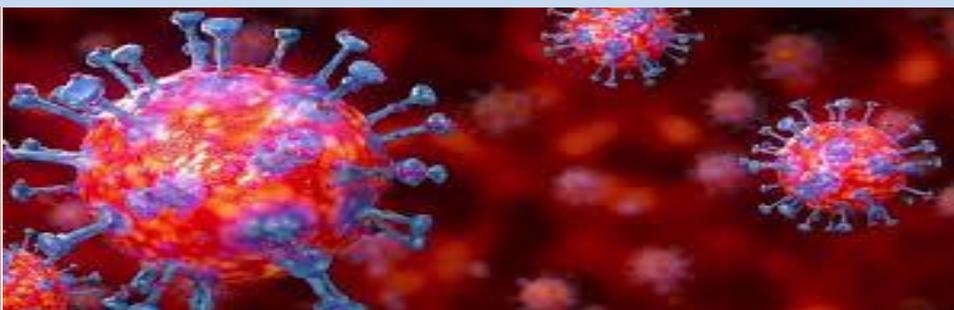


E-Newsletter on COVID-19



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.....About Newsletter

In order to keep abreast of emerging issues at the National/International and local level, the SDPI brings out a Bi-weekly E-Newsletter on “COVID-19”.

It carries reference information’s to the News items/Comments/Op-Eds appearing in leading National/International dailies.

Newspapers Covered:

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

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Op-Eds/Articles/Editorials

Op-Eds/Articles/Editorials

Opening up in a brave new world

Source: [Haya Fatima Sehgal](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-08-09

The recent news of the country officially opening up has brought up some rather interesting viewpoints. All seemingly fair given the fact the world is passing through the stages or going to be living with COVID-19, the global pandemic. That, or until a cure or a vaccine is discovered. The decision could not have been easy for the federal government to make and one can be sure it would have taken a lot of thought and deliberation on how things are.....[view more](#)

Going back to normalcy

Source: [Editorial](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-08-08

The National Coordination Committee (NCC) needs to tread carefully while going into the phased reopening of businesses in the COVID-19 pandemic era. The declining number of cases, and deaths stemming from the coronavirus-related issues, though suggest the gradual diminishing of the virus, it will be a sane strategy to watch the things closely before going for the phased resumption of businesses. A point to ponder in this regard is the sudden.....[view more](#)

Premature excitement!

Source: [Zeeshan Haider](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-08-10

In literal sense, the government has declared victory in the first round of fight against the new coronavirus. After a meeting of the National Coordination Committee, Planning Minister Asad Umar announced measures for resumption of normal life and business activities in the country with warning to the people that they stand guard against another wave of the pandemic and continue observing standard operating procedures (SOPs). All businesses are.....[view more](#)

Collateral damage

Source: [Editorial](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-10

THE Covid-19 outbreak has thus far claimed 700,000 lives across the world but the true magnitude of its impact will be felt in the months to come. As governments — including Pakistan's — divert their financial and health resources towards fighting the pandemic, severe collateral damage from these endeavours is being incurred by the primary healthcare infrastructure that plays a key role in the diagnosis and treatment of prevalen.....[view more](#)

When Kashmir held centre stage

Source: [Maleeha Lodhi](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-10

AUG 5, 2019:India illegally annexes Jammu and Kashmir, abrogates Article 370 of its constitution. Aug 8, 2019:UN secretary general expresses concern over the situation and reiterates that the UN's position on the dispute was governed by the Charter and "applicable Security Council resolutions". Aug 13, 2019:Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi writes to UNSC president requesting a Security Council meeting to discuss the situa.....[view more](#)

Coronavirus threat far from over in Pakistan, claims ICG report

Source: [Mariana Babar](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-08-10

ISLAMABAD: This week, Pakistan's scoreboard on COVID-19 showed 284,424 confirmed cases, 6,092 deaths and 260,248 recovered. Compared to many in the region, so far Pakistan appears to have the situation under control but

there is no way of knowing how the massive processions and gatherings during Muharram will alter the situation. The International Crisis Group (ICG), a think tank used by policymakers and academics, performing resea.....[view more](#)

Covid success and Imran's resurrected political capital

Source: [M Bilal Lakhani](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-09

