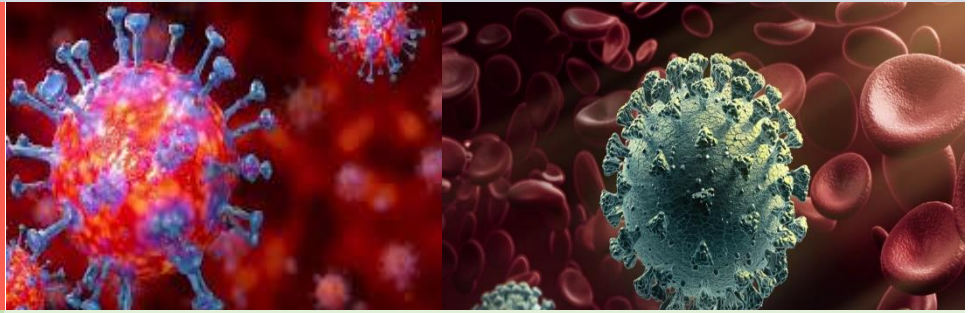


# E-Newsletter on COVID-19



Vol. 02, No, 75



Issue: 14-17 September, 2021

## .....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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### Team:

**Data Managed by:**  
Shahid Rasul , Abid Rasheed

**Compile & Layout Design by:**  
Ali Aamer Javed

## Sustainable Development Policy Institute, SDPI

10-D West, 3rd Floor, Taimoor Chamber, Fazl-ul-Haq Road,  
Blue Area, Islamabad. Pakistan,

Tel: +92.51. 2278134, Fax: 2278135,

## Op-Eds/Articles/Editorials

## Op-Eds/Articles/Editorials

**Vaccination pace**

Source: [Editorial, The News, International](#), 2021-09-14

Since early 2020, any good news has been hard to come by. As the Covid-19 pandemic accelerated its spread the world over, Pakistan too became one of its victims. Finally, after nearly 20 months, the country has shown an appreciable performance in administering a good number of doses to the citizens of Pakistan. The federal capital has become the first city in the country to achieve the milestone o.....[more >>](#)

**Development partners**

Source: [Muhammad Zahid Rifat, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-09-14

Like other developing countries around the globe, Pakistan also seeks to optimise a higher and impact-oriented investment rate in order to achieve higher and sustainable economic growth. In this regard, Pakistan's development partners provide knowledge advisory and financial assistance to support the implementation of economic reforms that will spur sustainable economic growth. The incumbent.....[more >>](#)

**Covid forever**

Source: [Rafia Zakaria, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-09-15

ON Sept 7, 2021, Mike Ryan, the executive director of the World Health Organisation had some startling news to share. Covid-19, he believed, is "here to stay with us". Addressing those who think otherwise, Ryan said: "People have said we're going to eliminate or eradicate the virus. No we're not, very, very unlikely." Ryan is not alone. Recently, the chief medi.....[more >>](#)

**An island of excellence**

Source: [Atta-ur-Rahman, The News, International](#), 2021-09-15

Sindh Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah was the chief guest at the inauguration ceremony of an exhibition on tech-based healthcare devices held at the International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences, Karachi University (KU). He acknowledged the critically important role that the centre has played in the Covid-19 crisis by carrying out 3,000 tests per day. Sindh Health Minister .....[more >>](#)

**'Ghost kitchens' boom in Asia as pandemic sparks huge demand**

Source: [Amber Wang, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-09-16

In an industrial unit on the outskirts of Taipei chefs are plating meals that will never be served in a restaurant: welcome to the world of "ghost kitchens". Even before the pandemic sent an earthquake through the global restaurant trade, the "Amazonification" of commercial kitchens was well underway, but coronavirus lockdowns and restrictions have fuelled explosive gr.....[more >>](#)

**Covid-19 Precautions**

Source: [Editorial, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-09-16

According to the NCOC, the government will lift the additional restrictions put in place to reduce the transmission of Covid-19 during the fourth wave. Given that progress has been marginal in the last few weeks—with the number of cases remaining close to the 3000 mark—there has not been a significant enough improvement to justify side-lining additional precautionary measures. Cur.....[more >>](#)

**Bogus vaccine certificates**

Source: [Editorial, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-09-17

While people continue to suffer from the deadly Covid-19 pandemic, it is unfortunate that a few devious people have managed to take advantage of the situation by issuing fake vaccination certificates to citizens. The illegal practice prevalent across the country is not just hampering the inoculation drive but is also a major threat to people's lives — especially considering the fact th.....

[more >>](#)

**Pandemic and a difficult economic situation of developing countries**

Source: [Dr Omer Javed, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-09-17

'Developing countries have been ravaged by a combination of the pandemic-driven health crisis, collapsing exports, rising global food prices, domestic economic contraction, falling fiscal revenues, and external debt overhang. The World Bank estimates that 97 million more people – many of them in Africa – will fall into extreme poverty in 2021. This could well be an underestimate, b.....

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## National News

### Islamabad

#### Country reports less than 3,000 cases after 50 days

Source: [Munawer Azeem | Aamir Yasin, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-09-14

ISLAMABAD: While the country reported less than 3,000 Covid-19 cases after a gap of 50 days, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Health Dr Faisal Sultan on Monday claimed that Pakistan was performing well in terms of vaccination. However, he said the pandemic was very much there so the citizens should continue wearing masks as it was one of the best preventions against the virus. Accordin.....[more >>](#)

#### Vaccination of youngsters of 15-18 years of age starts

Source: [APP, Daily Times](#), 2021-09-14

Parliamentary Secretary for National Health Services, Dr Nausheen Hamid Monday said that the government has kick-started coronavirus vaccination for youngsters age group (15-18) years from September 13. "Teens below the age of 18 will have to produce their B-Form for registration," she informed. Talking to a private news channel, she said that NCOC has already approved the emergency u.....[more >>](#)

#### Covid-19 claims 67 lives across country

Source: [APP, Daily Times](#), 2021-09-14

The national tally of active Covid-19 cases was recorded at 90,545 on Monday as 2,988 more people tested positive for the deadly virus and 3,391 people recovered from the disease. Sixty-seven patients died across country, 62 of whom were under treatment in hospitals and five perished in their respective quarantines or homes, according to the latest update issued by the National Command and Operat.....[more >>](#)

#### Govt reopens schools, lifts ban on public transport

Source: [APP, Daily Times](#), 2021-09-15

Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar on Tuesday announced to lift lockdown in 18 out of 24 districts with high risk of delta variant of Covid-19 until September 30. However, he said, lockdown would still continue in the six districts – Lahore, Faisalabad, Multan, Sargodha, Gujrat and Bannu till September 22. Addressing a press conference here after chairing .....[more >>](#)

#### Country reports 2,988 fresh Covid-19 cases

Source: [Abdul Rasheed Azad, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-09-14

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan, on Monday, reported 2,988 fresh Covid-19 cases after 53,158 coronavirus tests were conducted reflecting a positivity ratio of 5.62 percent, taking the nationwide cases tally to 1,207,508 since the pandemic outbreak. According to the latest Covid-19 data released by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), the country also reported 67 more Covid-19 deaths taking t.....[more >>](#)

#### Lockdown in 18 districts to be lifted tomorrow

Source: [correspondent, The News, International](#), 2021-09-15

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar Tuesday announced to lift lockdown in 18 out of 24 districts with high risk of delta variant of COVID-19 until September 30. However, he said, lockdown would still continue in six districts - Lahore, Faisalabad, Multan, Sargodha, Gujrat and Bannu – till September 22. Addressing a press conference here after c.....[more >>](#)

**NAB officials test Covid-19 positive**

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-09-14

ISLAMABAD: The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Prosecutor General Accountability, Syed Asghar Haider, and 17 others special prosecutors and employees of the anti-graft body have tested positive for coronavirus. According to the NAB official, Deputy Prosecutor General (DPG) Imran Ullah Khan, DPG Khalid Nawaz, special prosecutor Nasir Mehmood Mughal, special prosecutor Muhammad Rifaqat Ali.....

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**Lockdown in 18 districts to be lifted tomorrow**

Source: [correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-09-15

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar Tuesday announced to lift lockdown in 18 out of 24 districts with high risk of delta variant of COVID-19 until September 30. However, he said, lockdown would still continue in six districts - Lahore, Faisalabad, Multan, Sargodha, Gujrat and Bannu – till September 22. Addressing a press conference here after c.....

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**Pindi logs three more corona deaths, twin cities report 365 cases**

Source: [Muhammad Qasim](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-09-15

Rawalpindi : Another 365 patients were tested positive for coronavirus illness, COVID-19 from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district in the last 24 hours recording positivity rate of the infection as over 5.5 per cent though the concerned government authorities have planned to reopen educational institutions in the twin cities from Thursday. The virus claimed another three lives fr.....

[more >>](#)

**NCOC decides to lift lockdown in 18 districts from tomorrow**

Source: [Abdul Rasheed Azad](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-09-15

ISLAMABAD: National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) Chairman Asad Umar Tuesday announced lifting of lockdown in 18 out of 24 districts with high risk of Delta variant of Covid-19 from September 16. Addressing a press conference here, Asad Umar who is also Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, however, maintained that enhanced restrictions would still continue.....

[more >>](#)

**Extra Covid-19 curbs lifted in 18 dists of KP, Punjab, Islamabad**

Source: [Tahir Niaz](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-09-15

ISLAMABAD - Chief of National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) Asad Umar announced on Tuesday that the Covid restrictions in 18 of 24 districts have been relaxed. He announced the lifting of additional Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions (NPIs) in 18 out of 24 districts where the restrictions were enforced earlier this month in the wake of high coronavirus prevalence. Addressing a press conf.....

[more >>](#)

**Lockdown restrictions eased in Islamabad**

Source: [Aamir Yasin | Munawer Azeem](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-09-16

ISLAMABAD: A lockdown, from now onwards, will be observed in the capital one day of the week instead of two. Besides, ban on indoor dining and inter-city transport has also been lifted. Furthermore, five more Covid-19 casualties were reported and 252 people were found infected in the capital and Rawalpindi district on Wednesday. During the last 24 hours, 4,078 tests were conducted in the capital .....

[more >>](#)

### **PM's aide rejects possibility of lifting virus-related curbs**

Source: [Ikram Junaidi](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-09-16

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Health Dr Faisal Sultan has rejected the possibility of lifting coronavirus-related curbs as the number of new Covid-19 cases is increasing in some districts. He hoped that the United Kingdom (UK) would review the red list status for Pakistani air travellers and put the country on the amber list as data had been provided as per UK's.....

[more >>](#)

### **Covid claims 73 lives; infects another 2,714**

Source: [APP](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-09-16

The national tally on Wednesday of total deaths from coronavirus stood at 73, as 2,714 more people tested positive for the deadly virus. A total of 73 patients died on Wednesday, 65 of whom were in hospitals while eight died out of hospitals, according to the latest update issued by the National command and Operation Centre (NCOC). However, out of total 73 deaths on Wednesday, 22 of the deceased.....

[more >>](#)

### **'Islamabad to become corona-free city soon'**

Source: [Press Release](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-09-16

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Hamza Shafqat has said that the business community of Islamabad has participated in the struggle and activities against corona across the country and in collaboration with the business community of Islamabad, hopefully Islamabad will be given the status of Pakistan's first fully vaccinated city. Waqar Bakhtawari, General Secretary, PTI Traders Wi.....

[more >>](#)

### **Country reports 2,714 fresh Covid-19 cases, 73 new deaths**

Source: [Abdul Rasheed Azad](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-09-16

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Wednesday detected 2,714 fresh Covid-19 cases and reported 73 deaths taking the national tally of cases to 1,212,809 and death toll to 26,938 since the pandemic outbreak. According to the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), the health authorities in the country also reported 10,923 coronavirus recoveries taking the national tally to 1,108,339 with a recovery r.....

[more >>](#)

### **4th Covid wave weakens as country sees decline in positivity rate**

Source: [Tahir Niaz](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-09-16

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan has been recording a slow decline in its daily Covid-19 cases over the last two days, with 2,714 fresh cases reported on Wednesday morning. As the fourth wave of outbreak ebbs in the country, the number of active cases in Pakistan has now dropped to 77,532, the coronavirus positivity rate recorded at 4.78 per cent in the last 24 hours, and the patients in critical care we.....

[more >>](#)

### **Another 4m doses of Covid-19 vaccine arrive**

Source: [Ikram Junaidi](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-09-17

ISLAMABAD: While several countries have controlled casualties despite being severely affected by Covid-19, Pakistan continues to report a large number of casualties because it has vaccinated hardly 25 per cent of its population, according to an expert. On the other hand, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Health Dr Faisal Sultan seems satisfied with the country's performance .....

[more >>](#)



### Seven lives lost to Covid-19

Source: [Aamir Yasin | Munawer Azeem, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-09-17

ISLAMABAD: Seven people died after battling with Covid-19 in Rawalpindi and Islamabad districts on Thursday whereas 338 people were diagnosed with the disease. Positivity ratio was recorded at 4.9pc in the capital and 7.2pc in Pindi district. As many as 241 people were discharged from hospitals after recovery during the last 24 hours. The deceased were identified as Mehar Bibi, 72, resident of Ba.....

[more >>](#)

### Educational institutions asked to ensure vaccination of staff

Source: [A Correspondent, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-09-17

TAXILA: Owners of educational institutions operating without Covid-19 vaccinated staff not only would be fined but the registration of their institutions would also be cancelled. The warning was issued by deputy commissioner Attock Dr Imran Hamid Sheikh during a meeting with representatives of private school and college association Attock chapter on Thursday. The DC said the Punjab government ha.....

[more >>](#)

### Covid death toll tops 27,000

Source: [APP, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-09-17

ISLAMABAD: Thenationaltally of total active Covid cases was recorded at 76,581 on Thursday, with 3,012 more people testing positive for the deadly virus and 3,897 people recovering from the disease during the last 24 hours. Sixty-six corona patients have died during the past 24 hours, 58 of whom were under treatment in hospitals and eight of them perished in their respective quarantines or homes.....

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### Country reports 3,012 fresh Covid-19 cases, 66 new deaths: NCOC

Source: [Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-09-17

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan, on Thursday, detected 3,012 fresh coronavirus cases and reported 66 more deaths taking the nationwide cases tally to 1,215,821 and death toll to 27,004 since the pandemic outbreak. According to the latest update issued by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), the country also reported 3,897 recoveries in the past 24 hours taking the national tally of recoverie.....

[more >>](#)

### Covid-related deaths cross 27,000 mark with 66 fresh casualties

Source: [Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-09-17

ISLAMABAD - The country's Covid-19 death toll on Thursday crossed 27,000 mark after 66 deaths were reported during the last 24 hours. According to the latest data released by National Command and Operation Center (NCOC), Pakistan's coronavirus death toll has risen to 27,004. The country reported as many 3,012 fresh cases of Covid-19 after 56,778 tests were conducted across Pakistan in .....

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### Transporters, shopping malls owners fined over SOP violation

Source: [Agencies, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-09-17

FAISALABAD - The district administration imposed Rs 36,000 fine on various transporters and owners of shopping malls and plazas on the charge of violation of corona-related standard operating procedures (SOPs) in Faisalabad during the past 12 hours. A spokesman for the local administration said on Thursday that officers of district government were active in the field and they are thoroughly checking.....

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## Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

### Corona vaccination made mandatory for BRT service

Source: [Bureau report](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-09-14

PESHAWAR: TransPeshawar on Monday announced that Covid-19 vaccination certificate would be required for travelling in the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) vehicles. TransPeshawar spokesperson Umair Khan said that no-one would be allowed to enter the BRT stations without the certificate as per the directives of the government. He said that TransPeshawar was taking measures to help the government control t.....[more >>](#)

### Four schools sealed on corona SOPs violation

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-09-14

PESHAWAR - The district administration on Monday sealed four private schools during crackdown on violators of corona preventive standard operating procedures (SOPs). Deputy Commissioner (DC) Peshawar Khalid Mahmood had received complaints regarding opening of schools in violation of restrictions imposed on schools to contain the spread of corona. On the directives of the DC, Assistant Commis.....[more >>](#)

### Audit launched to verify Covid vaccination certificates in KP

Source: [Ashfaq Yusufzai](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-09-15

PESHAWAR: The government launched an audit to verify Covid-19 vaccination certificates of people, who got the documents from National Database and Registration Authority without inoculation, officials said. They said that certificates were issued to some people by Nadra on the basis of confirmation of the vaccination centres while the people were not vaccinated physically. Health Secretary Syed .....[more >>](#)

### 93% Covid patients unvaccinated in K-P

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-09-16

PESHAWAR: Most of the Covid-19 patients admitted to the three largest hospitals in Peshawar including Lady Reading Hospital (LRH) are those who have not been vaccinated at all. Sources told The Express Tribune that the data shows that around 93 per cent of the patients admitted to the LRH in the past three months had not been vaccinated. "Around 93 per cent of these patients had not recei.....[more >>](#)

### Educational institutions reopen in 8 KP districts

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-09-16

Peshawar - Educational institutions reopened in eight districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa including the provincial capital on Wednesday, following a 10-day break due to rising cases of coronavirus. However, all institutions including schools, colleges and universities would have to adhere to the SOPs related to COVID. Under the directives of National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), education.....[more >>](#)

### Covid positivity rate decreases in Peshawar, Mardan

Source: [Ashfaq Yusufzai](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-09-17

PESHAWAR: Twenty-five persons passed away and 419 more Covid-19 patients were recorded in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Thursday as the downtrend of coronavirus positivity continued in high-risk districts of the province including Peshawar and Mardan. Covid-19 positivity in Peshawar, which reported eight fatalities and 122 new patients, also declined to 8.9 per cent compared to 11 per cent a week before.....[more >>](#)



## Punjab

### Four COVID-19 deaths, 287 cases from twin cities

Source: [Muhammad Qasim](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-09-14

Rawalpindi: Another four deaths have been reported from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district due to coronavirus illness, COVID-19 in the last 24 hours while 287 new patients have been tested positive for the illness from the region. To date, the virus has claimed a total of 2,024 lives from ICT and Rawalpindi district while as many as 137,318 patients have so far been reported pos.....[more >>](#)

### Vaccination reduces risk of hospitalisation, says Dr Yasmin

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-09-14

LAHORE - Punjab Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid and Chief Secretary Kamran Ali Afzal reviewed the situation of coronavirus pandemic and pace of vaccination in a meeting at the Civil Secretariat here on Monday. The issues such as medical facilities in hospitals, oxygen supply, Covid-19 vaccination process and Sehat Sahulat Programme came under review. The health minister said: "In orde.....[more >>](#)

### Six shops sealed over Covid SOPs' violations

Source: [APP](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-09-14

RAWALPINDIL Assistant Commissioner Cantonment Nosheen Israr on Monday sealed six shops and imposed a fine of Rs10,000 for violating Covid-19 SOPs during raids in various markets. According to a district administration spokesman, the shops were sealed on Bank Road. She was accompanied by Special Magistrate Saleem Butt. Notices were also affixed on the shops sealed during the operation launched aga.....[more >>](#)

### 14 Covid deaths in Punjab

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-09-14

LAHORE: Punjab reported 14 more Covid deaths during the last 24 hours, taking the toll to 12,223 across the province. Primary and Secondary Healthcare Secretary Imran Sikandar Baloch said the overall positive rate was recorded 6.3 per cent in Punjab. The average positivity rate was recorded 12pc in Lahore, 7pc in Rawalpindi, 9pc in Faisalabad and 8pc in Multan. ....[more >>](#)

### Three die of Covid-19 in Pindi as 377 new cases emerge in region

Source: [Munawer Azeem | Aamir Yasin](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-09-15

RAWALPINDI: Three patients lost their lives and another 115 contracted Covid-19 in the district during the last 24 hours as the positivity ratio touched 5.3pc. As many as 209 people were discharged from hospitals after recovering from the virus. A total of 2,148 samples were collected out of which results of 115 patients came back positive. According to data, Mian Sajjid Saleem, 58, a resident .....[more >>](#)

### Covid-19 positivity rate in Punjab declines to 6.34pc

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-09-14

LAHORE: The overall corona positivity rate in Punjab has slightly declined to 6.34 percent, as out of 19038 tests conducted across the province, as many as 1,208 fresh infections and 14 deaths were reported in the last 24 hours taking the tally of cases to 414391 and death toll to 12223. Out of 14 deaths reported across Punjab, five were reported in Rawalpindi, three in Lahore, one each in D.G.....[more >>](#)

### **Six more succumb to Covid-19 in Pindi Positivity ratio of cases was recorded at 5.3 per cent**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-09-15

RAWALPINDI: Six more coronavirus patients died in Rawalpindi during the last 24 hours while 115 people contracted the virus on Tuesday. The positivity ratio of cases was recorded at 5.3 per cent in the district. As per the latest data released by the District Health Authority, among the newly reported cases, 12 belonged to Rawal Town, 32 from Potohar, 28 from Cantt, 10 from Kallar Syedan, eight .....

[more >>](#)

### **Lockdown extended in five districts**

Source: [Asif Chaudhry](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-09-16

LAHORE: The Punjab government has extended lockdown in five districts of the province till Sept 22 for reporting high Covid positivity rate but allowed 50 per cent attendance of students in education institutions. The districts are Lahore with 11pc infection rate, Faisalabad 7.4, Multan 6.6, Sargodha 7.1 and Gujrat 6.8pc. The situation in Lahore is alarming as it recorded above 10pc infection ra.....

[more >>](#)

### **Punjab imposes lockdown in five districts till Sept 22**

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-09-16

Lahore - Punjab government on Wednesday imposed lockdown in five districts of the province till September 22. Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department Secretary Imran Sikandar Baloch has announced lockdown restrictions in five districts of Punjab, including Lahore, Faisalabad, Multan, Sargodha and Gujrat, owing to high Covid-19 positivity rate. "Business centres in these district wi.....

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### **Punjab imposes lockdown in five districts owing to high Covid positivity rate**

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-09-16

LAHORE - Punjab government on Wednesday imposed lockdown in five districts of the province till September 22. Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department Secretary Imran Sikandar Baloch has announced lockdown restrictions in five districts of Punjab, including Lahore, Faisalabad, Multan, Sargodha and Gujrat, owing to high Covid-19 positivity rate. "Business centres in these district wil.....

[more >>](#)

### **Youngsters aged 15 and above to be vaccinated from Sept 20**

Source: [APP](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-09-16

RAWALPINDI - District Health Authority (DHA) will administer anti-Covid doses to youngsters falling in the age group of 15 to 18 years at educational institutions from September 20. District Health Officer for Communicable Diseases Dr Waqar Ahmed while talking to APP said that an effective microplan was being devised to cover the maximum number of young people under the drive. He said that.....

[more >>](#)

### **Two Covid patients die due to 'oxygen disruption'**

Source: [Irfanul Haq](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-09-17

RAHIM YAR KHAN: Two Covid-19 patients died while more than a dozen others faced breathing issue when disruption occurred in central oxygen supply at Corona ICU ward of Shaikh Zayed Medical College and Hospital (SZMCH) on Wednesday night. The disruption started after 5pm when the red alarm started from oxygen machines and messages of low pressure [of oxygen] appeared on ventilators. An attendant,.....

[more >>](#)

**Twin cities log 7 deaths, 336 positive cases**

Source: [Muhammad Qasim](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-09-17

Rawalpindi : As many as 336 new patients have been reported positive for coronavirus illness, COVID-19 in the last 24 hours from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district while another seven patients have lost their lives due to the illness from the region that has taken the death toll from the twin cities to 2,039. Alarming however is the fact that the positivity rate of COVID-19 fro.....

[more >>](#)

**Punjab reports 28 more Covid-19 deaths, 1,295 fresh cases**

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-09-17

LAHORE: There is no respite in fatalities as well as fresh Covid-19 infections, as out of 18399 tests conducted across the province in the last 24 hours, Punjab has reported 28 more deaths and 1295 new infections taking the provincial tally of death toll to 12319 and coronavirus cases to 418,196. Out of 28 deaths reported across Punjab, 14 were reported in Lahore, 06 in Rawalpindi, two in Fai.....

[more >>](#)

**Schools resume classes under strict adherence to coronavirus SOPs**

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-09-17

LAHORE - As many as 3,700 schools in the provincial capital resumed classes under strict adherence to the Covid-19 SOPs on Thursday. The District Education Authority (DEA) Lahore reopened all the schools under public and private sector with 50 percent presence of students following the decision made by the National Command and Operations Centre (NCOC). The management of all educational insti.....

[more >>](#)

**COVID-19 claims 8 lives with 82 new infections in Rawalpindi**

Source: [APP](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-09-17

Rawalpindi-As many as 82 new patients of coronavirus were reported during the last 24 hours in the division, with 80 belonging to Rawalpindi and two from other districts while eight people had lost their battle of life. According to the daily situation report issued by the District Corona Management Center on Thursday, among the new cases, 25 belonged to Rawal Town, 25 from Potohar Town, 21 f.....

[more >>](#)

## Sindh

**Liquid oxygen cylinders' prices shoot up amid shortage in Sindh**

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-09-15

KARACHI: The prices of liquid oxygen cylinders needed for patients, particularly those suffering from Covid-19, have sharply increased in Karachi over the past weeks while hospitals, particularly in the interior of Sindh, are now facing a shortage of supplies. It was reported on Tuesday evening that 15 more Covid-19 patients died overnight while 703 new cases emerged in the province. Sources tol.....

[more >>](#)

**US delivers 320,580 Pfizer doses to Sindh**

Source: [APP](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-09-14

US Consul General Mark Stroh and Sindh Minister for Health and Population Welfare Dr Azra Fazal Pechuho welcomed the arrival of 320,580 new Pfizer vaccine doses sent by the United States through COVAX facility to the people of Sindh in Karachi. According to a communique on Monday, Consul General Stroh during a 320,580 Pfizer vaccine handover ceremony at the Sindh government's ultra-cold cha.....

[more >>](#)

### **Mondelez steps up response to Covid-19**

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#) , 2021-09-15

KARACHI: Mondelez Pakistan has announced the completion of its COVID-19 vaccination drive. With the Mondelez Pakistan vaccination drive more than 70 percent of its workforce at the Hub plants has been fully vaccinated. The vaccination camp was set up at the Confectionary Plant in Hub where employees voluntarily opted to get vaccinated. The camp facilitated employees from both Confectionary an.....

[more >>](#)

### **Sindh relaxes Covid-19 SOPs, allows indoor dining**

Source: [Sameer Mandhro](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#) , 2021-09-15

KARACHI: TheSindhgovernment on Wednesday relaxed certain Covid-19 restrictions in the province following a decrease in the number of daily cases. Markets in the province, including Karachi, can now stay open till 10pm. Essential services such as pharmacies, grocery stores, bakeries and petrol pumps would be allowed to operate 24 hours a day. In Karachi, markets would be closed on Sundays, while.....

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### **15 more patients die of Covid-19**

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#) , 2021-09-15

KARACHI - As many as 15 more patients of Coronavirus died overnight lifting the death toll to 7,192 and 703 new cases emerged when 15,728 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued here on Tuesday. He added that 15 more patients of COVID-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 7,192 that constituted 1.6 percent death rate. Murad Al.....

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### **Govt asked to avoid coercion for Covid-19 vaccination of children**

Source: [Faiza Ilyas](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#) , 2021-09-16

KARACHI: Persuasion, not coercion, should be used to encourage parents to have their children vaccinated against Covid-19. Consent forms for the vaccination should be designed in a simple manner that doesn't create suspicion and confusion among parents. Only Pfizer vaccine should be administered to kids aged 12 and above as safety data of other Covid-19 vaccines is not available. These poin.....

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### **Covid restrictions relaxed, indoor dining allowed till midnight**

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#) , 2021-09-16

KARACHI: Just a week after allowing opening of businesses on Fridays, the Sindh government on Wednesday further relaxed Covid-19 restrictions in the province that included permission of indoor dining till midnight for vaccinated individuals. In a notification issued by the home department, the provincial government relaxed the restrictions across the province following a decrease in the number of.....

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### **Sindh relaxes business hours, indoor dining guidelines**

Source: [News Desk](#), [Daily Times](#) , 2021-09-16

The Sindh government has allowed the relaxation of certain Covid-19 restrictions, namely where they will allow business and markets to operate until 10 pm and will allow vaccinated citizens to avail themselves indoor dining until midnight. The new guidelines will be effective from September 16 to September 30, according to an official notification from the Home Department. Along with allowing bu.....

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**COVID claims 8 more lives**

Source: [Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-09-16

KARACHI - As many as 18 more patients of coronavirus died overnight lifting the death toll to 7,210 and 817 new cases emerged when 16,935 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued here on Wednesday. He added that 18 more patients of COVID-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 7,210 that constituted 1.6 percent death ra.....

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**Afghanistan in desperate need of medicines**

Source: [M Waqar Bhatti, The News, International](#), 2021-09-17

KARACHI: Exodus of medical consultants from Afghanistan following the Taliban takeover as well as extreme shortage of medicines due to closure of borders with Pakistan and suspension of trade with India is leading to a serious health crisis in the war-ravaged country, doctors in Kabul said on Thursday. They said patients in Afghanistan's different cities were in desperate need of various typ.....

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**IBA reviews Pak economy during pandemic**

Source: [APP, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-09-17

KARACHI: The Institute of Business Administration (IBA) Karachi on Thursday launched a book titled State of Pakistan's Economy: During Pandemic and Beyond 2021-22. Faculty members of the Department of Economics, School of Economics and Social Sciences, and Centre of Business and Economics Research contributed in this important task, said an IBA release. Following its tradition of the last .....

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**Sindh healthcare workers to get Pfizer booster shots**

Source: [Sameer Mandhro, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-09-16

KARACHI: The Sindh Health Department decided on Thursday to administer a Covid booster shot of the Pfizer vaccine to all healthcare workers in the province. According to a notification issued by the provincial department, the decision was taken in light of the healthcare workers being at an increased risk of [contracting] Covid-19. The inoculation will be done free of charge. Earlier this week, t.....

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**Sindh decides free Pfizer booster shots for health workers**

Source: [News Report, The News, International](#), 2021-09-17

KARACHI: The Sindh government has decided to administer free Pfizer coronavirus booster shots to all healthcare workers, a notification from the province's health department said Thursday. The department, in the notification, said the healthcare workers were at greater risk of being exposed and getting infected with the virus, and in a bid to reduce the risk, the government has decided to.....

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**Covid-19 claims 14 more lives in Sindh**

Source: [Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-09-17

KARACHI: As many as 14 more patients of coronavirus died overnight lifting the death toll to 7,224 and 980 new cases emerged when 20,313 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued here on Thursday. He added that 14 more patients of COVID-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 7,224 that constituted 1.6 percent death rate. Mr.....

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**Persuasion should be used for Covid-19 vaccination of children**

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#) , 2021-09-17

KARACHI - Persuasion, not coercion, should be used to encourage parents to have their children vaccinated against Covid-19. Consent forms for the vaccination should be designed in a simple manner that doesn't create suspicion and confusion among parents. Only Pfizer vaccine should be administered to kids aged 12 and above as safety data of other Covid-19 vaccines is not available. These.....

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## International News

### Countries News

#### **No need for a vaccine third jab booster; UK health chiefs recommend Covid jabs for 12-15 year-olds; Covid cases spike in Syria's Idlib**

Source: [AFP](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-09-14

Beirut: Cases of Covid-19 have increased alarmingly over the past month in Syria's rebel-controlled northern region of Idlib, local authorities said on Monday. Although cases of the virus had stabilised earlier this year, sometimes numbering fewer than 100 per day, local officials told AFP contaminations have begun soaring again since mid-August. On September 6, more than 1,500 new cases.....[more >>](#)

#### **OPEC expects Delta variant to delay oil demand growth**

Source: [News Desk](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-09-14

PARIS: OPEC on Monday trimmed its world oil demand forecast for the last quarter of 2021 due to the Delta coronavirus variant, saying a further recovery would be delayed until next year when consumption will exceed pre-pandemic rates. The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) said in a monthly report it expects oil demand to average 99.70 million barrels per day (bpd) in the .....[more >>](#)

#### **UK to start Covid vaccine booster programme; Putin self-isolates after Covid cases in inner circle**

Source: [AFP](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-09-15

Port Louis, Mauritius: Hospitals are overwhelmed in Mauritius, ventilators are hard to find, and there's no longer enough space at the main cemetery for Covid victims. Less than three weeks before it flings its doors wide open to international travellers at the start of the peak tourist season, the paradise island nation is struggling with an alarming explosion in coronavirus infections and.....[more >>](#)

#### **Chinese vaccines are welcomed by its neighbours, why?**

Source: [Zhou Xin](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-09-15

On August 28, Sinopharm vaccine landed in Singapore. Vaccination appointments of the Chinese vaccine in many clinics were fully booked on the very first day. Some clinics even received more than 400 registrations of interest while they still had half a month to wait until receiving the vaccines. Earlier, Thailand's Chulabhorn Royal Academy opened online registration for the first batch of Si.....[more >>](#)

#### **PIA plane airlifts 3m doses of Covid-19 vaccine from China**

Source: [APP](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-09-16

BEIJING: 50th special plane of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) has airlifted three million doses of Sinovac Covid-19 vaccine from Beijing Capital International Airport to Islamabad. "PK-6853 is the 50th special cargo flight since launch of transportation of Covid-19 vaccine by the national flag carrier," Qadir Bux Sangi, PIA Country Manager for China told APP here on Wednesd.....[more >>](#)

#### **80pc UAE population vaccinated against coronavirus**

Source: [Sibte Arif](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-09-17

ABU DHABI: Eighty per cent of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) population is now fully vaccinated against the coronavirus, the health ministry announced on Thursday. The UAE Ministry of Health and Prevention announced that 80.29 per cent of the UAE's total population is now fully vaccinated against COVID-19 while 91.32 per cent of the population has received one dose, according to the healt.....[more >>](#)

**France suspends 3,000 unvaccinated health workers; Putin says dozens in Kremlin inner circle have Covid:China fully vaccinates more than 1bn people**

Source: [AFP](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-09-17

Beijing: China has fully vaccinated more than one billion people against the coronavirus -- 71 percent of its population -- official figures showed on Thursday. The country where the virus was first detected has mostly curbed the virus within its borders, but is racing to get the vast majority of its population vaccinated as a new outbreak flickers in the southeast. "As of September 15, 2.1.....

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**Donors News**

**US delivers 320,580 Pfizer doses to Sindh**

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-09-14

KARACHI - Minister for Health and Population Welfare, Sindh, Dr Azra Fazal Pechuho, on Monday met with Consul General of the United States of America, Mark Stroh. COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access (COVAX) is a worldwide initiative aimed at equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines directed by WHO and other organisations. It is through this alliance that representatives of the US Embassy along with .....

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**Sindh gets over 0.3m doses of Pfizer vaccine donated by US**

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-09-14

KARACHI: US Consul General Mark Stroh and Sindh Health Minister Dr Azra Fazal Pechuho welcomed the arrival of 320,580 new Pfizer vaccine doses sent by Washington through the Covax facility to the people of Sindh on Monday. This shipment is part of a 6.6 million Pfizer dose tranche of vaccine the US has sent to Pakistan. This tranche is the fourth such delivery sent to Pakistan, bringing the total.....

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**US delivers another 320,580 Pfizer vaccine doses for Sindh**

Source: [NNI](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-09-14

KARACHI: US Consul General Mark Stroh and Sindh Minister of Health and Population Welfare, Dr Azra Fazal Pechuho on Monday welcomed the arrival of 320,580 new Pfizer vaccine doses sent by the United States through the COVAX facility to the people of Sindh. This shipment is part of a 6.6 million Pfizer dose tranche of vaccine the United States has sent to Pakistan. This tranche is the fou.....

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## SDPI Engagements

### Researcher Articles

#### When women write

Source: [Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-09-14

'Womansplaining', edited by Senator Sherry Rehman, is an anthology of thought-provoking essays – written by some of the most remarkable women – 'navigating activism, politics and modernity in Pakistan' The essays are by and about pioneering women, women who struggled and inspired, women who suffered, women who liberated others from their sufferings. There are.....[more >>](#)

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