the livestock sector, has been allocated Rs6.12 billion, about 1.66 per cent of the total Annual Development Programme (ADP) of the Sindh government for 2026-27. Of this outlay, Rs4.714bn has been earmarked for fiscal year 2026-27 for seven components of the agriculture department, including extension services, marketing, mechanisation, research, whilst Rs1.4129bn has been allocated for the livestock sector. The latter is also supposed to get Rs4.76bn in funds under FPA (foreign project assistance).

This Rs4.714bn agriculture development allocation is focused on ongoing schemes scheduled for completion, as the government has not included any new scheme. Its break-up shows that agriculture extension will receive Rs656.700m; marketing Rs1.319bn; mechanisation Rs612.059m; research Rs255.250m; water management Rs1.796bn; supply, prices and measures Rs30.680m and training & research Rs43.750m. CM Murad Ali Shah said Sindh contributes 35-40pc of Pakistan's rice production, 30-35pc of cotton, 25-30pc of sugarcane and 12-15pc of wheat production.

He referred to 306,709 Benazir Hari Cards issued to farmers during the current year and Sindh Wheat Growers Support Programme 2025, under which cash subsidies were provided to 0.3m wheat growers through the card for the purchase of wheat inputs. The chief minister said that the Sindh government would provide Rs20bn for wheat in

FY2026-27, adding that a support of Rs8,750 per 100 kilograms was provided for the procurement of one million tonnes of wheat in FY 2025-26. He clarified that this strategic relief measure was taken despite an International Monetary Fund precondition under the National Fiscal Pact to phase out the government's footprint from commodity market operations. He said that the cost of inputs had increased by more than 50-100pc since 2021 in some categories. For development expenditure, funds have been allocated to nine ongoing agriculture extension schemes, three agriculture marketing schemes, four agriculture mechanisation schemes and five research schemes in the budget.

The Bio-saline Agriculture Research and Development Phase-II scheme is being executed in Khairpur, Tharparkar and Umerkot districts, where 76.1pc financial progress had been achieved by June 2026. It will receive Rs47.850m in FY2026-27. The scheme for the upgradation of the Horticulture Research Centre, Mirpurkhas, will receive Rs130m in 2026-27. The varietal development of wheat through speed breeding scheme is being executed in Hyderabad and Shaheed Benazirabad districts at a total cost of Rs100m, of which Rs98.500m, or 98pc of the approved funding, had been spent by June 2026. It will now receive Rs1.5m for completion.

The production of early-category seeds of climate-resilient crops for enhanced food security scheme, with a total cost of Rs50m, has also received an allocation. Around Rs24.700m had been spent by June 2026, and the remaining Rs25.300m has been earmarked for it. The improvement in the new watercourses scheme has been allocated Rs416.822m, with 36.5pc financial progress achieved against its approved cost of Rs2bn. Another water conservation scheme, approved last year at a cost of Rs1.02bn, will receive an allocation of Rs510m in 2026-27, as 50pc of its funds had already been utilised by June 2026. *(Dawn, June 18th, 2026, Page 17)*

Sindh's agriculture research budget slashed

This year's National Economic Survey notes that Pakistan ranks among the most severely climate-affected countries despite contributing less than one per cent of global emissions. Yet the country bears a disproportionately high burden of global climate change. The Economic Survey of Pakistan 2025-26 pegs agriculture at 23.4pc of GDP and 33.1pc of total employment, underlining its centrality to livelihoods and food security. Sectoral growth is estimated at 2.89pc. Sindh accounts for 35–40pc of national rice output, 30–35pc of cotton, 25–30pc of sugarcane and 12–15pc of wheat, according to the chief minister's budget speech.

However, Sindh is prone to extreme weather events. The super floods of 2010, followed by devastating rains in 2011, 2020, 2022 and 2023, repeatedly inflicted heavy losses on standing crops and damaged water infrastructure. As a lower-riparian province, Sindh also faces recurring water stress — at times man-made due to contested interprovincial distribution — which directly undermines kharif output. Soil degradation compounds these pressures. With this agricultural landscape, development in the research sector is far from satisfactory. Research understandably holds the key to agricultural growth. At a time when climate change-driven weather patterns have become a regular phenomenon that threatens crops, research-oriented measures have become inevitable. The government has attributed the reduction in the overall development outlay to Sindh's contribution to national strategic fiscal requirements.

Amidst these challenges facing the sector, the agriculture research and development budget has been slashed by 57pc in FY27 allocations compared with FY26. The government allocated Rs6.30bn for the agriculture sector, inclusive of livestock, which, according to the chief minister, is 1.66pc of the total annual development programme (ADP) of Sindh. The chief minister has attributed the reduction in the overall development outlay to Sindh's contribution to national strategic fiscal requirements. Within the agriculture development portfolio, Rs4.71bn has been allocated in total, of which Rs255m is reserved for research and Rs1.41bn for livestock. The research allocation is to fund five ongoing schemes in FY27. By comparison, the research wing received Rs592m in FY 26, including Rs75m for new schemes, signalling a 57pc contraction year-on-year. *(Dawn, June 22nd, 2026, Page Business and Finance 2)*

Italy approves €20m agri loan

Italy signed a loan agreement to provide €20 million (about Rs6.3 billion) to Pakistan to support the professional capacity building and extension in agriculture project under Pakistan's Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) National Reform Programme. *(Dawn, June 30th, 2026, Page 9)*

2.2 # Industrial Production of Agriculture

Agriculture sector: Pakistan seeks Germany's partnership

Pakistan has sought Germany's partnership in modernizing its agriculture sector and enhancing livestock development as part of efforts to boost productivity and strengthen food security. The two sides decided to explore opportunities for expanding bilateral cooperation in agriculture, livestock, research, technology transfer, and food security. Both countries agreed to examine avenues for collaboration in agricultural research, mechanization, climate-smart farming practices, livestock genetics, water-efficient technologies, food safety standards, and value-added agricultural products.

The minister invited German companies and institutions to participate in Pakistan's dairy modernization initiatives, agricultural mechanization programmes, food processing industry, and establishment of modern slaughterhouses. Referring to the livestock sector, which accounts for almost 60 pc of agricultural output, the minister proposed cooperation in livestock genetics, breed improvement, advanced reproductive technologies, animal feed development, and the production of vaccines against Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD). Pakistan was introducing its first Biotechnology Policy, which would create new opportunities for research, innovation, and foreign investment in agriculture sector. *(Business Recorder, June 19th, 2026, Page 2)*

PMEX and IFC partner to strengthen agricultural commodity futures markets

Pakistan Mercantile Exchange Limited (PMEX) and the International Finance Corporation (IFC) have entered into a Cooperation Agreement to strengthen Pakistan's agricultural commodities futures market and support the implementation of the Electronic Warehouse Receipt (EWR) regime. The partnership aims to enhance transparency, efficiency, and private sector participation in commodity markets. By strengthening price discovery and risk management tools, it will help farmers, traders, processors, and investors make informed business decisions.

The initiative is also expected to support investment in warehousing infrastructure, reduce post-harvest losses, and contribute to food security in Pakistan. Maize, rice, cotton, and wheat have been identified as priority commodities for futures trading on the PMEX platform. IFC will support a review of the existing regulatory framework governing the storage, transportation, and trading of agricultural commodities and recommend reforms to strengthen the enabling environment. IFC will also facilitate stakeholder engagement, support development of futures contracts, and lead awareness and capacity-building initiatives to promote futures trading and the wider adoption of electronic warehouse receipts. *(Business Recorder, June 19th, 2026, Page 4)*

Pakistan, Canada discuss agriculture, livestock cooperation

Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research Rana Tanveer Hussain and Canadian High Commissioner to Pakistan Tarik Ali Khan discussed opportunities to enhance bilateral cooperation in agriculture, livestock development, agri-business investment, technology transfer and agricultural trade. During the meeting, the minister said Pakistan was keen to expand collaboration with Canada in areas that contribute to food security, agricultural modernisation and economic growth. He highlighted Canada's expertise in sustainable agriculture, mechanised farming, seed technology and value-added food production.

Rana Tanveer noted that Pakistan spends around $4-5 billion annually on edible oil imports and expressed interest in benefiting from Canadian experience in canola cultivation, seed development, precision agriculture and agricultural research to help reduce import dependence. He also highlighted Pakistan's potential to increase exports of agricultural products, including mangoes, rice, kinnow, dates and halal meat, saying greater cooperation could improve market access and investment opportunities. *(The News, June 21st, 2026, Page 18)*

2.3 # Seed

NSDRA faces questions over GMO oversight, appointments

The National Seed Development and Regulatory Authority (NSDRA) was created to build a merit-based, technical seed sector but the evidence so far suggests otherwise. The body faces serious questions relating allegations regarding conflict of interest, GMO influence, overlapping employment, and nepotism. The first case concerns Mr.

Muhammad Asim, appointed Member, Regulation at NSDRA on March 2, 2026, per a Ministry of National Food Security and Research order. According to available information, he served for about 20 years as at different positions including Manager, Regulatory Affairs at a multinational corporation (MNC), which acquired a company dealing in agriculture and seed operations in Pakistan, in 2018. The concern: he is now adjudicating GMO maize matters similar to those he lobbied for the MNC.

Ironically, this is not first controversy with industry's pressure on GMO regulation. The concerns around NSDRA gain weight when seen against a 2011 episode involving the company dealing in seeds before takeover by the MNC and GM corn commercialisation process. According to a report carried by The News, in June 2011, the head of an official Technical Assistance Committee sub-committee, Dr. Iftikhar Ahmad, DG NARC, resigned citing that the committee had been "scandalized" and an "environment of prejudice" created. The trigger was an attempt to approve GM corn in an irregular way. *(The News, June 28th, 2026, Page 8)*

3 # AGRICULTURAL OUTPUTS

Agriculture grows 2.89pc

The agriculture sector grew 2.89 pc in 2025-26 despite devastating floods of 2025, with strong livestock performance and improved production of key crops helping the sector recover from last year's slowdown, reveals the Pakistan Economic Survey 2025-26. Survey showed that agriculture, which contributes 23.4pc to the national GDP – slightly down from 23.62pc last year – employs over 33pc of workforce. The sector grew from 1.53pc in the previous year. The crop sector returned to positive territory with 1.44pc growth, while livestock, the largest component of agriculture, expanded by 3.75pc.

Among major crops, sugarcane registered the highest growth of 6.2pc, with production rising to 89.45 million tonnes. Wheat output increased by 4.3pc to 29.61mt, while rice production rose 2.8pc to nearly 10mt. However, maize and cotton production declined by 2.7pc and 0.5pc, respectively. Survey highlighted a significant increase in production of pulses, vegetables and fruits, which grew by31.4pc, 12.6pc and 2.8pc, respectively. Gram production surged by more than 50pc, while potato output increased by 27.6pc.

Livestock continued to underpin agricultural growth, accounting for 62.4pc of agriculture's value addition and 14.6pc of GDP. The sector's gross value addition rose to Rs6.23 trillion, while milk production reached 74.7mt and meat production climbed to 6.31mt. The government claims it has launched a major transformation plan for the meat sector, aiming to increase exports from around $500m to nearly $700m by 2028 through improved disease control, livestock genetics, processing facilities and export-oriented value chains.

Poultry industry also maintained strong growth, producing 2.83mt of meat and over 28 billion eggs during the year. The sector now contributes more than 43pc of the country's total meat production and provides employment to over 1.5 million people. The fisheries sector produced 642,180 tonnes of fish during the first nine months of FY2026 and earned $405 million through exports, while forestry recorded 2.02pc growth. Under the Green Pakistan Programme, nearly 2.26bn plants have been planted, regenerated or distributed across the country. *(Dawn, June 12th, 2026, Page 9)*

Agri sector misses 4.5pc growth target

Pakistan's agriculture sector has missed the growth target of 4.5 percent set for the outgoing financial year and grew by 2.89 percent, according to the Economic Survey 2025-26. The Survey noted that the agriculture sector recorded a growth of 2.89 percent, compared to 1.53 percent during the same period last year. Cotton and maize production contracted by 0.5 percent and 2.7 percent, respectively, it said. It further stated that sugarcane registered growth of 6.2 percent (rising from 84.24 to 89.45 million tons), followed by wheat at 4.3 percent (increasing from 28.40 to 29.61 million tons), and rice at 2.8 percent (up from 9.72 to 9.99 million tons).

During 2025-26 the livestock sub-sector, a major component of agriculture and an important contributor to the overall economy, expanded by 3.75 percent, against 2.95 percent in 2024-25. This performance was supported by a 3.46 percent increase in output, notwithstanding a 4.5 percent decline in green fodder availability. According to the Economic Survey, during 2025-26, cotton was sown on 2.01 million hectares, a 1.5 percent decline in area compared to 2.04 million hectares last year, the production of cotton declined by 0.5 percent to 7.05 million bales from 7.08 million bales last year.

Decrease in production was mainly associated with a reduction in area sown, as farmers continued to adjust cropping choices in response to relative returns and competing Kharif crop options. Wheat was cultivated over an area of 9.48 million hectares, compared to 9.07 million hectares last year, reflecting an increase of 4.4 percent, wheat production increased by 4.3 percent to 29.61 million tons, compared with 28.40 million tons last year, supported by an expansion in area sown. The favourable input conditions at the time of sowing provided important support to crop performance.

During 2025-26, despite 3.6 percent decline in area as compared to last year, the production of rice increased by 2.8 percent to 9.99 million tons from 9.72 million tons. The increase was driven by a 6.6 percent improvement in yield, which reached 2,660 kg/hectares. The Survey noted that the area under sugarcane cultivation expanded by 2.4 percent to 1.22 million hectares during 2025-26 and production increased by 6.2 percent to 89.45m tons, driven by a 3.7pc improvement in yield to 73,200 kg/hectares. This was mainly driven by higher expected returns compared to competing crops like cotton and maize, thereby encouraging farmers to expand sugarcane cultivation.

Maize was sown on 1.59 million hectares showing a decrease of 0.1 percent over last year whereas its production declined by 2.7 percent to 8.79 million tons from 9.04 million tons. During 2025-26, the production of gram, potato, chillies, moong, and bajra increased by 50.4 percent, 27.6 percent, 23.5 percent, 15.2 percent, and 7.2 percent, respectively, mainly due to expansion in the cultivated area. On the other hand, production of onion, mash, masoor, barley, and jawar declined by 2.2 percent, 3.7 percent, 8.0 percent, 6.6 percent, and 12.3 percent, respectively.

Livestock industry has become the primary driver of agricultural growth, accounting for 62.4 percent of agriculture's value addition and 14.6 percent of GDP in 2025-26. The sector has experienced steady growth, with its gross value addition increasing from Rs6,004 billion in financial year2025 to Rs6,229 billion in financial year 2026, reflecting a growth of 3.75 percent. *(Business Recorder, June 12th, 2026, Page 12)*

Sindh's standing crops facing devastation, warn growers' bodies

A combination of an unprecedented heatwave, acute water shortages and a crumbling irrigation infrastructure has pushed standing crops across Sindh to brink of devastation, agricultural bodies have warned. Syed Siraj Auliya Rashdi, the Larkana division President of the Sindh Chamber of Agriculture, stated that this year's extreme temperatures have broken all previous records. The climate spike coincides with a severe supply crisis across major right-bank canals originating from the Sukkur Barrage — including the Rice, Dadu, and Khirthar canals — coinciding with the critical paddy transplantation season. *(Dawn, June 13th, 2026, Page 15)*

3.1 # Cash Crop

Imports of cotton surge despite lower local prices

Pakistan emerged as the largest buyer of US cotton for the second consecutive week despite a sharp decline in domestic cotton and phutti prices during the Eidul Azha holidays, prompting industry bodies to urge the federal and provincial governments to reduce taxes, energy tariffs and interest rates in the upcoming budgets to support the struggling cotton and textile sectors. *(Dawn, June 1st, 2026, Page 1)*

Punjab misses cotton cultivation target by 18pc

Punjab has recorded a sharp decline in cotton cultivation during the current cotton year 2026-27, missing the provincial target by 18 per cent and raising fears of higher cotton and edible oil imports in the coming months. The Punjab government had set a target of cultivating cotton on 3.2 million acres for the 2026-27 season. However, final figures released by the Crop Reporting Services of the Punjab Agriculture Department show that cotton was cultivated on only 2.614m acres, falling short of the target by 586,000 acres. The cultivated area is also 512,000 acres lower than last year, marking a significant year-on-year decline. *(Dawn, June 22nd, 2026, Page 2)*

Genetically modified maize licences likely to be renewed

The government is likely to renew licences for the commercialisation and cultivation of genetically modified maize throughout Pakistan, even as several nations, including the European Union, have prohibited its cultivation on their soils and its use in animal feed if it exceeds a certain threshold. According to documents seen by Dawn, the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination had scheduled a meeting to consider requests from GMO seed companies seeking commercialisation and sale of GMO maize for cultivation across Pakistan. However, the 38th meeting of the National Biosafety Committee was postponed.

In March 2016, the National Biosafety Committee (NBC) issued licences to Corteva Pvt Ltd, formerly Pioneer, to conduct only confined field trials of GMO maize Events, which expired in March 2019. Similarly, in January 2017, Bayer Pvt Ltd was granted licences to carry out only confined field trials of maize Events. The licences expired in January 2022. However, in May 2019, all biosafety licences regarding import and field trials of GMO maize in the country were suspended allegedly due to its health and environmental concerns, as maize is a highly cross-pollinated crop and risks contaminating non-GMO maize in the country.

In the absence of National Agricultural Biotechnology Policy, it was difficult to fulfil the international commitment under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, which was a global agreement that ensured the safe handling, transfer and implement strict safety risk assessment procedures to protect biological diversity from potential environmental risks due to the use of GMOs. Documents show that in a meeting on June 10, Dr Nasir A. Saeed, who is the Director, National Institute of Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering, Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission, apprised Technical Advanced Committee meeting that suspension of GM maize licences was based on key considerations. *(Dawn, June 26th, 2026, Page 9)*

3.2 # Food Crop

Bread prices soar across Sindh as govt misses wheat targets by 90pc

Flour prices across Sindh have spiked dramatically after the provincial food department missed its annual wheat procurement target by more than 90 per cent, sparking fears of an acute food security crisis and forcing millers to call for emergency imports. The regional government had set a target to procure one million tonne of wheat for the 2025–26 season. However, official sources admit the department has managed to secure just 80,000 tonne so far, with “hardly any likelihood” of further purchases. The procurement failure has triggered a 25 percent surge in the open market. In Hyderabad, wheat is trading at up to Rs10,900 rupees per 100kg, whilst in Karachi it has hit Rs11,100. Consequently, retail flour prices have jumped to between Rs135 and Rs140 per kg — vastly exceeding the government’s officially notified subsidised rate of Rs107 per kg.

