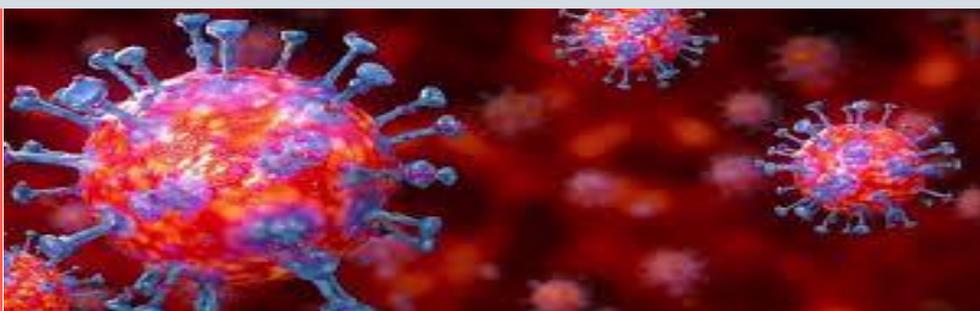


# E-Newsletter on COVID-19



Vol. 01, No, 56



Issue: 3-6 November, 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

**Wrong message**

Source: [Editoril](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-11-03

COVID-19 cases across the country are rising at a dangerous pace, with the official coronavirus-related death toll in the last week alone close to 100. The situation is growing worrisome as ministers sound the alarm over a positivity ratio which has crossed the 3pc mark and is continuing to escalate. In Islamabad, daily positive Covid-19 cases are growing at an alarming rate, spurring the administ.....[more >>](#)

**Covid-19 threat**

Source: [Dr Niaz Murtaza](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-11-03

AS the risk of a second wave of Covid-19 rises rapidly, a devil-may-care sense of complacency and invulnerability still grips the nation. It comes from a wrong belief that we have honed an indigenous expertise against the virus that is being praised globally. But there is yet no rigorous technical study of our response. Thus, the 'global praise' consists only of dubious official repor.....[more >>](#)

**Pakistan and the med-tech sector**

Source: [Muhammad Hamid Zaman](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-11-03

The continued challenges with the pandemic have hit the economies hard. The impact on lives and livelihoods is real, and millions will require real support to put the pieces of their lives back. While many traditional industries have taken a serious blow, other industries are reporting both high growth and robust demand for months and years to come. Medical technologies — ranging from dispos.....

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**Enhanced social protection an opportunity for Asia-Pacific**

Source: [Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana/Chihoko Asada Miyakawa](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-11-03

In the fight against Covid-19, success has so far been defined by responses in Asia and the Pacific. Many countries in our region have been hailed as reference points in containing the virus. Yet if the region is to build back better, the success of immediate responses should not distract from the weaknesses Covid-19 has laid bare. Too many people in our region are left to fend for themselves in t.....

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**Smog and Covid-19**

Source: [Editorial](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-11-03

Smog envelops Lahore every year in winter — from November to February, and the issue has been persisting for the past many years threatening humans as well as other living beings. Since smog makes breathing difficult, it is now posing a greater danger to human life due to the resurgence of the coronavirus pandemic. It is mostly difficulty in breathing that kills most Covid-19 patients. Even .....

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**OGDCL 1QFY21 – slow or improving?**

Source: [BR Research](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-11-04

There are two ways to look at Oil and Gas Development Company's (PSX: OGDCL) financial performance for 1QFY21: compared to 1QFY19, earnings and revenues have slipped; but sequentially, the quarter portrays improvement. Though OGDCL's earnings declined year-on-year during the period under analysis, COVID-19 has made sequential analysis of the financial performance more meaningful a.....

[more >>](#)

**Second wave**

Source: [Editorial, The News, International](#) , 2020-11-05

The National Command Centre, at a meeting presided over by Prime Minister Imran Khan, and attended by the provincial chief ministers as well as other officials, has decided to go along with the decision made by the National Control and Operation Centre to avoid another complete lockdown, as Covid-19 cases rise sharply in the country. According to Minister Asad Umar, 2000 cases have been reported i.....

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**The people's man**

Source: [Zubeida Mustafa, Dawn, Islamabad](#) , 2020-11-06

HOW the Single National Curriculum is being formulated betrays a gross ignorance of the principles of public policymaking. As I wait for the final document I often think of my friend Javed Hasan Aly who passed away last month of Covid-19, leaving his family and his many friends bereft. I can imagine him shaking his head sadly and declaring that policymakers in Islamabad were violating public inte.....

[more >>](#)

**Pandemic's second wave and oil markets**

Source: [Dr Omer Javed, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#) , 2020-11-06

'For an industry still heavily scarred by the events of March and April, when prices went into free-fall as widespread lockdowns cut global oil consumption by around a quarter, the second wave of coronavirus restrictions has left many shuddering. Brent crude, the international marker, fell 10 per cent this week to just above \$37 a barrel.' – 'Oil traders tear up demand fore.....

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## National News

### Balochistan

#### Balochistan asks federal govt for more testing kits

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-11-05

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Jam Kamal on Tuesday directed health authorities to immediately contact the federal government to seek testing kits and medical equipment for the province in order to fight the second wave of coronavirus effectively. Presiding over a high-level meeting at the CM House, he said that the people were unaware of the danger posed by the second wave of coronavirus in.....

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### Islamabad

#### More restrictions expected in Pakistan as govt weighs virus cases

Source: [Ikram Junaidi](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-11-03

ISLAMABAD: As a number of European countries have announced lockdowns due to a second wave of the novel coronavirus, Prime Minister Imran Khan will chair a meeting of the National Coordination Committee on Covid-19 (NCCC) on Tuesday (today) to deliberate upon the situation and options for placing further restrictions. "I have a feeling that further restrictions or a line of action for furth.....

