

Bi – Weekly



E – Newsletter on COVID - 19

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Sustainable Development Policy Institute

SDPI

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:

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

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Op-Eds/Articles/Editorials

Needle-free vaccine patches coming soon, say researchers

Source: [Lucie Aubourg](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-10-31

Effective vaccines, without a needle: Since the start of the Covid pandemic, researchers have doubled down on efforts to create patches that deliver life-saving drugs painlessly to the skin, a development that could revolutionize medicine. The technique could help save children's tears at doctors' offices, and help people who have a phobia of syringes. Beyond that, skin patch.....[more >>](#)

A roundup of Covid Science

Source: [Reuters](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-01

The following is a summary of some recent studies on Covid-19. They include research that warrants further study to corroborate the findings and that have yet to be certified by peer review. Cheap antidepressant shows promise against Covid-19. Fluvoxamine, an inexpensive antidepressant, might help keep patients with Covid-19 from developing severe disease, according to a new study published in Th.....[more >>](#)

A new future

Source: [Editorial](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-01

After a year and a half of tackling the coronavirus pandemic, the country seems to have finally turned a corner, entering what appears to be the final stretch. Recent weeks have seen the positivity ratio for Covid-19 infections falling drastically to low single digits. The number of deaths, caused by the pandemic, has fallen too, as it appears that the worst of the recent variations have blown over.....[more >>](#)

Never too late

Source: [Inger Andersen](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-11-03

The opportunity to use pandemic recovery spending to reduce emissions has been largely missed. Only around 20 percent of recovery spending can be characterised as green. Meanwhile, developing nations are falling behind. Covid-19 spending in low-income economies is \$60 per person, compared to \$11,800 in advanced economies. However, we can still catch up. The window is still open. This starts with.....[more >>](#)

Country by country, scientists eye beginning of an end to the Covid-19 pandemic

Source: [Julie Steenhuisen](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-04

As the devastating Delta variant surge eases in many regions of the world, scientists are charting when, and where, Covid-19 will transition to an endemic disease in 2022 and beyond, according to Reuters interviews with over a dozen leading disease experts. They expect that the first countries to emerge from the pandemic will have had some combination of high rates of vaccination and natural[more >>](#)

Focus On Importance

Source: [Editorial](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-05

Things seem to be returning to normal, after nearly two years of restrictions. On Friday, even the world's most locked-down city emerged from its latest spate of restrictions designed to combat the spread of Covid-19. After 62 days, or nearly nine months, of restrictions during six separate lockdowns, Melbourne's restaurants, pubs and hair salons opened to frenzied residents, who were j.....[more >>](#)

National News

Islamabad

Vaccinating children

Source: [Editorial, Daily Times](#), 2021-10-30

THE Sindh government's announcement that children over the age of 12 will not require parental consent to get vaccinated is bound to draw a lot of flak from a cross-section of society — and with good reason. Any action predicated on duress is likely to backfire. This holds true for the Covid vaccine as well. Although the NCOC says that over 100m people in the country have been either f.....[more >>](#)

Covid positivity ratio remains below 2pc, death ratio goes up

Source: [Aamir Yasin, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-10-30

ISLAMABAD: As the positivity ratio of Covid-19 in the country remains below two per cent, the death rate slightly increased on Friday as 17 people lost their lives due to the deadly virus. According to the National Command and Operation Centre's (NCOC) data, as many as 659 new patients were admitted to hospitals and 17 people died over the last 24 hours. As many as 23,151 active cases of Co.....[more >>](#)

40m people fully vaccinated against Covid-19: Asad Umar

Source: [News Desk, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-10-30

National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) head Asad Umar said on Saturday that 40 million people had been fully vaccinated against the Covid-19 pandemic and about 70 million people had received a single dose of the vaccine. In a tweet, the federal minister added that the government was making progress to vaccinate the people against the virus and expressed his confidence that the vaccination ta.....[more >>](#)

Covid-19 daily death count slightly up in Pakistan

Source: [Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-10-30

ISLAMABAD - The country on Friday witnessed a slight increase in daily death count due to Covid-19 as 17 deaths due to the deadly virus were reported during the last 24 hours. Earlier, the daily death count remained in single-digit during this week. According to the data released by National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), as many 659 fresh cases of Covid-19 were recorded during last 24 hou.....[more >>](#)

4 cities to be incentivised over excellent Covid-19 vaccination

Source: [Ikram Junaidi, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-10-31

ISLAMABAD: While over 70 million people have got at least one shot of vaccine and more than 40m have become fully vaccinated against Covid-19 in the country, the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) has decided to incentivise four cities from Nov 1 for their excellent vaccination progress. Nine more cities have showed good vaccination performance, leaving all other cities behind for low v.....[more >>](#)

Covid-induced curbs lifted in four cities

Source: [Razya Khan, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-10-31

ISLAMABAD: The Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) lifted coronavirus-induced restrictions on public gatherings in four top vaccinated cities, as the country crossed a major milestone in the national vaccination campaign with the administering of anti-Covid jab to 70 million people. The vaccination drive, which started in February this year with frontline health workers getting the jabs on a pri.....[more >>](#)

NCOC to normalise life in cities with 60pc vaccinated population

Source: [Naveed Butt](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-10-31

ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operations Center (NCOC) has decided to normalise life in order to encourage high performance cities in term of the Covid-19 vaccination. The NCOC has taken the decision to roll back all Covid-19-related restrictions from cities where at least 60 percent of the population has gotten itself vaccinated against the disease. The decision has been taken in

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Despite COVID-19: Turkey achieved milestones in economic, political spheres: says envoy

Source: [correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-10-31

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Turkey in Pakistan Ihsan Mustafa Yurdakul on Saturday said despite the difficult conditions in the face of Covid-19 pandemic, Turkey achieved successes in economy, domestic politics and foreign policy, attributing them to Turkey's presidential system of government as well as the strong infrastructure. The Turkish envoy was addressing the 98th Republic Day receptio.....

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COVID-19 vaccination: Target of inoculating 70m people before year end achieved, says Asad

Source: [APP](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-10-31

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives, Asad Umar has said that 70 million people of the country have received at least one dose of the Covid-19 vaccine. The minister, who is also an in-charge of the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC), tweeted that the target of vaccinating 70 million people, set to achieve by the end of the on-going year, was achieved

[more >>](#)

In cities with 60pc vaccination: NCOC starts rolling back COVID-19 restrictions

Source: [News Desk](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-10-31

ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) has decided to roll back all COVID-19 related restrictions from cities where at least 60 percent of the population has gotten itself vaccinated against the disease, it emerged on Saturday. According to a report on Geo News, the decision was made in an NCOC meeting headed by Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiat.....

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733 people infected, 11 Covid patients die

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-01

ISLAMABAD: A total of 733 people were infected with Covid-19 while 11 patients died in a single day on Sunday. According to data of the National Command and Operation Centre, the Covid-19 positivity ratio over the last two weeks remained less than two per cent and 1,402 patients were on critical care on Sunday. The data showed that over 103 million doses of Covid-19 vaccine have been admini.....

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Infection rate falls to 1.52 as 11 die of Covid

Source: [APP](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-01

ISLAMABAD: The national Covid tally on Sunday recorded a decline with one of the lowest positivity ratios in the past 24 hours at 1.52 per cent while 11 patients died, including those under treatment in hospitals and their respective quarantines. The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) shared the latest statistics in a tweet. The nerve centre also wrote that some 48,192 tests were condu.....

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Daily COVID-19 case count in Pakistan under 1,000 for two weeks

Source: [News Desk](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-11-01

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan reported 733 more COVID-19 infections during the last 24 hours, pushing the nationwide tally of confirmed cases to 1,273,078, the National Command and Operation Centre's (NCOC) data showed Sunday morning. According to the NCOC's latest statistics, 733 people tested positive for the virus after 48,192 COVID-19 tests were taken across the country during the last 24.....

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One COVID-19 death, 22 cases from Islamabad

Source: [Muhammad Qasim](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-11-01

Islamabad : As many as 22 new patients were tested positive for coronavirus illness, COVID-19 from Islamabad Capital Territory while the virus claimed one more life from the federal capital in the last 24 hours though not a single case of the infection was reported from Rawalpindi district. It is important that it happened for the first time since the COVID-19 outbreak hit Pakistan that not a s.....

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Covid-19: positivity ratio shows slight uptick

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-11-01

The national tally of Covid-19 pandemic on Sunday was recorded declining with one of the lowest positivity ratio amid reduced per day positive cases, 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 48,192 tests wer.....

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COVID-19 disrupting trade of aquatic products between Pakistan, China

Source: [Inp](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-11-01

The outbreak of the pandemic has been disrupting the trade of aquatic products globally, including that between Pakistan and China. According to China Economic Net, out of Pakistan's total fishery exports, 60 per cent are destined for China. "Since the outbreak of the pandemic, our export to China declined", shared a fisherman from the Karachi Port. In an exclusive with Genho F.....

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Covid-19 case count on the decline in country

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-01

ISLAMABAD - The Covid-19 is continuously on the decline in the country as daily case count of the deadly virus is being reported less than 1,000 cases over the two straight weeks. The country has reported a daily case count of less than 1,000 and positivity rate of below than two percent for the 14th consecutive day. According to the latest data released by the National Command and Operation Cent.....

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Expert hopeful about early end to pandemic

Source: [Ikram Junaidi](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-02

ISLAMABAD: While the number of Covid-19 cases has been declining across the globe, Pakistan on Monday reported the lowest number of cases and positivity rate during the ongoing year. According to an expert, it seems that the pandemic is heading towards its natural end and unless a new variant emerges, it may remain in the world as a type of influenza in future. Data shared by the National Com&sh.....

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ECP notices perturb PTI, demands their withdrawal

Source: [Mumtaz Alvi](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-11-02

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Hussain Monday said that the PTI Core Committee expressed concern over notices issued by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to Azam Swati and him as these were based on injustice which should be withdrawn immediately. that Prime Minister Imran Khan would announce a big package regarding inflation in a day or two

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Trade deficit widens 109 percent in October

Source: [Andaleeb Rizvi](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-11-03

KARACHI: Pakistan's October trade deficit widened by 109 percent to reach \$3.775 billion against \$1.803 billion during the same month last year, as imports increased more than threefold despite heavy regulatory duties and 100 percent cash margin on 114 import items. The country's exports grew 17.5 percent year-on-year to \$2.471 billion in October 2021, compared with \$2.104 billion i.....

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Pakistan records lowest deaths since Covid spike

Source: [APP](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-11-02

The national tally of Covid-19 active cases was recorded 23,940 as 698 more people tested positive for the deadly virus and 666 people recovered from the disease on Monday. Nine patients died on Monday. The deceased were under treatment in different hospitals, according to the latest update issued by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC). Most of the deaths occurred in Khyber Pakhtunkh.....

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Country reports lowest daily corona cases in a year

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-02

ISLAMABAD - The country yesterday reported lowest ever coronavirus cases and fatalities due to the deadly infection, in a day, during the last over a year. According to the latest data released by National Command and Operation Center (NCOC), as many 482 cases of Covid-19 and six deaths were reported in the country during the last 24 hours. The reported deaths and cases are lowest ever in a day

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Another 457 people infected with coronavirus; 10 die

Source: [Ikram Junaidi](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-03

ISLAMABAD: Another 457 people got infected with Covid-19 and 10 died on Tuesday. The national positivity rate, which was 1.18 per cent on Monday, dropped to 1.16pc, while 105,881,931 doses of Covid-19 vaccine have been administered in the country. According to the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), 162 ventilators were occupied with 41pc of them in Multan, 18pc in Peshawar, 15pc in Lah.....

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PIA special flights airlift 15m doses of Sinovac vaccine

Source: [APP](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-11-03

As many as five special flights of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) have transported 15 million doses of Sinovac vaccines from China to Pakistan during the last five days. The special flights – PAK-6857, PAK-6858, PK-6856, PK-6852 and PK-6853 took off from Capital International Airport, Beijing to Islamabad between October 29 to November 2 with around 15 million doses of Sinovac vaccin.....

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Covid-19 national positivity ratio stands at 1.16 percent

Source: [APP](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-11-03

The national tally of Covid-19 active cases on Tuesday was recorded 22,564 with 457 more people testing positive for the deadly virus and 428 people recovered from the disease during the last 24 hours. Ten corona patients have died during the last 24 hours, nine of the deceased were under treatment in different hospitals and one of them perished in their respective quarantines or homes, according.....

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COVID-19 claims no life, 33 cases from twin cities

Source: [Muhammad Qasim](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-11-03

Islamabad : Coronavirus illness, COVID-19 that had claimed as many as 2,139 lives from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district since the advent of the disease in Pakistan did not cause any death in the region on the second consecutive day though 33 new patients were reported positive from the region in the last 24 hours taking the tally to 142,954. Data collected by 'The News&.....

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Sino-Pak coop on biomass to help address energy, climate challenges

Source: [News Desk](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-11-04

Sino-Pak cooperation on biomass will help to address both energy shortages and climate change, says a report published by Gwadar Pro. As winter approaches, a global energy shortage poses another major challenge under the pandemic context. SM Naveed, PCJCCI Chairman, suggested earlier this year that China-Pakistan cooperation on biomass energy could be a new answer to both energy shortages and cli.....

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Inbound air traffic being allowed at full capacity

Source: [Ikram Junaidi](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-05

ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Wednesday decided to allow inbound air traffic at full quantum from Nov 10, but retained five countries in category C. Meanwhile, Covid-19 claimed 11 lives and infected 561 more people on Wednesday. In another development, the World Health Organisation (WHO) allowed emergency use of another vaccine, taking the number of validated vac.....

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Covid-19 claims four lives

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-04

ISLAMABAD: Four people lost their lives to Covid-19 on Wednesday while 62 new cases emerged in Islamabad and Rawalpindi district. Officials of the capital administration said the deceased was a female patient (60-69), resident of Lohi Bher. During the last 24 hours 3,354 tests were conducted in the capital and the positivity ratio was 1.34 percent. They said 10 cases each were reported in the ag.....

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Pakistan to ease inbound air travel curbs starting Nov 10

Source: [correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-11-04

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan will implement revised inbound air travel rules starting November 10 in accordance with recommendations from the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC). A meeting of the NCOC was held on Wednesday, in which it was noted that "owing to mass vaccination undertaken by various countries, a downward trend has been witnessed in all COVID indicators across the globe&rdq.....

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Daily Covid cases count on the decline in country

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-04

ISLAMABAD - There is continuous decline of Covid-19 in Pakistan as the country reported 457 new cases of the infection and 10 deaths during last 24 hours. According to the latest data released by National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), as many 39,296 tests of corona virus were conducted during last 24 hours and the overall positivity rate remained at 1.16 percent. The country is reporting le.....

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Academic leaders urged to prepare institutions for meeting post-Covid challenges

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-04

ISLAMABAD - Three-day All Pakistan Vice Chancellors' Committee meeting highlighted the importance of skills education in the country, said a statement. The National Skills University (NSU) in its statement said that almost every speaker in the conference advised academic leaders to prepare their institutions for meeting the challenges of post and lingering-COVID-19 world. The meeting w.....

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52pc of Punjab population received one dose: minister

Source: [Ikram Junaidi](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-05

ISLAMABAD: While the government has set a target of fully vaccinating 70 million people against Covid-19 by the end of this year, the national average of vaccination has reached 48 per cent with Punjab becoming the first province where more than half the population has received at least one dose. According to an official statement, a session of the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on

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Slight uptick in single-day Covid death toll

Source: [APP](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-05

ISLAMABAD: The single-day death toll from Covid-19 showed an upward trend, rising to 19 during the past 24 from 10 a day ago, the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) said in its daily update of the pandemic on Thursday. The NCOC, the nerve centre of the government unified effort against the global pandemic, said the national tally of active Covid-19 cases rose slightly to 22,577 as 580

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NCOC praises Punjab govt for 'leading' Covid-19 vaccination drive

Source: [Abdul Rasheed Azad](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-05

ISLAMABAD: National Command and Operations Centre (NCOC) Chairman Asad Umar, Thursday, while appreciating the government of Punjab for leading the Covid-19 vaccination drive among all the federating units has said that 48 percent of the population has received at least one Covid-19 jab. Umar stated this, while taking to Twitter and said that more than half of Punjab's eligible populatio.....

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Pakistan invites Chinese EV firms for investment

Source: [Monitor](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-11-05

Pakistan has invited Chinese electric vehicle manufacturing companies to invest in the Pakistani market. Pakistan Ambassador to China Moinul Haque on Thursday called on Liu Ziqing, Member of Municipal Standing Committee and Secretary of the Working Committee of Wuhan, and discussed cooperation between Pakistan and Wuhan in the industrial and technological sectors, said a statement. During the mee.....

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108m given at least one Covid vaccine in country: NCOC

Source: [Tahir Niaz](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-05

ISLAMABAD - The National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) on Thursday said that as many 108 million doses of Covid-19 vaccines have been administered to people across Pakistan with the overall inoculation rate reaching 48 percent countrywide. The NCOC met here to review the progress on vaccine administration across the country with particular emphasis on obligatory vaccination regime. Apar.....

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Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

KP health dept facing problems to achieve Covid vaccination target

Source: [Ashfaq Yusufzai](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-01

PESHAWAR: The health department is facing problems in achieving Covid-19 vaccination target owing to lack of identity cards and Form-B with people in the districts of Mohmand, Khyber and rural areas of Peshawar. "More than 80 per cent women in Mohmand district don't have identity cards and Form-B, required by 12 to 18-year-old people to get immunised as per policy of National Command[more >>](#)

Punjab

Yasmin, Murad open school vaccination center under RED campaign

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-10-30

LAHORE - Punjab Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid and Minister for School Education Murad Raas inaugurated student vaccination center at Pilot Secondary School, Wahdat Road here on Friday. Present on the occasion were Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department Secretary Imran Sikander Baloch, Special Secretary Saleha Saeed and officials of the Health Department. Both ministers reviewed the v.....[more >>](#)

Covid vaccination campaign in schools

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-10-31

LAHORE: The Punjab School Education Department (SED) has launched RED (reach every door) Covid-19 vaccination campaign for 12 to 18 years' students in all schools of the province. Punjab Minister for School Education Murad Raas and Minister for Health Yasmin Rashid inaugurated the students' vaccination centre at Pilot School, Wahdat Road the other day. Both the ministers reviewed the[more >>](#)

Positivity rate drops below 1pc in Pindi

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-10-31

RAWALPINDI: Due to closure of roads, the suspected Covid-19 patients faced problems in reaching hospitals and laboratories for test. It also affected the government's door to door vaccination campaign against the deadly virus. A senior doctor at Benazir Bhutto Hospital told Dawn that the number of suspected patients of Covid-19 also reduced as they could not reach hospitals due to closure[more >>](#)

Yasmin opens new COVID-19 vaccination centre

Source: [correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-10-31

LAHORE: Punjab Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid inaugurated a new corona vaccination centre at Patiala House here on Saturday. Present on the occasion were Deputy Commissioner Lahore, Rana Asif, Mian Nadeem Chaudhry, Abdul Ghafoor Papu, Ali Amir, officials and notables. The Health Minister reviewed vaccination arrangements at the centre and expressed her satisfaction. Deputy Commissioner Lahor.....[more >>](#)

Covid-19 vaccination; Minister vows to achieve target set for RED campaign

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-10-31

LAHORE: Inaugurating the Corona vaccination centre, here at Patiala House on Saturday, Punjab Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid said that mass vaccination will help control the Covid-19 Pandemic and the vaccination target set for RED campaign will be achieved. The Health Minister reviewed vaccination arrangements at the centre and expressed satisfaction. Deputy Commissioner Lahore apprised the.....

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One dies of coronavirus, 44 test positive

Source: [Muhammad Qasim](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-10-31

Rawalpindi : Another patient suffering from coronavirus illness, COVID-19 from Rawalpindi district died of the illness in the last 24 hours taking the death toll from the district to 1,199 while no COVID-19 death was reported from Islamabad Capital Territory from where a total of 939 patients had already lost their lives due to the illness. In the last 24 hours, 44 new patients have been tested.....

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Reach Every Door corona vaccination drive in full swing

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-10-31

LAHORE - The Reach Every Door (RED) campaign is in full swing in the provincial capital which will conclude on November 12 next month. In Punjab, crackdown on non-compliance of corona-related standard operating procedures (SOPs) and unvaccinated people was underway. For compliance of RED campaign, Lahore Deputy Commissioner Umar Sher Chatta visited Madrasatul. Banat Girls School and reviewed the v.....

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'Universal health coverage to reach 29.3m families of Punjab by Dec'

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-10-31

LAHORE - Punjab Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid inaugurated a new corona vaccination centre at Patiala House here on Saturday. She reviewed vaccination arrangements at the centre and expressed satisfaction. The Lahore deputy commissioner apprised the minister of anti-dengue and corona prevention activities. The locals of the area thanked the health minister for free vaccination facilities in the

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Coronavirus vaccination: Mandi Bahauddin – only Punjab city that touches NCOC 'normalcy' mark

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-01

LAHORE: As the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) issued a notification allowing the cities that have achieved more than 60 percent coronavirus vaccination to return to normalcy, only one city of Punjab falls in this category, that is Mandi Bahauddin. Punjab government on Sunday decided to relax coronavirus restrictions from today (Monday) in the cities of the province having higher vac.....

[more >>](#)

Pindi reports zero Covid-19 positivity rate

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-01

RAWALPINDI: For the first time since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, not a single patient tested positive for the deadly virus in the district in the last 24 hours, according to the District Health Authority. On Sunday, the positivity rate of Covid-19 in the district reduced to zero per cent. In Islamabad, the weekly positivity rate also dropped to 0.9pc. Total 1,198 samples were collected.....

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23pc Rawalpindi youth vaccinated against corona

Source: [APP](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-11-01

Rawalpindi : Chief Executive Officer (CEO), District Health Authority, Dr Faiza Kanwal has said that over 23 per cent of youngsters aged 12 to 17 had so far immunised against the fatal coronavirus since the launch of the drive from September 2021. Giving details of the vaccination being carried out in the entire district, the CEO told this agency that 9,581 teenagers had received the COVID-19 v.....

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CM claims 1m people being vaccinated in Punjab daily

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-01

LAHORE - On the Special instructions of Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar, the drive of inoculating corona vaccine to the citizens at their doorstep is being carried out successfully. In a statement, the chief minister said that one million people were being vaccinated on a daily basis in Punjab. He said as many as 18,000 teams had been constituted for the purpose. Usman Buzdar also appeal.....

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136 new coronavirus cases reported in Punjab

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-01

LAHORE - Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department Secretary Imran Sikandar Baloch on Sunday said that during the last 24 hours, 136 new cases of coronavirus have been reported in Punjab. In a statement, he elaborated that 79 positive cases reported in Lahore, six in Faisalabad and Okara each, five in Mandi Bahauddin and Bhakar each, four in Multan, and three in Sargodha, Rahim Yar Khan, Jhelum

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Corona positivity rate reaches zero per cent in RWP

Source: [APP](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-01

RAWALPINDI - Corona positivity rate has reached zero per cent in Rawalpindi with the tireless efforts of the government to eliminate the fatal virus. Divisional surveillance officer Dr Waqar Ahmed told APP Sunday that fortunately, the COVID-19 rate was recorded at zero per cent in the district as no case was tested positive during the last 24 hours. He informed that as many as 38,985 coronav.....

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No COVID-19 death from twin cities

Source: [correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-11-02

Rawalpindi: No death due to coronavirus illness, COVID-19 was reported from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district in the last 24 hours though another 28 patients were tested positive from the region taking tally to 142,921 of which 2,139 patients had lost their lives due to the illness. The number of patients being tested positive from both ICT and Rawalpindi district is on a conti.....

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Secretary gets briefing on corona vaccination campaign targets

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-02

FAISALABAD - Secretary Archeology Punjab Saqib Manan Monday took a briefing at the Deputy Commissioner office about targets of the corona vaccination campaign 'Reach Every Door' (RED). Deputy Commissioner Ali Shehzad, Additional Deputy Commissioner Headquarters Muhammad Khalid, Chief Executive Officer Health Dr Kashif Mahmood and others attended the meeting. The secretary said th.....

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LGH gets new corona vaccination centre

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-03

LAHORE - Postgraduate Medical Institute (PGMI) Principal Prof Dr Sardar Muhammad Al-Fareed Zafar Monday inaugurated a coronavirus vaccination counter for women at Gynecology Outdoor Department of the Lahore General Hospital (LGH). He said that in the light of the health vision of Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar and Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid, better medical facilities were being pr.....

[more >>](#)

Health officers asked to ensure 100 pc vaccination target

Source: [APP](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-03

MULTAN - Health Secretary South Punjab, Nadir Chatha, on Tuesday vowed to make all efforts to ensure 100 percent coverage during Reach Every Door (RED) special campaign for corona vaccination. Chairing a meeting, he stated that he would be monitoring the RED Corona Vaccination Campaign in South Punjab in field himself. In addition, all available resources should be used to make this special

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DC asks AEOs to sensitize parents on vaccination of children above 12 years

Source: [APP](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-03

VEHARI - Deputy Commissioner Vehari Mubeen Elahi on Tuesday asked assistant education officers (AEOs) to visit schools under their jurisdiction and make arrangements for vaccination of children above 12 years. He directed AEOc to hold meetings with parents to sensitize them on importance of vaccination of their children. He issued the orders at a meeting held to review the progress made so fa.....

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IUB to become first COVID-19 free varsity by end of this month: VC

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-04

BAHAWALPUR - Faculty and students of the Islamia University of Bahawalpur have reiterated their commitment to making the university COVID-19 free. A ceremony was held in the main auditorium of the university for this purpose. Vice-Chancellor Engr. Prof. Dr Athar Mahboob, Deputy Commissioner Bahawalpur Irfan Ali Kathia, Pro-Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr Naveed Akhtar, Chief Executive Officer Distri.....

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723 corona patients discharged after treatment

Source: [correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-11-05

Rawalpindi: As many as 37,723 COVID-19 patients had been discharged after getting treatment from the district's health facilities, out of which 34,741 were hailing from Rawalpindi and 2,982 from other districts. According to data shared by the district health authority here on Thursday, 1,581 persons had been died since the start of the pandemic so far out of which 1202 from Rawalpindi an.....

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100 percent vaccination of people under RED drive vital

Source: [Agencies](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-05

BAHAWALPUR - Secretary Agriculture South Punjab Saqib Ali Ateel has said that all available resources should be utilized to ensure 100 per cent coronavirus vaccination during Reach Every Door (RED) campaign by November 12. During a two-day visit to the office of the Chief Executive Officer Health Bahawalpur, he reviewed the performance of (RED) campaign in the review meeting. He said that al.....

[more >>](#)

Sindh

Sindh govt announces door-to-door Covid vaccination drive

Source: [Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-10-30

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Secretary Syed Mumtaz Ali Shah has directed all the deputy commissioners and district health officers (DHOs) to launch a two-week Covid-19 vaccination outreach drive in their respective districts 'on a pattern similar to the polio campaign'. In this respect, the officials have been told that they can engage the workforce of other programmes and departments if requ.....[more >>](#)

Businesses pivot to recovery as pandemic subsides

Source: [Aamir Khan, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-10-30

KARACHI: As the pandemic begins to finally loosen its grip on the country, business owners of all sizes have let out a sigh of relief at the government's lifting of coronavirus-related restrictions, heralding the provincial capital's slow but welcomed return to normalcy. This has led to the emergence and growth of new businesses across Karachi, while the wide-scale disregard for SOPs.....[more >>](#)

COVID-19 claims 4 more lives, infects 327 others

Source: [Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-10-31

KARACHI - Four more patients of coronavirus died overnight lifting the death toll to 7,567 and 327 new cases emerged when 16,965 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued here on Saturday. He added that 4 more patients of COVID-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 7,567 that constituted 1.6 percent death rate. Syed Murad[more >>](#)

Covid-19 claims one more life; 213 fresh cases reported

Source: [Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-01

KARACHI: At least one more patient of Corona virus died overnight lifting the death toll to 7,568 and 213 new cases emerged when 10,991 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued here on Sunday. One more patient of COVID-19 lost his life, lifting the death toll to 7,568 that constituted 1.6 percent death rate. Shah said that 10.....[more >>](#)

Vaccination suspended at Karachi Expo Centre as staff observes strike

Source: [Faiza Ilyas, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-02

KARACHI: Vaccination at the Expo Centre was temporarily suspended on Monday when data entry operators and vaccinators observed a strike over non-payment of their salaries, forcing many people to leave for home without getting vaccinated. The protest caused chaos at the Covid-19 mass immunisation centre set up at the Expo Centre as the staffers chanted slogans against the government. They claimed[more >>](#)

Commissioner asks above 12 years students to get vaccinated

Source: [Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-02

HYDERABAD - The Commissioner Hyderabad Muhammad Abbas Baloch has asked the management of public and private sectors schools and colleges to ensure vaccination of above 12 years students against COVID-19 in accordance with the directives of NCOC. The commissioner emphasised this while addressing a meeting here at his office on Monday which attended by all concerned officers of district and div.....[more >>](#)

'Dengue seems to have replaced Covid-19 in Karachi'

Source: [Zofeen T. Ebrahim, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-03

KARACHI: Twenty-three-year-old Sarah Tajammal felt a sense of "impending doom" as she fought high fever, nausea, bouts of vomiting and extreme fatigue after being diagnosed with dengue two weeks back. Living in Lahore's DHA area, which has reported the most dengue cases "because of the damp green environment", she may have caught it at home, or when she went on a tre.....

[more >>](#)

Two more Covid-19 patients die, 263 new cases emerge

Source: [Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-03

KARACHI: As many as two more patients of Coronavirus died overnight lifting the death toll to 7,571 and 263 new cases emerged when 14,510 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued here on Tuesday. He added that two more patients of COVID-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 7,571 that constituted 1.6 percent death rate.

[more >>](#)

COVID-19 claims 2 more lives, infects 263

Source: [Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-03

KARACHI - As many as two more patients of coronavirus died overnight lifting the death toll to 7,571 and 263 new cases emerged when 14,510 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued here on Tuesday. He added that two more patients of COVID-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 7,571 that constituted 1.6 percent death rate. S.....

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500,000 additional doses of AstraZeneca received in Oct

Source: [Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-05

KARACHI: Pakistan received almost 500,000 additional doses of COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca in October through donations from Sweden, Norway and Switzerland, to help boost the vaccination programme. This brings the total number of doses supplied to Pakistan via the COVAX global initiative and through donations from other countries to almost four million, with more expected in the coming months.....

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Over 1.8m vaccinated against Covid-19 in Hyderabad

Source: [Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-05

HYDERABAD - As many as 1088582 people have been administered Covid-19 vaccine in district Hyderabad till November 03, the health authorities said. According to official figures, 707540 people had so far been received first dose while 381042 people were fully vaccinated by receiving second dose of the vaccine. The district focal person informed that on the directions of National Command and Operati.....