The crisis comes despite Sindh boasting a bumper harvest. Initial estimates from the provincial agriculture department suggest Sindh produced 4.8 million tonne of wheat this season — up over one million tonne from the previous year’s output of 3.5 million tonne. However, bureaucratic inertia crippled the state’s buying power. After staying out of the market last year under International Monetary Fund (IMF) loan conditions, the Sindh government launched its procurement drive too late. Officials announced an April start, by which time a significant portion of the crop in lower Sindh — where climatic constraints force farmers into early harvesting so they can plant cotton — had already been sold. *(Dawn, June 2nd, 2026, Page 15)*

Untimely rains harm mango, wheat crops

Unexpected rains in April badly hit the wheat and mango crops and the farmers fearing that the ongoing heat wave and any shortfall in the rain s during the monsoon season can damage the rice and cotton crops as well. "Untimely rains in April badly damaged the mango crop and the output would be 40 percent less than what it was last year," Khalid Khokhar, President of the Kissan Ittehad told. He said that Sindhri and Daesari somehow was damaged slightly but crops of chuansa, anwer Retol, and langra have been damaged by almost 40 percent. *(Business Recorder, June 8th, 2026, Page 3)*

Wheat supply to KP ordered

The Ministry of National Food Security has decided to supply wheat to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa after Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif ordered the ministry to ensure supply through the Pakistan Agricultural Storage & Services Corporation. Federal Minister for Food Security Rana Tanveer Hussain said the move was aimed at protecting the people of KP from the effects of inflation. He said instructions have been issued to ensure immediate and effective wheat supply through Passco. *(Dawn, June 11th, 2026, Page 8)*

Wheat misappropriation: Five food dept officials dismissed from service, recovery of over Rs2.65bn ordered

On directives of Sindh Minister for Food Makhdoom Mehboob Uz Zaman, the provincial food department has taken departmental action against officials found involved in misappropriation, shortages, illegal handling, adulteration and misuse of government wheat stocks. Five officials of the Sindh food department have been dismissed from service after completion of disciplinary proceedings under the Sindh Civil Servants (Efficiency & Discipline) Rules, 1973.The dismissed officials were found involved in serious irregularities causing huge financial loss to the public exchequer and creating risk to the government's objective of providing subsidised wheat flour to the people. The food department has also ordered recovery of government losses amounting to more than Rs 2.65bn, including principal amount and markup, from the delinquent officials under the relevant law. *(The News, June 21st, 2026, Page 13)*

3.3 # Fruit

'Industrial tomato' varieties: Chinese research center, Pakistani food company ink MoU

The Beijing Jingwa Agricultural Science and Technology Innovation Center (Jingwa Center) and Pakistan's Iftekhar Ahmed Food & Beverages Pvt Ltd have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to develop and introduce high-quality tomato varieties tailored for industrial processing in Pakistan. Under the agreement, the Chinese research institution will provide new tomato varieties specifically selected for industrial use, featuring high Brix levels, strong solids content, and superior pulp yield, making them suitable for the production of high-quality tomato paste and puree. The collaboration will begin with a research and development phase in Sindh, where six to seven candidate tomato varieties will undergo comprehensive field and greenhouse trials. *(Business Recorder, June 9th, 2026, Page 4)*

Australian govt agrees to help protect Pakistan's bananas from diseases

Sindh Agriculture University (SAU), Tandojam, and an Australian government-supported international research initiative have agreed to strengthen collaboration to protect Pakistan's banana sector from devastating diseases, including Panama Wilt and Banana Bunchy Top Virus (BBTV). This disease poses a growing threat to a crop that accounts for more than 90pc of the country's banana production. The project was being implemented with support of Australian government and is led by the University of Queensland, Australia. *(Dawn, June 12th, 2026, Page 15)*

3.4 # Goods

Tobacco export tax not applicable to growers: experts

Amid concerns and misconceptions regarding the tax imposed on tobacco exports, tax experts have clarified that the Federal Board of Revenue's (FBR) advance adjustable tax of Rs390 per kilogram on tobacco processed at Green Leaf Threshing (GLT) units does not apply to tobacco growers and places no financial burden on farmers. According to tax experts, levy is imposed solely on companies involved in purchasing, processing, exporting tobacco, or manufacturing cigarettes. They explained that tax is an advance adjustable tax that can subsequently be adjusted or claimed by the relevant exporting or cigarette manufacturing companies through their tax returns filed with the FBR.

Experts noted that the primary objective of the tax is to promote documentation and transparency within the tobacco sector by ensuring that business transactions and production activities are properly recorded. They emphasised that tobacco farmers are neither required to pay this tax nor legally responsible for it in any form. Tax specialists further stated that, to date, no local tobacco exporting company has claimed adjustment or refund of this tax. According to them, one of the key reasons is that companies seeking tax adjustments or refunds are required to provide the FBR with comprehensive records of their exports, tax liabilities, and taxes already paid, enabling detailed scrutiny of their financial affairs. *(Business Recorder, June 6th, 2026, Page 2)*

Tobacco growers, exporters slam govt over tax policy

Tobacco growers and exporters of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have severely criticised the government's current tax policy, labeling it "tax upon tax" and the economic massacre of thousands of families. They have demanded that federal and provincial governments immediately abolish the unnecessary and discriminatory taxes imposed on the tobacco sector to safeguard national exports and local employment.

According to growers' leaders, tobacco is the only agricultural crop subjected to 11 different types of taxes from cultivation to sale. Along with the Tobacco Cess of Rs 27.50 per kilogram levied by the provincial government, another separate tax of Rs 50 per kilogram has also been enforced. The growers maintained that under Constitution of Pakistan, such direct taxes cannot be imposed on any agricultural crop, yet the tobacco sector is being targeted through various tactics. *(Business Recorder, June 15th, 2026, Page 3)*

Tobacco growers reject move to scrap price mechanism

Tobacco growers and their representatives unanimously demanded that the federal Ministry of National Food Security hold consultations with farmers before abolishing the tobacco weighted average price (WAP) mechanism and amending tobacco laws. They said the federal cabinet had been informed that tobacco farmers earned a profit of 26.41 per cent under the minimum indicative price (MIP) during 2024-25. However, they claimed farmers had actually earned only about 4.81pc under the MIP, while profits under the WAP stood at around 5.07pc instead of the 67.33pc presented to the cabinet. Tobacco is completely different from other crops. It costs about Rs2 million per hectare to cultivate, and farmers grow it in unbearable heat. *(Dawn, June 28th, 2026, Page 9)*

4 # SUB – AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIONS

4.1 # Fishery

Sindh govt initiates fuel subsidy for fishing boat operators

The Livestock and Fisheries Department, Sindh, has commenced the distribution of fuel subsidies, ranging from Rs100,000 to Rs200,000 to fishermen owning small boats. This was shared by the Provincial Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Muhammad Ali Malkani while presiding over the third review meeting of the Provincial Fisheries Regulatory Task Force at his office. He said the amount would be transferred through Sindh Bank and explained that no fisherman will be registered without a Computerised National Identity Card (CNIC). *(Dawn, June 12th, 2026, Page 15)*

4.2 # Livestock

KU scientists complete genome sequencing of Red Sindhi cattle

The Dr A.Q. Khan Institute of Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering (KIBGE) at the University of Karachi has completed the full genome sequencing of the country's valuable indigenous breed, Red Sindhi cattle. This achievement is a significant breakthrough for infection control, disease prevention, and improving livestock productivity. The project was completed under the Postdoctoral Fellowship Programme, Phase I, of the Sindh Higher Education Commission. During the research, the complete genomic characteristics of the virus obtained from animals infected with Lumpy Skin Disease were also studied, which helped in understanding the biological interactions between host and virus. This is the first successful attempt of its kind through which the complete genetic blueprint of Red Sindhi cattle has been compiled.

The Red Sindhi breed of cattle holds a key position in the rural economy across Sindh and the country due to its adaptation to harsh climatic conditions, high milk yield capacity, and natural resistance against local diseases. However, until now, limited genetic information has posed challenges in further improving their traits on modern scientific grounds. The research team analysed the complete genome using Next Generation Sequencing technology, during which important genes related to milk production, heat tolerance, and immunity were identified. This information will enable more effective selection of animals with superior traits and reduce reliance on traditional trial-and-error breeding methods. *(Dawn, June 9th, 2026, Page 14)*

4.3 # Poultry

Poultry farmers exempt from payment of sales tax under relevant law: FCC

The Federal Constitutional Court (FCC) held that poultry farmers are exempt from the payment of sales tax under the relevant law and, therefore, are not required to obtain sales tax registration. A two-judge bench comprising Justice Aamer Farooq and Justice Muhammad Karim Khan Agha heard the appeals against the LHC judgment on whether additional tax is liable to be paid by the petitioners (Shahzor Feeds (Pvt.) Ltd and others, either in their capacity as poultry farmers or poultry feed manufacturers, set aside the LHC's judgment dated December 4, 2025. *(Business Recorder, June 2nd, 2026, Page 3)*

No extra tax on poultry feed makers, rules FCC

Days before the announcement of the budget, the Federal Constitutional Court (FCC) has affirmed that poultry feed manufacturers and poultry farmers were not liable to pay additional tax under Section 3(1A) of the Sales Tax Act, 1990. A two-judge FCC bench, headed by Justice Aamer Farooq and also including Justice Muhammad Karim Khan Agha, set aside a Dec 24, 2025, Lahore High Court (LHC) judgement and ruled that imposing a 4 per cent tax on supplies made to non-registered entities would be unjust and against the sales tax regime. *(Dawn, June 3rd, 2026, Page 9)*

Poultry industry grows at consumers' cost

Amid disease outbreaks, export suspensions, volatile market conditions and rising feed and production costs, the poultry sector has continued to grow by eight per cent annually over the past 10 years. Higher prices for poultry might cause a slowdown in the purchasing patterns of low- and middle-income people, but they still rely on poultry as it costs much less than beef and mutton. As per the Economic Survey FY25, rural poultry had shown modest gains, but commercial production remained the main growth driver. After remaining on the higher side, poultry live bird prices have fallen by an average Rs100 per kg to Rs370-420 per kg in Karachi after Eidul Azha.

Consumers were expecting a further price drop in the wake of the closure of borders with Afghanistan, but the prices of poultry continued to show an upward trend. In October 2025, when the Afghan border was closed, the live-bird price had fallen to Rs310-360 per kg, down from Rs460-540 in September. However, according to traders, the export of poultry products such as birds, feed, day-old chicks and eggs remains suspended, but consumers have not seen any significant price falls. Prior to and after Eidul Azha, the demand for poultry usually declines as consumers shift towards meat from sacrificial animals, but this year traders kept chicken prices higher due to robust demand ahead of Eid.

As per Economic Survey FY25, the average annual growth rate of poultry sector is 8.1pc over past 10 years. The survey said the total poultry bird population was projected to reach 2.26 billion, driven primarily by commercial broiler expansion, estimated at 2.06bn birds. Similarly, day-old chick production was expected to rise by 9.8pc to 2.19bn, indicating robust forward integration in the breeding and hatchery segments. Poultry meat production was forecast to grow to 2.58 million tonnes, up by 9.4pc Egg production was also expected to reach 26.7bn, reflecting improvements in layer performance and flock management. Poultry meat accounts for over 40pc of Pakistan's total meat production. The industry, being the 11th largest producer in the world, employs over 1.5m nationwide. *(Dawn, June 7th, 2026, Page 9)*

Failure to provide fiscal relief to poultry sector could lead to higher food prices: PPA
The Pakistan Poultry Association (PPA) has voiced serious concerns over the Federal Budget 2026-27, warning that the government's failure to provide fiscal relief to the poultry sector could lead to higher food prices, reduced investment, lower export competitiveness and increased pressure on food security. The association urged the federal government to revisit taxation measures impacting the sector before the Finance Bill is approved by Parliament, arguing that the continuation of multiple taxes on key production inputs would further inflate poultry production costs and ultimately burden consumers. *(Business Recorder, June 14th, 2026, Page 3)*

5 # TRADE

Trade deficit
According to the PBS data, imports dipped 6.63pc to $5.28bn in May, down from $5.66bn in the corresponding month last year. Month-on-month, imports decreased 21.45pc. In 11MFY26, the import bill grew by 5.94pc to $62.66bn, up from $59.15bn in the corresponding period last year. The import rose 6.57pc to $58.38bn in July-January FY25 from $54.78bn a year ago. The trade deficit dipped 13.68pc to $2.58bn in May from $2.99bn over the corresponding month of last year. The trade deficit swelled 17.48pc to $34.76bn in July-May 2025-26, up from $29.58bn over the corresponding period last year. The trade deficit for FY25 widened by 9pc to $26.27bn, up from $24.11bn in the preceding year. *(Dawn, June 4th, 2026, Page 9)*

July-May trade deficit widens 17.48pc to USD34.76bn YoY
Pakistan's trade deficit widened by 17.48 percent to USD 34.76 billion during the first 11 months of fiscal year 2025–26, compared with USD 29.585 billion in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal year. According to trade data released by

the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), the country's exports declined by 5.6 percent to USD 27.904 billion from USD 29.563 billion recorded during the same period last year. Meanwhile, imports increased by 5.94 percent to USD 62.66 billion in the first 11 months of this fiscal year, compared with USD 59.148 billion in the corresponding period of the previous year.

Meanwhile, on a year-on-year (YoY) basis, the exports in May 2026 recorded an increase of 1.26 percent to USD 2.705 billion compared to USD 2.67 billion in May 2025. On an annual basis, the country's imports witnessed a reduction of 6.63 percent, declining from USD 5.662 billion last year to USD 5.287 billion in the first 11 months of this financial year. While on a month-on-month (MoM) basis, the exports registered an increase of 9.59 percent, reaching USD 2.705 billion in May 2026 from USD 2.468 billion during the same period of the previous financial year. On a MoM basis, the country's imports during May 2026 recorded a decline of 21.45 percent, totaling USD 5.287 billion compared with USD 6.731 billion in 2025. MoM trade deficit recorded a decline of 39.43 percent as it was recorded at USD 2.582 billion in May 2026 against $ 4.262 billion recorded in May 2025. *(Business Recorder, June 4th, 2026, Page 1)*

Pakistan's trade with Central Asia faces snags

Pakistan's exports to five Central Asian Countries (CACs) fell year on year by 8.62 per cent in the first 10 months of 2025-26. Exports to the region have turned negative following the closure of the land route into Afghanistan. However, Pakistan has started exporting goods to CACs via Iran, but trade remains limited in volume because of the long distance. In absolute terms, the value of Pakistan's exports to the five CACs — Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan — dipped by 8.62pc to $147.992 million in July-April 2025-26 from $161.943m during the same period last year. Similarly, imports from the region dipped by 87.96pc to $20.882m in 10MFY26 from $173.383m during the same period last year. The majority of these imports came from Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan. Pakistan's trade with CACs is between $400 and $500m annually via Afghanistan. *(Dawn, June 11th, 2026, Page 9)*

Net exports remain negative

The Economic Survey 2025-26 has revealed that Pakistan's net exports remained negative, underscoring the persistent need to strengthen export capacity and diversify the country's export base. According to the survey, trade openness—measured as the ratio of exports and imports to GDP—stood at around 30 percent, indicating significant potential for deeper integration into global markets. The exchange rate remained largely stable during the fiscal year, recorded at Rs 280.65 per US dollar compared to Rs 279.35 last year, reflecting a marginal depreciation of just 0.5 percent.

Global trade environment remained challenging in 2025, primarily due to substantial tariff increases by the United States, which heightened trade restrictions and policy uncertainty. Additional pressures emerged in February 2026 as escalating tensions in the Middle East triggered volatility in energy markets, increased shipping and insurance costs, and disrupted regional supply chains. However, the merchandise trade deficit widened to USD 27.9 billion from USD 22.7 billion last year, driven by a 6.9 percent increase in imports amid recovering domestic economic activity. Export performance remained subdued, declining by 8 percent due to weak external demand and geopolitical disruptions affecting trade routes. Exports remained stagnant at approximately 9 percent of GDP, while imports stayed elevated at around 16 percent, largely driven by essential and energy-related purchases. The trade deficit widened further in the third quarter due to the Middle East crisis and rising oil import costs. To address these imbalances, the government is pursuing structural reforms aimed at enhancing export competitiveness, diversifying export products, and rationalizing tariffs to curb imports.

The Survey noted that wholesale and retail trade grew by 3.71 percent, supported by improved output in agriculture and manufacturing, along with higher import volumes. The services sector maintained steady momentum, with growth reaching 4.18 percent in the third quarter, while wholesale and retail trade expanded by 4.13 percent during the same period. Looking ahead, the outlook for global trade in 2026 remains uncertain due to ongoing tariff tensions and geopolitical risks, which are expected to slow goods trade. However, services trade is projected to remain relatively resilient, driven by digitalization and rising demand for technology-based services.

The widening trade deficit was largely attributed to a 7.8 percent increase in import payments during July–March FY2026, reflecting stronger demand for industrial inputs as economic activity picked up. Rising global oil prices further exacerbated the import bill, with Brent crude increasing from USD 62.7 per barrel in December 2025 to USD 103.7 in March 2026.

Meanwhile, goods exports declined by 5.8 percent, mainly due to reduced food exports—particularly rice—amid weak global demand, flood-related losses, and disruptions in Pak-Afghan trade following border tensions since October 2025. Pakistan's export of fish and fisheries products has seen consistent growth, reflecting rising global demand for seafood. In July-March FY 2026, Pakistan exported a total of 200 thousand MT of fish and fisheries products earning approximately US USD 405.1 million in export revenue. *(Business Recorder, June 12th, 2026, Page 3)*

5.1 # Export

Pakistan Sugar Mills Association again seeks permission to export 'surplus' sugar

The country could earn nearly $500 million in much-needed foreign exchange by immediately allowing the export of "surplus" sugar stocks, the PSMA claimed. It warned that mounting inventories are creating a "severe financial strain" on both sugar mills and growers. The sugar industry produced a substantial surplus during the 2025-26 crushing season. Total domestic sugar stocks have reached 7.9 million metric tonnes (MMT) against country's annual consumption requirement of approximately 6.6 MMT, including projected population growth. This has created a surplus of around 1.3 MMT. Even after maintaining a one-month strategic reserve, surplus stocks would still stand at about 0.76 MMT. *(Dawn, June 1st, 2026, Page 2)*

Mango export target cut

Exporters said that the mango export target for the current year has been slashed to 80,000 tonnes from 100,000 tonnes last year due to mounting pressure from geopolitical tensions in the Middle East, soaring freight costs, climate-related challenges and declining fruit yields. The first shipment of Pakistani mangoes left for international markets amid the most difficult export season in recent years, according to industry stakeholders. This year's mango crop is expected to be around 20pc lower than the country's average annual production of 1.9 million tonnes due to climate change, erratic weather patterns and the weak disease resistance of existing orchards. Mango exports fetched $110m last season, but proceeds are projected to fall between $75 and $80m this year. *(Dawn, June 2nd, 2026, Page 9)*

Growers' body opposes millers' demand to export surplus sugar

The demand put forward by the Sugar Mills Association (PSMA) for permission to export surplus sugar stocks has drawn sharp criticism from growers and caused concern among other stakeholders who believe that the move is bound to further push up price of the commodity as was seen in the past. The millers will make against windfall profits as they had done last year. They had earned around Rs100bn in 2024-25 over and above their usual annual collective profit, according to growers.

Sindh had produced around 1.618m tonnes of sugar in 2025-26 crushing season. For the last two years (2024-25 and 2025-26), the Sindh government did not fix the minimum support price of sugar cane. Previously, it had notified Rs425 per 40kg price for the 2023-24 crop. It avoided to notify the cane price under IMF conditions. In the absence of the official sugar cane price, farmers argue, the average procurement price in 2025-26 invariably remained the same, Rs450 per 40kg, despite a sharp increase in the cost of production. *(Dawn, June 3rd, 2026, Page 15)*

Exports fall in July-May

Pakistan's merchandise exports recorded a contraction of 5.61 per cent during the first 11 months of 2025-26, while the trade deficit widened amid a rise in imports and relatively modest export performance. The decline has persisted in recent months, with exports recording negative growth in February and March, followed by a brief recovery in April. Despite this short-lived improvement, exporters remain cautious and do not expect a sustained rebound in earnings in the near term. The export proceeds reached $27.91 billion in 11MFY26, compared with $29.56bn in the corresponding months of last year, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics said. In May, however, exports grew 1.26pc to $2.71bn, up from $2.67bn in corresponding month last year. On a month-on-month basis, export proceeds increased by 9.59pc in May. Negative export growth has continued since August of the current fiscal year, except in July, when exports grew by 16.43pc year on year. Export earnings posted negative growth, with proceeds declining by 20.41pc 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 growth of 3.3pc, but returned to negative growth of 8.76pc in February and 14.4pc in March. In April, exports surged 14.03pc year-on-year. The export sector had already been under pressure since February due to the conflict in the Middle East. The disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz have pushed up shipping costs for exporters and disrupted supply chains. Trade analysts warn that the persistence of the Gulf war could weigh on export performance, particularly by disrupting trade routes, dampening demand in key regional markets, and adding uncertainty to global supply chains. In FY25, export proceeds rose 4.67pc to $32.106bn against $30.675bn in FY24. *(Dawn, June 4th, 2026, Page 9)*

Exporters see no impact of 10pc US duty

Representatives of exporters are confident that a proposal under consideration in Washington to impose 10 percent additional duties on imports would not hurt Pakistan's exports. US Trade Representative (USTR) has proposed to the Trump administration to slap 10pc additional duties on imports from Pakistan, Canada, Bangladesh, Ecuador, Indonesia, Mexico, Argentina, Taiwan, Britain and the European Union. Exporters said the buyers in the US have to pay the duties making the Pakistani products costly after reaching the American market.