[more >>](#)

#### NCC to deliberate additional measures to contain COVID-19 spread

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-11-03

Prime Minister Imran Khan is scheduled to chair a National Coordination Committee (NCC) meeting today to deliberate over the growing trend of COVID-19 cases in the country. The premier summoned the meeting yesterday, hours after Federal Minister for Planning and Development Asad Umar said the National Command and Operations Centre (NCOC) discussed additional measures to control rising spread of t.....

[more >>](#)

#### ADB, Pakistan sign \$2m grant agreement to combat Covid-19

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-11-03

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed on Tuesday a \$2 million grant agreement to strengthen the country's efforts to combat the coronavirus pandemic. Economic Affairs Division Secretary Noor Ahmed and ADB Country Director for Pakistan Xiaohong Yang signed the agreement. The grant, financed from the Asia Pacific Disaster Response Fund, would help provide life-savi.....

[more >>](#)

#### Another 119 Covid-19 cases detected in capital

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-11-03

ISLAMABAD: The district administration of the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) has continued its policy of imposing smart lockdowns over various neighbourhoods after another 119 novel coronavirus cases were confirmed in the city on Monday. According to the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on the novel coronavirus (Covid-19), 119 new cases had been confirmed in the city on Sunday whi.....

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**20 officials of Senate test positive**

Source: [Zulfiqar Ahmad, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-11-03

ISLAMABAD: The federal capital is in the grip of its worst surge as some 20 officials of the Upper House of the parliament have tested positive for the Covid-19. According to sources, the officials who have been tested positive for the coronavirus were sent on leave, while the Senate and the National Assembly Secretariats are also considering to stop the meetings of the standings committees in ord.....

[more >>](#)

**Meeting decides no complete lockdown despite corona spike**

Source: [Our Correspondent, The News, International](#), 2020-11-04

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan Tuesday directed all stakeholders to ensure a balance between the Covid-19 control measures and livelihood of people. It was decided that complete lockdown would not be imposed in the country despite the beginning of second wave of the virus and increase in infections. The PM particularly ordered for ramping up hospital care to cater for any rise in Covid-19 c.....

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**Coronavirus claims 14 more lives in Pakistan**

Source: [nill, The News, International](#), 2020-11-04

ISLAMABAD: The total active Covid-19 cases in Pakistan on Tuesday were recorded at 13,965 as 1,167 more people tested positive for the virus during the last 24 hours. Fourteen corona patients, 12 of whom were under treatment, died in hospital, and two died out of hospital on Monday, according to the latest update issued by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC). No Covid-19 affected per.....

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**7 more educational institutions sealed**

Source: [Our Correspondent, The News, International](#), 2020-11-04

Islamabad : Seven more educational institutions were sealed in the Islamabad Capital Territory on Tuesday after the detection of coronavirus cases among staff members and students. The police got the buildings vacated before sealing them. Officials of the district administration said the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulation and Coordination had ordered the immediate sealing of colleg.....

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**Pakistan cannot afford another lockdown: PM**

Source: [Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-11-04

ISLAMABAD: The government on Tuesday ramped up measures to control the second wave of Covid-19 pandemic in the country, with focus on strict adherence to the standard operating procedures (SOPs) and avoiding any return of lockdown in order to protect people's livelihood. Prime Minister Imran Khan, who chaired separate meetings of the federal cabinet and the National Coordination Committee .....

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**\$2m grant deal inked with ADB to combat Covid-19 pandemic**

Source: [Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-11-04

ISLAMABAD: The government of Pakistan and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Tuesday signed a \$2 million grant agreement to strengthen Pakistan's efforts to combat the coronavirus disease (Covid-19) pandemic. Economic Affairs Division Secretary Noor Ahmed and ADB Country Director for Pakistan, Xiaohong Yang, signed the agreement. The grant, financed from the Asia Pacific Disaster .....

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### **Parliament House to remain close till Nov 9 due to coronavirus**

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-11-04

The government on Wednesday sealed the Parliament House after various employees tested positive for coronavirus last week, the building would remain closed until Nov 9. The Capital Development Authority (CDA) has assumed the responsibility of disinfecting the building, while Senate Chairperson Sadiq Sanjrani, Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaisar, and several other officials self-isolated the.....

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### **Second wave feared as COVID-19 cases soar across country**

Source: [Anadolu](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-11-04

Pakistan continued to record a surge in coronavirus cases with over 1,300 new cases on Wednesday, the highest single-day number since July 30, the Health Ministry said. With 1,313 new infections, the nationwide caseload stood at 337,573, while 18 more people died from the virus over the last 24 hours, pushing the death toll to 6,867. The country has recorded over 4,500 fresh cases in the las.....

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### **COVID-19: Justice Ijaz UI Ahsan inspects SC building to check SOPs**

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-11-04

ISLAMABAD - Supreme Court Judge Justice Ijaz UI Ahsan on Tuesday inspected the apex court building to review implementation of coronavirus Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). Justice Ijaz visited various places inside and outside the building and checked the infrared thermometers devices. He directed the staff to implement SOPs. ....

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### **Coronavirus: 12 more patients die in hospitals in 24 hours**

Source: [Imran Mukhtar](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-11-03

ISLAMABAD - The country reported as many as 1,123 more confirmed cases of Covid-19 during the last 24 hours taking the tally of active cases of deadly virus in Pakistan to 13,242. At least twelve coronavirus patients who were under treatment in hospitals died on Sunday, according to the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC). At least 119 ventilators countrywide, out of total 1,884 all.....

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### **PIMS cancels scheduled elective surgeries due to spike in COVID-19 cases**

Source: [Rahul Basharat](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-11-03

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) on Monday cancelled scheduled elective surgeries in the hospital due to rise in novel coronavirus (COVID-19) cases. The hospital has issued a notification cancelling all elective surgeries and limited the healthcare services of surgeries upto emergency and to treat the cancer patients. Officials at PIMS informed The Nation that the de.....

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### **3 deaths, 260 new cases in twin cities**

Source: [Muhammad Qasim](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-11-05

Rawalpindi : Coronavirus illness, COVID-19 has claimed another three lives in the last 24 hours here in Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district taking the death toll from the region to 552 while another 260 patients have been tested positive for the illness from twin cities showing that the spread of the disease is getting uncontrolled day by day. It is important that over 250 confirm.....

