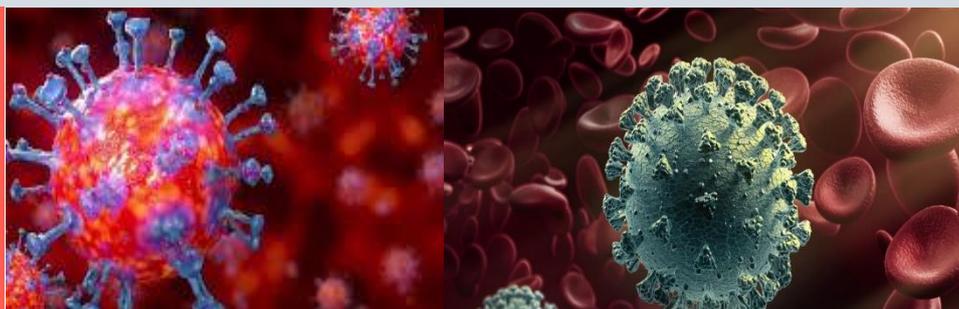


E-Newsletter on COVID-19



Vol. 02, No, 21



Issue: 09-12 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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Op-Eds/Articles/Editorials

Op-Eds/Articles/Editorials

No time to waste

Source: [hihoko Asada-Miyakawa](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-09

IT is now more than 100 years since the ILO established standards on women in the workplace, focusing on maternity protection. A century on, much has changed, and we can all point to women who are successfully making a living, carving out careers, doing well in business and taking up leadership positions. International Women's Day (observed yesterday) should be the perfect occasion to celeb.....[more >>](#)

Hard and soft conspiracies

Source: [Muhammad Hamid Zaman](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-09

Some conspiracy theories are easy to spot. Like the fact that someone may believe the moon landing on July 20, 1969 was all staged and filmed in a desert in Nevada. Or that someone may believe that the coronavirus is an international conspiracy against Muslims, or that the Covid vaccine will insert a chip into our bodies and cause infertility. All these are what I call "hard conspiracies &rdq.....[more >>](#)

Covid-19 and provincial finances

Source: [Dr Hafiz A Pasha](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-09

The focus of the consequences of Covid-19 on public finances has generally been at the Federal level. Some impacts have been identified. First, FBR revenues plummeted by over 16 percent in the immediate aftermath of the pandemic hitting Pakistan. Second, a special support package of Rs 500 billion was implemented to reduce the negative impact on the lives and livelihoods of the people. Third, deve.....[more >>](#)

Not-so-great expectations

Source: [BR Research](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-09

If one didn't know better, last week's high political drama would suggest that fighting coronavirus is the least of worries for those in the power corridors as well as those who are wanting in. Two statements from health officials made last week have gone rather unnoticed amidst the melee, which put into doubt the government's reported plans to vaccinate between 50 million to 70[more >>](#)

People's vaccine

Source: [John Buell](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-10

Our commercial media have followed the ups and downs of the vaccine roll out in the United States even as much less attention is devoted to the experience of poor nations. Pundits and TV anchors periodically acknowledge that lethal viruses don't respect borders but seldom discuss the political and economic implications of that truism. The recipes for vaccines also cross boundaries – in t.....[more >>](#)

Tackling disputes

Source: [Abdul Sattar](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-11

Amidst the ravages of the coronavirus that has killed and infected millions, the US and other global powers are busy making policies that could have serious ramifications for the peace and security of the globe. Such policies, if implemented, would raise the specter of tension between heavily armed nuclear powers and their allies. Any possible miscalculation on the part of these powers could plung.....[more >>](#)

The Covid effect

Source: Kamila Hyat, [The News, International](#), 2021-03-11

The Covid-19 pandemic which has ravaged the world, has unsurprisingly had an impact on the kinds of lives people live in our country. According to limited research by private researchers using their own resources, from January 2020 to January 2021 as many as 29 people committed suicide in the country. This figure is based on reports in the media, and of course, the media does not report all suici.....

[more >>](#)

Why are doctors hesitant to get vaccinated?

Source: Raja Khalid Shabbir, [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-11

“The plan is that there is no plan.” This sums up our Covid-19 vaccination drive. The level of uncertainty which surrounds us today is bigger than when we did not have a vaccine. Now there is a vaccine but as part of a donation. There is a vaccine but in limited numbers. There is a vaccine but people are reluctant to get vaccinated. There is a vaccine but there is no plan. We kick st.....

[more >>](#)

Warnings Ignored

Source: Editorial, [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-11

The aftermath of easing restrictions across Pakistan, despite countless warnings by health officials, looks to be the third wave of Covid-19 that is hitting all major cities—prompting the closure of schools once again. With all institutions and businesses resuming full-scale operations, this was inevitable. It is important to enforce a preventative protocol that limits transmission rates and.....

[more >>](#)

The loneliness pandemic

Source: Mir Adnan Aziz, [The News, International](#), 2021-03-12

Since the dawn of time, nature remains the most consoling aspect for humankind. However, human cognitive and emotional processes are nurtured best in a social environment. Emotions rule every facet of our lives and along with a thinking mind make humankind the leading species of this planet. In today’s hyper-connected world, we see the physical being rooted out by the digital. This r.....

[more >>](#)

Covid campaign

Source: Editorial, [The News, International](#), 2021-03-12

Covid cases are rising in the country, with positivity having gone up to 5.35 percent. Two thousand cases were reported on Thursday for the first time since the end of January. All this is happening as the country enters the vaccination phase of the crippling pandemic that has taken so many lives across the world. Unfortunately, the general hesitation among people to use the vaccine – spurre.....

[more >>](#)

The bell tolls for thee

Source: BR Research, [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-12

“No man is an island,” said English poet and cleric, John Dunne a long time ago. He finished this thought with: “Therefore, never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee”. He is referring to the church custom of ringing bells when someone had died in the community. In normal circumstances, John Donne may be true only metaphorically, but in the context of a d.....

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Virus resurgence

Source: [EDITORIAL](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-12

THE resurgence of Covid-19 cases across the country and the subsequent decision by the NCOC to impose restrictions has highlighted once again how critical an effective vaccination strategy is to defeating the virus. The directives include a two-week spring break in educational institutions in 10 cities as well as smart lockdowns. A 50pc-work-from-home policy has also been brought back. Though these d.....