Javed Bilwani, an exporter who is a former president of the Karachi Chamber of Commerce, said Pakistan was already facing 16.5pc tax on export of textile products to the US, while an additional 10pc duty was imposed after the US Supreme Court struck down the new tariff regime to change the world trade order. Importers in the United States had approached the Supreme Court against President Trump's new tariff regime, which jolted the global market since the tariffs on imports were too high. The top US court struck down the regime in February, but President Trump again imposed a 10pc additional duty on many countries, including Pakistan. *(Dawn, June 4th, 2026, Page 9)*

MoC seeks Rs20bn budget support for rice exporters vs India

The Ministry of Commerce has reportedly sought Rs 20 billion budget support already extended to the rice exporters to make them compatible with India in the international market. The Export Development Board (EDF), headed by the Commerce Minister, approved the financial assistance for the rice sector. This was some kind of bridge financing of Rs 20 billion extended to the rice exporters from the EDF, which will be refunded to the Fund from formal allocation from the budget. Commerce Ministry has claimed the spent amount as non-Employees Related Expenditure (ERE) from the federal budget. *(Business Recorder, June 6th, 2026, Page 1)*

Subsidised Rs88bn export financing

Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb, in his budget speech, announced that the government has expanded the Export Refinance Scheme (EFS) to Rs88 billion, meaning the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) will allocate more subsidised capital to help local businesses in the next fiscal year. The government has been struggling to improve exports but has been unable to achieve the $60bn target. In the macroeconomic framework for 2026-27, government set combined export target at $44.2bn — $32.9bn in merchandise and $11.3bn in services exports. *(Dawn, June 13th, 2026, Page 9)*

Tax on export proceeds to go down to 1.25pc

The government has proposed to reduce tax collection on export proceeds (one percent withholding tax and one percent advance tax) from 2 percent to 1.25 percent in order to encourage exports under the Finance Bill 2026. At present, exporters effectively bear an aggregate tax burden of 2 percent on export proceeds through one percent advance tax and one percent minimum tax. Under the finance bill, the budget proposes to reduce this burden to an aggregate minimum tax of 1.25 percent, thereby improving exporters' competitiveness and liquidity. *(Business Recorder, June 13th, 2026, Page 1)*

Exports stay largely flat in 5 years: Aurangzeb

Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb acknowledged that Pakistan's exports have remained largely stagnant over the past five years and indicated that the super tax would eventually be phased out. He warned that the existing business operating model has run its course and urged the industrial sector to adopt innovation, as the government works to create an enabling environment for export-led growth. This he stated while briefing the Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Revenue, which continued its detailed examination of the Finance Bill 2026. *(Business Recorder, June 16th, 2026, Page 4)*

11M textile exports rise 1.83pc to USD16.665bn YoY

Pakistan's textile sector exports increased by 1.83 percent, reaching USD 16.665 billion during the first 11 months of the 2025-26, compared to USD 16.365 billion in the same period of 2024-25, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported. Meanwhile, on a Year-on-Year (YoY) basis, the textile exports from the country witnessed an increase of 7.13 percent during May 2026 as compared to the corresponding month of last year. *(Business Recorder, June 17th, 2026, Page 1)*

5.2 # Import

'Pakistan imports about USD800m worth of US cotton'

The textile sector remains a central component of trade between Pakistan and the United States, with Pakistani exports of apparel to the US averaging more than USD4 billion annually over the past five years, the US Chargé d'Affaires said. She said Pakistan imports about USD800 million worth of US cotton and other raw materials each year, making the US the country's second-largest cotton supplier. *(Business Recorder, June 20th, 2026, Page 2)*

6 # CORPORATE SECTOR

Artificial sweeteners hurting mango industry

A parliamentary committee has expressed concern about a decline in mango production, alongside the growing use of artificial sweeteners in beverages, which has adversely affected demand for natural mango-pulp-based products in the wake of changes to the country's regulatory framework. The National Assembly Standing Committee on National Food Security and Research reviewed safety standards for synthetic mango-flavoured beverages, mango production challenges, and the export strategy.

It was further stated that prior to 2021, natural mango pulp was widely used in juice production. However, subsequent regulatory changes by the Pakistan Standards and Quality Control Authority (PSQCA), which permitted increased use of artificial additives and chemical sweeteners, have contributed to reduced consumption of natural mango-based products and may be linked to long-term public health concerns. On the health issue, the representative of the Ministry of National Health Services presented findings from the National Institute of Health (NIH), indicating potential adverse health effects associated with the frequent consumption of synthetic beverages. The committee noted that mango production has declined from 2.2m tonnes to 1.8m tonnes in recent years. *(Dawn, June 10th, 2026, Page 9)*

Sindh urges Drap to withdraw formula milk advertisement directives

The Sindh health department has asked the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (Drap) to immediately withdraw directives that could permit advertisements of infant formula products with warning disclaimers, arguing that the promotion of breast-milk substitutes is already prohibited under federal and provincial laws and any relaxation would undermine breastfeeding and violate existing legislation. The Sindh health department maintained that the legal framework required a zero-tolerance approach towards public marketing of breast-milk substitutes.

The department said federal breastfeeding and child nutrition laws prohibited the promotion of breast-milk substitutes throughout Pakistan, while the Sindh Protection and Promotion of Breast-Feeding and Young Child Nutrition Act, 2023, provided broader protections by extending coverage to children up to 36 months of age and criminalising advertising, promotion and marketing of formula products.

Section 7 of the Sindh law prohibited advertising through electronic, print and social media, public spaces, retail outlets and health care facilities. It also banned cross-promotion, whereby companies use identical branding, logos and colour schemes for products intended for older children to indirectly market infant formula. It further barred representatives of breast-milk substitute manufacturers from visiting health care facilities, offering gifts, sponsoring medical meetings or distributing promotional materials to health workers and mothers. *(The News, June 21st, 2026, Page 14)*

7 # INTERNATIONAL AID / LOAN / INVESTMENT

80pc foreign firms postpone investment decisions: OICCI

The latest Business Confidence Index survey by the Overseas Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry has revealed a significant decline in business confidence in Pakistan, according to which 70-80 percent of foreign businesses in the country are postponing or reviewing new investment decisions. The OICCI released the results of its Business Confidence Index (BCI) Survey Wave 29, conducted across Pakistan in the second quarter of 2026. The decline is driven primarily by elevated inflationary pressures, rising fuel costs, and the intensifying fallout from the war in the Middle East. *(Business Recorder, June 3rd, 2026, Page 12)*

Foreign loan inflows surge to $12.1bn

Foreign economic assistance (FEA) inflows to Pakistan surged by almost three-fourths to $12.1bn in the first eleven months (July-May) of 2025-26, mainly on the back of programme support of IMF. The total inflows (excluding IMF), both loans and grants, in the first 11 months of the current fiscal year, amounted to $12.106bn, up from $6.891bn last year, an increase of 75.7pc. Inflows in May alone amounted to $1.03bn, down 76.5pc from $4.4bn in April, owing to a one-time $3bn additional Saudi flows in April, and up 29pc compared to $797m in the same month last year. These inflows do not include $2bn disbursed by IMF in two instalments under $7bn Extended Fund Facility, bringing the cumulative inflows in 11MFY26 to over $14.2bn.

The EFF disbursements are accounted for separately by the State Bank of Pakistan, while climate support is reported by the EAD. Of the total, foreign loan inflows in 11MFY26 surged 76.4pc to $11.97bn from $6.7bn in the corresponding period last year. Grants, on the other hand, amounted to just $136m in 11 months, compared to $168m of last year, showing a 19pc fall. The target for total foreign inflows for FY26 was set at $19.9bn in the budget 2025-26, up from $19.4bn last year. The Ministry of Economic Affairs said it had received $12.106bn in total foreign inflows in the first 11 months of the year, compared with $6.891bn in the same period last year.

The EAD said that of the $12.1bn in inflows, $3bn were received for project financing, while non-project inflows amounted to $9.1bn. This meant about $7.287bn loans were received in 11 months for budget support. This is despite the annual budget support target set at $13.5bn, down from $15bn last fiscal year. The authorities were also able to mobilise $1bn against the Saudi Oil facility within 11 months, exhausting the entire annual facility. Against a full-year target of $5bn from multilaterals (excluding the IMF), Pakistan received only $3.1bn in 11MFY26, down from $3.367bn in the same period last year, when the annual target was $4.5bn. *(Dawn, June 18th, 2026, Page 11)*

11MFY26 FDI falls 28.4pc to USD1.623bn YoY

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) dropped sharply 28.4 percent during the first eleven months of this fiscal year (FY26). According to SBP, Pakistan fetched FDI amounted to USD1.623 billion in July-May FY26 compared to USD 2.267bn in same period of last fiscal year (FY25), showing a decline of USD 644 million. Monthly, FDI decreased by 8 percent to clocked in at USD 214.3m in May 2026 down from USD 232m. Portfolio investment during the eleven months of this fiscal year declined by USD 566m due to uncertainty in the equity market followed by US-Iran conflict. Total foreign investment, including FDI, foreign portfolio investment, and foreign public investment, declined by 69 percent, falling to USD 478m during July-May of the current fiscal year from USD 1.562bn in the same period of FY25. *(Business Recorder, June 18th, 2026, Page 1)*

11MFY26 foreign assistance surges 75.68pc YoY

Foreign assistance inflows to the country surged to USD 12.106 billion during July 2025–May 2026, compared with USD 6.891 billion in the corresponding period of the last year, reflecting an increase of 75.68 percent. According to data released by the Economic Affairs Division (EAD), the multilateral, bilateral loans and grants in May 2026 stood at USD 266.95 million, compared to USD 395.63 million in April 2026. A major amount of grants came from IDA (USD 10m), Japan (USD 1.46m), followed by the USA (USD 0.15m) and Germany (USD 0.14m). In 11 months of 2025-26, the total bilateral loans amounted to USD 1.266 billion. This includes Chinese guaranteed loans of USD 392.82 million and a USD 97.52 million loan from China, USD 71.15 million from Denmark, USD 50.45 million from France, and a major loan of USD 1.011bn was received from Saudi Arabia. *(Business Recorder, June 18th, 2026, Page 2)*

Outflow of profit beats foreign direct investment by 32pc

Profit repatriation exceeded inflows of foreign direct investment (FDI) by 32 per cent in the first 11 months of 2025-26, highlighting the weak appeal of Pakistan's economy for fresh capital. This reflects a grim situation: the country has been struggling to keep the current account under control but has failed to attract foreign investment, and profit outflows on previous investments have exceeded inflows. The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) data showed that profit and dividend outflows increased to $2.154 billion during the first 11 months of FY26 from $2.105bn a year ago. However, outflow was half a billion dollars more than the FDI in the same period. *(Dawn, June 19th, 2026, Page 9)*

7.1 # Country / Region

Key sectors: SIFC engages with Saudis on investments

The Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) and a high-level Saudi delegation, headed by Chairman of Saudi-Pakistan Joint Business Council (JBC) Prince Mansour, are holding parleys, aimed at accelerating investment cooperation across key sectors of Pakistan's economy. The visit, scheduled for June 4–5, 2026, is featuring a series of government-to-government (G2G), government-to-business (G2B), and business-to-business (B2B) interactions, with a strong focus on infrastructure development, energy, agriculture, and real estate. *(Business Recorder, June 5th, 2026, Page 1)*

Pakistan, KSA finalise series of investment deals

Saudi Arabia and Pakistan agreed to deepen economic cooperation, with both sides finalising a series of investment agreements covering infrastructure, ports, motorways, real estate, and mineral development during a two-day meeting of the Saudi-Pakistan Joint Business Council. The agreements were signed during the two-day Saudi-Pakistan business engagement hosted by the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) and the Joint Business Council. *(Business Recorder, June 6th, 2026, Page 1)*

8 # INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS (IFIs)

Budget 2026-27: Govt balances relief and IMF diktat

Religiously following critical conditions of IMF — revenue target, fiscal deficit and primary surplus — to continue fiscal consolidation, Finance Minister announced a three-year freeze on provincial transfers as the government reallocated resources for security needs and relief measures for the salaried, corporate, real estate and export sectors to revive struggling economic activity. *(Dawn, June 13th, 2026, Page 1)*

Policy-based loan inked with ADB

Pakistan and ADB signed a Policy-Based Loan (PBL) under Insurance Transformation Programme (ITP), Sub-Program 1 (SP-1), amounting to USD 700 million, including USD 250 million on concessional terms. Insurance Transformation Program aims to strengthen the resilience of Pakistan's financial sector and promote sustainable finance through comprehensive reforms. *(Business Recorder, June 21st, 2026, Page 20)*

9 # POLICY

9.1 # Developmental Policy

Punjab Budget 2026-27: Punjab ADP slashed 40pc to Rs752bn

The Punjab government unveiled a scaled-down Rs752 billion Annual Development Programme (ADP) for the next fiscal year, down about 40 per cent from last year's Rs1,240bn, after surrendering Rs749bn to the national exchequer, with social sectors receiving the largest share of development spending, followed by infrastructure and production-related sectors. The social sector leads with Rs333.66bn. Infrastructure development has been allocated Rs117.24bn, followed by the production sector with Rs103.25bn, services with Rs86.08bn, governance and law and order with Rs72.95bn, and climate with Rs38.82bn. Of the Rs333.66bn earmarked for the social sector, Local Government and Community Development gets the highest allocation of Rs115.5bn, followed by Water and Sanitation with Rs62.76bn. Major allocations within the social sector include Rs43.1bn for Specialised Healthcare and Medical Education, Rs33.2bn for Health and Population, Rs30.5bn for Higher Education and Rs25.3bn for School Education. *(Dawn, June 17th, 2026, Page 9)*

Budget 2026-27: Development takes back seat in Sindh

Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah cut development spending by a steeper 29 per cent to Rs720 billion for 2026-27, compared with the original estimates for the outgoing fiscal year. Unveiling budgetary proposals, Mr Murad announced reduced allocations for almost all key segments of the Annual Development Plan (ADP), including a 26pc, or Rs135bn, cut in provincial contribution to Rs385bn for FY27, down from Rs520bn in FY26. The annual capital expenditure in FY26 was estimated at Rs1,018.3bn and later revised to Rs944bn. However, the development spending allocations for the next fiscal year were even lower than the revised figure.

In fact, foreign project assistance declined sharply from Rs366.7bn in FY26 to Rs256bn in FY27, a decrease of Rs110.7bn. The revised estimate for this assistance in FY26 was Rs400bn. The impact was clearly observed across several sectors that are part of the province's annual capital expenditure, commonly referred to as ADP. The allocation for the district programme has been drastically cut to Rs15bn for FY27, down from Rs55bn in FY26, while the revised estimate for the outgoing year was Rs40bn. *(Dawn, June 18th, 2026, Page 11)*

Balochistan unveils Rs206bn ADP

The Balochistan government has allocated Rs206 billion for the Annual Development Plan (ADP) for the 2026-27 financial year, directing the funds toward new and ongoing development projects. Under the upcoming year's development programme, Rs106bn has been allocated for new development schemes, while the remaining Rs100bn will be spent on ongoing projects. In addition to provincial development programme, Rs45bn will be available for federal government projects and Rs40bn for foreign project assistance. These additional financial resources will be used to implement projects across vital sectors, including infrastructure, education, health, drinking water, communication, agriculture and energy. *(Dawn, June 18th, 2026, Page 11)*

Rs108.1bn earmarked for Karachi uplift schemes, says Sindh govt

The Sindh government has said to have allocated a total of Rs108.1 billion for several Karachi development schemes in its budget for the financial year 2026-27. The Karachi projects for which the government has made allocations relate to infrastructure development, transport, water and sanitation, health, education and other sectors. CM informed the house that Karachi's development portfolio comprised 816 schemes with an overall estimated cost of Rs644.3bn. The chief minister said 167 ongoing projects costing more than Rs500m each and 110 mega projects valued at over Rs1bn were currently under implementation across metropolis. *(Dawn, June 18th, 2026, Page 15)*

CDWP approves 12 projects

The Central Development Working Party (CDWP) cleared 12 development projects with a total estimated cost of Rs 435.665 billion. It approved six projects worth Rs16.904 billion and recommended six major projects, costing Rs418.761 billion in total, to Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) for further consideration and final approval. *(Business Recorder, June 19th, 2026, Page 1)*

KP unveils Rs524.3bn development outlay

Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Sohail Afridi unveiled a total development outlay of Rs524.3 billion for the 2026-27 fiscal year, structuring the expenditure around strategic priorities including youth empowerment, good governance, and climate resilience. The proposed budget is Rs84bn lower than current development portfolio, based on revised development expenditure of Rs608.5bn. The actual development outlay for outgoing year is Rs547bn. Out of total proposed allocation for development in province, Rs. 431.4bn have been earmarked for the settled districts, while Rs40.6bn have been allocated for the development of merged districts. An additional Rs52.3bn has been allocated for the Accelerated Implementation Programme (AIP) for the tribal districts. The combined proposed development outlay for the erstwhile tribal regions stands at Rs92.9bn. *(Dawn, June 20th, 2026, Page 9)*

CDWP approves 24 projects worth Rs465.762bn

CDWP approved as many as 24 development projects with a total estimated cost of Rs465.762 billion. CDWP approved 15 development projects at a cost of Rs34.740 billion, while nine major projects with a cumulative cost of Rs431.022 billion were granted in-principle approval and recommended to ECNEC for further consideration and final approval. *(Business Recorder, June 26th, 2026, Page 1)*

9.2 # Neo – Liberal Policy

Rs160.5bn sell-off target set

The federal government has set the privatization target of Rs 160.500 billion for fiscal year 2026-27. This represents a massive surge from the current fiscal year's revised estimate of just Rs14.257 billion, which fell short of its original Rs 86.550 billion budgetary projection. To achieve next year estimates, the government is relaying on the privatisation of major state-owned enterprises (SOEs), including Pakistan International Airlines (PIA), power distribution companies (DISCOs), and key financial institutions. *(Business Recorder, June 13th, 2026, Page 20)*

10 # SOCIO – ECONOMIC CONDITION

Govt debt surges Rs1.4trn in April alone

Pakistan's central government debt surged by massive Rs 1.4 trillion in April alone, driven by heavy domestic and external borrowing, underscoring the growing fiscal pressures facing the country's economy. The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) reported a sharp increase in the federal government's debt burden, with total debt stocks, including domestic and external liabilities, rising by Rs1.406 trillion during April 2026, the tenth month of FY26. As a result, the central government's total debt stock climbed to an unprecedented Rs81.930tr by end of April 2026, up from Rs80.524tr in March 2026.

