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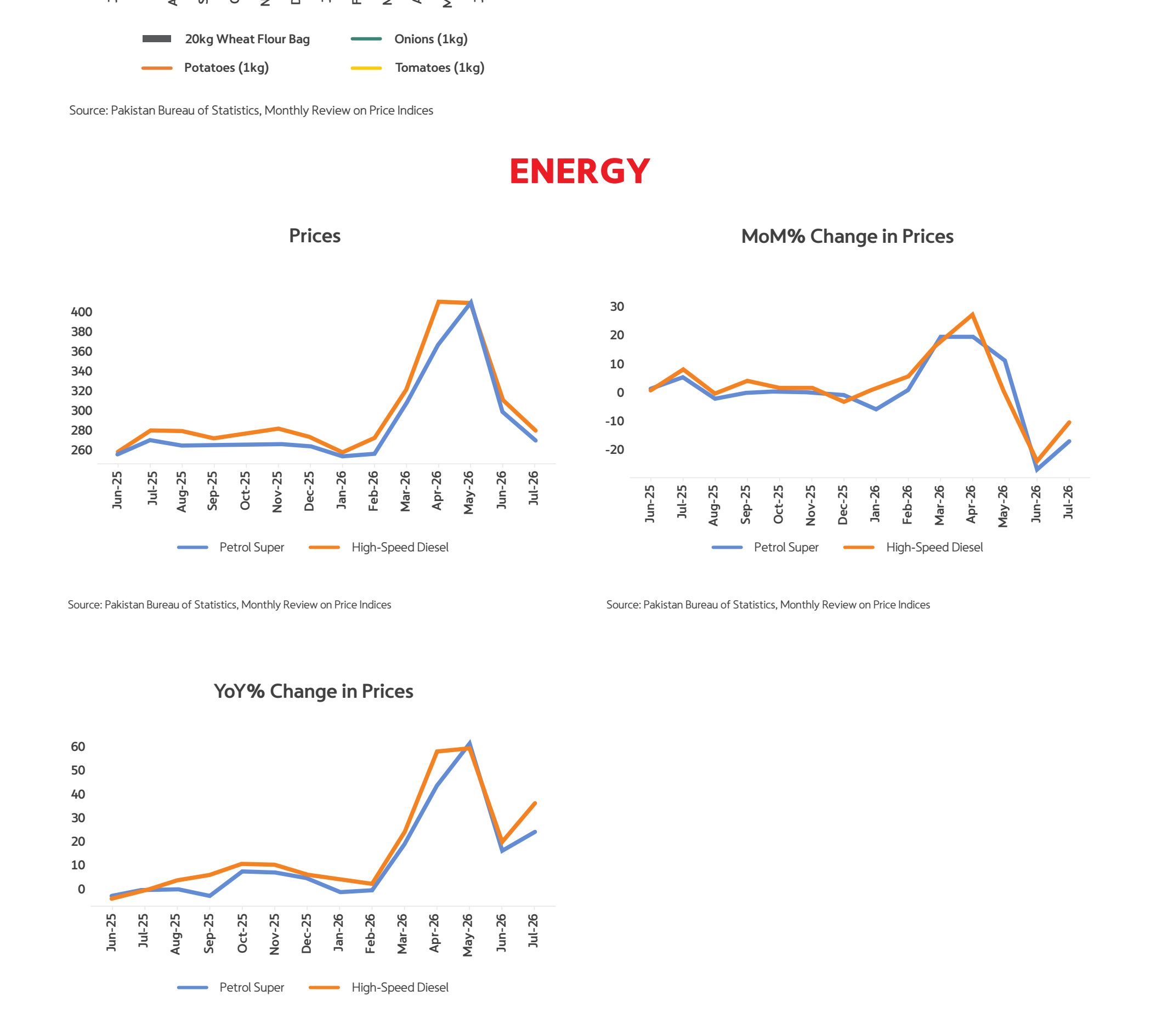