[more >>](#)

National News

Balochistan

Doctors remember first Covid-19 case reported in Balochistan

Source: [Saleem Shahid](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-10

QUETTA: One year has passed since the first case of coronavirus was reported in Balochistan on March 10 last year and during this period about 90 per cent staff members of the Corona Operation Cell, who are providing treatment to Covid-19 patients, were themselves infected by the virus. This was recalled by Dr Sarmad Saeed Khan, head of the Corona Operation Cell, while speaking at a programme her.....[more >>](#)

Balochistan gets 44 vaccination centers

Source: [Mohammad Zafar](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-12

QUETTA: Parliamentary Secretary for Health Dr Rubaba Buledi has announced that 44 vaccination centres for senior citizens have been established in Balochistan. This decision was announced during an online National Command Operation Center (NCOC) meeting chaired by Education Minister Shafqat Mehmood to review the situation of the prevailing coronavirus. Dr Buledi, Balochistan Coronavirus Cell Hea.....[more >>](#)

Gilgit Baltistan

Gilgit-Baltistan declared coronavirus-free

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-11

GILGIT: In some much-awaited news, the health department declared the Gilgit-Baltistan (G-B) region free of coronavirus on Wednesday. According to the health department, the total number of patients infected with the virus in G-B had reached 4,959. However, no active cases have been reported in the region since March 10 after the last three patients made a full recovery. However, Pakistanon Thursd.....[more >>](#)

Islamabad

Corona kills 22 more countrywide

Source: [APP](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-09

ISLAMABAD: The national tally on Monday of the total active Covid-19 recorded cases are 18,415 with 1,592 more people have tested positive for the virus and 1,038 people have recovered during the 24 hours. Reports said as many as twenty-two corona patients have died during past 24 hours, who were under treatment in various hospitals, according to the latest update issued by the National Co.....[more >>](#)

Lockdowns likely as Covid cases surge

Source: [APP](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-09

ISLAMABAD: Punjab Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid has warned that the government will impose smart lockdowns if people continue to ignore SOPs introduced to prevent the spread of novel coronavirus disease (Covid-19) as caseload surges. At least 221 more people have tested positive for the viral infection in the federal capital during the last 24 hours, National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC).....[more >>](#)

Sharp increase in Covid-19 cases; NCOC to review decision on reopening of schools, cinemas

Source: [Abdul Rasheed Azad](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-09

ISLAMABAD: After sharp increase in Covid-19 cases in the country in past 8 days, Pakistan recorded a total 10,735 Covid-19 cases which jumped up from 581,365 to 592,100, the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Monday deliberated to revisit opening of schools, cinemas and indoor wedding related activities in next session. The NCOC meeting held here under the chairmanship of Asad Um.....[more >>](#)

Pakistan Origin Card holders ineligible for Covid vaccine

Source: [Ikram Junaidi](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-09

ISLAMABAD: As the government is going to launch Covid-19 vaccination drive for senior citizens on March 10 (tomorrow), the people holding Pakistan Origin Cards (POCs) and foreign national spouses of Pakistanis are found ineligible to be inoculated, it emerged on Monday. The Ministry of National Health Services (NHS) admitted that the POC holders are very much Pakistanis and decided to address the.....

[more >>](#)

Another school sealed in capital

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-09

ISLAMABAD: Another educational institute in the capital was sealed after cases of Covid-19 surfaced there, sources told Dawn. Two people lost their lives to Covid-19 in the capital while 221 people were diagnosed with the disease on Monday. During the last 24 hours 4,578 tests were conducted out of which 114 males and 107 females tested positive. Positivity rate in the city was 4.8pc. The instit.....

[more >>](#)

22 more die of Covid-19, 1,592 infected countrywide: NCOC

Source: [Abdul Rasheed Azad](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-09

ISLAMABAD: The Covid-19 has infected 1,592 more people in the country and claimed 22 more lives during the last 24 hours, National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) said on Monday. According to NCOC, a total 34,347 tests were conducted across the country in past 24 hours which resulted in detecting 1,572 covid-19 infections. NCOC data revealed 7,813 covid-19 tests were performed in Sin.....

[more >>](#)

Pakistan's envoy at UN seeks effective action against fake Covid-19 jobs

Source: [app](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-03-09

Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Munir Akram has sought "effective action" against fake Covid-19 vaccines, calling on the global community to work together against the production and distribution of medical products. "In the context of Covid-19, there is a need for effective action against falsified and fake medical products (such as vaccines) and

[more >>](#)

'Empowered women integral for socio-economic development'

Source: [Naveed Butt](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-09

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser on Monday said that empowered women are integral for socio-economic development of the country and parliament has passed an important legislation for ensuring rights of women during the last two and a half years. He expressed these views while addressing an event in connection with celebrations of Women Day with a theme "Women in Leadership: A.....

[more >>](#)

Pakistan reports 1,353 coronavirus cases in one day

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-09

Pakistan has reported 54 deaths in the last 24 hours by novel coronavirus as the number of positive cases has surged to 593,453. The nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 13,281 on Tuesday. According to the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC), 1,353 persons tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 24 hours. Sindh remains the worst-hit province by the pan.....

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Covid cases surge in schools

Source: [Shabbir Hussain, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-10

ISLAMABAD: The educational institutions opened after prolonged closures have again proved to be a hotbed of novel coronavirus disease (Covid-19) infection. At least eight people have tested positive for Covid-19 infection in three educational institutions of the federal capital, prompting the office of the District Health Officer (DHO) to recommend sealing and disinfection of the facilities. Di.....

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Educational institutes to close for two weeks from March 15 in seven Punjab cities

Source: [News Desk, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-10

ISLAMABAD: Education Minister Shafqat Mahmood said on Wednesday that all educational institutions in seven cities of Punjab will close down from March 15 for two weeks due to a surge in Covid-19 cases. "Educational institutions in Faisalabad, Gujranwala, Lahore, Gujarat, Multan, Rawalpindi, and Silakot will be closed from March 15 for spring holidays until March 28," Shafqat said. The s.....

[more >>](#)

NCOC withdraws decision to allow indoor weddings, dining from Mar 15

Source: [Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-10

ISLAMABAD/ PAKISTAN: The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Wednesday issued fresh guidelines following a surge in the corona virus cases in the country. The session was held on Wednesday with the authority's chairman Asad Umar in the chair, according to an official statement. "The forum was given comprehensive update and review about the non-pharmaceutical interventions (N.....