Imran Khan is back from the dead. It was just a few weeks ago that his political obituary was being written by an opposition which smelled political blood around the government's handling of Covid-19. A hysterical mainstream media took the political temperature to fever pitch: Imran Khan is confused, incompetent and has Covid-19 blood on his hands. This government cannot deliver, a minus one formula is the need of the hour, screamed pundits.....[view more](#)

A declining nation

Source: [Editorial](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-10

Covid-19 is widespread in several parts of the US, particularly in the South, West, and parts of the Midwest. Additionally, 11 states reported more than 10,000 new cases in the last week. The number of coronavirus deaths in the most powerful nation on earth has crossed 164,000, and confirmed infections have topped 5 million. Still the disease shows no sign of slowing down. During the past few months, Americans have witnessed a complete collapse o.....[view more](#)

Pandemic weighs heavy on Pakistani expats

Source: [Zafar Bhutta](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-10

ISLAMABAD: Over 200,000 expatriates could not go abroad due to the Covid-19 pandemic, said the Pakistan Overseas Employment Promoters Association (POEPA) on Sunday. Addressing a news conference in the federal capital, POEPA Chairman Sarfaraz Zahoor Cheema noted that his association had completed all the formalities for sending the people abroad but the government had been indulging in blame game and was not taking steps to depart the overseas P.....[view more](#)

Need For Precautions

Source: [Editorial](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-08

Many called the slowdown in infections in Pakistan a miracle. The government pointed towards its own success and greater responsibility shown by the public to prevent further spread. It is undoubtable that the state performed its role diligently; if nothing else, the available hospital capacity for corona patients across Pakistan tells us that policies instituted are working. But once again, the number of cases after the Eid have risen in Punjab,.....[view more](#)

Jazz during Covid

Source: [BR Research](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-10

The leading mobile network operator is the last to announce its latest quarterly results. But the performance is in line with other operators in the so-called corona quarter (Apr-Jun 2020). As per fresh financials issued by Veon, the parent of Pakistan Mobile Communications Limited (Jazz), their Pakistan operations posted a topline decline of 8 percent year-on-year in the quarter ended June 30, 2020. Recall Telenor Pakistan quarterly topline fell.....[view more](#)

There's need for gap analysis

Source: [Farhat Ali](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-08

In July 2020, the export proceeds grew by 5.8 per cent to \$1.998 billion as per the data released by the Ministry of Commerce this week. Whereas, the import bill fell by 4.2 percentto \$3.54bn, over the corresponding month of last year. The start of the fiscal year, with exports up by 5.8 percent and imports down by 4.2 percent is a positive start in view of the fact that COVID-19 has severely hit the exports of all countries around the globe and[view more](#)

National News

Gilgit Baltistan

GB govt decides to resume tourism with SOPs

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-10

The Government of Gilgit-Baltistan has green signalled to resume tourism-related activities in the province, Chief Minister's spokesperson on Friday said. The Caretaker Chief Minister Mir Afzal Khan has issued instructions to open the tourism sector in the province with the implementation of standard operating procedures (SOP)s. The admission of visitors will be subject to the clearance of medical reports, the spokesperson said, adding[view more](#)

Islamabad

Country reports 1,772 Covid-19 recoveries

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-08

Islamabad/Karachi - Pakistan on Thursday reported another 1,772 coronavirus recoveries during the past 24 hours, according to government's portal for tracking the spread of the virus in the country. With the new recoveries, the total has risen to 256,058. The COVID-19 caseload in Pakistan had reached 281,863 with 727 new cases reported during last 24 hours, an official of National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Coronavirus said.....[view more](#)

Fresh SOPs issued for Aug 14, Muharram

Source: [Syed Irfan Raza](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-08

ISLAMABAD: With reports of an increase in Covid-19 cases in Punjab after Eidul Azha, the government has prepared standard operating procedures (SOPs) specific for the upcoming events of Independence Day and Muharram. A meeting of the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) was held on Friday which discussed, in detail, the roadmap and measures being adopted to open various sectors and the preparedness ahead of Independence Day celebrat.....[view more](#)

WB says cannot mediate in Pakistan-India water dispute

Source: [Khaleeq Kiani](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-08

ISLAMABAD: The World Bank has expressed its inability to take an independent decision on appointment of a neutral expert or court of arbitration for settlement of a long outstanding water dispute between Pakistan and India, saying the two countries will have to bilaterally choose one option. "Both India and Pakistan should come together as to which option to take forward," said Patchamuthu Illangovan, the World Bank's former Co.....[view more](#)

