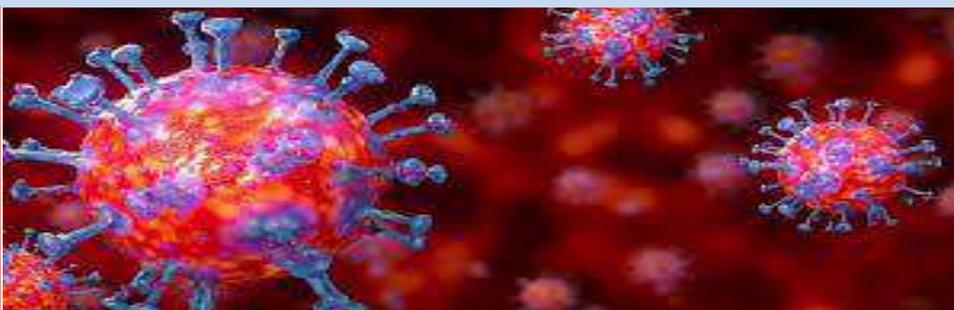


E-Newsletter on COVID-19



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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

Politicizing the vaccine

Source: [Abdul Sattar](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-08-18

The announcement of a vaccine against the coronavirus by Russia should have created a ripple of excitement in Western capitals. But it seems this major achievement has been turned into a controversy, with many in the advanced capitalist world casting doubts on the efficacy of the vaccine besides politicizing an important health challenge that has brought the world on the verge of economic collapse. Moscow says it has accorded a regulatory approv.....[view more](#)

Need for evidence

Source: [Anjum Altaf](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-08-18

Official figures suggest that the pandemic has abated in Pakistan. This is welcome news but we need to be sure. It would be unfortunate either if the verdict is wrong or if real gains are undone through premature relaxation. I have some misgivings based on observations since the beginning of the epidemic. At the outset, I noted the remarkably casual attitude of individuals implementing measures to control the disease with many not followi.....[view more](#)

As we reopen

Source: [Editorial](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-08-18

As part of the government's decision to end the lockdown on most sectors following the drop in Covid-19 infections, the tourism sector has been among those opened up all over the country. To escape the heat and humidity of the plains, people have travelled in large numbers to popular tourist spots. This has created a sudden change in the eco-culture of these locations. There are also other issues. While the brief blooming of nature has begu.....[view more](#)

COVID-19 may lead to 31pc increase in infant and maternal mortality in Pakistan, warn gynecologists

Source: [M Waqar Bhatti](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-08-18

Senior gynecologists urged the Sindh government and the health authorities on Monday to make over 30 maternity homes functional round the clock in Karachi and provide gynecology services available 24 hours a day at the existing facilities to save the lives of hundreds of pregnant women and their babies, many of whom are brought dead at tertiary-care hospitals from far-flung areas of the city. Deploring that most patients, especially pregnant wom.....[view more](#)

Remittances' growth fleeting or lasting?

Source: [BR Research](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-18

Like COVID-19 cases in Pakistan; or highest ever petrol consumption amid COVID-19 restrictions in the country; remittance numbers are baffling experts. A week after Asian Development Bank placed Pakistan among the five worst-affected Asian economies where its remittances are likely to be hit by 27 percent, Pakistan reports the highest ever monthly inflows of worker remittances in July 2020 – proceeding the high of June 2020 (second highest[view more](#)

India, Covid-19 and the zugzwang option

Source: Adeela Naureen / Umar Waqar, [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-18

Andrew Soltis was an American chess grandmaster. He deliberated on the chess move called zugzwang in his famous book, Grandmaster Secrets. The word comes from German, where zug means 'move' and zwang 'compulsion', so zugzwang means 'being forced to make a move' — thus a player must always make a move on his turn even if this is to his disadvantage. The Indian Covid crisis is being equated with zugzwang a.....[view more](#)

The virtuous cycle

Source: M Ziauddin, [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-19

With the Covid-19 curve seemingly well on course to flattening it is but natural for the PTI-led coalition government of Prime Minister Imran Khan to walk the talk with visible confidence. A new spring in its steps. More so because this is happening in Pakistan at a time when a more advanced neighbour, India, has reported nearly 64,000 new cases only on last Thursday. India now has nearly 2.5 million total cases, with more than 47,000 deaths.[view more](#)

Timely data in Covid times

Source: BR Research, [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-19

In latest news, the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has enhanced the limits for housing finance and general-purpose microenterprise loans. This is a good development, as have been SBP's earlier measures taken to counter Covid-19. But to what degree are these measures really effective. Soon after the central bank announced its various relief measures, it started reporting statistics that reflect the progress made on those relief measures.[view more](#)

Covid-19: a game changer

Source: Nousheen Akber Pradhan/Ghulam Mohammed Alwani, [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-19

With Covid-19 swirling across the world and tireless efforts underway by countries to flatten the curve, approximately 7.5 billion people have been affected in one way or another. The death toll due to the virus has exceeded 0.7 million with more than 22 million infected cases globally. The pandemic is hitting the world with a double-edged sword — loss of human lives and economic disaster. Amid the destruction caused, the pandemic has taught.....[view more](#)

Covid-19 vaccine trial

Source: Editorial, [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-19

PAKISTAN is now counted among the countries where a trial for a potential Covid-19 vaccine will be conducted. The coronavirus vaccine candidate will be supplied to Pakistan by China, where it has been developed by a unit of the state-owned China National Pharmaceutical Group (Sinopharm). The group is set to test the effects of the vaccine on 200 volunteers from Karachi who will be administered the inactivated virus vaccine. The trial joins a handf.....[view more](#)

Healthy borders

Source: Junaid Gul, [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-19

IN today's connected world, disease can spread far and faster than ever before. This explains the increasing focus on technology as a way of ensuring the health of travellers and the aviation staff who serve them. At the border, it means greater use of technologies to build the trust of passengers by keeping them moving in a safe and distanced manner. Those governments and border agencies that have effective border management systems are w.....[view more](#)

Covid-19 and gender

Source: [Hassan Hakeem](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-08-20

The Covid-19 pandemic has wide exposed structural inequalities in the social, economic and political roles women play; multiplied vulnerabilities and puts at risk decades of progress made in terms of claiming space, voice and agency for women. According to UN Women estimates, in fear of consequence, financial dependence and adverse partner reaction, globally less than 40 percent women report crimes of abuse against them while others go wi.....[view more](#)

