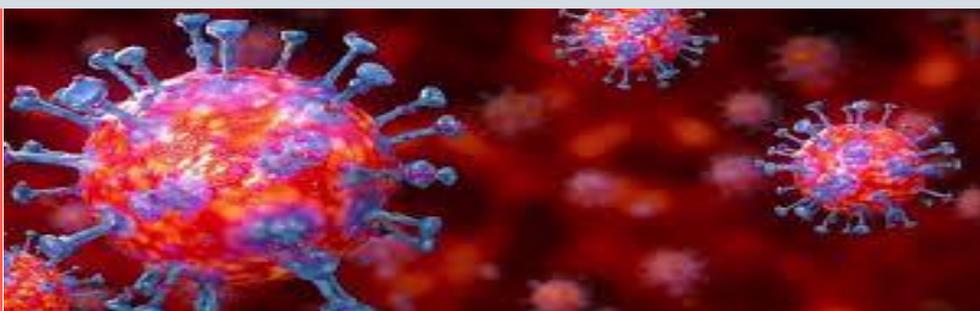


E-Newsletter on COVID-19



Vol. 01, No, 52



Issue: 20-23 October, 2020

.....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

Vaccine for all?

Source: [Nick Dearden](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-10-20

For months, experts have repeatedly told us that no one is safe from coronavirus until we are all safe. If that is true, we should be going all out to ensure the world's resources are used to bring treatments and vaccines to the whole world as soon as possible. Several initiatives have attempted just that, but efforts have been stymied by the self-interest of big business, and by the leader.....

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Mianwali's unique feat in the middle of Corona Pandemic

Source: [Hina Riaz](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-10-20

Amid a Pandemic-cum-panic-stricken 2020, news other than Corona rarely made headlines. Mianwali district, incidentally one of the bottom districts at the provincial development index, produced more than headline stuff in the same period. It set up a Laparoscopic Surgery Suite at District Headquarters Hospital, Mianwali and performed record free surgeries before the establishment of a Laparoscopic s.....

[more >>](#)

Making 'nutrition' integral to Pakistan's COVID-19 response measures

Source: [Dr Shabina Raza](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-10-20

As the world continues to respond to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, a second crisis – a malnutrition crisis – threatens to stymie those efforts and undo decades of development progress and accomplishments. Without the right nutrition, immune systems are compromised and resistance to disease falls. Focusing on nutrition now is critical to help Pakistan overcome the current crisis and st.....

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'Miracle remedies' can leave us all not so healthy

Source: [Hafeez Tunio](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-10-20

The world's top scientists and medical practitioners may still be coming to grips with the novel coronavirus, but in Pakistan and several other nations faith healers, quacks and proponents of 'traditional medicine' are already peddling cures. With no vaccine yet in sight and authorities turning a blind eye, thousands of people have been turning to these dubious remedies in a bid[more >>](#)

MARI — a good start to FY21

Source: [BR Research](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-10-20

Mari Petroleum Company Limited (PSX: MARI) has started off FY21 on a high note. The exploration and production company announced one of its best quarterly performances in its history with Rs67.96 per share earnings. But Mari Petroleum Company Limited is probably the only E&P Company that has started FY21 with significant growth in earnings for the quarter that continues to coincide with COVID-.....[more >>](#)

Conflicting signals

Source: [Dr Hafiz A Pasha](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-10-20

The big changes in the movement of key macroeconomic variables following the spread since March 2020 of COVID-19 have led to some conflicting signals on the nature of short-term trends. Reconciliation of these signals will perhaps require development of new explanations of underlying economic behaviour. The first apparent mystery relates to the appreciation in the value of the rupee with resp.....[more >>](#)

Covid-19 and child education

Source: [Muhammad Jehangir Khan/Junaid Ahmed, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#) , 2020-10-21

Before the coronavirus outbreak, Pakistan's education system was already suffering from structural weaknesses and learning crises. However, the unprecedented school closures have resulted in further denting the country's efforts to build productive human capital. School closures have affected 55.3 million children in Pakistan aged between five and 16. Besides, 22.8 million children are.....

[more >>](#)

Faith in fakes

Source: [Editorial, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#) , 2020-10-20

Whenever a global pandemic disease occurs or an epidemic illness sweeps through particular regions of the world, and medical science has no cure for such afflictions, there appear on the scene quacks claiming to offer a sure cure of the dreaded diseases. Their way of treatment works by fluke in some cases. Their success stories travel far and wide by the word of mouth bringing a fortune to them in.....

[more >>](#)

The game of perceptions

Source: [Dr Kamal Monnoo, The Nation, Islamabad](#) , 2020-10-21

Well, the European Union has just realised their mistake that by creating an unnecessary hype on a second wave, increasing the tests to a level where testing becomes counterproductive and instilling fear in the markets, the once iconic economies of Western and Central Europe are suddenly tanking (pardon the phrase). UK's rating has been downgraded by Moody's and as per the ECB figures,.....