The increase accounts for nearly 34 percent of the total debt accumulated so far in the current fiscal year (ten months of FY26), highlighting the government's continued reliance on borrowing to meet its financing requirements. The sharp rise in the federal government’s debt burden during April was largely driven by a substantial increase in external debt. According to SBP data, external debt stocks jumped by Rs882 billion in a single month, climbing from Rs22.959 trillion at the end of March 2026 to Rs23.841 trillion by the end of April 2026. Domestic debt also continued its upward trajectory, although at a comparatively slower pace compared to external debt. The central government’s domestic debt stock increased by Rs523 billion during April, moving from around Rs57.566 trillion in March to Rs58.089 trillion by the end of April 2026.

Cumulatively, Pakistan’s central government debt stocks significantly rose by 5 percent or Rs 4.042 trillion in the first ten months (July-April) of this fiscal year. The federal government’s total debt stock including domestic and external reached record level of Rs 81.93 trillion in April 2026 compared to Rs 77.888 trillion recorded in June 2025. On the domestic front, the government’s debt burden increased substantially during the first ten months of FY26, with domestic debt stocks rising by Rs3.617 trillion. The stock of domestic debt reached Rs58.089 trillion by the end of April 2026, compared to Rs54.472 trillion recorded at the close of FY25 in June 2025. Meanwhile, external debt posted a more modest increase during the period. The federal government’s external debt rose by Rs423 billion, reaching Rs23.841 trillion at the end of April 2026, up from Rs23.417 trillion in June 2025. *(Business Recorder, June 10th, 2026, Page 1)*

Public debt totals Rs83.285trn by March-end

Pakistan’s total public debt amounted to Rs83,285 billion by the end of March 2026, registering an increase of Rs2,767 billion (around 3.4 percent) during the first nine months of the current fiscal year, as it was Rs80,518 billion on June 30, 2025. This was noted in the Economic Survey 2025-26. The survey further noted that the outstanding stock of contingent liabilities was Rs4,322 billion by the end of March 2026 against Rs3,632 billion in the same period last year, reflecting an increase of 19 percent.

External public debt was recorded at USD 92.2 billion at the end of March 2026, showing an increase of around USD 364 million during the first nine months of the current fiscal year compared to an increase of USD 883 million during the same period of the last fiscal year. However, it does not contain liabilities of foreign exchange, public sector enterprises (PSEs), banks, and private sector. According to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) data, the country’s external debt and liabilities stood at $137.55 billion by the end of March 2026, which contained government external debt, short-term, from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), as well as liabilities of foreign exchange, public sector enterprises, banks, and the private sector.

Pakistan’s domestic debt stood at Rs 57.566 trillion by the end of March of fiscal year 2026, reflecting an increase of Rs 30.94 trillion during the first nine months of the fiscal year, which amounted to Rs 54.472 trillion by the end of June 2025. Pakistan’s total external public debt consists of two components: government external debt and debt secured from the IMF. The government external debt accounts for the majority, amounting to USD 82,261 million, while outstanding debt from the IMF stands at USD 9,891 million. The IMF debt further consists of the federal government debt (USD 3,620 million) and the central bank's debt (USD 6,271 million). The central government's external debt is predominantly long-term in nature, with USD 68,408 million long-term debt (greater than one year) and USD 13,853 million as short-term debt (less than one year). This is in line with the government's external debt strategy that prioritizes long-term financing, which typically carries lower repayment pressures.

Among external debt sources, multilateral loans form the largest portion, totaling USD 42,483 million, constituting around 46 percent of total external debt. These loans are provided by development partners like the World Bank and Asian Development Bank and are concessional in nature, with lower interest rates and extended repayment periods. Debt from the IMF amounts to USD 9,891 million, constituting around 11 percent of total external debt. The Paris Club debt amounts to USD 5,497 million, representing approximately 6 percent of Pakistan's total external public debt. These loans are also concessional, offering longer repayment periods and lower interest rates. Bilateral loans from non-Paris Club countries amount to USD 19,025 million (21 percent of total external debt). *(Business Recorder, June 12th, 2026, Page 3)*

Budget 2026-27: Only half of FY26 uplift budget spent in 11 months

Amid a 17 per cent cut in allocations during the outgoing fiscal year, government and its agencies struggled to implement Public Sector Development Programme, utilising only about half of the budget earmarked for public welfare projects during the first 11 months of FY26. According to the Ministry of Planning and Development, total PSDP utilisation amounted to Rs529.8bn during the first 11 months of the year, accounting for 52.4pc of the original allocation of Rs1.01 trillion. The utilisation was slightly lower than the 54pc recorded during the same period last year, when PSDP expenditure stood at Rs596bn against an allocation of Rs1.1tr. *(Dawn, June 17th, 2026, Page 1)*

Govt borrows Rs4.9tr from banks

The government borrowed over Rs4.9 trillion from banks by June 12, compared with Rs3.7 trillion in the corresponding period last year, reflecting increased spending despite the massive growth in tax revenues over the past three years. The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) reported that the government's bank borrowings for the period from July 1 to June 12 in FY26 reached Rs4.918tr, which is much higher than last year's, with 18 days still left to borrow more. Financial experts believe total borrowing in FY26 may exceed last year's borrowing of Rs5.434tr by the end of FY25. It seems odd that government borrowing has been rising even as revenues have grown strongly each year. During the last three years from FY24 to FY26 (up to June 12), the government has borrowed a cumulative Rs18.86tr from banks, which is more than the total federal budget outlay for FY27. Rising borrowing has increased debt-servicing costs, which now consume over half of the FY27 budget outlay. FBR revenues surged from about Rs7.16tr in FY22 to a target of Rs15.26tr for FY27. *(Dawn, June 23rd, 2026, Page 9)*

10.1 # Economic Survey 2025-26:

2025 floods hit agriculture hardest with Rs430bn losses

The devastating floods of 2025 caused losses amounting to Rs822bn, claimed 1,039 lives, and displaced more than four million people, according to the Economic Survey 2025-26. The unprecedented disaster dealt a severe blow to economy, forcing policymakers to revise country's real GDP growth target downward from the originally projected 4.2pc to a range of 3.5 to 3.9pc. Describing the calamity as a "major downside driver to Pakistan's economic growth," the survey highlighted the enormous human and economic costs of historic monsoon season. Punjab alone incurred losses of Rs631bn– more than 76pc of nationwide damages – and accounted for 77pc of all deaths and displacements caused by the disaster.

Infrastructure losses across the country totaled Rs307bn. Damages included Rs187bn to road networks, Rs91bn in housing losses, and more than Rs28bn in losses to bridges, water infrastructure and energy systems. In all, 229,763 houses were either severely damaged or completely destroyed. The disaster also sent shock waves through the labour market, with more than 200,000 people losing their jobs, leading to a corresponding increase in unemployment.

Agriculture emerged as the worst-affected sector, suffering losses estimated at Rs430bn. Crop damages alone amounted to Rs422bn, with cotton and rice among the hardest-hit crops. Despite the massive destruction, Economic Survey noted that agricultural sector demonstrated remarkable resilience, recording growth of 2.89pc in FY2026. It attributed this performance to timely government support measures. The crop sector rebounded to post growth of 1.44pc, compared with a contraction of 1.01pc last fiscal, as Kharif crop performance turned out better than initially anticipated. *(Dawn, June 12th, 2026, Page 2)*

Pakistan trails South Asia region in most health benchmarks

While Pakistan continues to spend less than 1pc of GDP on health, its economic indicators are one of the worst in South Asia (SA). Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) allocation for health was just Rs19.37 billion. It claimed that the life expectancy at birth increased from 66.5 years in 2018 to 67.8 years in 2024, but the same for South Asia was 72.6 years. The document further shows that even prevalence of HIV (total percentage of population 15-49 years of age) is slightly higher in Pakistan (0.20pc) compared to SA (0.19pc). In SA, 95.9pc people using at least basic drinking facilities, while in Pakistan the ratio is 90.7pc. *(Dawn, June 12th, 2026, Page 4)*

Poverty surges 7pc, pushing 27m people into financial distress

National poverty rate has surged by seven per cent, pushing approximately 27m additional people into financial distress over last six years and bringing the total number of the impoverished population of country to 70m. The survey figures show that poverty was 21.9pc in 2018-19 which increased to 28.9pc in 2024-25. Poverty remained significantly higher in rural areas. Rural poverty increased from 28.2pc to 36.2pc, while urban poverty increased from 11pc to 17.4pc over the same period.

At the provincial level, poverty increased across all major provinces. In 2024-25, poverty was estimated at 23.3pc in Punjab, 32.6pc in Sindh, 35.3pc in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and 47pc in Balochistan. In 2018-19, the corresponding rates were 16.5pc, 24.5pc, 28.7pc, and 41.8pc, respectively. Balochistan continued to record the highest poverty incidence, while Punjab remained the lowest among the four provinces, the survey says. The surge in poverty is attributed to prolonged economic shocks, including record-high inflation, currency depreciation, IMF stabilisation measures, catastrophic climate events like floods and the Middle East conflict. The adverse situation has weakened people purchasing power, raised food insecurity and strained remittance-receiving families, the survey says. *(Dawn, June 12th, 2026, Page 5)*

10.2 # Food

Access to quality food basic right of every citizen: minister

Sindh Food Minister Mehboob-uz-Zaman reaffirmed the provincial government's commitment to ensuring the availability of safe, nutritious, and high-quality food for all citizens, describing food safety as a fundamental human right and a cornerstone of public health and sustainable development. In a message issued on the occasion of World Food Safety Day, observed annually on June 7 under the auspices of the United Nations, the Food Minister said that safeguarding food quality remains a top priority of the Sindh government and that no compromise would be tolerated in matters concerning public health. *(Business Recorder, June 8th, 2026, Page 5)*

President 'endorses' appeal to tax processed foods

President Asif Ali Zardari has forwarded a petition by the Pakistan National Heart Association (Panah), regarding increased taxation on ultra-processed food to finance and revenue officials, the organisation said. According to Panah, the President's Secretariat has formally forwarded the petition submitted to the finance secretary and FBR chairman for action. The petition urges the government to introduce higher taxes on ultra-processed foods and beverages as part of broader efforts to address the growing burden of non-communicable diseases in Pakistan. *(Dawn, June 10th, 2026, Page 3)*

Food security allocations cut to Rs4.18bn

The government has allocated Rs4.183 billion for Ministry of National Food Security and Research (MNFS&R) in the annual budget for fiscal year 2026-27 under PSDP, compared to Rs4.25bn in the budget 2025-26. The budget document showed a decrease of 1.58pc in funds allocated for various attached departments of MNFS&R. Rs2.2billion would be spent on completion of nine ongoing developmental projects, and Rs1.983 billion has been earmarked for one new scheme during the current financial year. Under PSDP 2026-27, Rs1,983 million has been allocated for the national food security & productivity enhancement program, Rs800 million for national program for animal disease surveillance and control, track and traceability compliance with national and international standards and another Rs400 million for promotion of olive cultivation on a commercial scale in Pakistan, Phase-II. *(Business Recorder, June 13th, 2026, Page 9)*

KP gets PASSCO wheat: ECC approves Rs9.28bn TSGs

The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet approved Technical Supplementary Grant (TSG) amounting Rs9.28 billion, besides an additional 50,000 metric tons of PASSCO wheat to the government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa at the rate of Rs. 4,150 per 40 kilograms. *(Business Recorder, June 13th, 2026, Page 11)*

10.3 # Food Scarcity

Malnutrition costs country nearly USD17bn in lost productivity

Speakers at a seminar discussed the escalating nutrition crisis in the country and presented recommendations to cope with the lurking challenges ahead of the federal budget. The discussion revealed that 40 percent of children under five in Pakistan suffered from stunting growth while more than half of women and children had been affected by anaemia. Billed "Nutrition Crisis — Challenges and Pathways to Reform" was organised by the Pakistan Nutrition and Dietetic Society (PNDS) in collaboration with the Karachi Press Club (KPC), bringing together experts in nutrition and public health to discuss sustainable reforms and policy integration. Nutrition remains neglected in the federal budget, with up to 75 percent financing gaps at provincial levels, costing Pakistan nearly 17 billion dollars annually in lost productivity, healthcare expenses, and human capital losses. *(Business Recorder, June 8th, 2026, Page 5)*

Dadu's Kachho belt faces famine-like situation

The people of the Kachho belt in the western part of Dadu district are facing one of the worst water crises as prolonged dry weather and poor rainfall have pushed the region towards famine-like conditions. Spread across the western parts of Mehar, Khairpur Nathan Shah and Johi talukas, the Kachho belt depended on seasonal rains for its survival. However, poor rainfall over the past years has left thousands of families struggling to find water for their own drinking needs and for their livestock, besides farming. Residents say that the ground water level has fallen sharply, forcing people to dig wells as deep as 300 to 350 feet. Even then, many wells do not provide water sufficient for their daily needs. *(Dawn, June 29th, 2026, Page 15)*

10.4 # Inflation

Consumer inflation hits 11.7pc in May

Surging consumer inflation has mounted pressure on household budgets, with official data showing prices rose 11.7 per cent year-on-year in May, driven by sharp increases in energy and essential food prices. The continued increase in monthly inflation, measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), has pushed it beyond the government's earlier projection, mainly because of an unprecedented increase in the price of petroleum products. In May, energy prices were slightly revised downward, but the impact on overall inflation was minimal. The Strait of Hormuz remains blocked, through which most of Pakistan's energy imports are routed. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has already stated that the weekly oil import bill has increased significantly.

The increase in prices was largely driven by a steep rise in transport charges, which surged by 36.78pc year-on-year. Month-on-month, it increased by 5.13pc in May. Non-perishable food items also recorded 9.42pc rise, highlighting volatility in essential commodities. Inflation increased by 0.5pc compared with the preceding month, according to data released by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics. The data showed that urban inflation was slightly higher at 11.8pc, compared with 11.5pc in rural areas, on an annual basis. On a monthly basis, urban prices increased by 0.7pc, while rural inflation rose by 0.3pc. The average inflation during July-May FY26 was recorded at 6.69pc, compared with 4.61pc in the corresponding months last year.

This reading is despite a high base effect from last year. The government has projected an inflation target of 7pc for FY26. Food inflation in May increased by 6.5pc in urban areas and 8.5pc in rural areas. On a month-on-month basis, food inflation increased 0.2pc in urban areas and 0.2pc in rural areas. Non-food inflation reached 15.2pc in urban areas, and 14.2pc in rural regions. This indicates that non-food inflation has remained very high and has steadily risen over the past few months. In May, core inflation — excluding volatile food and energy components — stood at 9pc in urban areas and 8.4pc in rural areas. *(Dawn, June 2nd, 2026, Page 9)*

Unemployment, inflation at historic highs, says KP finance adviser

Adviser to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister on Finance Muzzammil Aslam said the Shehbaz Sharif government was set to present its fifth consecutive budget with the country facing historic levels of unemployment and inflation, and the economy remained stagnant. Speaking at a news conference at KP House in the capital, Mr Aslam claimed no government in Pakistan's history had presented five consecutive budgets. Mr Aslam stated that, according to the government, the economic growth rate would reach 3.7 per cent by the end of the current fiscal year, while the target for next year was 4pc. He said the extensive promotion of the Uraan Pakistan initiative had created impression that economy would witness significant growth, but nothing had improved.

He said the government had projected inflation at 8.2pc for the next fiscal year. He questioned the government's claim of 3.7pc economic growth this year when major crops recorded growth of only 0.6pc. He further pointed out that while the government claimed livestock grew by 3.8pc, it simultaneously reported fodder crops registering negative growth of 2.1pc, which, according to him, reflected the credibility of the government's growth claims. Mr Aslam said the government was highlighting only a few selected sectors to claim industrial growth. According to official figures, the automobile industry grew by 60pc, auto transport equipment by 40pc, furniture by 20pc, and football manufacturing by 23pc. However, he claimed, electricity generation declined by 10pc. He said the federal government also claimed that small-scale industries were growing at 8.5pc, but its own statistics did not match, raising questions about how economic growth could be achieved under such circumstances. *(Dawn, June 2nd, 2026, Page 9)*

Govt fuel levy drives cost-push inflation

The federal government is directly injecting cost-push inflation through the petroleum levy, while the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has raised interest rates, increasing borrowing costs and suppressing credit growth, thereby discouraging fixed investment, said a research paper prepared by the Policy Research and Advisory Council (PRAC). *(Dawn, June 10th, 2026, Page 9)*

10.5 # Poverty

Blaze destroys 100 huts, parked vehicles in Karachi's Gulshan

A huge fire destroyed around 100 huts and over 20 Qinqi rickshaws and motorcycles in Gulshan-i-Iqbal. There were an estimated 700 huts established on an alleged disputed land. Around 100 huts were turned to ashes. The exact cause of the blaze could not be ascertained immediately. However, the residents claimed that the fire erupted due to a cylinder blast which initially engulfed three huts and then spread to others because of the wind direction. *(Dawn, June 6th, 2026, Page 13)*

Poverty's rise

As attention turns to the government's plans for the coming fiscal year, one set of figures deserves particular scrutiny. According to the Economic Survey 2025-26, poverty rose from 21.9pc in 2018-19 to 28.9pc in 2024-25. The increase comes after more than a decade of progress, during which Pakistan reduced poverty from 50.4pc in 2005-06 to 21.9pc in 2018-19. The reversal suggests that recent economic shocks have left a lasting mark on household welfare. It is not difficult to guess why. Record inflation, currency depreciation, devastating floods and the difficult adjustments associated with economic stabilisation have all taken a toll on household finances. Poverty in rural areas has risen from 28.2pc to 36.2pc, while urban poverty has increased from 11pc to 17.4pc.

Nearly half of Balochistan's population now lives below the poverty line, while conditions have worsened markedly in Sindh and KP. Punjab, too, has recorded a significant increase. This shows how widely the effects of recent economic shocks have been felt. The survey points to another concern. The burden of those pressures has not been shared equally. While many households have struggled with rising prices and stagnant incomes, others have been better placed to absorb the strain. The result is a wider divide between those who are managing and those who are falling behind. Such disparities limit social mobility and weaken link between economic growth and improved living standards.

The government's decision to increase the BISP allocation by 17pc and expand coverage to 12m families should provide some relief to vulnerable households. Yet cash transfers cannot substitute for jobs, affordable housing, quality healthcare and educational opportunity. The rise in poverty should become one of the principal measures by which economic policy is judged. Stabilisation may have prevented a deeper crisis, but its success will ultimately depend on whether it improves the lives of ordinary Pakistanis. *(Dawn, June 13th, 2026, Page 6)*

'Budget undermined low-income households'

The civil society representatives concluded that the 2026/27 'austerity budget' had systematically undermined low-income household welfare, labour protections and gender equality. The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) organised a seminar. Moderating the seminar, economist Dr Fahd Ali observed that lower public spending on education, health, social protection, and nutrition would deepen existing inequalities. At the household level, he argued, changing consumption patterns and declining nutritional quality reflected growing economic distress. At a time when the estimated living wage substantially exceeded the statutory minimum wage, stronger enforcement of labour protections was essential to ensuring an adequate standard of living, he said. *(Dawn, June 24th, 2026, Page 2)*

11 # ENVIRONMENT

Devastating fire decimates over 3,000 hectares of forest tree cover in Kotli Sattian

Locals narrate harrowing details of putting out devastating forest fire believed to be human induced, in the ecologically sensitive Kotli Sattian region of Punjab. The fires that raged for two days decimated an estimated 3,326.4 hectares of natural forest tree cover across 27 locations in protected and ecologically rich forest. Forest fire destroyed over 3,000 hectares in Kotli Sattian amid heat wave. *(Dawn, June 3rd, 2026, Page 4)*

Hazardous waste found on shores of Rawal Lake: Pak-EPA

The Pakistan Environment Protection Agency during a clean-up drive on the shores of Rawal Lake found hazardous material such as discarded syringes, hospital waste and numerous plastic items in large quantities, highlighting the severe pollution threatening the lake's ecosystem. The clean up drive was organised in connection with the global celebrations of World Environment Day by Pak-EPA in collaboration with Nestle Pakistan. The initiative, hosted by the Small Dams Department, government of Punjab, marked a flagship activity of Environment Week, aligning with this year's global theme: "Inspired by Nature, for Climate, for our future." *(Dawn, June 5th, 2026, Page 4)*

Environmental degradation pushing cities towards disaster, moot told

Expressing serious concern over the rapid degradation of environment in the country, especially in its urban centres, speakers at a seminar warned that the continued loss of green cover to make space for infrastructure development, rampant tree-cutting and unchecked discharge of untreated industrial effluents into the sea, were pushing cities towards an ecological disaster and worsening the climate emergency. The seminar on World Environment Day was organised at the city campus, NED University of Engineering & Technology, by National Forum for Environment & Health (NFEH) and the UN Environmental Programme. *(Dawn, June 6th, 2026, Page 14)*

35 acres of Bahawalpur's Lal Sohanra National Park gutted by fire

An eight-hour fire destroyed forest vegetation and shrubs over an estimated 30 to 35 acres in the Lal Sohanra National Park. The fire broke out in the forest area near 36-RD within the park. The blaze spread to several locations, affecting approximately 30 acres and engulfed trees and bushes in areas that were difficult to access with firefighting equipment. Firefighters said efforts to contain the blaze were carried out using water supplied through six fire engines. The operation continued for more than six hours. However smoke was still billowing from some trees and shrubs. The administration of Lal Sohanra National Park did not issue any official statement regarding the fire or the extent of damage. *(Dawn, June 14th, 2026, Page 2)*

Pakistan loses 11,000 hectares of forest annually to deforestation

Pakistan is losing an estimated 11,000 hectares of forest area every year due to persistent deforestation, posing severe threats to the country's ecological balance, according to the data released in Pakistan Economic Survey 2026. The official document highlights that Pakistan's total forest cover currently stands at an estimated 4.11 million hectares, representing a meager 4.7 percent of the nation's total land area. Coniferous forests hold the largest share of this total, followed by scrub forests, riverine forests, mangroves, and irrigated plantation forests. Despite their critical importance, these forest resources continue to face intense and sustained pressure.