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**Another school, college sealed**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-11-05

Islamabad: Two more educational institutions were sealed by the district administration after the emergence of COVID-19 cases among students and staff members. Among them are Islamabad Model School for Boys G-8/1 (two cases) and Islamabad Model College for Girls F-7/4 (six cases). The universities, colleges, and schools across the country were reopened in September after closure of six mo.....

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**NCOC proposes micro, smart lockdowns**

Source: [NNI](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-11-05

ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operation Center (NCOC), while expressing reservations over continuous increase in coronavirus deaths and cases in the country on Wednesday proposed to impose micro and smart lockdowns. Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar chaired the NCOC meeting which held detailed review of all hotspot areas and measures to control.....

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**No closure of educational institutions due to Covid**

Source: [Kashif Abbasi](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-11-06

ISLAMABAD: Federal and provincial education ministers on Thursday decided not to close educational institutions in the country as positivity rate of coronavirus in the institutions remains “scarcely one to two per cent”. The Inter-Provincial Education Ministers Conference (IPEMC), held under the chairmanship of federal Education Minister Shafqat Mahmood through video link, discussed t.....

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**Capital's test-positivity rate rises to 7.7pc**

Source: [Munawer Azeem | Aamir Yasin](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-11-05

ISLAMABAD: The Covid-19 test-positivity rate rose to 7.7pc in Islamabad on Wednesday, while two more educational institutions in the capital were sealed. There were 228 confirmed cases of Covid-19 reported in the capital based on 2,958 tests carried out in the last 24 hours. Two Covid-19 patients have also died. Lowest number of cases last reported in the capital was four on Aug 15. There were 2.....

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**Minister rules out closure of educational institutions**

Source: [Kashif Abbasi](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-11-04

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Federal Education Shafqat Mahmood on Tuesday brushed aside the possibility that educational institutions would be closed immediately due to the resurgence of Covid-19. He told Dawn that according to reports and data from the Ministry of National Health Services (NHS), the situation is under control and institutions would not see immediate closures. However, he added that al.....

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### **\$2m ADB grant to strengthen fight against Covid-19**

Source: [Amin Ahmed](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-11-05

ISLAMABAD: The government on Tuesday signed a \$2 million grant agreement with the Asian Development Bank to strengthen efforts to combat the coronavirus pandemic. The grant financed from the Asia Pacific Disaster Response Fund will help provide life-saving medical supplies, diagnostic and laboratory facilities and other critical equipment for communities affected by the pandemic. Economic Affair.....

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### **NCC rules out complete lockdown**

Source: [Amir Wasim](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-11-04

ISLAMABAD: Despite a considerable rise in the number of Covid-19 cases over the past few days, the National Coordination Committee (NCC) has ruled out the option of imposing a complete lockdown in the country and endorsed all the measures announced by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Oct 28 which included strict implementation of the SOPs (standard operating procedures) at publi.....

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### **Covid-19: schools to stay open across country, for now**

Source: [News Desk](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-11-06

A meeting presided over by Federal Education Minister Shafqat Mehmood and comprising provincial education ministers on Thursday decided that schools across country would remain open as of now despite the rising number of coronavirus infections and deaths. The decision was made unanimously by all provincial education ministers after health ministry officials briefed the participants of the online me.....

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### **Pakistan's coronavirus situation continues to deteriorate**

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-11-06

ISLAMABAD: The country's coronavirus continues to deteriorate as the number of active virus cases surged past 16,000 on Friday. A total of 1,376 people tested positive for COVID-19 across Pakistan on November 5, bringing the number of active coronavirus cases to 16,242 — the highest since August. Another 30 people succumbed to the disease on the day, bringing the total.....

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### **'COVID-19 became another tool to promote hatred against Muslims'**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-11-06

Islamabad : The COVID -19 pandemic has become just one more tool to promote hatred against Muslims, branding them as spreaders of the disease. This was stated by Federal Minister for Human Rights Dr. Shireen Mazari as she addressed the 6th Istanbul Security Council. Mazari talked about 'Security in the Post COVID-19 World and Transformation of Security Institutions' Federal Mi.....

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### **Steady rise in Covid-19 cases witnessed countrywide**

Source: [Abdul Rasheed Azad](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-11-06

ISLAMABAD: After a steady rise in the last week, over 1,000 Covid-19 cases were reported daily in Pakistan during the past five days, according to the data shared by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) and the provincial authorities. According to the NCOC, during the past 24 hours, countrywide 1,345 more people were tested positive for the deadly virus and 33 deaths were recorded.....

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**Pakistan reports 1,376 new cases, 30 deaths by coronavirus in one day Share:**

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-11-06

Pakistan has reported thirty deaths in the last 24 hours by novel coronavirus as the number of positive cases has surged to 340,251. The nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 6,923 on Friday. According to the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC), 1,376 persons tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 24 hours. Sindh remains the worst-hit province by the p.....

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**Lax Political Leadership**

Source: [Editorial](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-11-05

On Monday, a total of 20 people from the Senate Secretariat and five people from the National Assembly were diagnosed with COVID-19—leading to the suspension of all sessions until November 9. Unfortunately, there seems to be no distinguishing factor in regards to the attitude towards the pandemic between political leadership and the public at large. Strict adherence to protocols could have p.....

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**Pakistan reports highest Covid-19 deaths in 3 months**

Source: [Tahir Niaz](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-11-06

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan yesterday reported the highest number of Covid-19 deaths in almost three months as the second wave of coronavirus pandemic has started taking the worst turn. The country reported 26 deaths during the last 24 hours — the highest in three months — as the virus also infected 1,302 more people in the country. The tally has shown an upward trend during the recent w.....