China's support to Pakistan in combating COVID-19

Source: [S M Hali](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-08-20

As Pakistan celebrated its 74th Independence Day, this 14th of August, Beijing not only felicitated Islamabad on the auspicious occasion but feted it for defeating the pandemic COVID – 19. The entire world has been badly struck with the novel coronavirus, which has claimed a huge toll of human lives and shattered economies. Despite its meagre resources and an already battered economy, Pakistan managed to overcome the scourge of the global e.....[view more](#)

Nietzsche's superman, Islam, and Covid-19 (Part I)

Source: [Akbar Ahmed](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-08-20

When Friedrich Nietzsche ran to stop the brutal owner of a horse from thrashing it mercilessly in Turin, Italy, and threw his arms around the animal crying, "I understand your pain," it gave us an extraordinary insight into his character and mind; more than his usually convoluted philosophic utterances. Nietzsche, who blithely declared to the world, "God is dead" could not bear the cruelty to the animal. While the image of.....[view more](#)

Victims of the System

Source: [Nabiha Shahram](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-08-19

Around the globe, the unprecedented pandemic has caused economic destruction, high fatality, depression; adding troubles for all, especially the underprivileged. Amongst all crises, the most notable was the academic year of students, which was also in jeopardy, while things around the globe were at a standstill. Under such circumstances, the Cambridge International Education decided to send out results based on predicted grades. The crite.....[view more](#)

Missing opportunities

Source: [muhammad yasir](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-08-18

COVID-19 pandemic has, undoubtedly, hit the entire world. It swallowed millions of precious lives including old and young people—an irreparable loss for generations. The pandemic ceased the cycle of economic growth and pushed the world towards multiple crises including unemployment and hunger. The novel coronavirus introduced a new way of challenging life, which is being termed as the new normal, wherein the businesses will no more[view more](#)

A Lesson From COVID-19: The Tragedy of the Commons

Source: [Ahmed Farooq](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-08-18

When one suffers from a grand calamity, a possible way of rationalising subsequent travail is by resorting to a search for reason in the mire of seeming chaos. With the current pandemic though, and the continued mysteries that envelop COVID-19, it is quite challenging to understand what the central takeaway is shaping up to be. Nonetheless, one of the tangential lessons that COVID-19 has brought to the fore is from a centuries-old socio-economic[view more](#)

Post-Covid-19 education crisis: what next?

Source: Shehzad Jeeva & Naveed Yousuf & Hanif Shariff, [The News, International](#), 2020-08-21

In most countries the academic year was fast approaching its tail-end and many countries adopted different strategies to address this crisis. In Pakistan, students from grade 1-8 were auto promoted and a unanimous decision was made through the Inter Provincial Education Ministers Conference (IPEMC) for promotion of secondary and higher secondary students based on the recommendations of the IBCC. So what's next? Education systems in[view more](#)

Back to basics

Source: [Editorial](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-08-21

According to a new survey by Gallup Pakistan, the income of people in the country is improving and the destructive Covid-19 wave appears for now to have subdued significantly. Households say they are once again spending more on food and other vital items and are far less dependent on money from the government or finance given out by private organizations. Life in most places has returned to normal with 8 out of 10 persons surveyed saying they are.....[view more](#)

National News

Balochistan

Balochistan sees jump in Covid infections

Source: [Mohammad Zafar](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-19

QUETTA: Spokesman to provincial government Liaquat Shahwani has said Balochistan has seen an increase in the coronavirus cases in the last six days which according to health experts is not a good sign, hinting at imposing a lockdown again if the number of infections continue to rise. "Total 1,238 tests were conducted on August 14 in which 88 people tested positive while overall 11,000 people have been recovered from the fatal virus since t.....[view more](#)

Balochistan CM concerned over rise in Covid-19 cases

Source: [Saleem Shahid](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-19

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Jam Kamal Khan Alyani has expressed concern over an increase in the number of coronavirus cases over the past one week in the province as people and various institutions did not follow the standard operating procedures (SOPs). In a letter to all administrative secretaries, divisional commissioners and deputy commissioners, the chief minister ordered them to ensure implementation of the SOPs to save people from[view more](#)

Islamabad

Corona cases may surge in country, says Dr Faisal

Source: [Agencies](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-08-18

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to PM on Health Dr Faisal Sultan on Monday feared that the coronavirus cases may increase in Pakistan if negligence is shown towards virus curbs and preventive measures. Noting that the country is reporting a steady decline in the COVID-19 cases for the past few weeks, the premier's aide said that the slightest carelessness from people can lead to the re-emergence of the pandemic. "We should not unde.....[view more](#)

SOPs finalised for Muharram congregations

Source: [Kalbe Ali](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-18

ISLAMABAD: The ministry of religious affairs has finalised the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for processions and Majalis during Muharram in the light of coronavirus precautions. The guidelines were thrashed out at a meeting on Monday. Among other stipulations, the SOPs require speakers to highlight the plight of Muslims in India-occupied Kashmir in their sermons and speeches. The meeting, chaired by Religious Affairs Minister Pir Noorul[view more](#)

Drp approves clinical trial of Covid-19 vaccine

Source: [Ikram Junaidi](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-18

ISLAMABAD: In a major development on Monday, the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (Drp) gave a nod to holding clinical trial of Covid-19 vaccine in the country. According to a document, signed by Drp Clinical Studies Committee secretary Shafqat Hussain Danish, and available with Dawn, the committee recommended that the trial be held in Indus Hospital, Karachi. This test will be carried out by the International Centre for Chemical and Biol.....[view more](#)

COVID-19 vaccine: NIH to launch phase three of clinical trial

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-08-18

Islamabad: The National Institute of Health (NIH) has attained formal approval for Phase 3 clinical trial of Recombinant Novel Coronavirus Vaccine Adenovirus Type 5 vector (Ad5-nCoV) developed by CanSinoBio and Beijing Institute of Biotechnology China. This will be the first-ever phase 3 clinical trial for any vaccine in Pakistan. It is a multi-country multi-center clinical trial being conducted by CanSinoBio already in China, Russia, Chile, Arge.....[view more](#)

NCOC calls for SOPs compliance in Muharram

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-18

LAHORE - The National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) on Monday was apprised on detailed plan of action for management of holy month of Muharram and compliance of standard operating procedures (SOPs) to contain the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic. The NCOC meeting chaired by Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar discussed daily situation brief, establishment of sentinel sites and SOPs compliance. The.....[view more](#)

