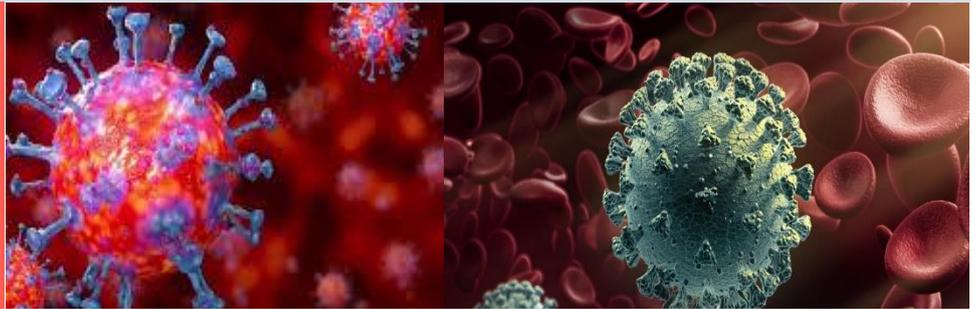


# E-Newsletter on COVID-19



Vol. 02, No, 23 - 24



Issue: 16-22 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

#### Vaccination efforts

Source: [Editorial](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-16

We have now been officially told that the UK variant of the Covid-19 virus is now in Pakistan. This strain is known to be highly transmissible and also affects more young people compared to the previous strain of the virus. But even as hospitals fill up, and people struggle to find beds in ICUs or even general wards, there seems to be a hesitation or lack of awareness among people regarding the va.....[more >>](#)

#### Muslims targeted

Source: [Editorial](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-17

FAR-right movements have gained ground across the globe, blaming ethnic and religious 'others' for all of society's failings. In some countries, groups that were once labelled extremists are now controlling the levers of power, making life difficult for minorities. Amongst the xenophobic trends spreading across the world is Islamophobia, as Muslims are targeted for their faith. ....[more >>](#)

#### The third wave

Source: [Editorial](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-16

Till 10 days ago, the rate of Covid positive cases in the country was hovering around 3.5%, but the same has now swelled to 6.5%. Yes, a third wave of the coronavirus has hit the country, especially Punjab where 1,653 cases — among the national tally of 2,238 — were reported in a single day, on Sunday, for the first time since June 2020. The government sees the UK variant of the deadly.....[more >>](#)

#### Beyond politics

Source: [Khurram Husain](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-18

ONE thing recent events have made clear is that the current set-up faces no threat from politics. Street agitations by political parties have not succeeded in bringing down a government in our history (with due apologies to those who nostalgically recall the so-called 'street-fighting years'), and no long marches, en masse resignations or sit-ins will bring down this government either,.....[more >>](#)

#### New lease of life

Source: [F.S. Aijazuddin](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-18

I NEVER thought I would need the jab of a vaccine to activate my patriotism. Since news of the availability of anti-Covid-19 vaccines has been regurgitated by the press, I have suffered anxiety about whether or not I should allow myself to be vaccinated. Which one, though? AstraZeneca? The Pfizer-BioNTech? Moderna? Or the single dose Johnson & Johnson? Why not the Russian Sputnik V, even thou.....[more >>](#)

#### Post-pandemic world challenges

Source: [Dr Omer Javed](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-19

'For the first time in world history, people around the world are being forced to acknowledge that we all face a shared threat that no country can overcome by itself. If the world's people join together under compulsion, to defeat Covid-19, they may learn a lesson. They may become motivated to join together, under compulsion, to combat climate change, resource depletion, and inequality.....[more >>](#)

### The vaccine leap of faith

Source: [BR Research](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-16

It is almost the first anniversary of the first lockdown in Pakistan – and various kinds are once again being implemented across the country. The overall positivity rate indicates the beginning of yet another wave. Recall that the second wave peaked at around 9 percent, but the flattening of the curve was not as sustained as witnessed during the first wave. The share of positive cases t.....

[more >>](#)

### The Golden Age and medical science

Source: [Dr Imran Syed](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-20

The debilitating effects of a pandemic that refuses to go away can make just remaining safe and healthy seem like accomplishment enough. The public policy aspiration in such times should be to navigate through the pressing challenges of the present and concurrently chart a course for a healthful and prosperous future. As Covid-19 extends into 2021, vaccines and vaccinations are providing a.....