Explanation sought from UHS head for announcing vaccine test

Source: [Asif Chaudhry](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-08

LAHORE: The Punjab government has sought explanation from University of Health Sciences (UHS) Vice Chancellor (VC) Prof Dr Javed Akram for announcing the test of Australian vaccine COVAX-19 on active coronavirus patients in Lahore. Prof Akram told a media briefing on Thursday that the varsity would test vaccine after preliminary data from its phase-I trials on animals showed it was safe for humans and could generate an immune response. This Pun.....[view more](#)

Covid-19: tourists can enter Gilgit after showing medical reports

Source: [INP](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-08-08

The Government of Gilgit-Baltistan has green signalled to resume tourism-related activities in the province, Chief Minister's (CM) spokesperson on Friday said. The Caretaker Chief Minister Mir Afzal Khan has issued instructions to open the tourism sector in the province with the implementation of standard operating procedures (SOP)s. The admission of visitors will be subject to the clearance of medical reports, the spokesperson said, adding t.....[view more](#)

Business centres reopen as weekend lockdown lifted

Source: [Aamir Yasin | Munawer Azeem](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-09

ISLAMABAD: Business centres in the twin cities reopened on Saturday as the government lifted the weekend lockdown imposed in markets and bazaars. Meanwhile, another decrease was seen in the number of Covid-19 cases in the capital as 32 new patients emerged on Saturday. On Friday, 41 positive cases were reported in the city. Twelve cases were reported from the age group of 20-29 followed by eight from 30-39, five from 40-49, two each from 50-59,.....[view more](#)

Nationwide coronavirus cases jump to 283,137

Source: [Abdul Rasheed Azad](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-08

ISLAMABAD: The nationwide coronavirus cases, with the emergence of over 900 new cases, have jumped to 283,137; death toll to 6,061, and recoveries 258,128. According to the Covid-19-related data issued here on Friday by the federal government and the provincial authorities, the country over the past 24 hours have registered 916 Covid-19 cases. According to Chief Minister Sindh Murad Ali Shah the province reported 487 Covid-19 cases and nine[view more](#)

Corona lockdown ends today

Source: [Our Correspondent & Agencies](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-08-10

ISLAMABAD: As the lockdown is being lifted on Monday (today) and the government has announced an end to the state of coronavirus emergency in the country, tourism is limping back to normality after a hiatus of five months. Tourist destinations all over the country — including the federal capital — are slowly reopening and gearing to welcome visitors under safety measures outlined by the government. The step has been taken to revive a.....[view more](#)

Bill Gates acknowledges Pakistan's flattened Covid-19 curve

Source: [News Desk](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-08-10

ISLAMABAD: The Microsoft founder-turned-philanthropist Bill Gates has acknowledged Pakistan's flattened COVID-19 curve. In an interview with CNN, Bill Gates said the situation of coronavirus in Karachi, Pakistan, but like Europe, they worked hard to brought cases down. Coronavirus cases have witnessed massive decline in Pakistan in recent days after which the Pakistan government has decided to end the lockdown from today (Monday). In.....[view more](#)

PM urges people to take precautions during Muharram

Source: [Ikram Junaidi](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-10

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Sunday urged the nation to refrain from flouting standard operating procedures (SOPs) during Muharram despite a reduction in the number of Covid-19 cases. Speaking at a ceremony

in the federal capital, he lauded the PTI Tiger Force volunteers for their role in supporting the government's coronavirus response. "Today Pakistan is among those few countries that have successfully managed to contro.....[view more](#)

Coronavirus threat is not over: Imran Khan

Source: [News Desk](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-08-10

Expressing satisfaction over government's policy of smart lockdown and the public response against coronavirus pandemic, which resulted in bringing down the daily caseload, Prime Minister Imran Khan on Sunday asked the people to strictly follow the standard operating procedures (SOPs) as the coronavirus threat was not over. Addressing a big gathering of volunteers of the Tiger Force and people from different walk of life at Korang Park, th.....[view more](#)