[more >>](#)

54 corona deaths, 1,353 fresh cases reported across country

Source: [Abdul Rasheed Azad, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-10

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has reported 54 Covid-19 deaths in the past 24 hours and detected 1,353 fresh coronavirus cases following which the countrywide death toll jumped to 13,281 while positive cases surged to 593,453. According to National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), Punjab topped with 35 fresh Covid-19 deaths after which total death tally has reached to 5,600 and Sindh stood second wi.....

[more >>](#)

Pakistan reports 1,786 new coronavirus cases in 24 hours

Source: [Web Desk, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-10

Pakistan has reported 43 deaths in the last 24 hours by novel coronavirus as the number of positive cases has surged to 595,239. The nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 13,324 on Wednesday. According to the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) 1,786 persons tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 24 hours. Sindh remains the worst-hit province by the pa.....

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Vaccination for senior citizens to begin today

Source: [Ikram Junaidi, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-10

ISLAMABAD: The government will start vaccinating people aged 60 and above against Covid-19 on Wednesday (today), Dr Faisal Sultan, Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Health, said in a tweet. "Pak Covid-19 vaccination, next phase — starting 10 March, inshallah. Beginning with the senior most citizens, who will receive SMS with instructions on their cell phones," the SAPM tweek.....

[more >>](#)

Govt decides to close schools in seven Punjab cities from March 15

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#) , 2021-03-10

Federal Education Minister Shafqat Mahmood on Tuesday announced closure of all public and private educational institutions in seven major cities of Punjab from March 15 to March 28. Talking to media persons along with SAPM on Health Dr Faisal Sultan after a meeting of National Command and Operation Center (NCOC), the minister said that all educational institutions in Lahore, Faisalabad, Gujra.....

[more >>](#)

Domestic violence against women, children increased during lockdown: report

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#) , 2021-03-10

ISLAMABAD: Incidents of domestic violence and abuse against women and children increased in the second half of 2020 mainly owing to the coronavirus lockdowns. The third six monthly report launched by Sustainable Social Development Organisation (SSDO) here on Monday presented an alarming situation in the country about the failure of the government in preventing child abuse and violation of women&r.....

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Current vaccines less active: Study

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#) , 2021-03-10

ISLAMABAD - A study was published in Nature recently. A preprint of the study was first posted to BioRxiv . The study's predictions are now being borne out with the first reported results of the Novavax vaccine, says the study's lead author David Ho, MD. The company reported that the vaccine was nearly 90% effective in the company's U.K. trial, but only 49.4% effective in it.....

[more >>](#)

Vaccination for people of 60 and above starts today

Source: [Rahul Basharat](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#) , 2021-03-10

ISLAMABAD - The government is set to start the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccination of the senior citizens from today, Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on National Health Services (NHS) Dr. Faisal Sultan announced this on Tuesday. In his social media message, the SAPM said that Pakistan is starting its next phase of vaccination from March 10. He said "Pak Covid-19 vaccinat.....

[more >>](#)

10 corona cases reported in 3 schools in Islamabad

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#) , 2021-03-10

ISLAMABAD-The district health authority on Tuesday urged the deputy commissioner office to close three educational institutions after confirmation of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) cases there. The health authority has asked to close two public sector girls' educational institutions and one private sector elite school. All three schools reported above one COVID-19 case during testing

[more >>](#)

Federal capital records 236 coronavirus cases in last 24 hours

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Frontier Post](#) , 2021-03-10

ISLAMABAD-The Covid-19 cases continue to surge in the federal capital as 236 new cases were reported from the capital city during the last 24 hours, National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) said on Tuesday. According to the NCOC, as many as 221 cases were reported on Tuesday morning while 190 cases were reported a day before. So far 45,976 cases while 511 deaths were reported from Islamabad.....

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Corona creeping up again

Source: [Shahina Maqbool, The News, International](#), 2021-03-11

ISLAMABAD: Rising cases of COVID-19 and an alarming increase in the overall positivity ratio prompted the government on Wednesday to announce spring holidays in all educational institutions of Islamabad, seven major cities of Punjab, and Peshawar in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The two-week spring break will commence from March 15 and continue till March 28. "This order, however, will not be applica.....

[more >>](#)

NCOC re-imposes restrictions as Covid cases surge

Source: [Ikram Junaidi, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-11

ISLAMABAD: With no let-up in Covid-19 cases, the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Wednesday re-imposed a number of restrictions that had been in force in the country prior to Feb 24. The centre announced a two-week spring vacation in educational institutions in 10 cities whereas Balochistan and Sindh were suggested to limit attendance to 50 per cent. It decided to continue sm.....

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Govt to import 45m doses of Indian vaccine 15 million doses will be ordered in the first phase

Source: [Agencies, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-11

ISLAMABAD: The government has decided to import coronavirus vaccine from India, Planning Minister Asad Umar, who heads the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), confirmed to Express News on Wednesday. According to the report, 45 million doses will be imported from the neighbouring country under Gavi vaccine alliance. In this regard, the report added, matters have been settled and a forma.....

[more >>](#)

Country records over 2,200 Covid-19 cases for first time since Jan 20

Source: [Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-11

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Thursday recorded 2,258 new coronavirus cases during the previous 24 hour period for the first time since January 20, taking the country's Covid-19 tally to 597,497. According to the National Command and Operations Centre (NCOC), the country's death toll climbed to 13,377 after at least 53 more people succumbed to the deadly disease during the last 24 hours. Meanwhi.....

[more >>](#)

Pakistan reports 2,258 COVID-19 daily cases in 24 hours

Source: [Web Desk, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-11

Pakistan has reported 53 deaths in the last 24 hours by novel coronavirus as the number of positive cases has surged to 597,497. The nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 13,377 on Wednesday. According to the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) 2,258 persons tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 24 hours. Sindh remains the worst-hit province by the pa.....

[more >>](#)

NCOC announces two-week spring break in 7 Punjab cities, Islamabad

Source: [Rahul Basharat, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-11

ISLAMABAD - The National Command and Operations Centre (NCOC) on Wednesday announced two weeks spring break in educational institutions of seven major cities of Punjab from 15th of this month along with withdrawing the indoor gatherings as well. The meeting of the NCOC was held here under Federal Minister Asad Umar to review the increasing number of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) cases in the c.....