720 shops, 167 hotels sealed for violating COVID-19 SOPs

Source: [APP](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-18

ISLAMABAD - The federal capital administration imposed Rs2,128,600 fine on shop owners and sealed around 720 shops over violation of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), issued by the government to curb further spread of coronavirus pandemic. Some 167 hotels, 39 workshops and 26 industrial units were also sealed during the last three month over violations of COVID-19 SOPs, according to a report shared by the Islamabad administration on Mon.....[view more](#)

Pakistan green-lights Phase III trials for Covid vaccine

Source: [Razya Khan](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-18

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of National Health Services Regulation and Coordination has received formal approval from the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) for Phase III clinical trials of the corona vaccine. According to a statement from the NIH, the medical facility has obtained "the formal approval from DRAP for Phase III Clinical Trial of Recombinant Novel Coronavirus Vaccine Adenovirus Type 5 vector (Ad5-nCoV) developed by CanS.....[view more](#)

Ministry allows technical training sans classroom

Source: [APP](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-19

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Federal Education and Provincial Training Monday decided to allow such technical and vocational training where no classroom teaching is involved. With the emergence of COVID-19, Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutes were also closed with effect from March 13, along with formal education institutes. However after witnessing improvement in the Covid-19 situation, the Ministry of Federal Educat.....[view more](#)

DRAP approves Phase III clinical trial of COVID-19 vaccine

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-18

The National Institute of Health (NIH) on Tuesday has obtained approval from the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) for Phase III clinical trial of coronavirus vaccine. The NIH said in a statement that it has obtained "the formal approval from DRAP for Phase III Clinical Trial of Recombinant Novel Coronavirus Vaccine Adenovirus Type 5 vector (Ad5-nCoV) developed by CanSinoBio and Beijing Institute of Biotechnology China [BIB].....[view more](#)

15 deaths, 617 new COVID-19 cases during last 24 hours

Source: [Tahir Niaz](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-19

ISLAMABAD - The country has reported 15 deaths and 617 new COVID-19 cases during the last 24 hours. According to the latest statistics, the total active COVID-19 cases in the country are now 13,633 as 270,009 patients have recovered from coronavirus so far in Pakistan. The situation is improving in the country with the daily death toll going lower with each passing day.[view more](#)

Coronavirus: Here are the safety measure to be followed during Muharram

Source: [APP](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-08-18

ISLAMABAD: The federal government and scholars from different schools of thought agreed upon the SOPs required to curb coronavirus during the Muharram processions. The consultative meeting held on Tuesday, chaired by Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Noor-ul-Haq Qadri, agreed upon the SOPs, said a press release. The representatives of ministries of interior, health, and district administration of Islamabad Capital Ter.....[view more](#)

Afridi calls for creating humanitarian corridor for Covid-19 victims in IOK

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-08-20

Chairman of Parliamentary Committee for Kashmir Shehryar Khan Afridi on Wednesday warned the world against a humanitarian crisis brewing in Indian Illegally Occupied Kashmir and called upon the international community to immediately start working to create a humanitarian corridor for besieged Covid-19 victims in Kashmir. Chairman Kashmir Committee made these remarks while addressing the audience of a seminar held here at Parliament House[view more](#)

272,128 patients recover from coronavirus in Pakistan

Source: [news desk](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-08-20

As many as 272,128 patients have been recovered from coronavirus in Pakistan. According to the latest statistics, the total active Covid-19 cases in the country are now 12,116. 613 new cases surfaced during the last twenty-four hours with eleven deaths reported. 22,859 tests were carried out during this period. The rate of recovery of coronavirus infected patients in Balochistan has further improved, provincial health department said on W.....[view more](#)

Creating corridor for corona victims in IOK urged

Source: [APP](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-08-20

Islamabad : Chairman of Parliamentary Committee for Kashmir Shehryar Khan Afridi Wednesday warned the world against a humanitarian crisis brewing in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and called upon the international community to immediately start working to create a humanitarian corridor for besieged COVID-19 victims in Kashmir. The chairman Kashmir Committee made these remarks while addressing a seminar titled as 'Suffe.....[view more](#)

Covid-19 left children at greater risk of abuse: Unicef

Source: [Amin Ahmed](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-20

ISLAMABAD: Key findings from a rapid assessment of the impact of confinement on children in Pakistan indicate that changes in their home life are linked to increased stress in them and reduced patience in care-givers. A new

Unicef report released on Wednesday says more than 2,600 social service professionals have received virtual or face-to-face training in psychosocial support and stigma prevention based on a standard training package developed w.....[view more](#)

Govt allows export of N95, surgical masks

Source: [Jamal Shahid](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-19

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Science and Technology Fawad Chaudhry on Tuesday announced that the government had agreed to allow export of N95 and surgical masks. According to the Ministry of Science and Technology, orders worth \$100 million for export of personal protective equipment (PPE) made in Pakistan have been received from around the world, particularly Europe. Pakistan is expected to receive orders for such equipment worth \$500m by t.....[view more](#)

Twin cities report few Covid-19 cases

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-19

ISLAMABAD: Another 11 people have been diagnosed with Covid-19 in the capital. Capital administration officials said that one case each was reported in Margalla Town, Bhara Kahu, G-8, Banigala, F-6, Quaid-i-Azam Hospital, H-11, G-11, F-8, Shahzad Town and I-9 on Tuesday. Nine of the new patients are male and two are female. Islamabad has now reported 15,401 confirmed cases of Covid-19, of which 175 patients have died and 13,430 have recovered.....[view more](#)

326 contacts of Covid-19 patients quarantined at home

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-20

ISLAMABAD/RAWALPINDI: There have been 11 more cases of Covid-19 confirmed in the capital. Officials from the capital administration said that the number of new cases remained the same on Wednesday, as 11 cases were reported on Tuesday as well. Three cases have been reported from Bahria Town, two each from Bhara Kahu and Sohan and one each from G-9, G-8, Garden City and Soan Garden, they said. Nine of the new patients are male and two are femal.....[view more](#)

A Dual Challenge

Source: [Editorial](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-20

The first month of the Islamic calendar Muharram-ul-Haram is just around the corner. The authorities say that they have devised a fool-proof strategy and security plan for the peaceful observance of the Muharram-ul-Haram gatherings and processions. However, the district administrations and law enforcement agencies (LEAs) across the country will have to do an additional duty this year, i.e., to ensure that the attendees also follow the safety prot.....[view more](#)