Coronavirus kills 10, infects 634 in a day

Source: [News Desk](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-08-10

Pakistan on Sunday reported 10 deaths in last 24 hours by novel coronavirus as the number of positive cases has surged to 284,121. The nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 6,082. Sindh remains the worst-hit province by the pandemic in terms of cases followed by Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Islamabad. Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah said that 303 coronavirus cases and 10 deaths were reported in the province during the past 24 hours. In.....[view more](#)

260,764 patients COVID-19 recoveries in Pakistan

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-10

The total number of recovered coronavirus patients in the country has reached 260,764 making it a significant count. According to the latest statistics, there are now 17,799 active cases in Pakistan. 539 new cases were reported over the last twenty-four hours and 15 deaths were reported during this period.[view more](#)

Only 634 new coronavirus cases reported with 8 deaths

Source: [Tahir Niaz](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-10

ISLAMABAD - The number of coronavirus cases seems to be on the decline as, during the last 24 hours, only 8 new deaths were reported. According to fresh statistics, with the 634 new virus cases confirmed during the last 24 hours, the tally of COVID-19 cases has surged to 284,121 while with 8 new deaths, the nation-wide death toll has reached 6,082. The National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) has confirmed that 634 persons have been tes.....[view more](#)

Covid-19 outbreak; Over 0.2m Pakistanis unable to go abroad

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-10

ISLAMABAD: Over 0.2 million Pakistanis were unable to go to abroad due to the Covid-19 pandemic, this was claimed by Chairman Pakistan Overseas Employment Promoter Association (POEPA) Sarfaraz Zahoor Cheema, former chairman Chaudhry Muhammad Afzal and central executive committee in media briefing here on Sunday. Sarfaraz Zahoor Cheema also accused that we have completed all the formalities and government in spite of indulging in blame game an.....[view more](#)

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Govt spent Rs770m on treatment of Covid-19 patients, PA told

Source: [Mohammad Ashfaq](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-08

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has so far spent a total of Rs770 million funds on the treatment of coronavirus patients across the province, the provincial assembly was told on Friday. In written reply to a question of MPA Sirajuddin during the session chaired by Speaker Mushtaq Ahmad Ghani, the health department informed the house that it had spent Rs770 million on the treatment of the confirmed virus patients, purchase of medicine.....[view more](#)

Covid-19 claims another life as testing increases

Source: [Bureau Report](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-08

PESHAWAR: Covid-19 claimed one more life on Friday, taking the total death toll in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to 1,222, as the coronavirus testing kept increasing in the province during the last two days. The province also recorded 107 new cases, taking total number of patients to 34,539, according to a report released by the health department on Friday. The fresh victim belonged to Battagram district. The number of Covid-19 patients had dropped to 62.....[view more](#)

Punjab

Cholistan land package: Scrutiny of applications resumes after Covid recedes

Source: [Correspondent](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-08

BAHAWALPUR: The Cholistan Development Authority (CDA) has resumed scrutiny work of thousands of applications for free-of-cost allotment of state land in the desert to the eligible people. The scrutiny process was suspended in March due to Covid-19 pandemic, says CDA Managing Director Rana Saleem Ahmed Khan. He told Dawn that the scrutiny process had been resumed on the instructions of the Punjab Board of Revenue (BoR). A meeting to the effect w.....[view more](#)

Punjab reports 192 new cases of Covid-19, two deaths

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-08

LAHORE: Punjab reported 192 new cases of coronavirus during the last 24 hours, taking the total number of reported cases to 94,040 across the province. Moreover, two deaths were reported during the same period in the province, according to the official figures released by the health department on Friday. Of the new cases, 69 were reported from Lahore, 38 from Rawalpindi, 18 Gujrat, six Multan and five Bahawalpur. The total number of confirmed[view more](#)

Punjab sees sudden surge in coronavirus cases after Eid

Source: [News Desk](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-08-08

Punjab has witnessed a sudden increase in the number of COVID-19 new cases after Eidul Azha. The daily cases, which had dropped to below 100 on average during the last one week, again increased to around 300. Though, some medical experts were not perturbed and declared it a routine surge, others believed that it might be a signal for the beginning of the second wave of virus. Punjab reported 277 new confirmed cases of Covid-19 besides five deaths[view more](#)