[more >>](#)

Pakistan has only Chinese vaccine to deal with Covid-19's third phase

Source: [Mariana Babar](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-12

ISLAMABAD: As the pandemic threatens Pakistan with the third phase, the government has so far received COVID-19 vaccine only from China. It has not procured yet anything from the open market and is now awaiting more vaccines from the COVAX Facility, but it has not made any bilateral agreement with India in this regard. Recently, Indian media reports referred to Pakistan receiving vaccines directl.....

[more >>](#)

Dr Faisal pays surprise visits to vaccination centres

Source: [Shahina Maqbool](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-12

Islamabad : With the second phase of vaccination against Covid-19 underway, the PM's Special Assistant on Health Dr. Faisal Sultan paid surprise visits to the capital's three public sector hospitals—Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS), CDA Hospital, and Polyclinic Hospital—to inspect arrangements for vaccination following yesterday's ruckus at PIMS. Dr. Fai.....

[more >>](#)

Hospitals asked for compliance of SOPs

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-12

Islamabad : Both the public and private sector hospitals in the federal capital have been asked for compliance of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and safety precautionary measures in the wake of rising COVID-19 cases through a letter distributed by District Health Officer Islamabad Capital Territory. The letter dated March 11, issued by DHO ICT Dr. Muhammad Zaeem Zia, states that rece.....

[more >>](#)

Third Covid-19 wave has started in Pakistan, confirms Asad Umar

Source: [News Desk](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-12

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister Asad Umar has confirmed that the third wave of Covid-19 has started in Pakistan and attributed the rising number of cases to the virus' UK strain. "Yes, there is no doubt that the third wave has started and basically, the phenomena that's driving it is the spread of the UK strain," Umar said while talking to a private news channel on Thursday evening.

[more >>](#)

'Kidney disease common factor in Covid-19 deaths'

Source: [APP](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-12

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Air Force Hospital in Islamabad organised a seminar on World Kidney Day here on Thursday wherein experts mentioned that most of the deceased coronavirus patients had a history of kidney disease. Speaking on the occasion, Professor Dr Saeed Akhter said kidney diseases are a big challenge in the country, adding that according to recent studies most of the people who died of.....

[more >>](#)

Alarming surge in Covid-19 cases witnessed

Source: [Abdul Rasheed Azad](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-12

ISLAMABAD: With the steady increase in Covid-19 cases in Pakistan during the past 9 days, the positivity rate has jumped to 5.36 percent as the country recorded 2,258 Covid-19 cases during past 24 hours after Jan 29 when 2,186 cases were detected. According to National Command and Operation Centre (NCOCC), countrywide 53 Covid-19 people died of Covid-19. According to the NCOCC portal, the numbe.....

[more >>](#)

Pakistan has no bilateral agreement with India on vaccine procurement: FO

Source: [Shafqat Ali, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-12

ISLAMABAD - The Foreign Office on Thursday said that Pakistan was not importing Covid-19 vaccines from India and said that the international vaccine alliance – Gavi, has offered to provide vaccine doses to several countries, including Pakistan under its COVAX Facility. Speaking at a weekly news briefing, Foreign Office spokesperson Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri rejected the reports about import.....

[more >>](#)

2,258 Covid-19 cases reported in a single day

Source: [Tahir Niaz, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-12

ISLAMABAD - A day after the National Command and Control Centre (NCOCC) re-imposed restrictions to check the spread of Covid-19 in the country, the country reported more than 2,000 coronavirus cases for the first time since January. According to the official data, Pakistan reported 2,258 cases in the last 24 hours Thursday morning, marking the first time the country has reported over 2,000 inf.....

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Covid-19 vaccination centre opens at PRCS hospital

Source: [Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-12

ISLAMABAD - In a landmark development, a coronavirus vaccination centre was opened on Thursday at the Red Crescent Corona Care Hospital in Rawalpindi. In another feather in the PRCS cap, the government has designated the Red Crescent Corona Care Hospital as Mass Vaccination Centre for vaccination of general public against Covid-19. PRCS Chairman Abrar ul Haq inaugurated the vaccination centr.....

[more >>](#)

DHO directs all hospitals to comply with SOPs as Covid-19 positivity ratio surges to 6pc

Source: [Rahul Basharat, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-12

ISLAMABAD - The District Health Office (DHO) on Thursday directed all hospitals of the city to comply with the standard operating procedures as novel coronavirus (COVID-19) positivity ratio surged to 6 per cent. The DHO wrote a letter to all hospitals regarding compliance of SOPs in wake of rising COVID-19 cases in all hospitals of Islamabad. The letter issued said that "with reference.....

[more >>](#)

No new coronavirus case in GB

Source: [Correspondent, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-12

GILGIT: No new coronavirus case has been reported in Gilgit-Baltistan, according to Home Secretary Mohammad Ali Randhawa. Dr Shah Zaman, the focal person for coronavirus in GB, also confirmed that presently there was no Covid-19 patient in the region. He said that all patients of coronavirus in the region had recovered. He said that three coronavirus cases were reported in GB 11 days ago. He said

[more >>](#)

Over 2,000 cases reported amid third wave fears

Source: [Aamir Yasin | Asif Chaudhry, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-12

ISLAMABAD/LAHORE: The spectre of a fresh wave of Covid-19 loomed over the country on Thursday as the number of people reported to have contracted the potentially fatal disease in a day topped the figure of 2,000 after a gap of about a month, with half of those infected belonging to Punjab. The country's most populous province seemed to be in the eye of the brewing storm not just because of

[more >>](#)

Casualties rise in twin cities as seven die of Covid-19

Source: [Aamir Yasin | Munawer Azeem, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-12

ISLAMABAD: The twin cities saw a rise in the number of casualties as seven more people lost their lives to Covid-19 on Thursday while another 427 people contracted the virus. No one was discharged from hospitals after recovery in the last one week and the positivity rate rose to 5pc. Four deaths – two males and two females – were reported in the capital in the age group of 80-89 and 6.....

[more >>](#)

Hospitals in capital asked to observe SOPs as Covid-19 cases rise

Source: [Munawer Azeem, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-12

ISLAMABAD: The District Health Office on Thursday asked all hospitals to comply with the standard operating procedures (SOPs) and ensure observance of precautionary measures in the wake of rising number of Covid-19 cases. In a letter to state-run and private hospitals of Islamabad, District Health Officer Dr Zaeem Zia asked their managements to observe strict compliance of SOPs. "It is int.....

