

CDPR NEWSLETTER

MAY 2026

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MACRODATA

- TRADE
- BALANCE OF PAYMENTS
- PRICES
- ENERGY
- AIR QUALITY

TRADE

Exports (Monthly in Million USD)



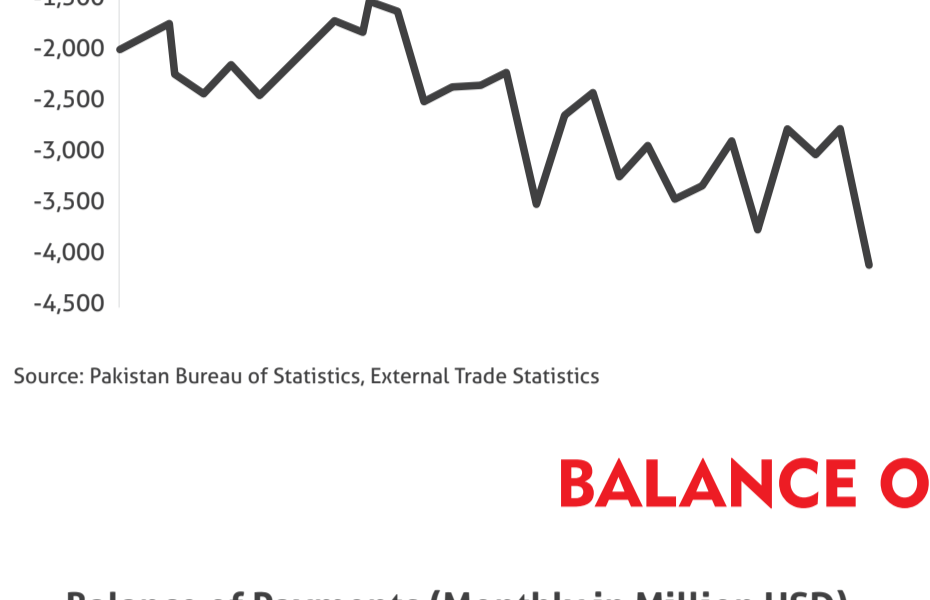
Imports (Monthly in Million USD)



Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, External Trade Statistics

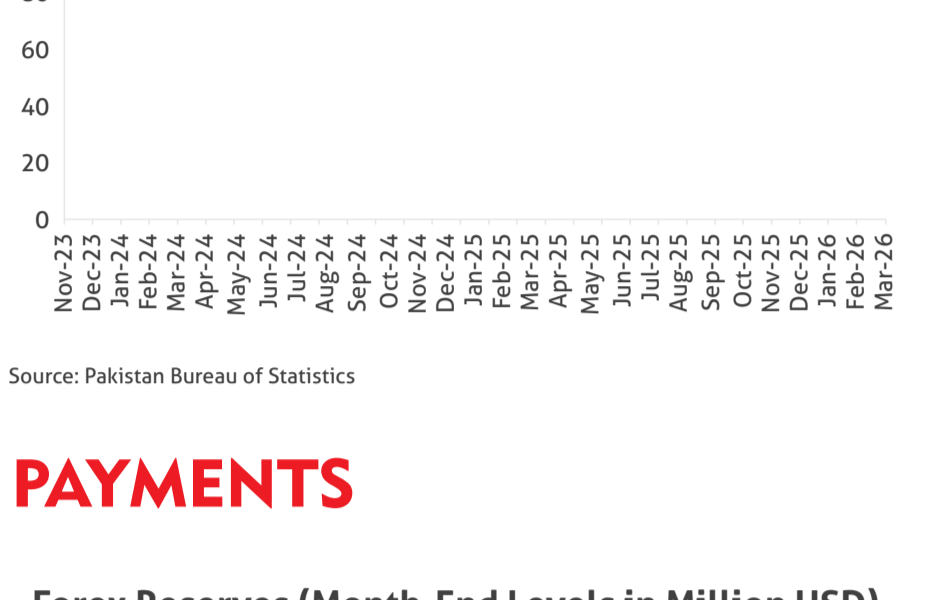
Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, External Trade Statistics

Balance of Trade (Monthly in Million USD)



Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, External Trade Statistics

Quantum Index of Manufacturing



Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics

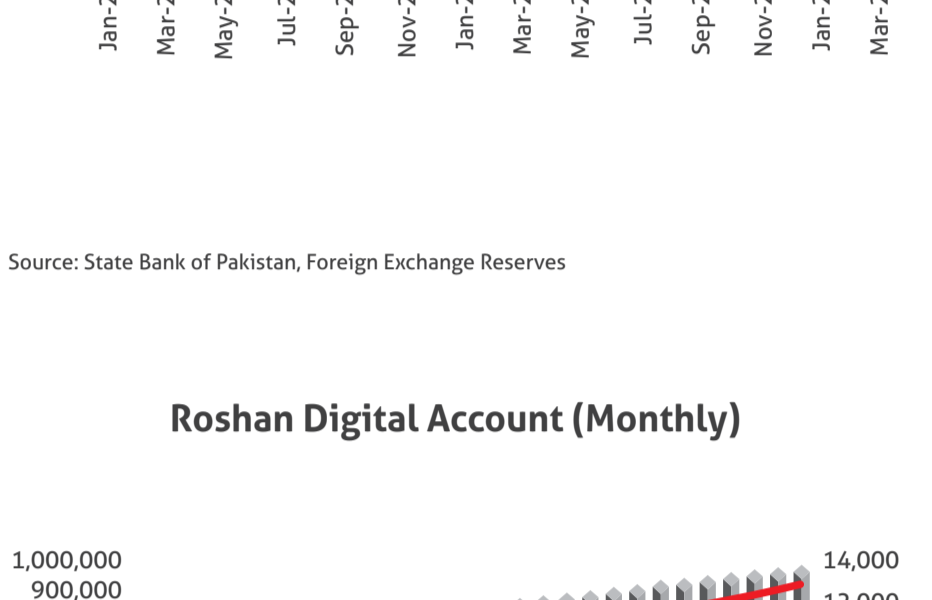
BALANCE OF PAYMENTS

Balance of Payments (Monthly in Million USD)



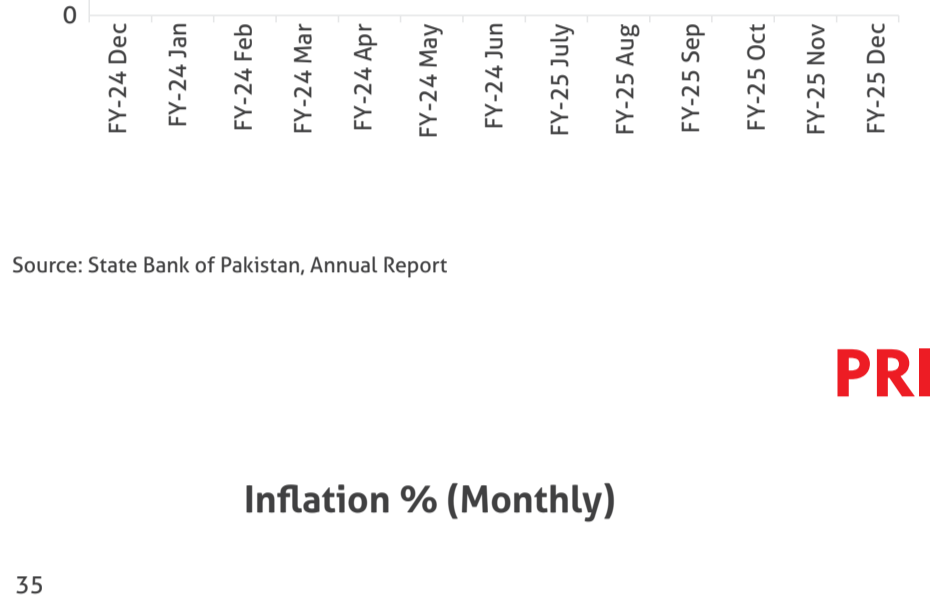
Source: State Bank of Pakistan, Annual Report

Forex Reserves (Month-End Levels in Million USD)



