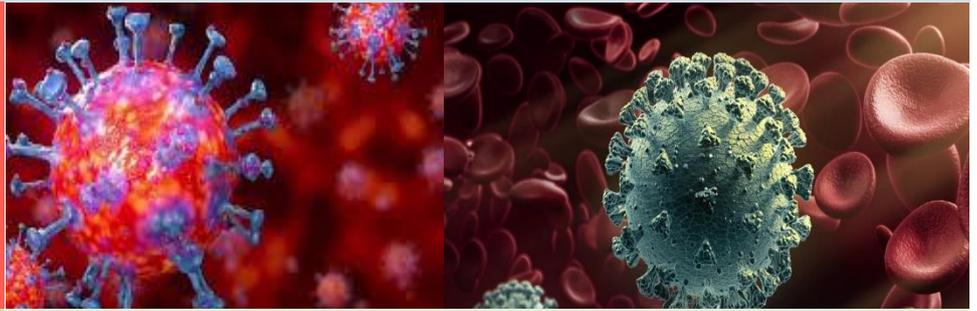


E-Newsletter on COVID-19



Vol. 02, No, 20



Issue: 06-08 March, 2021

.....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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A Product of ASRC-SDPI

Team:

Data Managed by:
Shahid Rasul , Abid Rasheed

Compile & Layout Design by:
Ali Aamer Javed

Sustainable Development Policy Institute, SDPI

10-D West, 3rd Floor, Taimoor Chamber, Fazl-ul-Haq Road,
Blue Area, Islamabad. Pakistan,

Tel: +92.51. 2278134, Fax: 2278135,

Op-Eds/Articles/Editorials

Op-Eds/Articles/Editorials

Coronavirus Resurging

Source: [Editorial, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-06

In February, the government announced a plan to get the country back on track, which involved completely lifting the lockdown and even kickstarting a regular schedule in school and workplaces. It seems like it was a bit too early for these actions as the country does not seem to have responded well. Since the announcement of relaxation in restrictions by the National Command and Operation C.....[more >>](#)

PSL disaster

Source: [EDITORIAL, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-06

RAPID escalation in the number of coronavirus cases has led to the postponement of the Pakistan Super League's sixth edition, sparking anger and disappointment among millions of fans, besides causing heavy monetary losses. The league's first leg, which was being played in Karachi, came to an abrupt halt amid reports of at least nine players and officials falling victim to the virus ove.....[more >>](#)

Cinema business reels from impact of pandemic

Source: [Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-07

The cinema industry of Pakistan is struggling hard to survive during the ongoing pandemic, where keeping an optimistic approach is the only way forward for stakeholders who have invested millions of dollars in this business. Since the revival of this industry, many business groups invested in the modern infrastructure of cinema, primarily in Lahore, Karachi and Islamabad, nevertheless, the indust.....[more >>](#)

Education in times of pandemic

Source: [Mubasher Bukhari, The News, International](#), 2021-03-07

The federal government's decision to allow school operations to resume at full capacity has been marred by confusion. The decision is not being implemented in seven Punjab districts, including Lahore, and in Sindh. Talking to The News on Sunday, Federal Education Minister Shafqat Mehmood said, "We had decided to open schools in February... the decision is being implemented from Ma.....

[more >>](#)

Vaccination for Covid

Source: [Huma Khawar, The News, International](#), 2021-03-07

Visiting Muzaffarabad after 16 years was quite an experience. The last I saw this place was when an earthquake of 7.6 magnitude shook the entire region on October 8, 2005. After nearly 16 years the city seemed stronger. Its social indicators show that too. One of those is its literacy rate of 67 percent among its women compared to the national average of 51 percent. Dr Bushra Shams, t.....

[more >>](#)

Women in lockdown

Source: [Rammal Hashmi, The News, International](#), 2021-03-07

The Covid-19 pandemic has pushed women's rights in Pakistan to backslide a generation. Lockdowns resurfaced a bitter realisation of gender inequality, public safety and domestic violence. There is ignorance. There is undervaluation. There is an active effort to subdue their needs. Women continue to struggle with disparities deeper than previously recognised. Their homes have become the most.....

[more >>](#)

Global vaccine justice — II

Source: [Dr Omer Javed](#), [Business Recorder](#), Islamabad , 2021-03-06

Dr Omer Javed Moreover, vaccine inequality, whereby rich countries are significantly outpacing poorer countries in terms of vaccine administration, have also very damaging consequence in terms of economic inequality between countries. For instance, a recent Bloomberg published article 'The best and worst places to be in Covid: U.S. stages a comeback' by Jinshan Hong, Rachel Chang,.....