[more >>](#)

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Smart lockdown imposed in Charsadda, Abbottabad areas

Source: [Dawn Report, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-10

CHARSADDA/ABBOTTABAD: The authorities have imposed micro smart lockdown in different areas of Charsadda and Abbottabad districts to put brakes on spread of coronavirus. Schools were also sealed in Charsadda, Abbottabad and Swabi after students tested positive for Covid-19. In Charsadda, Deputy Commissioner Adil Shah imposed micro smart lockdown in different areas while Government Shaheed Saifull.....

[more >>](#)

Owners reject closure of private schools

Source: [Bureau Report, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-12

PESHAWAR: National Education Council (NEC), a group of private schools, has rejected the closure of educational institutions and demanded of the federal government to withdraw the decision to avoid further loss of precious academic time of the students. Speaking at a press conference at Peshawar Press Club on Thursday, NEC chairman Nazar Hussain said the educational institutions would face &lsquo.....

[more >>](#)

Peshawar educational institutions to be closed for two weeks

Source: [Bureau Report, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-12

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has ordered the closure of educational institutions in Peshawar district for two weeks from March 15 following an increase in coronavirus positivity rate. The order was issued on the directives of the National Command and Operation Centre to take preventive measures against the virus in cities with high incidence. In a notification issued here on Thurs.....

[more >>](#)

Women varsity to establish 'Valence Centre'

Source: [Bureau Report, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-12

PESHAWAR: Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University in collaboration with partner organisations will establish "Valence Centre" to train its faculty members and students to connect with doctors through internet and launch an awareness programme for marketing initiatives. A press release issued here on Thursday said that the university signed two memoranda of understanding, including one.....

[more >>](#)

Punjab

5 COVID-19 deaths, 264 cases

Source: [Muhammad Qasim, The News, International](#), 2021-03-09

Rawalpindi:Coronavirus illness, COVID-19 outbreak is getting more and more intense with every passing day at least here in Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district from where the number of confirmed cases of the disease is on a continuous increase and almost all educational institutions and marriage halls are operating as per routine giving more room to the virus to grow. As man.....[more >>](#)

Sports banned in seven districts' schools

Source: [Our Correspondent, The News, International](#), 2021-03-09

LAHORE:School Education Department (SED) Punjab on Monday issued a notification banning co-curricular activities (i.e., sports etc) in public and private schools of seven districts, including Lahore. According to the notification, no co-curricular activities shall be conducted in seven districts, including Lahore, Gujrat, Rawalpindi, Faisalabad, Sialkot, Multan and Rahim Yar Khan as COVID-.....[more >>](#)

Sports banned in seven districts' schools

Source: [Our Correspondent, The News, International](#), 2021-03-09

LAHORE:School Education Department (SED) Punjab on Monday issued a notification banning co-curricular activities (i.e., sports etc) in public and private schools of seven districts, including Lahore. According to the notification, no co-curricular activities shall be conducted in seven districts, including Lahore, Gujrat, Rawalpindi, Faisalabad, Sialkot, Multan and Rahim Yar Khan as COVID-.....[more >>](#)

13 more die from corona

Source: [Our Correspondent, The News, International](#), 2021-03-09

LAHORE:Around 13 more corona patients died and 815 new infections were confirmed in Punjab during the last 24 hours. According to Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD) report issued on Monday, the toll of fatalities reached 5,565, while confirmed cases reached 177,823 in the province. As per the spokesperson for Corona Monitoring Room at P&SHD, 14,677 tests have been conducted.....

[more >>](#)

Court sealed after judge tests positive

Source: [Correspondent, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-09

GUJRANWALA: District and Sessions Judge Hamayon Imtiaz got the court room of Civil Judge Tajjammal Hussain Hanjra sealed after his positive coronavirus report on Monday. The civil judge had been sick for a few days. ACCIDENT:A car ran over and killed three people and left four others wounded on Sargodha-Hafizabad Road on Monday. According to reports, the drivers of two cars carrying wedding guests.....

[more >>](#)

Co-curricular activities banned in Punjab schools

Source: [Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-09

LAHORE: The Punjab School Education Department (SED) on Monday suspended co-curricular activities in seven districts of the province due to an increase in Covid-19 cases. According to an SED notification, "No co-curricular activity shall be conducted in those districts where Covid-19 positivity ratio is more than 20 cases." The districts include Lahore, Gujrat, Rahim Yar Khan, Sialko.....

[more >>](#)

90pc of beds for Covid patients 'occupied'

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-09

LAHORE: With 13 more deaths, 815 new cases of the coronavirus have surfaced in Punjab during the last 24 hours, as per official statistics released on Monday, amid the experts' warnings of an alarming increase in the infections. Of the new cases, 526 were reported in Lahore, while a majority of others in Rawalpindi, Multan, Faisalabad and Gujranwala. So far, the total number of the positiv.....

[more >>](#)

Women in Lahore take part in Aurat March with feminist flourish

Source: [Xari Jalil](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-09

LAHORE: Women, along with other gender minorities, took to the streets as a part of the Aurat March as they walked from the press club to the PIA Building on Egerton Road to mark the International Women's Day 2021 on Monday. The demonstrators gathered outside the Lahore Press Club at around 2pm and began their procession towards the PIA Building where they ended the walk and held a sit-in w.....

[more >>](#)

Two MPAs of Punjab contract Covid-19

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-03-09

Two lawmakers of Punjab Assembly, one each from Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, quarantined themselves after testing positive for novel coronavirus on Monday. According to details, PML-N MPA Samiullah Khan and PTI MPA Mian Shafi have contracted the coronavirus. Shafi has also been among the panel of chairmen in the present session of the house. He has quarantined.....

[more >>](#)

7 COVID-19 deaths, situation alarming

Source: [Muhammad Qasim](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-10

Rawalpindi: As many as seven more patients suffering from coronavirus illness, COVID-19 from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district have died of the illness taking death toll from the region to 1,169 while another 297 patients have been tested positive from the twin cities in the last 24 hours hinting that the outbreak has got much intense in terms of both morbidity and mortality in t.....

[more >>](#)

35 more die from corona

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-10

LAHORE: Around 35 corona patients died and 825 new infections were confirmed in Punjab during the last 24 hours. According to P&SHD report Tuesday, the death toll reached 5,600, while confirmed cases became 178,648 in the province.

[more >>](#)

Sexagenarians' COVID-19 vaccination starts today

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-10

LAHORE: Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD), Punjab, has directed all divisional commissioners to operationalise vaccination centres for COVID-19 vaccination of population above 60 years of age with effect from Wednesday (today). Over 7 million individuals will be vaccinated across Punjab. Around 104 locations were identified by district administrations for CVCs and staff as des.....