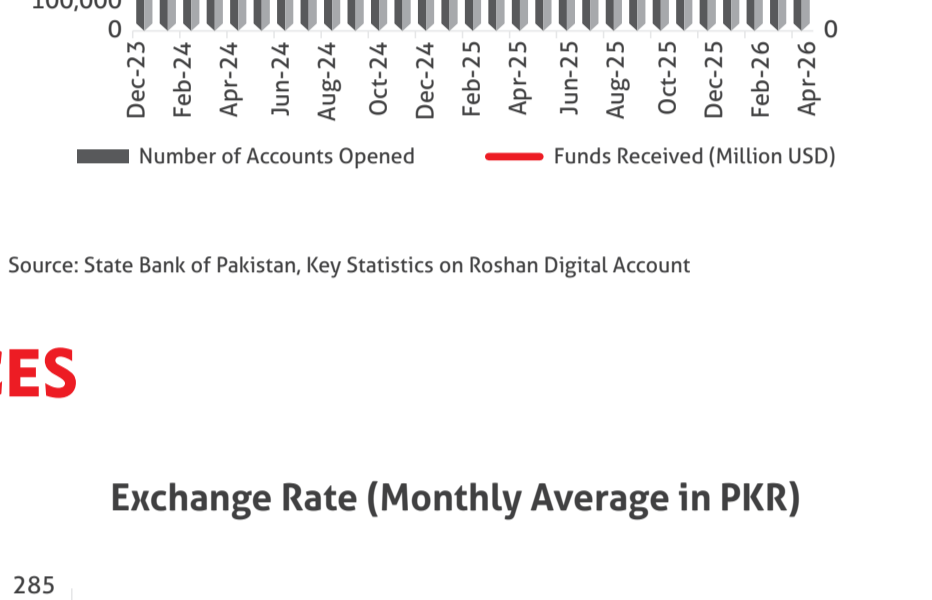
Source: State Bank of Pakistan, Foreign Exchange Reserves

Workers' Remittances (Monthly in Million USD)



Source: State Bank of Pakistan, Annual Report

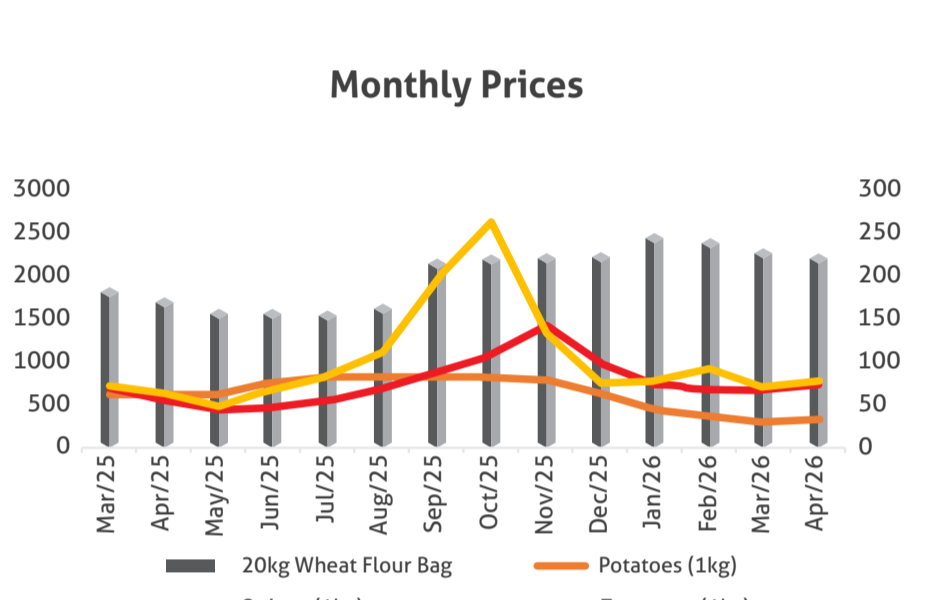
Roshan Digital Account (Monthly)