[more >>](#)

**Covid-19 claims 18 more lives, infects 1,313 in a single day**

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-11-05

ISLAMABAD - The coronavirus epidemic has again started turning its ugly face in Pakistan as it claimed 18 more lives besides infecting 1,313 other persons during the last 24 hours. Meanwhile, the number of positive cases of Covid-19 has surged to 337,573 while the death toll jumped to 6,867 in the country on Wednesday. According to the latest figures displayed on the National Coronavirus Das.....

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## Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

### School sealed in Mansehra over COVID-19 spread

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-11-03

MANSEHRA: The district administration on Monday sealed the government girl's high school after four students there tested positive for the coronavirus. Additional Assistant Commissioner Sundus Arshad Malik on the order of Deputy Commissioner Qasim Ali Khan sealed the school for five days after which the disinfection process of the building and rooms was started. The deputy commissioner,.....

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### Crackdown on violators of corona SOPs

Source: [nill](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-11-03

The district administration continued crackdown against the violators of the standard operating procedures (SoPs) set by the government to check the spread of the Covid-19 in the provincial capital. The district administration said that two major shoe stores were sealed on Grand Trunk Road and their managers arrested for violation of the SoPs. A commercial plaza was sealed on the Bara Road while .....

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### Strict enforcement of 'no mask, no entry' rule

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-11-03

PESHAWAR: As a second wave of the novel coronavirus hits the province, the provincial government on Monday directed strict compliance with its notified instructions for stopping the spread of the pandemic virus. The decision was taken in pursuance of the directives of the National Command Operation Center (NCOC) and keeping in view the trends surrounding the rapid increase in novel coronavirus (.....

[more >>](#)

### K-P hospitals brace for second Covid-19 wave

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-11-03

PESHAWAR: The provincial health department has directed all public hospitals to prepare for a large influx of patients as a second wave of the novel coronavirus hits the province. In a letter issued on Monday, the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) Health Department notified all medical teaching and district headquarters (DHQ) hospitals to gear up. It stated that the second wave of the pandemic virus has.....

[more >>](#)

### Two dozen doctors, nurses contract virus

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-11-03

PESHAWAR: The second wave of the novel coronavirus has infected as many as 24 staffers of the Khyber Teaching Hospital, including doctors, nurses and other employees. The hospital administration has also been forced to shut down one of its surgical wards as a result of the fast-spreading infection. In a notification issued on Sunday, the Khyber Teaching Hospital (KTH) confirmed that 16 of its d.....

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### COVID-19 claims another life in KP

Source: [Bureau Report](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-11-04

PESHAWAR: The coronavirus on Tuesday claimed another life in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and infected 140 more people, the highest number of people diagnosed with the viral infection since the second wave of the infectious disease. With the latest human loss, death toll from the infectious disease climbed to 1281 and the number of positive cases to 39,889 in the province. The patient who died of co.....

[more >>](#)

### 3 students test positive for COVID-19

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-11-04

KHAR: Three students from the two government schools reported positive for the coronavirus in Bajaur tribal district on Tuesday. According to information released by the district administration here, three students from Government High School Pashat and Government High School Dherkai in Salarzai tehsil tested positive for the Covid-19. Soon after the coronavirus cases were reported, senio.....

[more >>](#)

### KP govt tightens SOPs as 100 new corona cases emerge

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-11-03

Peshawar - The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has issued a circular to all departments regarding stricter coronavirus SOPs as 100 new cases of the disease emerged in the province and one patient died on Monday. The circular states that there would be no entry to government offices without masks and that the entry of visitors would be restricted from today. It added that the non-essential staff.....

[more >>](#)

### Second wave of coronavirus: KP considering early winter vacations in educational institutions

Source: [Bureau Report](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-11-05

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government on Wednesday mulled over the option of early winter vacations in the education institutions to contain the possible spread of the coronavirus after confirming that the second wave of the viral infection had started in the province. The option was discussed at the meeting of the provincial task force on Covid-19, which was chaired by Chief Ministe.....

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### Early vacations for K-P amid virus resurgence

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-11-05

PESHAWAR: With a second wave of the novel coronavirus pandemic gripping the province, the provincial authorities are considering taking stringent measures to keep the virus from spreading, including early winter vacations in educational institutions, the closure of markets and the imposition of smart lockdowns. This was discussed on Wednesday during a meeting of the Provincial Task Force on nove.....

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### KP CM orders elaborate measures to cope with second Covid wave

Source: [Bureau Report](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-11-05

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Mahmood Khan has expressed concern over upsurge of Covid-19 cases, especially in Chitral, Hazara and Dir, and has asked the relevant departments to put in place elaborate measures to cope with the second wave of the pandemic already started in the province. Presiding over a meeting of the provincial task force on Covid-19 here on Wednesday, he directed the health secretar.....

[more >>](#)

### Khyber Teaching Hospital closes ward after virus infects 16 health workers

Source: [Ashfaq Yusufzai](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-11-04

PESHAWAR: Khyber Teaching Hospital closed a ward after 16 health workers, half of them doctors, were infected by coronavirus as the pandemic continued to hit health professionals throughout the province due to non-compliance to standard operating procedures. Infection rate among educational institutions and general population is also increasing compared to the last few days, according to reports of .....

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### 2nd wave of COVID-19 in KP: Steps taken to ensure essential food items availability

Source: [Bureau Report](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-11-06

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government on Thursday took a number of measures to ensure availability of essential food items in case the second wave of COVID-19 spiralled in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. According to an official handout, the decisions were taken at an emergency meeting of the Provincial Task Force convened at the Planning and Development Department and chaired by Additional Chief.....

[more >>](#)

### Three more die of corona in KP

Source: [Bureau Report](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-11-06

PESHAWAR: Three more people died of coronavirus and 126 were diagnosed with the viral infection in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Thursday. With the latest casualties, the death toll from the infectious disease reached 1,287 in the province. Also, with the 126 positive cases, the number of infected people rose to 40,148. The three people who died of coronavirus belonged to Peshawar, Nowshera and Up.....

