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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### Covid vaccination campaign
When the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) headed by Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar claimed 70 million people would be vaccinated by end of the current year, it appeared to be an unfeasible target. Not anymore. According to the latest NCOC data, over 62 million people have been fully vaccinated and another 62 million have received a first jab (the n... *more*).

### Debt time bomb
Source: Editorial, *Daily Times*, 2021-10-13
The government celebrated when G20 counted Pakistan among countries that were extended the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) in the immediate aftermath of the pandemic, as if it had scored a victory of some sort, but it turns out that the only reason we became eligible was because we are among the 10 most indebted countries in the whole world. That means we are not in fine company since th... *more*.

### Prioritizing the poor
As the pandemic rages on, wealthy countries continue to hoard vaccines, ignoring criticism and warnings from the World Health Organization. Whereas developed nations such as the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, France, etc have vaccinated more than 50 percent of their populations, developing ones in Africa have vaccinated less than two percent of their populations. As rich countries sta... *more*.

### Cooperation on Covid
After several months of stringent efforts, the government has succeeded in pushing down the Covid-19 positivity rate in the country to two percent. As a result, for the first time since June 21 only 689 cases were reported on Tuesday, the largest number in Sindh with just over 300 infections. We hope that this improvement can be maintained as the winter respiratory disease season begins, and that ..... *more*.

### IMF lowers global growth forecast
Source: Editorial, *Daily Times*, 2021-10-14
It’s not surprise, given the way supply side pressures and semiconductor shortage, etc, have held back leading economies, that the IMF has revised global growth for this year down from 6pc to 5.9pc. It looks like a minor change, but as the IMF itself clarified, it “masks large downgrades for some countries”. The pandemic is still to blame for most if not all the problems faced by..... *more*.

### Dysfunctional democracy
Last week, after much back and forth, the US Congress passed a resolution to increase the government’s borrowing limit so it could continue to operate. Republicans in the Senate had been blocking the effort, threatening a shutdown of the government and potential default on US government obligations. Had that happened, the impact on the US economy would have been severe, even catastrophic. Th..... *more*.
Reopening under Covid
Source: Faisal Bari, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-10-15
THE new directive from the National Command and Operation Centre allows educational institutions to open up fully, though keeping notified SOPs in place. This raises interesting and complex issues for educational institutions. How do we deal with all enrolled students coming to classes while maintaining SOPs on social distancing? At our university, we had moved to 50 per cent use of classroom cap.....more >>

Lopsided vaccine provision
Source: Syed Mohammad Ali, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-10-15
Despite all the money and attention being given to address the Covid-19 pandemic, the way in which pandemic response has unfolded thus far provides another glaring example of the inequities plaguing our world. World health experts have kept stressing that contending with coronavirus needs a coordinated and equitable approach. A reduction of cases in any one country cannot be sustained over time if.....more >>

National News

Islamabad

NCOC allows normal classes from next week
Source: Aamir Yasin, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-10-09
ISLAMABAD: As the coronavirus positivity rate has declined to 2.8 per cent across the country, the National Command and Operations Centre (NCOC) on Thursday decided to open the doors of educational institutions for normal classes from Oct 11. A meeting of the NCOC decided to reopen the educational institutions based on the reduced level of Covid-19 spread and the lau.....more >>

Mandatory for students to get fully vaccinated by Nov 30: Dr Faisal
Source: Web Desk, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-10-09
Prime Minister's Special Assistant on Health Dr Faisal Sultan on Friday urged parents to get their school-going children inoculated, saying it was mandatory for students aged 12 and above to get fully vaccinated by the end of November. Addressing the media inIslamabad, the federal health minister said that Oct 31 is the last date for partial vaccination whereas Nov30 is the last date for comp.....more >>

Partial vaccination by Oct 31 mandatory for students
Source: Aamir Yasin, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-10-09
ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on National Health Services Dr Faisal Sultan on Friday said students would have to be fully vaccinated by Nov 30 and partially inoculated by Oct 31 to be able to attend their classes. “It has been made mandatory for children aged 12 and above to be completely vaccinated by Nov 30 and at least partially immunised by Oct 31 in order to.....more >>

Covid-19 cases continue to decline in Islamabad
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-10-09
ISLAMABAD: A decline was seen in the number of Covid-19 cases and the positivity rate in the capital on Friday. Officials of the capital administration said 53 cases were reported on Friday compared to 91 on Thursday. During the last 24 hours, 4,744 tests were conducted among the contacts of the confirmed cases and suspects and 53 were found infected with the positivity rate of 1.11 per cent. Th.....more >>
**Peira asks private schools to get students vaccinated against Covid-19**

*Source: Kashif Abbasi, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2021-10-09*

**ISLAMABAD:** The Private Educational Institutions Regulatory Authority (Peira) on Friday directed all private schools to ensure vaccination of all students in the age group of 12 to 18 as schools are all set to start regular classes from Monday. The Federal Directorate of Education (FDE) also decided to get vaccinated all students in the 12-18 age group. Following the National Command and Operation.... more >>