Number of pilgrims at Taftan was beyond govt's capacity: Dr. Sultan

Source: [Rahul Basharat](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-20

Islamabad - Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on National Health Services (NHS) Dr. Faisal Sultan on Wednesday informed the Senate body on health that the number of pilgrims at the Iran border when novel coronavirus (COVID-19) emerged was beyond the capacity of the provincial government and the government learnt from the Taftan incident. SAPM on NHS Dr. Faisal Sultan said this in a meeting of Senate Standing Committee on NHS held he.....[view more](#)

743 fighting Covid-19 in critical condition

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-20

ISLAMABAD - At least 743 Covid-19 patients are in critical condition as a total of 272,128 patients have so far recovered from the pandemic in the country. According to the latest statistics, the total active Covid-19 cases in Pakistan are now 12,116. According to the officials, 613 new cases surfaced during last 24 hours with eleven deaths reported from across the country. Meanwhile, Punjab has reported 131 new Covid-19 cases taking the p.....[view more](#)

Pakistan got \$2.66b foreign support to handle Covid-19

Source: [Imran Ali Kundi](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-20

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan had received financial assistance worth of \$2.66 billion from number of countries and international organizations in the wake of the pandemic of coronavirus. Fifteen countries and international organizations had committed to provide an amount of \$3.302 billion to Pakistan as loans, grants and technical assistance in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic. Out of the total committed amount, \$2.660 billion had been disbursed so far.....[view more](#)

ICT admin continues price checking, monitoring of SOPs

Source: [Tahir Niaz](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-20

ISLAMABAD -The administration in Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) is continuing campaign for price checking and monitoring of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) so as to prevent spread of coronavirus in the city. According to the details, Assistant Commissioner (City) conducted price checking and SOPs implementation in China Market in sector F-6. The violators of the government instructions on control of price were fined on the spot, according.....[view more](#)

Covid-19 claims one more life in Lahore

Source: [APP](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-20

LAHORE: The coronavirus pandemic has claimed one more life in the provincial capital, while the total Covid-19 cases in the province exceed 95,740 after registration of 131 new cases. Spokesperson for the Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD) on Wednesday said so far the total deaths recorded were 2,186 altogether. The P&SHD confirmed that 68 new cases of Covid-19 were reported in Lahore, one in Nankana Sahib, thre.....[view more](#)

11pc Pakistanis have developed protective immunity: study

Source: [Ikram Junaidi](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-21

ISLAMABAD: A study conducted in 25 cities shows that almost 11 per cent of Pakistanis have developed protective immunity across the country against coronavirus. The "National Seroprevalence Study" was initiated in July this year by the Health Services Academy in collaboration with multiple partners, including Aga Khan University, and with technical support from the World Health Organisation (WHO). It is part of the WHO Unity Study b.....[view more](#)

Qureshi embarks on China trip for strategic dialogue

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-21

ISLAMABAD: As Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi on Thursday embarked on his China trip for the bilateral strategic dialogue, both China and Pakistan have their eyes set on enhanced coordination for dealing with the evolving regional security environment. The Foreign Office said the second round of the China-Pakistan Foreign

Ministers' Strategic Dialogue was being held from August 20-21 in Hainan, China. According to the Chinese media,.....[view more](#)

Capital witnesses slight increase in Covid-19 cases

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-21

ISLAMABAD: Thirteen confirmed cases of Covid-19 were reported in the capital on Thursday against 11 cases each on Wednesday and Tuesday. During the last 24 hours, 3,685 tests were conducted in the city. Three of the new cases were reported from Bahria Town, two each from Bhara Kahu and Sohan and one each from G-9, G-8, Garden City and Soan Garden. The District Health Office traced 339 contacts of the 11 confirmed cases reported on Wednesday. S.....[view more](#)

Covid-19 impacted ride-hailing industry

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-21

LAHORE: Covid-19 has impacted the ride hailing industry as well, but there are a number of measures Uber has taken to maximize safety for their riders and partner drivers, since safety has been their key priority since the beginning, Saad Naveed Pall, General Manager, Uber Pakistan, said. "During the Covid-19 surge, we tried to do our part in helping out our frontline workers and launched Uber Medics – an initiative designed to p.....[view more](#)

SECP converts Covid-19 challenge into opportunities: Aamir

Source: [Sohail Sarfraz](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-21

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) Chairman Aamir Khan has said that the SECP had successfully converted the Covid-19 challenge into opportunities for the organisation and investors. Despite all odds, stock market was kept operational through remote operations; a Secure Transacting Registry was introduced to facilitate SMEs' financing, Regulatory Sandbox was launched for startups, for the first time Rs20.....[view more](#)

Unentitled people get Covid-19 risk allowance

Source: [Shabbir Hussain](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-21

ISLAMABAD: The audit officials have sought answers from the management of the Pakistan Institute of Management Sciences (PIMS) over irregularities in disbursement of coronavirus risk allowance. At least Rs10.3 million allocated for frontline health workers at Pims under coronavirus health risk allowance went in to the pockets of non-entitled officers and officials, sources told The Express Tribune. The distribution of the health risk allowance.....[view more](#)

272,804 patients recovered from Covid-19 so far

Source: [Staff Report](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-21

ISLAMABAD - The country has reported 8 more deaths due to Covid-19 during the last 24 hours while 272,804 coronavirus patients have so far recovered from the pandemic. According to the latest statistics, the total active COVID-19 cases in the country are now 11,945. As many as 513 new cases and eight deaths from the virus were reported during the last 24 hours. Another 676 people recovered from COVID-19 during the last 24 hours, according to the[view more](#)

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

No Covid-19 death in 24 hours

Source: [Bureau Report](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-18

PESHAWAR: The number of Covid-19 deaths and positive cases continues to drop as only nine persons died of coronavirus in the past week compared to 15 during the previous week, and only 471 fresh patients emerged during the past week compared to 527 over the same period previously. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa didn't record any death from Covid-19 on Monday, and number of new positive cases remained at 122, according to a report released by the health.....[view more](#)

Spike in corona cases: Smart lockdown imposed in five areas of Mansehra

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-08-19

MANSEHRA: The administration on Tuesday imposed the smart lockdown in five areas of the district following a spike recorded in the coronavirus cases in the recent days. Deputy Commissioner Aurangzeb Haider Khan through a notification ordered an immediate sealing of Jalalabad Chowk area, Major Ayub Street No 15, Habib Street Dub No 1, Mohallah High School near Datta exchange and Mohallah Rait Basiti in Chitta Batta area. The deputy commiss.....[view more](#)