[more >>](#)

Proceeding With Caution

Source: [Editorial, The Nation, Islamabad](#) , 2020-10-21

Countries across the world are experiencing a second wave of the coronavirus pandemic. The infectious nature of the disease guarantees that unless a vaccine is not discovered and made available worldwide, the disease is certain to resurface again and again—it seems difficult to eliminate the problem completely without long-term lockdowns. Pakistan is not exempt from this. Although we ha.....

[more >>](#)

Plastic money our only option

Source: [Muhammad Asim Siddique, Daily Times](#) , 2020-10-22

For countries concerned about the environmental impact of their currency, a switch to Plastic Money makes sense. As countries sign on to the Paris Agreement on climate change and strive to become more sustainable, many are considering the environmental impact of their currency as well as its durability and security. On the other hand, people in Pakistan use a phrase "we are ten years behind.....

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Covid-19 vs terrorism

Source: [Imran Jan, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#) , 2020-10-22

When 9/11 happened, there was a fear in American society that for a huge majority surpassed the fear level of the Red Scare from the days of the Cold War. People lived in fear of radical Muslims inside American society. Taliban and Al Qaeda became the new monsters. Americans started looking over their shoulders and an overwhelming majority supported the invasion of foreign distant lands to avenge

[more >>](#)

Mountain of debt

Source: Editoril, [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-10-22

THE power sector's outstanding debt, known as 'circular debt' in common parlance, is reaching new heights as the government gropes in the dark to find a solution to a problem that is becoming untenable. A new Nepra report estimates the debt to have increased by more than a third to Rs2,150bn in the last fiscal from Rs1,600bn a year ago. Although the power-sector regulator recogni.....

[more >>](#)

As Covid-19 resurges in Rome

Source: Daud Khan, [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-10-23

New Covid cases are surging in several European countries. In Italy, the daily tally of new cases is 12,000 while in other countries such as France and Spain, they are over 30,000. In the UK they are approaching 20,000 new cases every day. More worryingly these numbers are growing rapidly — in Italy the number doubled in a week. In May, after two months of lockdown, new cases in most Europe.....

[more >>](#)

Voting in exile

Source: Amy Reed-Sandoval, [The News, International](#), 2020-10-23

Albert Camus described the exiled-at-home as experiencing "the incorrigible sorrow of all prisoners and exiles, which is to live in company with a memory that has no purpose". Like the imagined citizens of Oran, many of us in the United States are in a kind of exile. Our streets, our playgrounds, our workspaces and our schools no longer feel safe – and, indeed, they frequ.....

[more >>](#)

'Long Covid' and deep economic recession

Source: Dr Omer Javed, [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-10-23

'Covid-19 has left many patients with debilitating symptoms after the initial infection has cleared. This is "long Covid". What is true of health is likely to be true of the economy, too. The pandemic is likely to give the world not just a deep recession, but years of debility. To meet the threat of a "long economic Covid", policymakers must avoid repeating the mistak.....

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National News

Balochistan

Pakistan sees increase in polio cases due to Covid-19 disruptions : Ahsan Achakzai

Source: [Mohammad Zafar, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-10-23

QUETTA: Following the outbreak of the novel coronavirus, Pakistan has seen a surge in polio cases due to disruptions in routine immunisation activities, slow down in polio campaign supplementary immunisation activities and increased mistrust in communities on health services. President Rotary Club Mohammad Ahsan Achakzai, speaking on World Polio Day, stated that the Rotary International and its

[more >>](#)

Islamabad

Coronavirus in Pakistan: Mortality rate sees 140% increase, says Asad Umar

Source: [Web Desk, The News, International](#), 2020-10-20

ISLAMABAD: Head of the country's COVID-19 response, Asad Umar, on Thursday warned the public of the perils of ignoring the coronavirus safety protocols sharing that the COVID-19 mortality rate in Pakistan has increased by 140% in the last week. Asad Umar said, "We are collectively committing a blunder by recklessly ignoring all SOPs and the results have started to show". T.....

[more >>](#)

'Public health surveillance key to disease control'

Source: [Shahina Maqbool, The News, International](#), 2020-10-20

Islamabad: Recognising the public health challenges that continue to unfold in the shape of emergencies—the most recent ones being COVID-19 and last year's Dengue epidemic—the Directorate of Health Services has established an Integrated Public Health Emergencies Operation Centre to respond to all types of public health emergencies under one roof. The Country Representative.....

