In order to keep abreast of emerging issues at the National/International and local level, the SDPI brings out a Bi-weekly E-Newsletter on “COVID-19”.

It carries reference information’s to the News items/Comments/Op-Eds appearing in leading National/International dailies.

Newspapers Covered:

- Dawn
- The News
- The Express Tribune
- The Nation
- Business Recorder
- Daily Times
- Pakistan Observer
- Pakistan Today
- Urdu Point

A Product of ASRC-SDPI

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## Contents

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#### Vaccine compliance
Source: Editorial, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2021-10-02

IT is refreshing to see that a lower Covid positivity rate has not translated into complacency on the part of the authorities. While on Wednesday, NCOC chief Asad Umar eased restrictions on eight Covid hotspots where he claimed vaccination targets had been met, he warned that those who had not been fully vaccinated by Oct 1 would face curbs including travel restrictions. That perhaps is a better w.....[more >>](#)

#### Talking about COVID
Source: Editorial, *Daily Times*, 2021-10-04

Pakistan’s declining trend of Covid-related deaths should be greeted with optimism—albeit, cautious. With cases plateauing to almost 28 per cent of the peak and vaccinations gathering momentum (27 per cent has had at least one dose administered), one might wonder whether we are finally inching towards the end of this dark and dreary tunnel. However, as emphatic groups upon groups of pi.....[more >>](#)

#### A Political Week From Hell or Just Hell Week?
Source: Harlan Ullman, *Daily Times*, 2021-10-04

En route Paris: Members of Congress are already describing this past week as one from hell! The debt ceiling crisis that can shut the government down; two very contentious infrastructure bills; and hearings on the Afghanistan withdrawal debacle and charges that Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Army General Mark Milley exceeded his authority are among the reasons for this prediction. Add the c.....[more >>](#)

#### New Zealand’s Delta outbreak spreads outside Auckland
Source: Agencies, *Daily Times*, 2021-10-04

New Zealand’s Delta variant outbreak spread beyond the largest city of Auckland, prompting Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern on Sunday to put additional regions into a snap lockdown. There were 32 new coronavirus cases on Sunday in Auckland, which has been in lockdown since mid-August, and two cases in the Waikato region, some 147 kilometers (91 miles) south of Auckland. Ardern said parts of the.....[more >>](#)

#### A clarion call
Source: Muhammad Zahid Rifat, *The Nation, Islamabad*, 2021-10-04

Pakistan has given a clarion call for creating a comprehensive strategy on a priority basis for effectively addressing the triple crisis of Covid-19, economic downturn and climate change. The call was made by Prime Minister Imran Khan while virtually addressing the United Nations General Assembly for the second time. At the very outset of his address, the PM said that such problems do not dis.....[more >>](#)

#### Vaccination Drive
Source: Editorial, *The Nation, Islamabad*, 2021-10-05

Since the start of October, the federal government has initiated a drive to arrest and fine unvaccinated individuals. These measures are being put into place following the announcement by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) that unvaccinated individuals will not be allowed to travel domestically, enter wedding halls, shopping malls, hotels and guest houses. While some of these measure.....[more >>](#)
Will Glasgow-26 deliver?
Source: Jahangir Kakar, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-10-06
Confession is good for the soul. Will Glasgow deliver? The apprehensions are that it would not. Paris Agreement divides the world into a choice of haves and have-nots. It offers a set of nations who have reached the developmental-evolution levels to consider the environment as a license of longevity while at the same time a set of nations whose evolution is jeopardised by threats of existence. Po.....
more >>

Dengue and Covid-19: a double whammy
Source: Editorial, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-10-06
Amidst the Covid-19 pandemic another potentially fatal disease, dengue, is on the rise in different cities of Punjab. A vast majority of the cases are in Lahore. As more and more people test positive for the dengue virus, Punjab Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid has let it be known that cases of the infection would increase in the next few weeks, and appealed to the people to remain vigilant about .....
more >>

Policies during the pandemic
Source: Ibrahim Khan, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-10-06
The COVID-19 pandemic has placed enormous stress on governments, health authorities and individuals across the world, with the total global death count estimated at 4.16 million people, and an infection burden of 194 million. Pakistan, located in South Asia, bordering India, Afghanistan, China, and Iran having a population of over 200 million people, got its first COVID-19 cases from pilgrims retu.....
more >>

Covid complacency
Source: Editorial, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-10-07
WITH a steady drop in Covid-19 cases over the past few weeks and the positivity ratio reduced to below 3pc, relief is manifesting itself in overly complacent attitudes towards Covid-related SOPs. According to a report published in this newspaper, the managements of popular shopping malls in Karachi and five-star hotels appear to have a mixed policy on checking vaccination certificates of customers.....
more >>

Advance market commitment
Source: Zafar Mirza, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-10-08
ADVANCE market commitment (AMC) has proven to be a public health measure. It has done wonders in the area of vaccines, as has been the case with Covid-19. As an innovative policy tool, it can be expanded to address other market failures, for example, to improve the local production and uninterrupted supply of contraceptives in Pakistan. But what is AMC, how does it work, and how can it be impleme.....
more >>
Timely reforms
The time for modest reforms is long past. A radical cut in carbon emissions can’t be accomplished simply by banning drinking straws, ramping up production of electric cars, or even planting a billion trees. To meet the climate-change challenge will require a transformation comparable to the agrarian or industrial revolutions. But if those earlier system changes are guideposts, the losers of ......
more >>
**National News**