Source: State Bank of Pakistan, Key Statistics on Roshan Digital Account

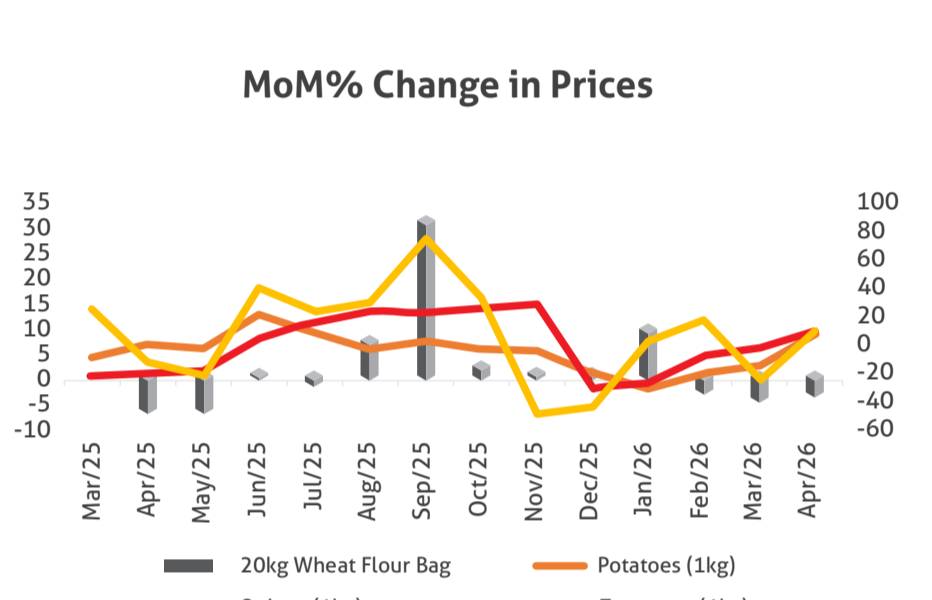
PRICES

Inflation % (Monthly)



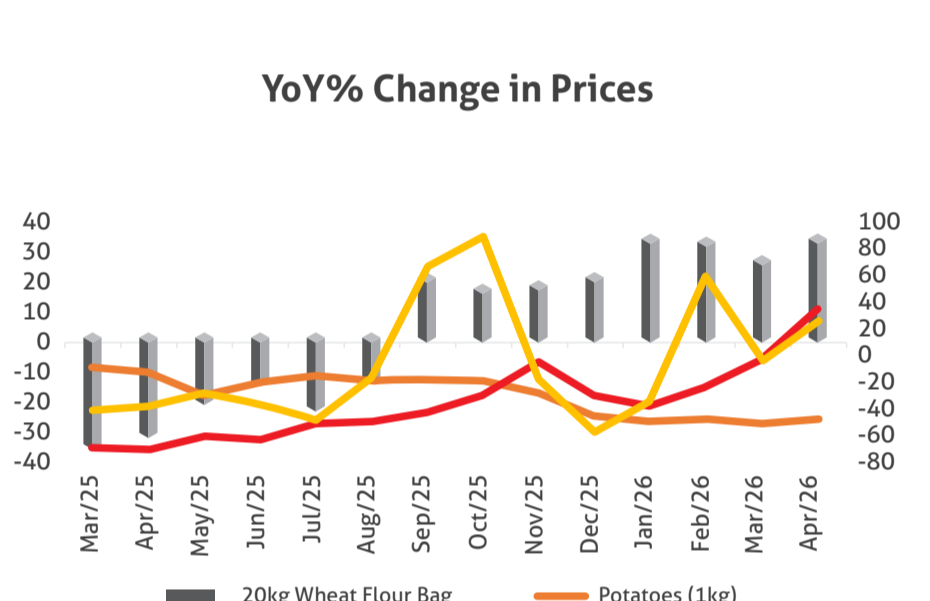
Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, Monthly Review on Price Indices

Exchange Rate (Monthly Average in PKR)



Source: State Bank of Pakistan, Monthly Average Exchange Rates

Monthly Prices



Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, Monthly Review on Price Indices

MoM% Change in Prices



Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, Monthly Review on Price Indices