[more >>](#)

World hailed Pakistan's COVID-19 handling: Dr Arif Alvi

Source: [APP, The News, International](#), 2020-10-20

Islamabad: As the world acknowledged Pakistan's handling of coronavirus pandemic, President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday asked the nation to keep up its "potential of greatness". "My dear Pakistanis, you cared for the poor, continued to pray to Allah and here you are where the world praises you," he said in a tweet. The President said the world was now giving a d.....

[more >>](#)

PM warns of 'second spike' in Covid-19 cases in cities with high pollution levels

Source: [news desk, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-10-20

Prime Minister Imran Khan on Monday cautioned that a second wave of the novel coronavirus may hit cities with a high level of pollution in the coming months as the winter season approaches. While addressing the Clean Green Index Award ceremony in Islamabad, the prime minister said that several cities, where pollution levels are high, experience smog during October and November, when temperatures st.....

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440 new Covid cases, five deaths reported across country

Source: [Agencies](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#) , 2020-10-20

The total active Covid-19 cases in Pakistan on Monday were recorded 9,384 as 440 more people tested positive for the deadly virus during the last 24 hours. Five patients, who were under treatment died in hospital, according to the latest update issued by the National command and Operation Centre (NCOC). No Covid-affected person is on ventilator in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), Gilgit Baltistan (GB)

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PM, cabinet urge nation: Keep your guard up against corona

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#) , 2020-10-21

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Cabinet Tuesday expressed concern over a spike in coronavirus cases, urging the nation not to lower their guard and follow the SOPs, as the second wave of the pandemic was coursing through the length and breadth of the country. Chaired by Prime Minister Imran Khan, the cabinet reviewed the coronavirus situation and acknowledged the fact that Pakistan had fought the e.....

[more >>](#)

'Situation may be critical if Covid-19 SOPs ignored'

Source: [Tahir Niaz](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#) , 2020-10-21

ISLAMABAD - Federal Minister for Planning Asad Umar Tuesday warned of serious consequences if the Covid-19-related SOPs are not complied with. He said if the nation doesn't change the current path, it will lose both lives and livelihoods. In a tweet, he said last week the daily Covid-19 mortality was 12 which is a 140 percent high as compared to the previous weeks. "Last week dai.....

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Cabinet concerned over rising number of coronavirus cases

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#) , 2020-10-21

ISLAMABAD - The federal Cabinet while expressing concern over rising numbers of Covid-19 cases in the country stated that Pakistan kept check on coronavirus pandemic through an effective strategy, which has been hailed worldwide. The federal Cabinet meeting was held here on Tuesday headed by Prime Minister Imran Khan. The federal Cabinet was informed that cases of Covid-19 witnessed a sharp

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Develop resilient & holistic food system to fight hunger'

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#) , 2020-10-22

Islamabad : The experts stressed the need of taking immediate actions to protect food system to produce enough food in quantity and quality. The COVID-19 pandemic has already posed a serious threat to our food system; we need to develop resilient and holistic food system to fight hunger, the panelists urged, while addressing the Comstech virtual seminar on World Food Day on the theme of &l.....

[more >>](#)

NCOC warns of 'lockdown' if violation of SOPs continues

Source: [News Desk](#), [Daily Times](#) , 2020-10-22

The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Wednesday said it is closely monitoring the prevailing Covid-19 situation and if there is no improvement in compliance of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), the NCOC will have no choice but to revert to strict measures leading to re-closure of multiple sectors. The NCOC special session to monitor increasing disease trend with all provincia.....

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Ministry withdraws Rs70b Covid-related scheme

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-10-22

ISLAMABAD: The federal government's response to mitigate the impact of a deadly respiratory disease on the lives of people remains slow as it has not yet been able to approve about half-a-billion-dollar or Rs70 billion Covid-19 project. The Ministry of Planning and Development on Wednesday withdrew the Covid-19 Responsive and other Natural Calamities Control Programme costing Rs70 billion

[more >>](#)

2.4pc rise witnessed in Covid-19 cases, body told

Source: [Tahir Amin](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-10-22

ISLAMABAD: The Senate Standing Committee on National Health Services Regulation and Coordination was informed on Wednesday that 2.4 percent rise was witnessed in the Covid-19 cases, and it needed to be taken seriously. The parliamentary panel met with Sikandar Mandhro in the chair, here on Wednesday, where detailed briefing was given on the current wave of the Covid-19 on a point of public im.....

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3 capital schools sealed as more Covid-19 cases surface

Source: [Amjad Iqbal | Aamir Yasin | Kashif Abbasi](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-10-22

ISLAMABAD: Three more educational institutions have been closed in Islamabad after Covid-19 cases were detected there. An official from the Ministry for Federal Education said two private schools, including an upscale school in F-10, and the Islamabad Model College for Girls I-10 have been closed. The official said around 100 cases of Covid-19 have been reported in Islamabad's educational

[more >>](#)

Gatherings the main cause of Covid-19 spread: PM's aide

Source: [Ikram Junaidi](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-10-22

ISLAMABAD: Gatherings are the main cause of the spread of Covid-19, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on National Health Services (NHS) Dr Faisal Sultan told a Senate committee on Wednesday. While briefing the Senate Standing Committee on NHS, Dr Sultan claimed that educational institutions were following standard operating procedure (SOP) to limit the spread of Covid-19. However, the comm.....