**Balochistan**

**Call for people to get Covid vaccine**
Source: Ali Raza Rind, *Daily Times*, 2021-10-05
CHAGAI: Speakers at a seminar have urged the people to get themselves vaccinated against coronavirus in order to prevent its resurgence. The seminar titled ‘Awareness about vaccination against coronavirus and health issues’ was organised by the Health Department and the district administration at the Government Boys High School, Dalbandin. Speaking on the occasion, Dalbandin Assistant.....more >>

**Islamabad**

**Covid positivity ratio drops below 3pc after nearly three months**
Source: Aamir Yasin, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2021-10-02
• NCOC says quarantine for pilgrims from Iraq necessary • Curbs on unvaccinated people come into force
ISLAMABAD: Covid-19 positivity ratio in the country fell below three per cent for the first time since July, with 1,411 new cases reported over the last 24 hours. On the other hand, as per the decision of the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), restrictions on unvacci.....more >>

**Covid positivity ratio drops below 3pc after nearly three months**
Source: Aamir Yasin, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2021-10-02
ISLAMABAD: Covid-19 positivity ratio in the country fell below three per cent for the first time since July, with 1,411 new cases reported over the last 24 hours. On the other hand, as per the decision of the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), restrictions on unvaccinated people came into force on Friday. Meanwhile, the forum announced that the quarantine regime for pilgrims retu.....more >>

**Vaccination, the way out**
Source: Editorial, *The Express Tribune, Islamabad*, 2021-10-02
Applying the principle of reward for good conduct and punishment for bad behaviour, the National Command and Operation Centre has eased the coronavirus pandemic-linked restrictions in cities and areas with high rate of vaccination and tightened the existing curbs where the percentage of vaccination is unsatisfactory. This method is aimed at exhorting people to get vaccinated against the dreaded co.....more >>

**Public places; NCOC starts implementing mandatory Covid-19 vaccination**
ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) has started implementation of mandatory Covid-19 vaccination in public places and has asked the provincial government to enforce mandatory vaccination regime across the country. In this connection, on Friday, the NCOC district administration teams visited shopping malls, cash and carry and bus terminals in the federal capital area to.....more >>

**Covid positivity ratio drops below 3pc for first time since July**
Source: Our Staff Reporter, *The Nation, Islamabad*, 2021-10-02
ISLAMABAD - Pakistan's Covid-19 positivity ratio dropped below the 3 percent mark for the first time since July on Friday. The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) recorded the positivity rate at 2.87 percent. Meanwhile, the country reported 1,411 new cases of coronavirus during the past 24 hours, taking the tally for confirmed cases to 1,246,538. At least 56 fresh fatalities we.....more >>
Covid-19 claims six more lives in Islamabad, Rawalpindi
Source: Aamir Yasin | Munawer Azeem, Dawn, Islamabad , 2021-10-03
ISLAMABAD: Two patients died of Covid-19 along with 74 new cases in the capital on Saturday. Moreover, four people also succumbed to the virus in the district of Rawalpindi. Officials of the capital administration said both the patients who passed away were women and in the age group of 50-59. During the last 24 hours, 4,153 tests were conducted in the capital and 46 males and 28 females tested.....
more >>

Pakistan reports over 1,650 new coronavirus infections, 35 deaths
ISLAMABAD: As many as 1,656 new COVID-19 infections were reported across Pakistan during the last 24 hours, causing the number of confirmed cases in the country to rise to 1,249,858, the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) said Sunday. The latest NCOC statistics suggest that 1,656 people tested positive for the virus when 50,779 samples were tested across the country in the last 24 hours.....
more >>

COVID-19 compels Germans to go on-line for ‘Unity Day’ celebrations
Islamabad : Second year running the German Embassy in Islamabad and the German Consulate in Karachi have decided to celebrate the historic ‘Unity Day’ ‘on-line’ instead of hosting the guests at the Embassy’s sprawling, undulating and beautifully manicured lawns and terraces. The on-line celebrations on ‘Facebook’ and ‘Youtube’ channel of the.....
more >>

As multiple diseases spread, experts warn against polypharmacy
Source: Ikram Junaidi, Dawn, Islamabad , 2021-10-04
ISLAMABAD: As Covid-19, dengue, typhoid and malaria are all spreading at the same time, experts have advised people to avoid polypharmacy practice as it has serious side-effects and could lead to emergence of multi-drug resistant virus or bacteria. On the other hand, the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) data showed that 35 patients succumbed to Covid-19 and 1,656 more people contracte.....
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2 COVID-19 deaths, 116 cases from twin cities
Rawalpindi : Another two deaths have been reported from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district due to coronavirus illness, COVID-19 in the last 24 hours while 116 new patients have been tested positive for the illness from the region. To date, the virus has claimed a total of 2,103 lives from ICT and Rawalpindi district while as many as 105,664 patients have so far been reported po.....
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‘Unvaccinated people to face fines, arrests’
Islamabad : The federal government would arrest and fine unvaccinated people after fresh directives being issued by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) for expediting COVID vaccination in the country, Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Hamza Shafqaat warned on Sunday. Citizens would not be allowed to use railways, airline and bus services without showing their vaccination cards, he said.....
more >>
Experts resolve to explore ways for building back better from pandemic
Source: APP, Daily Times, 2021-10-04
Speakers at a webinar titled “South-South Cooperation: Creating headways for Post-Pandemic Inclusive Recovery” held here resolved to explore ways for enhancing South-South Cooperation for achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and building back better from COVID-19 Pandemic. The relevant actors of major parts of the world sat together over a virtual platform to discuss on how ..... 
more >>

Crackdown underway against unvaccinated people
Source: News Desk, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-10-04
ISLAMABAD - A major crackdown is underway across the country to ensure hundred percent vaccination against COVID-19 with enforcement of suspension of services to unvaccinated. In compliance of instructions issues by the National Command and Operation Center, special teams at district and Tehsil level are checking the people in different sectors particularly transport and education to ensure m.....
more >>