To counteract rapid deforestation and enhance climate resilience, the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, in collaboration with provincial and territorial governments, is implementing massive afforestation and ecosystem restoration initiatives. Central to these efforts is the Green Pakistan Programme. Backed by a substantial budget allocation of Rs122.15 billion, the programme has successfully overseen the planting, regeneration, or distribution of nearly 2.26 billion plants across the country. While the forestry sector's direct contribution to the national Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is minor- accounting for only about 0.5 percent - the broader economic value of forests is far more substantial. The survey notes that the overall value of forest ecosystem services, which include crucial functions like environmental protection, water regulation, biodiversity support, and livelihood benefits, is estimated at a staggering 11.48 percent of GDP. *(The News, June 14th, 2026, Page 8)*

Suparco puts 130 glacial lakes on danger watch

The Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (Suparco) has identified 130 potentially dangerous glacial lakes (PGDLs) with possible risks to downstream settlements from glacial lake outburst floods (Glofs). Suparco has been conducting regular surveillance of PGDLs using satellite imagery and sharing updates with relevant authorities, including the Ministry of Climate Change's technical committee. The most recent analysis is based on satellite images captured on May 31 and June 1, 2026. Of the 130 identified glacial lakes considered potentially hazardous, only 24 are currently unfrozen and clearly observable. These lakes have been closely examined, with their surface extents measured to assess possible risks. The findings indicate that the majority of lakes remain frozen. *(Dawn, June 18th, 2026, Page 1)*

11.1 # Atmosphere

Pakistan experiences back-to-back 'warmest years'

Pakistan recorded its second-warmest year in 65 years in 2025, intensifying extreme floods and creating a systemic risk to the nation's economy, according to the Economic Survey 2025-26. Pakistan's hottest year was 2024, the survey reported 2025 as the second-warmest year in 65 years, marking consecutive years of record high temperatures. The country experienced a national annual mean temperature of 23.9°C last year, 1.09°C warmer than the 22.8-degree average. Despite contributing less than 1pc to global emissions and 0.4 percent historically, Pakistan bears a disproportionately high burden of global climate change.

"Climate change is no longer a distant or abstract threat to the country but a present reality," the survey stated, citing an escalating challenge to the economy and population. Over the last 50 years, the annual mean temperature in Pakistan has increased by approximately 0.5°C, with projections indicating a further rise of 3 to 5 degrees by the end of this century. In 2025, northern regions warmed intensively. Temperature anomalies reached 1.24°C in Gilgit-Baltistan, 1.29°C in KPK, and 1.56°C in Azad Jammu and Kashmir recording their highest annual temperatures in 65 years.

Meanwhile, the country received 288.5 millimetres of rainfall in 2025, about 3pc below the long-term average of 297.6 millimetres. Rainfall distribution remained uneven. Sindh, Punjab, and GB recorded above-average rainfall, while KP and Balochistan remained below average. The monsoon season from July to September recorded rainfall 23pc above average, while the year started with significantly below-average rainfall during the January-March period. These phenomena are accelerating glacial melt and altering monsoon dynamics, creating pronounced rainfall variability. Fewer rainy days with higher intensity have shifted monsoon patterns to the south, changing flood risks. This resulted in the 2025 floods affecting all provinces, mirroring the 2022 devastation.

However, the survey warned Pakistan may fail to fulfil its United Nations climate commitments due to constrained international financing. The World Bank previously estimated baseline climate-resilient investment needs at $348 billion up to 2030, implying an additional requirement of approximately $217.7bn to meet the $565.7bn total investment needed.

'Over 200,000 lives lost'

As Pakistan endures record temperatures, extreme heat is claiming lives globally. More than 200,000 lives have been lost to the "silent killer" of heat in Europe since 2022, the World Health Organisation said, after a heat wave saw some countries record their highest-ever May temperatures. "The impacts of climate change are a clear and present danger, and its most immediate and lethal manifestation is extreme heat," said Hans Henri Kluge, the WHO's Europe director.

Extreme heat severely impacts the elderly, young, and those with health issues, leading to dehydration and heatstroke. Most of the 200,000 deaths were preventable, according to Kluge, who noted this is just the beginning, as millions more suffer mentally and physically. Kluge said Europe is "warming faster than any other continent". The WHO advises authorities to establish effective heat-warning systems. Kluge emphasised that individual efforts are insufficient against a systemic crisis, advocating for a coordinated, powerful institutional response. *(Dawn, June 12th, 2026, Page 1)*

Six Sindh cities cross 50°C as Karachi swelters

Most parts of the province remained in the grip of intensely hot weather with the mercury soaring to 50 degrees Celsius or above in at least six cities, while 12 cities, including Karachi, saw temperatures surging to 40°C or above. According to the Meteorological department, Shaheed Benazirabad and Dadu were the hottest cities with 51 degrees followed by Mohenjo-Daro with 50.5 degrees, Larkana, Jacobabad and Sakrand 50 degrees, Rohri 48.5, Sukkur, Hyderabad and Padidan 48 degrees, Khairpur 47 degrees Celsius. *(Dawn, June 12th, 2026, Page 13)*

11.2 # Pollution

Breathing in Karachi comes with a warning as air quality deteriorates

Raising serious concern over the rapid environmental degradation the metropolis has experienced in recent years, speakers at a conference at Karachi University (KU) said that the city's air quality index has reached alarming levels, seriously threatening public health. They questioned the authorities' silence as the city continues to lose its trees to development projects and housing schemes. *(Dawn, June 23rd, 2026, Page 13)*

11.3 # Health

Spike in waterborne diseases amid heatwave claims polio worker's life

A polio worker has died from a suspected waterborne disease in Hyderabad as dozens of patients flood local hospitals — with the city reeling from temperatures approaching 46°C and growing water shortages across the district. Naheed, a lady health worker deployed on polio duties, died at Liaquat University Hospital (LUH). *(Dawn, June 1st, 2026, Page 15)*

Health experts seek 40pc tax on sugary drinks to fund nutrition reforms

A coalition of Pakistan's top health and nutrition experts has urged the federal government to impose higher taxes on sugary drinks to directly subsidise healthy food, arguing that fiscal policy is now critical to reversing the country's escalating malnutrition and obesity crisis. The call came during the 'Budget 2026-2027 Pre-Budget National Nutrition Advocacy Dialogue', organised by Pakistan Nutrition and Dietetic Society (PNDS) in collaboration with the Karachi Press Club. Themed "Nutrition Crisis — Challenges and Pathways to Reform," dialogue laid bare the scale of the country's dual burden of undernutrition and rising obesity, and presented concrete budget recommendations ahead of the 2026-27 fiscal plan. *(Dawn, June 7th, 2026, Page 14)*

Two women infected with mpox virus at Lahore Mayo hospital

Two women tested positive for monkeypox virus in Mayo Hospital. Reports said the female patients were shifted to the hospital with identical symptoms of the mpox, a rare infectious viral disease caused by monkeypox virus. After another man tested positive for the mpox virus, the number of confirmed cases at Bahawal Victoria Hospital (BVH) rose to three. *(Dawn, June 10th, 2026, Page 2)*

Health allocations reach Rs53.3bn, new projects proposed for twin cities

The government has allocated Rs53.3 billion for different health projects, including Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP), in the proposed budget for the fiscal year 2026-27. Of the Rs22 billion earmarked for the Ministry of National Health Services, Rs20.7 billion will be financed through local resources, while Rs1.3 billion will be received from foreign assistance. As per PSDP, the government has proposed an overall allocation of Rs24.3 billion for the health and nutrition sector. The allocation marks a notable increase compared to the previous fiscal year, when the health sector was initially allocated Rs16.5 billion and later revised downwards to Rs14 billion. The health sector's share in the overall social sector development budget stands at 2.2 per cent of the total Rs187.2 billion social sector allocation for the FY 2026-27.

Furthermore, ongoing federal health schemes carry throw-forward liabilities exceeding Rs121 billion, legally tying the hands of future policymakers and locking public capital into brick-and-mortar projects for years to come. We are witnessing a double-pronged tragedy. On one hand, inflation is stripping families of the ability to afford basic milk, meat and vegetables and on the other the federal government is spending 70 percent of its healthcare resources on brick-and-mortar operations and specialised tertiary care, virtually abandoning prevention, disease surveillance and nutrition defence. *(Dawn, June 14th, 2026, Page 4)*

Karachi reports another mpox case as city's tally rises to 10

Health authorities in Karachi have reported another case of mpox, taking the total number of confirmed infections in the city to 10. *(The News, June 14th, 2026, Page 13)*

Young man tests positive for mpox in Karachi

A 26-year-old man tested positive for mpox – the third case of the viral infection in as many days – raising the tally to 37 in the province. It's the ninth mpox case at the facility and 12th in the city. *(Dawn, June 16th, 2026, Page 13)*

Health sector receives allocation of Rs393.16bn in budget

The Sindh government has allocated Rs393.16 billion for the health sector for the financial year 2026-27. In his budget speech in the Sindh Assembly, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said that the largest share of grants has been allocated to health institutions to ensure continued provision of free or highly subsidised treatment for cardiac diseases, kidney ailments, cancer treatment, maternal health and child care. *(Dawn, June 18th, 2026, Page 17)*

Balochistan boosts health budget by 30pc

The Balochistan government has increased health sector funding and allocated Rs96 billion for the fiscal year 2026-27, reflecting a 30 per cent rise compared to the current year's Rs71bn. Finance Minister Mir Shoaib Nosherwani indicated in his budget speech that health sector remains one of the government's top priorities, as improved healthcare is directly linked to a better quality of life and economic development. Officials said Rs6bn has been allocated under the development budget, while Rs90 bn has been set aside for non-development expenditures, excluding assets. The government has also increased funding for the Balochistan Health Card Programme from Rs4.5bn to Rs6bn to expand access to healthcare services for citizens. A major public health initiative, the Balochistan Nutrition Programme, has been allocated Rs1.5bn to combat malnutrition and improve maternal and child health outcomes. *(Dawn, June 19th, 2026, Page 5)*

PMA says foundations of public health in Sindh completely neglected in budget allocations

Pakistan Medical Association (PMA) has issued a critical review of newly announced Sindh health budget allocation of Rs393.16 billion for the financial year 2026-27. A statement issued by the PMA said that while the provincial government continues to showcase multi-billion rupee grants to select non-governmental organisations (NGOs), public-private partnerships, and autonomous specialised bodies, it is concerning that the foundational pillars of public health — disease prevention and primary healthcare — have been "completely neglected."

PMA said the budget heavily favours centralised urban curative setups by funnelling large-scale grants into specialised treatment. A massive portion of funding goes toward mega-grants for non-governmental institutions to provide treatment. While these treatment service providers perform essential functions, the PMA pointed out that no one is actively working on public health or the baseline prevention of disease. Treating advanced ailments after they reach tertiary-level medical setups is an unsustainable and financially catastrophic model. *(Dawn, June 19th, 2026, Page 14)*

Cabinet greenlights policy for advancing vaccine production

The Federal Cabinet has granted in-principle approval to the draft "National Policy for Advancing Indigenous Vaccine Production," declaring locally manufactured vaccines as regulated items. The Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination (MoNHSR&C) briefed the Cabinet that vaccines are a critical component of therapeutic goods and a cornerstone of preventive healthcare, playing a vital role in Pakistan's immunisation programme. The Ministry underscored that ensuring vaccine availability is essential for national health security, economic stability and public health sovereignty. Pakistan currently relies heavily on imported vaccines, with annual expenditure estimated at around USD 340 million, which is projected to surge to nearly USD 1.2 billion by 2030. *(Business Recorder, June 19th, 2026, Page 1)*

Budgetary allocation for free treatment of cancer patients termed meagre

The allocation of Rs200 million for free treatment of cancer patients in the budget for the year 2026-27 is too little to provide medicines to 100 patients let alone 1,500 people, who are awaiting free medication, according to oncologists. They said that shortage of funds had become the main issue due to which cancer patients could not receive free medication. The new financial year will be the worst for cancer patients as the amount sanctioned in the budget will not be enough for treatment of 10 per cent patients in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Oncologists told this scribe that the government should have allocated at least Rs2 billion to enable poor patients to seek free medical services but it cut the funds from Rs1.5 billion in 2025-26 to Rs200 million in 2025-26. "It is just a peanut given the rising cost of drugs," they said. *(Dawn, June 22nd, 2026, Page 9)*

Audit report flags Rs3.41 billion irregularities in health sector

The recently released Auditor-General of Pakistan's Audit Report has identified irregularities of Rs3.41 billion in various ancillary departments of the Ministry of National Health Services. Report found fraud, embezzlement and misappropriation amounting to Rs28.41 million, procurement-related irregularities of Rs1,779.26 million and irregularities related to the management of accounts with commercial banks worth Rs1,483.73 million. However, an amount of Rs127.27 million was recovered following the intervention of the audit department. *(Dawn, June 26th, 2026, Page 4)*

Over Rs18.5bn spent on extending free treatment in Punjab

Free treatment worth over Rs18.5 billion has been extended to the patients under all special health programs from the designated hospitals while steps are underway in the Punjab government's health sector to implement revolutionary and historic initiatives. This was revealed in the 117th meeting of the Board of Directors of the Punjab Health Initiative Management Company. The board also directed a third-party audit to maintain transparency of the CM health initiatives. *(Business Recorder, June 26th, 2026, Page 2)*

12 # CLIMATE CHANGE

Minister warns of underwater heat emergency in Arabian Sea

Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry has warned of an underwater heat emergency in the Arabian Sea and called for urgent climate action to protect coastal communities, fisheries and maritime infrastructure. In a statement on Environment Day, he emphasised that nature provides countless sustainable solutions to the climate crisis, from ocean depths to mountain peaks. He called for urgent action to protect ecosystems and strengthen environmental resilience worldwide.

The minister said sustained sea-surface temperatures in the northern Arabian Sea have exceeded the 90th percentile across more than 30 per cent of the region in recent weeks. Scientists, he added, describe the event as an unprecedented marine heatwave that is already intensifying climate risks along Pakistan's coast and altering forthcoming monsoon behaviour. "Warmer waters are a known factor in both cyclone formation and intensification," Mr Chaudhry said, linking the marine heatwave to a potential rise in tropical cyclone activity in the North Arabian Sea. He warned that increased cyclone frequency and strength would place additional pressure on ports, fishing fleets and coastal infrastructure. *(Dawn, June 6th, 2026, Page 14)*

Pakistan remains on frontline of global climate crisis in FY2026

Pakistan remained on the frontline of the global climate crisis in FY2026 as the 2025 floods alone caused damages worth Rs 822 billion, claimed more than 1,039 lives and displaced over four million people, according to the Pakistan Economic Survey 2025-26. 2025 ranked as Pakistan's second warmest year in the past 65 years, with a national mean temperature of 23.9°C and rainfall three percent below average.

Progress under IMF Resilience and Sustainability Facility was highlighted, including completion of four key reforms: introduction of carbon levy, adaptation of an electric vehicle policy framework, issuance of climate-related financial risk management guidelines, and operationalisation of green taxonomy and ESG disclosure guidelines.

Climate change has moved from a distant threat to a present reality for Pakistan, creating serious risks for the country's economy, agriculture, infrastructure and population. It noted that despite contributing less than one percent to global emissions and only 0.4 percent of historic emissions, Pakistan continues to face a disproportionately high burden of climate-related disasters. Pakistan has faced repeated climate shocks in recent years, including the catastrophic 2022 floods and the widespread 2025 floods that hit all four provinces and Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

Pakistan has launched the Pakistan Climate Prosperity Plan as a flagship investment-led framework to transform climate challenges into opportunities for sustainable economic growth, resilience and prosperity. The plan is aimed at mobilising climate investment and linking adaptation needs with economic development.

The survey said the Pakistan Climate Prosperity Plan also presents a major climate investment requirement, estimating that the country will need around USD 1.6 trillion by 2050, with annual investment needs of about USD 65 billion. It projected climate-related investments of USD 565.7 billion by 2035, covering priority areas such as energy transition, climate-resilient agriculture, green economic zones, infrastructure, transport and natural capital. *(Business Recorder, June 12th, 2026, Page 12)*

12.1 # Climate Finance

Rs2.78bn tagged for climate change

Federal government, in annual budget 2026-27, has allocated Rs 2.78 billion for climate change sector to support environmental protection and climate resilience projects. The funds will be used for initiatives such as climate adaptation, disaster management, and sustainability programs. *(Business Recorder, June 13th, 2026, Page 7)*

Climate ministry secures Rs2.48bn Public Sector Development Programme allocation for green projects

The Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination (MoCC&EC) has secured an allocation of Rs2.478 billion under Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) for the fiscal year 2026-27 beginning July 1. The allocation will support four ongoing projects aimed at ecological restoration, green skills development, urban climate resilience and strengthening institutional capacity for climate action. The lion's share of the allocation, Rs2.335bn, has been earmarked for the flagship Up-scaling of Green Pakistan Programme, which focuses on large-scale afforestation, biodiversity conservation, carbon sequestration and the restoration of natural ecosystems.

The allocation also underscores the government's emphasis on strengthening Pakistan's climate resilience and integrating environmental sustainability into the country's development agenda. Officials said the PSDP allocations reflected the prime minister's resolve to equip the country to cope with escalating climate threats, including glacial melting, glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs), water scarcity, deforestation, heatwaves, forest fires and land degradation, which have become increasingly frequent and severe in recent years. *(Dawn, June 15th, 2026, Page 4)*

Budget 2026-27: 'Shocking' climate budget cut draws warning from Sherry Rehman

Senate Standing Committee on Climate Change and Environmental Coordination chairperson Senator Sherry Rehman called recent reductions in climate-related budget allocations "shocking," warning that Pakistan is entering a period of heightened environmental vulnerability marked by worsening climate extremes. Rehman said the country is facing intensifying heatwaves, accelerated glacier melt, erratic rainfall patterns, increasing water scarcity, and deteriorating urban environmental conditions.