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### The Golden Age and medical science

Source: [Dr Imran Syed](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-20

The debilitating effects of a pandemic that refuses to go away can make just remaining safe and healthy seem like accomplishment enough. The public policy aspiration in such times should be to navigate through the pressing challenges of the present and concurrently chart a course for a healthful and prosperous future. As Covid-19 extends into 2021, vaccines and vaccinations are providing a.....

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### Private Vaccine

Source: [Editorial](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-20

The first-ever consignment of Sputnik-V has arrived in Pakistan. AGP Limited has received the first batch, 50000 doses, of the vaccine. However, the vaccine has yet to be administered through hospitals that the officials have authorised as COVID-19 vaccination centres. The reason is the revision of an earlier decision under which the government had decided to not put a price cap on the vaccine. ....

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### Online transactions

Source: [EDITORIAL](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-20

A SIGNIFICANT number of Pakistanis have shifted to internet and mobile banking to transfer money, pay bills and shop online. Digital transactions are posting strong growth as reflected by new State Bank data for the period between October and December. The data shows online transactions spiking by 24pc in volume to 296.7m and 22pc in value to Rs21.4tr as more people switch to internet and mobile b.....

[more >>](#)

### Vaccine roll-out

Source: [Arif Azad](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-20

THE roll-out of the Covid-19 vaccine dominates the global public discourse as countries zero in on the mammoth task of immunising their populations. As of March 18, 9.96 million doses of the Covid-19 vaccine were being administered daily across the world in 132 countries. The developing world, as expected, was left behind by a plethora of factors ranging from financial constraints, lack of planni.....

[more >>](#)

### **A virulent wave**

Source: [EDITORIAL](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-21

PAKISTAN'S third Covid-19 wave has seen an alarming jump in positive coronavirus cases, with the most recent figures released by the NCOC showing a national positivity rate of approximately 10pc. Reports coming from Islamabad and Punjab, too, are worrying. This week, the capital recorded the highest number of single-day positive cases since the pandemic started, while Lahore has persistently.....

[more >>](#)

### **Another lockdown!**

Source: [Editorial](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-03-21

The lockdown days are here again! As many as 3440 cases were reported for the second day in a row. Pakistan seems all set to enter the dark tunnel where the UK variant of the virus is all ready to sweep through. While health officials are urging people to strictly follow public health guidelines, Islamabad has already reintroduced maximum restrictions including curbs on public life, a 50 per cent .....

[more >>](#)

### **Vaccine hesitancy in Pakistan – Building trust**

Source: [Haya Fatima Sehgal](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-03-20

Viewing the World Economic Forum (WEF) webinar “Boosting Vaccine Confidence” earlier this year was quite educational. The focus of the webinar was to encourage vaccine administrations worldwide and build trust in the vaccines amongst their people by providing adequate knowledge to them. The Covid-19 vaccines have brought up some tough questions for Pakistan to answer, considering its c.....

[more >>](#)

### **Corona rising**

Source: [Editorial](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-21

The Covid-19 pandemic is taking a nasty turn in Pakistan as the number of positive cases is rising by the day – the latest high-profile case being Prime Minister Imran Khan himself. It is thus essential that standard operating procedures (SOPs) and precautions to curb the growing number of cases are adhered to. We have seen lately that people have been showing a greater disregard for most pr.....

[more >>](#)

### **Capping elitism**

Source: [Editorial](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-21

In a country like Pakistan, the very few who have money, power and influence have never considered anything or anyone beyond their own selves. Indeed, the route to ‘success’ in this country has historically been on the backs of several scores of less fortunate or those less ‘fit’ for survival. Self-preservation at any cost is the motto here. It is thus welcoming to know tha.....

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### **A year of Covid-19: On living through the pandemic**

Source: [Mohammad Zaman](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-03-16

We are one year into the Covid-19 pandemic. I recall flying back home on 2 March 2020 from Islamabad, Pakistan after the World Health Organization (WHO) issued further updates and advisory on 28 February on the mysterious disease that already infected thousands in Wuhan in China and was rapidly spreading to other countries. Having had past terrified experience with SARS (severe acute respiratory s.....