Pakistan reports 35 more corona deaths, 1,656 infections in a day
Source: Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-10-04
ISLAMABAD - Pakistan has reported 35 more coronavirus deaths and 1,656 infections during the last 24 hours, according to the data shared by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Sunday morning. As per the NCOC figures, after the addition of 35 new deaths, the overall toll has now surged to 27,866 whereas the number of total infections stood at 1,249,858 after adding the fresh 1,656 c.....
more >>

234 dengue, 477 Covid cases in Punjab
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-10-05
LAHORE: Punjab reported 234 confirmed cases of dengue and 477 of Covid during the last 24 hours. Of the new dengue cases, 153 patients alone were reported from Lahore, 52 from Rawalpindi, five each from Attock and Multan, three each from Gujranwala and Muzaffargarh, two each from Sheikhupura, Sargodha and Nankana whereas one each from Kasur, Sialkot, Dera Ghazi Khan, Jhang, Mianwali, Pakpattan an.....
more >>

‘Number of out of schoolchildren increased in pandemic’
Islamabad:The number of out of schoolchildren and learning losses of the students have significantly increased due to the coronavirus pandemic induced campus closures but the federal government is striving to address the two issues with the help of technology, said federal education minister Shafqat Mahmood on Monday. He was speaking to a high level delegation of Unicef led by Omer Abidi, Deput.....
more >>

Over 1.42m people vaccinated in Sialkot: Usman Dar
Source: APP, Daily Times, 2021-10-05
Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on Youth Affairs Usman Dar has said that 1,426,640 [1.426 million] people have been vaccinated against coronavirus in Sialkot district so far. Addressing a press conference here on Saturday, he said the population of Sialkot district was around 1.8 million and “we are trying to achieve the target of 100 per cent vaccination at the earliest. Usman .....
PM for vaccine equity, stolen wealth’s return to developing countries
Source: APP, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-10-06
ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Tuesday reiterated his call for debt relief and prioritising vaccine equity for Covid-hit developing countries for their economic recovery. The prime minister was virtually addressing the World Leaders Summit Dialogue which was organised on the occasion of the 15th Quadrennial Meeting of UNCTAD. He emphasised the climate finance and.....
more >>

Covid positivity rate declines in Islamabad, Rawalpindi
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-10-06
ISLAMABAD: The Covid-19 positivity rate in Islamabad and Rawalpindi districts saw a decline on Tuesday. The capital, however, reported one death in the age group of 60-69. The deceased was a woman and a resident of H-13. Officials of the capital administration said during the last 24 hours 3,945 tests were conducted which detected the virus in 68 people — 35 women and 33 men — and po.....
more >>

PID officers launch Covid vaccine awareness drive
Source: APP, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-10-06
LAHORE - The officers of Press Information Department (PID) on Tuesday launched awareness campaign regarding benefits of vaccination among people. The PID officers went to different markets, petrol pumps and masajid and distributed pamphlets in order to spread awareness about the potential dangers of COVID-19 and the advantages of vaccination. The voluntary campaign started on the direction .....
more >>

Corona positivity rate falls to 1.29pc
Source: APP, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-10-06
Rawalpindi-The district coronavirus positivity ratio was recorded at 1.29 per cent here on Tuesday which was the lowest level noted during the year. According to fresh data released by the District Health Authority, 24 new infections were reported during the last 24 hours including 20 of Rawalpindi and four from outside the district. It updated that patients reported during the last 24 hours.....
more >>

Corona positivity recorded at 1.5pc
Islamabad : Another death due to coronavirus illness, COVID-19 from Islamabad Capital Territory in the last 24 hours took death toll from the federal capital to 929 while no COVID-19 death was reported from Rawalpindi district on the second consecutive day from where a total of 1,176 patients had already lost their lives due to the illness. In the last 24 hours, 88 new patients have been tested.....
more >>