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## Punjab

### 4 deaths, 149 more cases of COVID-19 in a day

Source: [Muhammad Qasim](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-11-03

Rawalpindi: After confirmation of another 149 patients positive for coronavirus illness, COVID-19 in last 24 hours from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district, the total number of patients so far reported from the region has crossed the figure of 27,000 while another four deaths caused by the virus in the region has taken death toll to 548. Data collected by 'The News' has.....

[more >>](#)

### Dr Yasmin Rashid warns of 2nd wave of virus

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-11-03

LAHORE: Punjab Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid received six Bio-Safety Cabinets donated by the World Health Organisation at the Lab of TB Control Programme, Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department here Monday. Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department Secretary Captain (r) Usman Younis, World Health Organisation representative in Pakistan Dr Palitha Gunarathna Mahipala, officials of TB Co.....

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### Varsity sealed for defying corona SOPs

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-11-03

LAHORE: The district administration continued to mobilise its field formations to implement corona SOPs and sealed a private university here Monday. Assistant Commissioner Model Town Zeeshan Nasrullah visited the University of Lahore Campus on the direction of Deputy Commissioner Lahore Mudassar Riaz and sealed the campus. The campus was sealed due to non-compliance of corona SOPs, he said adding.....

[more >>](#)

### Punjab reports three COVID-19 deaths

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-11-03

LAHORE: Three Covid-19 patients died and another 283 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 Monday. The toll of fatalities reached 2,365 in Punjab, while confirmed cases of coronavirus reached 104,554 in the province. Out of a total of 104,554 infections in Punjab, 101,774 citizens .....

[more >>](#)

### **Covid-19 claims three more lives in Punjab**

Source: [APP](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-11-03

LAHORE: The coronavirus pandemic has claimed three more lives in the province while 283 fresh infections were reported during the last 24 hours. A spokesperson for Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD) said on Monday that the total number of coronavirus cases had exceeded 104,550 in the province. The death toll reached 2,365 while the number of those recovering from the.....

[more >>](#)

### **One death, 201 new cases reported from twin cities**

Source: [Muhammad Qasim](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-11-04

Rawalpindi : Over 200 confirmed cases of coronavirus illness, COVID-19 have been reported in a day, on Tuesday for the third time in last eight days after nearly four months showing that the second wave of the outbreak has started hitting much harder this region of the country. In the last 24 hours, coronavirus claimed another life from the twin cities taking the death toll to 549 while as many a.....

[more >>](#)

### **Seven corona deaths reported in Punjab**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-11-04

LAHORE: Seven Covid-19 patients died and another 340 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 reached 2,372 in Punjab, while confirmed cases of coronavirus reached 104,894 in the province. Out of a total of 104,894 infections in Punjab, as many a.....

[more >>](#)

### **Districts to ensure strict SOPs compliance**

Source: [APP](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-11-04

MULTAN: The district administration, in a meeting chaired by Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) (Headquarter) Rana Akhlaq Ahmed Khan on Tuesday, decided to ensure strict monitoring of SOPs in public transport. In order to thwart the threat of rising coronavirus cases. The meeting agreed that strict inspection of vehicles would be made. All the passengers will wear face-masks and use hand sani.....

[more >>](#)

### **Covid resurges amid varying test standards**

Source: [Yousuf Abbasi](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-11-04

LAHORE: The second wave of novel coronavirus has hit the country amid persisting doubts about the capability of the 26 private and government laboratories involved in conducting diagnostic tests for the disease in Punjab. The Punjab Healthcare Commission has issued instructions to all laboratories across the province that serological test for Covid-19 is not acceptable without polymerase chain r.....

[more >>](#)

### **Corona claims 3 more lives in province**

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-11-03

LAHORE - The coronavirus (COVID-19) claimed three more lives in the province while 283 new cases were reported during the last 24 hours. A spokesperson for the Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD) Monday said the total number of coronavirus cases had reached 104,554 in the province. The death toll reached 2,365 while the number of those recovering from the disease stood a.....

[more >>](#)

### **Eight corona deaths, 303 new cases reported in Punjab**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-11-05

LAHORE: Eight Covid-19 patients died and another 303 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 2,380 in Punjab, while confirmed cases of coronavirus reached 105,197 in the province. Out of a total of 105,197 infections in Punjab, 10.....

[more >>](#)

### **33 shops sealed over SOPs violation**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-11-05

LAHORE: The district administration continued to implement corona SOPs in the city and sealed several shops and restaurants over violations here on Wednesday. On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Mudassar Riaz, Assistant Commissioner Model Town Zeeshan Nasrullah remained active on Tuesday night to implement corona SOPs and closing time of shops and restaurants. Over the complaints of n.....

[more >>](#)

### **Multan, Rawalpindi show an alarming surge in Covid cases**

Source: [Asif Chaudhry](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-11-06

LAHORE: The coronavirus is spreading fast in Multan and Rawalpindi where the virus positivity rate has shot up to 7 and 6 percent, respectively, an alarming surge reported for the first time in the two cities, during the last three months or so. Similarly, the positivity rate increased to 3pc in Lahore, causing concern to the health authorities who had recently declared 'second wave' of.....

[more >>](#)

### **'Educational institutions may be closed if Covid situation worsens'**

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-11-05

LAHORE: Punjab School Education Minister Murad Raas has said the government may close educational institutes in the province if the coronavirus spread continued to increase, adding that, however, no such decision has so far been taken. Mr Raas was addressing the food programme launching ceremony at the Government Primary School, Gulab Devi Hospital, here on Wednesday. Under the programme, 23,000.....

[more >>](#)

### **New SOPs for passengers travelling to Pakistan**

Source: [Mohammad Asghar](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-11-04

RAWALPINDI: The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has made an amendment to the standard operating procedures (SOPs) for international passengers travelling to Pakistan. The CAA said that following instructions from the National Institute of Health under the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination, the authority issued a list of tests which may be considered as equivalent t.....

[more >>](#)

### **Six deaths, 243 COVID-19 cases in a day**

Source: [Muhammad Qasim](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-11-06

Rawalpindi : There seems no control over the spread of coronavirus illness, COVID-19 at least here in the federal capital and Rawalpindi district from where well over 200 patients per day on average are being reported though there has not been taken any decision to change the status of educational institutions that are operating in the region putting the lives of students, staff and their families.....