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**Vaccinating schoolchildren**

*Source: Editorial, *The Express Tribune, Islamabad*, 2021-10-09*

At the present, getting coronavirus jabs is the only prevention we have against Covid-19. Since the novel coronavirus is highly contagious, it is necessary to inoculate the maximum number of people. Unfortunately, there are people everywhere in the world who, either due to the influence of anti-vaxxers or due to their personal predilections, are reluctant to receive the vaccine, so it is the unvac..... more >>

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**Country reports less than 1,000 daily Covid-19 cases in 3 months**

*Source: Abdul Rasheed Azad, *Business Recorder, Islamabad*, 2021-10-09*

**ISLAMABAD:** Pakistan reported less than 1,000 daily corona virus cases in the past 24 hours for the first time in over three months, official figures released by the National Command and Operation (NCOC) revealed here on Friday. Fresh data from the NCOC showed that Pakistan reported 912 cases after 45,619 tests were taken. The country last recorded a daily case count below 1,000 on July 6 at 8..... more >>

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**Dr Faisal for vaccinating eligible children against COVID-19**

*Source: Agencies, *The Nation, Islamabad*, 2021-10-09*

**ISLAMABAD** - Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on National Health ServicesDr Faisal Sultan Friday appealed the parents to vaccinate their children aged 12 years and above against coronavirus. In a media briefing, he assured the parents that the vaccine was safe and that they should vaccinate their children without any fear. He said Saturday had been fixed for the vaccination of the child..... more >>

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**Less than 1,000 Covid cases reported in a day**

*Source: Staff Reporter, *The Nation, Islamabad*, 2021-10-09*

**ISLAMABAD:** Pakistan has reported less than 1,000 new coronavirus cases for the first time in three months as 912 cases were recorded during the last 24 hours. The last time less than 1,000 cases were reported was on July 5 when 830 new infections were confirmed in the country. According to the government's Covid-19 portal, 45,619 tests were conducted during this period. The total number of ..... more >>

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**Fewer than 1,000 Covid cases reported for second consecutive day**

*Source: Staff Reporter, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2021-10-10*

**ISLAMABAD:** Pakistan reported fewer than 1,000 cases of Covid-19 for the second consecutive day on Saturday as 955 more people were infected by the deadly virus and 29 died. According to the National Command and Operation Centre’s (NCOC) data, there were 43,352 active cases as of Oct 9 and 2,744 patients were admitted to various hospitals across the country. While 360 ventilators were in us..... more >>
Capital reports one death, 74 Covid-19 cases
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-10-10
ISLAMABAD: One more death from Covid-19 and 74 new cases were reported in the capital on Saturday. Officials of the capital administration said the deceased (a male) was in the age group of 70-79 and a resident of Loi Bher. During the last 24 hours, 4,028 tests were conducted among the contacts of the positive cases out of which 75 tested positive with 1.86pc positivity rate. Once again there w.....

Pakistan’s COVID-19 positivity rate under 2pc
Source: Web Desk, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-10-10
Pakistan continues to record decline in the COVID-19 cases, as the positivity ratio has dropped down to 1.99 per cent during the last 24 hours. The latest figures showed 26 new deaths over the said period, bringing the overall death toll to 28,058. After the emergence of 912 new infections, the total number of confirmed cases in the country has jumped to 1,256,233. Since the emergence of.....

New Covid cases stay below 1,000 for 2nd day in a row
Source: Tahir Niaz, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-10-10
ISLAMABAD - New Covid-19 cases stayed below 1,000 for the second day in a row on Saturday morning as Pakistan recorded 955 such new cases. The count for the past 24 hours took the tally for confirmed cases in the country to 1,257,188. At least 29 fatalities were also reported during the same period. A total of 28,087 patients have succumbed to the virus in the country so far. Moreover, 1,222 rec.....

Country sees lowest number of Covid cases since June 28
Source: Ikram Junaidi, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-10-11
ISLAMABAD: The country reported the lowest number of Covid-19 cases in a single day since June 28. According to data of the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), 767 people contracted coronavirus and 19 patients died during the last 24 hours. The highest number of cases during the last over three months was reported on Aug 4 when 5,661 people got infected and 60 succumbed to the virus. .....
COVID-19 positivity rate drops below 2pc
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan continues to report a decline in new coronavirus infections, with the positivity rate falling to 1.8 percent Sunday, Geo News reported. According to the National Command and Operation Centre’s (NCOC) latest statistics, 40,584 tests were conducted in the last 24 hours across Pakistan, out of which 767 came back positive, pushing the total caseload to 1,257,955. Meanwhile.....

Covid-19 positivity ratio falls to 1.8pc
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan continues to report a decline in new coronavirus infections, with the positivity rate falling to 1.8% Sunday. According to the National Command and Operation Centre’s (NCOC) latest statistics, 40,584 tests were conducted in the last 24 hours across Pakistan, out of which 767 came back positive, pushing the total caseload to 1,257,955. Meanwhile, 19 more people s.....

No death from COVID-19
Rawalpindi : The confirmation of 69 new patients positive for coronavirus illness, COVID-19 from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district in the last 24 hours has taken tally to 141,869 on Sunday though the virus has claimed no life from the region. Data collected by ‘The News’ on Sunday reveals that to date, as many as 2,108 patients suffering from COVID-19 have died of .....

NCOC team inspects vaccination status at Rawalpindi Railway Station
Islamabad : The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) team and Pakistan Railways Administration visited Rawalpindi Railway Station to check compliance of obligatory vaccination status. The NCOC team and Railways Admin along with Railway police inspected the vaccination status of the staff, Qulis and passengers at the Rawalpindi Railway Station. The inspection teams also checked the vacc.....

EFU Life selects Rehability UK as partner for virtual health care
Source: Press Release, *Daily Times*, 2021-10-12
EFU Life Assurance Ltd and Rehability UK Group have partnered to provide virtual health services solutions in Pakistan. The services will be provided by Hello Doctor, a subsidiary of Rehability UK Group. Virtual health care has emerged as a new platform, globally and in Pakistan, that improves access by removing traditional barriers to healthcare such as distance, mobility, and time constraints. .....
Covid-19 active cases in country down to 42,263  
Source: News Desk, Daily Times, 2021-10-12  
The national tally of Covid-19 active cases on Monday was recorded 42,263 with 1,004 more people tested positive for the deadly virus and 1,254 people recovered from the disease on Monday. Twenty-seven corona patients died during past 24 hours, 27 of whom were under treatment in different hospitals and one of them perished in their respective quarantines or homes, according to the latest update i.....

Aluminium crosses $3,000 a tonne mark after 13 years  
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2021-10-12  
The price of aluminium exceeded $3,000 a tonne on Monday for the first time since July 22, 2008. The price for a tonne of aluminium to be shipped in three months has grown by 2.24pc to $3,035.50 on the London Metal Exchange, as of Monday. In mid-September, the price of the metal touched $3,000 a tonne, after China introduced restrictions on aluminium output. Aluminium prices have been growing fo.....

Covid-19 claims life in Islamabad  
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-10-12  
ISLAMABAD: One patient died of Covid-19 and 40 more got infected on Monday According to officials of the capital administration, the deceased was a male and was in the age group of 80-89. He was a resident of Tumair. During the last 24 hours, 2,712 tests were conducted in Islamabad and results of 16 men and 24 women came positive. The positivity ratio was recorded at 1.47pc. The data further sho.....

SOPs issued for events of Eid Miladun Nabi  
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-10-12  
ISLAMABAD: To reduce chances of Covid-19 transmission during the upcoming Eid Miladun Nabi celebrations, the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) has issued standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the occasion. On the other hand, more than 1,000 coronavirus cases surfaced after a gap of three days. The NCOC, which met on Monday, issued guidelines to local authorities, organisers and par.....

Pakistan records less than 1,000 daily Covid-19 cases  
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2021-10-10  
Pakistan reported less than 1,000 daily COVID-19 cases on Saturday for the second consecutive day, data from the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) showed. A day earlier, the country had recorded a daily case count under 1,000 for the first time in over three months (830 cases on July 6). At least 955 fresh coronavirus cases were detected on Saturday after 44,557 tests were taken, push.....

Covid national positivity records below 2 percent  
Source: APP, Daily Times, 2021-10-09  
The national tally of Covid-19 active cases on Friday was recorded 43,648 with 912 more people tested positive for the deadly virus and 1,633 people recovered from the disease during the last 24 hours. At least 26 patients died during past 24 hours, 22 of whom were under treatment in different hospitals and four of them perished in their respective quarantines or homes, according to the latest up.....
### Largest external debt stocks: Pakistan among top 10 countries

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is among the top 10 countries that possess the largest external debt stocks and became eligible for the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) in the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic. According to International Debt Statistics in 2022, released by the World Bank on Monday, there was a wide divergence in the rate at which external debt accumulated in individual DSSI-elig.....

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### Unicef urges greater action to address children’s needs

Islamabad: At the end of a four-day visit to Afghanistan and Pakistan, Unicef Deputy Executive Director Omar Abdi stressed the need for greater action to meet the increasing needs of children in both countries. In Pakistan, Mr. Abdi visited a number of projects as part of the cooperation between UNICEF and the government. Abdi, who had served as UNICEF Representative in Pakistan from 2003 to 200.....

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### Pakistan reports lowest single-day COVID-19 infections since June 21

With coronavirus cases on the decline across the country, Pakistan Tuesday reported the lowest number of single-day infections, since June 21. As per data from the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), Pakistan reported 689 new cases of the virus. The total number of active cases in the country stands at 41,754 while the new infections have pushed the total caseload in the country to .....  

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### NCOC issues SOPs for Eid Milad-un-Nabi (PBUH) events
Source: Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-10-12

ISLAMABAD - The National Command and Control Centre (NCOC) on Monday issued special guidelines for holding events of Eid Milad-un-Nabi (PBUH) during the holy month of Rabiul Awwal. Under the guidelines, the SOPs including wearing of masks, keeping social distancing and availability of hand sanitizers would be ensured during all such events. The Covid-19 vaccination of religious scholars and naat ..... 

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### IMF forecasts drop in inflation, unemployment

KARACHI: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Tuesday kept its forecast for Pakistan’s 2021/22 GDP growth unchanged at four percent but warned that large disparities in COVID-19 vaccine access and in policy support in many developing countries could hamper their economic recoveries. In its recent report “World Economic Outlook October 2021” released today, the IMF also endor.....

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### COVID-19 national positivity ratio drops below 2%

ISLAMABAD: The national tally of COVID-19 Tuesday reported below 2 percent decline in the national positivity ratio amid a declining disease trend and 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 42,476 tests were conducted ac.....

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COVID-19 claims five more lives, 62 test positive
Rawalpindi: The fourth wave of coronavirus illness, COVID-19 outbreak is still continuing claiming significant number of lives from this region of the country as another five COVID-19 patients from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district have died of the illness in the last 24 hours that has taken the total number of deaths so far caused by the virus from the region to 2,117. It is.....

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Pakistan reports 689 new corona cases, 18 deaths in 24 hours
Source: Tahir Niaz, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-10-13
ISLAMABAD - Coronavirus epidemic has shown downward trends in the country as during the last 24 hours, Pakistan reported only 18 deaths by the virus. The country also reported 689 new Covid cases, much lower than reported earlier in the month, showing a downward trend. According to the latest figures displayed on the National Coronavirus Dashboard of the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC).....

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WMA urges states to ‘stop discrimination’, recognise all vaccines
Source: Ikram Junaidi, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-10-14
ISLAMABAD: The World Medical Association (WMA) has called upon states to “stop discrimination” and let in all vaccinated travellers regardless of the Covid vaccine used for their inoculation. The Pakistan Medial Association (PMA), which had written a letter to the WMA seeking its intervention on the matter, welcomed the appeal in a statement released on Wednesday. A large number of P.....

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3 succumb to Covid-19 in Islamabad, Pindi
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-10-14
ISLAMABAD: Three more Covid-19 patients succumbed to the virus in Rawalpindi and Islamabad as 63 new cases surfaced in the two districts on Wednesday. Officials of the capital administration said death of a man and a woman was reported in the age group of 80-89 and 70-79 respectively. The deceased were the residents of G-7 and F-10, they added. The Covid-19 death toll in capital touched 935 mark,.....

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Covid positivity increases a bit NCOC says 43,578 tests were conducted during the past 24 hours
Source: APP, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-10-14
ISLAMABAD: National indicators of the Covid-19 pandemic showed a slight increase during the past 24 hours, as the countrywide positivity ratio returned to more than 2% level after falling below it a day earlier, according to National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Wednesday. The NCOC, the nerve centre of the country’s fight against the global pandemic, said in its daily update that.....

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PIAC reports decline in revenue due to Covid-19
Source: Abdul Rasheed Azad, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-10-14
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan International Airline Corporation (PIAC) has generated Rs94.989 billion, down from Rs 147 billion achieved in 2019, the decline in the revenue is attributed to Covid-19 restrictions affecting all of the PIA routes, reducing the overall operations by nearly half. This was stated by the PIA officials, while briefing a meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Aviation held.....

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### Twin cities log three more deaths, 59 cases
Islamabad: Coronavirus illness, COVID-19 has claimed another three lives from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district in the last 24 hours taking the death toll from the region to 2120 while another 59 patients have been tested positive for the illness from the twin cities that has taken tally to 142,040. Two deaths due to COVID-19 have been reported from ICT taking death toll from.....

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### ‘Art exhibition a breath of fresh air in pandemic’
Islamabad: Federal education and culture minister Shafqat Mehmood on Wednesday inaugurated an art exhibition organised by the Pakistan National Council of the Arts on its premises here. During the event titled ‘Ode to the Modern Masters’, sculptures, ceramics, engraving and drawings by artists Akram Dost Baloch, Abbas Shah, Amin Gulgee, Anjum Ayaz, Elizabeth Dadi, Fauzia Aziz Minalla.....

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### PMA urges WHO, WMA to play role to end Covid travel discrimination
Source: Rahul Basharat, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-10-14
ISLAMABAD - Pakistan Medical Association (PMA) on Wednesday wrote letters to Director General (DG) World Health Organization (WHO) and Secretary General (SG) World Medical Association (WMA) requesting them to play their role in resolving the vaccination issue of people travelling abroad. The PMA raised the issue that concerned authorities of some countries have approved specific brands of cor.....

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### Covid has decreased opportunities to lead an active life: WHO
Source: Ikram Junaidi, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-10-15
ISLAMABAD: The World Health Organisation (WHO) has said that opportunities to live an active and healthy life have been decreased due to the Covid-19 pandemic. In a statement, the WHO has called upon decision-makers across the health, sport, education and transport sectors to urgently scale up provision of more inclusive programmes and services and safer environments that promote physical activit.....

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### Pakistan records 1,016 new Covid cases, 28 deaths
Source: Tahir Niaz, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-10-15
ISLAMABAD - Pakistan recorded 1,016 new cases of coronavirus during the past 24 hours, taking the tally for confirmed cases to 1,261,685. According to the latest data released by the NCOC, at least 28 fatalities were also reported during the period. A total of 28,201 patients have succumbed to the virus in the country so far. Moreover, 1,750 recoveries were also reported in a day, taking the tota.....

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### NPPMCL sell-off delayed on account of sectoral issuance, pandemic
ISLAMABAD - A parliamentary committee was informed on Thursday that privatisation of National Power Parks (NPPMCL) was delayed on account of sectoral issuance and Covid-19 pandemic. Meeting of Senate Standing Committee on Privatisation was held under the chairmanship of Senator Shamim Afridi. Issues taken up entailed the status of privatisation of National Power Park Management Co. Ltd (NPPMC.....

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Asad Umar cautions against risk of coronavirus spread in winter
Source: News Desk, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-10-15
Minister for Planning and Special Initiatives Asad Umar, who also heads the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), warned on Friday that there is a risk of the spread of novel coronavirus during winter in Pakistan if people do not get vaccinated. Pakistan registered below 1,100 cases during the past 24 hours, far below the peak a few months ago during the third wave of the deadly virus. A..... more >>

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Covid positivity ratio drops to 2.3%
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-10-10
PESHAWAR: The Covid-19 positivity ratio across the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) province has dramatically dropped to 2.3 per cent in the past 24 hours across the province despite the fact that some districts are still experiencing an increase in cases. The highest positivity ratio has been recorded in North Waziristan tribal district at nine per cent where the infection is still spreading fast proba..... more >>

161 corona patients under treatment in Peshawar hospitals
PESHAWAR: A total of 161 corona patients - 99 corona patients in Hayatabad Medical Complex and 62 other in Khyber Teaching Hospital Peshawar are under treatment for coronavirus, an official of the health department told media men in daily briefing here on Saturday. He said the number of corona patients continues to decline and in major Peshawar hospital Hayatabad Medical Complex only 99 corona ..... more >>

Corona cases in KP drop below 1pc
PESHAWAR: The ratio of positivity of coronavirus cases dropped to below 1% in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as out of 8512 tests conducted in the province, only 74 have been reported positive, said Corona updates shared by the Health Department here on Monday. With the confirmation of only 74 new cases, the total number of active coronavirus cases has also been declined to 3670. With more deaths, the toll..... more >>

Covid infects 120 children below 10 in a month in KP
Source: Ashfaq Yusufzai, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-10-14
PESHAWAR: As Covid-19 cases continue to decline during the last two weeks, the virus has infected about 120 children below the age of 10 years in the last one month and killed three in same age group since the onset of the pandemic in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. More deaths due to the pandemic and cases were recorded among men. The disease has infected 435 persons in the age group of 11 to 20 years sinc..... more >>

Covid vaccination must for visitors to offices in Bajaur
Source: The Newspaper's Correspondent, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-10-14
BAJAUR: Authorities on Wednesday made the Covid-19 vaccination mandatory for the people visiting the offices of the district administration and other departments in the Bajaur tribal district. Sources in the district administration said the decision was taken during a meeting between deputy commissioner Iftikhar Alam and district health officer Dr Faisal on Wednesday. The sources said the health..... more >>
24 shops sealed for flouting Covid-19 SOPs
Source: Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-10-09
LAHORE - The district administration has carried out a grand operation in various areas of the provincial capital to ensure implementation of Covid-19 standard operating procedures (SOPs), as notified by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC). The inspection team sealed around 24 business points, garment and fabric shops, food outlets, juice corners, etc. and issued warnings to vari.....more >

‘Lahore — the heart of Pakistan’ London buses go live
LONDON: The beautiful city of Lahore has been projected globally as 150 iconic red London buses go live with the ‘Lahore - The heart of Pakistan’ branding adorned on busy routes of London. The campaign has been launched to highlight the rich cultural heritage of Lahore and also to project Pakistan’s soft image of beauty and culture at a city like London which is known as the c.....more >

Pakistan reports 767 Covid-19 cases, lowest in over three months
Source: News Desk, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-10-11
LAHORE - Pakistan on Sunday reported 19 deaths in the last 24 hours by novel coronavirus as the number of positive cases surged to 1,257,955. The nationwide tally of fatalities jumped to 28,106 on Sunday. According to the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) 767 persons tested positive for Covid-19 in the past 24 hours. Punjab remains the worst-hit province in terms of.....more >

Crackdown on unvaccinated people continues across country
Source: News Desk, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-10-11
LAHORE - The crackdown against unvaccinated people continues across the country to ensure inoculation of entire population as early as possible. The district level special teams are conducting visits to educational institutions, shopping centres and transport stands. .....more >

1,125 Lahore policemen infected with Covid-19
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-10-12
LAHORE - As many as 1,225 police officers of Lahore police have so far been affected by Covid-19 while 1,210 police officials have resumed their duties after recovery. “10 policemen affected by Covid-19 are still in quarantine at homes,” stated a police’s official spokesperson. He said that three DIGs, three senior police officers of SSP rank, nine SPs, 30 DSPs, 39 inspecto.....more >

Kids face 6-hour SOPs challenge
Source: Adnan Lodhi, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-10-13
LAHORE: Teachers have suggested reduced school timings to save children from dengue mosquito bites early in the morning and also to make it easier for them to maintain social distance and keep wearing masks. Schools across Punjab have resumed classes with full attendance after prolonged restrictions imposed to prevent the spread of coronavirus. However, the parents and teachers are still concern.....more >
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<td>Govt rolls out Covid jabs for children</td>
<td>Rana Amir Aslam, The Express Tribune, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-10-13</td>
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<td>BHAKKAR: On the orders of the provincial government, the Covid-19 vaccination process has been stepped up to protect children in Bhakkar district from the dangerous contagion. Coronavirus vaccine had been introduced for students over 12 years of age. In all four tehsils of the district, Bhakkar, Darya Khan, Kallur kot and Mankira, 27,000 citizens were being vaccinated on a daily basis. A total ......</td>
<td>more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<td>7 arrested for making fake vaccination certificates: SACM</td>
<td>Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-10-14</td>
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<td>LAHORE - Special Assistant to Chief Minister and Spokesperson Punjab government Hassan Khawar on Wednesday said that seven people have so far been arrested from various cities for making fake vaccination certificates of different political figures and sabotaging the vaccination system in Pakistan. He said that strict legal action would be taken against those who were damaging the repute of nationa.....</td>
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<td>Muhammad Qasim</td>
<td>Muhammad Qasim, The News, International</td>
<td>2021-10-15</td>
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<td>Rawalpindi : Coronavirus illness, COVID-19 has claimed another life from Rawalpindi district in the last 24 hours taking the death toll from the district to 1,186 however alarming is the fact that the average number of cases being tested positive from the district and Islamabad Capital Territory is still well over 70 per day. Data collected by ‘The News’ on Thursday reveals tha.....</td>
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<td>Sindh</td>
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<td>Petition against 5G technology, Covid-19 vaccine dismissed</td>
<td>Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-10-09</td>
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<td>KARACHI: Sindh High Court (SHC) has dismissed the petition against 5G Technology and Covid-19 vaccine observing that petitioner could not satisfy the court as how these are health hazards. A division bench of SHC comprised of Justice Muhammad Shafi Siddiqui and Justice Agha Faisal in a written order stated that Petitioner who is appearing in person has not utter a single word as to how the co.....</td>
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<td>COVID-19 claims six more lives, infects 136 others</td>
<td>Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-10-09</td>
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<td>KARACHI - As many as six more patients of coronavirus died overnight lifting the death toll to 7,480 and 136 new cases emerged when 5,625 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued here on Friday. He added that six more patients of COVID-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 7,480 that constituted 1.6 percent death rate. Shah sai.....</td>
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<td>Four more patients die of coronavirus in Sindh</td>
<td>Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-10-10</td>
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<td>KARACHI - Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah informed on Saturday that four more patients of coronavirus died in Sindh overnight, lifting the death toll to 7,484 while 163 new cases emerged from 4,323 tests. Four more patients of COVID-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 7,484 that constituted 1.6 percent death rate, he said in a statement issued from the CM House. Shah furthe.....</td>
<td>more &gt;&gt;</td>
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SHC dismisses plea against 5G technology, COVID-19 vaccination
KARACHI: Sindh High Court has dismissed petition against 5G technology and vaccination drive of COVID-19 in the country. Petitioner Ameer Jehan had filed petition in respect of 5-G (Fifth Generation) technology and government restrictions and vaccination drive on COVIDE-19. The court observed that petitioner who was appearing in person has not uttered a single word as to how the consequences o...... more >>

Sindh reports 13 more Covid-19 deaths, 393 fresh cases
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-10-11
KARACHI: At least 13 more patients of Covid-19 died overnight lifting the death toll to 7,497 and 393 new cases emerged when 10,483 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued here on Sunday. He added that 13 more patients of Covid-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 7,497 that constituted 1.6 percent death rate. ..... more >>

Covid-19 claims 13 more patients, infects 393 others
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-10-11
KARACHI - As many as 13 more patients of coronavirus died overnight lifting the death toll to 7,497 and 393 new cases emerged when 10,483 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued here on Sunday. He said that 13 more patients of COVID-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 7,497 that constituted 1.6 percent death rate. He said tha..... more >>

Commissioner reviews vaccination drive
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-10-11
LARKANA - Larkana Divisional Commissioner Shafique Ahmed Mahesar on Sunday urged the health department officials to expedite the work of COVID vaccine to complete their targets within stipulated time. He expressed these views while presiding over a meeting, to review progress of achieving the target of corona vaccine in the Division held here at Commissioner office. The meeting also reviewed the p..... more >>

US partners with Mahira Khan, Shahzad Roy to encourage Covid-19 vaccination
Source: Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-10-13
KARACHI - US Chargé d’ affaires Angela Aggeler has launched “Fizaaoon Se Falaah Tak”, an immunization awareness campaign in partnership with actor Mahira Khan, singer Shehzad Roy, Sindh Minister for Health and Population Welfare Dr. Azra Pechuho, and Karachi Ad-ministrator Murtaza Wahab at Karachi’s Jinnah Postgraduate Medical College (JPMC). According to a communiq..... more >>

Over 0.32m people fully vaccinated in Hyderabad
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-10-13
HYDERABAD - As many as 328,773 people have been fully vaccinated in district Hyderabad till October 11, the health authori-ties said. According to official figures, 63,5621 people had so far been received first dose while 328,773 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 Centre..... more >>
Nine more patients of coronavirus die in Sindh
Source: Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-10-14
KARACHI - As many as nine more patients of coronavirus died in Sindh overnight lifting the death toll to 7,514 and 431 new cases emerged when 12,888 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued on Wednesday. He added that nine more patients of COVID-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 7,514 that constituted 1.6 percent death.....
more >>

International News

Countries News

Delta wave tossed wrench into US job market in September
Washington: The US economy was predicted to add hundreds of thousands of jobs last month but instead gained only 194,000 as the Delta variant of Covid-19 again denied President Joe Biden the soaring labor market he is banking on -- at least for now. Schools shed jobs, and the bars and restaurants that have become a barometer of the virus´ threat to business added barely any positions in t.....more >>

Post-Covid economic recovery a key priority: Javed Malik
Source: Press Release, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-10-11
DUBAI: President of the Diplomat Business Club Dubai, former Ambassador Javed Malik hosted a high-profile international business summit in which business and corporate leaders representing 35 countries participated in presence of UAE Minister of Foreign Trade Dr Thani Al Zeyoudi as the Chief Guest. The prestigious summit was also attended by members of the royal family, diplomats, CEOs and go.....more >>

Egypt arrests 3 over thousands of dumped Covid jabs
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2021-10-12
Egyptian authorities arrested three people accused of dumping thousands of unused Covid-19 vaccine jabs found last week in a water drain in a southern city, the public prosecution said. “An investigative committee... found a shortage of 18,400 vaccine doses in the Minya health directorate storage inventory worth 5,023,200 pounds ($319,000),” the prosecution said late Sunday in a .....more >>

WHO backs extra Covid jab for people with weak immune systems
GENEVA: The World Health Organisation’s vaccine advisers on Monday recommended people with weakened immune systems should be offered an additional dose of all WHO-approved Covid-19 vaccines. The UN health agency’s experts also said over-60s fully immunised with China’s Sinovac and Sinopharm vaccines should be offered an additional third Covid-19 vaccine dose. The Strategic Adv.....more >>

Germany’s CureVac ditches first-generation Covid jab; UK govt botched initial Covid response: MPs’ probe: Texas governor Abbott bans all vaccine mandates
Washington: Texas’ Republican governor Gregg Abbott on Tuesday announced he was banning Covid-19 vaccine mandates for any entities in his state, including private companies. “I issued an Executive Order prohibiting vaccine mandates by ANY entity in Texas,” the governor wrote on Twitter. “The Covid-19 vaccine is safe, effective & our best defense against the virus, b.....more >>
IMF cuts global growth forecast amid pandemic pressures
Washington: The ongoing hit from the Covid-19 pandemic and the failure to distribute vaccines worldwide is worsening the economic divide and darkening prospects for developing nations, the IMF said Tuesday. Global economic growth this year and next is expected to continue as the recovery solidifies broadly, but the overall figures mask large downgrades and ongoing struggles for some countries. .....more >>

India has no plans for booster dose; WHO unveils pandemic pathogen sleuth squad; Congo bans weddings; US to open land borders to vaccinated travellers
Washington: The United States will open its land borders with Mexico and Canada in early November to non-essential travellers who are fully vaccinated against Covid-19, a senior White House official announced on Wednesday. The official said the administration would give the "precise date very soon" -- both for land crossings as well as international air travel, which would be timed to.....
more >>

Xinhua
Bali, Indon: Bali reopened to international flights from select countries on Thursday, including China, Japan and France, as the pandemic-struck Indonesian holiday island took a step toward welcoming back tourists. But authorities in Bali, which lost its primary source of income as tourism dried up, said there were no international flights expected on Thursday. Foreign visitors must be vaccina.....
more >>

US to ship 2.4m doses of Covid-19 vaccine to Pakistan
Source: Reuters, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-10-15
WASHINGTON: The US government will ship 2.4 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine to Pakistan on Thursday, bringing the total number of doses sent to the South Asian country to about 18.3 million, more than any other country, a White House official said. The latest shipments of the vaccine lots made by Pfizer and Germany’s BioNTech, are due to arrive on Saturday via the COVAX distribution p.....
more >>