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Effective anti-COVID-19 SOPs in place for inbound int'l flights

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-10-22

ISLAMABAD - The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has introduced effective anti coronavirus (COVID-19) Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for all international passengers arriving in Pakistan from different countries. The new SOPs would remain in place for inbound international flights till December 31, 2020, under which all passengers are required to register themselves by installing the Pass.....

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NCOC warns of second lockdown if Covid-19 SOPs ignored

Source: [Tahir Niaz](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-10-22

ISLAMABAD - The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) has warned that strict measures will be taken once again if there is no improvement in compliance of the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for controlling the spread of coronavirus. During a special session which was held here on Wednesday to monitor the surge in the Covid-19 cases in the country, the NCOC was informed that there.....

[more >>](#)

CDWP approves Rs8.17b to support education system under COVID-19

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-10-22

ISLAMABAD-Central Development Working Party (CDWP) on Wednesday approved two mega projects worth of Rs 8.175 billion to support education system under COVID-19 pandemic. The meeting of the committee was chaired by Planning Commission Deputy Chairman Mohammad Jehanzeb Khan and was attended by senior officials from Planning Commission and federal ministries/divisions. Ministry of Federal Education &.....

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IMCG I-10/4 closed after confirmation of 2 COVID-19 cases

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-10-22

Islamabad - City health authorities on Wednesday closed Islamabad Model College for Girls (IMCG) in sector I-10 after confirmation of two novel coronavirus (COVID-19) cases there. The District Health Office (DHO) requested the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration for closure of school/college premises in the wake of two COVID-19 positive cases at IMCG I-10/4. The notification issu.....

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Senate body recommends govt to provide free face masks to public

Source: [Rahul Basharat](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-10-22

ISLAMABAD-The Senate body on National Health Services (NHS) on Thursday recommended the government to provide free face masks to public. The meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on NHS was held here under the chairmanship of Senator Sikandar Mandhro. Discussing the rise in Covid-19 cases on agenda, the Committee was informed that a 2.4 percent rise has been observed, which even though not.....

[more >>](#)

Coronavirus: Pakistan's positivity rate highest in two months

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-10-22

ISLAMABAD: The coronavirus positivity rate in Pakistan spiked up to 2.58% on October 21, which is quite alarming as it's the highest in over two months. According to the official tally, on Wednesday of the 28,534 tests sampled, 736 came back positive. To date, Pakistan has a total of 324,744 coronavirus cases and 6692 deaths nationwide. Government officials have expressed concern a.....

[more >>](#)

Medical college suspends activities after reporting eight coronavirus cases

Source: [Zaigham Naqvi](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-10-22

ISLAMABAD: Academic activities at the Fazaia Medical College Air University in Islamabad were suspended for over a week on Thursday after it reported eight cases of coronavirus. According to a notification issued by the varsity's administration, the university will remain closed from October 22 to November 1. "Students in their final year of MBBS will stay home to avoid interacting with.....

[more >>](#)

Three more schools sealed

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-10-23

Islamabad : The district administration on Thursday sealed three more educational institutions in Islamabad over detection of coronavirus cases among staff members and students. Among them are a private school in Chattha Bakhtawar area (two students), a private school in F-10/1 (three teachers) and a private school in G-6/2 (two teachers). A private medical college had suspended academic

[more >>](#)

7 deaths due to COVID-19

Source: [Muhammad Qasim](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-10-23

Rawalpindi : In last 24 hours, coronavirus illness, COVID-19 has claimed another seven lives from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district taking total number of deaths caused by the virus in the region to 509 while as many as 151 new patients have been confirmed positive in the region after which the tally has crossed the figure of 25000. Death of seven confirmed patients of th.....

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'Winter pandemic,' can be avoided with right efforts

Source: [Rasheed Khalid](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-10-23

Islamabad : The Special Adviser to the Prime Minister on Health Dr Faisal Sultan has said that there is already a slight but definitive rise in COVID-19 cases, but the second wave, the so-called 'winter pandemic,' can be avoided with the right efforts and precautions. He was speaking here at the research launch of the report 'Pakistan's fight against COVID-19'.....

[more >>](#)

Pandemic delays USC automation

Source: [Zafar Bhutta](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-10-23

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan has expressed concern over delay in adoption of information technology solutions by the Utility Stores Corporation (USC) as automation of the state-owned store chain is critical for controlling pilferage and corruption. In a recent meeting, cabinet members also voiced concern over poor performance of USC, which could control food inflation in the country by p.....