NCOC to contact people avoiding Covid vaccination
Source: Ikram Junaidi, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-10-07
ISLAMABAD: While over 87 million doses of Covid-19 vaccine have been administered across the country, the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Wednesday decided to approach unvaccinated people and convince them to get themselves vaccinated. Main target will be the districts which are lagging behind others in terms of percentage of vaccinated population. Meanwhile, it has been obs.....
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
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<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Covid vaccination drive in full swing at institutions in Balochistan</td>
<td>Agencies, Daily Times</td>
<td>2021-10-07</td>
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<td>Anti-corona vaccination process was being continued in educational</td>
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<td>institutions and health centers in Balochistan to prevent deadly</td>
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<td>virus as per the special directives of National Command and Control</td>
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<td>Center (NCOC). Director General of Health Services Dr. Ali Nasir Bugt</td>
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<td>i told APP on Wednesday that measures for vaccination are being made</td>
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<td>effective in different educational institutions including Gov........</td>
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<td>20 more Covid patients die</td>
<td>Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-10-07</td>
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<td>KARACHI: As many as 20 more patients of coronavirus died overnight</td>
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<td>and 606 new cases emerged when 14,128 tests were conducted. In a</td>
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<td>statement issued her on Wednesday, Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali</td>
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<td>Shah said that the death of 20 more patients lifted the death toll</td>
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<td>to 7,471, constituting 1.6 per cent death rate. He said that 14,128</td>
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<td>samples were tested, which detected 606 cases forming 4.3pc curren.....</td>
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<td>Asian markets slip as inflation, default compound virus worries</td>
<td>APP, Daily Times</td>
<td>2021-10-07</td>
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<td>Asian markets resumed their retreat Wednesday as a strong lead from</td>
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<td>Wall Street was overshadowed by ongoing worries about a range of</td>
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<td>issues from rising inflation, tighter monetary policy, a possible US</td>
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<td>debt default and the ever-present threat of the Delta variant. The</td>
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<td>rally enjoyed across equities for more than a year has met a roadblock</td>
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<td>in recent months as supply chain problems and a surge in en.........</td>
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<td>Positivity rate in Islamabad continues to fall</td>
<td>Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-10-07</td>
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<td>ISLAMABAD: One person succumbed to Covid-19 in Islamabad district</td>
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<td>whereas 38 new cases were reported on Wednesday with the positivity</td>
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<td>ratio recorded at 1.1pc. Officials of the capital administration said</td>
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<td>the deceased was a male patient in his 40s. During the last 24 hours</td>
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<td>3,453 tests were conducted. A total of 11 cases were reported in the</td>
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<td>age group of 30-39, followed by eight from 50-59, six fr............</td>
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<td>One COVID-19 death, 61 cases reported</td>
<td>Muhammad Qasim, The News, International</td>
<td>2021-10-07</td>
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<td>Islamabad: A total of 61 new patients have been tested positive for</td>
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<td>coronavirus illness, COVID-19 from Islamabad Capital Territory and</td>
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<td>Rawalpindi district in the last 24 hours that is the lowest number of</td>
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<td>cases reported in a day from the region after June 30 this year. The</td>
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<td>virus, however, has claimed another life from ICT taking the death</td>
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<td>toll from this region of the country to 2,106 while the.............</td>
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<td>Capital sees slight rise in Covid cases</td>
<td>Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-10-08</td>
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<td>ISLAMABAD: After a week, the number of Covid-19 cases on a single</td>
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<td>day increased in the capital as 91 cases were reported on Thursday</td>
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<td>with the positivity ratio at 1.7pc. Officials of the capital</td>
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<td>administration said the number of cases had decreased during the last</td>
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<td>seven days as 130, 99, 74, 74, 69, 68 and 38 cases were reported on</td>
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<td>Sept 30, Oct 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 respectively. During the last 24.....</td>
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### All educational institutions can restart classes from 11th
Source: *Abdul Rasheed Azad, Business Recorder, Islamabad*, 2021-10-08

ISLAMABAD: The government has decided to allow resumption of all the classes in all the educational institutions from Monday, October 11, Chairman National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) Asad Umar said. The NCOC chief in a tweet said, “Based on the reduced level of disease spread and the launch of the school vaccination program, it has been decided in today’s NCOC meeting to.....

*more>*

### Shops sealed for violating coronavirus SOPs
Source: *Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad*, 2021-10-08

LAHORE - The district administration Thursday sealed 12 business points, food outlets, stores and restaurants and issued warnings to 35 others for not following coronavirus related standard operating procedures (SOPs), as notified by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC). A special team, under the supervision of Assistant Commissioner City Fizan Ahmed, inspected implementation of coro.....

*more>*

### Pay for your Covid-19 vaccination certificate through Easypaisa
Source: *Press Release, The Nation, Islamabad*, 2021-10-08

ISLAMABAD - Continuing its efforts to provide convenient digital payment options to customers, Easypaisa, the country's leading digital payments App, has added a much-needed service to its portfolio. All Pakistanis eligible for COVID-19 vaccinations can now pay for their vaccination certificate through their Easypaisa wallet. Easypaisa is the first digital payments platform to introduce.....

*more>*

### Schools to resume normal classes from Monday: NCOC

ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operations Centre (NCOC) on Thursday announced that all educational institutions would start “normal classes” from October 11 (Monday). The decision was made during an NCOC meeting held earlier today, where the forum agreed to reopen educational institutions based on the reduced level of disease spread and the launch of the school vaccination prog.....

*more>*
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Covid vaccinators fan out across BRT, bus stops
Source: Shahzaib Khan, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-10-07
PESHAWAR: In order to pace up Covid-19 vaccination, the provincial government has decided to completely ban the unvaccinated persons on BRT, public transport as well as NADRA offices and teams have been deployed to check certificate and vaccinate people on the spot. Talking to The Express Tribune an official said that there is some reluctance in a segment of society as far as the Covid-19 vaccina......more >>

Dengue cases on rise as Covid incidence slumps
Source: Ashfaq Yusufzai, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-10-08
PESHAWAR: The coronavirus-related mortalities and incidence continue to slump in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, except Peshawar and Mardan, but cases of dengue fever are on the rise in the province, according to separate reports issued by health department on Thursday. The province recorded 10 fatalities and 146 new coronavirus patients, raising the overall tally of deaths and cases in the province to 5,623......more >>

Punjab

Probe into boy’s death in Punjab’s Vehari city a day after Covid jab remains inconclusive
Source: Asif Chaudhry, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-10-02
LAHORE: A five-member committee constituted by the Punjab government to probe into the death of a 10th class student in Vehari on Sept 30, a day after he received his first Covid vaccine jab at a public school, declared on Friday that the ‘cause of the death could not be ascertained’. The committee was constituted after Mohammad Mudassar, 16, a student of the Government Islamia High S......more >>

181 cases of dengue, 574 of Covid in Punjab
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-10-02
LAHORE: Punjab reported 181 positive cases of dengue and 574 of Covid during the last 24 hours, taking the total numbers of both types of cases to 1,840 and 431,667, respectively. Of the new dengue cases, 131 were reported in Lahore alone, according to the data released by the provincial health department here on Friday. Similarly, of 574 new cases of Covid, a majority, 303, were report......more >>