Covid-19 claims three more lives in KP

Source: [Bureau Report](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-19

PESHAWAR: Covid-19 claimed three more lives, taking the death toll to 1,242 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Tuesday. The province tested 64 more persons for the infection, raising the overall tally of confirmed patients to 35,401, according to a report released by the health department. It said that 125 more patients had recovered from the infection, taking the total tally to 32,647. So far, 92 per cent of the positive patients have recovered. Among t.....[view more](#)

Micro smart lockdown imposed in Mansehra

Source: [Correspondent](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-19

MANSEHRA: The administration on Tuesday imposed a micro smart lockdown in five areas of Mansehra district following a spike in coronavirus incidence. Deputy commissioner Aurangzeb Haider Khan issued a notification ordering an immediate sealing of Jalalabad Chowk area, Major Ayub Street No 15, Habib Street Dub No 1, Mohallah High School near Datta Exchange and Mohallah Rait Basiti in Chitta Batta area to prevent the local transmission of Covid-19.....[view more](#)

SOPs issued for private schools

Source: [Bureau Report](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-08-21

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Elementary and Secondary Education Department has issued SOPs for reopening of private schools. An official statement said the schools' management must take care after reopening. The schools, with adjoining areas having high number cases of corona, should be flagged as red, those having moderate cases around them be flagged yellow while green flagged schools would be those around which corona care are low. &ldqu.....[view more](#)

Punjab

WHO pledges funds for epidemic control

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-18

LAHORE: World Health Organisation (WHO) Country Director Dr Palitha Gunarathna Mahipala has promised allocation of US \$100,000 for epidemic prevention and control, assuring full support to Punjab for the project, including training of technical staff, from the USA. The announcement came during a meeting between Punjab Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid and Dr Mahipala at the Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department on Monday. P&SHD Secreta.....[view more](#)

No death due to coronavirus

Source: [Muhammad Qasim](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-08-18

Rawalpindi:As many as 13 new patients have been tested positive for coronavirus illness, COVID-19 here in the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi in last 24 hours however no death due to the disease has been reported from the region in last three days. Data collected by 'The News' on Monday reveals that only one new patient has been tested positive from Rawalpindi district taking total number of confirmed patients from Rawalpind.....[view more](#)

No COVID-19 patient death in last two weeks in Punjab

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-08-18

LAHORE: New COVID-19 infections in the last 24 hours have dropped below three figures first time in Punjab since initial spike of coronavirus in late March. As many as 56 new cases have been confirmed in the last 24 hours, while no death was reported Monday for the third time in the last two weeks, according to report issued by Primary and Secondary Healthcare (P&SH) Department Monday. The COVID-19 fatalities stayed at 2,182, while the addi.....[view more](#)

Punjab reports 56 fresh Covid-19 cases

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-18

LAHORE: Health experts have warned the people that coronavirus threat still exists and asked them to strictly follow the standard operating procedures (SOPs). They stressed upon maintaining social distance and wearing of masks in public places. During the upcoming month of Muharram ul Haram, the people must show responsible attitude to help contain the coronavirus pandemic, they said. On the other hand, Punjab has reported 56 new coronavirus.....[view more](#)

Punjab sees 99pc decline in new Covid-19 cases

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-18

LAHORE - The Punjab government's efforts to limit the spread of coronavirus are bearing fruit as the province recorded a 99 per cent decline in new daily cases on Monday. A spokesperson for the Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department said the total number of Covid-19 cases has increased to 95,447 with the addition of 56 new cases reported over the last 24 hours. No more coronavirus-related death was reported during the previous 24.....[view more](#)

Another 2 die of COVID-19 in ICT

Source: [Muhammad Qasim](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-08-19

Rawalpindi : Another two confirmed patients of coronavirus illness, COVID-19 died here in Islamabad Capital Territory in last 24 hours taking death toll from the federal capital to 175 though a total of 13 new patients have been tested

positive for the disease from ICT and Rawalpindi district. It is important that the deaths due to COVID-19 have been reported after three days as from August 15 to August 17, not a single patient died of co.....[view more](#)

Campaign for curbing sectarian hatred during pandemic hailed

Source: [News Desk](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-08-20

Punjab Governor Chaudhry Muhammad Sarwar has lauded the peace campaign launched by the Ministry for Human Rights and Minorities Affairs collaboration with the Youth Development Foundation (YDF) – an organisation working for peace and youth affairs – during the pandemic. The governor awarded a letter of appreciation to the YDF in recognition of its work at a ceremony organised at the Governor's House here and said the nation need.....[view more](#)

No death due to COVID-19, 17 new cases

Source: [Muhammad Qasim](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-08-20

Rawalpindi : No death has been reported from the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi due to COVID-19 in last 24 hours while 17 new cases have been confirmed positive for the disease however the number of recoveries has been going up in the region. In last 24 hours, as many as 182 patients have recovered from coronavirus illness from Islamabad Capital Territory taking total number of recoveries in the federal capital to 13,612. In last.....[view more](#)

One more Covid death, 131 virus cases in Punjab

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-20

LAHORE: Punjab reported one Covid-19 related death during the last 24 hours, with 131 new virus cases as per official figures released on Wednesday. Of the new cases, 68 appeared in Lahore, 20 in Gujranwala, seven in Gujrat, six in Faisalabad, besides Sheikhpura, Rawalpindi, Sialkot, Narowal, Gujrat, Toba Tek Singh, Jhang, Bhakkar, Muzafargarh, Dera Ghazi Khan etc. According to the figures released by the primary and secondary healthcare depar.....[view more](#)

326 contacts of Covid-19 patients quarantined at home

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-20

ISLAMABAD/RAWALPINDI: There have been 11 more cases of Covid-19 confirmed in the capital. Officials from the capital administration said that the number of new cases remained the same on Wednesday, as 11 cases were reported on Tuesday as well. Three cases have been reported from Bahria Town, two each from Bhara Kahu and Sohan and one each from G-9, G-8, Garden City and Soan Garden, they said. Nine of the new patients are male and two are femal.....[view more](#)

Protection of police from COVID-19 top priority: IGP

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-20

LAHORE-Inspector General Police (IGP), Punjab Shoaib Dastgir said that protection of the officers and officials from coronavirus pandemic was top priority, deputed for security duty during Muharram, besides maintaining law and order in the province. For this purpose, washable masks were being provided to the police force deputed on Muharram security duty which will be helpful in protecting them. As per the direction of IG Punjab, Addl IG We.....[view more](#)