183 more Covid-19 cases in Punjab

Source: [Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-09

LAHORE: Out of total 7,274 samples of the suspected patients of the Covid-19 obtained and sent for analysis during the last 24 hours in Punjab, 183 tested positive for the virus, taking the total number to 94,223 across the province. Of 183 cases, Lahore reported 40, Rawalpindi 16, Sialkot 14 and Bahawalpur 10. Other cases were reported from Nankana Sahib, Sheikhpura, Attock, Narowal, Gujrat, Mandi Bahauddin, Dera Ghazi Khan, Muzaffargarh, Raja.....[view more](#)

Covid-19: Punjab posts 192 new cases, two deaths

Source: [Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-08

LAHORE: As many as 192 have been found positive out of 7,022 tests conducted during the last 24 hours in Punjab, taking the tally of Covid-19 patients to 94,040. With two more fatalities, the total number of deaths on account of Covid-19 has reached to 2164 in the province. As per the data made available to Business Recorder, so far 761,581 tests were conducted across the province. Out of total 94,040 positive cases, 89.089 have been re.....[view more](#)

29 more test positive from twin cities

Source: [Muhammad Qasim, The News, International](#), 2020-08-10

Rawalpindi : Coronavirus illness, COVID-19 has not claimed any life in Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district in last 24 hours though another 29 patients have been tested positive for the illness from the region taking the tally to 21,167 of which 448 patients have died of the disease. It is important that the number of patients being tested positive for the illness has been on the significant decline but in fact, it is true[view more](#)

COVID-19 prevention SOPs issued for tourism

Source: [Shahab Ansari, The News, International](#), 2020-08-10

LAHORE:ON the recommendations of Technical Working Group (TWG), Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD) has issued the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for resumption of tourism in the Punjab province. According to the P&SHD, COVID-19 is a highly transmissible virus which spreads through respiratory droplets produced during coughing, sneezing and talking of the infected person. These droplets may contaminate the su.....[view more](#)

Separate SOPs for industry, markets on the cards: Rawalpindi commissioner

Source: [Aamir Yasin, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-10

RAWALPINDI: The government is working on preparing new standard operating procedures (SOPs) for different areas such as industrial units, bazaars, public places and parks, restaurants and offices to check the spread of Covid-19. This was stated by Commissioner Rawalpindi retired Capt Mohammad Mehmood on Sunday. He said the district administration was also working on testing inmates in the Adiala jail and orphanages for coronavirus. Meanwhile,[view more](#)

Cinemas, theatres reopen in Punjab today; SOPs issued

Source: [Agencies, Daily Times](#), 2020-08-10

The Punjab government on Sunday allowed cinemas and theatres to reopen from today (Monday), with strict enforcement of standard operating procedures (SOPs).A notification has been issued by Punjab Primary and Secondary Health Department in this regard. The primary & secondary health department has also issued SOPs under the instructions of Punjab govt. In order to maintain social distancing, 6-foot distance has been made mandatory in the cine.....[view more](#)

Punjab govt issues 14-point health SOPs for tourists

Source: [Imran Asghar](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-10

RAWALPINDI: As domestic tourists rushed to the hill station of Murree and other recreational spots in the district, the provincial government issued a 14-point, standard operating procedure (SOPs) for visitors. Amid plunging cases, the government has decided to relax the lockdown, imposed to curb the spread of the novel coronavirus (Covid-19). Domestic tourism and recreation including parks and other sites are reopening across the province in p.....[view more](#)

4 new COVID-19 cases reported in Attock

Source: [APP](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-10

ATTOCK - The Attock district after decline in novel coronavirus cases for around one week again witnessed an increase as four new cases were reported during the last 24 hours, it was officially said on Sunday. According to the report issued by the local health department, all the new four cases belonged to Hazro town of the district raising the tally to 584. District Attock Focal Person for COVID-19 Dr Asif Arbab Niazi has said that there are 40[view more](#)

Science Fuse to conduct webinar on Girls' Education

Source: [Press Release](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-10

LAHORE-Science Fuse, a social enterprise working to promote science education among young learners, is initiating a series of live conversations (webinars) focused on "Girls' Education during & beyond COVID-19". The 1st webinar in this series will be conducted on Monday, 10th AUGUST, 7 pm, live on FB.COM/SCIENCEFUSE. The first conversation is based on "How the digital divide is impacting children's, especially gi.....[view more](#)