She stressed that monsoon preparedness must remain an immediate national priority, calling for stronger institutional coordination to address what she described as a growing "climate polycrisis". Expressing concern over shrinking financial commitments, committee noted that Climate Ministry's Public Sector Development Programme allocation dropped to Rs2.478bn, down from Rs3.5bn in previous fiscal cycle. *(Dawn, June 19th, 2026, Page 12)*

Climate shocks threaten economic stability: experts

Climate experts have warned that the climate shocks in Pakistan have threatened agriculture, food security, rural livelihoods and economic stability of the country. Khan Faraz, a climate expert said that the agriculture contributed 23.4 percent to GDP and employing over 33.1 percent of the labour force. The sector grew by 2.89 percent in FY2025-26, nearly doubling last year's 1.53 percent expansion, as stronger wheat, sugarcane and rice production helped the farm economy withstand the impact of devastating floods and emerge more resilient than expected. The sector's performance was largely driven by a 3.75 percent growth in livestock, alongside 1.66 percent increase in fisheries and a 2.02 percent rise in forestry.

Other experts said that the climate shocks threaten agriculture, food security, rural livelihoods and economic stability of the country. Climate change is no longer only an environmental concern but a challenge of productivity, inflation, employment, public finance and growth. Also, the next economic crisis may begin not with a failed bank, but with a failed monsoon. Nearly 70 percent of farmers cultivate fewer than five acres, while less than two percent of agricultural losses are insured. Every rupee spent rebuilding is a rupee not invested in our future. Khan Faraz added there is a great need for a move from disaster response to risk management, relief to resilience and fragmented institutions to integrated governance. Farmers need fair markets, quality seeds, technology and protection. *(Business Recorder, June 26th, 2026, Page 3)*

13 # CLIMATE DISASTERS

13.1 # Heatwave

Scorching heatwave hits Karachi

Intense and schorching heatwave hit Karachi hard as mercury surged to its highest level of the season, pushing citizens into severe discomfort, particularly in low-income and electricity-deficient areas where prolonged load-shedding worsened already unbearable conditions. As Karachi continues to battle relentless heatwave conditions, combination of rising temperatures, prolonged power outages, and inadequate civic facilities has created a crisis-like situation for millions. *(Business Recorder, June 8th, 2026, Page 3)*

Heatwave

Heatwave conditions continued across Gilgit-Baltistan, accelerating glacier melt. Authorities warned that rising water levels in rivers and streams had increased the risk of flooding and glacial lake outburst floods (Glofs). The swelling waterways have disconnected several roads and damaged crops and farmland in downstream areas. *(Dawn, June 28th, 2026, Page 12)*

13.2 # Rainfall

Lightning kills man in Kohlu

A lightning strike killed one man and injured another in Garasani area of Kohlu district as heavy rain and thunderstorms battered the region. *(Dawn, June 2nd, 2026, Page 5)*

46 houses catch fire in Kot Mithan: Man dies, nine others injured as rain, dust storm wreak havoc in South Punjab

An unidentified man was killed and nine others injured, while 46 houses were damaged by fire as strong winds and dust storms wreaked havoc in parts of south Punjab during the last 24 hours. Around 64,000 kilo wheat was also burnt in these incidents, while five persons were injured. Meanwhile, death of an unidentified man was reported in Kot Mithan, Rohjan Road in Rajanpur district, where four persons were also injured.

Besides, 115 animals were killed and three others were injured in the affected areas. The dead animals included 45 goats, 15 cows and calves, five donkeys, and 50 chickens and ducks. PDMA has also reported various weather-related incidents in Rajanpur and Muzaffargarh districts, where strong winds damaged solar panels and caused fires, resulting in loss of property and livestock. *(Dawn, June 3rd, 2026, Page 2)*

6 dead as dust storm, rain batter Shaheed Benazirabad

Six people, including women and children, were killed when a heavy dust storm followed by rain struck Shaheed Benazirabad district. The victims died in separate incidents of roof and wall collapses across the district. The bodies and wounded were taken to nearby health facilities; a large number of injured were treated at Peoples Medical Hospital, Nawabshah. *(Dawn, June 4th, 2026, Page 15)*

Three die as heavy rain breaks heatwave across Punjab

The sudden rain caused damages too as three people died and seven were injured in Lahore and Narowal. *(Dawn, June 12th, 2026, Page 2)*

Four killed, 23 injured in Bannu rainstorm

Four people were killed, and 23 others were injured as a heavy downpour coupled with a windstorm caused widespread destruction across Bannu district. The heavy rainfall and windstorm damaged a large number of houses, shops and other properties across the district. *(Dawn, June 13th, 2026, Page 2)*

Death toll reaches 10 as rains ravage KP, Punjab

A 72-hour spell of monsoon rains and severe thunderstorms has left at least eight people dead and 33 others injured across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, while rain-related accidents in Punjab killed two people dead and injured nine others. *(Dawn, June 15th, 2026, Page 1)*

Cloudburst-induced floods wreak havoc in Diamer's Thore Valley

Cloudburst-induced floods wreaked havoc in Thore Valley of Diamer district, while rapidly melting glaciers continued to raise water levels in rivers and streams across Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), putting downstream communities at increasing risk. Flash floods triggered by a cloudburst over nearby mountains caused widespread devastation in Thore Valley. Several homes, hundreds of acres of farmland, orchards, trees, and both public and private property were damaged. *(Dawn, June 28th, 2026, Page 12)*

14 # NATURAL DISASTER

Tremors felt across most parts of Pakistan

A 5.9- magnitude earthquake originating in Afghanistan's Hindu Kush region sent light to moderate tremors across Pakistan, while a series of quakes in Balochistan damaged homes and injured several people over two days. The Hindu Kush earthquake struck at 6:35pm, shaking Abbottabad, Haripur, Mansehra, Shangla, Swat in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Rawalpindi, Chakwal and the Pothohar region in Punjab as well as Islamabad and Azad Jammu and Kashmir. Meanwhile, the PDMA in Balochistan reported that the two earthquakes had struck Tehsil Kingri in Musakhail district. *(Dawn, June 28th, 2026, Page 1)*

Venezuela tremors affecting region: Balochistan hit by five quakes in just 24 hours

Balochistan has witnessed a back-to-back mild to strong five earthquakes in just 24-hours, Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) confirmed. According to PMD chief meteorologist Amir Haider Laghari, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are located on the Eurasian tectonic plate. He said the recent earthquakes are occurring on the upper surface of this tectonic plate and are linked to global seismic activity. Chief meteorologist explained that energy waves generated after the recent earthquake in Venezuela are affecting connected tectonic plates and contributing to tremors in the region. He further noted that after major earthquakes in Indonesia between 2000 and 2011, the devastating 2005 Kashmir earthquake followed in Kashmir.

A moderate 5.1-magnitude earthquake was recorded in Balochistan and nearby regions, according to Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) said. The National Seismic Monitoring Centre (NSMC) said a 5.1-magnitude earthquake was recorded, with the epicentre located about 58 kilometres northeast of Barkhan, local media channels reported. PDMA said tremors were felt in Musakhel, Barkhan, Rakhni and Kohlu, with reports of minor injuries and damage to houses in several areas of Musakhel. *(Business Recorder, June 28th, 2026, Page 22)*

15 # RESISTANCE

Keamari residents protest against protracted water crisis

Residents of Keamari staged a protest demonstration against, what they called, a month-long water crisis, saying the ruling PPP, which holds all civic representation in the area, has been shrugging off public complaints about their daily hardships. The demonstration was organised by the Mutaharrik Keamari Tehreek and drew a large turnout from Bhatta Village Limari in UC-9, Mauripur Town, which falls under provincial constituency PS-115. Protesters raised slogans against the local administration and the Karachi Water and Sewerage Board. *(Business Recorder, June 2nd, 2026, Page 4)*

Iesco employees protest proposed privatisation

Employees of Islamabad Electric Supply Company (Iesco) held a protest rally against the proposed privatisation of power companies. On the call of All-Pakistan Wapda Hydro Electric Workers Union (CBA), workers brought out the rally from Rawalpindi Press Club at Liaquat Bagh and marched to the Iesco Complex at Marrir Hassan. The protest, which lasted for more than two hours, was attended by thousands of Iesco employees from Attock, Jhelum, Chakwal, Islamabad and Rawalpindi. During the rally, traffic gridlock was witnessed on Murree Road. *(Dawn, June 3rd, 2026, Page 4)*

Despite govt intervention, Karachi University teachers refuse to end exam boycott

Despite intervention by the provincial authorities, strong opposition from teachers to signing any agreement that does not include a firm commitment to immediate financial relief compelled Karachi University Teachers' Society to continue its protest, including the boycott of semester examinations on the campus. *(Dawn, June 3rd, 2026, Page 13)*

Workers hold rallies in Sindh cities against move to privatise Discos

Thousands of electricity workers took to the streets across Sindh in a co-ordinated show of defiance against the federal government's plans to privatise power distribution companies, warning that job losses and higher electricity bills would follow any sell-off. Rallies were held simultaneously in Hyderabad, Larkana, Mirpurkhas, Badin and several other cities, organised under the banner of the All Pakistan Wapda Hydro Electric Workers Union (CBA). Workers marched through main roads, raised slogans against rising inflation and converged on press clubs and public squares to deliver their message to the government. *(Dawn, June 3rd, 2026, Page 15)*

Protesters continue Karakoram Highway blockade for second day

People of Lower Kohistan continued to block the Karakoram Highway (KKH) to all sorts of traffic for the second consecutive day as talks between elders of the protesters and district administration failed to end the ongoing agitation. "You should end the protest as passengers including women and children travelling within the district and between Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Gilgit-Baltistan have been suffering in the scorching heat on the KKH. Give us 10 days to meet your demands," Abdul Wali Khan, additional deputy commissioner of Lower Kohistan, told elders of the protesters. The protesters allowed passengers including women and children to continue their journeys to their respective destinations across the country. *(Dawn, June 5th, 2026, Page 2)*

JI takes to streets over Karachi's worsening water crisis

The Jamaat-i-Islami staged protest demonstrations at different locations over deepening water crisis in the city and warned that the party would expand its movement using all democratic options, including sit-ins and a strike, if the issue was not resolved. The central protest was staged by the local government representatives of the JI outside the KMC building that houses the office of the mayor, who also happens to be the chairman of Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation. *(Dawn, June 6th, 2026, Page 13)*

Pilgrims protest continued closure of Pak-Iran border

Hundreds of people marched from Qadam Gah Maula Ali to the local press club to protest the year-long closure of Pakistan's land borders with Iran and Iraq, which has cut off an affordable pilgrimage route for thousands of intending visitors to religious sites in both countries. The rally organised by the Sindh Pilgrims Welfare Organisation. Women and children were among the participants, who raised slogans calling for the immediate reopening of the borders. *(Dawn, June 6th, 2026, Page 15)*

Torkham Highway reopens after protests against 'targeted attack'

The Peshawar-Torkham Highway was reopened following a temporary closure by Sultankhel tribesmen protesting the handling of 'targeted killings' in their area by Zakakhel elders and government authorities. Two Sultankhel residents were gunned down by unidentified assailants — in the same area where two policemen had been targeted over the last few months. The fresh violence prompted Sultan khel residents from the Zakakhel tribe to block the Peshawar-Torkham Highway by staging a protest. The road closure also temporarily suspended the repatriation of Afghan families via the Torkham border. *(Dawn, June 8th, 2026, Page 9)*

Clashes in AJK kill 11 ahead of protest

Clashes in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) ahead of a protest called for killed 11 people and injured more than 70 as police and paramilitary forces sought to scatter a group of protesters from a banned alliance of civil society groups. Police said the protesters of the Joint Awami Action Committee, which seeks to uphold economic and political rights, had gathered outside a hospital morgue where the body of another group member was taken after his death in firing by police. "Four police officers and a passer-by died after miscreants shot at them," Sardar Waheed Khan, commissioner of the Poonch sector in the region, told Reuters, adding, "As the result of the law enforcers' response, six protesters were killed." *(Business Recorder, June 9th, 2026, Page 1)*

Rally held to demand safe recovery of 'missing' columnist

A large number of people staged a rally in Naushahro Feroze to demand safe recovery of former director Excise and Taxation Department and columnist Saeed Memon. Led by family members of Mr Memon, who was abducted around a month ago, were joined by lawyers, journalists, students and members of civil society. The rally started from Tharu Shah Stop and ended at Allah Wala Chowk. *(Dawn, June 10th, 2026, Page 14)*

Balochistan workers' protest drive begins today

The grand alliance of various government employees' associations and trade unions announced the launch of a two-day protest across Balochistan and the establishment of sit-in camps outside press clubs to press for their demands and protest against the government's actions against workers involved in the struggle for their rights. The organiser of the alliance said the province-wide protest would begin today. He added that a sit-in would be staged on June 15. *(Dawn, June 11th, 2026, Page 5)*

Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation workers stage protest to demand approval of charter of demands

The Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation (KWSC), already under intense public criticism over a water supply crisis that has persisted for nearly three months in several parts of the city, is now facing another challenge as its employees took to the streets to demand the resolution of longstanding grievances. The elected KWSC CBA and the Muttahida Workers Federation of the Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan organised the protest outside the Karachi Press Club against the management of the water utility. *(Dawn, June 11th, 2026, Page 13)*

YDA continues OPD boycott

The Young Doctors Association (YDA) continued its boycott of outpatient departments (OPDs) for the fifth consecutive day in protest against the acid attack on Dr Mahnoor Nasir. The closure of several hospital departments caused serious difficulties for patients seeking medical treatment. However, the Balochistan chief minister's aide for media and political affairs, Shahid Rind, said the government could not allow any disruption in healthcare services. He said the administration had offered dialogue to doctors' organisations but had also taken disciplinary action against those violating service rules. According to him, 23 doctors have been suspended, 25 officers have been served show-cause notices, and the postgraduate training registrations of five trainee doctors have been suspended pending inquiries. *(Dawn, June 12th, 2026, Page 5)*

Thousands rejoin AJK sit-ins after overnight dispersal

Activists and supporters of the proscribed Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC), who had dispersed from sit-in sites on the outskirts of Rawalakot after midnight, regrouped at two locations, drawing thousands of participants despite official claims that the protest campaign had collapsed. Senior officials had claimed that all three protest camps on the fringes of Rawalakot had been vacated amid expectations of a major operation by law enforcement agencies. The largest gathering, comprising participants from Mirpur division and southern parts of Poonch division, had been camped at Eidgah Ground, where the administration has imposed restrictions on entry from outside areas for several days. *(Dawn, June 13th, 2026, Page 1)*

Protesting govt employees in Islamabad term 7pc pay increase a pittance

The All-Government Employees Grand Alliance (AGEGA) staged a protest on Constitution Avenue while the budget was being presented in the National Assembly. Earlier, AGEGA had announced that it would hold the protest in front of Parliament House. In response to the protest call and in connection with the budget presentation, the capital police tightened security in and around the Red Zone and deployed about 2,000 personnel. *(Dawn, June 13th, 2026, Page 4)*

Karachi Development Authority employees stage protest

Employees and officers of the Karachi Development Authority (KDA) have launched a "strong protest campaign" against the appointment of officers and staff from other government departments in the authority, alleging that the postings violate court orders and KDA's service rules. Announcing a series of protests, they held the first demonstration at the KDA Civic Centre, where employees raised slogans against the appointment of "outside officers." *(Dawn, June 13th, 2026, Page 14)*

Protest demo outside parliament: Govt employees for incorporating demands into budget

Federal government employees staged a protest demonstration outside the parliament during the budget session for the 2026–27 and urged the government to incorporate their demands into the budget and ensure the immediate implementation of all clauses of the agreement reached on March 10, 2025. The government employees, including lady health workers, lady teachers, and PWD employees, marched from the Pakistan Secretariat and gathered outside the Parliament House after passing through barricades erected by the police. Protesters were holding placards and banners inscribed with slogans in favour of their demands. A heavy contingent of police was deployed on the occasion in order to avert an untoward situation. Minor clashes between police and protesters reportedly occurred. *(Business Recorder, June 13th, 2026, Page 9)*

Partial strike persists across AJK as JAAC sit-ins continue

Two sit-ins by activists and supporters of the proscribed Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC) continued on the fringes of Rawalakot for the fourth consecutive day amid a partial shutter-down strike across Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK). Though no untoward incident had been reported until evening, disruption of mobile phone services in Rawalakot after 8:30pm hindered the only means of ascertaining information about the latest situation in the 'embattled' town. *(Dawn, June 14th, 2026, Page 12)*

JAAC protest in Rawalakot 'dwindles' as shutter-down strike continues across AJK

The standoff between law enforcement personnel and supporters of the proscribed Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC) in Rawalakot seemed to be winding down, with officials claiming that the days-long protest had visibly shrink. According to officials, who spoke to *Dawn* on condition of anonymity, the central gathering at the Eidgah Ground is steadily shrinking, with most participants from other areas having quietly left.

The majority of those still present are residents of nearby localities who arrive in the afternoon and return home late at night, an official said. The official maintained that law enforcement personnel had only engaged armed activists, and ruled out the possibility of negotiations with the proscribed group, stating that its members would either have to surrender or face strict legal action. Authorities have relaxed curfew-like restrictions in parts of Rawalakot, allowing shops to open for limited hours to aid residents. *(Dawn, June 16th, 2026, Page 3)*

Jewellers protest FBR raids

Jewellers observed a partial shutdown in the city and across the country to protest against frequent raids by officials of the FBR over taxation issues. All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewellers Association (APSGJA) has also not issued the daily gold rates because trading activities were suspended. *(Dawn, June 17th, 2026, Page 9)*

Balochistan employees announce indefinite shutdown after police crackdown

The Balochistan Employees' Grand Alliance, following clashes with police and the arrest of several of its leaders and workers, announced a complete shutdown of government offices, educational institutions and other public sector departments across the province for an indefinite period. The alliance said its protest campaign would continue until its demands were met. The alliance's protesters had planned to march to the Balochistan Assembly and stage a protest sit-in during the budget session. However, the local administration deployed a heavy contingent of police and Frontier Corps personnel to block their movement. Balochistan workers alliance rejects 7pc salary increase, demands 35pc disparity reduction allowance. *(Dawn, June 18th, 2026, Page 5)*

Bykea drivers protest killing of colleague in Abbottabad

Strong outrage and protests have erupted in Abbottabad following the alleged killing of a young Bykea driver, Osama, while police have registered a murder case against unknown suspects and launched an investigation. According to the first information report (FIR) registered at the Nawan Shehar police station, the incident was reported on June 16. The incident reportedly took place near Dhameera Colony, opposite Punjab Hotel, close to the Abbottabad-Mansehra Road. *(Dawn, June 18th, 2026, Page 8)*

Commuters suffer as transporters hold strike

Public transport largely remained off the city roads as transport operators observed a citywide wheel-jam strike against electronic traffic challans, "heavy fines and other regulatory measures." They also announced that the suspension of services would continue after talks with the government representatives ended without a breakthrough.