[more >>](#)

**Cricket tour risks**

Source: EDITORIAL, [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-22

THE Covid-19 challenge looms large for the Pakistan cricket team as it prepares to embark on its tour of South Africa and Zimbabwe later this week, with the players hopefully mindful of the risk of infection that resulted in the postponement of the Pakistan Super League early this month. The 35-member squad is led by batsman Babar Azam and will play three ODIs and four T20s in South Africa before .....

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**All's well, Mashallah**

Source: [Kamal Siddiqi, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-22

When driving across Pakistan, what clearly comes across in many areas is the genuine belief amongst most that Covid-19 is an urban phenomenon. In a recent drive from Karachi to Khyber it became apparent that most Pakistanis are united in the belief that Covid-19 had affected cities and built-up areas of the country while the smaller towns and villages, where there is enough fresh air and space, ha.....

[more >>](#)

**Covid-19 and reshaping of the international order**

Source: [Shahid Javed Burki, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-22

Although Covid-19 originated in Wuhan, a city in central China, in late 2019, it quickly spread across the globe. By early spring of 2021, it had reached almost all parts of the globe. It first arrived in Pakistan via Iran where Pakistani pilgrims came into contact with those from China's south. Its intensity differed among countries; the data collected and disseminated by the Johns Hopkins .....

[more >>](#)

**Careful Reporting**

Source: [Editorial, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-22

The timing of Prime Minister Imran Khan contracting the virus just days after getting the first shot is just indicative of poor timing and nothing else. And yet, due to some irresponsible reporting on television and social media, sections of the public have questioned the efficacy of the vaccine entirely. Already, the nation is buckling under the pressure of the third wave which has brewed up.....

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## National News

### Gilgit Baltistan

#### Covid negative certificate for tourists must in GB

Source: [APP](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-21

Gilgit - Due to the increasing number of coronavirus cases across the country the Gilgit-Baltistan government has made it mandatory for tourists traveling to Gilgit-Baltistan to present a corona negative certificate. Home Department Gilgit Baltistan has issued a formal notification in this regard on Saturday. According to the notification all tourists traveling to Gilgit-Baltistan should bring a.....[more >>](#)

#### GB govt asks visitors to carry Covid report

Source: [Correspondent](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-21

GILGIT: The Gilgit-Baltistan government on Saturday said tourists entering the region must have a Covid-19 negative certificate. According to a notification issued on Saturday, under GB Epidemic Disease Prevention and Control Ordinance, 2020, the government has made it incumbent on the tourists that they would only be allowed in the region if they had a valid Covid-19 negative certificate. It sa.....[more >>](#)

### Islamabad

#### PNCA postpones programmes due to Covid-19

Source: [APP](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-16

Islamabad: Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) has postponed many of its programmes due to the third wave of Covid-19 pandemic while the rest are shifted to outdoor venues. The following project time were revised including concert of Ustad Raza Ali Khan (Classical) - 6 pm at PNCA courtyard, Youth Drama Festival 15th-19th March 2021 - 10:00 am - 11:30 am, 04:00 pm - 05:30 pm, Beta.....[more >>](#)

#### China eases visa procedures over use of its Covid jab

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-17

Islamabad: The Chinese embassy has eased visa procedures for Pakistanis vaccinated against coronavirus with Chinese-made jabs. According to the new visa policy, such Pakistanis and their family members travelling to the Chinese mainland to resume work and production in various fields or over emergent humanitarian needs need only provide the documents required before the COVID-19 pandemic w.....[more >>](#)

#### PNCA postpones programmes due to Covid-19

Source: [APP](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-16

Islamabad: Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) has postponed many of its programmes due to the third wave of Covid-19 pandemic while the rest are shifted to outdoor venues. We will have limited audience and strict SOPs", said a statement issued by PNCA. All of the events will be streamed live on our Facebook Page so people can enjoy them while sitting at home. The following project .....