[more >>](#)

Iron Brothers celebrate seven decades of solidarity

Source: [S M Hali](#), [Daily Times](#) , 2021-03-06

Eminent American historian Stephen F. Cohen, after a seminar was asked, which two countries in the world enjoy the closest relationship? The audience was expecting him to name the US and Israel but were taken aback when the learned academic said "China and Pakistan". He went on to define the parameters of the deep relationship between the two, which are beyond transactional, defence or.....

[more >>](#)

Operation swift retort and beyond

Source: [Iftikhar Ahmad](#), [Daily Times](#) , 2021-03-06

On Second Anniversary of operation swift retort citizens marked surprise day with national pride, our desire for peace should not be misunderstood. "Pakistan is a responsible and peace loving nation and its armed forces are prepared to defend its territorial integrity at all costs." Says Air chief Mujahid Anwar Khan. He said our efforts for global and regional peace particularly in Afg.....

[more >>](#)

Shouldn't South Asia integrate Asia for collective good amid Covid?

Source: [Sardar Tee Shahid](#), [Daily Times](#) , 2021-03-07

Liberalism remains valid. Isn't it? Indeed, yes. Connectivity and interdependence, even in the domain of trade and economy, enable interstate harmony, stimulates regional stability and encourages peace. Adopting geopolitical approach to economic interdependence for increased integration shall enhance socio-economic standards of struggling masses including 16.7 million children abused in chil.....

[more >>](#)

Equal future in pandemic

Source: [Zile Huma](#), [Daily Times](#) , 2021-03-07

Every year, on 8th of March, the whole world celebrates International Women Day to create mass awareness about challenges faced by women and to highlight the achievements of successful women. By celebrating International women's Day, governments reiterate to fulfil their commitments to provide equal opportunities and rights to women and empower them. The theme for International Women's.....

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Shouldn't South Asia integrate Asia for collective good amid Covid?

Source: [Sardar Tee Shahid](#), [Daily Times](#) , 2021-03-07

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Covid-19: dangerous side effects of vaccines?

Source: [Dr Rana Jawad Asghar](#) , [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#) , 2021-03-08

A few days back, I got a call from my nephew who went to a vaccination centre for Covid-19. Himself a doctor, he got confused when the doctor overseeing the centre advised him to wait for a better vaccine as the current vaccine may only be 50% effective. I told him to go ahead with the vaccination as even 50% immunity is better than none. Last week, I was vaccinated and the district health officer.....

[more >>](#)

Unspinning a mess

Source: [Editorial](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#) , 2021-03-08

Textile exporters have slammed the government's failure to resolve cotton yarn supply issues and are now warning that the industry could collapse. The supply shortage is based on a combination of local and international factors. Domestically, production has seen a 34% decline year on year due to lower yields and reduced area of cultivation. Meanwhile, international prices have shot up by abo.....

[more >>](#)

Footprints: Pandemic and wealth-making

Source: [Zafar Masud](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#) , 2021-03-08

WE are going, here in Paris but also in the rest of the world, through the weirdest episode in human history and a number of intellectual skeptics have already started raising dubious questions. All catastrophes, they say, have precedents, be they floods, earthquakes, volcanoes bursting and throwing up lava, wars and, why not, epidemics too. But was this terror the world is going through for the

[more >>](#)

PSL postponement

Source: [Editorial](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#) , 2021-03-08

It is disappointing for fans, players and the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) alike that Pakistan Super League (PSL) 6 has had to be immediately and indefinitely postponed because as many as seven cases of coronavirus emerged among players and officials in less than a week of competitive and entertaining cricket. The Board was no doubt pretty confident that the SOPs it had employed in the two Test se.....

[more >>](#)

Covid-19 and immunity

Source: [Dr. Zareen Fatima](#), [Dr. Khalid Munir](#) and [Prof. Dr. Muhammad Akram Muneer](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#) , 2021-03-08

After a severe pandemic hit the globe, vaccination drives are in full bloom to achieve herd immunity and control the Covid-19 infection. More than 250 million vaccination doses have been administered in what we can safely say is the largest vaccination drive in the history of our world. Israel leads in doses administered per 100 people worldwide, followed by UAE, US, Chile, and Brazil. With most o.....