Global market; Incentive schemes vital to keep industry competitive: SCCI chief

Source: [Sarmad Mahmud](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-10

SIALKOT: President Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) Muhammad Ashraf Malik in a press statement said that incentive schemes for the exporters are vital to keep the industry competitive in the international market especially considering the peculiar situation of the economy amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. The SCCI President further said that the Prime Minister Incentive Program (DDT and LTLTD) launched in 2016 provided a much-needed.....[view more](#)

Covid-19: Punjab posts 192 new cases, two deaths

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-08

LAHORE: As many as 192 have been found positive out of 7,022 tests conducted during the last 24 hours in Punjab, taking the tally of Covid-19 patients to 94,040. With two more fatalities, the total number of deaths on account of Covid-19 has reached to 2164 in the province. As per the data made available to Business Recorder, so far 761,581 tests were conducted across the province. Out of total 94,040 positive cases, 89,089 have been re.....[view more](#)

Sindh

9 more Covid-19 deaths

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-08

KARACHI: The coronavirus claimed nine more lives overnight lifting the death toll to 2,259 and infecting 487 others raising the tally to 123,246. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued here from CM House on Friday. Mr Shah said that out of 487 new cases, 221 were detected from Karachi.[view more](#)

Businesses to open on Monday, schools on Sept 15, says Sindh govt

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-09

KARACHI: Sindh's Provincial Task Force on Coronavirus on Saturday decided to reopen business activities all over the province from August 10 (Monday), as proposed by the National Coordination Committee (NCC). However educational institutions would reopen on Sept 15. The provincial government will once again review the situation in the first week of next month to go ahead with the plan. A meeting in this connection was held here on Saturda.....[view more](#)

PMA cautions govt against reopening all sectors 'in haste'

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-09

KARACHI: The Pakistan Medical Association has expressed its surprise over the government's decision to reopen all sectors at the same time. In a statement issued here, it said that the government had announced to open almost all sectors in the country from Aug 8, which the PMA described as a "decision in haste". According to the government announcement, schools and marriage halls would also reopen in September. The PMA said tha.....[view more](#)

The cost of working from home

Source: [Atif Khan](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-10

Working from home had always been a dream for people like me. Life had always been tough. Since I started working, even before graduation, life had been 9 to 5. Actually it started at 7 and ended at 7. Life had been about waking up on time, having breakfast fast enough to be sure to be out of the house in time to avoid the rush hour and clocking in at work by 9am (9:30am if you add the grace period!) True there was a certain thrill to it all, th.....[view more](#)

SOPs out for Muharram processions, majalis

Source: [Salis Bin Perwaiz](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-08-10

Following a consultative process with all stakeholders, including religious scholars, the interior ministry has issued standard operating procedures (SOP) and guidelines for majalis and processions to be held in and after Muharram given the coronavirus pandemic. According to the notification issued by the interior ministry for all provinces, large scale arrangements for food and beverages pose a risk for the virus spread. "Uniform i.....[view more](#)

How quickly can firms bounce back?

Source: [Afshan Subohi](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-10

With the easing of the lockdown, the return journey towards normalcy has begun in Pakistan. Businesses are gearing up to get back on track, trying to grasp challenges of a beaten world still grappling with the pandemic. There is a glimmer of hope but anxieties over changing market dynamics continue to haunt the business community. Beside other factors, the size, organisational agility, appetite for risk and preparedness towards digitisation infl.....[view more](#)

303 new COVID-19 cases: Murad

Source: [Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad](#) , 2020-08-10

KARACHI - Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said Sunday that 303 more patients of coronavirus were detected when 8,288 samples were tested and 10 patients lost their lives lifting the death toll to 2,272. In statement here yesterday, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said 8288 tests were conducted against which 303 more cases were detected. So far 826258 samples have been tested which diagnosed 123,849 cases, of them 115,741 pa.....[view more](#)

125 cops contracted coronavirus in past nine days: Sindh police

Source: [Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad](#) , 2020-08-10

KARACHI - As many as 3,240 police officials and personnel have contracted coronavirus in the Sindh province while performing their duties. The spokesman said that during the last nine days, 125 police personnel got infected with the virus. "18 officials and police personnel have succumbed to the virus so far," he said adding that currently, 990 cops were undergoing treatment while 2232 of the infected personnel had recovered fro.....[view more](#)