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Average Covid positivity rate up by 40 % in last four days: NCOC

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-10-23

ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operations Centre (NCOC) noted on Friday that the average Covid positivity rate had risen by 40 per cent in the last four days. Expressing concern at the alarming increase in the positivity rate, the national body on coronavirus was also perturbed over the increasing number of hospital admissions and deaths from the deadly virus. During a morning session held b.....

[more >>](#)

Pakistan's coronavirus situation worsening

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-10-23

ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Friday observed that the coronavirus situation in the country is worsening as all indicators have turned red. During the morning session of the NCOC on Friday, health officials briefed the forum about the rising positivity ratio, increase in hospital admissions and the spike in the number of deaths. "Forum noted that [it.....

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Pakistan reports 736 coronavirus cases in one day

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-10-23

Pakistan has reported thirteen deaths in the last 24 hours by novel coronavirus as the number of positive cases has surged to 326,216. The nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 6,715 on Friday. According to the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC), 736 persons have been tested positive for COVID-19 in 24 hours. Sindh remains the worst-hit province by the

[more >>](#)

Covid-19 response; Senate body briefed on donors' financing

Source: [Naveed Butt](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-10-23

ISLAMABAD: The Senate Standing Committee on Planning, Development and Special Initiatives was informed that the total quantum of committed donors financing for Covid-19 pandemic was \$483.96 million against the total requirement of \$595 million indicated in the Pakistan Preparedness Response Plan (PPRP). The Committee met with Senator Dr Asad Ashraf in the chair at the Parliament House on Thur.....

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Threat of another COVID-19 wave still persists: Dr. Faisal Sultan

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-10-23

ISLAMABAD - Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on National Health Services (NHS) Dr. Faisal Sultan on Thursday said COVID-19 had been contained to a significant extent, however the threat of another wave was still there with no time for complacency. He expressed these views while addressing the World Health Organization (WHO) Eastern Mediterranean Region meeting. Four-day meeting of

[more >>](#)

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Journalist who died of COVID-19 remembered

Source: [Bureau Report](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-10-22

PESHAWAR: Glowing tributes were paid on Tuesday to a journalist Fakhruddin Syed, who died of COVID-9 in May. Fakhruddin was the first journalist from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa who died of Covid-19. He had tested positive while performing duty during the lockdown, which was imposed to help contain the spread of the coronavirus. The City Police and the Crimes and Terrorism Journalists Forum arrang.....

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Punjab

One more dies of COVID-19, other 93 test positive

Source: [Muhammad Qasim](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-10-20

Rawalpindi: The coronavirus illness, COVID-19 outbreak continues hitting population badly in the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi as the virus claimed another life in the region taking death toll to 495 while as many as 93 new patients have been tested positive taking tally to 24,693. On Monday, the total number of patients so far tested positive from Islamabad capital Territory has

[more >>](#)

Punjab reports highest coronavirus deaths in three months

Source: [Benazir Shah](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-10-20

LAHORE: As per the official data, Punjab has reported its highest daily number of coronavirus-related deaths in three months on Monday. On October 19, the province carried out 8,623 tests – its lowest in a month – but recorded 108 new cases, while 12 people died from the deadly virus in 24 hours. This brought the tally of positive cases in Punjab, since the start of the outbre.....

[more >>](#)

Smog may increase virus deaths

Source: [Ali Raza](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-10-20

LAHORE: Deteriorating air quality due to smog may increase the death rate among the corona patients, which are again on rise especially in the provincial metropolis and generally across the province. Following this situation, Relief Commissioner, Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA), issued a letter to all the divisional commissioners to strictly implement the SOPs regarding smog.....

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No Covid-19 death

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-10-20

LAHORE: Ninety-three new infections were confirmed in Punjab during the last 24 hours, according to a report issued by Primary and Secondary Healthcare (P&SH) Department here on Monday. The toll of fatalities stayed at 2,298 in Punjab, while confirmed cases of coronavirus reached 101,652 in the province. Out of a total of 101,652 infections in Punjab, 98,872 citizens contracted the virus throu.....

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Three more succumb to corona at Nishtar

Source: [Nadeem Shah](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-10-20

MULTAN: Three more corona patients died at the Nishtar Hospital after a short pause of four days. The arrival of corona patients had been increased at the hospital, said spokesperson for the Nishtar Hospital Dr Irfan Ahmed on Monday. He said that three under treatment corona patients, Safdar Hussain of Multan, Muhammad Hussain of Lodhran and Syed Massam Hassan of Multan, died at the hospital.