[more >>](#)

National News

Balochistan

Balochistan reports 47 incidents of violence against women in 2020

Source: [Saleem Shahid, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-08

QUETTA: As many as 47 incidents of violence against women were reported in Balochistan during 2020. In these incidents, 16 women lost their lives and seven were subjected to rape. Director, Aurat Foundation, Balochistan, Alauddin Khilji, and member of the National Commission for Women, Balochistan, Fatima Khan, disclosed this while speaking at a joint press conference here on Sunday. They said 3.....[more >>](#)

Islamabad

Sinopharm jab use for people over 60 allowed

Source: [Ikram Junaidi, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-06

ISLAMABAD: In line with three other Asian countries, the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (Drap) has allowed Chinese Sinopharm vaccine to be administered to people over the age of 60. Earlier, the authority had allowed the vaccine to be given to frontline healthcare workers who were below the age of 60 and those above the age group were to be administered the Oxford's AstraZeneca vacci.....[more >>](#)

Two educational institutions sealed in capital

Source: [Aamir Yasin | Munawer Azeem, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-06

ISLAMABAD: Two educational institutions in the capital were sealed after detection of 10 Covid-19 cases while three people died in the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi where 200 infections were reported on Friday. District Health Officer Islamabad Dr Zaeem Zia said seven cases were traced at F-7/3 Islamabad Model College for Boys (IMCB) and three at the IMCB, I-10/1. The colleges were seal.....[more >>](#)

Covid-19 claims 52 more lives, infects 1,579: NCOC

Source: [Abdul Rasheed Azad, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-06

ISLAMABAD: The Covid-19 has claimed 52 more lives in Pakistan and infected 1,579 more people, National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) said on Friday. According to NCOC, a total 37,998 coronavirus testes were conducted countrywide during the past 24 hours which detected 1,579 cases reflecting a positivity ratio of 4.16 percent. Since the pandemic outbreak Pakistan has recorded 13,128.....[more >>](#)

Health workers have concerns over Sinopharm vaccine?

Source: [Reuters, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-06

ISLAMABAD: Just over a half of country's health workers have received a Covid-19 shot since inoculations began last month, while a poll released on Friday suggested nearly half had concerns over China's Sinopharm, the only vaccine available so far. Pakistan had distributed 504,400 Sinopharm vaccine doses to provincial authorities by Feb. 20, and 230,000 frontline health workers had receive.....[more >>](#)

10 Covid-19 cases reported; Two educational institutions sealed in capital

Source: [Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-06

ISLAMABAD: The government on Friday sealed two educational institutions in the federal capital after ten Covid-19 cases were reported among the students. The district health officials (DHO) sealed Islamabad Model College for Boys in I-10/1 and Model College for Boys in F-7/3 where 10 coronavirus cases were detected. The virus cases have been rising in educational institutions since they[more >>](#)

Covid-19 cases rise in Islamabad

Source: [Abdul Rasheed Azad](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#) , 2021-03-07

ISLAMABAD: The health authorities have detected 251 positive cases of Covid-19 during the last 24 hours in Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) out of 4,057 tests carried out. According to District Health Officer (DHO) Islamabad, the Covid-19 cases in capital since March 1 are on the rise as from 1 to March 6, the DHO Islamabad has registered almost 1,000 cases. According to the Covid-19 da.....

[more >>](#)

Commercial sale of Covid-19 vaccines allowed

Source: [Tahir Amin](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#) , 2021-03-07

ISLAMABAD: The government has permitted the commercial sales of Covid-19 vaccines and the first batch of Sputnik V is expected to arrive in March, said International Monetary Fund (IMF). The IMF, in its updated report, said, 'Policy Actions Taken by Countries' which reviewed various steps Pakistan has taken to deal with the Covid-19 crisis, stated that the authorities are working

[more >>](#)

2 educational institutes sealed after confirmation of 10 corona cases

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#) , 2021-03-06

Islamabad - The city health authorities on Friday sealed two more educational institutions in the city after confirmation of 10 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) cases in schools. The District Health Office (DHO) advised the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) to seal Islamabad Model College for Boys (IMCB) I-10/1 and IMCB F-7/3. Health authorities detected three COVID-19 cases f.....

[more >>](#)

Punjab reports sharp rise in coronavirus cases

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The News, International](#) , 2021-03-08

Punjab reported almost double coronavirus cases in a week. The number of daily coronavirus cases in Punjab on February 28 was 528 which have now doubled to 1,044 as of today. About 3,402,377 tests have been conducted in Punjab so far. Raising concerns from health experts, Punjab reported almost double coronavirus cases in a week, Geo News reported on Sunday. The number of dail.....

[more >>](#)

Pakistan to vaccinate people above 60 years of age from Wednesday

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The News, International](#) , 2021-03-08

The National Command and Operations Centre (NCOC) chief Asad Umar on Sunday said that the vaccination drive for people above 60 years old will begin from Wednesday, March 10. He said further details for the process will be issued tomorrow. In a tweet, the federal minister said that the vaccinations will be done in reverse order by age. "The vaccinatio.....