[more >>](#)

Smart lockdown extended

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-10

LAHORE: The Punjab government has extended smart lockdown in three cities in hotspot areas with maximum emergence of COVID-19 cases. According to separate notifications issued by P&SHD, the smart lockdown has been imposed in hotspot areas of Gujranwala till 17.03.2021 and Gujrat and Lahore till 19.03.2021.

[more >>](#)

17 shops, restaurants sealed over SOPs violations

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-10

LAHORE - The city district administration sealed 17 shops, restaurants, marriage halls and imposed Rs 94,000 fine for violation of coronavirus related Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) here on Tuesday. According to a spokesperson for district administration, Assistant Commissioner (AC) Cantt Zoha Shakir sealed three shops in Cantt area and imposed Rs 55,000 over SOPs violation. AC City Faizan Ah.....

[more >>](#)

NAB seeks details of Covid, fuel expenses

Source: [Correspondent](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-10

BAHAWALNAGAR: The National Accountability Bureau (NAB), Multan, has sought a two-year record of DC Office Covid relief fund, judicial lock-up and fuel funds after it received a complaint about [alleged] misappropriation of government funds, Dawn has learnt. The NAB Multan additional director (staff) in a letter to the District Nazir, [a copy is available with Dawn], has sought details of Covid-re.....

[more >>](#)

Co-curricular activities banned in Punjab schools

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-10

LAHORE: The Punjab School Education Department (SED) on Monday suspended co-curricular activities in seven districts of the province due to an increase in Covid-19 cases. According to an SED notification, "No co-curricular activity shall be conducted in those districts where Covid-19 positivity ratio is more than 20 cases." The districts include Lahore, Gujrat, Rahim Yar Khan, Sialko.....

[more >>](#)

4 centers set up to vaccinate elderly people in Khanewal

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-10

KHANEWAL - The district administration has allocated four buildings in the district to start vaccinating of elderly people above 60 against novel coronavirus from March 10, on Wednesday. The vaccination centers has been set up at tehsil council Khanewal, old official residence of Assistant Commissioner in Kabirwala, government girls college in Mianchannu while one center has been set up in Jahanian.....

[more >>](#)

1,092 cases in last 4 days from twin cities

Source: [Muhammad Qasim](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-11

Rawalpindi: The number of patients being tested positive for coronavirus illness, COVID-19 from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district is on a sharp increase as in the last 24 hours, another 307 patients have been confirmed positive for the illness from the region taking tally to 59,707 on Wednesday while the virus claimed another life from ICT. In the last four days, as many as 1,09.....

[more >>](#)

Corona vaccination to people above 60 begins

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-11

LAHORE: The Punjab government started giving Covid-19 vaccination to people above 60 years of age on Wednesday. Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD), Punjab said Covid Vaccination Centres (CVCs) have been set up in 104 locations in all districts of the province. Doctors and other medical staff trained by Expanded Programme of Immunization (EPI) have been deputed to conduct vacci.....

[more >>](#)

Corona kills 29 more in Punjab

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-11

LAHORE: Around 29 more coronavirus patients died and 1,006 new infections were confirmed in Punjab during the last 24 hours. According to Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD) report issued on Wednesday, the death toll reached 5,629, while confirmed cases reached 179,654 in the province. As per the spokesperson for Corona Monitoring Room at Primary and Secondary Healthcare Depar.....

[more >>](#)

1006 fresh cases, 29 fatalities; Positivity rate of coronavirus jumps to 6.59pc in Punjab

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-11

LAHORE: The positivity rate of coronavirus in the province has jumped to 6.59%, as out of 15,260 Covid-19 tests conducted during the last 24 hours, 1006 fresh virus cases and 29 fatalities were reported across Punjab taking the provincial tally of cases to 179,654 and death toll to 5629. With the recovery of 766 more virus patients, the number of recovered patients in the province has reached.....

[more >>](#)

13 centers in Multan to vaccinate elderly people

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-11

MULTAN - Commissioner Multan division, Javed Akhtar Mahmood said that 13 centers had been set up across the division for vaccination to elderly age people. The vaccination process to elderly age citizens had been started and the strength of centers could be enhanced further as per demand. Commissioner Javed Akhtar Mahmood expressed these views during inauguration of vaccination camp here on

[more >>](#)

Another 63 fall victim to COVID-19 in Faisalabad

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-11

FAISALABAD - Another 63 new cases of coronavirus were reported in various parts of the district during the last 24 hours. According to health department sources, 1041 coronavirus tests were conducted in public and private sectors labs during the above mentioned period. He said that so far 8,621 corona patients had recovered while 537 had died due to COVID-19 in the district since the pandemic outb.....

[more >>](#)

School Education deptt notifies vacations for two weeks in 7 districts

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-11

MULTAN - School Education Department announced closure of school in seven districts of Punjab for two weeks from March 15 due to considerable rise in COVID positive cases. An official source of the department said on Wednesday that the districts included Lahore, Faisalabad, Gujranwala, Gujrat, Rawalpindi, Multan and Sialkot while rest of the districts will follow existing regular schedule. The sch.....

[more >>](#)

Vaccination of elders starts in Bahawalpur

Source: [Ch Ashraf](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-11

BAHAWALPUR - On the direction of Punjab government, vaccination of people above 60 years of age has been started in Bahawalpur district to protect them from coronavirus. In this regard, six Corona Vaccination Centers have been set up in Bahawalpur district. Government Medical College, Bahawalpur Training Center, Forest Office, TMA Office, Hasilpur, DDHO Office, Khairpur, Tamiwali, Near Sadiq

[more >>](#)

COVID-19 claims 29 more lives in Punjab

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-11

LAHORE - The pandemic COVID-19 claimed another 29 precious lives in the province which turned the death toll to 5,629 whereas 1,006 new cases were reported on Wednesday. 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 179,654. The PP&SHD confirmed that 621 new ca.....

[more >>](#)

Three shops sealed over SOPs violations

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-11

LAHORE - The district administration sealed three shops and imposed Rs 25,000 fine on violation of coronavirus related Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) here on Wednesday. According to a spokesperson for the district administration, Assistant Commissioner Cantt Zoha Shakir sealed three shops and imposed a fine of Rs 25,000 for SOPs violation and overcharging. The team sealed Malik store, Mirza.....