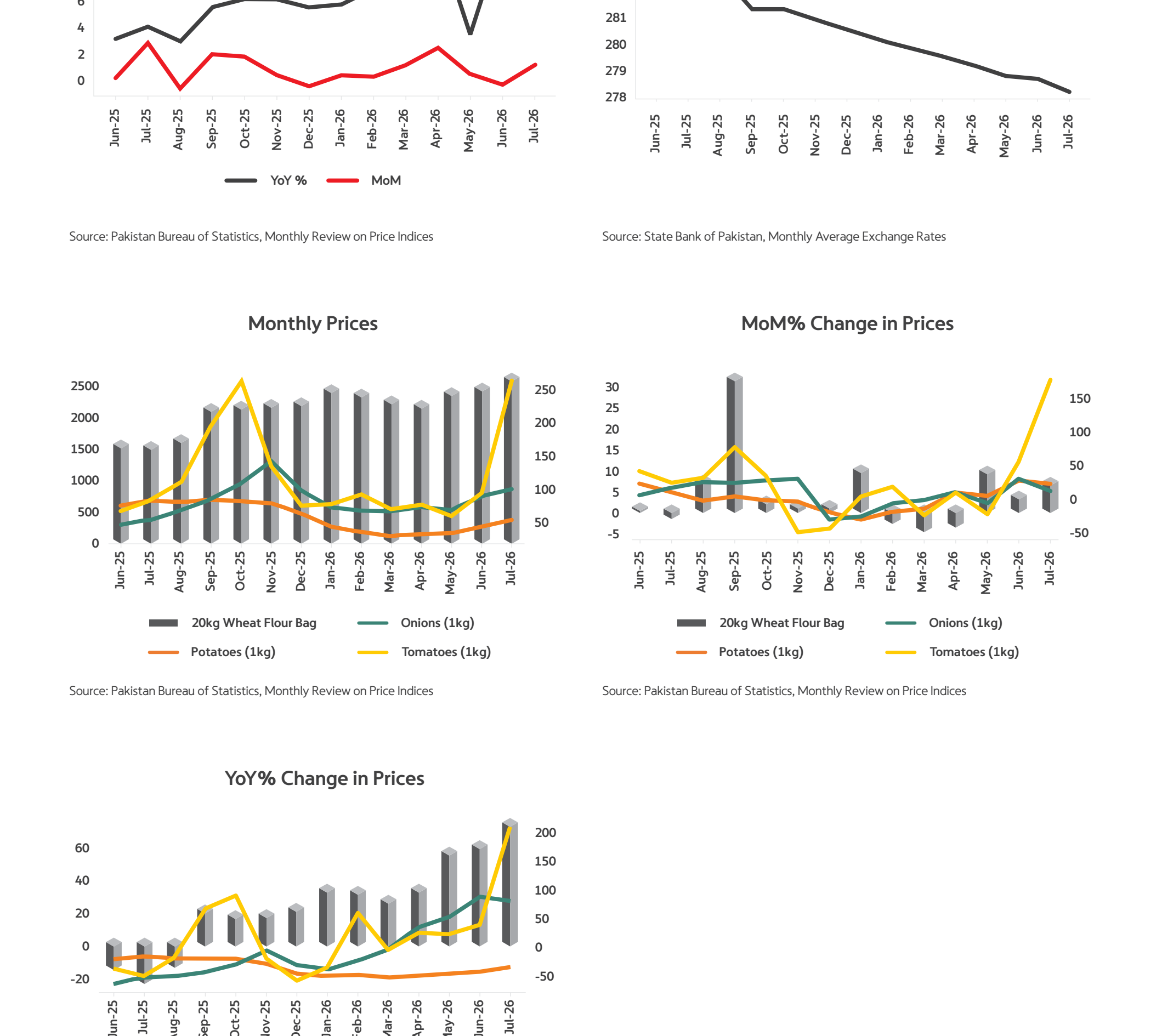
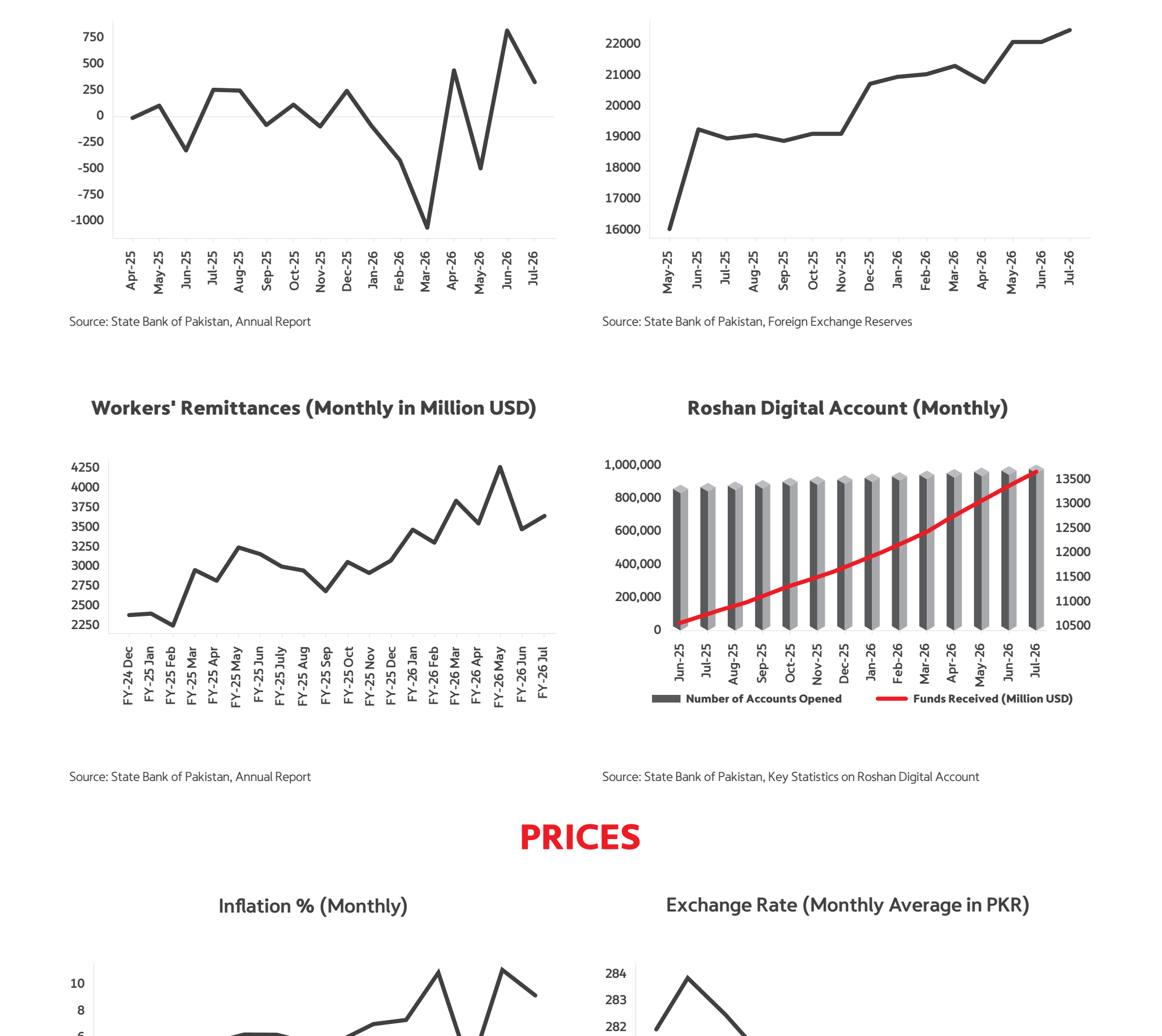
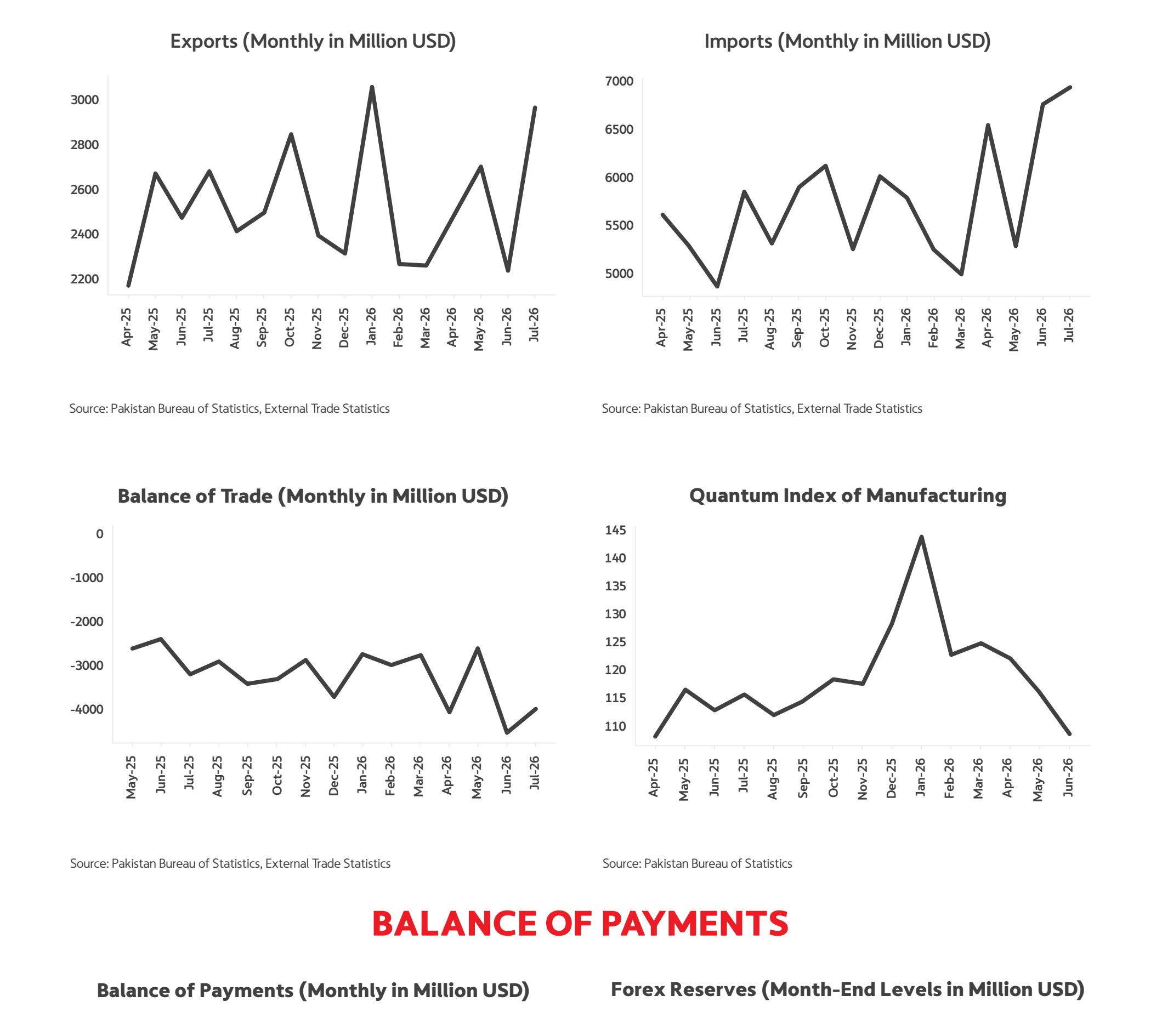
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Drowning the Future by [Ali Tauqeer Sheikh](#)