[more >>](#)

'Strict adherence to SOPs imperative for countering corona'

Source: [APP](#), [The News, International](#) , 2021-03-08

Islamabad : In the wake of a sudden increase in the number of infections in the country during these days, the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination on Sunday urged the public to strictly adhere to COVID-19 Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to effectively counter the disease. COVID-19 is a deadly virus but we can control it just as we controlled it by follow.....

[more >>](#)

Pakistan to vaccinate around 8 million senior citizens from next week

Source: [Inp](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-03-07

In the backdrop of the impending COVID-19 third wave, Pakistan has finalized all preparations to vaccinate its around 8 million senior citizens above 60 years old next week, Gwadar Pro reported on Saturday. So far 185,000 senior citizens in the country have registered themselves for inoculation. Pakistan's drug regulator has approved two coronavirus vaccines, China's Sinopharm and Russ.....

[more >>](#)

Vaccination of people aged 60, above to start from March 10

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-08

ISLAMABAD: The Covid-19 vaccination drive for those aged 60 and above is to commence from March 10, informed chief of National Command and Operations Centre (NCOC) Asad Umar on Sunday. "The vaccination of people 60 years and older will be starting from Wednesday the 10th of March. Vaccinations will be done in reverse order by age. Which means the oldest person who has registered will be vac.....

[more >>](#)

Covid caseload up by 190 in Islamabad

Source: [APP](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-08

ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) said on Sunday that 190 more people have tested positive for the novel coronavirus (Covid-19) in the federal capital in a day. According to an NCOC official, as many as 251 cases were reported on Saturday which was the highest figure during the last two months while 157 cases were reported on Friday. He said that so far 45,519 cases have.....

[more >>](#)

Securing the vaccine

Source: [Editorial](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-08

Whenever Pakistan is in a fix, officials rely on the international community to provide assistance and relief. The same is the case in the current pandemic. With the number of Covid-19 cases surging by around 30% in the country, there is an imminent threat of a third, much more dangerous, wave. However, the government has made it clear that it has no plans to buy vaccines at least during the curre.....

[more >>](#)

Covid-19 cases continue to increase; 38 more die

Source: [News Desk](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-03-07

The coronavirus cases in the country continue to increase as 1,714 fresh infections were reported during the past 24 hours, the highest daily caseload since January 30. According to the data shared by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Saturday, the Covid-19 claimed 38 more lives during the past 24 hours, taking the overall death toll to 13,166. The national tally of cases has re.....

[more >>](#)

Vaccination of people over 60 starts on 10th: minister

Source: [Ikram Junaidi](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-08

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's national positivity ratio has risen from 3.21 per cent to 4.57pc in one month as 1,780 new Covid-19 patients and 39 deaths were reported in a single day. The number of active cases in the country, which was around 17,000 last month, has now surpassed 18,000. On the other hand, Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umer announced that vaccinat.....

[more >>](#)

Positivity rate crosses 4pc in Islamabad

Source: [Aamir Yasin | Ikram Junaidi, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-08

ISLAMABAD: The federal capital saw an increase in positivity ratio from last week's 2.65pc to 4.1pc, as 190 more people contracted Covid-19 in a single day. The positivity rate has increased by three times in the last one month. On the other hand, out of the 24,000 frontline healthcare workers who have registered themselves for vaccination, only 9,000 have received the jabs. Meanwhile, tw.....

[more >>](#)

Vaccination for 60 years, above starts from Wednesday

Source: [Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-08

ISLAMABAD: The head of National Command and Operations Centre (NCOC) Asad Umar on Sunday said that Covid-19 vaccination drive for those aged 60 and above is to commence from March 10. "The vaccination of people 60 years and older will be starting from Wednesday the 10th of March. Vaccinations will be done in reverse order by age. Which means the oldest person who has registered will be

[more >>](#)

Pakistan reports 1,592 new coronavirus cases in 24 hours

Source: [Web Desk, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-08

Pakistan has reported 22 deaths in the last 24 hours by novel coronavirus as the number of positive cases has surged to 592,100. The nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 13,227 on Monday. According to the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) 1,592 persons tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 24 hours. Sindh remains the worst-hit province by the pande.....