[more >>](#)

Covid-19 vaccination starts in Punjab

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-11

LAHORE - On the direction of Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar, the free vaccination of elderly citizens, of more than 60 years of age has been started and vaccination centres have been established in various districts of the province. In a statement, the CM said the officials have been directed to arrange necessary facilities for the elderly visitors and announced to visit such centr.....

[more >>](#)

7 deaths, 417 COVID-19 cases in twin cities

Source: [Muhammad Qasim](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-12

Rawalpindi : As many as seven confirmed patients of coronavirus illness, COVID-19 have died of the illness from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district in the last 24 hours while 417 new patients have been tested positive for the disease which is the highest number of cases registered in a day from the region after December 9, 2020. Data collected by 'The News' reveals tha.....

[more >>](#)

Vaccination centre opens at PRCS hospital

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-12

Rawalpindi : A coronavirus vaccination centre was opened at the Red Crescent Corona Care Hospital here on Thursday, with the government designating the hospital as a mass vaccination centre for vaccination of general public against Covid-19. Addressing the inauguration of the vaccination centre, PRCS Chairman Abrar ul Haq said, the Red Crescent Corona Care Hospital has selflessly served the publi.....

[more >>](#)

Coronavirus positivity rate surges to 7.51pc in Punjab

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-12

LAHORE: As many as 33 more coronavirus patients lost their lives across Punjab during the last 24 hours taking the tally of total fatalities to 5662. Out of 17,174 tests conducted across the province, upto 1290 fresh virus cases were reported taking the tally of cases to 180,944. With the recovery of 698 more virus patients, the number of recovered patients has reached 167,967. The positivity.....

[more >>](#)

Third virus wave hits Punjab, says Dr Yasmin

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-12

LAHORE - Punjab Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid said here on Thursday that the third wave of corona pandemic has hit Punjab. In the last 24 hours Punjab reported 2,190 cases and since the pandemic began the number has reached 180,944. In the last 24 hours, 33 people lost their lives, taking death toll to this day to 5662. So far in Punjab's government hospitals, the number of people recover.....

[more >>](#)

Sindh

Covid-19 claims 10 more lives in Sindh

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-09

Covid-19 claimed 10 lives in Sindh during the previous 24 hours, raising the death toll due to the contagious disease in the province to 4,436. In the meantime, 308 patients of Covid-19 remained under treatment at different hospitals, of whom the condition of 277 patients was stated to be critical and 43 of them were shifted onto life support. In addition to the 10 deaths, 101 new cases of.....

[more >>](#)

Pakistan places orders for single-dose Cansino Bio vaccine

Source: [M Waqar Bhatti](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-10

KARACHI: Pakistan has placed an order to purchase single-dose Chinese vaccine Ad5-nCoV vaccine (Cansino Bio) for Covid-19 and its first batch is expected to be delivered to Pakistan 'within a week', National Health Services, Regulation and Coordination (NHS, R&C) told The News on Tuesday. "We have placed an order for the purchase of CanSino Biologics Inc.'s sing.....

[more >>](#)

SHC tells govt to submit report on Covid-19 vaccine import policy

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-10

The Sindh High Court directed a federal law officer on Tuesday to submit a report with regard to the general import of Covid-19 vaccines in the country. The directive came during a hearing of a petition seeking the issuance of an injunction for the hospitals to provide first aid to every patient at the initial stage without calling/asking for producing the Covid-19 test report first. The

[more >>](#)

Six more fall prey to coronavirus in Sindh

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-10

Covid-19 claimed six more lives in Sindh during the last 24 hours, bringing the death toll in the province to 4,442 at a 1.7 percent fatality rate. As many as 194 new cases emerged when 7,499 tests were conducted, showing a 2.6 per cent detection rate, said Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in his daily coronavirus update report Tuesday. So far 3,096,658 tests have been conducted and 260.....

[more >>](#)

Sindh reports under 200 new infections

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-10

KARACHI: Under 200 new coronavirus infections were detected in the province, where the pandemic claimed six more lives, said Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah on Tuesday. The provincial pandemic tally and death toll rose to 260,149 and 4,442, he added. According to the CM, 194 cases emerged when 7,499 samples were tested for the contagion. He added that thus far 3,096,658 Covid-19 tests have been.....

[more >>](#)

COVID-19 claims six more lives, infects 194 others: CM

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-10

KARACHI - As many as 6 more patients of coronavirus died overnight lifting the death toll to 4,442 and 194 new cases emerged when 7,499 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued on Tuesday. He added that 6 more patients of COVID-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 4,442 that constituted 1.7 percent death rate. Mr Sh.....

[more >>](#)

Educational institutions in Sindh to remain open: Ghani

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-11

Sindh Education and Labour Minister Saeed Ghani has said no educational institutions are to be closed in Sindh and the provincial government on the advice of the school education and literacy department's (SELD) steering committee will continue with the policy of allowing 50 per cent of pupils to come to schools and colleges. "The SELD is trying to ensure implementation of SOPs at ed.....

[more >>](#)

Covid kills six more as another 256 test positive

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-11

Six more people have died due to Covid-19 and 256 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 4,448 in the province. Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said in his daily situation report on the health emergency on Wednesday that 9,964 samples were tested in the past 24 hours, resulting in 256 pe.....

[more >>](#)

COVID-19 claims six more lives, infects 256 others

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-11

KARACHI - As many as six more patients of coronavirus died overnight in Sindh, lifting the death toll to 4,448 while 256 new cases emerged, out of which 129 were from Karachi. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued on Wednesday. He added that six more patients of COVID-19 lost their lives in Sindh province, lifting the death toll to 4,448 that consti.....

[more >>](#)

Pechuho suggests those travelling from abroad be quarantined

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-11

KARACHI-Minister for Health and Population Welfare Sindh, Dr Azra Pechuho, attended via video-link, a National Command Operation Centre (NCOC) meeting, reviewing the decision to reopen the education sector in light of the rising cases of COVID-19 in Pakistan. Parliamentary Secretary for Health in Sindh Assembly, Qasim Siraj Soomro, Secretary Health, Dr Kazim Jatoi, as well as other health officers.....

[more >>](#)

Saeed Ghani says govt may have to opt for another lockdown if COVID-19 cases continue to rise

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The News, International](#) , 2021-03-11

KARACHI: Sindh Education Minister Saeed Ghani warned the public on Thursday that the the provincial government may have to opt for another lockdown if there is a continued increase in coronavirus cases. But the minister stated that for now, only a handful of cities were seeing an increase in the coronavirus positivity ratio. "We may go towards a lockdown if the situation worsens," Gh.....