[more >>](#)

2 deaths, 128 new COVID-19 cases keep situation alarming

Source: [Muhammad Qasim](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-10-21

Rawalpindi : The number of patients tested positive for coronavirus illness, COVID-19 from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district is on sharp increase for at least two weeks as almost every 6th patient tested positive from Pakistan in last week is a resident of the region showing that the region has started facing second wave of coronavirus. In last 24 hours, the virus claimed.....

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12 COVID-19 patients die, 108 new cases reported

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-10-21

LAHORE:As many as 12 COVID-19 patients died and 108 new infections were confirmed in Punjab during the last 24 hours, according to a report issued by Primary and Secondary Healthcare (P&SH) Department on Tuesday. The toll of fatalities stayed at 2,310 in Punjab, while confirmed cases of coronavirus reached 101,760 in the province. Out of a total of 101,760 infections in Punjab, 98,980 citizen.....

[more >>](#)

Call to test staff, students for corona

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-10-21

LAHORE:The District Education Authority (DEA) Lahore has requested the District Health Authority for sampling of teachers, other employees and students of Crescent Model Higher Secondary School. According to a letter issued in this regard, a team of DEA Lahore visited the school Tuesday and condoled the death of principal of the school due to corona on 19 October. The DEA Lahore requested District.....

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COVID-19 claims 5 more lives, another 139 test positive

Source: [Muhammad Qasim](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-10-22

Rawalpindi : Coronavirus claimed another five lives here in Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district in last 24 hours taking death toll from the region to 502 while another 139 patients have been tested positive for COVID-19 from the region taking tally to 24960. It is important that over four deaths due to COVID-19 have been reported in a day from the twin cities of Islamabad a.....

[more >>](#)

Punjab reports 9 corona deaths, 176 new cases

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-10-22

LAHORE:Nine Covid-19 patients died and 176 new infections were confirmed in Punjab during the last 24 hours, according to a report issued by Primary and Secondary Healthcare (P&SH) Department here on Wednesday. The toll of fatalities reached 2,319 in Punjab, while confirmed cases of coronavirus reached 101,936 in the province. Out of a total of 101,936 infections in Punjab, 99,156 citi.....

[more >>](#)

Pak vs Zim: Pakistani players tested negative for coronavirus

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-10-22

LAHORE: All national team players have tested negative for coronavirus ahead of the Zimbabwe series beginning from October 30, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) said on Thursday. The tests of all Pakistan men's national team players and support staff were conducted on Wednesday upon the squad's arrival at the hotel, read the PCB statement. Following the negative test results, t.....

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Police ill-prepared to fight Covid wave

Source: [Muhammad Shahzad](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-10-23

LAHORE: As the second wave of novel coronavirus is hitting the provincial metropolis, Lahore police appear ill-prepared to prevent the spread of the pandemic in its rank and file as well the citizens. On Wednesday, the first positive case of an officer of Lahore police was reported after about two months. Meanwhile, the virus reportedly claimed three lives in the provincial capital. The pandemi.....

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Buzdar appeals citizens to follow corona SOPs

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-10-23

LAHORE - Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar has appealed to the citizens to follow corona SOPs as the number of active cases has reached to 2424 in the province. In a statement, he stated that 171 new cases have been reported while 5 patients have died during the last 24 hours. Meanwhile, 9,639 were tested in this period and 97,289, out of 10,2107, have been recovered, he added. He regrette.....

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COVID-19 crisis creates opportunity to overcome institutional barriers: VC UHS

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-10-23

LAHORE - While there is uncertainty around how medical education will look in the post-pandemic era, the Asian health experts agreed that COVID-19 has created a critical need to transform various aspects of medical education to reflect the changing health landscape. "The teaching and learning of medicine has historically been slow to change, but rapid changes seen during the COVID-19 pandemi.....

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Sindh

Covid-19 kills two more, infects another 286

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-10-20

Two more patients have died from the novel coronavirus and 286 new cases have emerged in the province. As many as 8,182 tests were conducted in a day, said Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in his daily Covid-19 situation report on Monday. The death toll from Covid-19 had reached 2,583, he said. So far 1,540,247 tests have been conducted in which 142,134 cases have been detected al.....

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Sanofi, DVAGO team up to offer safe vaccination space

Source: [Press Release](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-10-20

Karachi: Sanofi announced a partnership with DVAGO Pharmacy and Wellness Experts whereby people in Karachi and Hyderabad can avail vaccination services by certified pharmacists within safe, hygienic and quality-controlled environs of DVAGO Pharmacies. Routine vaccines help protect children and adolescents from serious diseases. A report released in May 2020 by the Center of Disease Control.....

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State Bank spends Rs1.3 trillion during Covid-19 pandemic

Source: [Usman Hanif](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-10-20

The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has provided financial aid of over Rs1.3 trillion under financing packages and for medical facilities to mitigate the impact of lockdown imposed to contain the spread of coronavirus. The State Bank of Pakistan deputy governor, while addressing a meeting at the Korangi Association of Trade and Industry (KATI), said for loans, financing packages and medical facilities.....