Covid-19: 303 new cases emerge across Sindh

Source: [Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#) , 2020-08-10

KARACHI: Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah on Sunday said that 303 new cases of Coronavirus have surfaced while 10 more patients died of the global pandemic during the last 24 hours, raising the death toll to 2,272 in the province. In a statement, the CM said around 8,288 samples were tested, of them 303 Covid-19 positive cases were detected. As many as 826,258 samples have so far been tested in the province, of them 123,849 Covi.....[view more](#)

International News

Countries News

India's virus cases double to 2m in three weeks

Source: [AFP](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-08

NEW DELHI: India's official coronavirus case tally hit two million on Friday, doubling in three weeks as the pandemic sweeps into smaller cities and rural areas, with experts warning the real toll could be much higher. A record daily jump of more than 60,000 fresh infections was recorded, according to health ministry data, making the South Asian giant only the third country to surpass the two million milestone after the United States and B.....[view more](#)

US job gains may have stalled in July amid virus spike

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-08-08

The promising jobs recovery in May and June may have come to a screeching halt in July as COVID-19 cases spiked and newly rehired workers in some states were sent home. Payrolls are expected to have risen by about two million last month in the government data due out Friday, but some economists warn the gain could be much lower and is at risk of declining in August, bad news for President Donald Trump who trails in polls behind Democratic contend.....[view more](#)

Possible coronavirus 'trouble ahead,' US cities warned, Ohio governor tests positive

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-08-08

White House health experts warned that even small rises in the percentage of people testing positive for COVID-19 in some US cities could mean trouble and urged local leaders to remain vigilant to avoid a surge. "This is a predictor of trouble ahead," Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's top infectious diseases official, told CNN on Thursday. The US death toll is now over 159,000 – the most in the world – with 4.8 million.....[view more](#)

Iraqi religious bodies house patients instead of pilgrims to help fight COVID-19

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-08-08

The holy Shi'ite city of Kerbala, which used to host pilgrims from all around the world, is now quarantining dozens of COVID-19 patients in apartment buildings owned by Imam Hussein shrine, one of Iraq's most powerful religious authorities. The shrine has also built 10 medical centres across the country and aims to build 10 more, to be put permanently at the disposal of the health ministry, adding 2,000 beds to the country's.....[view more](#)

US lifts advice to avoid all foreign travel due to pandemic

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-08-08

The United States on Thursday lifted a warning to its citizens to avoid all foreign travel due to the coronavirus pandemic, pointing to improvements. The State Department said it would instead resume considering each country on a case-by-case basis. "With health and safety conditions improving in some countries and potentially deteriorating in others, the Department is returning to our previous system," it said in a statement. ".....[view more](#)

US surpasses 160,000 coronavirus deaths as school openings near

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-08-08

US deaths from the coronavirus pandemic exceeded 160,000 on Friday, nearly a quarter of the world's total, according to a Reuters tally, as the country debates whether schools are ready to reopen their doors in the coming weeks. The country with the most coronavirus cases, the United States recorded 160,003 deaths and 4.91 million

cases. Coronavirus deaths are rising in 23 states and cases in 20 states, according to a Reuters analysis of da.....[view more](#)

17 participants of Kabul jirga test positive for coronavirus

Source: [Reuters](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-09

KABUL: At least 17 participants of an Afghan grand assembly tested positive for the new coronavirus, officials said on Saturday, a day after the high-profile gathering began in Kabul to deliberate over the fate of Taliban prisoners and the beginning of the peace process in the war-torn country. After being called by the Afghan government, the gathering, known as the Loya Jirga, began on Friday with over 3,600 participants amid tight security and.....[view more](#)

UK orders recall of 741,000 coronavirus testing kits

Source: [Reuters](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-09

LONDON: Randox Laboratories, a Northern Ireland-based medical technology company, has been instructed by Britain's medicines regulator to recall up to 741,000 coronavirus test kits from the national test and trace programme as a precautionary measure. The government had on July 15 instructed the programme, run by the National Health Service (NHS), to stop using the kits, citing concerns that they may not meet required safety standards. &l.....[view more](#)

Coronavirus deaths top 100,000 in Brazil

Source: [AFP](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-10

PARIS: The coronavirus death toll in Brazil topped 100,000 on Sunday from three million cases of infection, crossing the grim milestone after President Jair Bolsonaro said he had a "clear conscience" on his response to the outbreak. With 100,477 fatalities and 3,012,412 cases, the South American country of 212m people is the second hardest-hit by the Covid-19 pandemic after the United States. Brazil has seen about 478 deaths per mil.....[view more](#)

How To...

