



- ❖ Around 70% of sugar out of country's total production is being consumed in juices, squashes, syrups, soft drinks, biscuits and confectionery, while the share of households and other customers is just 25-30%.
- ❖ Last month, Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) downgraded its July forecast for Pakistani rice by 0.6 million tonnes to 8.7 million tonnes.
- ❖ High rise in prices of dry fruits are observed this winter with scanty supplies. The main reasons behind this are stagnant local output, decline in production in Afghanistan and disrupted supplies from Iran.
- ❖ Low rain falls have caused worry for wheat farmers in Barani (rain-fed) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. This will create potential problems for the Barani area wheat growers, who contribute 52% of the crop produced in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa every year
- ❖ According to Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), in the first 5 months of this fiscal year wheat imports stood at 366,027 tonnes (\$104 million) mainly from Russia and Ukraine at \$276 to \$289 per tonne.
- ❖ Around 12,000 hectares of area is annually sown with the sugar crop that yields around 570,000 tonnes in a good harvesting season. The growers complain that they are not paid a fair price for their produce after 10 months of hard work in the cane fields.
- ❖ The dairy and livestock sector has emerged as a significant contributor to growth in the economy of Pakistan. New dairy farms are being set up. Milk processing companies are making investment in capacity enhancement as well as continued growth in meat exports.
- ❖ Saudi Arabia being satisfied with the standard of poultry products all set to lift ban on the import. Due to bird flu disease the kingdom had suspended import of eggs and day-old chicks from Pakistan in 2005.
- ❖ Due to increased estimated output and strong foreign demand, more than 10,000 tonnes of potatoes were shipped out over the last two weeks of December
- ❖ The annual canal de-silting campaign in Punjab would clear some 1,515 canal miles (each canal mile being 5,000 feet long), which is less than 6% of the total length of canals under the department.
- ❖ Planning and Development Minister Ahsan Iqbal stated that the government is fully committed to the agricultural development in order to march towards a more food-secured country.
- ❖ The use of solar technology is increasing among growers across the country and solar-powered tube wells and electricity-generating panels have been a great relief in recent years for a number of progressive farmers.
- ❖ A State-Owned Saudi livestock firm has shown interest in investing in the country's production of red meat because of its high quality. ◆