[more >>](#)

**5 corona patients die in Punjab**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-11-06

LAHORE: Five COVID-19 patients died and 338 new infections were confirmed in Punjab during the last 24 hours, according to report issued by Primary and Secondary Healthcare (P&SH) Department on Thursday. The toll of fatalities was raised to 2,385 in Punjab, while confirmed cases of virus reached 105,535 in the province. As per the spokesperson for Corona Monitoring Room at Primar.....

[more >>](#)

**'Limited' Tablighi ijtima commences with Covid-19 SOPs**

Source: [Qaiser Butt](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-11-05

LAHORE: A three-day annual international Muslims congregation (Tablighi Ijtimah) started on Thursday amid strict social distancing in the sitting and sleeping areas of the venue in Raiwind, near Lahore. Only 50,000 people from different parts of the country are attending the Muslims congregation this year. No foreign member of the Tablighi Ijtimah was invited nor allowed to attend the gathering d.....

[more >>](#)

**Two more corona patients die at Nishtar Hospital**

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-11-06

MULTAN - Two more patients including an elderly, and a middle aged fell prey to victims of coronavirus at Nishtar Hospital within last 24 hours bringing the tally to 185 since March this year. Nishtar focal person for infectious diseases, Dr Irfan Arshad said that Ghulam Hussain (65) and Abdul Razzaq (47) passed away at ICU of Nishtar hospital. Mr Razzaq hailed from Multan Cantt while Ghulam.....

[more >>](#)

**Sindh****Market sealed over SOP violations reopens in less than 24 hours**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-11-03

The Serena mobile market, which was initially sealed for three days on Sunday night over non-compliance with the standard operating procedures (SOPs) devised by the government in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, was reopened on Monday afternoon. District Central Assistant Commissioner for North Nazimabad Faheem Khan had ordered sealing the mobile market late on Sunday night after the shopkeeper.....

[more >>](#)

**Covid-19 kills two more, infects 443**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-11-03

Two more patients have died from the novel coronavirus and new 443 cases have surfaced in Sindh. As many as 9,784 samples were tested for Covid-19 in the last 24 hours, said Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Monday. "The province's death toll has reached 2,633," the CM said in his daily Covid-19 situation report. As many as 1,664,547 tests have been condu.....

[more >>](#)

**Covid-19 claims 2 more lives in Sindh**

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-11-03

KARACHI: As many as two more patients of Covid-19 died lifting the death toll to 2,633 and 443 new cases emerged when 9,784 samples were tested raising the tally to 146,774. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued here from CM House. Shah said that two more patients of Covid-19 lost their lives while struggling against the virus lifting the death.....

[more >>](#)

**14 eateries, two amusement arcades sealed over SOP violations**

Source: [Our Correspondent, The News, International](#) , 2020-11-04

Fourteen eateries and two amusement arcades have been sealed in District South for violating the standard operating procedures (SOPs) devised by the government in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic. Deputy Commissioner Irshad Ali Sodhar said that 41 restaurants were inspected in the district and 17 of them were issued with warnings while 11 were sealed. He said that three other eateries and.....

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**Covid-19 kills six, infects 521 in Sindh**

Source: [Our Correspondent, The News, International](#) , 2020-11-04

Six more people have died due to Covid-19 and another 521 cases have been reported during the past 24 hours in Sindh, with the death toll due to the viral disease reaching 2,639 in the province. Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said in his daily situation report on the health emergency on Tuesday that 7,889 samples were tested in the past 24 hours, resulting in 521 people, or seven per ce.....

[more >>](#)

**Over 500 fresh Covid-19 cases reported in Sindh**

Source: [Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#) , 2020-11-04

As many as 521 more persons have tested positive for Covid-19 in Sindh, while six more succumbed to the disease, said Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Tuesday. He said that following these developments, the province's infection tally had risen to 147,295 and Covid-19 death toll to 2,693. Of the newly reported cases, the CM added, 379 were detected in Karachi, 28 in Hyderabad, 11 i.....

[more >>](#)

**COVID-19 claims 6 more lives, infects 521 others: CM**

Source: [Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad](#) , 2020-11-04

KARACHI - Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that six more patients of COVID-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 2,639 and 521 new cases emerged when 7,880 samples were tested. This he disclosed in a statement issued from CM House on Tuesday. He said that six more patients lost their lives while struggling against the virus lifting the death toll to 2,639 that c.....

[more >>](#)

**CAA issues list of seven tests equivalent to PCR testing for COVID-19**

Source: [Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad](#) , 2020-11-04

KARACHI - The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has modified its SOPs for international passengers and flights in light of instructions given by health authorities which declared seven laboratory tests equivalent to PCR-based test of COVID-19. The aviation authority stated in its notification that seven tests would be considered as equivalent to PCR testing for detection of COVID-19. It read th.....

[more >>](#)

**COVID-19 claims 2 more lives, infects 443 others**

Source: [Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad](#) , 2020-11-03

KARACHI - As many as two more patients of COVID-19 died lifting the death toll to 2,633 and 443 new cases emerged when 9,784 samples were tested raising the tally to 146,774. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued on Monday from CM House. Syed Murad Ali Shah said two more patients of COVID-19 lost their lives while struggling against the virus .....

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**NBP branch sealed after cashier tested positive for COVID-19**

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-11-03

HYDERABAD - A National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) branch in Hyderabad was sealed on Monday after a bank employee had been tested positive for COVID-19 causing difficulty for thousands of government employees and pensioners in drawing their salaries and pension. The bank sources confirmed that NBP Tower Market branch had been sealed after head cashier Muhammad Hussain Zardari tested positive for n.....