Source: [Melvin Smith, Ellen Van Oosten and Richard E. Boyatzis](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-10

Support your employees who can't return to the office Chances are that you have employees who fall into the high-risk group for coronavirus and who may be unwilling or unable to return to an office when you reopen. Managers need to develop a specific plan for these employees. Support their ability to continue working from home, if possible. While working remotely isn't ideal for everyone, the pandemic has shown that it's doable.....[view more](#)

US job growth forecast to slow sharply in July

Source: [Reuters](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-10

US employment growth likely slowed significantly in July amid a resurgence in new Covid-19 infections, which would provide the clearest evidence yet that the economy's recovery from the recession caused by the pandemic was faltering. The Labour Department's closely watched employment report could pile pressure on the White House and Congress to speed up negotiations on another aid package. Talks have been dragging over differences on.....[view more](#)

Economic meltdown threatens Europe's war on plastic

Source: [Reuters](#), [Dawn](#), [Islamabad](#), 2020-08-10

Giving a new life to plastic trash gets Carlos Bento out of bed every morning. But the coronavirus pandemic has seen revenues drop up to 40 per cent at Micronipol, the large recycling facility he runs in central Portugal, and it faces an uncertain future. Micronipol produces recycled polyethylene, the base for plastic bags and bottles. The product is piling up at its warehouses as clients, facing their own economic struggles, shelve their recycl.....[view more](#)

Trump signs orders for Covid-19 relief as talks hit deadlock

Source: [AFP](#), [Dawn](#), [Islamabad](#), 2020-08-10

BEDMINSTER: President Donald Trump on Saturday signed executive actions extending financial relief to Americans hit by the coronavirus pandemic as polls showed a large majority of voters unhappy with his handling of the crisis. The four measures marked a presidential show of strength after Trump's Republican party and White House team failed to agree with opposition Democrats in Congress on a new stimulus package aimed at stopping vulnerab.....[view more](#)

Schools face big virus test as students return to classroom

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-08-10

Reopening schools is easy. Keeping them open will be the hard part. As educators prepare to welcome students back to class for the first time in months, schools' ability to quickly identify and contain coronavirus outbreaks before they get out of hand will be put to the test in thousands of districts around the country. Newly reopened schools in Mississippi, Indiana and Georgia have already reported infections just days into the academic year.....[view more](#)

Bikers descend on Sturgis rally with few signs of pandemic

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-08-10

The coronavirus may be changing the world, but there aren't many signs of the pandemic at the massive annual motorcycle rally being held this week at a small city along Interstate 90 in western South Dakota. The scene Saturday at the 80th Sturgis Motorcycle Rally was familiar to veterans of the event, with throngs of maskless bikers packing the streets. Motorcyclist Kevin Lunsmann, 63, rode more than 600 miles (965 kilometers) to the rally fr.....[view more](#)

Trump signs coronavirus relief orders after talks with Congress break down

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-08-10

President Donald Trump signed executive orders on Saturday partly restoring enhanced unemployment payments to the tens of millions of Americans who lost jobs in the coronavirus pandemic, as the United States marked a grim milestone of 5 million cases. Negotiations broke down this week between the White House and top Democrats in Congress over how best to help Americans cope with the heavy human and economic toll of the crisis, which has killed mor.....[view more](#)

Doctors, hospitals launch voter registration efforts

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-08-10

An emergency room doctor in Boston is assembling thousands of voter registration kits for distribution at hospitals and doctor's offices. Later this month, students at Harvard and Yale's medical schools are planning a contest to see which of the Ivy League rivals can register the most voters. And a medical student in Rhode Island has launched an effort to get emergency ballots into the hands of patients who find themselves unexpectedly[view more](#)

Donors News

Africa passes 1M confirmed virus cases; true number far more

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-08-08

Africa's confirmed coronavirus cases have surpassed 1 million, but global health experts say the true toll is likely several times higher, reflecting the gaping lack of testing for the continent's 1.3 billion people. While experts say infection tolls in richer nations can be significant undercounts, large numbers of undetected cases are a greater danger for Africa, with many of the world's weakest health systems. More than 2.....[view more](#)

SDPI Engagements

No SDPI engagements under COVID-19 issue during this period.

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