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Sindh sees 286 fresh Covid-19 cases

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-10-20

As many as 286 people were diagnosed with coronavirus from 8,182 samples tested overnight, stated Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Monday, adding that the newly reported cases had taken the virus tally to 142,134. Moreover, he disclosed that two more Covid-19 patients succumbed to the virus, lifting the death toll to 2,583 in Sindh. Shah added that 471 people recovered from the contag.....

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COVID-19 claims two more lives, infects 286 others in Sindh: CM

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-10-20

KARACHI - As many as 286 new cases of coronavirus emerged when 8,182 tests were conducted raising the tally to 142,134 while two more patients were died, lifting the tally to 2,583 in Sindh. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued from CM house on Monday. He added that two more patients of COVID-19 died overnight lifting the death toll to 2,583 t.....

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Four more die from coronavirus, another 214 get infected in Sindh

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-10-21

Four more patients have died from the novel coronavirus and 214 new cases have emerged in the province. As many as 7,487 tests were conducted in a day, said Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in his daily Covid-19 situation report on Monday. The death toll from Covid-19 had reached 2,587, he said. So far 1,547,731 tests have been conducted which detected 142,348 cases all over Sindh.....

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Sindh registers four more deaths, 214 new cases

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-10-21

KARACHI - Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that four more patients of coronavirus died on Tuesday lifting the death toll to 2,587 and 214 new cases emerged when 7487 samples were tested raising the tally to 142,348. In a statement issued here from CM House, Mr Shah said that four more patients of COVID-19 lost their lives overnight lifting the death toll to 2587 that constitu.....

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Second doctor falls prey to coronavirus within a week

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-10-22

An elderly doctor is among three patients who have died from the novel coronavirus, while new 293 cases have surfaced in Sindh. Dr Shagufta Asif, a retired doctor, had been on life support at a private hospital in Karachi for the last few days after contracting the coronavirus infection. She passed away on Wednesday morning, her husband Dr Asif Mirza announced on social media. With her de.....

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Official raises alarm over neglect of critical issues by Drap

Source: [Azfar-ul-Ashfaque](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-10-22

KARACHI: While the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (Drap) is solely responsible for regulating the pharmaceutical industry, senior government officials have raised alarm over violation of the Drug Act of 1976 and neglect of critical issues, including mechanism of medicine pricing, by the authority. Over the years, many senior officials have tried to streamline the working of Drap to benefit.....

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COVID-19 challenges;SBP extends timelines for various regulatory requirements

Source: [Rizwan Bhatti](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-10-22

KARACHI: The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has decided to extend the timelines for various regulatory requirements as the banking industry is facing challenges in meeting the existing timelines due to COVID-19. According to a circular issued Wednesday, previous timeline for the Compliance Risk Management System was March 2020 and the revised timeline is October 31, 2020. Revised timeline for f.....

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3 more patients die of coronavirus

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-10-22

KARACHI - As many as three more patients of COVID-19 died overnight lifting the death toll to 2590 and 293 new cases emerged when 7843 tests were conducted raising the tally to 142,641. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued here on Wednesday. He said that three more patients lost their lives overnight lifting the death toll to 2590 that constituted

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Two CAA officers stopped from travelling to Pakistan from US

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-10-22

KARACHI - Two officers of Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) on Wednesday have been stopped from travelling back to Pakistan from a flight of a foreign airline from the United States (US). The CAA officers including inspectors of flight standard Masood Elahi and Shahzad Anwar have reportedly reached the Texas airport without undergoing coronavirus screening tests which led the foreign airline adm.....

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Third doctor dies within a week as Covid-19 'returning with a vengeance'

Source: [M Waqar Bhatti](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-10-23

Another senior doctor fell prey to Covid-19, third within a week, in Karachi, where 276 more people tested positive overnight when 6,551 tests were conducted, officials said on Thursday. "Prof Syed Waqar Ahmed had been brought to Ziauddin Hospital's Clifton Campus on October 10 with severe pneumonia, and he passed away today due to post-Covid-19 complications during treatment.

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PVC prices soar to highest since 2014

Source: [Usman Hanif](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-10-23

Prices of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) have soared to their highest level in Pakistan since 2014 as US plants halted production due to Covid-19. PVC prices surged to \$1,010 per ton in the backdrop of Covid-induced lockdown, stated a report of Taurus Securities. "Engro Polymer and Chemicals Limited (EPCL) is the only company that produces PVC in Pakistan while the rest of the players import it

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Virus claims one more life, infects 276

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-10-23

KARACHI - Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that 276 new cases of coronavirus emerged when 6551 tests were conducted raising the tally to 142,917 and one more patient died lifting the death toll to 2591. This he said in a statement issued from the CM House on Thursday. Mr Shah said that 6551 samples were tested against which 276 new cases were diagnosed that constituted 4.2 pe.....