[more >>](#)

**Sindh loses veteran paediatric surgeon to coronavirus**

Source: [M Waqar Bhatti](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-11-05

One of Pakistan's senior-most paediatric surgeons was among the eight patients of Covid-19 in Sindh who succumbed to the infectious disease in the past 24 hours. "With deep sorrow and grief we want to announce that Prof Nizam-ul-Hasan, who was the founder of the Child Aid Association and its chief patron, lost the battle against the coronavirus on Wednesday," said Dr Tari.....

[more >>](#)

**Eight more Covid-19 deaths, 492 new cases**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-11-05

Coronavirus claimed eight more lives in the province overnight, said Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah on Wednesday, adding that the death toll in Sindh had reached 2,647. Moreover, he said that as many as 492 more cases had emerged from the 9,531 samples tested on the day, pushing the virus tally to 147,787 in the province. Shah stated there were 5,507 active Covid-19 patients in Si.....

[more >>](#)

**Covid-19 shutdown; General Tyre steadily on road to recovery: CEO**

Source: [Press Release](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-11-05

KARACHI: General Tyre has rebounded and is trying to recoup the losses it incurred due to Covid-19, announced the CEO of the company. "The company is steadily on the road to recovery after the covid-19 global shutdown. The plant was shut down for nearly 75 days before resuming operations in June," said Hussain Kuli Khan CEO General Tyre. He added that the company caters to fo.....

[more >>](#)

**17 more fall prey to Covid-19 as another 556 test positive in Sindh**

Source: [M Waqar Bhatti](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-11-06

Covid-19 has claimed 17 more lives in Sindh, mostly in Karachi, during the last 24 hours, Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said on Thursday in his daily statement on the pandemic situation in the province. He explained that the death toll due to the infectious disease in the province had reached 2,664. A total of 556 people tested positive for the infectious disease in the province in 24.....

[more >>](#)

**Police officer dies of coronavirus**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-11-06

A Sindh police senior official who was diagnosed with Covid-19 a week ago passed away at a private hospital in Karachi on Thursday. Superintendent of Police (SP) Raja Arshad was associated with the Special Security Unit of the Sindh police, said the SSU spokesperson. He said the policeman had quarantined himself at home after contracting the viral disease, but when his health deteriorated .....

[more >>](#)

### **Covid-19 deaths surge in Sindh**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-11-06

With worries about a looming second wave of the pandemic, Sindh saw a spike in coronavirus-related deaths on Thursday, as 17 more patients succumbed to the disease. As many as 2,664 people have died of Covid-19 in the province to date. Furthermore, according to a statement issued by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, 556 new infections were detected in the province after 11,530 samples wer.....

[more >>](#)

### **Life slows down amid second wave**

Source: [Aamir Khan](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-11-06

KARACHI: After fleeting relief from the virus-induced lockdown and its restrictions, the otherwise fast-moving Karachi finds itself retreating to the sluggish pace it experienced during the initial months of the Covid-19 pandemic. In wake of rising coronavirus cases and an ongoing second wave of the virus, the federal government has re-imposed restrictions that were earlier relaxed, so as to con.....

[more >>](#)

### **17 more patients of coronavirus die: Murad**

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-11-06

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that 17 more patients of coronavirus died lifting the death toll to 2664 and 556 new cases emerged when 11530 tests were conducted. In a statement issued here from the CM House, he said that 17 more patients lost their lives while struggling against the infection. ....

[more >>](#)

### **Sindh reports 556 cases and 17 deaths, highest daily totals since end-July**

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-11-06

KARACHI - Sindh on Thursday recorded 17 deaths from coronavirus and 556 new infections—the highest since end-July—bumping the death toll upto 2,664 and infections toll to 148,343. Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah, in a statement issued from CM House on Thursday, said that 17 more patients lost their lives while struggling against the infection lifting the death toll t.....

[more >>](#)

### **Shops sealed for violating COVID-19 SOPs**

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-11-06

KARACHI - Two fabric shops in Ashiana Centre Clifton have been sealed by Assistant Commissioner (AC) Civil Lines Waleed Baig for reported violation of the COVID-19 standard operating procedures (SOPs). One milk shop at Clifton was also sealed by the AC Civil Lines on account of the alleged violation of COVID-19 SOPs, said a statement on Thursday. The shopkeepers and owners of restaurants are stric.....

[more >>](#)

### **Payment delays, COVID-19 push KE into Rs2.96b loss**

Source: [Press Release](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-11-05

KARACHI -The Board of Directors of K-Electric Limited, in its meeting held on October 27, 2020, approved the company's financial results for the year ended June 30, 2020. In the results issued to the PSX, KE declared a loss of PKR 2.96 billion in glaring contrast to a profit of PKR 17.274 billion during the same period last year. This is primarily on the back of accumulated government receiv.....

[more >>](#)

**COVID-19 claims eight more lives, infects 492 others in Sindh: CM**

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-11-05

KARACHI - As many as eight more patients of coronavirus died lifting the death toll to 2,647 while 492 new cases emerged when 9,531 tests were conducted raising the tally to 147,787. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued from CM House on Wednesday. Syed Murad Ali Shah said that unfortunately eight more patients lost their lives while strugglin.....

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## International News

### Countries News

#### Germany leads tightening of virus curbs in Europe

Source: [AFP](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-11-03

LONDON: Germany led a tightening of coronavirus curbs in many parts of Europe while the Covid-19 crisis deepened in the United States on election eve. The virus has infected over 46 million people worldwide, with more than 1.2 million deaths, and the acute outbreaks in Europe and America are sparking further alarm about the state of the already devastated global economy. To curb the spike in Ger.....

[more >>](#)

#### US sets record for cases amid election battle over coronavirus

Source: [Ap](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-11-06

New confirmed cases of the coronavirus in the US have climbed to an all-time high of more than 86,000 per day on average, in a glimpse of the worsening crisis that lies ahead for the winner of the presidential election. Cases and hospitalisations are setting records all around the country just as the holidays and winter approach, demonstrating the challenge that either President Donald Trump or f.....