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#### Concert amid pandemic evokes criticism

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-16

Islamabad: The people from different walks of life condemned the live concerts being organised in the capital city at the time when new wave of corona virus is posing grave threats to the life of people. They stated that it was really hard to understand the logic behind spring festivals and musical concerts in the face of pandemic that has returned back with more serious threats. The official sta.....

[more >>](#)

### DHO categorises ICT with highest number of cases

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-19

Islamabad: District Health Officer Islamabad Capital Territory Dr. Muhammad Zaeem Zia has shared an important piece of information on his twitter account showing zones in the federal capital with COVID-19 threat on the basis of the spread of the virus. The DHO marked areas as Red Zone with the highest number of cases while showing areas as Orange Zone with medium threat and areas as Green.....

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### Privately-imported Covid shots arrive: govt backtracks on price decision

Source: [Reuters](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-19

ISLAMABAD: Government has reversed its decision to allow uncapped prices for Covid vaccines imported by private firms, the health minister said on Thursday, a move that coincided with the arrival of a first shipment of privately imported Russian Sputnik-V shots. Pakistan, with a population of 220 million and largely reliant on the COVAX vaccine sharing initiative for poorer nations, last mont.....

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### President, first lady get anti-Covid vaccine

Source: [Press Release](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-16

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi and First Lady Samina Alvi Monday got their anti-Covid vaccine here with the former urging the nation to take precautions to make the country sail through third wave of the pandemic. The president and the first lady arrived the vaccination centre at Tarlai after they received the intimation from 1166 registration service where the duo had registered themselves.....

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### Covid-19 positivity ratio shoots to 7.1pc

Source: [Abdul Rasheed Azad](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-17

ISLAMABAD: The national Covid-19 positivity ratio of Pakistan on Tuesday shot to 7.1 percent as the country reported 2,511 Covid-19 cases out of 35,303 tests conducted in last 24 hours. According to National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), over the past 24 hours, Pakistan reported 58 Covid-19 deaths which took the national tally of Covid-19 fatalities to 13,595. Moreover, NCOC data also .....

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### Collective responsibility to comply with Covid SOPs: SAPM on health

Source: [News Desk](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-20

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on National Health Services Dr Faisal Sultan on Saturday said that the country's Covid positivity ratio has doubled from 4.5% to 9.5% in the last few days. While briefing the media personnel in Islamabad, the SAPM stated, "This is an alarming situation which is increasing burden on our healthcare system." Sultan added that .....

[more >>](#)

### Covid-19 cases hit 8-month high in Pakistan

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-20

Pakistan on Saturday recorded at least 3,876 confirmed Covid-19 cases, the highest in eight months as the third wave of the pandemic – fueled by the UK variant of the virus – sweeps across the country. The country also recorded at least 42 fatalities from the virus in the last 24 hours. The nationwide tally of the number of cases reached 623,135 out of which 29,576 were categorised a.....

[more >>](#)

### **PM Imran tests positive for COVID-19**

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-20

Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination Faisal Sultan in a Tweet said Prime Minister Imran Khan has tested positive for coronavirus and is in quarantine at home. According to the sources, NCOC head Asad Umar said that the premier is perfectly fine and he was infected with the virus before receiving the COVID vaccine jab. Replying t.....

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### **Pakistan reports 3,876 new coronavirus cases in 24 hours**

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-20

Pakistan has reported 42 deaths in the last 24 hours by novel coronavirus as the number of positive cases has surged to 623,135. The nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 13,799 on Saturday. According to the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) 3,876 persons tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 24 hours. Sindh remains the worst-hit province by the pan.....

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### **With 40 deaths, 3,400 new virus cases reported in a day**

Source: [Tahir Niaz](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-20

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan Friday reported over 3400 daily Covid-19 cases for the second straight day as positivity ratio climbs to 8 percent. On March 19, the country reported 3,449 infections as 42845 tests were carried out across the country, recording the positivity ratio at 8 percent. The country also reported 40 more deaths on Friday morning, taking the death toll to 13757. A day earlier, 3,.....