Three more patients succumb to coronavirus
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-10-02
RAWALPINDI: Three more patients lost their lives to Covid-19 in Rawalpindi during the last 24 hours. At least 41 new positive cases were reported in the district on Friday. According to the daily situation report issued by the District Health Authority, among the new cases, 11 hailed from Rawalpindi Cantonment, eight from Kalar Syedan, seven each from Rawal and Potohar towns, three each from Gujar......more >>

Punjab to ease Covid curbs Decrease in infection rate witnessed during past week
Source: Adnan Lodhi, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-10-02
LAHORE: In view of an improvement in the situation with respect to the spread of coronavirus during the past week, Punjab government planning to ease ‘smart lockdown’ imposed in high risk areas of various districts. Although 704 deaths caused by the pandemic were reported in Punjab during September, including 274 in Lahore, among 37,962 people who contracted the virus in the 36 district......more >>
Punjab reports 24 more Covid-19 deaths, 2.91pc positivity ratio
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-10-03
LAHORE: There is no respite in causalities due to Covid-19 pandemic, as 24 more fatalities were reported in Punjab during the last 24 hours including 10 in Lahore, five in Rawalpindi, two in Gujranwala and one each in Muzaffargarh, Faisalabad and Sheikhupura taking the death toll in the province to 12,658. Out of 18002 corona tests conducted during the last 24 hours, as many as 524 fresh coro.....
more >>

COVID-19 claims another 6 lives, 124 test positive from twin cities
Rawalpindi: As many as 124 new patients have been reported positive for coronavirus illness, COVID-19 in the last 24 hours from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district while another six patients have died of the illness from the region taking death toll to over 2,100 on Saturday. It is, however, alarming that the positivity rate of COVID-19 from Rawalpindi district has again jumped t.....
more >>

Four COVID-19 patients die
Source: Our Correspondent, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-10-03
LAHORE:COVID-19 has claimed four more lives in provincial capital during the last 24 hours. Overall, 20 patients died of COVID-19 while 574 new cases were confirmed in Punjab province. According to report issued by Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department Punjab on Friday there were 20,106 active cases of Covid-19 till date across the province while total cases reported from across the province.....
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619 more contract Covid; 176 infected with dengue
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-10-04
LAHORE: Punjab's Covid-19 caseload has risen to 432,809 with the diagnosis of 619 new infections during the last 24 hours. The province also confirmed 11 deaths, taking the total number of fatalities to 12,672. In the last 24 hours, 270 cases have been reported in Lahore, 57 in Rawalpindi, 45 in Pakpattan, 41 in Multan, 29 in Sargodha, 26 in Faisalabad and 18 in Attock. Similarly, 15 in Ch.....
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Over 100 test Covid positive in capital, Rawalpindi
Source: Aamir Yasin | Munawer Azeem, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-10-04
ISLAMABAD: While 74 people were found infected with Covid-19 in Islamabad on Sunday, the positivity rate remained at 2.11pc. On the other hand, health authorities claimed that all possible steps were being taken to control dengue. District Health Officer (DHO) Dr Zaeem Zia said 3,510 samples were collected on Saturday of which 74 were found positive for Covid-19 on Sunday. About the dengue case.....
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Four more patients succumb to coronavirus
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-10-04
RAWALPINDI: At least four more coronavirus patients died while 43 new cases surfaced in theRawalpindidistrict during the last 24 hours. According to health officials, the four Covid-19 patients died at the Rawalpindi Institute of Urology and Kidney Transplant in Rawalpindi while the positivity rate almost doubled from 1.69 per cent to 3.01 per cent. According to health officials, 1,599 citizens.....
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Punjab takes steps to ensure Covid SOPs implementation
Source: APP, Daily Times, 2021-10-04
Provincial Transport Authority (PTA) was taking effective steps to ensure implementation on Covid-19 related Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) issued by National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) in public transport including bus stations. Talking to APP here on Sunday, Provincial Transport Authority (PTA) Secretary Naeem Bukhari said, “We are focused on strict enforcement of transport.....
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Covid-19 national positivity ratio drops below 4%
Source: APP, Daily Times, 2021-10-04
The national tally of Covid-19 pandemic on Sunday reported decline in national positivity ratio below 4% amid declining disease trend and consistent death rate. The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) in a tweet on its official handle shared the latest disease statistics. The nerve centre of the country in its fight against the pandemic wrote that some 50,779 tests were conducted across.....
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Punjab records 619 fresh infections of Covid-19
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-10-05
LAHORE: The coronavirus pandemic has claimed 11 more lives in Punjab. Reportedly, 619 fresh infections were reported during the past 24 hours. According to the data, shared by Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD) Secretary Imran Sikandar Baloch on Sunday, the death toll due to the pandemic reached 12,669 and the total number of virus cases in Punjab exceeded 432,810, whi.....
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Covid-19 positivity ratio further declines in Punjab
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-10-05
LAHORE: The overall Corona positivity rate in the province has further declined to 2.32 percent, as out of 19,699 Covid-19 tests conducted across the province during the last 24 hours, as many as 477 fresh virus cases and 13 fatalities were reported taking the provincial tally of cases to 433,287 and death toll to 12,682. This is for the first time since July 27 this year, when the Punjab has.....
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Another fake vaccine entry made in Nawaz' name
LAHORE/NAROWAL: Another fake entry in the name of former prime minister Nawaz Sharif has been made at a vaccination centre in Narowal, the city’s deputy commissioner said on Monday. “The suspects had used Nawaz Sharif's name for the data entry [...] they had used the former prime minister's identity card to get the entry done,” the deputy commissioner added. The su.....
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Muhammad Qasim
Rawalpindi:Coronavirus illness, COVID-19 claimed another life from Islamabad Capital Territory in the last 24 hours taking death toll from the federal capital to 928 while 84 new patients were tested positive from the twin cities that took the total number of patients so far reported from the region to 141,335. The virus did not claim any life from Rawalpindi district in the last 24 hours thou.....
more >>
Admin enforcing coronavirus SOPs  
Source: Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-10-05  
LAHORE: The inspection teams of district administration visited various areas of the provincial capital to ensure implementation of corona related Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). District officers visited private and public sector educational institutions and inspected corona SOPs. The students and teachers were instructed to strictly adhere to guidelines notified by NCOC to contain corona......

Covid cases drop to 401 in Punjab  
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-10-06  
LAHORE: The Covid cases are constantly on the decline in Punjab as 401 people tested positive for the virus during the last 24 hours across the province, taking the total number to 433,688. The Covid claimed lives of 25 more patients during the same period in Punjab, bringing the death toll to 12,707, according to the official figures released here on Tuesday. Of the new positive cases, 224 were......

Another fake vaccine entry in Nawaz’s name  
BAHAWALPUR: One Farhan Abbasi CSD supervisor of Basic Health Unit (BHU) Basti Rana Iqbal UC Guddan, tehsil Khairpur Tamiwali, was arrested on the charges of fraudulently entering the name of former premier Nawaz Sharif in National Immunisation Management System (NIMS) data following the report of inquiry committee constituted by CEO District Health Authority (DHA) Bahawalpur Dr Muhammad Iqbal Makw.....

US delegation exempt from Covid test on arrival today  
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-10-07  
RAWALPINDI: The government has granted exemption from Covid-19 rapid antigen test and body scanning to US Deputy Secretary Wendy Sherman and her seven-member team arriving on Thursday (today) on a two-day visit. The delegation will arrive at Islamabad International Airport by a chartered flight and depart on Friday at 8pm. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has directed the aviation division, chief.....

Govt wants NCOC to get CNICs of late Kulsoom, Dar blocked  
Source: Asif Chaudhry, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-10-07  
LAHORE: The Punjab government on Wednesday recommended the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) to block the computerised national identity cards of the late Kulsoom Nawaz and former finance minister Ishaq Dar after fake Covid vaccine entries were made against their CNICs in Vehari and Multan. It suggested the NCOC to engage the National Database and Registration Authority (Nadra) and oth.....

Reports sought on vaccination fake entries  
Source: Staff Correspondent, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-10-07  
MULTAN: South Punjab Health Secretary Muhammad Ajmal Bhutti has asked chief executive officers of district health authorities of Multan and Vehari to submit inquiry reports in connection with fake Covid vaccination entries of late Kulsoom Nawaz and former finance minister Ishaq Dar. Bhatti told the media that FIA’s cybercrime wing had been asked to take action against the health staff invol.....
14 more die of Covid; 195 contract dengue
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-10-07
LAHORE: The Punjab province reported 195 dengue and 465 Covid cases during the last 24 hours, taking the total number to 2,782 and 434,153, respectively. Of the new dengue cases, 139 patients were reported from Lahore alone, according to an official data released here on Wednesday. It said the Covid death toll reached 12,721 in Punjab after 14 more critical patients succumbed to the virus during.....
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Four Balochistan players test positive for COVID-19
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-10-07
LAHORE - The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Wednesday said that four Balochistan players participating in the National T20 have tested positive for COVID-19. A PCB spokesman said here that following this development the four Balochistan players have been placed in a 10-day quarantine. He said all other players were asymptomatic and tested negative, and will continue to participate in the tou.....
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Seminar promotes vaccination drive
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-10-08
LAHORE - A seminar was held at Regional Information Office of Press Information Department on Thursday to highlight the importance of vaccination to fight the Covid-19 pandemic. Prominent journalists, bureaucrats and people from civil society attended the seminar. Emphasising the importance of implementation of SOPs devised by NCOC, Deputy Postmaster General Pakistan Post Shahid Javed Malik s.....
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Day without COVID-19 death after a month
Rawalpindi : No death due to coronavirus illness, COVID-19 has been reported from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district in the last 24 hours though another 120 patients have been tested positive for the infection from the twin cities taking the tally to 141,624 Thursday. The population in this region of the country has witnessed a day without reporting of COVID-19 death after a mo.....
more >>

Covid-19 claims one more life, infects 94 others
Source: Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-10-02
HYDERABAD - The Covid-19 claimed one more life in Liaquat University Hospital while 94 more people were tested positive with the virus. According to the statistics provided by the health department here on Friday, as many as 1,802 Covid-19 tests were conducted in the district in the last 24 hours. With the addition of 94 more cases the number of active cases has increased to 1,511. Some 1.....more >>

Nadra certificates to be accepted in UK
Source: Hasan Zaidi, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-10-03
KARACHI: The United Kingdom’s Covid-19 rules will change on Monday, removing the ‘Amber List’ designation completely and allowing anyone vaccinated anywhere by one of the four vaccines approved by London to travel to the UK without quarantine or self-isolation. Furthermore, Pakistan’s vaccine certificates will be accepted by the UK, though Chinese vaccines will still not be.....more >>
### 'US Chargé d'affaires' visit to Karachi promotes anti-Covid efforts'
**Source:** Press Release, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-10-03

KARACHI: US Chargé d'affaires a.i. Angela P Aggeler visited Karachi from September 29 to October 1 to strengthen bilateral ties between Pakistan and the United States and promote our shared anti-COVID efforts, including the recent US donations of nearly 16 million Pfizer vaccine doses to the people of Pakistan, and the planned donation of nearly 10 million more Pfizer doses in the com... more >>

### Seven more fall prey to Covid-19 in Sindh
**Source:** Our Correspondent, The News, International, 2021-10-03

Seven more coronavirus patients died overnight, bringing the death toll in Sindh to 7,414 at 1.6 per cent fatality rate since March last year when the deadly virus had claimed the first life in the province. In a statement issued on Friday, Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said 16,243 samples were tested and 756 new cases emerged, showing a 4.7 per cent detection rate. So far 6,039,772 tests ha... more >>

### Shops sealed for flouting Covid SOPs
**Source:** News Desk, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-10-04

The city administration on Sunday continued its action against violators of Covid-19 Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in various parts of the metropolis. Officials checked coronavirus vaccination cards at various shops, shopping malls and restaurants and reviewed the implementation of SOPs. They sealed the shops and slapped fines on unvaccinated shopkeepers. Korangi Assistant Commissioner Ca... more >>

### Partial compliance of Covid-19 SOPs at major malls, hotels
**Source:** Shazia Hasan, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-10-05

KARACHI: It was rush time around the shopping malls on Tariq Road. There were women checking out the stitched suits hanging by the roadside. Traffic was bad as motorists eyed parking spaces. The guard at the entrance of one of the biggest malls, the Dolmen Mall, was busy checking the temperature of shoppers with his infrared thermometer before allowing them in. Anyone trying to enter without a mas... more >>

### 15 more lose life against COVID in Sindh
**Source:** Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-10-05

KARACHI - As many as 15 more patients of coronavirus died overnight in Sindh, lifting the death toll to 7,442 while 637 new cases emerged when 15,510 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued here on Monday. He added that 15 more patients of CO[1]VID-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 7,442 that constit[1]ut[1]ed 1.6 pe... more >>

### RTA fines unvaccinated travelers
**Source:** Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-10-05

HYDERABAD - The district administration and the Regional Transport Authority (RTA) has launched crackdown against non-vacci[1]nated passengers and imposed fine against the violators. As per the new guidelines of National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), Regional Transport Author[1]ity secretary along with district administration of[1]icials on Monday inspected vehicles for COVID-19 stan[1]da... more >>

### Distric admin in action against SOPs violators
**Source:** Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-10-06

KARACHI - On the directives of NCOC, the officers of city administration on Tuesday sealed different shopping centres, bus terminals and shops in various parts of the city for violating coronavirus SOPs and imposed fines on people for not wearing masks. Assistant Commissioner Sub-Division Nazimabad Abdul Hanan Bhutto imposed fine on citizens for not wearing masks besides sealing shopping cent... more >>
Police arrest 68 unvaccinated citizens
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-10-06
SUKKUR - SSP Sukkur Irfan Ali Samo on Tuesday said that the Sukkur police conducted raids at public places to arrest unvaccinated citizens. Talking to media here, SSP Samo said Sukkur Police had arrested 68 people for not being vaccinated against coronavirus within few days. SSP said the district Police were striving hard to achieve the target set by the NCOC to vaccinate the eligible populat.....
more >>

I am a human rights activist: Woman yells at eatery staff when asked for vaccination card
Source: Entertainment Desk, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-10-07
Twitter is livid after a video of a woman at a local Karachi restaurant went viral. In the clip, she can be seen lashing out at the staff for asking her to show her Covid-19 vaccination certificate. The self-proclaimed “human rights activist” filmed the incident on her phone, which was in turn filmed and uploaded on social media after the incident. The woman, pointing the camera in the.....
more >>

Over 0.31m people fully vaccinated in Hyderabad
Source: Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-10-08
HYDERABAD - As many as 311089 people have been fully vaccinated in district Hyderabad till Wednesday (October 06), the health authorities said. According to official figures, 613451 people had so far been received first dose while 311089 people were fully vaccinated by receiving second dose of the vaccine. The district focal person informed that on the directions of National Command and Operation .....
more >>

AC for strict implementation of coronavirus SOPs
Source: Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-10-08
KARACHI - Gulberg Sub-Division Assistant Commissioner (AC) Dadan Khan Lashari on Thursday visited different commercial centres, banks, super stores and markets in its jurisdiction to review the implementation of COVID-19 Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), in line with the guidelines of the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) here. Dadan Khan Lashari randomly checked the COVID-19 vaccin.....
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**International News**

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<td><strong>Coronavirus treatments: Potential ‘game-changers’ in development</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>LONDON: The first clinical trial results showing a positive effect for a pill that can be taken at home has been hailed as a potential gamechanger that could provide a new way to protect the most vulnerable people from the worst effects of Covid-19, according to a report published in The Guardian. Molnupiravir joins a growing list of medicines that have shown promise. Here are some of the main ..... more &gt;&gt;</td>
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| **Three workers died of virus at Dubai Expo site; NY’s street vendors still waiting for pandemic recovery:** |
| New Zealand tightens travel rules as Covid spreads |
| Wellington: New Zealand announced on Sunday tighter border restrictions, as new cases of Covid-19 emerged in areas previously free of the coronavirus. "We are introducing the requirement for air travellers aged 17 and over, who are not New Zealand citizens, to be fully vaccinated to enter New Zealand," Covid-19 response minister Christ Hipkins said. The national flag carrier Air New ..... more >> |

| **‘We need vaccines now’: African singers urge donations; SL relaxes guideline for foreigners, dual citizens:** |
| NZ drops ‘Covid zero’ goal after Delta outbreak |
| Wellington: Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern admitted on Monday that New Zealand's widely praised "Covid zero" strategy had failed to halt a stubborn outbreak in Auckland and said a new approach was needed. The hardline elimination policy had largely protected the country from the pandemic, with residents enjoying a near-normal domestic life alongside tight restrictions on internat..... more >> |