[more >>](#)

#### Gymnastics meet to test Tokyo's readiness for Olympics

Source: [Reuters](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-11-06

TOKYO: Tokyo's ability to cope with the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic and stage next year's Olympic Games safely will undergo a major test this week with gymnasts from four nations gathering in the Japanese capital for a friendly tournament. The meet on Nov 8 — featuring 30 gymnasts from Japan, the United States, China and Russia — marks the first international event at .....

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#### How contagious are kids with Covid? Short answer: we don't know

Source: [AFP](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-11-04

Are children a major source of contagion for Covid-19? Ten months into a pandemic that has claimed 1.2 million lives experts are still divided on the question, even as governments must decide whether to keep classrooms open or shut. During the first wave of infection, scientific consensus formed around the concern that children might be a crucial vector — as they are for the flu — in .....

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#### India-made Covid-19 vaccine could be launched as early as February: govt scientist

Source: [Reuters](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-11-05

An Indian government-backed Covid-19 vaccine could be launched as early as February — months earlier than expected — as last-stage trials begin this month and studies have so far showed it is safe and effective, a senior government scientist told Reuters. Bharat Biotech, a private company that is developing Covaxin with the government-run Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), had .....

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#### Denmark to cull millions of minks over mutated coronavirus

Source: [AFP](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-11-05

COPENHAGEN: Denmark, the world's biggest producer of mink fur, said on Wednesday it would cull all of the country's minks after a mutated version of the new coronavirus was detected at mink farms and had spread to people.

The mutation “could pose a risk that future (coronavirus) vaccines won't work the way they should,” Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen told a press conference.....

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### **Curfew imposed in Italy as Europe tries to combat virus surge**

Source: [AFP](#), [Dawn](#), [Islamabad](#), 2020-11-05

ROME: Italian officials agreed on Wednesday to impose a night-time curfew, joining a slew of European nations in ramping up restrictions to reverse a dramatic surge in coronavirus cases. Governments in Europe are struggling to get a hold of a pandemic that has now infected more than 11 million on the continent. Wednesday saw Russia announce nearly 20,000 new infections and 389 additional deaths, but.....

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### **Denmark to cull entire mink population after coronavirus mutation spreads to humans**

Source: [Reuters](#), [Dawn](#), [Islamabad](#), 2020-11-04

Denmark will cull its mink population of up to 17 million after a mutation of the coronavirus found in the animals spread to humans, the prime minister said on Wednesday. Health authorities found virus strains in humans and in mink which showed decreased sensitivity against antibodies, potentially lowering the efficacy of future vaccines, Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen said at a press conference.....

[more >>](#)

### **Dubai ruler joins coronavirus vaccine trial**

Source: [AFP](#), [Dawn](#), [Islamabad](#), 2020-11-04

DUBAI: Dubai ruler Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum said on Tuesday he had received an experimental coronavirus vaccine, becoming the latest United Arab Emirates official to take part in the trials. Two vaccines are undergoing third-phase trials in the UAE, one produced by Chinese drug giant Sinopharm, and Russia's Sputnik-V, named after the Soviet-era satellite. “While receiving.....

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### **Germany leads tightening of virus curbs in Europe**

Source: [AFP](#), [Dawn](#), [Islamabad](#), 2020-11-03

LONDON: Germany led a tightening of coronavirus curbs in many parts of Europe while the Covid-19 crisis deepened in the United States on election eve. The virus has infected over 46 million people worldwide, with more than 1.2 million deaths, and the acute outbreaks in Europe and America are sparking further alarm about the state of the already devastated global economy. To curb the spike in Germany.....

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### **China blocks travellers from coronavirus-hit Britain, Belgium**

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-11-06

Mainland China has barred entry to some travellers from Britain and Belgium and set strict testing requirements on visitors from the United States, France and Germany, as it reimposed border restrictions in response to rising global coronavirus cases. Because of the pandemic, China has temporarily suspended entry of non-Chinese nationals travelling from the United Kingdom even if they hold valid visas.....

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### **Patriarch of Serbian Orthodox Church tests positive for COVID-19**

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-11-06

Irinej, the ageing Patriarch of the Serbian Orthodox Church, the country's largest Christian denomination, was hospitalised on Wednesday after testing positive for the coronavirus, his office said. Irinej, 90, was “routinely tested

following an epidemiological assessment,” and remains “without symptoms and in excellent health”, a statement said. “His Holiness is h.....

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### **India-made Covid-19 vaccine could be launched as early as Feb**

Source: [Reuters](#), [Research Snipers Rawalpindi](#), 2020-11-06

NEW DELHI: An Indian government-backed COVID-19 vaccine could be launched as early as February - months earlier than expected - as last-stage trials begin this month and studies have so far showed it is safe and effective, a senior government scientist told Reuters. Bharat Biotech, a private company that is developing COVAXIN with the government-run Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), .....

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## Donors News

### **WHO sees ‘explosion’ of Covid-19 cases in Europe**

Source: [AFP](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-11-06

COPENHAGEN: The World Health Organisation (WHO) said on Thursday said it was observing an “explosion” of coronavirus cases in Europe and warned of a “tough time” ahead as mortality rates rose. “We do see an explosion.... in the sense it only takes a couple of days to have over the European region an increase of one million cases,” WHO’s regional director .....

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## SDPI Engagements

### Webinar News

#### Speakers highlight importance of credible data to support trade sector during pandemic

Source: [DNA News](#), [DNA News](#), 2020-11-05

ISLAMABAD – Chairperson, National Tariff Commission (NTC), Ms Robina Ather, has said that the government has taken several policy initiatives to provide relief to trade sector to reduce the impacts of Covid-19. While these initiatives have been based on past learning and evidence however the capacity of using research and evidence in the public sector needs to be enhanced for more impactful .....

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#### Research vital to support trade

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-11-05

ISLAMABAD: The government has taken several policy initiatives to provide relief for the trade sector in order to reduce the impact of Covid-19 pandemic, said National Tariff Commission (NTC) Chairperson Robina Ather. While these initiatives had been based on past learning and evidence, the capacity of using research and evidence in the public sector needed to be enhanced for more impactful meas.....

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