[more >>](#)

### **IRD Model offering FOC Covid-19 services**

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-20

ISLAMABAD-COVID-19 is adversely impacting families in Karachi during this second wave, and the city's healthcare system is being stretched to its limits again. To increase access to outpatient COVID care, IRD has partnered with 200 general physicians (GPs) across all districts of Karachi. IRD has equipped and trained GPs to use PPEs, pulse oximeters, large-volume oxygen cylinders, nasal cannula.....

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### **Islamabad reports more than 700 Covid-19 cases in a single day**

Source: [Rahul Basharat](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-20

ISLAMABAD-More than 700 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) cases were reported in the city in last 24 hours and virus spread ratio touched 8.5 per cent on Friday. Deputy Commissioner (DC) Hamza Shafqaat said that we had 747 positive cases in Islamabad. It is the highest number of covid positive cases in a single day in Islamabad ever. He further said that Islamabad administration has started a cra.....

[more >>](#)

### **President, first lady get Covid-19 vaccination**

Source: [Maqbool Malik](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-16

ISLAMABAD - President Dr Arif Alvi and First Lady Samina Alvi got the Covid-19 vaccine jab at a vaccination centre here in Tarlai area on Monday. The president and the first lady arrived at the vaccination centre after they received the intimation from 1166 registration service where the duo had registered themselves on February 15. Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Health Dr Faisal Sul.....

[more >>](#)

### Centre advises provinces to take action over virus SOPs violations

Source: [Imran Mukhtar](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-16

ISLAMABAD - The federal government on Monday permitted walk-in vaccination facility for elderly citizens of 70 years age and above in the wake of rising number of mortality cases from senior age groups. The NCOC now has allowed walk-in vaccination for citizens of 70 years and above age from March 16, said the forum in an announcement adding that this is being done to ensure maximum vaccinatio.....

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### Over 50pc healthcare workers in capital vaccinated against Covid-19 in 40 days

Source: [Rahul Basharat](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-16

ISLAMABAD-Over 50 per cent of healthcare workers in the capital have been so far vaccinated against novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in 40 days since the process began, The Nation learnt on Monday. The health authorities have allocated 14 centres for the vaccination of the healthcare workers. The process of vaccination started on February 2nd and so far, 55 per cent of the healthcare workers have.....

[more >>](#)

### PMA concerned over surge in Covid-19 cases

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-16

ISLAMABAD-The Pakistan Medical Association (PMA) on Monday expressed its concern over the speedy surge of Covid-19 patients in the country, particularly in Punjab, during this third wave of pandemic. A statement issued by the PMA said that the number of active cases has jumped from 16,000 to 21,000 in just two weeks with the national positivity ratio rising to 6.2 per cent. The situation is a.....

[more >>](#)

### 1m doses of vaccines to be imported from China: Asad

Source: [Aamir Yasin](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-20

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan will acquire one million doses of Covid-19 vaccines from two companies of China by the end of this month, said a senior government official on Friday. Talking to Geo News, federal Minister for Planning and Development Asad Umar said that the government had finalised arrangements to import one million doses of coronavirus vaccines which would reach Pakistan in two consignments c.....

[more >>](#)

### Capital sees highest number of Covid-19 cases in a single day this year

Source: [Aamir Yasin | Munawar Azeem](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-20

ISLAMABAD: The highest number of Covid-19 cases surfaced in the capital this year as 620 people were diagnosed with the disease on Friday. Around six people also lost their lives to the disease in Rawalpindi district and no one was discharged from the garrison city hospitals after recovery. Pervaiz Kayani, 71, resident of Kahuta was brought to Fauji Foundation Hospital on March 17 and he died on.....

[more >>](#)

### Businesses to remain closed on weekends in Islamabad

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-03-20

ISLAMABAD: All commercial activities, except essential services, will remain closed in the capital on Saturday and Sunday in the wake of the gradual increase in Covid-19 spread. The ban on the commercial activities includes outdoor dining in restaurants and hotels. A notification issued by Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Mohammad Hamza Shafqaat said that in compliance with the direction of the Nat.....

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### **FBISE gives affiliation to first online school**

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-20

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (FBISE) has given affiliation to the first ever online school to offer online education up to the higher secondary school certificate (HSSC) level. "We have given provisional affiliation to first online school subject to fulfillment of affiliation criteria," said FBISE Chairman Qaiser Alam. He said due to the Covid-1.....