[more >>](#)

Vaccinations of people aged 60 and above to begin from Wednesday

Source: [Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-08

ISLAMABAD - Head of the National Coordination and Operations Centre (NCOC), Asad Umar, on Sunday said that the vaccination drive for the people aged 60 and above will begin from March 10. In a tweet, he said that the vaccinations will be held in reverse order of age which, he explained, means the oldest person who has registered will be vaccinated first. Full details will be issued today, he

[more >>](#)

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Doctor dies of Covid-19 in Haripur

Source: [Correspondent](#) , [Dawn, Islamabad](#) , 2021-03-06

HARIPUR: A doctor died of Covid-19, becoming the third medical practitioner to have fallen victim to the deadly coronavirus in Haripur district, official sources said here on Friday. Dr Sher Bahadur, in-charge of coronavirus department at the district health office, and family sources said Dr Sagheer Ahmed, 46, was serving as deputy medical superintendent in the District Headquarters Teaching Hos.....

[more >>](#)

KP govt firm to vaccinating all healthcare providers despite some refusals

Source: [Mushtaq Yusufzai](#), [The News, International](#) , 2021-03-07

PESHAWAR: Amid reports of refusals by some of the health workers, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Health Department has made it clear it is committed to vaccinating each and every frontline healthcare provider in the province. The federal government had on February 3, 2021 sent 2,800 doses of Covid-19 vaccines to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Health Department for the vaccination of the frontline healthcare prov.....

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Coronavirus: Peshawar admin imposes lockdown in some localities

Source: [Bureau Report](#), [The News, International](#) , 2021-03-08

PESHAWAR: The district administration Peshawar on recommendations of the provincial health department put certain localities in the city under lockdown to prevent further transmission of the coronavirus. "To control the spread of Covid-19, and upon recommendations of office of the District Health Officer, Peshawar, and in exercise of the powers conferred under Sections 8 and 21 of th.....

[more >>](#)

Smart lockdown in four Peshawar localities

Source: [Shahzaib Khan](#) , [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#) , 2021-03-08

PESHAWAR: After the third wave of Covid-19 in Peshawar, the district administration has imposed a smart lockdown in four different localities across the city. As per a notification issued by Deputy Commissioner Peshawar, a lockdown has been imposed in some areas of Hayatabad Phase 4, Phase 7 as well as Shami Road and Muslimabad apart from some streets of University Town. The notification states

[more >>](#)

Punjab

Alarming increase in Covid cases

Source: [Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-06

LAHORE: The number of new infections on Friday jumped to 860 in Punjab, the highest figures reported in a day during the last three months or so across the province. With these new infection cases, the total number of positive cases in Punjab reached 175,051. Most cases (546) were reported from Lahore and that too was the maximum number of the cases reported in the city during the same period. T.....

[more >>](#)

'Over 29m families will be provided healthcare'

Source: [Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-06

LAHORE: PunjabHealth Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid has said by the end of this year all 29.3 million families in the province will be provided healthcare services and 32,000 doctors, nurses and paramedical staff has been provided jobs She expressed these views during an oath-taking ceremony of the office-bearers of the Pakistan Medical Association (PMA) in Kasur on Friday. The office-bearers of the P.....

[more >>](#)

308 COVID-19 cases in a day from twin cities, 3 deaths

Source: [Muhammad Qasim, The News, International](#), 2021-03-07

Rawalpindi : The number of patients being tested positive for coronavirus illness, COVID-19 in this region of the country is on a significant rise for the last one month or so particularly after reopening of educational institutions but in the last one week, a tremendous increase in the number of cases from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district has been recorded. In the last

[more >>](#)

24 COVID patients die, 913 new cases

Source: [Our Correspondent, The News, International](#), 2021-03-07

LAHORE: As many as 24 COVID-19 patients died and 913 new infections were confirmed in Punjab during the last 24 hours. According to Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD) report issued on Saturday, the toll of fatalities was raised to 5,534 in Punjab, while confirmed cases of coronavirus reached 175,964 in the province. As per the spokesperson of Corona Monitoring Room at.....

[more >>](#)

Shops sealed for breach of SOPs

Source: [APP, The News, International](#), 2021-03-07

LAHORE: The city district administration sealed four shops and three restaurants and imposed heavy fine for violation of coronavirus related Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) here on Saturday. According to district administration sources, Assistant Commissioner (AC) City Faizan Ahmed sealed JK Saloon Ravi Road, Altaf Cash & Carry, Sabar Sweets, One Dollar Shop, Rehman Tika Shop, ABC.....

[more >>](#)

308 COVID-19 cases in a day from twin cities

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Rawalpindi: The number of patients being tested positive for coronavirus illness, COVID-19 in this region of the country is on a significant rise for the last one month or so particularly after reopening of educational institutions but in the last one week, a tremendous increase in the number of cases from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district has been recorded. In the last t.....