16 test positive for COVID-19

Source: [Muhammad Qasim](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-08-21

Rawalpindi : In the last 24 hours, another 16 patients have been tested positive for COVID-19, the disease caused by 2019 novel coronavirus here in the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi taking the total number of confirmed cases so far reported from the twin cities to 21,386 while 224 more patients have recovered in the federal capital and seven in the Rawalpindi district. The virus did not claim any life in Islamabad Capital Territory and.....[view more](#)

Punjab begins smart swab sampling

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-21

RAWALPINDI: The provincial government has started smart swab sampling to detect coronavirus cases in different parts of the province. Under the new project, the samples would be collected randomly from every city of the province on a daily basis. The samples would be regularly collected from the public spots such as tourist spots, markets, jails as well as orphanage houses. The district health authorities (DHAs) have been issued directives in.....[view more](#)

Corona kills 8 more people, infects 513

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-21

LAHORE - Pakistan on Thursday reported eight more deaths in last 24 hours by novel coronavirus as the number of positive cases has surged to 290,958. The nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 6,209. According to the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) 513 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,[view more](#)

Pandemic is not over, follow precautions, says Dr Yasmin

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-21

LAHORE - Punjab Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid gave away awards to doctors, nurses and paramedical staff serving Corona patients at Children's Hospital here on Thursday. Present on the occasion were Dean Children's Hospital Dr Masood Sadiq, MD Dr Mohammad Saleem, Prof Mehmud Shaukat, Prof Sajid Maqbool, Dr Junaid Rashid, Dr Abid Qureshi, faculty members and staff members. Addressing the participants, Dr Yasmin Rashid said, &ld.....[view more](#)

Sindh

People praise federal govt's Covid-19 handling, slam provinces

Source: nil, [The News, International](#), 2020-08-18

KARACHI: The Institute for Public Opinion Research and Pulse Consultant surveyed public opinion over the PTI-led federal government's handling of the national health emergency during the Covid-19 pandemic and found a sizeable chunk eliciting a positive outlook, while a significant number of respondents found the management of the crisis as totally lacking. The sample size of those surveyed by both the companies, Institute for Public O.....[view more](#)

Nine more die of coronavirus

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-18

KARACHI: Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said on Monday that the coronavirus claimed nine more lives overnight and infected 243 others. In a statement issued here from CM House, he said that nine more people died while struggling against the coronavirus, lifting the death toll to 2,331 that came to a 1.8 per cent death rate. Mr Shah said that 6,699 samples were tested against which 243 new cases were detected that constituted a four per cent.....[view more](#)

Sindh's coronavirus death toll hits 2,331 as nine more perish

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-08-18

Another nine patients died from the novel coronavirus in a day, said Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Monday. "The province's coronavirus death toll now stands at 2,331," he said and added that fresh 243 cases of COVID-19 had emerged in the last 24 hours when 6,699 samples were tested in Sindh. The total number of coronavirus cases had reached 126,425 in the province, however, 119,849 patients (or 95 per cent of the.....[view more](#)

Nine more killed by corona in Sindh, says CM Share:

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-18

KARACHI - Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah sharing COVID-19 situation in the province has said that it has claimed nine more lives lifting the death toll to 2431 and infected 243 others raising the tally to 126425. In a statement issued here from CM House, he said that nine more people lost their lives while struggling against coronavirus taking the death toll to 2331 that came to 1.8 per cent death rate. He said that 6699 samples wer.....[view more](#)

COVID-19 kills five more in Sindh

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-08-19

Five more people have died due to COVID-19 during the past 24 hours in Sindh, with the death toll due to the viral disease reaching 2,336. Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah said in his daily situation report on Tuesday 8,094 samples were tested in the past 24 hours, resulting in 318 people, or four per cent of those who were screened, being diagnosed with COVID-19. The government has conducted 906,323 tests, which have resulted in 126,743 positive[view more](#)

Reopening of primary, middle schools may lead to second, third waves of COVID-19, warns health minister

Source: [M Waqar Bhatti](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-08-19

Sindh Health Minister Dr Azra Pechuho has opposed the reopening of primary and middle schools until the COVID-19 pandemic is over, saying small children cannot be prevented from socialising nor can it be ensured that they follow

standard operating procedures, and this could lead to the second and third waves of coronavirus cases in the country. "I believe that primary and middle schools should not be opened until COVID-19 is over. S.....[view more](#)

COVID-19 kills five more in Sindh

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-08-19

Five more people have died due to COVID-19 during the past 24 hours in Sindh, with the death toll due to the viral disease reaching 2,336. Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah said in his daily situation report on Tuesday 8,094 samples were tested in the past 24 hours, resulting in 318 people, or four per cent of those who were screened, being diagnosed with COVID-19. The government has conducted 906,323 tests, which have resulted in 126,743 positive[view more](#)

SPSC asks interviewees to follow SOPs

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-19

DADU - The Sindh Public Service Commission (SPSC), in view of COVID-19 pandemic, has advised all candidates to take precautionary measures before appearing for interviews for various posts in different departments of the Government of Sindh. In an advisory issued by the SPSC in Hyderabad on Tuesday, all candidates have been advised to ensure compliance with the standard operating procedures (SOPs) while travelling for the interview whether by car.....[view more](#)

Very concerned at sending children to school amid pandemic: Sindh minister

Source: [News Desk](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-08-20

Sindh Health Minister Dr Azra Fazal Pechuho has expressed strong concern at sending young children, especially those in primary and middle classes, to school during the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. Last month, Federal Education Minister Shafqat Mahmood had announced that educational institutions around the country would reopen on September 15 provided that the "health indicators improve". Mahmood had further said standard[view more](#)

COVID-19 claims seven more lives in Sindh

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-08-20

Seven more people have died due to COVID-19 and another 317 cases have been reported during the past 24 hours in Sindh, with the death toll due to the viral disease reaching 2,342 in the province. Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said in his daily situation report on the health emergency on Wednesday that 8,561 samples were tested in the past 24 hours, resulting in 317 people, or four per cent of those who were screened, being dia.....[view more](#)