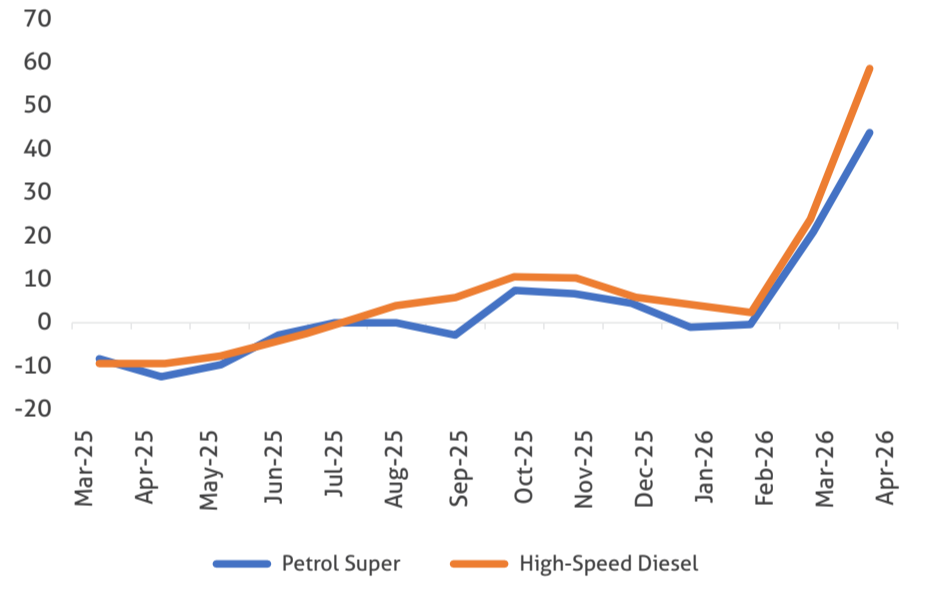
YoY% Change in Prices



Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, Monthly Review on Price Indices

ENERGY

Prices



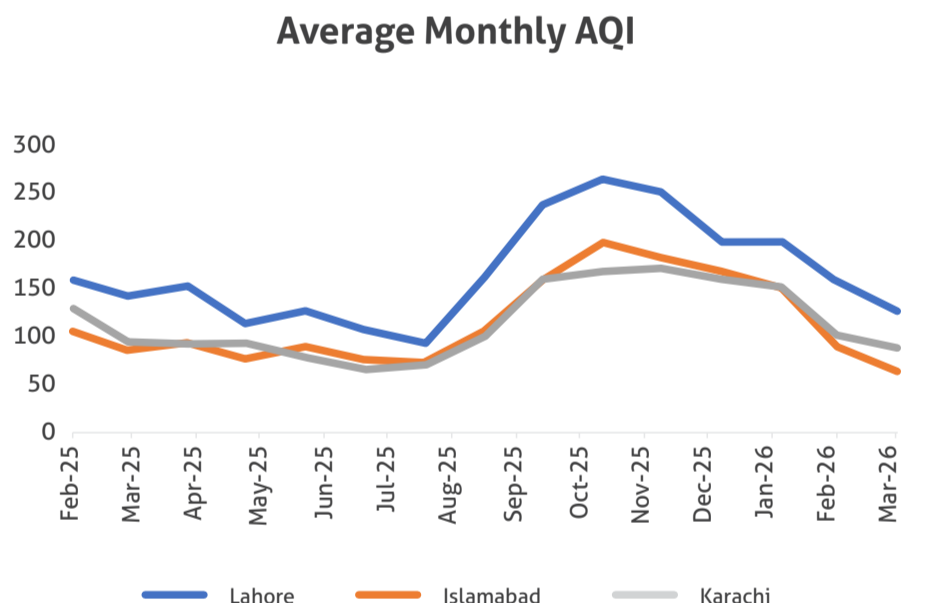
Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, Monthly Review on Price Indices

MoM% Change in Prices



Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, Monthly Review on Price Indices

YoY% Change in Prices



Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, Monthly Review on Price Indices

AIR QUALITY

Average Monthly AQI



Source: Air Quality Index (AQI)

Average Monthly PM2.5



Source: Air Quality Index (AQI)

CDPR'S YOUNG POLICY SCHOLAR PROGRAMME - APPLICATIONS OPEN!

CDPR has launched the Young Policy Scholar Programme for pre-college students in Pakistan seeking a productive and purposeful summer. This is a unique opportunity to build research and writing skills, gain a competitive academic edge, and strengthen your academic profile with hands-on research experience. The programme takes participants through the complete research lifecycle, teaching them how to conduct evidence-based policy research and write their very own policy brief.

WHAT YOU GET

- Published Policy Brief
- Recorded Presentation
- Research Portfolio & CV Entry
- Certificate of Completion
- Real-World Work Experience
- University Application Edge
- Expert Network Access
- Digital Dissemination Skills

APPLICATION PROCESS

- Applications Open: 1st May 2026
- Applications Close: 15 June 2026 - rolling basis, apply early
- Decisions Announced: Mid of June 2026
- Programme Begins: 30 June 2026



SCAN THE QR CODE FOR DETAILS ON HOW TO APPLY

Scan the QR code to apply and for more details! REGISTER HERE

INSIGHTS FOR CHANGE

Pakistan's Tax Problem: Not a Mystery But a Method

In the past two decades, Pakistan has developed an export base that largely relies on natural comparative advantage in primary goods such as food crops, cotton, and livestock. While other countries have transitioned towards diversified export baskets and higher value products, Pakistan suffers from a stagnant and unchanging export basket that hinders its export growth and trade performance. The country now faces a double challenge of expanding the quantity of exports, along with enhancing the quality via diversification. This REMIT-supported report uses an analytical lens to highlight potential pathways for enhancing Pakistan's export potential.