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30 more die from corona

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-06

LAHORE: Around 30 patients died from COVID-19 while another 860 new infections were confirmed in Punjab province during the last 24 hours. According to report issued by Primary and Secondary Healthcare (P&SH) Department Punjab on Friday, the death toll reached 5,510, while confirmed cases reached 175,051 in the province. As per the spokesperson for Corona Monitoring Room at P&SHD,

[more >>](#)

2 COVID-19 deaths: Two educational institutions sealed

Source: [Muhammad Qasim](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-06

Islamabad: As many as 194 new patients have been tested positive for coronavirus illness, COVID-19 in the last 24 hours from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district showing the outbreak is much intense in the region while the virus claimed another two lives from the twin cities that has taken death toll from the region to 1,150. It is alarming that as many as 21 patients have d.....

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913 fresh coronavirus cases, 24 deaths reported in Punjab

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-07

LAHORE: There is no let up in the spread of Covid-19, as Punjab has reported 913 fresh cases of the coronavirus and 24 deaths during the last 24 hours taking the provincial tally of cases to 175,964 and the death toll to 5,534. With recovery of 1,441 more virus hit people over the past 24 hours, the total number of recoveries in the country is now 558,210. As per official data, about 94.8 per.....

[more >>](#)

COVID-19 claims 24 more lives in Punjab

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-07

LAHORE - The pandemic coronavirus claimed another 24 lives in the province whereas 913 new cases were reported on Saturday which turned the death toll to 5,534. According to data shared by the spokesperson for the Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (PP&SHD), the number of coronavirus cases in the province reached 175,964. The PP&SHD confirmed that 538 new cases were

[more >>](#)

Another 4 die of COVID-19, 224 cases from twin cities

Source: [Muhammad Qasim](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-08

Rawalpindi : Coronavirus illness, COVID-19 has claimed another four lives from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district in the last 24 hours while as many as 224 new patients have been tested positive from the region showing the outbreak is hitting population hard in this region of the country. The continuous increase in the number of patients being tested positive from the twin.....

[more >>](#)

18 more die from corona in Punjab

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-08

LAHORE: Around 18 patients died from corona and 1,044 new infections were confirmed in Punjab during the last 24 hours. According to report issued by Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD) on Sunday, the death toll reached 5,552 while confirmed cases reached 177,008 in the province. As per the spokesperson for Corona Monitoring Room at P&SHD, 15,862 tests have been cond.....

[more >>](#)

Pandemic disruption : Punjab's fledgling religious tourism project hits snag

Source: [Asif Mehmood](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-08

LAHORE: In a topsy-turvy pandemic world, human mobility has been the first casualty. The impact can also be felt in Punjab, where the government's plan to promote religious tourism appears to be stalled due to limited travelers. Initiated shortly before the coronavirus disrupted global travel, the provincial administration's grand tourism plan seems to be shelved for now. According t.....

[more >>](#)

Covid-19 claims 18 more lives in Punjab

Source: [APP](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-08

LAHORE: The coronavirus pandemic claimed 18 more lives in the province whereas 1,044 fresh infections were reported on Sunday. Reportedly, the death toll from Covid-19 reached 5,552. According to data shared by the spokesperson for Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD), the number of coronavirus cases in the province exceeded 177,000. The PP&SHD confirmed that 646 ne.....

[more >>](#)

18 more Covid fatalities in Punjab

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-08

LAHORE: As many as 18 more coronavirus patients lost their lives during the past 24 hours taking the tally of total deaths in Punjab to 5,552. Of 18 deaths, seven deaths have been reported from Lahore, four from Faisalabad and one each from Gujranwala, Hafizabad, Mianwali, Rawalpindi, Sahiwal, Sargodha and Sialkot. As many as 1,044 new cases have been reported in Punjab during the past 24 hours

[more >>](#)

18 more deaths, 1,044 new cases of virus in Punjab

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-08

LAHORE - As many as 1,044 new cases of coronavirus with more 18 deaths were reported in Punjab during the last 24 hours. A spokesperson for the Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD) said on Sunday, the death toll due to coronavirus was reached 5,552 and the total cases 177,008 with 164,989 recoveries. The P&SHD confirmed that 646 new cases of COVID-19 were report.....

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Sindh

Covid-19 claims 13 more lives, infects 274 others

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-07

Covid-19 claimed 13 more lives in Sindh during the previous 24 hours, raising the death due to the viral disease in the province to 4,424. In the meantime, 309 patients of Covid-19 remained under treatment at different hospitals of the province, of whom the condition of 280 was stated to be critical and 43 of them were put on life support. The information to this effect was passed by Sindh.....