The strike had a significant impact on daily commuters across the metropolis, as a large number of residents struggled to reach offices, factories, educational institutions and other destinations. Bus stops across the city witnessed long queues of passengers waiting for transport that never arrived, while many were forced to rely on ride-hailing services, private vehicles or alternative arrangements. *(Dawn, June 19th, 2026, Page 13)*

Protest against moneylenders after man's death

A grieving family blocked a section of the National Highway near Shaheed Allah Bakhsh Soomro Park in Jacobabad, placing a relative's body across the road in protest against local moneylenders. The demonstrators transported the body to the site in an ambulance, completely halting traffic in both directions for several hours. *(Dawn, June 19th, 2026, Page 15)*

Two months on, fate of 10 Pakistani sailors held by Somali pirates hangs in balance

It has been almost two months since the 10 Pakistani sailors aboard MT Honour 25, a Palau-flagged oil tanker hijacked by pirates off the coast of Somalia, were taken hostage for ransom. Throughout this time their families have been running from pillar to post to get them back home but they have only run into walls. The biggest and strongest of the walls, according to them, is their own Pakistani government, which has made the least effort to lessen their plight. The protest, attended by many families of the hostages, was called by the Jamaat-i-Islami (JI). *(Dawn, June 20th, 2026, Page 13)*

Transporters' strike continues as talks with traffic DIG break down

A strike by public transport operators in Karachi will continue after talks with traffic police broke down, the head of a transporters' union said. The wheel-jam strike has been observed in the metropolis against heavy e-challans and other regulatory measures. Citizens continued to face hardship due to strike, with people in many city areas forced to use costly rickshaws and taxis. Buses, minibuses and coaches largely stayed off roads throughout day, forcing thousands of commuters to seek alternative means of transport to reach workplaces and commercial centres. *(Dawn, June 21st, 2026, Page 13)*

32 teachers suspended over budget protest in Balochistan

The Balochistan Education Department has suspended a total of 32 teachers and staff members across the province for allegedly taking an active part in the protest movement of the Balochistan Grand Alliance (BGA) and disrupting academic activities on the day of the provincial budget session. According to an official statement issued by the department, 26 teachers and employees who participated in the protest during the budget session and were later arrested by police have been suspended under the Balochistan Employees Efficiency and Discipline Act, 2011. The statement said the suspended employees belong to several districts, including Jhal Magsi, Kachhi, Quetta, Zhob, Loralai and Pishin. In a separate action, six more teachers from Pishin were suspended for allegedly closing schools and disrupting educational activities on the call of the BGA. *(Dawn, June 22nd, 2026, Page 5)*

Committee to probe woman's death at Topi hospital

Residents of Topi city during a protest demanded transfer of all medical staff of Tehsil Headquarters Hospital Topi for death of a woman allegedly due to reaction of an injection given to her at the hospital. A protest took place after the death of Malik Niaz Muhammad's wife. *(Dawn, June 22nd, 2026, Page 9)*

Strike sees many parts of Balochistan shut down

A complete shutter-down strike was observed across Quetta and several other areas of Balochistan. The strike was called to protest against the life sentences handed down to Baloch Yakjehti Committee (BYC) central organiser Dr Mahrang Baloch and another group leader, Sibghatullah Shahji, by an anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Quetta. The Balochistan National Party (BNP) backed the strike call, which was issued by the BYC. In the provincial capital, business activities remained completely suspended, with shops and commercial centres closed on major arteries, including Sariab Road and Jail Road.

The strike paralysed daily life and commercial activity across the province. Reports of a complete shutdown emerged from several districts, including Mastung, Turbat, Nushki, Gwadar, Khuzdar, Kharan, Kalat and Panjgur. Shops and markets remained closed throughout the day in Khuzdar and its surrounding areas. Traffic also remained thin in Khuzdar during the shutter-down strike. While the strike remained largely peaceful, the local administration deployed heavy security to prevent any untoward incidents. *(Dawn, June 25th, 2026, Page 5)*

Protest held against Mahrang's conviction in Quetta

Workers and supporters of Baloch Yakjehti Committee staged a protest demonstration at Sariab Road area against awarding of life imprisonment to Dr Mahrang Baloch and another leader by a court. Dr Mahrang Baloch, the chief organiser of BYC, was detained with other leaders of the organisation last year in March. The protesters gathered at Bashir Chowk area and blocked the road by burning tyres and putting barricades and chanted slogans against the government. *(Dawn, June 30th, 2026, Page 5)*

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1 # AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION RESOURCES

Dry weather across Asia threatens crops as severe El Nino looms

Dry weather is disrupting crop planting across Asia, raising concerns about food supplies in the world's most populous region, and an expected severe El Nino weather pattern could inflict more damage. From India's grain-producing northwestern plains to Australia's eastern wheat belt, and from Thailand's rice fields to Indonesia's vast palm oil plantations, hot weather and below-normal rains are hurting crops and forcing farmers to reduce planting, farmers, analysts and traders said.

El Nino-driven dryness is a double blow for farmers already grappling with fertiliser and diesel shortages caused by the US-Israel war on Iran. Wheat prices have risen about 20 per cent since the start of 2026, largely on concerns over drought in key US growing regions. Rice prices at major Southeast Asian export hubs have climbed around 15pc over the past month on rising production costs and fears of tighter supplies. One of the strongest El Ninos on record is widely expected to develop in the second half of 2026, bringing hot-dry weather to Asia and excessive rains to the Americas, with global climate change making things worse. *(Dawn, June 5th, 2026, Page 10)*

Gunmen kill 17 in raid on Nigerian farming village

Gunmen from criminal gangs killed 17 farmers in a raid on a rural community in northwest Nigeria in the latest wave of attacks in the restive region. Weeks into the annual rainy season, jihadists and criminal gangs -- kidnappers for ransom and cattle thieves known locally as bandits -- have stepped up attacks on farming communities in northern and central Nigeria that fail to pay levies they impose. The violence has forced many farmers to keep off their land, with IMF warning such attacks could "aggravate poverty and food insecurity" in the country. *(The News, June 28th, 2026, Page 10)*

2 # AGRICULTURAL INPUTS

Global fertiliser trade down 30pc amid Mideast war: UN

Global trade in fertilisers crucial to agriculture harvests worldwide have slumped 30 percent since the start of the year, as the Mideast war sent prices soaring and led several countries to restrict exports, the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization said. Many farmers have delayed or forgone purchases as supplies tightened with the effective closure of the Strait of Hormuz, blocking shipments of the raw materials and liquefied natural gas (LNG) used in fertiliser production. At the same time, China, Russia, Turkey and Egypt are among the main producer countries that have limited exports to protect their domestic markets. Prices on average jumped 25 percent between February and May, according to FAO data released in its biannual Food Outlook report. As a result, trade volumes fell to 41 million tonnes in the first four months of this year, down from 58 million tonnes in the period last year. Even if the strait reopens under a deal signed by the US and Iran this week, "recovery across nitrogen, phosphates, and sulphur-linked inputs would be slow and uneven, keeping prices historically elevated", FAO warned. A third of world's fertiliser supply passed through the Strait of Hormuz before the war that erupted on February 28, and officials have warned that farmers could face shortages during the summer growing season. *(Business Recorder, June 19th, 2026, Page 1)*

3 # AGRICULTURAL OUTPUTS

Not any preferable news to be included in this month.

4 # SUB – AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIONS

Not any preferable news to be included in this month.

5 # TRADE

US goods trade deficit hits 14-month high in May as imports surge

The US trade deficit in goods swelled to a 14-month high in May as businesses boosted imports, likely to avoid shortages and higher prices related to the Middle East conflict, suggesting trade remained a drag on economic growth in the second quarter. The sharp deterioration in the goods trade deficit reported by the Commerce Department also reflected a decline in exports.

Recent business surveys have shown front-loading of orders by firms. Sponsors of the surveys attributed the behavior to the US-led war against Iran, which raised commodity prices, including for oil and fertilizers, and disrupted shipping in the Strait of Hormuz. But after the United States and Iran last week signed a preliminary peace deal, shipments through the strait have picked up, driving oil prices sharply lower. Even if supply chains returned to normal, economists warned that trade deficit would likely remain elevated because of an artificial intelligence investment boom that is largely reliant on imports.

The goods trade gap increased 27.4 percent to USD105.8 billion last month, the highest level since March 2025, the Commerce Department's Census Bureau said. Economists polled had forecast deficit at USD85.0 billion. Trade had been a drag on gross domestic product for two straight quarters. Growth estimates for the second quarter were converging around a 2.5 percent annualized rate before the trade data. The economy grew at a 2.1 percent annualized rate last quarter after expanding at a 0.5 percent pace in the October-December quarter. *(Business Recorder, June 29th, 2026, Page 9)*

6 # CORPORATE SECTOR

Not any preferable news to be included in this month.

7 # INTERNATIONAL AID / LOAN / INVESTMENT

London, Tokyo agree USD24bn investment deal

Britain and Japan sealed a sweeping economic and technological partnership, expected to generate over £18 billion (USD24 billion) in investment, during a visit to London by Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi. British Prime Minister Keir Starmer and

Takaichi held talks at his Downing Street office, ahead of them attending a G7 summit in France. In total, more than 10 trade agreements were signed, including a £9-billion offshore wind farm project, as Starmer hailed as “a new era of cooperation between our two countries”. The partnership includes a strengthening of collaboration between Rolls-Royce and Japan’s Atomic Energy Agency. Total trade between the United Kingdom and Japan is currently worth around £140 billion, according to the UK government. *(Business Recorder, June 15th, 2026, Page 9)*

Uganda says Islamic Development Bank approves 650m euro loan

The Islamic Development Bank’s (IsDB) executive board has approved a €650.7 million ($746.2 million) loan to Uganda to help finance its standard gauge railway project. Uganda is raising funds for the €2.7 billion project, which has already won backing from lenders including World Bank and African Development Bank. It has appointed Citibank to help mobilise financing. *(The News, June 21st, 2026, Page 18)*

8 # INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS (IFIs)

World Bank approves $1.1 billion emergency financing for Bangladesh

The World Bank approved $1.1 billion in emergency financing for Bangladesh to help secure food supplies, support vulnerable households and businesses due to the rising prices of fertiliser, fuel and food from the Middle East conflict. Bangladesh is also seeking additional external financing from development partners, including IMF, to shore up foreign exchange reserves and ease pressure on public finances following a surge in energy import costs and broader economic challenges.

The World Bank package comprises two projects aimed at helping the country manage external shocks and maintain economic stability. Of the total, $300 million will be provided under the Emergency Support for Food Security Project to finance imports of 600,000 metric tons of fertiliser for the upcoming rice seasons. Bangladesh imports more than 85% of its fertiliser requirements, making it vulnerable to disruptions in global supply chains. The project will support rice cultivation across 1.4 million hectares (3.46 million acres) of farmland. The remaining $713 million, approved under the Contingent Emergency Response Project, will finance emergency expenditures, including cash transfers and livelihood support for affected households and small businesses. *(Business Recorder, June 28th, 2026, Page 1)*

9 # POLICY

Egypt lines up four state-owned companies for privatisation

Egypt has granted four state-owned companies preliminary listings as part of the government’s privatisation programme, the cabinet said. Three are from the petroleum sector — Engineering for Petroleum and Chemical Industries (ENPPI), Egyptian Linear Alkyl Benzene Company (ELAB) and Petroleum Marine Services — while the fourth is Maamoura for Reconstruction and Tourism Development. The preliminary listings are a prelude to offering stakes in the companies on the stock exchange.

The three petroleum sector companies' capital totals $687 million, a separate petroleum ministry statement said. Egypt has previously announced plans to list 30 companies on the country's stock exchange as part of a divestment programme agreed with the IMF. Investment Minister Mohamed Farid Saleh has said that four state-owned companies are expected to be listed before May 2027 and that the government had achieved or even surpassed targets for the IMF programme, such as the country's fiscal deficit and primary surplus. *(Business Recorder, June 29th, 2026, Page 9)*

10 # SOCIO – ECONOMIC CONDITION

G7 leaders pledge to address poor countries' high debt burden

G7 leaders pledged to step up efforts to address high debt burdens among developing countries, including middle-income countries not currently eligible for a debt relief initiative launched by the broader Group of 20 large economies during the Covid-19 pandemic. In a joint declaration issued after a session that included guest countries Kenya, Egypt, India, Brazil and South Korea, the G7 leaders affirmed their commitment to international cooperation on development while urging reforms and a greater emphasis on private investment.

They said traditional development policies had produced results, but had only "limited impact in reducing financial dependency on external assistance." Public resources, curtailed sharply by the US and other advanced economies in recent years, would continue to play a key role, but were insufficient to meet global development needs, the leaders meeting in the French lakeside resort of Evian-les-Bains said. OECD data showed official development assistance dropped by 23.1pc in real terms in 2025 to $174.3 billion, led by a nearly 57pc drop in aid by the US and smaller declines from Germany, France, Britain and Japan. *(Dawn, June 18th, 2026, Page 12)*

10.1 # Food

UN fears hunger crisis amid funding cuts

The United Nations warned that dramatic funding cuts for aid, at a time of multiple crises, have created unparallelled gaps, leaving tens of millions going hungry. The UN's World Food Programme said it was facing a 75-percent shortfall in its funding, with dire and deadly consequences. "The gaps are unprecedented," Rania Dagash-Kamara, WFP's assistant executive director for partnerships and innovation, told reporters in Geneva. "Country by country, we are making brutal choices about who to reach." While there has been much focus on US cuts, Dagash-Kamara stressed that Washington remained WFP's top donor. *(Dawn, June 3rd, 2026, Page 11)*

Middle East war fuels global hunger crises: WFP

The Middle East conflict is pushing millions of people closer to hunger, as rising fuel and transport costs drive up food prices while funding shortfalls force aid agencies to scale back assistance, the UN World Food Programme said. Joint US-Israeli strikes on Iran in February triggered a regional conflict stretching across the Gulf and into

Lebanon, disrupting key shipping routes, including the Strait of Hormuz, forcing vessels to reroute and sharply constraining global energy flows and supply chains. In March, the WFP forecast as many as 45 million people could fall into acute food insecurity if oil prices remained around $100 per barrel through June. That scenario is now unfolding, the agency said, with benchmark crude prices staying above that level since early March. Households in Afghanistan, Somalia and Sri Lanka are among the most seriously affected and face mounting pressure due to higher fuel costs, food price spikes, income losses and disrupted trade.

In Somalia, 6.5m people — roughly a third of the population — are expected to face severe hunger in 2026, while Afghanistan could see 17.4m people affected, WFP said. The situation is projected to worsen, with an additional 2.5m Somalis and 2.3m Afghans at risk of falling into food insecurity if disruptions persist. Both countries are reliant on imported energy and food. Middle East crisis comes amid a deep funding shortfall for aid agencies. WFP said it expected to serve 1.5m fewer people globally in 2026, and 9m fewer if the situation persists for six months. In Somalia, supplies of nutritious food for children under 5 suffering from moderate malnutrition will run out as soon as July, as WFP faces an 89 pc funding gap in the country. *(Dawn, June 6th, 2026, Page 12)*

Anaemia is leading cause of maternal deaths worldwide, study finds

Presenting the missing evidence that could have a huge impact on the lives of mothers and their babies, a recently concluded multi-country study has found that anaemia, rather than postpartum haemorrhage (PPH), is the leading cause of maternal deaths worldwide. The study calls for an urgent review of the efforts being made to address the PPH. The findings of the WOMAN-2 study are released by the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, which coordinated the trials under an international alliance of doctors, midwives, research scientists and patients, in a report titled The Missing Evidence: Anamia, Postpartum Bleeding and Maternal Death.

The clinical investigation spread over six years involved 15,068 women with moderate and severe anaemia giving birth in hospitals in Pakistan, Tanzania, Nigeria and Zambia. Of them, 1,1025 women — the highest number — were from Pakistan. It examined the effects of anaemia on women giving birth and evaluated the effects of Tranexamic Acid (TXA) on the risk of the PPH — heavy, dangerous bleeding after childbirth — and other important outcomes in these high-risk vulnerable women.

Anaemia widespread in Pakistan

Speaking to Dawn, Dr Rizwana Choudhary, lead investigator of the study from Pakistan and professor at Shifa Tameer-e-Millat University, Islamabad, says that the study is an eye-opener. “The results showed that maternal mortality and morbidity is directly proportional to the haemoglobin (level). Low levels of haemoglobin increase the risk for PPH, antepartum haemorrhage (vaginal bleeding during the second half of pregnancy), neonatal mortality and stillbirths,” she said, emphasising that “anaemia must be addressed, if we want to save our mothers". According to her, the majority of pregnant women in Pakistan are anaemic. A 2024 local study suggests its prevalence up to 70pc. Common causes of anaemia in women, she says, are worm infestation due to consumption of unsafe water and lack of hygiene, poor nutrition, heavy menstrual bleeding, especially in the younger age group, and repeated pregnancies. Haemorrhoids (piles) and thalassemia can also cause anaemia. said, emphasising that "anaemia must be addressed, if we want to save our mothers".

Increased risk for stillbirths
The study found moderate and severe anaemia have a major impact on the physical and mental wellbeing of women giving birth. With worsening anaemia, women report more: shortness of breath at rest and after exercise, dizziness, fatigue and difficulty in concentrating. The research also showed that anaemia increases the likelihood of premature births and stillbirths. An astonishing 17 per cent of women with severe anaemia had a stillbirth. The figure for women with moderate anaemia was 5 per cent which is still much higher than for women without anaemia.

Although the WHO does not recommend routine episiotomy because the risks outweigh any potential benefits, 29 per cent of the women who took part in the study had an episiotomy. The chance of first-time mothers having the procedure was 81pc in Pakistan, 63pc in Nigeria, 29pc in Zambia and 15pc in Tanzania. Furthermore, of all the first-time mothers who had an episiotomy, 81pc had no pain relief. The trial analyses showed that there would be an overall reduction in deaths if all women giving birth in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia received TXA at the time of delivery. *(Dawn, June 17th, 2026, Page 13)*

Sri Lanka bans junk food in schools
Sri Lanka began enforcing a ban on fast food and sweets in schools to tackle what the government says are rising cases of diabetes and heart disease in children. Much of Sri Lanka's population lives below the poverty line, and many children still do not receive enough to eat. But island nation increasingly faces the opposite problem, with officials warning that more and more children are becoming overweight or obese. The ban means hot dogs, burgers, pizzas, doughnuts, ice cream, biscuits, flavoured milk, energy drinks, pastries, deep-fried snacks and even condiments such as tomato sauce are off menu for the country's four million students.

"Poor eating habits among children directly contribute to the increase in nutritional problems and, later, to the rising incidence of non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, heart disease and cancer," the ministry said in a statement. There is no reliable data on juvenile diabetes, cancer or heart problems in Sri Lanka, but authorities say they know anecdotally that numbers are rising. Twelve percent of schoolchildren between the ages of 13 and 17 were overweight, and another 3 percent were obese, as of 2024, according to government figures. *(Dawn, June 24th, 2026, Page 11)*

10.2 # Inflation

Sri Lanka raise fuel prices after IMF loan instalment

Sri Lanka raised fuel prices by up to six percent, in line with IMF plans to recover energy costs and phase out subsidies to stabilise the economy. Petrol was raised to 434 rupees (USD1.33), up from 410, while diesel increased to 407 rupees a litre from 392, the state-run Ceylon Petroleum Corporation said. The price hike came days after the International Monetary Fund released a USD695m instalment of a USD2.9bn bailout loan, agreed in early 2023 to stabilise the cash-strapped South Asian nation. The IMF wants Sri Lanka to ensure cost recovery for both fuel and electricity tariffs, which have been subsidised by government since start of the conflict in the Middle East in February.

President Anura Kumara Dissanayake, in a letter to the IMF made public by the Washington-based international lender, said fuel subsidies will be phased out by September. Since the United States and Israel began attacking Iran on February 28, triggering a global energy crisis, Sri Lanka has raised petrol and diesel prices by about 48 percent. Electricity has increased by a third. The Strait of Hormuz, a key waterway through which about 20 percent of global oil exports pass in peacetime, has been effectively closed by Iran. Sri Lanka imports all its oil and also buys coal for electricity generation. Colombo has warned that the fighting in the Middle East, and any prolonged conflict, could seriously undermine its efforts to emerge from the economic meltdown of 2022. Sri Lanka defaulted on its USD46 billion foreign debt in 2022 after running out of foreign exchange. Since then, Colombo has been drawing down the IMF bailout loan to stabilise the country. *(Business Recorder, June 1st, 2026, Page 9)*

11 # ENVIRONMENT

11.1 # Health

WHO says Ebola has killed 84, affected 471

Nearly 500 Ebola cases have now been confirmed in the deadly outbreak raging in central Africa, a WHO overview showed, amid mounting concern over the swelling scale of the epidemic. In its daily update on the situation, the World Health Organisation tallied 452 confirmed cases, including 82 deaths, in the Democratic Republic of Congo, where the outbreak was declared three weeks ago. In neighbouring Uganda, meanwhile, it counted 19 confirmed cases, including two deaths. The total of 471 cases and 84 deaths, based on numbers reported by the DRC and Ugandan governments, marked a hike of 100 cases and 20 deaths from a day earlier.

