About SDPI

SDPI was founded in August 1992 on the recommendation of the Pakistan National Conservation Strategy (NCS), also called Pakistan’s Agenda 21. The NCS placed Pakistan’s socio-economic development within the context of a national environmental plan. This highly acclaimed document, approved by the Federal Cabinet in March 1992, outlined the need for an independent non-profit organization to serve as a source of expertise for policy analysis and development, policy intervention, and policy and program advisory services. SDPI is registered under the Societies Registration Act, XXI of 1860.

Mission
To catalyse the transition towards sustainable development, defined as the enhancement of peace, social justice and well-being, within and across generations.

Vision
To be a center of excellence on sustainable development policy research, capacity development and advocacy in Pakistan.

About Newsletter

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:

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A Product of ASRC-SDPI

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### Op-Eds/Articles/Editorials

**Leishmaniasis at the door**  
Source: Dr Muhammad Uzair Mukhtar, *The News, International*, 2021-10-17  
You may have read about the soaring number of dengue cases along with Covid-19, but leishmaniasis could emerge as another public health problem if not addressed promptly. Leishmaniasis is a vector-borne – and neglected – tropical disease caused by a Leishmania protozoan parasite transmitted by the bite of an infected female sandfly. It is currently prevalent in 98 countries, includi.....[more >>](#)

**Emerging picture**  
The recovery from the economic shock of Covid-19 appears to be faster and stronger than what most had expected some eighteen months ago. The pace of recovery varies in different parts of the globe with countries’ distress or optimism being defined by their own unique circumstances. The recovery thus far has mainly been defined by two key factors: one, the stimulus in terms of inflated gov.....[more >>](#)

**Equilibrium disruption**  
Source: Shahzad Atta, *The Nation, Islamabad*, 2021-10-18  
The logistics industry is one of the most complex forms of business, particularly at the transnational level. Shipping lines, just one component of the logistic block, carries significant importance to affect the overall supply chain. In recent times, shipping lines have witnessed a dynamic shift that has directly affected the global supply chain. The blockage at the Suez Canal by a gigantic ship .....[more >>](#)

**Path To Recovery**  
Monday marked the third straight day of less than 1000 cases of coronavirus reported throughout Pakistan. This is an important milestone, as we have not seen such a low incidence of cases since March, when the third wave began. While there has been no observable increase in preventions and precautions being taken by the public, this decrease indicates that the government’s attempts to impose.....[more >>](#)

**The untreated pandemic**  
Frozen. Stalled. Broken down. Hazed. Fogged. Jammed. We are neither talking about the car engine nor the weather; we are talking about the body engine and weather inside the mind. While corona vaccines have reduced the danger to lives, where is the vaccine for the larger pandemic that is more dangerous than Covid-19, i.e., mental health. If the human mind has been in the grip of fear, uncertainty.....[more >>](#)

**COP26: What would Pakistan Look For?**  
Source: Munir Ahmed, *Daily Times*, 2021-10-21  
The UK will host the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow from October 31 to November 12, 2021. This very important conference is taking place at the moment when the COVID-19 pandemic has brought devastation to millions around the world; disrupting many parts of the global economy. Governments have stepped up to protect lives and livelihoods. But climate change has c.....[more >>](#)
Living with Covid
Source: Zubeida Mustafa, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-10-22
WITH new Covid cases in Pakistan having fallen to below 1,000 per day, some semblance of normality seems to be returning. But the normality appears to be a bit surreal because of the masks and the required social distancing. These are not always observed. The fact is the SOPs just cannot always be followed by everyone. How can they when there is not enough water for a family to wash their hands f.....

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National News

Islamabad

Restrictions go as Covid cases continue to fall
Source: Aamir Yasin, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-10-16
ISLAMABAD: As Covid-19 cases continue to fall in the country, the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Friday lifted restrictions on one-day weekly closure of businesses and reopened cinemas and shrines for fully vaccinated people. However, non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs) would remain in place from October 16 till 31 in districts with high prevalence of coronavirus cases. Accor.....more >>

Covid-19 claims another life
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-10-17
ISLAMABAD: A woman died while 45 new Covid-19 cases were reported in the capital on Friday. Officials of the capital administration said the death was reported in the age group of 70-79 and the deceased was a resident of Alipur. During the last 24 hours 3,798 tests were conducted in capital which found the virus among 25 men and 20 women with positivity rate standing at 1.18pc. The officials sa.....more >>

NCOC lifts one-day mandatory lockdown restriction
Source: Abdul Rasheed Azad, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-10-16
ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operations Centre (NCOC), on Friday, lifted one-day mandatory lockdown restriction across the country, allowing businesses activities to operate seven days a week. The decision was taken in the NCOC meeting presided over by the Chairman NCOC Asad Umar. During the meeting, the situation was reviewed in detail in proportion to the level of vaccination in.....more >>

Pakistan reports less than 40,000 active Covid cases for first time in fourth wave
Source: Tahir Niaz, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-10-16
ISLAMABAD - Pakistan on Friday reported 1,086 new cases of Covid-19 in the last 24 hours, bringing the total number of active cases below the 40,000 mark for the first time since the fourth wave of the pandemic started in July. The country last reported less than 40,000 cases on July 13 at 39,644 cases. According to the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), Pakistan's total number .....more >>

Another batch of 2.4 million Pfizer jabs arrives from US
Source: News Desk, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-10-16
ISLAMABAD: The US Embassy in Islamabad on Saturday announced that 2.4 million doses of Pfizer vaccinefor Covid-19 have arrived in Pakistan as part of the 9.6 million doses arriving this month. The embassy took to their official Twitter handle to make the announcement. "Together we will beat the pandemic here and at home," wrote the US mission. The latest shipment of the vaccine, made .....more >>
Covid-19 claims another two lives
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-10-17
ISLAMABAD: Two patients lost their battle against Covid-19 while 60 more contracted the virus during the last 24 hours in the federal capital and Rawalpindi. The weekly positivity rate in Islamabad dropped to 1.39pc compared to 1.56pc reported during the previous week. District Health Officer Dr Zaeem Zia said the infection ratio had fallen in the capital and so far 84pc of the eligible populati.....
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Corona positivity ratio recorded 1.69pc in 24 hours
ISLAMABAD: The national tally of COVID-19 pandemic on Saturday reported decline in national positivity ratio below 2% amid declining disease trend and death rate. The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) in a tweet on it's official handle shared the latest disease statistics. The National COVID positivity ratio during 24 hours was recorded 1.69%. The nerve centre of the country i.....
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2 COVID-19 deaths, 60 new cases reported
Rawalpindi: Another two deaths, one each from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district have been reported due to coronavirus illness, COVID-19 in the last 24 hours while 60 new patients have been tested positive for the illness from the region. To date, the virus has claimed a total of 2124 lives from ICT and Rawalpindi district while as many as 142,247 patients have so far been rep.....
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Number of dengue patients increases in twin cities
Islamabad: The number of dengue fever patients being reported from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district has been registering a sharp increase though the case fatality rate is still significantly lower from the region as out of well over 2,450 patients so far confirmed positive from the twin cities, six patients have lost their lives due to the fever. In the last 24 hours, over 16.....
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Islamabad reports less than 50 Covid-19 cases
Source: Tahir Niaz, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-10-17
ISLAMABAD - Islamabad has reported 45 Coronavirus cases in the last 24 hours along with one more death. The total number of cases in the territory has risen to 106,402 while the death toll is 937. Meanwhile, the country reported 893 cases and 24deaths. Punjab has reported 256 Coronavirus cases and 12 deaths. The total number of cases has increased to 437,572 and the death toll in the province.....
more >>

84pc eligible population partially vaccinated in Islamabad
Source: Aamir Yasin | Ikram Junaidi, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-10-18
ISLAMABAD: As many as 1.3 million people — 84pc of the vaccine-eligible population — in the federal capital have received at least one jab of the Covid-19 vaccine. On the other hand, one person died of coronavirus in Rawalpindi and 58 others got infected in the two districts during the last 24 hours. District Health Officer Dr Zaeem Zia, while talking toDawn, said 1,313,000 people ha.....
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PM Imran, Gen Bajwa briefed on Covid-19 measures at NCOC
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-10-18
ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan and Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa on Monday visited the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) where they were apprised of measures taken to contain coronavirus. During the visit, NCOC Director-General Maj General Asif Mahmood Goraya apprised the PM and army chief on the coronavirus situation across Pakistan, said a statement issued by th.....
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One dies of COVID-19
Rawalpindi: Coronavirus illness, COVID-19 has claimed one more life from Rawalpindi district in the last 24 hours taking death toll from the district to 1188 while a total of 31 new patients have been reported positive for the illness from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district taking tally from the region to 142,335 on Monday. It is important that the number of patients reported fr.....
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COVID-19 vaccine: Video about side effects on school students fake: NCOC
ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) Sunday issued a clarification regarding a viral social media video — that endorses the adverse effects of anti-coronavirus vaccination on school-going children — and said that the video is fake. The NCOC, in a Twitter post, said that the video clip circulating on social media is three years old. The forum said that the immu.....
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COVID-19 declines to 1.6pc
ISLAMABAD: A declining trend was witnessed in the prevalence of novel coronavirus cases in the country as the positivity rate remained less than two percent with 17 casualties. As per the statistics shared by The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) in a tweet, a total of 17 infected patients died of the deadly virus, including those under treatment in the hospitals and under quarantine.....
more >>

No death from corona in twin cities today
Islamabad : No death has been reported due to coronavirus illness, COVID-19 from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district in the last 24 hours while 57 new patients belonging to the twin cities have been diagnosed with the infection taking the tally to 142,304 of which as many as 2,124 patients have already died of the illness. It is important that the number of patients being tested.....
more >>

Covid daily deaths drop to three-month low
Source: Tahir Niaz, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-10-18
ISLAMABAD - Pakistan recorded 720 new cases of coronavirus during the past 24 hours, taking the tally for confirmed cases to 1,264,384. The fresh single day deaths count for three months low. At least 17 fatalities were also reported during the same period. A total of 28,269 patients have succumbed to the virus in the country so far. Moreover, 1,440 recoveries were also reported in a day, taking.....
more >>
### One died, 15 new Corona cases in last 24 hours
Source: Agencies, *The Nation, Islamabad*, 2021-10-18

RAWALPINDI - One more Corona patient had died, while 15 new cases were tested positive with the deadly virus during the last 24 hours in Rawalpindi. According to the daily situation report issued by the District Health Authority on Sunday, among the new cases, eight belonged to Rawal Town, three from Potohar town, four from Rawalpindi Cantt, two from Kahutta, while one case was repo.....

[more >>]

### Saudi Arabia reopens Makkah’s Grand Mosque at full capacity
Source: Agencies, *The Nation, Islamabad*, 2021-10-18

ISLAMABAD - The Grand Mosque in Makkah is ready to receive pilgrims and worshippers at full capacity as Saudi Arabia loosen COVID-19 restrictions, official said Sunday. The Under-Secretary-General for the Affairs of the Grand Mosque, Dr. Saad bin Muhammad Al-Muhaimid, said that a plan has been implemented for the mosque to operate at full capacity whilst ensuring the safety of all, Arab News repo.....

[more >>]

### Covid positivity ratio drops to 1.05pc in Islamabad
Source: Staff Reporter, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2021-10-19

ISLAMABAD: As many as 24 cases of Covid-19 were reported in the capital as the positivity ratio fell to 1.05pc on Monday. Officials of the capital administration said in the last 24 hours, 2,277 tests were conducted among the contacts of the positive cases and other suspects out of whom 14 males and 10 females were found infected. They said six cases were reported in the age group of 40-49 follo.....

[more >>]

### IMF examines audit of $1.4bn Covid support fund
Source: Khaleeq Kiani, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2021-10-19

ISLAMABAD: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Monday sought input from the country’s constitutional auditors on use of $1.4 billion emergency financial support it provided for Covid-19 response as part of validation process of Pakistan’s economic and financial data amid discussions on revival of its $6bn programme. The Auditor General of Pakistan (AGP) shared with an IMF team ke.....

[more >>]

### PM, army chief briefed about Covid-19 situation

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan and Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa on Monday visited National Command and Operations Centre (NCOC). Sharing details of the visit, the NCOC said the Prime Minister and army chief were briefed over the Covid-19 situation in the country, its causes, vaccination process, and management strategies. Imran Khan lauded the measures o.....

[more >>]
PM directs NCOC to maximise efforts for vaccination drive
Source: Staff Report, Daily Times, 2021-10-19
Prime Minister Imran Khan and Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General QamarJavedBajwa on Monday visited the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC). According to a statement issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the Director-General of the NCOC Major General Asif Mahmood Goraya apprised the forum on the latest COVID-19 situation, measures in place to contain the spread of the dise.....
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Another Covid variant creeps into Pakistan
Source: Ikram Junaidi | Amin Ahmed, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-10-21
ISLAMABAD: As the country continues to see a drop in number of Covid-19 infections, health authorities on Wednesday announced that another variant of the deadly virus had managed to reach Pakistan. The Japanese government, on the other hand, provided equipment worth $6.59 million to Islamabad through the United Nations Children’s Fund (Unicef) for enhancing national capacity for Covid-19 va.....
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Another life lost to Covid-19
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-10-21
ISLAMABAD: A woman succumbed to Covid-19 whereas 50 people were diagnosed with the disease in Rawalpindi and Islamabad district on Wednesday. Officials of the capital administration said during the last 24 hours, 3749 tests were conducted in the capital and 1.04pc positivity was recorded. A slight increase in the positivity ratio was seen in Pindi as it climbed to 2.1pc from 0.6pc recorded on Tue.....
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Covid-19 laid bare gender, digital inequalities: report
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-10-21
ISLAMABAD: The intermittent school closures and pandemic-induced restrictions have impacted nearly 40 million students from grade pre-primary to higher secondary while the enrolment at schools decreased by two per cent in 2021, a study released on Wednesday said. Titled ‘Measuring learning losses due to Covid-19’, the wide-ranging study was inaugurated by Federal Education Minister S.....
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COVID-19 Update: National tally reports lowest per day positive cases
ISLAMABAD: The national tally of Covid-19 pandemic on Wednesday reported the lowest positive cases during the past 24 hours amid decline in the national positivity ratio, 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 t.....
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Govt to include 10m nomads in Covid-19 vaccination programme
Source: INP, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-10-21
ISLAMABAD - The government is planning to include more than 10 millions of nomads and homeless people into the radar of COVID-19 vaccination programme to ensure that all segments of the society are protected against the pandemic. This unfortunate section of the society is unvaccinated as the majority of them do not have Computerised National Identity Cards (NIC), a mandatory credential to get.....
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Japan provides equipment for Pakistan’s COVID-19 response
Islamabad: Cold chain optimisation equipment worth $6.59 million funded by the Government of Japan and procured through the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) for enhancing national capacity to store COVID-19, was handed over to Pakistan here Wednesday. The Parliamentary Secretary on Health, Dr. Nausheen Hamid, received the equipment from the Ambassador of Japan, Matsuda Kuninori, l.....

Covid impacts 40 million school-going children: report
Source: Staff Report, Daily Times, 2021-10-21
Idara-e-Taleem-o-Aagahi (ITA), with the support of United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), launched a report on learning losses post-COVID-19 on Wednesday virtually. Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Shafqat Mahmood was chief guest on the occasion. The launch, held virtually on Zoom, was also attended by Ellen Van Kalmthout, Chief of Education at UNICEF Pakistan; M A.....

Japan provides equipment worth $6.59m for Covid response
Source: APP, Daily Times, 2021-10-21
Cold chain optimization equipment worth $6.59 million funded by Japan and procured through the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) for enhancing national capacity to store COVID-19 vaccines, was handed over to the government of Pakistan, in Islamabad on Wednesday. Parliamentary Secretary on Health Dr Nausheen Hamid received the cold chain equipment from the Ambassador of Japan, Matsuda .....
Covid-19 claims 16 more lives as ratio of active cases drops
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2021-10-22
The national tally of Covid-19 active cases on Thursday was recorded 24,699 with 622 more people tested positive for the deadly virus and 1,112 people recovered from the disease during the last 24 hours. Sixteen (16) corona patients died during past 24 hours, 12 of whom were under treatment in different hospitals and four of them perished in their respective quarantines or homes, according to the.... more >>

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Corona claims four more lives in KP
Source: APP, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-10-17
PESHAWAR - The coronavirus claimed four more lives in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as 124 new cases were reported from various areas of the province during last 24 hours. According to KP Health Authorities, 225 patients recovered during last 24 hours while number of recoveries so far is 167893. The number of tests conducted during last 24 hours is 10083 and the total tests conducted till date are 3144..... more >>

Covid vaccination in KP increases after being linked with documentation
Source: Ashfaq Yusufzai, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-10-18
PESHAWAR: Covid-19 vaccination is increasing after government’s decision of linking it with getting admission in educational institutions and land registration and transfer documents. Prof Khalid Mahmood at Lady Reading Hospital told this scribe that all the vaccines currently used had efficacy in the range of 79 to 96 per cent in preventing the infectious disease. According to him, protec..... more >>

Covid claims three more lives in K-P
Source: Wisal Yousafzai, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-10-18
PESHAWAR: Three people have succumbed to Covid-19 in the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) bringing the total number of deaths to 5,686 so far in the province. In the last 24 hours, 112 new cases have also surfaced as the number of deaths as well as new cases has considerably dropped in the recent days. Covid-19 has been showing a downward trend but at the same time the number of dengue cases has been o..... more >>

Corona affects whole world not only Pakistan: Asad Qaiser
Source: Agencies, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-10-18
PESHAWAR - National Assembly SpeakerAsad QaiserSunday said the government was fully aware of the plight of people as the whole world was passing through difficult times due to coronavirus pandemic. Addressing the worker convention at his constituency, Swabi, the National Assembly speaker said that coronavirus has affected the economy of the entire world not only Pakistan.Asad Qaiser..... more >>

Three more lose life to coronavirus
Source: Ashfaq Yusufzai, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-10-19
PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Monday recorded three coronavirus-related deaths and 64 new cases as the provincial chapter of the Society of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Pakistan launched a drive to vaccinate pregnant and lactating women against Covid-19. It was the first drive to create demand for the Covid-19 vaccine shots among pregnant and lactating women. The society also organised a seminar..... more >>
Punjab

91pc of vaccinated people willing to get jabbed again if needed: survey
Source: Sheharyar Rizwan, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-10-16
LAHORE: A post-Covid-19 vaccine survey conducted across Punjab to assess the public’s response to, and satisfaction with, the jabs revealed that none of the respondents experienced any major adverse events following immunisation (AEFIs), while only four reported that they contracted the virus after vaccination. Out of these four, only two respondents reported to have confirmed diagnosis thr......more >>

402 more test positive for dengue in Punjab
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-10-17
LAHORE: The total number of confirmed cases of dengue reached 6,189 in Punjab as 402 more people tested positive for the virus during the last 24 hours. Of the new cases, 319 were reported alone in Lahore which has become a dengue hotspot in Punjab, taking the city’s tally to 4,539 so far. According to the health department, the government has expanded the bed capacity of hospitals in Laho.....more >>

Covid-19 claims 12 more lives; 256 new cases reported in Punjab
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-10-17
LAHORE - The coronavirus claimed 12 more lives and 256 new cases were reported in Punjab during the last 24 hours. According to the data, shared by a spokesperson for the Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD) here on Saturday, a total of 437,586 cases were reported in the province while 415,050 patients had been recovered from the disease. As per the data provided by.....more >>

Covid vaccination: doctors, DC land in confrontation
Source: Staff Correspondent, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-10-18
MULTAN: Doctors and other staff of the health department took out a rally in Khanewal on Sunday to lodge protest against against ‘humiliation’ of senior doctors by the deputy commissioner at an official meeting and threatened to suspend Covid vaccination. DC Agha Zaheer Abbas Sherazi however denied the charge. According to an official from the DC office, a meeting to review progress on the .....more >>

Iran wants Pakistan to lift Covid travel ban
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-10-19
LAHORE: Iran has urged Pakistan to remove it from category C of its Covid-19-related travel restrictions, as the ban is not only affecting the flight operations but also bilateral trade between the two countries. “Pakistan has retained Iran in category C in terms of coronavirus restrictions, which is adversely affecting flight operations and bilateral trade between the two countries,”.....more >>

Multan to speed up vaccination drive
Source: APP, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-10-21
MULTAN: Divisional administration decided to speed up coronavirus vaccination drive under the directions of provincial government. Presidding over meeting to review Covid-19 vaccination drive on Wednesday, Multan Commissioner Dr Irshad Ahmad said that mobile teams were visiting educational institutions to inoculate minors above 12 years of age. He directed officials concerned to ensure online en.....more >>
Regional countries; LCCI calls for post-Covid-19 review of FTAs
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-10-21
LAHORE: The Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry on Wednesday called for post-covid review of Free Trade Agreements with regional countries including China. The demand was raised by the LCCI President Mian Nauman Kabir after having a meeting with the delegation of Pakistan Plastic Manufacturers Association (PPMA), led by Chairman of Punjab Industrial Estates Development & Management.
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One dies of COVID-19
Rawalpindi: Another death due to coronavirus illness, COVID-19 has been reported from Rawalpindi district in the last 48 hours while 94 new cases were reported from the region taking the total number of patients so far registered from the twin cities to 142,432. The population in the region, however, had witnessed the fourth day without reporting of COVID-19 death on Tuesday in the last two we.....
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Religious minorities keen to get immunised
Source: Aamir Khan, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-10-16
KARACHI: Local churches and temples have had a significant role in increasing vaccine receptivity among the hundreds and thousands of Christians and Hindus living in the port city. Owing to which, religious minority members have been easier to inoculate, and have been thronging vaccination camps set up with the support of their religious leaders and social organisations. These camps, set up in m.....more >>

US Consul General, Faysal Qureshi visit vaccination centre
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-10-16
KARACHI: The US Consul General Mark Stroh and actor Faysal Qureshi visited one of Pakistan's largest vaccination facilities at the Karachi Expo Centre as part of the United States and Sindh government's on-going immunisation awareness campaign, 'Fizaaoon se Falaah Tak', a press release said on Friday. The campaign is encouraging Pakistani citizens to get vaccinated against the Co.....more >>

Pakistan remained least affected during COVID-19 crisis: Governor
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-10-16
KARACHI - Sindh Governor Imran Ismail on Friday said that COVID pandemic had shaken the economies across the globe, and inflation spiked in the developed countries, however, Pakistan remained least affected. Sindh Governor said this on the occasion of inauguration of the 35th Lifestyle Furniture Exhibition, said a statement. Speaking on the occasion, he said, “Our furniture industry has.....more >>

Pakistan remained least affected during COVID-19 crisis: Governor
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-10-16
KARACHI - Sindh Governor Imran Ismail on Friday said that COVID pandemic had shaken the economies across the globe, and inflation spiked in the developed countries, however, Pakistan remained least affected. Sindh Governor said this on the occasion of inauguration of the 35th Lifestyle Furniture Exhibition, said a statement. Speaking on the occasion, he said, “Our furniture industry has.....more >>
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<td>US Consul General visits Karachi Expo Centre to promote Covid-19 vaccinations</td>
<td>Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad</td>
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<td>No more closed days for businesses as more Covid curbs relaxed</td>
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<td>COVID-19 claims 4 more lives, infects 308 others</td>
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<td>COVID-19 vaccination camps established at wedding halls, motorcycle market</td>
<td>Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad</td>
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<td>AC, RTA officials check un-vaccinated passengers, transport staff in Larkana</td>
<td>Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad</td>
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One more dies of Covid-19 in Sindh
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-10-18
KARACHI: One more patients of coronavirus died overnight lifting the death toll to 7,530 and 327 new cases emerged when 10,948 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued here on Sunday. He added that one more patients of Covid-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 7,530 that constituted 1.6 percent death rate. Syed Murad Ali Shah said that 327 new cases were reported in the province when 10,948 tests were conducted. He added that total number of cases in the province was 2,55,821, while 1,6,5,114 people had recovered and 7,530 deaths had occurred. He said that there were 2,0,338 active cases in the province. He added that 4,07,424 doses of vaccine had been administered in the province.

Children’s education badly affected due to pandemic: survey
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-10-21
KARACHI: A report on losses students suffered because of the Covid-19 pandemic — Measuring Learning Losses due to Covid-19 — prepared by the Idara-e-Taleem-o-Aagahi (ITA) with the support of United Nations Children’s Fund (Unicef) was launched, virtually via Zoom, on Wednesday. The study is the first step towards collecting gender disaggregated and focused evidence to assist the.....
### International News

#### Countries News

**US to lift curbs from Nov 8 for vaccinated foreign travellers**  
Source: Reuters, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2021-10-16  
WASHINGTON: The White House said on Friday it would lift Covid-19 travel restrictions for fully vaccinated foreign nationals effective Nov 8, ending historic restrictions that had barred much of the world from entering the United States. Announcing the starting date for the new rules on travel into and out of the country, White House spokesman Kevin Munoz posted on Twitter that the policy “.....more >>

**Tens of thousands demonstrate in Rome against neo-fascists**  
ROME: Tens of thousands of Italians called for a ban on the extreme right as they rallied in Rome on Saturday after protests over a tough coronavirus pass regime last weekend degenerated into riots blamed on neofascists. Carrying placards reading "Fascism: Never Again", the protesters in Piazza San Giovanni -- a square historically associated with the left -- called for a ban on openl.....more >>

**US to lift curbs from Nov 8 for vaccinated foreign travellers: White House**  
WASHINGTON: The United States announced on Friday that it will allow entry to foreign travelers who are fully vaccinated against Covid-19, by both land and air, starting November 8. "This policy is guided by public health, stringent, and consistent," tweeted White House assistant press secretary Kevin Munoz in announcing the news. In an effort to slow the spread of the coronavirus, U.....more >>

**One dies of COVID-19, 60 cases from twin cities**  
Islamabad : One more patient from Islamabad Capital Territory died of coronavirus illness, COVID-19 in the last 24 hours taking the death toll from the federal capital to 936 while a total of 60 new patients have been reported positive for the illness from ICT and Rawalpindi district taking tally from the region to 142,187. Data collected by ‘The News’ on Friday reveals that to date.....more >>

**Grand Mosque in Makkah drops social distancing**  
MAKKAH: The Grand Mosque in the Makkah in Saudi Arabia operated at full capacity Sunday, with worshippers praying shoulder-to-shoulder for the first time since the coronavirus pandemic began. Workers removed floor markings that guide people to social distance in and around the Grand Mosque, which is built around the Holy Kaaba. “This is in line with the decision to ease precautiona.....more >>

**Scientists detect SARS-CoV-2 virus; EU exports over 1m vaccines; Italian police clash with protesters:**  
**Singapore to expand no-quarantine scheme**  
Singapore,: Fully vaccinated travellers from eight countries will be able to enter Singapore without quarantine from Tuesday, as the business hub eases restrictions and gears up to live with the coronavirus. The city-state initially fought the pandemic by shutting borders, lockdowns of varying intensity and aggressive contact tracing but with more than 80 percent of the population fully vaccina.....more >>
Grand Mosque drops social distancing
MAKKAH: The Grand Mosque in the holy city of Makkah operated at full capacity on Sunday, with worshippers praying shoulder-to-shoulder for the first time since the coronavirus pandemic began. Workers removed floor markings that guide people to social distance in and around the Grand Mosque, which is built around the Kaaba. “This is in line with the decision to ease precautionary measures.....

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‘Fully vaccinated’ Colin Powell dies of Covid-19 complications
Source: Reuters, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-10-19
WASHINGTON: Colin Powell, the first Black US secretary of state and top military officer, died on Monday at the age of 84 due to complications from COVID-19. He was fully vaccinated, his family said in a statement on Facebook. “We have lost a remarkable and loving husband, father, grandfather and a great American,” his family said, thanking the staff of the Walter Reed National Mi.....

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Former US secretary of state Colin Powell dies of Covid-19
Source: AFP, Daily Times, 2021-10-19
Colin Powell, a US war hero and the first Black secretary of state who saw his trailblazing legacy tarnished when he made the case for war in Iraq in 2003, died Monday from complications from Covid-19. The 84-year-old retired four-star general was fully vaccinated, his family said in a statement, making him one of the most high-profile US public figures to die of a breakthrough infection. “PROOF this Vaccine does NOT EVEN WORK, or-and is NOT EVEN a REAL VACCINE,” said a F.....

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Colin Powell’s death sparks misleading claims about Covid-19 vaccines
Washington: Social media posts claim that Colin Powell’s death from complications caused by Covid-19 means vaccines against the disease are ineffective. But Powell had a type of cancer that experts say undermines the efficacy of the shots, and data shows his age left him especially vulnerable. “PROOF this Vaccine does NOT EVEN WORK, or-and is NOT EVEN a REAL VACCINE,” said a F......

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Moscow to shut non-essential services over virus
Source: AFP, Daily Times, 2021-10-22
Moscow will shut non-essential services between October 28 and November 7, its mayor said Thursday, as coronavirus deaths soar and vaccination rates stall in Russia, the country in Europe hardest hit by the pandemic. Mayor Sergei Sobyanin announced the 11-day closure a day after President Vladimir Putin ordered a nationwide paid week off at the end of the month to curb fast spreading infections. .....  

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Economist reports Pakistan inflation 4th highest out of 42 country index
BEIJING: Authorities in China cancelled hundreds of flights, closed schools and ramped up mass testing on Thursday to try and stamp out a new Covid-19 outbreak linked to a group of tourists. Beijing has maintained a relentless zero-Covid approach with strict border closures and targeted lockdowns, even as other countries tentatively try to ease restrictions. Domestic outbreaks have largely bee.....

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Moscow to shut non-essential services over virus
Moscow: Moscow will shut non-essential services between October 28 and November 7, its mayor said on Thursday, as coronavirus deaths soar in Russia, the country in Europe hardest hit by the pandemic, amid dramatically low vaccination rates. Mayor Sergei Sobyanin announced the 11-day closure a day after President Vladimir Putin ordered a nationwide paid week off at the end of the month to curb f..... more >>

SDPI Engagements

EXPERTS FOR MINIMIZING REGULATORY BURDEN TO CREATE A BETTER BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT IN KP
Source: DNA News, DNA News, 2021-10-22
ISLAMABAD, OCT 21 /DNA/ – Minimizing regulatory burden on the businesses and cutting the cost of doing business are some of the key steps that could lead to a better business environment, especially in the context of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. This was the crux of a public-private dialogue, titled: ‘Better business regulatory environment in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP)’, organized by Sustain..... more >>

EXPERTS FOR MINIMIZING REGULATORY BURDEN TO CREATE A BETTER BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT IN KP
Source: DNA, Centreline.com, 2021-10-21
ISLAMABAD, OCT 21 /DNA/ – Minimizing regulatory burden on the businesses and cutting the cost of doing business are some of the key steps that could lead to a better business environment, especially in the context of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. This was the crux of a public-private dialogue, titled: ‘Better business regulatory environment in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP)’, organized by Sustain..... more >>

Researchers Articles

THE annual UN climate summit — COP26
Source: Shafqat Kakakhel, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-10-16
THE annual UN climate summit — COP26 — to be held in Glasgow is the most significant international meeting on climate change since the adoption of the Paris Agreement in 2015. The conference will test the robustness of the multilateral system for promoting cooperation to address global threats. Specifically, it will indicate the international community’s ability to take actions t..... more >>

Green diplomacy
The UN Conference of the Parties (COP-26) taking place in November 2021 in Glasgow, UK, is drawing near and the world’s nations are preparing their agendas for this summit. This conference will assess the findings of the Sixth Assessment Report of the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) titled,Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis-A Summary for Policymakers, which ha..... more >>
Hungarian Envoy Hails Fatima Ahsan For Winning ‘Article Writing Competition’
Source: Umer Jamshaid, UrduPoint, 2021-10-22
ISLAMABAD, (UrduPoint / Pakistan Point News - 21st Oct, 2021 ) : Hungarian Ambassador Bla Fazekas Thursday hailed Fatima Ahsan for winning the Article Writing Competition jointly organised by the Embassy of Hungary and Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) to raise awareness among the Pakistani youth about the significance of sustainability. In a joint presser held here at the Embassy of Hung.....

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Traders demand edible oil tax waiver
Source: Usman Hanif, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-10-19
KARACHI: The business community has called upon the government to withdraw all taxes and duties on edible oils to mitigate the surge in food inflation. In a statement on Monday, Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (FPCCI) President Mian Nasser Hyatt Maggo expressed concerns over surging prices of food commodities in the country and cited that many items were out of the afford.....

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China calls on BRI countries to work for sustainable transport
Source: INP, Daily Times, 2021-10-19
The UN Sustainable Transport Conference was held here, with government leaders, industry experts, and civil society groups charting a sustainable pathway forward, Gwadar Pro reported on Monday. “President Xi Jinping announced that China will establish the China International Sustainable Transport Innovation and Knowledge Center, which will give a strong boost to the development of sustainab.....

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