Five more people die of coronavirus in Sindh

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-19

KARACHI: Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said on Tuesday that Covid-19 claimed five more lives overnight in Sindh and infected 318 other people. In a statement issued here from CM House, he said five more patients died while struggling against the coronavirus, lifting the death toll to 2,336 that constituted a 1.8 per cent death rate. The chief minister said that 318 more cases emerged when 8,094 new samples were tested that came to a 4pc de.....[view more](#)

Covid-19 claims 7 more lives, 317 new cases emerge: CM

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#) , 2020-08-20

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said that coronavirus has claimed seven more lives lifting the death toll to 2342 while 317 new cases emerged when 8561 tests were conducted. This he said in a statement issued here on Wednesday. Shah said that seven more patients lost their lives while struggling against coronavirus, lifting the death toll to 2,342. He said that 317 more patients emerged when 8561 samples were tested that co.....[view more](#)

COVID-19 claims seven more lives, infects 317 others

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#) , 2020-08-20

KARACHI - Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Wednesday said that coronavirus had claimed seven more lives lifting the death toll to 2342 while 317 more cases emerged when 8561 tests were conducted. In a statement issued here on Wednesday, Syed Murad Ali Shah said that seven more patients lost their lives while struggling against coronavirus, lifting the death toll to 2,342 that constituted 1.8 percent. He said that 317 more patients.....[view more](#)

Health Minister opposes reopening schools

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#) , 2020-08-20

KARACHI - Sindh Minister for Health Dr. Azra Pechuho has opposed the opening of schools until the complete eradication of coronavirus. The minister has opposed to open primary and middle schools, said a communique here on Wednesday. She said, 'The opening of schools for junior classes may bring about the second and third wave of the coronavirus.' She said that the children should be taught through online classes till the end of c.....[view more](#)

'Inter-province transport still suspended'

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#) , 2020-08-20

The Sindh High Court (SHC) ordered on Wednesday the combining of all pleas seeking the restoration of inter-provincial transport services and bus terminals, further directing the parties to ensure their presence at the next hearing. The two-member bench, comprising Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar and Justice Yousuf Ali Sayeed, asked the provincial transport department's counsel whether the inter-province passenger buses had started functioning a.....[view more](#)

Seven more die in Sindh due to COVID-19

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#) , 2020-08-21

Seven more people have died due to COVID-19 and another 321 cases have been reported during the past 24 hours in Sindh, with the death toll due to the viral disease reaching 2,350 in the province. Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said in his daily situation report on the health emergency on Thursday that 11,167 samples were tested in the past 24 hours, resulting in 321 people, or three per cent of those who were screened, being diagnosed.....[view more](#)

SEPA takes steps to retain improvement in air quality after lockdown

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#) , 2020-08-21

KARACHI: Sindh Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) is taking major steps regarding industrial and vehicular emissions control on emergency basis to retain the 40 percent improvement in the air quality of Karachi which was witnessed during the lockdown to contain the spread of Covid-19. SEPA has issued directives to all industrial

associations to monitor air quality in their industrial areas to check air quality degradation and plant saplings i.....[view more](#)

COVID-19 claims seven more lives: CM

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-21

KARACHI - Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Thursday said that coronavirus claimed seven more lives lifting the death toll to 2350 and infected 321 others raising the tally to 127381 in the province. In a statement, he said that seven more patients lost their lives while struggling against the virus lifting the death toll to 2350 that constituted 1.8 percent death rate. He added that 264 more patients recovered raising the number[view more](#)

Protecting police personnel from COVID-19 during Muharram top priority'

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-21

DADU - SSP Dr Farukh Raza Malik said here on Thursday that protection of the police officers and personnel, deputed for maintaining law and order during Muharram, from the coronavirus pandemic was top priority of the govt. "For this purpose, washable masks are being provided to them which will be helpful in protecting them," he said, and added these measures were being taken as per the direction of Sindh Inspector General of Police.[view more](#)

International News

Countries News

India's virus death toll hits 50,000

Source: [AFP](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-18

NEW DELHI: India's official coronavirus death soared past 50,000 on Monday as the pandemic rages through smaller cities and rural areas where health care is feeble and stigmatisation rife. Many experts say the real numbers may be far higher due to low testing rates and because deaths are often not properly recorded in the vast and impoverished nation of 1.3 billion people. India last week overtook Britain with the world's fourth-high.....[view more](#)

Second virus wave forces NZ PM to put off election

Source: [AFP](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-18

WELLINGTON: New Zealand on Monday postponed its election to focus on fighting a second wave of the coronavirus as Europe tightened restrictions to curb fresh outbreaks of the disease. Japan has become the latest country to reveal the huge financial fallout from the global pandemic reporting that its economy — like many others — had endured a historic contraction. With more than 21.5 million cases worldwide, a second wave of infectio.....[view more](#)

Investors pan for gold in rush for coronavirus vaccine

Source: [AFP/Ali Bekhtaoui, with Daniel Hoffman, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-19

With the race on to find a coronavirus vaccine, the biotech sector - from an investor's point of view - appears to be the new gold rush, promising often giddy returns, but analysts warn that the exuberance could be exaggerated. According to the World Health Organization, some 168 potential vaccines are currently in development, with countless billions of dollars both public and private money being pumped into the research. As a re.....[view more](#)

WHO urges nations to join global shared vaccine bid

Source: [Agencies, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-19

Geneva-The WHO wrote to every country on Tuesday urging them to quickly join its global shared vaccine programme and spelled out who would get its eventual coronavirus jabs first. The World Health Organization's director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said that without vaccinating the highest-risk populations around the world all at the same time, it would be impossible to rebuild the global economy. And he said the most exposed 2.....[view more](#)

Coronavirus graft scandals shake South Africa's president

Source: [Agencies, Daily Times](#), 2020-08-20

South Africa is reeling from coronavirus-linked corruption scandals that have battered President Cyril Ramaphosa's credibility and the country's image abroad, but spurred unprecedented efforts to boost transparency. The outcry began with reports that local government officials were hoarding and selling food donations meant for families without income during lockdown. Then some hospitals found that state purchases of masks,[view more](#)

Australia locks in coronavirus vaccine deal as new cases ease

Source: [Agencies, Daily Times](#), 2020-08-20

A fresh outbreak of infections in Australia's coronavirus hot zone of Victoria appeared to have eased on Wednesday, as the country signed a deal to secure a potential COVID-19 vaccine that it intends to roll out free of cost to its

citizens. Australia has signed a deal with British drugmaker AstraZeneca <AZN.L> to produce and distribute enough doses of a potential coronavirus vaccine for its population of 25 million, Prime Min.....[view more](#)