[more >>](#)

Covid kills four more as another 255 test positive

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#) , 2021-03-12

Four more people have died due to Covid-19 and 255 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 4,452 in the province. Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said in his daily situation report on the health emergency on Thursday that 10,377 samples were tested in the past 24 hours, resulting in 255 p.....

[more >>](#)

Sindh reports over 250 Covid infections Pandemic death toll at 4,452 with four more fatalities

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#) , 2021-03-12

KARACHI: Over 250 new coronavirus infections emerged in Sindh on Thursday when 10,377 samples were tested for the contagion, according to a statement issued by the Chief Minister's House on the day.Sindhalso reported four more coronavirus fatalities, lifting the provincial death toll to 4,452. As many as 255 new cases were detected while 859 persons recovered from the contagion overnight, sa.....

[more >>](#)

Medical waste in the time of a pandemic

Source: [Dawn Report](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#) , 2021-03-12

FROM healthcare to business sector, Covid-19 has severely affected all segments of society, but solid waste management is an area which was already facing a lot of challenges, and coronavirus has only made things worse. In these testing times of the pandemic, the quantum of medical waste has drastically increased and it is a bit too much to be handled with due standard operating procedures. Even

[more >>](#)

International News

Countries News

No foreign spectators during Tokyo Olympics

Source: [Agencies](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-10

TOKYO: Japan has decided to exclude overseas spectators from the Tokyo Olympics over fears an influx of visitors could bring an increase in coronavirus infections, local media reported Tuesday. Kyodo News said the government had concluded it was 'not possible' to allow fans from abroad to attend this summer's Games, already delayed by a year because of the pandemic. This was due.....[more >>](#)

Chance to take 'green path' to Covid recovery being squandered, says UN

Source: [AFP](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-11

PARIS: The world is missing a once-in-a-generation chance to rebuild a sustainable post-pandemic future, the United Nations said on Wednesday in an assessment showing less than 20 percent of recovery finance can be considered "green". Although the unprecedented economic slowdown caused by Covid-19 saw greenhouse gas emissions fall dramatically in 2020, institutions from the UN to the[more >>](#)

House approves Biden's \$1.9tr Covid-19 bill

Source: [Reuters](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-11

WASHINGTON: The House of Representatives gave final approval on Wednesday to one of the largest economic stimulus measures in US history, a sweeping \$1.9 trillion Covid-19 relief bill that gives President Joe Biden his first major victory in office. The measure provides \$400 billion for \$1,400 direct payments to most Americans, \$350bn in aid to state and local governments, an expansion of the chi.....[more >>](#)

UN chief warns of risk of famine for millions around the world

Source: [AFP](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-12

UNITED NATIONS: Millions of people around the world risk dying of hunger, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said on Thursday, adding that climate change and Covid-19 had worsened the threat. "Without immediate action, millions of people will reach the brink of extreme hunger and death," Guterres told the Security Council during a meeting on the links between food and security. Gu.....[more >>](#)

Covid crippling efforts to safeguard ecosystems

Source: [AFP](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-12

GENEVA: The Covid-19 pandemic has not only had devastating effects on humans, it has also heavily impacted efforts to safeguard natural ecosystems and habitats around the globe, conservationists warned on Thursday. The pandemic and its economic fall-out have put rangers out of work, forced cuts to anti-poaching patrols, and sparked a range of environmental roll-backs, the International Union for[more >>](#)

Donors News

Pakistan joins new UN campaign to make coronavirus vaccines available to all

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-12

Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations (UN) Munir Akram said Pakistan joined a new United Nations public advocacy campaign 'Only Together', which calls for coronavirus vaccines to be available to everyone and everywhere to help contain the deadly pandemic, in a tweet on Friday. As the president of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), he also called for ensur.....

[more >>](#)

SDPI Engagements

Webinars News

'Women can help push coronavirus vaccination'

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-12

ISLAMABAD: 'Engaging women in the novel coronavirus vaccination efforts can help dispel the misconception about the anti-Covid drugs, speakers said at a seminar. Lady health workers, having access to households, were instrumental in undoing the propaganda against the polio vaccine and they could do so in bringing down the delusions about the Covid vaccine too, they said at the webinar Choo.....

[more >>](#)

Other SDPI Engagements

Webinar News other than COVID-19

Speakers Term Gender-equality Crucial To Counter Development Challenges

Source: [APP](#), [Urdu Point](#), 2021-03-10

ISLAMABAD, (APP – Urdu Point / Pakistan Point News - 10th Mar, 2021): Several systemic issues persist in Pakistan pertaining gender-inequality, however, the positive steps including pro-women legislation in recent years has given a strong hope for an inclusive society. These views were expressed by participants of webinar titled 'Choose to challenge' arranged here by Sustainable Development.....

[more >>](#)

Speakers Stress To Ensure Standards For Steel Sector

Source: [APP](#), [Urdu Point](#), 2021-03-12

ISLAMABAD, (APP – Urdu Point / Pakistan Point News - 11th Mar, 2021): Speakers at a seminar have stressed the need to ensure enforcement of Pakistan Standards and Quality Control Authority (PSQCA) standards for steel sector and also for bridging gap between industry and academia for producing trained human resources in steel sector. Speaking in seminar on Iron Industry organized by Sustainable Dev.....

[more >>](#)

Researchers Articles

ECONOMIC SOLUTIONS

Source: [Asif Javed](#), [South Asia Magazine](#), 2021-03-12

The recent report of the IMF has indicated that Bangladesh has overtaken Pakistan and India in terms of per capita GDP. According to IMF statistics, even amid Covid-19, Bangladesh might turn out to be the third highest growing economy in the world and the highest in Asia in 2020. There are only 23 countries which may achieve positive growth. Goldman Sach has forecast that Bangladesh may dominate t.....

[more >>](#)

SDPI's Related News

'CPEC not a debt trap'

Source: Rasheed Khalid, [The News, International](#), 2021-03-12

Islamabad: China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is not a debt trap as all projects in the energy sector are investments and loans constitute only a small proportion of the overall CPEC portfolio, said Dr Ishrat Hussain, adviser to the Prime Minister on Institutional Reforms and Austerity. Dr Ishrat was speaking at a seminar on 'Upscaling the economic activities of CPEC: opportunit.....[more >>](#)

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