READ MORE

LET'S TALK DEVELOPMENT

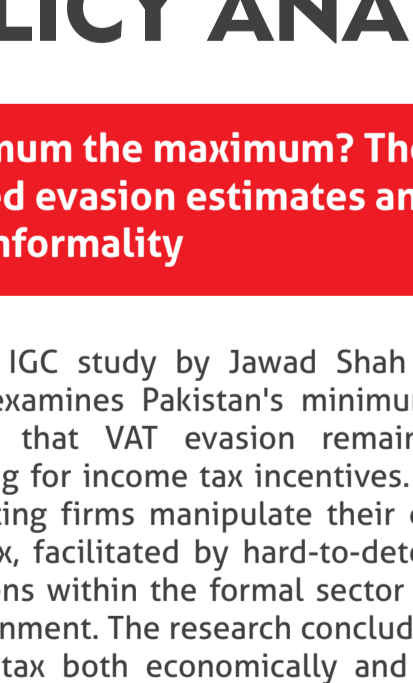
The Future of Agriculture in Pakistan: What Really Drives Change

In this episode, Taimur Malik (Regenerative Agriculture Expert) joins Sajid Faiz (Country Economist, IGC Pakistan) to discuss why Pakistan's agriculture sector remains tied to outdated Green Revolution practices and what it will take to transition toward regenerative agriculture. Drawing on real-world experiments and examples like the 2016 pink bollworm crisis in Bt cotton, the conversation explores challenges including soil degradation, water scarcity, rising input costs and risks faced by smallholder farmers, while making the case for farming systems that work with nature, not against it.

LISTEN HERE

WATCH

iOS



Host SAJID FAIZ
Country Economist, Pakistan
International Growth Centre (IGC)



Guest TAIMUR MALIK
Co-Founder & Partner
of Drawdown Farm

POLICY ANALYSIS

Is minimum the maximum? The case of unbiased evasion estimates and tax recycling under informality

A recent IGC study by Jawad Shah (Research Fellow, University of Oxford) examines Pakistan's minimum value addition (MVA) regime, revealing that VAT evasion remains alarmingly high even after accounting for income tax incentives. The study finds that around half of importing firms manipulate their declared value addition to avoid excess tax, facilitated by hard-to-detect "flying invoices" that recycle tax burdens within the formal sector rather than returning revenue to the government. The research concludes that standard VAT outperforms turnover tax both economically and in terms of revenue collection, offering important lessons for Pakistan's ongoing tax reform debates.

READ MORE

FELLOWS' ARTICLES

Returns on Multipolarity
Umair Javed

GLOBAL politics is hurting towards a multipolar system the likes of which we haven't seen since the late 20th century. Several indicators bear this out: the global hegemon for the past four decades, the US is experiencing a decline in its ability and willingness to project power outwards as seen in its continued failure in Eastern Europe and the Persian Gulf, and in the.....

READ MORE

Towards Middle Power Status
Ishtat Husain

THE period between May 2025 and May 2026 has been unusually consequential for Pakistan. In May 2025, the country surprised observers by demonstrating a high degree of capability and professionalism in an aerial war with a much larger power. More recently, a nation often portrayed as peripheral to global affairs assumed a central diplomatic role by facilitating a.....

READ MORE

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 - 3.1 Enhancing Pakistan's Competitiveness in Non-Textile and Non-Food Exports
4. **Let's Talk Development**
 - 4.1 Justice Ayesha Malik on Rule of Law, Governance and True Cost of Weak Enforcement
5. **Fellows' Articles**
 - 5.1 Educating the poor by **Faisal Bari**
Economic Security Puffers by **Ishtat Husain**
6. **Blog**
 - 6.1 A Case for Green Technologies in Agriculture for Pakistan by **Ayesha Zaman**

For regular updates regarding CDPR's policy and research work please follow us on:

