

WORLD

Fatal flight

An American Prime Air cargo plane is seen after crashing at Miami International Airport in Miami, Florida, on Sunday. At least five people were killed and five others injured after the cargo jet overran a runway while landing, sending vehicles and livestock into flames. Federal investigators on Monday outlined plans to determine the cause of the crash.



Global food system faces mounting resilience crisis

Experts warn of 'perfect storm' due to disruptions to energy, fertilizer trade

By YANG RAN
yangranchina@china.com.cn

Global cereal production is on track for its second-largest harvest on record in 2025, according to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization. Yet, the data also show that world food prices rose in August to their highest since late 2022.

The seemingly contradictory figures reveal the global food system's ongoing 'resilience crisis', a systemic fragility that persists even when aggregate supply appears adequate.

Although there is no widespread systemic food shortage, currently global food security is under significant pressure, driven mainly by high energy prices, extreme weather events and conflicts, experts said.

"We are seeing pressure on production, agricultural inputs and trade logistics at the same time," said Massimo Turchio, chief economist at the FAO.

On the agricultural production front, the frequent extreme weather witnessed this summer and a strengthening El Niño weather pattern are threatening crops worldwide.

The UN World Food Programme's early analysis projects that the 2025-27 El Niño could push at least 40 million more people into acute food insecurity by the end of 2027.

Beyond climate, conflict is placing comprehensive pressure on the food system. According to the World Bank's *Commodity Markets Outlook* report issued in April, the war in the Middle East has significantly disrupted global commodity markets, with energy prices projected to surge 24 percent this year and fertilizer prices expected to rise about 21 percent.

Fertilizer affordability is set to fall to its worst level since 2022, eroding farmer incomes and jeopardizing future crop yields.

Zhang Shuai, an associate professor at the School of Government at Shanghai University of Political Science and Law, said conflicts also directly destabilize food production. He cited the Russia-Ukraine conflict as an example, which has left millions of hectares of Ukrainian arable land abandoned and much of its agricultural infrastructure destroyed.

Such conflicts also jeopardize food supply security, Zhang added. "Whether it's the Russia-Ukraine conflict or the US-Iran war, both have disrupted global food supply chains by affecting critical international shipping routes. The Ukraine conflict's effect is direct, curtailing grain exports from both nations."

A report from JPMorgan, titled *Food Security is National Security*, A Compounding Storm, warns that global food costs could climb 5 percent in the first half of 2027, suggesting that the next wave of global inflation may not originate at the fuel station but at the grocery shelf.

Turchio said that compared with previous global food crises, "the 2020 shock is potentially more complex because it simultaneously affects the inputs needed to produce the next crop."

"The Strait of Hormuz is not simply another grain-export corridor," he said.

"Around 30 percent of global fertilizer trade passes through the Strait, the Gulf region accounts for approximately 30 to 35 percent of global urea supply and 50 percent of sulfur. When the crisis escalated, tanker traffic fell by more than 90 percent, and an estimated 3 to 4 million metric tons of fertilizer trade per month were stalled."

The implications are profound. "When wheat disappears from one exporter, another producer can eventually plant more wheat," Turchio said.

"You cannot create new natural gas, ammonia, urea or sulfur production capacity within a planting season. These are capital-intensive industries, so short-term supply elasticity is very low."

"That is why the crop calendar matters so much. FAO has warned that if the disruption persists beyond roughly three months, the effect moves from prices into fertilizer application, planting decisions and eventually yields in the following harvests," he added.

Long Wenjun, an associate professor at the College of Economics and Management of China Agricultural University, said the true danger lies not just in the combination of energy prices, extreme weather and conflicts, but in their cascading amplification across the entire system.

Purchasing power

This extends from agricultural inputs and food production to trade, transport, financial markets and fiscal capacity, ultimately affecting household purchasing power, Long said. "This dynamic can rapidly convert localized production shortfalls or shipping disruptions into escalating food prices, food strains and widespread livelihood difficulties."

This looming food security crisis differs significantly from previous ones, being "far more systemic, characterized by stronger cross-market linkages, long-term implications, and increasingly politicized dynamics," he said.

"With multiple key waterways and related markets simultaneously under pressure, it's coalescing into a perfect storm sweeping across the global agri-food system," he said.

Experts noted that the current crisis has exposed structural weaknesses within the global food system, as they anticipate high volatility in global food markets and a continued upward trend in commodity prices in the coming months.

Reverberations of the FAO highlighted the excessive dependence on choke points. "Black Sea disruption affects cereals. Hormuz affects energy, fertilizers and freight. A localized geopolitical event can therefore propagate throughout the global agri-food system."

Another critical weakness is "input dependency," he said. "Food security depends not only on grain stocks but on fertilizers, energy, seeds, water and finance. When these inputs become unavailable or unaffordable, the effect appears in the next harvest."

Long said the fundamental vulnerability exposed by this crisis is the global food system's long-standing pursuit of low costs and high efficiency without retaining adequate safety margins or alternative capacities for extreme shocks.

To navigate this crisis, experts propose a dual approach focusing on immediate actions and long-term systemic reforms.

In the short term, Long said, the priority must be ensuring the smooth flow of food, fertilizer, seeds and other critical agricultural products and inputs.

Over the long run, Turchio said "the fundamental shift" should be from paying for losses after a crisis to financing prevention before those losses become irreversible.

Long echoed the view, saying the crisis response model should shift from single-commodity supply management to integrated food production system governance that coordinates agricultural production, energy, trade, nutrition, finance and social welfare.

"Ultimately, the global food crisis can only be resolved by maintaining peace, promoting development, and upholding open cooperation," he said.



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Talks with US envoys 'very substantive': Zelensky

KYIV — Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said on Sunday that talks with US envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner were "very substantive".

The two sides discussed resuming negotiations on the Russian-Ukraine conflict, security and economic guarantees for Ukraine, and a winter support package, Zelensky told reporters at a briefing after the talks.

"We are very much counting on both air defense and energy support, and we are counting on a serious volume and possibilities of using American LNG," he said.

Representatives from the United Kingdom, France and Germany joined the discussions in the third round. Zelensky said, adding the three sides had agreed to meet in the future to continue negotiations.

"We are counting on the support of our European partners if the war continues in winter — and this is how it appears at the moment," he said.



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky (right) stands with US envoys Steve Witkoff (center) and Jared Kushner (left) at a joint news conference in Kyiv on Sunday. FRANCESCO SECCHI/AF

A senior Ukrainian presidential official told Agence France-Presse on Sunday that Witkoff and Kushner have brought new, "more effective" proposals.

However, the senior Ukrainian official told AFP: "It's not the same as it was before. They're still talking. This is actually the most important part."

Witkoff and Kushner traveled to Kyiv a day after they met Russian President Vladimir Putin at the Kremlin in Moscow.

Sunday's visit to Kyiv was their first to the Ukrainian capital.

Witkoff told reporters that he and Kushner had made "significant progress" in Moscow and hoped that trilateral talks involving Ukraine, the United States and Russia would be announced soon.

Russia "does not rule out the resumption of the trilateral format, but it is too early to say anything about the venue or the exact dates at this stage," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters on Monday.

AGENCIES — XINHUA

Dear You strikes a chord with L.A., NY audiences

By WEN HUI in Los Angeles and
REBECCA ROSENBERG in New York

For Claudio Chao, director of *Dear You*, watching the Chinese movie *Dear You* in Los Angeles felt like the closing of a door to memories of home.

More than 15 years ago, while pursuing his career in one of China's major cities, Chao wrote the first *Dear You*, a story inspired by his longing for his hometown of Jiaxing in Guangdong province. Years later, new living overseas, he found the movie's portrayal of migration, family separation and attachment to one's ancestral home deeply familiar.

"It is an important carrier of Chinese culture," Chao said after a preview screening of *Dear You* in Los Angeles on Thursday. "The movie is the film reminded me of my hometown. It even inspired me to write a new song about the wonders from Chao's home."

Other viewers shared that sense of recognition as *Dear You*, one of China's surprise box-office successes of the year, opened in North America on Friday.

Distributed by Well Go USA Entertainment, the movie opened at more than 160 theaters across major US and Canadian cities, including Los Angeles, New York, Chicago, Toronto and Vancouver.

The 118-minute family drama became a word-of-mouth hit after its release in China on April 30, grossing more than 1.8 billion yuan (\$270 million) by mid-June, according to ticketing platform Maoyan.

In the United States, its appeal appeared to extend well beyond its commercial success.

In New York, the poignant drama left many audience members in tears at a Regal Cinema. Sniffles could be heard throughout the screening as viewers responded to a story that crossed cultures.

"Yes, I cried," said Ella Fang, 31, who was originally from China and now lives in Virginia.

Fang emigrated to the US at a very young age and related to the experience of missing family while living abroad.

"I can use FaceTime to talk with my mom, but that film was about 50 years ago, so it was more challenging when they missed their family. The friendship and the love that continued on and the passing of the love got to me... especially the ending."

At the center of the movie are grandparents — letters, remittance receipts and other correspondence sent home by generations of Chinese emigrants.

In *Dear You*, the letters become a thread connecting a family separated across China and Thailand. A determined grandson travels to Thailand

in search of a grandfather he believes abandoned the family only to uncover a decades-long story of sacrifice, responsibility and care hidden behind the letters and remittances sent across the sea.

For many Chinese-born viewers in Los Angeles, that history hit close to home.

Howard Lin, a longtime Chinese immigrant from Chaozhou, said his father also traveled from China to Southeast Asia and that he witnessed the hardships his paternal grandfather endured.

After spending several decades in the US, Lin said the experience depicted in the movie resonated with his own family history. "Generation after generation, we have worked hard to build a life overseas and put down roots, much like the family portrayed in the film," he said.

Singer Zheng said the movie also reminded him how dramatically the circumstances of overseas Chinese have changed across generations.

"These overseas Chinese had it so hard," he said. "China was not as developed then, we are so fortunate today because our ancestral country has become so strong."

The response in Los Angeles also suggested that the film's appeal extends beyond audiences who share its cultural background.

Emmy-nominated producer Alexander Gray described it as "very sincere" and praised its storytelling.

"I saw a lot of headlines about how popular it was, and I wanted to study the history because of that," Gray said, expressing hope that more Chinese movies would reach Los Angeles theaters.

Los Angeles-based playwright and theater director Elizabeth Wong called *Dear You* "a beautiful, soul-butching film" that was "heart-warming" and "uplifting."

Wong said she was particularly drawn to the movie's portrayal of immigration through longing for home, family responsibility and the practice of sending letters and money across borders.

While the film deeply resonated with Chinese audiences, New York cinema-goers likewise said its themes had universal appeal and could resonate with US audiences.

Steve Chaudhury, 25, from Virginia, watched the movie in New York with his friend Sally Zhu, 27, from Guangdong province.

"I thought it was very moving," Chaudhury said. "American audiences will warm to it because, even though it's about another culture, it's about relationships. I think everyone can relate to that, as it's about family."

Contact the writers at renali@chinaandlosa.com

Briefly

NEPAL
Day of mourning held for flood victims

Nepal held a national day of mourning on Monday for the victims of devastating glacial floods, as families of workers feared trapped in hydropower tunnels prayed rescuers might yet find them alive. The Aug 26 glacial and mountain collapse on the China-Nepal border killed at least 1,308 people, with more than 5,500 missing, including around 800 foreigners. Flaps flew at half-mast, with candlelit vigils planned later in the day, as the nation marked the 13th day after death, following Hindu mourning rituals.

INDONESIA
Market fire kills 11, including 6 children

A fire tore through a market in Indonesia's Central Papua Province on Monday and killed 11 people, including six children, police said. The fire broke out shortly after midnight and quickly spread to the surrounding buildings, local police spokesman Henry Manurung said. "During the inspection, officers found 11 victims who had died with burn injuries. Of the 11 victims, five were adults, while the other six were children," Henry said.

AGENCIES — XINHUA

GEPCO
EXTENSION OF OPENING
DATE OF GEPCO
TENDER NO. 03/SERVICES/MM/2026-27.

The opening date of the following GEPCO tender which was to be opened on 23.09.2025 is hereby extended till the same tender will be opened as per the following schedule:

Tender No.	Description	Est. Guarantee Required (Rs.)
03/AM Services 2026-27	ENGAGEMENT OF INDEPENDENT THIRD PARTY INTERNATIONAL CONSULTANT - CONSULTANT FIRM FOR EVALUATION, ASSESSMENT OF TRANSMISSION & DISTRIBUTION TAD, TECHNICAL LOSSES OF GEPCO	2500,000

Pre-bid meeting will be held on 23/09/2025 (Wednesday) at 11:00 AM
Bid opening date and time: 15/10/2025 at 11:00 AM

Note: No late bids and tenders will be accepted after the bid opening date.

Manager (MM)
GEPCO Ltd, Gulbarga
345-A Model Town, Gulbarga
Ph: 055-9250527 Fax: 055-9250528

08 SEP 2026

Daily
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GEPCO		
TENDER NOTICE		
EXTENSION IN OPENING DATE TENDER NO. 03/SERVICES/MM/2026-27.		
The opening date of following GEPCO tender which was to be opened on 23-09-2026 is hereby extended. Now the same tender will be opened as per following schedule.		
Description	Bid Guarantee Required (Rs.)	Bid opening date and time
Engagement of independent third-party international consultant/consortium firm for evaluation & assessment of transmission & distribution (T&D) technical losses of GEPCO	2,500,000	15-10-2026 11:30 AM
Pre-Bid meeting will be held on 23-09-2026 (Wednesday) at 11:00 AM.		
Note: All other terms and conditions of said tender shall remain unchanged.		
Manager (HR)		
Gujranwala Electric Power Company (GEPCO) 565-A Model Town, Gujranwala Ph: 055-9200527 Fax: 055-9200528		

PID/L/618/26