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International News

Countries News

Global coronavirus cases surpass the 40 million milestone

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-10-20

Worldwide coronavirus cases crossed 40 million on Monday, according to a Reuters tally, as the onset of winter in the northern hemisphere fuelled a resurgence in the spread of the disease. The Reuters tally is based on official reporting by individual countries. Experts believe the true numbers of both cases and deaths are likely much higher, given deficiencies in testing and potential under-report.....

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Vaccine storage issues could leave 3B people without access

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-10-20

The chain breaks here, in a tiny medical clinic in Burkina Faso that went nearly a year without a working refrigerator. From factory to syringe, the world's most promising coronavirus vaccine candidates need non-stop sterile refrigeration to stay potent and safe. But despite enormous strides in equipping developing countries to maintain the vaccine "cold chain," nearly 3 billion o.....

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As virus flares globally, new strategies target hot spots

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-10-20

After entire nations were shut down during the first surge of the coronavirus earlier this year, some countries and U.S. states are trying more targeted measures as cases rise again around the world, especially in Europe and the Americas. New York's new round of virus shutdowns zeroes in on individual neighborhoods, closing schools and businesses in hot spots measuring just a couple of square.....

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ICUs without air-conditioning could shield doctors from COVID-19: study

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-10-20

Intensive care units (ICUs) at hospitals treating COVID-19 patients should do away with air-conditioning to limit the risk of infecting doctors, a study from a top Indian research institute has said. Frontline health workers around the world have borne the brunt of the coronavirus crisis. More than 500 doctors have died from COVID-19 in India – the world's second-worst hit nation &ndas.....

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Finnish PM COVID-19 test comes back negative after EU summit

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-10-20

The Finnish Prime Minister Sanna Marin has tested negative for coronavirus, her office said on Monday, after she had left the European Union summit prematurely on Friday due to coming near people who later tested positive. "The prime minister will continue her self-isolation and she will be tested again on Monday," the office said in a statement. European Commission President Ursula vo.....

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Covid-19 may inflict a decade of economic pain to Mideast, Central Asia, warns IMF

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-10-20

It might take countries in the Middle East and Central Asia a decade to return to the economic growth seen before the coronavirus crisis, the International Monetary Fund said, as long-standing regional vulnerabilities weigh on their

recovery. Lack of diversification among oil-exporting countries and the reliance of oil importers on sectors like tourism, as well as their dependence on remittances,.....

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Doctors probe whether COVID-19 is causing diabetes

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-10-20

Mario Buelna, a healthy 28-year-old father, caught a fever and started having trouble breathing in June. He soon tested positive for COVID-19. Weeks later, after what had seemed like a recovery, he felt weak and started vomiting. At 3 a.m. on Aug. 1, he passed out on the floor of his home in Mesa, Arizona. Paramedics rushed him to a nearby hospital, where doctors put him in intensive care after savi.....

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Translation tools, air purifiers: face masks go high-tech

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-10-22

From monitoring vital signs to filtering filthy air and even translating speech into other languages, the coronavirus-fuelled boom in mask-wearing has spawned an unusual range of high-tech face coverings. As masks become the norm worldwide, tech companies and researchers are rolling out weird and wonderful models to both guard against infection and cash in on a growing trend. One of the wackiest.....

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Europe's hospitals under major stress as coronavirus cases surge

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-10-22

Europe's hospital systems are at risk of buckling under the strain of soaring numbers of COVID-19 infections that have put the continent once again at the centre of the global pandemic. With case numbers that were brought largely under control by the unprecedented lockdowns in March and April now resurging relentlessly, authorities in countries from Poland to Portugal have expressed mounting.....

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Venezuela plans to use Russian and Chinese coronavirus vaccines

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-10-22

Venezuela plans to vaccinate citizens with Russian and Chinese coronavirus vaccines, which could arrive in the South American nation in December or January, President Nicolas Maduro said on Tuesday. "It has been announced that the completed Russian and Chinese vaccines should arrive by December, January, December-January, and we are going to start vaccination," Maduro said during a liv.....

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SDPI Engagements

Webinar News

Experts call for financial data security and cyberlaws to facilitate e-commerce

Source: [Tariq Ullah Wardak](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-10-23

ISLAMABAD: Experts at a webinar stressed the need for data security and stringent cyberlaws for greater facilitation in the field of e-commerce in Pakistan. The webinar was organized by Sustainable Development Policy Institute. In his introductory note, SDPI Executive Director Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri called upon the security of country's financial data, which, he said, is also the demand of t....

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