[more >>](#)

### **Smart lockdowns likely in coming days: Shaikh Rashid**

Source: [Geo News](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-21

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Interior Shaikh Rashid Ahmed has said that it is possible the government may impose strict restrictions and smart lockdowns in the coming days; however, decision makers will also need to assess the impact of such a decision on the poor and working classes. Geo News reported quoting sources in the Interior Ministry that there was no plan for an immediate lockdown in .....

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### **Gill provides update on PM Imran Khan, first lady's health**

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-21

Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Political Communication Dr Shahbaz Gill shared the update that PM Imran Khan and First Lady Bushra Bibi were feeling "comfortable with mild" symptoms of coronavirus. A day earlier, Dr Faisal Sultan had taken to Twitter to reveal that the prime minister had tested positive for the virus. The news was immediately followed up with another .....

[more >>](#)

### **Asad Umar breaks silence on 'complete lockdown' rumours**

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-21

ISLAMABAD: National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) chief Asad Umar on Saturday shot down rumours of a "complete lockdown" to be imposed across the country, saying instead that "targeted interventions" may increase. The federal minister was speaking to anchor Shahzad Iqbal on Geo News programme Naya Pakistan where he was asked whether the government was mulling a complete lo.....

[more >>](#)

### **Coronavirus vaccine is a must, beware of those who create doubt: President Alvi**

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-21

President Arif Alvi took to Twitter to caution people against believing in theories that discredit coronavirus vaccine, saying that getting vaccinated "is a must". The president clarified on Sunday that the vaccine is, in most cases, 100% effective while in others, reduces the severity of the infection. "Covid-19 vaccination is a must. It is given in two doses & takes a.....

[more >>](#)

### **SOPS VIOLATIONS: ICT admin steps up action amid 3rd wave**

Source: [APP](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-21

Islamabad: The Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration on Saturday intensified action against violators of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) amid the third wave of coronavirus pathogen. The administration had ordered the closure of markets on Saturday and Sunday as the number of coronavirus cases in the federal capital continue to rise at an alarming rate. As per details, AC I.....

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### School closures likely to be extended

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-21

Islamabad: With the coronavirus positivity ratio alarmingly nearing 10 per cent due to the spread of UK variant and business and mobility restrictions being slapped, the authorities don't rule out the possibility of extending school closures in Islamabad. The government has closed educational institutions in seven Punjab cities, Peshawar and Islamabad from March 15 to March 28 in light.....

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### Govt caps prices of Russian, Chinese vaccines

Source: [Shahbaz Rana](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-21

ISLAMABAD: The federal cabinet on Saturday decided to cap maximum retail price of the Russian and Chinese Covid vaccine injections, being imported by the private sector amid a sharp increase in coronavirus cases and in the absence of a wider government-funded vaccination programme. The cabinet approval came through a circulation of the health ministry summary. It came on the day when Prime Minis.....

[more >>](#)

### Punjab again reports most deaths in last 24 hours

Source: [News Desk](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-21

ISLAMABAD: As per the statistics issued by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) informed on Sunday, Punjab again recorded the highest number of Covid-19 deaths over the last 24 hours, followed by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa(K-P). Pakistan recorded at least 44 more fatalities on Saturday, out of which 30 occurred in Punjab, whereas K-P recorded six deaths. The country's death toll has now reached.....

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### Govt bans flights from 12 African states

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-20

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has placed a travel ban on 12 African countries under the coronavirus standard operating procedures (SOPs) and eased the restrictions on flights coming in from the United Kingdom. According to the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), there are three categories – A, B and C – in which countries are placed accordingly to contain the spread of Covid. Categor.....

[more >>](#)

### Several bigwigs fall prey to coronavirus

Source: [Shabbir Hussain](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-21

ISLAMABAD: With the Covid hitting several prominent figures, Prime Minister Imran and his wife Bushra Bibi are the latest ones to be infected by the deadly disease. In January, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari had been hit by the contagion due to which the PPP chairman was unable to attend his sister Bakhtawar's engagement ceremony. The Bhutto scion had to make his presence through video link in the.....

[more >>](#)

### