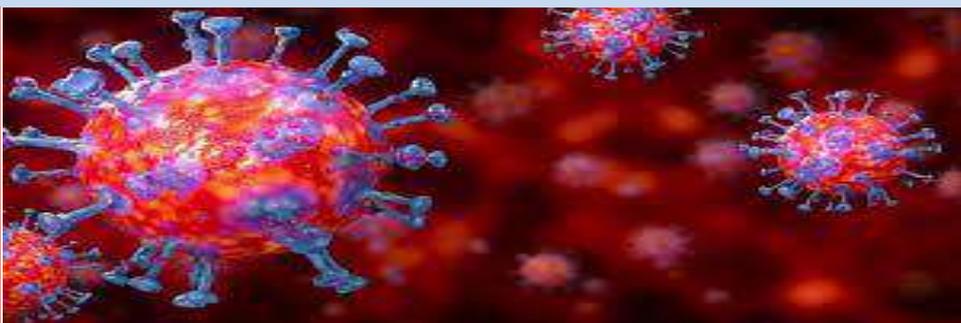


E-Newsletter on COVID-19



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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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A Product of ASRC-SDPI

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

Post pandemic positives?

Source: [M Ziauddin](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-07-18

There is an opportunity in every crisis. Great crises are said to bring profound social change. The plague that struck Europe in the 14th century is believed to mark the end of Middle Ages and the beginning of the Renaissance. Let us, therefore, try to look ahead at the positives of Covid-19 which might ultimately come out of the human and economic tragedy we are currently facing. A detailed discussion on this subject is needed to identify ways[view more](#)

Pakistan's long-term solution to COVID

Source: [Uzair Akram](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-07-18

Earlier this year, as COVID-19 forced countries to shut down, developing economies with weak healthcare systems like Pakistan were affected the most. The United Nations had already warned about the impact of lockdown on developing countries' vulnerable populations and termed access to healthcare in such extraordinary circumstances a matter of utmost emergency. The question remained as to how Pakistan could contain the pandemic while maintain.....[view more](#)

Lessons from the contagion

Source: [Ahsan Munir](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-07-18

Although COVID-19 is not yet over, the world has changed, and governments have already started asking questions such as; what went wrong? What could have been done better? How can a similar scenario be avoided or mitigated in the future? However, as a nation, as usual, we are stuck in the blame game and political bickering. Following the international lead, the government—both at federal and provincial levels—along with taking steps t.....[view more](#)

Misplaced optimism or good news?

Source: [Editorial Desk](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-07-19

THE government's recent assertion that the rate of confirmed Covid-19 cases in the country is declining merits closer examination. According to the planning minister and NCOC chair, Asad Umar, the positivity ratio — determined by the number of people testing positive for the coronavirus out of the total number tested in a day — has gone down. The minister asserted that, whereas in mid-June the rate of those testing positive was[view more](#)

Creative policies

Source: [Aqdas Afzal](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-07-19

EMERGING economies like Pakistan are facing an economic catastrophe due to Covid-19. The World Bank recently noted that analysts do not know how deep or persistent this recession will be. Some days ago, the IMF said that economic growth for Pakistan in 2020-21 is going to be even lower than the government's estimate of one per cent, dashing all hopes of a V-shaped, or strong, economic recovery. This plummeting economy, according to the Paki.....[view more](#)

Eid in pandemic

Source: [Editorial Desk, Daily Times](#), 2020-07-19

Just like Ramazan and ensuing Eidul Fitr in previous months when people flocked to mosques and shopping malls spiking the number of coronavirus, another repeat of scenes of crowded markets is looming in the wake of Eidul Azha. Very rightly, Prime Minister Imran Khan has appealed to the nation to mark the upcoming Eid with simplicity to defeat coronavirus cases. In his recent tweet, the prime minister said: "Eidul Azha must be celebrated wit.....[view more](#)

Foreign capital

Source: [Editorial Desk, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-07-20

THE large jump in the non-debt, job-creating flows of FDI into the country last fiscal is an encouraging sign in the wake of the challenges posed by Covid-19. The long-term foreign investment is reported by the State Bank to have spiked by 88pc to reach \$2.6bn from the previous year. According to the bank's data, the power sector, telecom industry, and oil and gas exploration sectors have attracted the largest portion of fresh foreign capit.....[view more](#)

A question of governance

Source: [Maleeha Lodhi, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-07-20

WHILE the coronavirus pandemic continues to rage across the world, the faltering response of many governments has sparked a lively global debate about why some countries have effectively managed the crisis while others haven't. This has focused renewed attention on fundamental issues of governance. While the jury is still out on how countries have fared, there is considerable evidence now of what it takes to manage competently. Countries w.....[view more](#)

Why do people believe in conspiracy theories in Pakistan during Covid-19?

Source: [Abdul Basit, Daily Times](#), 2020-07-20

People of Pakistan, a conservative Muslim majority country, are significantly vulnerable to be easily trapped into the propaganda and manipulation of both political and religious leaders because the ability of people to examine the information has been diminished by virtue of the educational system. Pakistan, preoccupied with continuing internal turbulence, has been generally ruled by military power often with a democratic visage. Thus, to justi.....[view more](#)

Post-Pandemic Business Opportunities

Source: [Muhammad Rafiq, Daily Times](#), 2020-07-20

Every crisis leaves its mark and changes our way of doing and being. Financial crisis of 2008 gave birth to business ventures like Uber, Airbnb and Groupon etc. Similarly, 9/11 incident was followed by heightened security administration; and World Wars also witnessed the creation of International Red Cross and nursing profession. In such situations, certain ideas come from innovation and others are created out of need. COVID-19 is setting.....[view more](#)

Social protection and Covid-19

Source: [Dr Safdar Sohail, The News, International](#), 2020-07-19

The mistrust and Covid-related relief integration between the federal and Sindh government is, unfortunately, increasing with the passage of time. Given the quasi-consensus among the analysts that the worst is yet to come, particularly, in terms of economic crisis, this could mean even more misery for the ordinary citizens, a majority of whom have been left to fend for themselves. Well-meaning individuals on both sides could help improve the sit.....[view more](#)

Our unmade journeys

Source: Ghazi Salahuddin, [The News, International](#), 2020-07-19

There is this game we sometimes play when my wife and I connect with our two daughters on WhatsApp or Skype. The idea is to search for a country or a city where we can meet during the next few days. This demands the latest information about the new rules and requirements of travelling during the pandemic. There is some confusion about which countries are open for the citizens of which other countries and how a 14-day self-quarantine is imposed.[view more](#)

Climate investment, mitigation under Covid-19

Source: Dr. Umer Khayyam, [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-07-20

ISLAMABAD: At the outset of the current pandemic lies a major threat to climate investment. This unscathed part of our global society and economy, which is linked directly or indirectly to the prevailing economic health degradation, has been poisoning the integral societal part of the natural climate. The threat is twofold – failing to invest enough in climate resilience and adaptation and snappy erosion of (regional and global) de-carbon.....[view more](#)

Can USA and China defy 'The Thucydides Trap' (Part-I)

Source: Ambassador G R Baluch, [Daily Times](#), 2020-07-20

The Harvard Professor Graham T. Allison in one of his lectures an year ago alluded to an inevitability (of course with a caveat) of an armed clash between the Ruling Power the USA and The Rising Power China. His observation was based on his theory what he calls "The Thucydides Trap" after the name of the great Greek thinker ,philosopher and the father founder of History (c,460-400 BC) Thucydides he wrote first History book called[view more](#)

Pandemic and inflation

Source: Anjum Ibrahim, [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-07-20

Aggregate demand must be curtailed to contain the rate of inflation, a theory fully supported by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in its Extended Fund Facility (EFF) programme design, and agreed by the then newly-appointed Pakistan's economic team leaders – Dr Hafeez Sheikh appointed on 20 April 2019 as Prime Minister's Advisor on Finance and Dr Reza Baqir on 6 May 2019 as Governor State Bank of Pakistan. The staff lev.....[view more](#)

An overdue smile

Source: Andleeb Abbas, [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-07-20

Negative sells. Panic increases media traffic. Sensation creates audience. Bad fascinates. Fear glues people to the newsfeed. All these audience/human behavior responses seem to be valid generally and more particularly since Covid-19 hit the world. There is a race of how bad, horrible, terrible it is, will be, and can be. The fact that the best of the developed world is coping the worse with this pandemic has created even more fear and uncertain.....[view more](#)

Early signs of recovery

Source: Ali Khizar, [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-07-20

Many economists and analysts have claimed gloom and doom in the aftermath of Covid-19 and exchange rate rates adjustments. The policy of targeted subsidies over blanket is reaping fruits, and more actions are needed in that direction. Early signs of demand surge are already visible for rural economy and low-income urban segments. The fiscal stimulus (in response to Covid-19), and market-based exchange rate are generating economic demand faster th.....[view more](#)

National News

Islamabad

Covid-19's impact on Pakistan's private hospitals

Source: [News Desk, Daily Times](#), 2020-07-18

As the world begins to return to normalcy, Pakistan's healthcare system struggles to cope with the current pandemic. Hospitals and healthcare workers face the challenge of defeating the virus. Equipped with limited resources, an existing faulty government system, poverty, corruption and worse, a nation primarily consisting of ignorant individuals who refuse to comply to following preventive measures...the motivation to keep battling wi.....[view more](#)

Confirmed corona cases reach 261,814

Source: [Agencies, The News, International](#), 2020-07-18

ISLAMABAD: The number of confirmed cases of coronavirus reached 261,814 and fatalities to 5,522 on Friday. Of 261,814 cases, Sindh reported 111,238 cases, Punjab 89,465, Balochistan 11,405, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa 31,669, Gilgit Baltistan 1,775 and Azad Jammu and Kashmir 1,808. A total of 198,370 patients have successfully recovered so far and sent back home. Sindh reported 1,170 coronavirus infections in the past 24 hours, while 30 more peop.....[view more](#)

Sympathies towards transporters appreciable, but implement the law!

Source: [Mobarik A. Virk, The News, International](#), 2020-07-18

Islamabad : The Superintendent of Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) has 'politely refused' to implement directions of the Deputy Commissioner of Islamabad, which were issued to facilitate commuters travelling up and down the Islamabad Expressway (T-Chowk GT Road to Korang Nullah bridge) during rush hours of morning and evening. It was late last year that the Deputy Commissioner of Islamabad, in response to ever pressing demand fr.....[view more](#)

Uzbekistan sends in goods against coronavirus

Source: [Our Correspondent, The News, International](#), 2020-07-18

Islamabad :An aircraft of Uzbekistan's air forces, IL-76, brought to Nurkhan air base 25 tonnes of humanitarian aid against coronavirus to Pakistan on behalf of the president of Uzbekistan on Friday. Delivered humanitarian aid of Uzbekistan's President comprised with medical masks, protective costumes, medicines, and other medical items and equipment against Covid-19. This cargo is aimed at Brother people of Pakistan and is given as a s.....[view more](#)

Active Covid-19 cases in capital drop to 19.7pc

Source: [Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-07-18

ISLAMABAD: Active cases of coronavirus in the federal capital have dropped to 19.7 percent as out of total 14,454 confirmed cases only 2,858 are active, as on Friday. According to official data, out of total 14,454 cases, 11,599 patients have completely recovered since the spread of Covid-19 in the country. On Friday, the number of new coronavirus cases dropped to 52, the lowest in the last two and a half months. At least, 11,599 C.....[view more](#)

Eidul Azha;Senate body for special SOPs to contain Covid-19 spread

Source: [Fazal Sher, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-07-18

ISLAMABAD: The Senate Standing Committee on Interior on Friday urged the government to prepare special standard operating procedures (SOPs) for controlling spread of the coronavirus during upcoming Eidul Azha. The

committee, which met with Senator Rehman Malik in the chair, observed that Covid-19 cases would further increase in August, therefore, the government needed to make special SOPs in order to control spread of virus during Eidul Azha.....[view more](#)

Covid-19 cases reach 261,201

Source: [Abdul Rasheed Azad](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-07-18

ISLAMABAD:Confirmed coronavirus cases in Pakistan have reached 261,201 with 5,505 deaths and 183,754 recoveries, Covid-19 latest data released by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) and provincial authorities revealed. According to official figures, total Covid-19 cases in the Punjab reached 89,023, in Sindh 111,238, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (KP) 31,486, Balochistan 11,385, Federal Capital Islamabad 14,445, Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK).....[view more](#)

Confirmed COVID-19 cases surge to 261,917 in Pakistan

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-07-18

Pakistan on Saturday has confirmed 47 deaths in a single day by novel coronavirus as the number of positive cases has surged to 261,917. The nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 5,522. According to the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) 1,918 persons have been tested positive for COVID-19 in 24 hours. Sindh remains the worst-hit province by the pandemic in terms of cases followed by Punjab, Khyber Pak.....[view more](#)

Do neurological complications of COVID-19 exist?

Source: [Online](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-07-18

A new report of COVID-19 patients referred to a neurological hospital in the United Kingdom describes complications including delirium, brain inflammation, and stroke. Al-Shifa has also released report which covers study of effects of coronavirus upon mental health of pandemic victims. Many Pakistani citizens confirmed the effect on their health health such as dementia and weakening of cortex nerves. Viral infections can impact the brain, ev.....[view more](#)

Pakistanis among fortunate, PM says as virus cases fall further

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-07-18

Imran Khan believes positive trend is result of smart lockdown policy | Data shows fast recoveries as 183,737 patients recovered from disease so far ISLAMABAD - In a tweet, he said this positive trend has been the result of our smart lockdown policy and the nation oPrime Minister Imran Khan on Friday said that Pakistan is amongst the fortunate countries where COVID-19 cases in hospitals especially in intensive care and the death rate hav.....[view more](#)

No bar on state, public activities if SOPs complied with: President

Source: [APP](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-07-18

ISLAMABAD - President Dr Arif Alvi on Friday said that all kinds of activities could be carried out hassle-free if the anti-COVID-19 standard operating procedures (SOPs) are truly followed. In a tweet, the president said that consensus reached between government and the Shia scholars on anti-COVID SOPs during Muharrumul Haram manifested the tendency in all schools of thought to get united for all national objectives. He said the mourning.....[view more](#)

Covid-19 threatens millions of lives, FM tells UN ECOSOC

Source: [Shafqat Ali](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-07-18

ISLAMABAD - Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi yesterday said that coronavirus has threatened millions of lives across the globe. In his video-link speech, at the United Nations Economic and Social Council, he said that the world was presently facing the most serious crisis since the founding of the United Nations 75 years ago. "It is a dual health and economic crisis," he added. He also said that millions had been infected by the.....[view more](#)

Islamabad sees another decline in number of Covid-19 cases

Source: [Aamir Yasin | Munawer Azeem](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-07-19

ISLAMABAD: Another decrease was reported in the confirmed cases of Covid-19 as 50 people tested positive in the capital on Saturday. Officials of the capital administration said on May 25 as many as 49 positive cases had been reported and since then the number remained over 50 a day. Out of the total 50 cases, 15 were women. Six of the cases were reported from G-7, five from Bhara Kahu, three each from DHA, Soan Garden, F-6, two each from Ghour.....[view more](#)

Nationwide tally of coronavirus crosses 261,000; 5,500 lives lost

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-07-18

The nationwide tally of Covid-19 patients soared to 261,189 on Friday, with 89,023 cases reported in Punjab, 111,238 in Sindh, 31,486 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 11,405 in Balochistan, 1,775 in Gilgit Baltistan, 14,454 in Islamabad and 1,808 in Azad Jammu and Kashmir. The virus has claimed at least 5,508 lives while around 183,737 coronavirus patients have recovered so far. Sindh reported 1,170 coronavirus cases and 30 deaths during the past 24 hours,[view more](#)

PM reiterates call for strict adherence to Covid-19 SOPs on upcoming Eid

Source: [News Desk](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-07-18

Prime Minister Imran Khan Friday reiterated his call for the countrymen to strictly observe the standard operating procedures (SOPs) on upcoming Eid-ul-Azha to avert the resurgence of coronavirus cases in the country. "Eid-ul-Azha must be celebrated with simplicity so as not to repeat what happened last Eid when SOPs were ignored & our hospitals were choked," the prime minister posted on his Twitter handle, while ordering for strict.....[view more](#)

Covid-19: ministry says preliminary findings should not be used to estimate disease burden

Source: [Staff Report](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-07-18

The Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations & Coordination has stated that a screening exercise for assessing the presence of coronavirus antibodies was conducted in the Islamabad Capital Territory during June 2020. Review of data set and sample procedures validation activity, along with peer review of data for control of confounders is currently underway, for the said activity. In the absence of completion of all these follow-up con.....[view more](#)

NITB & NCOC to use TPL Trakker's AI, location-based services for multiple Covid-19 applications

Source: [News Desk](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-07-18

TPL Trakker, Pakistan's leading IoT Company, has been chosen as the primary Location Based Services (LBS) provider by the NITB (National Information Technology Board) and NCOC (National Command and Operation Center) to support multiple national-level applications as part of Pakistan's fight against Covid-19. Through this collaboration, TPL Maps, the mapping arm of TPL Trakker, will continue its critical role in helping the peo.....[view more](#)

Qureshi back to office after defeating COVID-19

Source: [News Desk, Daily Times](#), 2020-07-18

Minister for Foreign Affairs Shah Mahmood Qureshi Friday resumed his duties at the office after recovering from the COVID-19 infection. "Thank you all for your good wishes and support. I am fortunate to be back in office today post COVID-19," he said on Twitter. The foreign minister was tested COVID-19 positive on July 3, 2020 when he had isolated himself at his home and had worked from there. Qureshi paid tribute to Pakistan's h.....[view more](#)

International cooperation indispensable to respond to coronavirus pandemic: Qureshi

Source: [News Desk, Daily Times](#), 2020-07-18

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi Friday said international cooperation was indispensable to respond to coronavirus pandemic and economic recession, which could be best promoted at and through the United Nations (UN). Addressing via video-link the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)'s High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), he said the world was presently facing the "most serious dual health and economic crisis" si.....[view more](#)

Pakistan reports 1,900 more Covid-19 cases, 47 deaths as tally hits 263,000

Source: [Agencies, Daily Times](#), 2020-07-19

The new coronavirus cases and deaths are on the decline in Pakistan, as 1,918 people tested positive and 47 died of the virus during the past 24 hours. The nationwide tally of Covid-19 patients soared to 262,797 on Saturday, with 89,465 cases reported in Punjab, 112,118 in Sindh, 31,669 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 11,405 in Balochistan, 1,796 in Gilgit Baltistan, 14,504 in Islamabad and 1,840 in Azad Jammu and Kashmir. The virus has claimed at least 5,.....[view more](#)

Testing not the only way to gauge decline in cases: Zafar

Source: [Ikram Junaidi, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-07-20

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Dr Zafar Mirza has said that when all the trends regarding the novel coronavirus in Pakistan are showing improvement, one must not assess everything through less number of tests being conducted across the country. "I believe we should not put everything on number of tests. We have passed from spike in mid-June. The testing is a factor, but it should be considered that the number of suspect.....[view more](#)

SC hears suo motu case about coronavirus tomorrow

Source: [APP, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-07-20

ISLAMABAD: A five-member bench of the Supreme Court will hear on Tuesday (tomorrow) a suo motu case regarding combating the coronavirus pandemic in the country. The bench is headed Chief Justice Gulzar Ahmed and includes Justice Mushir Alam, Justice Umar Ata Bandial, Justice Ijaz UI Ahsan and Mazhar Alam Khan Miankhel. On Saturday, the Punjab government had submitted a progress report which stated that a list of drugs for prevention o.....[view more](#)

Polio campaign resumes in parts of Quetta today

Source: [Staff Correspondent, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-07-20

QUETTA: A four-day polio vaccination campaign will be launched in selective union councils of Quetta district on Monday (today), after a four-month suspension due to Covid-19 pandemic. Initially, the focus will be on those union councils of Quetta district where major sewage network is located. Due to a long gap caused by Covid-19 lockdowns, the environmental samples collected from these areas have been tested positive for poliovirus, indicating.....[view more](#)

Mayor of Chinese city sends 20,000 face masks for Karachiites

Source: [Tahir Siddiqui, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-07-20

KARACHI: The mayor of Chinese city of Zhangjiajie has donated 20,000 medical, surgical masks to the Karachi commissioner to help fight coronavirus pandemic. Official sources said on Sunday that the gift from the municipal government of the Chinese city was handed to Commissioner Iftikhar Shallwani at his office. They said that the commissioner thanked the Chinese government, especially the mayor of Zhangjiajie, saying Pakistan had a long and st.....[view more](#)

77 percent of COVID-19 patients recover as tally crosses 204,000

Source: [News Desk, Daily Times](#), 2020-07-20

Pakistan's coronavirus recoveries have crossed 204,000, as 5,767 more people recovered from the virus, taking the total to 204,276 or 77 percent of total cases in the country, according to the government's COVID-19 portal. The portal shows that 1,763 patients are in critical condition. Meanwhile, Pakistan confirmed 46 deaths in a single day by novel coronavirus as the number of positive cases surged to 263,496 on Sunday, the n.....[view more](#)

IU wins COVID-19 research project

Source: [Our Correspondent, The News, International](#), 2020-07-20

Islamabad : Dr. Erum Jamil, Incharge Department of Electrical Engineering (Female Section) from the platform of the Centre for Advanced Electronics & Photovoltaic Engineering (CAEPE), International Islamic University has been awarded with a Triple Helix project worth Rs 16.9 million from Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF). This project is among the four projects funded under the provision of Special COVID-19 R&D grants out of hundr.....[view more](#)

Pandemic reduces number of visitors to recreational spot near ICT

Source: [Our Correspondent, The News, International](#), 2020-07-20

Islamabad: Ongoing coronavirus pandemic has reduced number of visitors to the popular recreational spot Neela Sandh waterfall, located 30 kilometers away from Islamabad near Kotli Satian. The local administration has banned entry into recreational spots in the capital city but there are many undesignated spots located in villages that usually attract people who want to combat hot summer season. Neela Sandh waterfall became a tourist spot few ye.....[view more](#)

Covid-19: Science, technology to play important role in daily lives

Source: [APP, The News, International](#), 2020-07-20

Islamabad: The Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) is expected to play an increasingly important role in our daily lives through e-learning, e-health, e-agriculture, artificial intelligence, to cope with the post COVID-19 challenges of rising food insecurity, unemployment, poverty and healthcare needs. This was noted by the international

participants of the 23rd Meeting of the Coordinating Council of the Commission on Science and Technology[view more](#)

Former IHC chief justice Muhammad Aslam passes away due to Covid-19

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-07-20

ISLAMABAD: The former chief justice of Islamabad High Court (IHC), Sardar Muhammad Aslam, passed away due to coronavirus on Monday. The late chief justice was undergoing treatment at a military hospital in Rawalpindi where he had been kept on a ventilator for the past few days. His funeral prayers will be offered at 4:30pm today in Kahuta. On May 7, secretary to current IHC Chief Justice Ather Minallah tested positive for coronavirus. Asad Kho.....[view more](#)

Covid-19, ban on flights;PIA losses projected at Rs17bn per month

Source: [Wasim Iqbal/Nuzhat Nazar](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-07-20

ISLAMABAD: The operational and revenue losses of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) are around Rs 17 billion a month projected to increase due to flights restrictions due to the pandemic and grounding of almost one third of the pilots on charges of fake degrees. The federal government has budgeted an amount of Rs 20 billion for PIA loan and advances for the current financial year 2020-21 against a revised estimate of Rs 27.1 billion for fin.....[view more](#)

Covid-19 pandemic contained through timely decisions: Zafar

Source: [Press Release](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-07-20

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Health, Dr Zafar Mirza has said the government is committed to introduce fundamental reforms by bringing primary healthcare based universal health coverage in the country. In a statement on Sunday, he said by the grace of Almighty Allah and hard work, the government has been able to contain the Covid-19 pandemic through timely decisions, smart lockdown strategy, SOPs implementation and Tr.....[view more](#)

Eid, Muharram;Provinces asked to ensure compliance with SOPs

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-07-19

KARACHI: The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) Saturday directed the provinces to ensure strict compliance of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on Eid-ul-Azha and during Muharram along with encouraging public adherence to safety guidelines. The NCOC special session was chaired by Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Asad Umar here. He was flanked by NCOC National Coordinator Lieutenant General Ham.....[view more](#)

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Six test positive for corona

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-07-18

MARDAN: Another six people tested positive for Covid-19 in the district within 24 hours, taking the total number of confirmed patients to 1,195, stated a press release from the district administration. Around 60 people have so far died of the virus in the district. Up to 5,445 tests were conducted in the district, of which the test reports of 4,222 people came back negative while 1,067 suspected patients recovered. FOUR INJURED: Four people sust.....[view more](#)

AI-Khidmat Foundation plays leading role in fight against Covid-19

Source: [Bureau Report](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-07-18

PESHAWAR: AI-Khidmat Foundation provincial president Khalid Waqas Chamkani on Friday said the foundation was playing a leading role in providing maximum relief to the people affected by the corona pandemic directly and indirectly. Some 75 bodies of Pakistanis brought from abroad were shifted to their native towns in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa from Peshawar and Islamabad airports in the ambulance service of the foundation free of cost, he said while spea.....[view more](#)

Niazi fears surge in Covid-19 cases

Source: [Shahid Hussain Yousafza](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-07-18

TIMERGARA - Prime minister's focal person for health Ahmad Khan Niazi on Friday feared surge in corona virus cases in case people did not follow the SOPs during the coming Eid. He said this while speaking at a function held in the Timergara Teaching Hospital (TTH) to acknowledge services of health professionals during the Covid-19 pandemic. On the occasion, Niazi distributed commendation certificates and shields among health professio.....[view more](#)

Karak hospital sealed for violating ethics

Source: [Bureau Report](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-07-19

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Health Care Commission has sealed a private hospital in Karak district for violation of medical ethics and is investigating the case before initiating action against the doctors. "On July 14, we received a complaint from deputy commissioner of Karak about a video circulating on social media, which shows a C-Cesarean surgery of women at a private hospital. The very next day, we visited the area and examined the[view more](#)

Traders protest smart lockdown, inflation

Source: [Bureau Report](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-07-19

PESHAWAR: Traders on Saturday held a protest rally against smart lockdowns and warned to open their shops if the government further extended the restrictions in the provincial capital. The rally was organised by Tajir Itehad Khyber Pakhtunkhwa outside the Peshawar Press Club, where the participants shouted slogans against the lockdowns, price hike, increase in different taxes, power tariff, and demanded special relief package. Holding banners a.....[view more](#)

Covid-19 claims three more lives

Source: [Bureau Report](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-07-20

PESHAWAR: Covid-19 death toll reached 1,142 as three more people died of the infection in the province on Sunday. A new report by Ministry of National Health Services Regulations and Coordination Islamabad said that 73 health

professionals died of the infection in the country and 19 of them belonged to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The deceased included nine doctors, five paramedics and one each nurse, medical technician and two Class-IV employees, it add.....[view more](#)

Two more die of coronavirus in Nowshera

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-07-19

NOWSHERA: Two more patients died of coronavirus while five others tested positive for the Covid-19 in the district on Saturday. With the new case, the number of persons infected by the viral disease reached 888 in the district since the outbreak of corona-virus pandemic in the country. Health department officials said that Muhammad Javed, 55, a resident of Samandar Garhi in Pabbi, and Shamsur Rahman, 80, a resident of Shaidu town, were under t.....[view more](#)

Anti-polio drive to begin in South Waziristan from 20th

Source: [Bureau Report](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-07-19

PESHAWAR: The government has decided to resume vaccination drives against polio in the province after four months and the first small scale campaign has been planned in South Waziristan from July 20 Speaking at a press conference at the Peshawar Press Club here on Saturday, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Health Minister Taimur Saleem Jhagra said that the anti-polio campaign would be carried out while strictly following the standard operating procedur.....[view more](#)

Punjab

Strong surveillance helped contain COVID-19 in ICT, claims DHO

Source: [Muhammad Qasim](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-07-18

Rawalpindi : The coronavirus illness, COVID-19 has claimed one life in Islamabad Capital Territory in last 24 hours taking death toll from the federal capital to 157 while the virus claimed no life in Rawalpindi district from where as many as 272 deaths due to the illness have already been reported. Following a trend of reduction in number of patients being tested positive, a total of 67 new patients have been tested positive from the twi.....[view more](#)

Power loadshedding amid COVID-19 vexes Pindiites

Source: [Ibne Ahmad](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-07-18

Power loadshedding goes on annoying city residents in the midst of coronavirus, as most of them including elders, women and children have to stay indoors. "With the increase in the country's power generation capacity as claimed by the government, load shedding should have become a thing of the past. But uneasiness frequently descends on city localities, because of load shedding," says Ghulam Shabbir. "Life has bec.....[view more](#)

COVID-19 drugs sale in black market annoys court

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-07-18

LAHORE:The Lahore High Court on Friday expressed serious dismay over sale of lifesaving injection "Actemra" in black market and increase in prices of COVID-19 related medicines. Without naming federal minister for Railways Sheikh Rashid Ahmad, Justice Sajid Mehmood Sethi observed that if a federal minister could not find the injection from open market what to talk about the helplessness of common people. The railways minister had te.....[view more](#)

198 patients recover from COVID-19 in 24 hours

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-07-18

LAHORE:The Punjab government has released the data and statistics about facilities, including treatment, high dependency units, isolation wards and ventilators available in all hospitals on directives from the provincial Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid here Friday. As per the latest data released by the Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department and the Specialised Healthcare and Medical Education Department, around 61,204 patients have recove.....[view more](#)

One more dies in twin cities, 67 test positive

Source: [Muhammad Qasim](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-07-18

Rawalpindi: The coronavirus illness, COVID-19 has claimed one life in Islamabad Capital Territory in last 24 hours taking death toll from the federal capital to 157 while the virus claimed no life in Rawalpindi district from where as many as 272 deaths due to the illness have already been reported. Following a trend of reduction in number of patients being tested positive, a total of 67 new patients have been tested positive from the twin cities.....[view more](#)

25 shops sealed, 122 vehicles impounded over SOPs violation

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-07-18

LAHORE - The City district administration, during an inspection in the provincial capital on Friday, sealed 25 shops, impounded 122 commercial and private vehicles and imposed Rs 51,300 fine over the violation of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), announced by the government to prevent the spread of COVID-19 virus. A spokesperson for the city district administration said that violation of the SOPs would not be tolerated and all shops and[view more](#)

Virus claims eight more lives in Punjab

Source: [Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-07-19

LAHORE: Punjab on Saturday reported another eight deaths, representing a slide in corona toll, and taking the victims' number to 1,985. In the last 24 hours, as per primary and secondary health care department data, it conducted 7,879 tests and found out 442 new cases – taking the total provincial figure to 89,465. During the same period, it received 9,729 suspected cases, and 442 tested positive for the virus out of them. The city.....[view more](#)

Cattle traders seem to be wary of Covid protocol

Source: [Correspondent, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-07-19

GUJRAT: Traders seem to be least interested in selling their sacrificial animals at officially declared points in most parts of the district owing to adherence to Covid protocol. However, the local authorities in civic agencies have been pressing the cattle dealers to opt for official sale points for doing the business since these spots are facilitated with veterinary, livestock and health departments to ensure implementation of standard operati.....[view more](#)

Public cooperation the only way to cope with Covid-19: Buzdar

Source: [News Desk, Daily Times](#), 2020-07-19

Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar Saturday said that strictly following the precautionary measures to stop the spread of coronavirus is utmost necessary on the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha. "By the grace of Allah Almighty, sincere efforts of the government as well as the cooperation of the people have greatly helped to deal with coronavirus. The people should not let go precautionary measures on Eid-ul-Adha, as well," the chief mini.....[view more](#)

12 die of coronavirus in Punjab

Source: [Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-07-20

LAHORE: As many as 12 more coronavirus patients died in Punjab on Sunday. The number of coronavirus deaths has reached 2,079. The primary and secondary healthcare department has reported 328 new coronavirus cases in Punjab which takes the total number of patients to 89,793. Of the 328 new coronavirus cases, 133 cases have been reported from Lahore, 31 from Gujrat, 26 from Faisalabad, 18 from[view more](#)

'Pindi sees downward trend in new Covid-19 cases in last one week'

Source: [Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-07-20

RAWALPINDI: As many as 13 patients tested positive for Covid-19 in the garrison city on Sunday while 180 suspected patients were waiting for their results. "The number of patients in government hospitals has been decreasing in the last one week, and a few serious patients need ventilators. Some patients who needed oxygen have now been shifted to ventilators due to their condition. The graph of serious patients is static," said Commis.....[view more](#)

COVID-19 can't be contained without public cooperation: Usman Buzdar

Source: [News Desk, Daily Times](#), 2020-07-20

Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar has said that public cooperation is highly significant to contain the spread of corona pandemic. He called upon the masses to continuously implement SOPs in the backdrop of corona pandemic. Usman Buzdar stressed that maintenance of social distance policy will ensure public safety. CM asserted

that violation of SOPs on the eve of Eid-ul-Azha will not be tolerated at any cost. He urged upon the masses to le.....[view more](#)

Pakistan tops 200,000 recovered coronavirus cases

Source: [Agencies / web desk](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-07-19

KARACHI/LAHORE: The number of recovered coronavirus patients surpassed 200,000 mark as the confirmed infections reached 263,365 with the death toll rising to 5,565 on Sunday. Of 263,365 cases, Sindh reported 112,118 cases, Punjab 89793, Balochistan 11,424, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa 31,890, Gilgit Baltistan 1,796 and Azad Jammu and Kashmir 1,840. Meantime, 204,017 patients have successfully recovered so far and have been sent back home. The National Co.....[view more](#)

One death, 77 new cases from twin cities

Source: [Muhammad Qasim](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-07-20

Rawalpindi : Coronavirus illness, COVID-19 has claimed one more life here in Rawalpindi district from where only five new cases have been confirmed positive in last 24 hours taking total number of patients so far reported from the district to 5,764. However, from Islamabad Capital Territory, another 72 patients have been tested positive for the disease taking tally to 14,576 on Sunday however the virus did not claim any life in ICT in last 24 ho.....[view more](#)

Rooster market hit by pandemic

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-07-20

Rawalpindi :The COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdowns have severely affected traditional 'Aseel' Roosters Market at Dingi Khoi area that has been a source of livelihood for a large number of people during last so many years. Every Friday when shops and business centres at Dingi Khoi observe weekly holiday both Aseel Roosters sellers and buyers start gathering on footpaths and some parts of the main roads where deals are done inv.....[view more](#)

SOPs violation on Eid will not be tolerated: CM Usman Buzdar

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-07-20

LAHORE:Chief Minister Usman Buzdar has said that public cooperation is highly significant to contain the spread of corona pandemic. He called upon the masses to continuously implement SOPs in the backdrop of corona pandemic. Usman Buzdar stressed that maintenance of social distance policy will ensure public safety. He asserted that violation of SOPs on Eid will not be tolerated at any cost. He urged upon the masses to learn to live with coronavi.....[view more](#)

12 die from COVID-19 in province

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-07-20

LAHORE:The death of 12 more COVID-19 patients raised the toll to 2,079 in Punjab, while the number of confirmed cases of novel coronavirus reached 89,793 with the addition of 328 new infections in the province, according to a report issued by Primary and Secondary Healthcare (P&SH) Department on Sunday. Out of a total of 89,793 infections in Punjab, as many as 87,013 people contracted the virus through local transmission. The remaining 2,780.....[view more](#)

One death, 77 new cases of COVID-19 from twin cities

Source: [Muhammad Qasim, The News, International](#), 2020-07-20

Rawalpindi: Coronavirus illness, COVID-19 has claimed one more life here in Rawalpindi district from where only five new cases have been confirmed positive in last 24 hours taking total number of patients so far reported from the district to 5,764. However, from Islamabad Capital Territory, another 72 patients have been tested positive for the disease taking tally to 14,576 on Sunday however the virus did not claim any life in ICT in last 24 hour.....[view more](#)

Environment inspector dies of corona

Source: [Our Correspondent, The News, International](#), 2020-07-20

TOBA TEK SINGH: Environment Department Inspector Muhammad Zulfiqar, 55, died of coronavirus here on Sunday. He had been suffering from fever and severe chest infection for the last seven days. The Health Department had sent his throat and nasal swabs to Fsb Allied Hospital.[view more](#)

Sindh

With 14,027 defeating COVID-19, Sindh reports highest number of recovered patients in 24 hours

Source: [M Waqar Bhatti, The News, International](#), 2020-07-18

The novel coronavirus claimed 30 more lives during the last 24 hours, raising the death toll 1,952 in the province, said Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said on Friday. "With 30 more deaths overnight due to COVID-19 in the province, the death toll now stands at 1,952. Also, 1,170 more people have tested positive for the contagious disease in the last 24 hours," the chief minister said in his daily situation report on COVID-19.....[view more](#)

Covid-19 claims 30 more lives, infects 1,170 others: Murad

Source: [Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-07-18

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah Friday said for the first time 14,027 patients of coronavirus have recovered overnight while 30 more patients died and 1,170 new cases emerged. This he said in a statement issued here from CM House. The CM said that since the start of pandemic, for the first time 14027 patients have recovered overnight. The number of patients recovered so far has reached to 88,103 that constituted a 79 p.....[view more](#)

COVID-19 claims 30 more lives, infects 1,170 others in Sindh: CM Sindh

Source: [APP, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-07-18

KARACHI -Chief Minister of Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that for the first time 14027 patients of coronavirus have recovered overnight while 30 more patients died and 1170 new cases emerged. This was stated in a statement issued here from CM House on Friday. The CM said that since the start of pandemic, for the first time 14027 patients have recovered overnight. The number of patients recovered so far has reached to 88,103 that co.....[view more](#)

NITB, NCOC to use TPL Trakker's AI, Location Based Services for multiple COVID-19 applications

Source: [Press Release, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-07-18

KARACHI-TPL Trakker, Pakistan's leading IoT company, has been chosen as the primary Location Based Services (LBS) provider by the NITB (National Information Technology Board) and NCOC (National Command and Operation Center) to support multiple national-level applications as part of Pakistan's fight against COVID-19. Through this collaboration, TPL Maps, the mapping arm of TPL Trakker, will continue its critical role in helping the peo.....[view more](#)

Centre, Sindh discuss strategy to contain Covid spread

Source: [Imran Ayub](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-07-19

KARACHI: The federal and Sindh governments on Saturday agreed on joint efforts to contain the spread of coronavirus and warned that the recent decline in Covid-19 cases should not send a wrong message as people had to be more cautious and careful during Eidul Azha and Muharram. In the first meeting of its kind held at CM House, which was hosted by Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah and chaired by federal Planning and Development Minister Asad Um.....[view more](#)

16 of 2,580 policemen infected by Covid-19 died, meeting told

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-07-19

KARACHI: Covid-19 has infected 2,580 policemen; 16 of them have died and 1,604 are under treatment while 960 have recovered. Therefore, the policemen being front-line workers have been given necessary training so that they could perform their duty safely. This was stated on Saturday in a meeting of the Public Safety and Police Complaints Commission here at CM House under the chairmanship of Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah. The meeting[view more](#)

Polio drive to kick start in Pakistan today after being disrupted by COVID-19

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-07-20

KARACHI: Polio workers spring back to action on Monday in Karachi, Quetta, South Waziristan and other parts of the country to vaccinate children after the campaign for the vaccine was suspended due to the coronavirus pandemic. In Karachi, children under the age of five years will be vaccinated during a small-scale polio vaccination campaign in selected areas of the metropolis, which include Baldia Town, Orangi, North Nazimabad, Liaquatabad and S.....[view more](#)

Pakistan tops 200,000 recovered coronavirus cases

Source: [Agencies / web desk](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-07-19

KARACHI/LAHORE: The number of recovered coronavirus patients surpassed 200,000 mark as the confirmed infections reached 263,365 with the death toll rising to 5,565 on Sunday. Of 263,365 cases, Sindh reported 112,118 cases, Punjab 89793, Balochistan 11,424, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa 31,890, Gilgit Baltistan 1,796 and Azad Jammu and Kashmir 1,840. Meantime, 204,017 patients have successfully recovered so far and have been sent back home. The National Co.....[view more](#)

COVID-19 claims 19 more lives, infects another 889 in Sindh

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-07-20

Nineteen more people have died due to COVID-19 and another 889 cases have been reported during the past 24 hours in Sindh, with the death toll due to the viral disease reaching 1,993 in the province. Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said in his daily situation report on the health emergency on Sunday that 7,977 samples were tested in the past 24 hours, resulting in 889 people, or 11 per cent of those who were screened, being diagnosed with COV.....[view more](#)

With 22 more victims, Sindh's COVID-19 death toll nears 2,000

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-07-20

Twenty-two more people have died due to COVID-19 and another 880 cases have been reported during the past 24 hours in Sindh, with the death toll due to the viral disease reaching 1,974 in the province. Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said in his daily situation report on the health emergency on Saturday that 9,270 samples were tested in the past 24 hours, resulting in 880 people, or 9.5 per cent of those who were screened, being diagnosed with.....[view more](#)

Over 3279 Covid-19 patients recover overnight: Sindh CM

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-07-19

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has said 3,280 more Covid-19 patients recovered overnight raising the tally of the cured patients to 91,383 and 22 more patients died lifting the death toll to 1,974 while 880 new cases emerged out of 9,270 samples. In a statement issued on Saturday from the CM House, he said the recovery rate of Covid-19 patients was increasing day-by-day which was evident from the recovery of 3,280 more patients.....[view more](#)

International News

Countries News

Mosquitoes flying free as health departments focus on virus

Source: [News Desk](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-07-18

Bug spray, swollen welts, citronella. It's mosquito season. And in a normal year, the health department serving Ohio's Delaware County would be setting out more than 90 mosquito traps a week – black tubs of stagnant water with nets designed to ensnare the little buggers. But this year, because of COVID-19, the mosquitoes will fly free. The coronavirus has pulled the staffers away, so they haven't set a single trap yet this y.....[view more](#)

Exposed by son, man fights COVID-19 in Florida hospital

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-07-18

For weeks, Michelle Zymet pleaded with her stepson to avoid going out with friends and to always wear a mask. "It's just not the time," the Florida woman says she told him, begging him to think about his dad, who is at a higher risk of severe COVID-19 illness because he is overweight and diabetic. One evening in early June, the young man went out against her wishes, gathered with friends and removed his mask while eating and.....[view more](#)

As virus surges, Trump escalates conflict with Fauci

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-07-18

Anthony Fauci, the United States' top infectious disease specialist, likes to focus on science — but his honest takes on America's failures to get a grip on COVID-19 have brought him into ever greater conflict with President Donald Trump. As director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, the physician-scientist has led the country's response to every epidemic since the 1980s, earning particular accla.....[view more](#)

Spain's exhausted medics demand post-virus job security

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-07-18

Spain hailed its medic heroes during the coronavirus crisis, but as infections fall many frontline staff have been left depressed and traumatised by their experience, fearful of an insecure future. With 36.3 percent of public healthcare workers without a permanent contract, according to one survey, demonstrations calling for change are growing. "We have to end this low-budget health system," says Patricia Calvo, a 40-year-o.....[view more](#)

Sweden tops EU for new cases but says virus is slowing

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-07-18

Sweden, whose softer approach to fighting the novel coronavirus drew global attention, has one of the EU's highest rates of new cases but authorities say the spread is slowing. In the last two weeks, Sweden was only second to Luxembourg in the EU in terms of new cases per capita with new infections more than six times the European Union average. Unlike most European nations, Sweden never imposed a lockdown and made headlines for it.....[view more](#)

Trump wants a 2016 repeat in a very different year

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-07-18

In the summer of 2016, Donald Trump was trailing in the polls. With time running out, he changed up his campaign leadership team, though not his own mercurial behavior. Four years later, and in the midst of another summer slump, Trump is hoping a similar campaign shakeup will help put him on the path to another come-from-behind victory in

November, this time against Democrat Joe Biden. But there are multiple reasons why 2020 is a very different.....[view more](#)

Tourists facing restrictions amid fears of new virus spikes

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-07-18

From the palm-fringed beaches of southern India to the bar-lined streets of a Spanish island and the rolling hills of Ireland, restaurants, pubs and clubs have emerged as front lines in efforts to prevent the re-emergence of the coronavirus. With Europe's summer vacation season kicking into high gear for millions weary of months of lockdown, scenes of drunken British and German tourists on Spain's Mallorca island ignoring social distan.....[view more](#)

UN issues \$10.3bn coronavirus appeal

Source: [News Desk](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-07-18

The United Nations Friday called on wealthy countries to 'step up now or pay the price later', warning that the coronavirus crisis will 'wreak havoc' in developing countries. Mark Lowcock, UN under-secretary for humanitarian affairs, made that call, as he released an updated \$10.3 billion appeal to fight pandemic that has hit 63 low-income countries. "The pandemic and associated global recession are about to wreak hav.....[view more](#)

Amid pandemic, Nicaragua drops celebration, readies monument

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-07-19

President Daniel Ortega's government is being deterred by the coronavirus from holding the usual mass celebration to mark the July 19 victory of Nicaragua's revolution. Instead, it will unveil a new addition to its collection of monuments in the old city center of Managua. The 3½-ton Peace Bell will toll atop a 55-foot (17 meter) concrete tower not far from a grove of "Trees of Life," the huge abstract steel trees p.....[view more](#)

In Ecuador, families finally recover bodies lost in virus chaos

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-07-19

For Colon Ramirez, the agonizing search for the body of his grandmother is finally over. After almost four months, he has finally found and buried the missing 83-year-old Emilia Villon, who died in Ecuador's virus hotspot Guayaquil. The remains of his grandmother, together with more than 200 other unidentified bodies, were lost in refrigerated containers piled high with cadavers when the city's hospitals were overwhelmed with the sick a.....[view more](#)

Australian PM seeks to delay parliament due to COVID-19

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-07-19

Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison sought on Saturday to postpone an early-August sitting of parliament, saying the increased community transmissions of the novel coronavirus in the country's two most-populous states have made it too risky. Morrison said he had consulted with the parliamentary opposition and had asked the speaker to postpone the two-week session. As the request is largely a formality, lawmakers are expected to meet in[view more](#)

In Bolivian city, people buy fake — and toxic — virus cure

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-07-19

Long lines form every morning in one of the Bolivian cities hardest hit by the coronavirus pandemic as desperate people wait to buy small bottles of chlorine dioxide, a toxic bleaching agent that has been falsely touted as a cure for

COVID-19 and myriad other diseases. The rush in the city of Cochabamba to buy a disinfectant known to cause harm to those who ingest it comes even after the Bolivian Health Ministry warned of its dangers and said at l.....[view more](#)

Rouhani says 25 million Iranians infected with COVID-19

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-07-19

Iran's President Hassan Rouhani said on Saturday that 25 million Iranians have been infected with the coronavirus and that another 35 million are at risk of acquiring it. The figures, which Rouhani said were based on a new Health Ministry report, are far higher than Iran's official toll of 269,440 infected. Rouhani in a televised speech did not address the discrepancy. Iran, with a population of more than 80 million, has been the Middle Ea.....[view more](#)

Indonesia overtakes China with highest coronavirus cases in East Asia

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-07-19

Indonesia overtook China on Saturday as the country with the most confirmed coronavirus cases in East Asia with 84,882 infections, and authorities said the actual infection rate could be higher due to undetected cases. Data from the country's COVID-19 task force showed 1,752 new coronavirus infections on Saturday and 59 fatalities, taking the coronavirus-related death toll to 4,016. China, where the first cases of the coronavirus were repor.....[view more](#)

Virus rebounds around world as deaths top 600,000

Source: [Ap](#), [Dawn](#), [Islamabad](#), 2020-07-20

BERLIN: The coronavirus pandemic has found fresh legs around the world, as confirmed deaths pass 600,000 and countries from the US to South Africa to India struggle to contain a surge of new infections. Hong Kong on Sunday issued tougher new rules on wearing face masks, Spain closed overcrowded beaches and Germany reported another outbreak at a slaughterhouse. Pope Francis said the pandemic was showing no sign of stopping and urged compassion f.....[view more](#)

EU virus recovery summit struggles to find accord

Source: [AFP](#), [Dawn](#), [Islamabad](#), 2020-07-20

BRUSSELS: An EU summit to agree a huge coronavirus economic rescue package was at risk of collapse without a deal on Sunday as bickering leaders struggled to find compromises on a third day of talks. The 27 leaders have argued for more than two days over the scale and rules for the package, with the Netherlands leading a band of "frugal" allies in demanding lower budgets and tougher conditions for handouts. At the start of what she[view more](#)

'It's a hoax' say California's anti-mask proponents

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-07-20

For Davey, a resident of the city of Huntington Beach in southern California, the requirement to wear a mask to curb the spread of coronavirus is not something he takes seriously. "It's a hoax," the 51-year-old told AFP as he exited a clothing store maskless, referring to a state rule that people in most public places wear face coverings. "The more you test people, the more you come up with new cases," he said, echoing.....[view more](#)

Brazil's indigenous chief Raoni hospitalized in weakened state

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-07-20

Indigenous leader Raoni Metuktire, one of the Amazon rainforest's best-known defenders, was transferred between hospitals Saturday due to weakness and a "worsening" state of health, one of the medical facilities said. Raoni, a chief of the Kayapo people in northern Brazil, was likely suffering from a digestive hemorrhage, said Santa Ines Hospital, in the small town of Colider in Mato Grosso state, where he was admitted Thursday. R.....[view more](#)

Ebola cases rise in new DR Congo outbreak

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-07-20

The Ebola outbreak in the DR Congo's northwest is growing, according to health officials, sounding the alarm weeks after the country officially declared an end to a separate Ebola epidemic which claimed over 2,000 lives. There have been 54 confirmed cases since June 1 in Mbandaka, a transport hub in Equateur province, including 22 deaths, according to figures released by the country's health ministry on Friday. There were four additiona.....[view more](#)

No end in sight, Congress confronts new virus crisis rescue

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-07-20

It stands as the biggest economic rescue in US history, the \$2.2 trillion coronavirus relief bill swiftly approved by Congress in the spring. And it's painfully clear now, as the pandemic worsens, it was only the start. With COVID-19 cases hitting alarming new highs and the death toll rising, the pandemic's devastating cycle is happening all over again, leaving Congress little choice but to engineer another costly rescue. Businesses ar.....[view more](#)

Breathtaking virus numbers show normal life still far away

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-07-20

South Africa on Saturday became one of the top five worst-hit countries in the coronavirus pandemic, as breathtaking new infection numbers around the world were a reminder that a return to normal life is still far from sight. The World Health Organization again reported a single-day record of new infections with 259,848. South Africa's 350,879 cases make up roughly half of all confirmed infections on the African continent and its struggles ar.....[view more](#)

Afghan refugee leaders in Pakistan run awareness campaign about COVID-19

Source: [Tahir Khan](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-07-20

Representatives of the Afghan refugees in Pakistan are running a campaign among the over two million refugees to protect themselves from the coronavirus and to contain the pandemic in camps, a refugee leader said on Sunday. Pakistan still hosts more than 1.4 million registered Afghan refugees, holding Proof of Registration (PoR) cards, according to the UN refugee agency. PoR cards grant Afghan refugees the right to temporary legal stay in Pakistan.....[view more](#)

Stranded on ships, 200,000 seafarers struggle in virus limbo

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-07-20

Indian ship worker Tejasvi Duseja is desperate to go home after months stranded offshore by coronavirus border closures and lockdowns that have left more than 200,000 seafarers in limbo. From engineers on cargo ships to waiters on luxury cruise liners, ocean-based workers around the world have been caught up in what the United Nations warns is a growing humanitarian crisis that has been blamed for several suicides. Many have been trapped on vessels[view more](#)

Netanyahu's corruption trial resumes amid coronavirus protests

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-07-20

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's graft trial resumed on Sunday after a two-month break amid mounting protests over his alleged corruption and handling of the coronavirus crisis. Netanyahu, the first serving Israeli prime minister to go on trial, did not attend what a spokesman for the prosecution said would be a technical discussion. His presence was not required at the session in Jerusalem District Court, where he appeared in May[view more](#)

EU struggles to agree virus recovery deal as global deaths surge

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-07-20

EU leaders battled to save a beleaguered 750 million euro (\$860 million) virus recovery package at a summit on Sunday, as global deaths soared past 600,000 and Hong Kong raised the alarm about its growing outbreak. The United States — the worst-affected country by far — ended a week in which it registered its highest figures for new cases for three days running, taking its total towards 3.7 million infections and 140,00 deaths. The vir.....[view more](#)

Worldwide death toll from coronavirus passes 600,000

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-07-20

Countries including the US, South Africa and India are struggling to hold down rising rates of coronavirus as global deaths from Covid-19 surged past 600,000. While the US leads global infections, South Africa now ranks as the fifth worst-hit country in the pandemic with 350,879 cases – roughly half of all those confirmed on the African continent. Its struggles are a sign of trouble to come for nations with even fewer healthcare resources. Ind.....[view more](#)

Rare air: US meatpackers try air cleaning tech after COVID-19 outbreaks

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-07-20

Two of the world's largest meatpackers said on Friday they have installed ultraviolet air cleaning equipment in some US plants, as pressure mounts on food companies to protect workers amid growing concerns about airborne transmission of the coronavirus. JBS USA, owned by Brazil's JBS SA and one of four major US beef processors, said it installed "ultraviolet germicidal air sanitation" equipment in plant ventilation and air[view more](#)

Iran's rial hits new low on unofficial market; virus, sanctions weigh

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-07-20

The Iranian rial fell to a new low against the US dollar on the unofficial market on Saturday and has now seen its value fall by almost half in 2020 as the economy comes under pressure from the coronavirus pandemic and US sanctions. The dollar was offered for as much as 255,300 rials, up from 242,500 on Friday, according to foreign exchange site Bonbast.com. The economic daily Donya-e-Eqtasad's website gave the dollar rate as 252,300, compar.....[view more](#)

Russia hopes to produce 200 million doses of coronavirus vaccine this year

Source: [AFP](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-07-20

MOSCOW: Russia hopes to complete trials of a coronavirus vaccine in August and produce 200 million doses with foreign partners by the end of the year, the head of its sovereign wealth fund said Monday. The Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF), which manages some \$10 billion, is working with a government research institute on one of

several vaccine projects in the country. RDIF chief executive Kirill Dmitriev said he hoped the project would rec.....[view more](#)

Coronavirus reveals ‘fragility of our world’: UN chief

Source: [AFP](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-07-19

JOHANNESBURG: Coronavirus has revealed the “fragile skeleton” of societies and could push 100 million people into extreme poverty, United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres said on Saturday. Speaking on the 102nd birthday anniversary of the late Nelson Mandela — South Africa’s first black president — Guterres said coronavirus was “shining a spotlight” on global injustice. “We have been[view more](#)

Donors News

Mayor of Chinese city donates 20,000 masks to Karachi commissioner

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-07-20

The mayor of Zhangjiajie city of China has donated 20,000 medical surgical masks to Karachi Commissioner Iftikhar Shallwani to help fight the coronavirus pandemic. The gift was handed to the commissioner at his office. According to a statement issued by the Commissioner Office, Shallwani thanked the Chinese government, especially the mayor of Zhangjiajie for helping the city administration deal with the pandemic. The commissioner said Pakistan h.....[view more](#)

SDPI Engagements

Researchers Articles

Turning to agriculture

Source: [Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-07-19

For decades, we were taught that agriculture is the backbone of our country's economy. In the 1990s, however, we found that the contribution of the services sector in our Gross Domestic Product (GDP) equaled the share of agriculture and manufacturing sectors combined. In fact, the services sector constituted 61.40 percent of GDP in 2019-20. On the other hand, agriculture and manufacturing each had a 19 percent contribution in it that year.[view more](#)

Pakistan's agriculture sector and CPEC

Source: [Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri & Shakeel Ramay](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-07-19

Looking back at the history of economic cooperation under the first phase of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) one notes two important points. First, that Pakistan could have better negotiated the terms of business with the Chinese private sector for energy projects and second, that CPEC is so far a predominately demand-driven initiative from Pakistan's perspective. Unlike Bretton Woods institutions, China does not prescribe a panacea.....[view more](#)

'Climate action to boost socioeconomic conditions'

Source: [Afshan S. Khan](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-07-19

Islamabad : Environmental experts while speaking to a webinar participants have expressed that Pakistan's green initiatives would bring positive change in the local environment, reduce vulnerability to natural disasters, and improve social health and economic conditions if implemented in letter and spirit. They mentioned that the outcome of Pakistan's climate action would contribute to the regional and global targets detailed[view more](#)

Webinars News

Pandemic promoted virtual learning

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-07-18

ISLAMABAD: Experts see the coronavirus pandemic as an opportunity and emphasised for adapting to change and pay immediate attention on improving technological infrastructure accordingly to avail the opportunities that post-pandemic world offers in the field of learning and development, a press release said. The experts on learning and development from various national and international institutions said this while sharing their views with the p.....[view more](#)

Pandemic opportunity to adapt to virtual learning

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-07-18

Islamabad : To avail the opportunities that After-Covid19 world offers in the field of learning and development, we need to be quickly adaptive to change and pay immediate attention on improving our technological infrastructure accordingly. The experts on learning and development from various national and international institutions said this while sharing their views with the participants at online dialogue 'Learning and Development in a Vi.....[view more](#)

Pandemic opportunity to adapt to virtual learning

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-07-18

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Experts see COVID-19 as opportunity for adapting to virtual learning

Source: [News Desk](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-07-18

Experts see COVID-19 as an opportunity and emphasized for adapting to change and pay immediate attention on improving our technological infrastructure accordingly to avail the opportunities that After-Covid19 world offers in the field of learning and development. The experts on learning and development from various national and international institutions said this while sharing their views with the participants at online dialogue 'Learning.....[view more](#)

Experts see Covid-19 as an opportunity to adapt to virtual learning

Source: [Farrukh Shahzad](#), [Daily Islamabad Post](#), 2020-07-18

ISLAMABAD: To avail the opportunities that After-Covid19 world offers in the field of learning and development, we need to be quickly adaptive to change and pay immediate attention on improving our technological infrastructure accordingly. The experts on learning and development from various national and international institutions said this while sharing their views with the participants at online dialogue 'Learning and Development in a Vir.....[view more](#)

Experts see Covid-19 as opportunity for adapting to virtual learning

Source: [APP](#), [APP](#), 2020-07-18

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The textile industry needs state support to survive COVID-19

Source: [Kamal Monnoo](#), [Global Village Space](#), 2020-07-20

Unfortunately with consumption in the EU and the USA collapsing, the lack of demand has resulted in industry closures not just in Pakistan, but also in competing countries like Bangladesh, India, China, Vietnam, Myanmar and others. Last week SDPI (Sustainable Development Policy Institute) organized through webinar a "Consultative Dialogue on Textile & Garment Sector Outlook Amid Covid-19", between the Government, the World Bank (.....[view more](#)

Pakistan's green initiatives would reduce vulnerability to natural disasters

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-07-19

ISLAMABAD: Environmental experts while speaking to participants of a webinar said that Pakistan's green initiatives, if implemented in letter and spirit, would bring positive change in the local environment, reduce vulnerability to natural disasters, and improve social health and economic conditions. They mentioned that the outcome of Pakistan's climate action would contribute to the regional and global targets detailed in the[view more](#)

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