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Covid-19 kills six more as another 228 test positive

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-06

Six more people have died due to Covid-19 and another 228 cases have been reported during the past 24 hours in Sindh, with the death toll due to the viral disease reaching 4,411 in the province. Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said in his daily situation report on the health emergency on Friday that 9,872 samples were tested in the past 24 hours, resulting in 228 people being diagnosed

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'More people can die from treatable surgical conditions in days to come'

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-06

More people could die from treatable common surgical conditions in Pakistan during the Covid-19 era as the capacity of the healthcare system with respect to surgical care has not been expanded to cater to rapidly increasing needs in the country, warned health experts while speaking at the inaugural session of the 6th AKU Annual Surgical Conference titled 'Surgical Education and Training: Dev.....

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13 more patients succumb to COVID-19

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-07

KARACHI - As many as 13 more patients of coronavirus died overnight lifting the death toll to 4,424 and 274 new cases emerged when 10,591 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued on Saturday. He added that 13 more patients of COVID-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 4,424 that constituted 1.7 percent death rate. Mr.....

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Coronavirus kills two more as another 189 test positive

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-08

Two more people have died due to Covid-19 and 189 others have tested positive for the disease during the past 24 hours in Sindh, with the death toll due to the viral coronavirus infection reaching 4,426 in the province. Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said in his daily situation report on the health emergency on Sunday that 7,813 samples were tested in the past 24 hours, resulting in 18.....

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59 per cent of health professionals yet to be offered Covid-19 vaccine

Source: [M Waqar Bhatti](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-08

Around 81 per cent of healthcare professionals in Pakistan are willing to get vaccinated against Covid-19 but 59 per cent of them have not been offered the vaccine, says a joint survey conducted by the Pakistan Islamic Medical Association (PIMA) and Gallup Pakistan. "Around 89 per cent of surveyed health professionals worked in facilities where they could encounter Covid-19 patients.....

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Sindh reports 189 Covid cases, as many recoveries

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-08

KARACHI: Nearly 200 more coronavirus cases emerged in Sindh, which reported two Covid deaths on Sunday. According to a statement issued by the Chief Minister's House, 189 new infections emerged when 7,813 samples were tested for the contagion. Elaborating further, Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah said that 3,083,209 Covid tests have been conducted in the province thus far. With the recent.....

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COVID-19 claims 2 more patients, infects 189 others

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-08

KARACHI - As many as two more patients of coronavirus died overnight lifting the death toll to 4,426 and 189 new cases emerged when 7,813 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued here on Sunday. He added that two more patients of COVID-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 4,426 that constituted 1.7 percent death rate. Sh.....

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International News

Countries News

Biden Covid rescue plan clears crucial Senate hurdle

Source: [AFP](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-07

WASHINGTON: The US Senate on Saturday voted to approve a \$1.9 trillion relief package that President Joe Biden vows will revive the country's pandemic-stricken economy, capping hours of debate, frenzied negotiations and a marathon overnight voting session. Passed by 50 votes to 49 in a party line vote, the sweeping legislation now heads back to the Democratic-majority House of Representat.....[more >>](#)

'Coronavirus can't kill me now'; Africans cheer rollout of COVAX vaccinations

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-03-06

Nigeria, Kenya and Rwanda started inoculating frontline healthcare workers and vulnerable citizens against Covid-19 on Friday as Africa, the world's poorest continent and home to 1.3 billion people, stepped up its vaccination campaigns. While some wealthy Western nations have already inoculated millions of people, many African states have struggled to secure doses and have yet to administer.....[more >>](#)

Covid-19 vaccine confidence grows as side effect worries fade

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-03-06

Confidence in Covid-19 vaccines is growing, with people's willingness to have the shots increasing as they are rolled out across the world and concerns about possible side effects are fading, a 14-country survey showed on Friday. Co-led by Imperial College London's Institute of Global Health Innovation (IGHI) and the polling firm YouGov, the survey found trust in Covid-19 vaccines had[more >>](#)

Sri Lanka allows burial of virus victims after protests

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-03-06

Sri Lanka on Friday buried two Muslims who died of Covid-19, formally ending its policy of forced cremations that had sparked international outrage over the violation of Islamic funeral rites. Community leader Ali Zahir Moulana said a 55-year-old man and a 66-year-old woman were the first to be buried in coastal Oddamavadi, 300 kilometres (187 miles) east of Colombo. "Thank God," Mou.....[more >>](#)