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District admin seals unvaccinated classes

Source: [Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-05

HYDERABAD - The district administration on Thursday started action against schools and classes from 6 to 9 were sealed for not vaccinating students against COVID-19. On the directives of Deputy Commissioner Fuad Ghaffar Soomro, AC City Muhammad Ashraf visited different schools of Taluka city and checked vaccination cards of the students aged between 12 to 17. According to statement, AC City during.....

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International News

Countries News

COVID booster reduces serious illness by 92pc, death by 81pc

Source: [News Desk](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-10-31

JERUSALEM: Starting a week after the third dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, patients have a 92 percent lower risk of severe COVID and an 81 percent lower risk of COVID-related death, scientists from Israel's Clalit Research Institute and Harvard University have found. These patients also have a 93 percent lower risk of COVID-related hospitalization, the researchers said in an article published.....[more >>](#)

Russia imposes nationwide paid holiday to curb Covid

Source: [AFP](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-10-31

MOSCOW: New coronavirus restrictions came into effect across Russia on Saturday with authorities looking to stem soaring infections and deaths in Europe's worst hit country by fatalities. Saturday's government tally recorded 40,251 new cases, the highest figure for new infections since the beginning of the pandemic. President Vladimir Putin last week ordered a paid holiday from Sat.....[more >>](#)

G-20 opens with call for more vaccines for poor countries

Source: [AFP](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-10-31

ROME: Leaders of the world's major economies met on Saturday at the G20 summit in Rome, heading for a new deal on global taxation but still haggling on the pressing issue of climate change. In their first in-person gathering for two years, the G20 leaders expressed "broad and cross-party support" for a 15 percent minimum tax rate for the biggest multinationals, according to a source.....[more >>](#)

US spy agencies say origins of Covid-19 may never be known

Source: [News Desk](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-10-31

WASHINGTON: US intelligence agencies said on Friday they may never be able to identify the origins of COVID-19, as they released a new, more detailed version of their review of whether the coronavirus came from animal-to-human transmission or leaked from a lab. The Office of the US Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) said in a declassified report that a natural origin and a lab leak are bo.....[more >>](#)

COVID-19 disrupting Pak-China trade of aquatic products

Source: [Inp](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-11-01

BEIJING: The outbreak of the pandemic has been disrupting the trade of aquatic products globally, including that between Pakistan and China. According to China Economic Net, out of Pakistan's total fishery exports, 60 per cent are destined for China. "Since the outbreak of the pandemic, our export to China declined", shared a fisherman from the Karachi Port. In an exclusive w.....[more >>](#)

China rejects US report on Covid origins

Source: [AFP](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-11-01

Beijing: Beijing lashed out against a US intelligence review into the origins of the Covid-19 pandemic on Sunday, calling it "political and false" while urging Washington to "stop attacking" China. The Chinese foreign ministry's retort came days after the US Office of the Director of National Intelligence released a fuller version of its findings from a 90-day review o.....[more >>](#)

Covid-19's global death toll tops five million in under two years

Source: [AFP](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-11-02

LONDON: The global death toll from Covid-19 topped 5 million on Monday, less than two years into a crisis that has not only devastated poor countries but also humbled wealthy ones with first-rate health care systems. Together, the United States, the European Union, Britain and Brazil — all upper-middle- or high-income countries — account for one-eighth of the world's populatio.....

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UN chief calls for vaccine equity as global COVID-19 deaths exceed 5 million

Source: [Agencies](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-02

UNITED NATIONS - UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Monday called for vaccine equity and continued vigilance against the corona-virus as global COVID-19 deaths exceeded 5 million. "Today, the human family crosses a painful new threshold: 5 million lives lost to COVID-19," he said in a statement. "This devastating milestone reminds us that we are failing much of the wor.....

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New Covid outbreak hits China

Source: [AFP](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-11-03

Shanghai: China's government has urged citizens to stock up on daily necessities and for authorities to take steps to ensure adequate food supplies as the country adopts increasingly tight measures to contain its latest Covid outbreak. A notice posted on the website of the Ministry of Commerce late on Tuesday urged "families to store a certain amount of daily necessities as needed to.....

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Pfizer expects 2021, 2022 Covid vaccine sales to total \$65bln

Source: [AFP](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-11-03

New York: Pfizer Inc on Tuesday said it expected 2021 sales of the COVID-19 vaccine it developed with German partner BioNTech to reach \$36 billion and forecast another \$29 billion from the shot in 2022, topping analyst estimates for both years. The U.S. drugmaker said it is seeking to sign more vaccine deals with countries, which could drive sales even higher next year. It has the capacity to produ.....

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PIA airlifts 15m doses of Sinovac vaccines from China

Source: [APP](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-03

BEIJING: As many as five special flights of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) have transported 15 million doses of Sinovac vaccines from China to Pakistan during the last five days. The special flights - PAK-6857, PAK-6858, PK-6856, PK-6852 and PK-6853 took off from Capital International Airport, Beijing to Islamabad between October 29 to November 2 with around 15 million doses of Sinovac.....

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Germany experiencing 'massive' pandemic of unvaccinated

Source: [AFP](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-11-04

Germany is experiencing a "massive" pandemic of the unvaccinated, Health Minister Jens Spahn said Wednesday, calling for curbs targeting those not inoculated to tame a resurgence in Covid cases. The fourth wave is raging "with exceptional force", Spahn said. "We are currently experiencing mainly a pandemic of the unvaccinated and it is massive," he added, warn.....

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Sino-Pak coop on biomass to help address energy crisis

Source: [Inp](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-11-04

BEIJING: Sino-Pak cooperation on biomass will help to address both energy shortages and climate change, says a report published by Gwadar Pro. As winter approaches, a global energy shortage poses another major challenge under the pandemic context. "SM Naveed, PCJCCI Chairman, suggested earlier this year that a China-Pakistan cooperation on biomass energy could be a new answer to both ene.....

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Europe could see 'half a million Covid-19 deaths' by Feb: WHO

Source: [AFP](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-11-05

FRANKFURT: The rising number of cases of Covid-19 in Europe is of "grave concern" and the region could see another half a million deaths by early next year, the World Health Organisation (WHO) warned on Thursday. With 78 million cases in the WHO's European region – which spans 53 countries and territories and includes several nations in Central Asia – the cumulativ.....

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SDPI Engagements

Media briefing

'Pakistan to present diverse agenda at COP-26'

Source: [Rasheed Khalid](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-10-30

Islamabad: Pakistan is all set to have a diverse representation at the 26th Conference of the Parties (COP-26) in Glasgow where the key negotiations would open up with a debate on developing countries' plight of bearing the brunt of environmental degradation caused by the developed countries, said Dr. Abid Qaiyum Suleri, Executive Director, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI).[more >>](#)

PAKISTAN TO PRESENT DIVERSE AGENDA AROUND CLIMATE CHANGE AT COP-26: ABID SULERI

Source: [DNA News](#), [DNA News](#), 2021-10-30

ISLAMABAD, OCT 29 /DNA/ – Pakistan is all set to have a diverse representation at 26th Conference of the Parties (COP-26 in Glasgow where the key negotiations would open up with debate on developing countries' plight of bearing the brunt of environmental degradation caused by the developed countries, said Executive Director of Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), said Dr Ab.....[more >>](#)

Higher edu institutions' role imperative in translating COP-26 decisions for nature conservation: VC AIOU

Source: [APP](#), [APP](#), 2021-10-30

ISLAMABAD, Oct 30 (APP): Vice Chancellor, Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) Professor Dr Zia-ul-Qayyum Saturday said higher education institutions' role in translating global decisions and policy guidelines at the forums like COP-26 was crucial and imperative for local masses understanding to drive nature conservation. Addressing a pre-COP-26 media briefing jointly organised by AIOU an.....[more >>](#)

Researchers Articles

Dealing with Afghanistan

Source: [Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri & Oshin Khan](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-10-31

Life was never easy for the Afghans. It has only become harder after the change of guards in Kabul. While the Taliban have taken over power in Afghanistan without any bloodshed, their inability to win international recognition for their rule is putting ordinary Afghans through a situation they have not experienced for almost 20 years. The formal recognition is being withheld mainly becau.....[more >>](#)

Will the polluter pay?

Source: [Maryam Shabbir](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-10-31

The Conference of Parties (COP 26) is only a few days away. As parties prepare for the biggest congregation in climate change negotiations, many in developing countries are wondering if the developed countries will pay for the damage they have caused due to climate change. Under the Paris Agreement, developed countries promised to pay \$100 billion annually to the developing countries for adaptati.....[more >>](#)

SDPI News

Pakistan To Present Diverse Agenda Around Climate Change At COP-26: Dr Abid Suleri

Source: [APP](#), [Urdu Point](#), 2021-10-30

ISLAMABAD, (APP – Urdu Point / Pakistan Point News - 29th Oct, 2021) :Executive Director Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri Friday said Pakistan is all set to have a diverse representation at 26th Conference of the Parties (COP-26) to the United Nations Framework Convention Climate Change (UNFCCC). The international conference is going to have an extraordinary represe.....[more >>](#)

PAKISTAN TO PRESENT DIVERSE AGENDA AROUND CLIMATE CHANGE AT COP-26: ABID SULERI

Source: [DNA](#), [Daily Islamabad Post](#), 2021-10-30

ISLAMABAD, OCT 29 /DNA/ – Pakistan is all set to have a diverse representation at 26th Conference of the Parties (COP-26 in Glasgow where the key negotiations would open up with debate on developing countries' plight of bearing the brunt of environmental degradation caused by the developed countries, said Executive Director of Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), said Dr Ab.....[more >>](#)

SDPI's Related News

ADB announces \$0.3m for Pakistan to phase out coal plants

Source: [Rina Saeed Khan](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-11-05

GLASGOW: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Thursday allocated \$300,000 of grant funds to Pakistan to undertake pre-feasibility study for early retirement of coal and fossil fuel plants under the Energy Transition Mechanism. The ADB announced this grant for Pakistan at COP26 in Glasgow. Pakistanis among three other countries in Asia (Vietnam, Indonesia and the Philippines) where ADB is providi.....[more >>](#)

Pakistan to dish out 'biggest' public relief package in its history amid inflation hikes

Source: [Khurshid Ahmed](#), [ZAWYA](#), 2021-11-04

KARACHI: Pakistan will register thousands of grocery stores throughout the country to dish out more than 120 billion rupees (\$700 million) under the government's new public relief package, the information minister revealed on Thursday. Prime Minister Imran Khan on Wednesday announced the initiative as the "biggest welfare program in Pakist.....[more >>](#)

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