INSIGHTS FOR CHANGE

Macroeconomic Crises and Economic Recovery: the Labor Market Angle

This article examines how Pakistan's repeated macroeconomic crises and IMF-supported stabilization programs have affected wages, employment, and labor market outcomes. While real wages have risen substantially, formal job creation has remained weak, with overseas migration and remittances playing an increasingly important role. The article explores the resulting labor market challenges and argues that sustained, export-led growth requires higher worker productivity, greater investment, and reforms that address labor market rigidities.

This article is authored by Dr. Ijaz Nabi (Executive Director, CDPR and Country Director, IGC Pakistan) and Eiva Arshad (Former Research Associate, CDPR).

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POLICY ANALYSIS

Information Alone will not close the Solar Adoption gap Among Pakistan's Small Manufacturers

In recent research by the International Growth Centre (IGC), Azam Chaudhry, Dean of the Faculty of Economics at the Lahore School of Economics; Theresia Chaudhry, Associate Professor of Economics at the Lahore School of Economics; Phillip Garner, Professor at Utah Tech University; and Nikita Grabher-Meyer, Technical Officer at the International Labour Organization, examine solar adoption among small manufacturers in Punjab. The study finds that while short informational videos improved firms' knowledge of solar costs, savings, and payback periods, they did not significantly increase willingness to adopt. The findings suggest that accelerating solar uptake will require credible information alongside accessible financing and practical demonstrations.

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Beyond Aid: Rethinking Development in Pakistan

In the latest episode of Let's Talk Development, Anam Saeed, Director of Business Development & Brand, sat down with Fauzia Viqar, former Chairperson of the Punjab Commission on the Status of Women, to discuss the role of public policy in advancing women's empowerment. From strengthening institutions to addressing barriers to women's economic participation, the conversation examined why lasting progress depends on effective governance, accountability, and sustained policy reform.

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EVENTS

National Human Development Report 2027

THEME VALIDATION WORKSHOP

Together, the Consortium for Development Policy Research (CDPR) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Pakistan convened a Theme Validation Workshop for the upcoming UNDP National Human Development Report (NHDR) 2027, stress-testing the ideas that will shape the report. The workshop featured remarks by Dr. Samuel Rizk, Resident Representative UNDP Pakistan; Ijaz Nabi, Executive Director, CDPR; and Dr. Adnan Rafiq, Member (Governance, Innovation & Reforms), Planning Commission Pakistan. One message ran throughout: in a fast-changing Pakistan and a shifting global landscape, real progress means seeing and acting on what has long been overlooked - including those who have long gone unheard.

READ MORE >

FELLOWS' ARTICLES



Drowning the Future

by Ali Tauqeer Sheikh



The Growth-jobs Paradox

by Ishrat Husain

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In Pakistan, policy decisions and public discourse are often uninformed by available research. The Consortium for Development Policy Research (CDPR) bridges this gap by communicating cutting-edge, evidence-based research on development issues in Pakistan to an audience of policymakers, students, the media and the wider public. With support from the International Growth Centre (IGC), CDPR disseminates policy briefs, hosts events, engages with the media and produces digital content to make topics in development research such as economic growth, energy, education, health and governance intelligible to both decision makers & the public.

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