Amid uproar, US Postal Service halts changes blamed for delays

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-08-20

The US Postal Service said Tuesday it will halt changes blamed for slowing mail delivery until after the November election, changing course in the wake of the political firestorm President Donald Trump ignited when he acknowledged he wanted to undermine the agency. Trump, who faces a tough reelection bid, also has called into question the reliability of mail-in voting at a time when a large share of voters are expected to use absentee bal.....[view more](#)

Post-blast Lebanon says hospitals nearly at COVID-19 capacity

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-08-19

Lebanon's health minister warned Monday that hospitals are reaching maximum capacity to treat novel coronavirus patients after the deadly Beirut blast overwhelmed clinics and triggered a spike in COVID-19 cases. "Public and private hospitals in the capital in particular have a very limited capacity, whether in terms of beds in intensive care units or respirators," the minister, Hamad Hassan, told a press conference. &.....[view more](#)

New Zealand's Ardern hits back at Trump over coronavirus 'surge'

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-08-20

New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern hit back on Tuesday against US President Donald Trump for saying her country is experiencing a "big surge" in COVID-19, calling the remarks "patently wrong". Trump sparked uproar in New Zealand when he told a crowd in Minnesota that the South Pacific country of 5 million people was in the grip of a "terrible" upsurge in COVID-19 cases, having earlier succeeded i.....[view more](#)

Brazil indigenous protesters demand help against virus

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-08-19

Brandishing bows and arrows, dozens of indigenous protesters blocked a main highway through the Brazilian Amazon Monday, demanding help against the new coronavirus and an end to illegal mining and deforestation. Members of the Kayapo Mekranoti ethnic group set up a road block across highway BR-163, the main artery connecting Brazil's mid-western agricultural heartland to the river ports of the Amazon, AFP correspondents said. The.....[view more](#)

Lockdown deaths in India ignite debate on police brutality

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-08-20

For two and a half minutes the popular Indian radio DJ described in graphic detail what she said was the torture and killing of a father and son in police custody. The father was arrested for flouting coronavirus lockdown rules by keeping his mobile phone shop in southern India open past curfew, Suchitra Ramadurai alleged in a video posted to her Instagram. The man's son went to check on him at the police station and both were beate.....[view more](#)

Russia to test coronavirus vaccine on 40,000 people

Source: [AFP](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-21

MOSCOW: Russia said on Thursday it would start clinical trials of its controversial coronavirus vaccine next week, involving tens of thousands of people. President Vladimir Putin said earlier this month that Russia had become the first country to register a coronavirus vaccine, though the announcement was met with caution from scientists and the World Health Organisation who said it still needed a rigorous safety review. Russia's sovereign.....[view more](#)

Sail-in cinema opens for Covid-safe viewing

Source: [Reuters](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-21

TEL AVIV: Movie-goers boarded boats floating on the shimmering waters of a Tel Aviv lake on Thursday for a test screening at Israel's first "sail-in" cinema. With indoor film theatres shut because of coronavirus restrictions, Tel Aviv municipality launched the floating cinema to allow residents to catch a movie in the open air while still keeping a safe distance from each other. The floating cinema provided seating aboard 70 p.....[view more](#)

Donors News

WHO urges nations to join global shared vaccine bid

Source: [AFP](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-19

GENEVA: The WHO wrote to every country on Tuesday urging them to quickly join its global shared vaccine programme — and spelled out who would get its eventual coronavirus jabs first. The World Health Organisation's director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said that without vaccinating the planet's highest-risk populations simultaneously, it would be impossible to rebuild the global economy. And he said the most exposed 20 p.....[view more](#)

WHO wants to use Peshawar police hospital as focal point in medical emergencies

Source: [Ashfaq Yusufzai](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-19

PESHAWAR: Police and Services Hospital Peshawar, which served as the only dedicated hospital for Covid-19 patients in the country, has played an important role in managing the coronavirus patients, according to experts. Senior health officials and World Health Organisation have expressed satisfaction over the performance of the hospital and want to use it a focal point in case of medical emergencies in future. The hospital was established before.....[view more](#)

LOTTE Foundation donates Rs39m to fight against COVID-19

Source: [Press Release](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-20

LAHORE-Joining in to combat the current humanitarian and economic crises in the country, LOTTE Pakistan Foundation has donated a package of PKR 39 million to help Pakistan fight against the pandemic. LOTTE Foundation Pakistan aims to fulfill corporate social responsibility by creating world of happiness for everyone. It is part of Global LOTTE group, which is a South Korean conglomerate with extensive history of customer-focused investments in Pa.....[view more](#)

WHO warns Europe against lockdowns

Source: [AFP](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-21

BERLIN: European concerns grew on Thursday over spikes in coronavirus cases in Germany and France, but the World Health Organisation (WHO) said the continent should be able to fight the pandemic without reimposing full lockdown measures. Germany, which has fared better than most of its neighbours, announced it would extend its quarantine rules to parts of Croatia, a popular holiday destination for many Germans, strengthening the idea that the ne.....[view more](#)

SDPI Engagements

Researchers Articles

Two years in power

Source: [Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-08-18

August 18 marks the second anniversary of the PTI government in office. The second half of the government's second year in power was affected by Covid-19. In fact, the pandemic is not over yet. Like anywhere else in the world, it will also continue to haunt Pakistan for some more time. That is why one would have to start with Pakistan's response against Covid-19 while assessing the performance of the federal government's.....[view more](#)

Webinars News

Covid-19 Demands Revisiting Planning

Source: [APP](#), [UrduPoint](#), 2020-08-21

ISLAMABAD, (APP - UrduPoint / Pakistan Point News - 21st Aug, 2020) :Covid19 demands revisiting the planning and initiatives that aimed to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the speakers in webinar on Friday concluded. According to the press release issued by Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) the speakers emphasized the need for multi-stakeholder engagement to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) inpostCovid19 s.....[view more](#)

Speakers highlight need of multi-stakeholder engagement to achieve SDGs in After-Covid19 scenario

Source: [DNA News](#), [DNA News](#), 2020-08-21

Islamabad, AUG 21 – Covid19 demands revisiting the planning and initiatives that aimed to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This revisit is crucial, keeping the fact in view that the pandemic has resulted into new challenges and opportunities that need to be assessed properly as a way forward to achieve the SDGs. The speakers including the parliamentarians serving on SDGs Parliamentary task force, said this while sharing their.....[view more](#)

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