SDPI Engagements
Consultation Gathering
Covid exposes weaknesses in social protection system
Source: APP, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-10-13
ISLAMABAD: Experts have agreed that the alignment of federal and provincial social protection schemes is needed to create an optimal shock-responsive social protection system. Speaking at a consultative session titled “Aggregating the Evidence: Shock-responsive Social Protection Delivery Mechanism in Pakistan” on Tuesday, they underlined the need for enhancing innovation in delivery .....more >>
CREATING SYNERGIES, INTEGRATING EVIDENCE CAN ENHANCE SOCIAL PROTECTION IMPACT:
SPEAKERS
Source: DNA, Daily Islamabad Post, 2021-10-13
ISLAMABAD, OCT 12 /DNA/ – For optimal shock-responsive Social Protection, innovation in delivery; paying attention to evidence gaps; transition to strategy and alignment of Federal and Provincial Social Protection programs can play a vital role in enhancing the overall impact. This was the crux of the online-Consultative Session titled: ‘Aggregating the Evidence: Shock-responsive Socia.....more >>

CREATING SYNERGIES, INTEGRATING EVIDENCE CAN ENHANCE SOCIAL PROTECTION IMPACT:
SPEAKERS
Source: DNA News, DNA News, 2021-10-12
ISLAMABAD, OCT 12 /DNA/ – For optimal shock-responsive Social Protection, innovation in delivery; paying attention to evidence gaps; transition to strategy and alignment of Federal and Provincial Social Protection programs can play a vital role in enhancing the overall impact. This was the crux of the online-Consultative Session titled: ‘Aggregating the Evidence: Shock-responsive Socia.....more >>

CREATING SYNERGIES, INTEGRATING EVIDENCE CAN ENHANCE SOCIAL PROTECTION IMPACT:
SPEAKERS
Source: DNA, Centreline.com, 2021-10-12
ISLAMABAD, OCT 12 /DNA/ – For optimal shock-responsive Social Protection, innovation in delivery; paying attention to evidence gaps; transition to strategy and alignment of Federal and Provincial Social Protection programs can play a vital role in enhancing the overall impact. This was the crux of the online-Consultative Session titled: ‘Aggregating the Evidence: Shock-responsive Socia.....more >>

Creating synergies, integrating evidence can enhance social protection impact
Source: Zubair Qureshi, Pakistan Observer, 2021-10-13
For optimal shock-responsive social protection, innovation in delivery; paying attention to evidence gaps; transition to strategy and alignment of Federal and Provincial Social Protection programmes can play a vital role in enhancing the overall impact. These views were expressed during an online-consultative session titled: ‘Aggregating the Evidence: Shock-responsive Social Protection Deli.....more >>

Webinar News

Illicit cigarette trade challenge comes under the spotlight
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-10-09
LAHORE: Speakers at a webinar have called for bringing the overall supply chain of tobacco under effective tobacco control and enforcement including a mechanism for quick verification of data on cigarette production and sales, to reduce the public health risks from the illicit trade in cigarettes in Pakistan apart from checking loss to the national kitty. The webinar titled “Illicit, Il.....more >>

Experts stress tobacco verification to prevent revenue losses
Source: Staff Reporter, BOL News, 2021-10-10
KARACHI: Experts have urged the tax authorities to bring the overall supply chain of tobacco under effective tobacco control and enforcement, including a mechanism for quick verification of data on cigarette production and sales, to reduce the damage to the national treasury and public health risks from the illicit trade in cigarettes in Pakistan. They expressed these views in a webinar, “I.....more >>
‘Better data collection, registration can enhance social safety impact’
Islamabad : Better data collection and registration of vulnerable populations can play a vital role in enhancing the overall impact of social safety and protection networks, which can be made successful through civil society organisations. This was the crux of a webinar on ‘Aggregating the evidence: shock-responsive social protection delivery mechanism in Pakistan’ organised here by.....more >>

Revisiting POL prices
September saw inflation accelerate at a faster pace as there was an unanticipated rise in fuel and food prices. Three key factors at play are a weak rupee, significantly high food import demand and increased prices of petroleum products. It is expected that the recent rise in petroleum products (POL) and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) prices will push the consumer price index (CPI) to even higher l.....more >>

Gaps in climate change policies
Climate change is a serious threat to the economic and social fabric of the country. Climatic shocks are diverse and have severe implications for the country. The last three decades witnessed a series of droughts, floods, heat waves, glacier outbursts and sea intrusion. The 2010 flood, the 1999-2003 drought and the formation of Atta Abad Lake stand out. Un timely rains aggravated the situation in s.....more >>

Vietnam to Indonesia: the Asian countries hit hardest by China’s clampdown on new coal-fired power plants overseas
Source: Pei-Hua Yu, South China Morning Post, 2021-10-10
Chinese President Xi Jinping’s pledge to the United Nations that China will no longer build coal-fired power plants overseas will leave many projects awaiting financial closure at risk of cancellation. Countries that have included significant new coal capacity in their near-term national power supply plans are likely to be hit har.....more >>