The increase came amid warnings that the outbreak, which the WHO has declared an international public health emergency, could eventually swell to become the largest on record. A top official at the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention said that models indicated that without strong public health interventions, the current outbreak risked rivalling the scale of the 2014 West Africa epidemic, which saw over 28,000 cases and more than 11,000 deaths. *(Dawn, June 7th, 2026, Page 10)*

Australia detects first case of contagious H5 bird flu

Scientists have detected the H5 strain of bird flu in Australia for the first time, the country's agriculture minister said, meaning the highly contagious variant has now spread to every continent. Julie Collins told a press conference the disease had been found in a migratory sea bird, a brown skua, in remote Western Australia, and the result confirmed by the national science agency. Samples from another sick bird, a giant petrel found in the same area, had also shown a suspected positive result, she said. Australia was previously the only continent where the H5 strain, which can devastate poultry and wild bird populations, had not been detected. *(Dawn, June 21st, 2026, Page 10)*

30 deaths at DR Congo camp fuel fears Ebola could be spreading fast

Thirty people have died since the start of May in one camp for displaced civilians in northeastern Congo, a death rate that camp officials said was unprecedented, with some confirmed to have died from Ebola in a sign the disease could be spreading fast there. It was not possible to confirm the causes of all the deaths because patients or their relatives in Kigonze camp in Bunia, the epicentre of the Ebola outbreak in Democratic Republic of Congo, had refused testing, aid organisation Caritas said. However, all had symptoms including headaches, fever and vomiting, which are associated with Ebola, a camp spokesperson added. *(Dawn, June 21st, 2026, Page 12)*

Central African Republic declares cholera outbreak after 24

The Central African Republic has declared a cholera outbreak after confirming 24 deaths and 197 cases near the capital Bangui, according to the health minister. "The Ministry of Health... has today, June 26, 2026, confirmed a cholera outbreak in the health districts of Bimbo and Mbaiki", southwest of Bangui, said Pierre Somse. Measures to limit the spread have already been put in place in affected areas, and more are being deployed in nearby towns, he added. *(The News, June 28th, 2026, Page 10)*

12 # CLIMATE CHANGE

Greenland's glaciers releasing four times more icebergs than 25 years ago: study

Greenland's glaciers are releasing four times more icebergs than 25 years ago as a result of climate change, with implications extending to maritime traffic and marine ecosystems, researchers said. "Our results indicate a direct, climate-driven connection between glacier change at the surface, amplified iceberg traffic, and the increased availability of hard-bottom habitats on the deep seafloor," according to the study by researchers from the Technical University of Denmark (DTU), published in the scientific journal Nature. In addition, the proportion of groups of icebergs originating from Greenland and from the Russian Arctic, and comprising more than five individual icebergs, has increased by 4.5per cent per decade since the turn of the century. Furthermore, as new shipping routes open up in the Arctic, the risk that vessels will encounter icebergs along their journey increases. *(Dawn, June 12th, 2026, Page 11)*

Vast areas of coral reef could resist climate change: study

Scientists have identified nearly 166,000 sq km of coral reefs that are capable of surviving and recovering from climate change, three times more than previously estimated. The world's coral reefs, which sustain a quarter of all marine life, have come under severe stress as a result of violent tropical storms, pollution and mass "bleaching" events caused by soaring ocean temperatures, with some scientists warning that they are facing irreversible decline. But an analysis of 45,000 coral surveys together with decades of climate and ocean data has identified climate-resilient reefs across 71 countries and 100 territories, including in parts of Caribbean and Pacific and Atlantic oceans that have not previously been recognised. *(Dawn, June 17th, 2026, Page 10)*

13 # CLIMATE DISASTER

Hundreds evacuated as waves batter New Zealand capital

Authorities evacuated hundreds of people from their seaside homes in New Zealand's capital as 11-metre (36-foot) waves lashed the coast. Wellington Mayor Andrew Little declared a state of emergency on the eve of the swells for seaside residents in Owhiro Bay, Island Bay, Houghton Bay and Breaker Bay. *(Dawn, June 10th, 2026, Page 10)*

13.1 # Heatwave

Washington hit by heatwave as global warming intensifies

A US diplomat collapsed from heat-related illness while observing a friendly soccer match organised by the Pakistan Embassy in Washington, as an intense early-season heatwave pushed temperatures and humidity to dangerous levels across the US capital region. The incident, witnessed by participants and spectators, highlighted how quickly extreme heat can turn hazardous even during routine outdoor gatherings. The episode unfolded against an increasingly alarming global climate backdrop.

The UN's World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) has warned that upcoming global conditions may be shaped by an intensifying El Nino pattern, with an 86 per cent chance that global temperatures will break previous records. The agency also projects a 91pc likelihood that average global temperatures will temporarily exceed the critical 1.5°C warming threshold at least once in the next five years.

The UN system has repeatedly warned that the impact of extreme heat are already most severe in vulnerable regions, particularly South Asia. Countries such as Pakistan and India face compounding risks from rising temperatures, water stress and agricultural vulnerability, where large populations are directly exposed to heat extremes and limited cooling infrastructure. *(Dawn, June 13th, 2026, Page 11)*

2 kids found dead in car as heatwave blasts Europe

Two children were found dead in a car in France as much of Europe sweltered through record high temperatures and national authorities launched urgent measures to reduce the impact. The children, aged two and four, were found in their family car in a residential parking lot in the southern town of Carpentras, where investigators said they believed the heatwave was the most likely reason for the deaths. Thirteen people drowned in France and overnight as people sought relief from the heat, a spokesperson for the Civil Safety service said, and three elderly people died as a result of the extreme temperatures in the country. *(Dawn, June 23rd, 2026, Page 10)*

40 drown in France as people seek relief from Europe's heatwave

Forty people have drowned in France over recent days as they sought to cool down to escape record heat as a heatwave swept across much of Europe. Britain, Italy, Switzerland and Spain were also sweltering in extreme heat, with record temperatures in some regions disrupting schools and transport networks. Europe is warming at more than twice the global average, according to the World Meteorological Organisation, making such prolonged heat episodes increasingly likely. Much of France is under severe heat alert and set to experience temperatures around 40 degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit), Meteo France said, with temperatures of up to 43°C expected in some parts of western France. *(Dawn, June 24th, 2026, Page 10)*

14 # NATURAL DISASTER

At least 35 dead as deadly earthquake rocks Philippines

At least 35 people were killed and 134 injured after a powerful 7.8-magnitude earthquake struck off Philippine island of Mindanao, toppling buildings and triggering temporary tsunami warnings. The offshore quake hit early in the morning, about 20 kilometres south of Sarangani province, striking just as schools were returning from a long break. Authorities reported that at least a dozen people remained missing as military and disaster response teams were mobilised to search through the rubble.

The Philippine seismology agency recorded more than 200 aftershocks, with the strongest measuring a magnitude 6.7, preventing authorities from conducting structural assessments. Fearing further collapses, many residents prepared to spend the night outdoors. Infrastructure damage left many without basic utilities. The Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre initially issued notices for the coasts of the Philippines, Indonesia, Palau, Taiwan, and Papua New Guinea. *(Dawn, June 9th, 2026, Page 12)*

Thousands feared dead after twin quakes hit Venezuela

Thousands of Venezuelans were feared dead after two powerful earthquakes wreaked havoc in and around the capital Caracas, trapping people beneath the rubble of collapsed buildings and setting off powerful aftershocks. A magnitude 7.2 earthquake hit about 160km west of Caracas, followed less than a minute later by a magnitude 7.5 tremor, according to the US Geological Survey. National Assembly President Jorge Rodriguez said at least 188 had perished in disaster, with more than 1,520 others injured. He added that at least 250 buildings have been damaged or destroyed. The USGS, using predictive modelling to estimate the death toll, said it would most likely run into the thousands, with a substantial probability of exceeding 10,000. *(Dawn, June 26th, 2026, Page 1)*

Venezuela quake toll tops 1,400; search stepped up for survivors

The death toll from Venezuela's devastating twin earthquakes rose above 1,400 as foreign rescue teams poured into the country and authorities pressed on with the search for survivors in the hardest-hit coastal areas. Officials said more than 1,600 foreign rescuers had arrived and that additional teams were on the way, adding to a growing international response to the twin quakes that struck and unleashed hundreds of aftershocks. United Nations estimates the damage from the twin quakes at $6.7 billion.

Although the government has said hundreds are missing or trapped, more than 55,000 people are listed as unaccounted for on a website promoted by the country's opposition. The US Geological Survey estimated more than 10,000 deaths were possible from the magnitude 7.2 and 7.5 quakes, which would place them among Latin America's deadliest over the last 100 years. *(Dawn, June 28th, 2026, Page 12)*

Magnitude 6.1 quake hits Afghanistan

A 6.1-magnitude earthquake hit Afghanistan, the United States Geological Survey said, with AFP journalists in the capital Kabul and elsewhere reporting strong shaking. The quake was widely felt by AFP journalists across multiple Afghan provinces, as well as in Pakistani capital Islamabad. USGS recorded epicentre in northeastern Afghanistan at a depth of 208.3 kilometres. *(Business Recorder, June 28th, 2026, Page 22)*

15 # RESISTANCE

Hundreds protest against planned US Ebola quarantine facility in Kenya

Hundreds of people took to the streets in the central Kenyan town of Nanyuki to protest moves by the United States to set up an Ebola quarantine facility at a military base there, residents told, days after the High Court ordered the government to suspend the plan temporarily. Court ordered temporary suspension after a lawsuit was brought arguing that site could endanger public health. *(Business Recorder, June 2nd, 2026, Page 5)*

'Cockroach' youth group plans street protest in challenge to Modi

The founder of an online Indian youth group that has amassed millions of followers in days said he plans to take his movement on to the streets with a protest against the education minister and in a show of dissent against Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The Cockroach Janta Party has tapped into the concerns of the under-30s, who are estimated to make up more than half of India's 1.42 billion population, over politics, unemployment and inflation. *(Business Recorder, June 2nd, 2026, Page 5)*

Newsmakers: Mexico City (Mexico)

Teachers set up tents in the streets during a protest to demand better wages and pensions. A slogan reads: "If there's no solution, the ball won't roll", a reference to the football World Cup being hosted by Mexico jointly with the US and Canada later this month. *(Dawn, June 3rd, 2026, Page 10)*

Newsmakers: Tirana (Albania)
Demonstrators hold Albanian flags as they protest against plans for a luxury resort by a company linked to President Trump's son-in-law, Jared Kushner, in a protected area. *(Dawn, June 4th, 2026, Page 10)*

Newsmakers: Buenos Aires (Argentina)
Women take part in a 'Not One Less' march as thousands of people took to the streets across Argentina to denounce femicides. The marches come amid shock over the recent killing of a teenage girl. *(Dawn, June 5th, 2026, Page 10)*

Newsmakers: Caracas (Venezuela)
Relatives of political prisoners in Venezuela take part in a protest calling for their release and condemning torture in detention centres. *(Dawn, June 6th, 2026, Page 10)*

Newsmakers: Newark (New Jersey, USA)
An agent with Homeland Security Investigations blocks protesters from approaching the entrance to Delaney Hall, which is being used as an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention centre. The US state of New Jersey has sued the private prison company that runs the centre, where protesters have rallied for several days over allegedly poor conditions at the jail. *(Dawn, June 7th, 2026, Page 10)*

Protesters seeking Bolivian president's exit clash with police
Police and anti-government protesters clashed in the Santa Cruz area of eastern Bolivia, as authorities attempted to clear a road blocked by rural workers demanding President Rodrigo Paz's resignation. A month of demonstrations calling for the center-right Paz to step down have paralyzed Andean nation, with some 100 protest blockades around country causing severe food and medicine shortages. *(Dawn, June 7th, 2026, Page 11)*

Afghan men rally for women's rights
Afghan men held a rare rally in the western city of Herat over new restrictions against women, with police denying witness accounts to AFP that protesters were dispersed with live fire. Dozens of men gathered in response to a crackdown three days earlier by the Taliban government's morality police, who detained women not wearing the body-cloaking chador or burqa. A 33-year-old protester said the security forces "used sticks, whips and firearms to disperse the crowd. They even fired shots into the air." *(Dawn, June 10th, 2026, Page 12)*

Thousands turn out for anti-racism rally after days of unrest in Belfast
Thousands of people gathered for an anti-racism rally in the Northern Irish city of Belfast after unrest sparked by a horrific stabbing. Protesters carried placards with slogans such as "Hate is the only threat to our streets" and "Belfast stands against racism". The city saw two nights of disorder after video of knife attack — which showed a man straddling another lying in the street, slashing him with a knife — went viral across social media platforms. *(Dawn, June 14th, 2026, Page 10)*

Newsmakers: London (England)
Demonstrators hold signs reading 'Not my King' and images showing Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor, formerly known as Prince Andrew, before the Trooping the Colour parade to honour King Charles. *(Dawn, June 14th, 2026, Page 10)*

Protesters tear down fences of Kushner project in Albania
Some 200 protesters tore down metal and razor wire fences surrounding a luxury development site on Albania's Adriatic coast, in another sign of growing anger against construction in environmentally sensitive areas. Albanians have been protesting for weeks against a planned luxury resort backed by a company linked to Jared Kushner, the son-in-law of US President Donald Trump, near Vlora, which is famed for its flamingos and a turtle nesting site. *(Dawn, June 14th, 2026, Page 11)*

Newsmakers: Bengaluru (India)
Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) activists hold placards and shout slogans during a protest against alleged irregularities in country's major examinations at Freedom Park. *(Dawn, June 15th, 2026, Page 10)*

Clashes erupt in Geneva ahead of G7 summit
Clashes erupted between protesters and police in Geneva, including near the United Nations headquarters, a day before the G7 summit begins in nearby Evian, France. The demonstration initially started peacefully in the afternoon, with thousands of people marching through the city carrying banners reading "No to the G7 and all imperialist alliances!" and "Abort the G7". Protesters voiced support for Palestinians, climate action, feminism and anti-capitalist causes.

However, tensions escalated shortly after the march began when groups of masked demonstrators dressed in black broke through security barriers and vandalised property along the route. Protesters threw bottles, stones, chunks of concrete and firecrackers at police officers, who responded with tear gas and water cannons. Several buildings were targeted, including offices of the UN's International Telecommunications Union and premises belonging to global consulting firm PricewaterhouseCoopers. Protesters were unable to approach the UN's European headquarters, which was heavily protected by security forces and water cannon vehicles. *(Dawn, June 15th, 2026, Page 12)*

Newsmakers: New Delhi (India)
Demonstrators hold placards and shout slogans during a protest called by Cockroach Janta Party demanding the resignation of Indian Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. *(Dawn, June 21st, 2026, Page 10)*

Newsmakers: New Delhi (India)
People sing songs and shout slogans during a sit-in protest called by Cockroach Janta Party demanding the resignation of Indian Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. *(Dawn, June 22nd, 2026, Page 10)*

Bolivia declares state of emergency, deploys military to quell protests

Bolivia's president declared a state of emergency and deployed soldiers and bulldozers to raze anti-government roadblocks that have paralyzed the Andean nation. For more than six weeks, unions, Indigenous groups and coca farmers have marched through cities and blocked roads across the country with rubble, logs and debris in protest against the conservative government. Major cities have suffered acute shortages of fuel, food and medicine, the economy has lost billions of dollars, and the protests have threatened to topple Bolivia's first non-socialist government in two decades. President Rodrigo Paz appeared in a predawn televised address to warn protesters they would face "the full force of the law" as he moved to end the crisis. He declared a 90-day state of emergency, which curbs the right to protest and allows the military to be deployed domestically. *(Business Recorder, June 22nd, 2026, Page 11)*

Marchers in Prague protest govt's public media funding changes

Thousands marched in Prague to protest against the Czech government's planned overhaul of a decades-old financing system for public media, which critics say cuts funding and opens the way for political interference. The protest came a day before workers at public broadcasters Czech Television and Czech Radio plan to strike in protest at the financing changes, affecting programming but leaving the stations on air.

The government, led by Prime Minister Andrej Babis' populist ANO party and including right-wing and far-right parties, agreed last week to end licence fees that are the main source of funding for public television and radio stations. It says most of the public do not want to pay the fees charged to households and businesses, saying it will instead finance the public broadcasters from the state budget. Critics say this would be an attack on their independence. *(Business Recorder, June 22nd, 2026, Page 14)*

Police disperse Kenya group marking 2024 protests

Kenyan police fired tear gas to disperse protesters in Nairobi after dozens took to the streets in memory of demonstrators killed two years ago in anti-government rallies against tax hikes and the cost of living. A total of 355 people were arrested in various parts of the East African country, interior minister Kipchumba Murkomen said. He apologised for barricades and other security measures aimed at containing the protests. *(Dawn, June 26th, 2026, Page 10)*

Newsmakers: Edinburgh (Scotland)

Protesters display placards as they take part in an anti-racism rally, organised by Stand up to Racism, in the Scottish capital. *(Dawn, June 28th, 2026, Page 10)*

Indonesian police arrest dozens in anti-government protest

Indonesia: Indonesian police have arrested dozens of protesters following a rally against President Prabowo Subianto's policies in the country's second-largest city. Around 100 people gathered near a government building in Surabaya, AFP journalists estimated, to protest a fuel price hike and Prabowo's flagship free meals scheme. Some demonstrators hurled rocks towards police and set fire to rubbish in the middle of the road, prompting officers to arrest them. *(The News, June 28th, 2026, Page 10)*

Newsmakers: Brussels (Belgium)

People take part in a protest against an event organised by the US Mission to Belgium to mark 250th anniversary of American independence and against US weapons manufacturers, Belgian billionaires, and the European far-right. *(Dawn, June 29th, 2026, Page 10)*

Albania protesters keep up pressure over Trump-linked project

Thousands of Albanians took to the streets of Tirana again this weekend, demanding the prime minister's resignation and an end to a tourism project linked to US President Donald Trump's family. Since late May, protesters have gathered every evening to oppose the construction of a luxury hotel backed by Trump's daughter Ivanka and her husband Jared Kushner, planned in a nature reserve on the Balkan nation's coast.

Opposition to the development has become a flash point for frustrations over perceived corruption, with protesters calling for Prime Minister Edi Rama to step down over what they describe as a lack of transparency in the development. The planned resort in the protected natural area of Zvernec in southwestern Albania was first unveiled in 2024, but the wave of protests was sparked after barbed-wire fencing and bulldozers appeared on its beaches in late May. Protesters carried giant pink flamingos through the crowd, alongside banners reading "Resign". *(Business Recorder, June 29th, 2026, Page 9)*

Newsmakers: El Obeid (Sudan)

Women and children queue for free food at a camp for the displaced in Sudan's Kordofan region. This city of half a million people, which hosts nearly 100,000 refugees displaced by violence elsewhere, has in recent weeks faced its most intense attacks by the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces. *(Dawn, June 30th, 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.

Roots for Equity

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

Phone: +9221 34813320, Fax. +9221 34813321

Email: roots.equity@gmail.com

Website: http://rootsforequity.org/ **Blog:** https://rootsforequity.noblogs.org/

Twitter: https://twitter.com/RootsEquity **Instagram:** https://www.instagram.com/rootsforequity/