UNDP urges temporary income for women hit by Covid-19 fallout

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-03-07

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has called for temporary basic income for millions of the world's poorest women, to help them cope with effects of coronavirus pandemic and alleviate the economic pressures they face every day. In a latest report, the UNDP highlighted that the financial support could prevent rising poverty and widening gender inequality, especially in developin.....[more >>](#)

Hungary daily coronavirus cases hit 7,269 as lockdown looms

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-03-07

Hungary, which is imposing tough new lockdown measures to curb a spike in Covid-19 infections, reported a record daily high of 7,269 cases on Saturday, a jump of 14% from Friday. Prime Minister Viktor Orban's government on Thursday closed all schools and most shops as the central European country of 10 million grapples with some of the highest infection and death rates in the world. Orban sa.....[more >>](#)

In Brazil's Amazon, isolated indigenous people welcome Covid vaccine

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-03-07

An army helicopter flew to two isolated indigenous villages in Brazil's Amazon jungle this week with a welcome cargo – coronavirus vaccines. The Hupda communities lined up to get their shots. Traditional medicine prescribed by a shaman is highly respected here, but there was no resistance to receiving the vaccine by China's Sinovac Biotech. "We are grateful for the vac.....[more >>](#)

In Spain, hugs and sea air for Covid ICU survivor

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-03-07

After spending 48 days with Covid-19 in an intensive care unit in Barcelona, Ibrar Ahmed Iftikhar looked pleased to finally be out in the open. On the Spanish city's seaside promenade his family, who had not seen him since he was admitted to hospital, greeted him with kisses, hugs and caresses. The 52-year-old, who moved to Spain from Pakistan three decades ago, has a tube in his neck allo.....[more >>](#)

Speedy variants power virus surge sweeping Europe

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-03-07

The virus swept through a nursery school and an adjacent elementary school in the Milan suburb of Bollate with amazing speed. In a matter of just days, 45 children and 14 staff members had tested positive. Genetic analysis confirmed what officials already suspected: The highly contagious coronavirus variant first identified in England was racing through the community, a densely packed city of nea.....[more >>](#)

Pakistan urges world to stop spread of fake Covid-19 vaccines

Source: [Anwar Iqbal](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-08

UNITED NATIONS: Pakistan has urged the international community to work together to prevent criminals from making and distributing false Covid-19 vaccines and other fake medical products. "In the context of Covid-19, there is a need for effective action against falsified and fake medical products — such as Covid-19 vaccines — and to strengthen international cooperation in this re.....[more >>](#)

China's exports spike to highest in two decades

Source: [AFP](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-08

BEIJING: China's export growth jumped to the highest in over two decades, official data showed on Sunday, with imports also surging in a sharp bounceback from the coronavirus outbreak that had brought activity to a near halt. Electronics and textile exports such as masks contributed to the spike in outbound shipments, as demand for work-from-home supplies and protective gear against the vir.....[more >>](#)

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WHO warns against relaxing pandemic fight

Source: [Reuters](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-06

GENEVA: The arrival of Covid-19 vaccines should not tempt countries to relax efforts to fight the coronavirus pandemic, top World Health Organisation officials said on Friday, citing concern that Brazil's epidemic could spread to other countries. "We think we're through this. We're not," Mike Ryan, WHO's top emergency expert, told an online briefing. "Co.....[more >>](#)

Other SDPI Engagements

Webinar News

Steel sector can trigger the development schemes in Pak, says Wajid Bukhari

Source: [DNA](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-08

Steel sector has huge potential for growth in Pakistan, provided government ensures enforcement of Pakistan Standards and Quality Control Authority (PSQCA) standards for steel sector; bridge industry with academia for producing trained human resources for steel sector; encourage investment in energy efficient steel plants; explore indigenous iron ores, and remove anomalies in tax structure

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Researchers Articles

Pakistan-China 70 years of growing together

Source: [Shakeel Ahmad Ramay](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-03-06

Pakistan-China relationship cannot be understood by applying conventional theories or conceptual frameworks of diplomacy and international relation. The relationship is unique, wide-ranging and encompasses all fields of life. It is based on two inimitable ingredients, love and care, which are scarce commodities in international relation. It is not mere statement, history is full of events and inci.....

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SDPI's Related News

Government's institutional reforms process progressing smoothly

Source: [APP](#), [APP](#), 2021-03-08

ISLAMABAD, Mar 07 (APP): Institutional reforms and streamlining functioning of the government departments and organizations to enhance efficiency and making them cost effective had been a gigantic task for respective governments. Although the previous governments made tall claims about enhancing efficiency of the government departments and state owned enterprises. But every passing day witnessed

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