| **‘Silent crisis’ looms as US to end Covid aid for jobless** |
| Source: AFP, Daily Times, 2021-10-06 |
| Spending less on food. Drawing down on retirement savings. Dropping out of the workforce altogether. Last year, the United States massively expanded unemployment aid as Covid-19 broke out. But in the coming days those benefits will end, forcing millions of jobless Americans — some of whom haven’t worked for the entire pandemic — to make hard choices about how they will get by in ..... more >> |

| **N Korea pursues weapons despite Covid blockade; EU could start review of Merck’s Covid pill ‘in days’:** |
| Russia reports record daily coronavirus deaths |
| Moscow: Russia on Tuesday recorded its highest daily coronavirus death toll as cases linked to the Delta variant spike amid a lacklustre vaccination drive and few anti-virus restrictions. A government tally reported 895 fatalities over the past 24 hours, a record in Russia since the start of the pandemic. The new figure brings total deaths from Covid-19 to 211,696 -- the highest in Europe. Aut..... more >> |

| **Inequality, inflation hurting pandemic recovery: IMF** |
| Source: AFP, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-10-06 |
| WASHINGTON: The global economic bounceback from the Covid-19 crisis will downshift this year as countries struggle with rising prices, high debt loads and divergent recoveries in which poor nations are slipping behind wealthier ones, the leader of the IMF warned on Tuesday. While the Washington-based crisis lender has hundreds of billions of dollars in new firepower to help countries recover ..... more >> |
Sydney readies for ‘freedom day’ after long lockdown
Sydney: Australia’s largest city will emerge from a 106-day lockdown on Monday, as Sydney authorities confirmed coronavirus vaccination targets had been met. Stay-at-home orders will be lifted for the Harbour City’s five-million-plus people now that 70 percent of state residents over 16 have been double jabbed. “The light at the end of the tunnel is now very, very close,” .....  
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SDPI Engagements

Consultation Gathering

‘Waiving copyrights to enable poor countries access clean technologies’
Islamabad: Exhibiting a strong multi-party consensus, the members of the Parliament hailing from Pakistan Tehrik-i-Insaf, Pakistan People’s Party and Pakistan Muslim League-N pledged to make Pakistan resilient to climate change through sustained adaption and mitigation related climate actions. They expressed these views in a pre-COP-26 consultative meeting with the parliamentarians organi.....more >>

Parliamentarians Underscore Climate Finance Distribution Mechanism Critical For Developing Countries
Source: APP, UrduPoint, 2021-10-05
ISLAMABAD, Oct 4 (APP - UrduPoint / Pakistan Point News - 4th Oct, 2021 ) :The parliamentarians on Monday underscored that it was necessary for the 26th Conference of Parties (COP-26) meeting to devise a clear and transparent climate finance distribution mechanism for developing countries to address climate change. Addressing the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI)'s dialogue titl.....more >>

Transparent Climate Finance Distribution Mechanism Critical For Developing Countries
Source: APP, UrduPoint, 2021-10-06
ISLAMABAD, Oct 5 (APP - UrduPoint / Pakistan Point News - 5th Oct, 2021 ) :The 26th Conference of Parties (COP-26) meeting under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) has to devise a clear and transparent climate finance distribution mechanism for developing countries to address climate change. The parliamentarians made these remarks while addressing the Sustainable Dev.....more >>

‘Pakistan facing major problems in mitigating effects of climate change’
Islamabad: Rumina Khursheed, former Parliamentary Secretary on Climate Change in PMLN government, has said that Climate Rights are part of fundamental human rights and must move on from checking Climate Change to declaring Climate Emergency. Ms. Rumina was addressing the participants of a "Pre-COP26 Consultation with Diplomats" organised here by Sustainable Development Policy Institu.....more >>

Pakistan Facing Problems In Mitigating Effects Of Climate Change
Source: Tayyab Awan, Technology Times, 2021-10-08
Rumina Khursheed, former Parliamentary Secretary on Climate Change in PMLN government, has said that Climate Rights are part of fundamental human rights and must move on from checking Climate Change to declaring Climate Emergency. Ms. Rumina was addressing the participants of a "Pre-COP26 Consultation with Diplomats" organised here by Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI). M.....more >>
Social footprint of monetary policy
Source: Dr Sajid Amin Javed, *The News, International*, 2021-10-03
After the coronavirus struck, central banks took the driving seat and gave economic policy responses in view of the pandemic. Expansionary monetary policies, particularly during the lockdowns, became the "the only game in town". Policy rates were immediately slashed. Quantitative easing was practiced as if there was no tomorrow. The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) also followed suit. Loa.....more >>

Weather woes
The rapidly emerging climactic changes are one of the biggest threats to the sustainability of life on earth. Global warming is a major cause of environmental degradation today. The increased emission of greenhouse gas (GHGs) in our outer atmosphere due to fossil fuel burning leads to a rise in average temperature besides polluting the air. Climate change affects not only human life but also the ec.....more >>

Economy 2021
Source: Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri, *The News, International*, 2021-10-06
The writer heads the Sustainable Development Policy Institute. Pakistan's economy is facing a three-pronged challenge: internationally, it is facing soaring prices of essential commodities such as oil, gas, wheat, and sugar and unusually high shipping charges on its foreign trade; regionally, it is grappling with the economic and financial fallout of an extremely volatile situation in Afgha.....more >>

SDPI's Related News

**REVIEW OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN PAKISTAN**
Source: DNA News, *DNA News*, 2021-10-06
ISLAMABAD, OCT 5 (DNA) – Pakistan's progress on Sustainable Goals (SDGs) has not been impressive so far. Federal and provincial governments will have to share the responsibility of taking the development agenda forward for enhancing the wellbeing of people. These views were expressed by the experts in a webinar hosted by the Social Policy and Development Centre (SPDC) to share the fin.....more >>

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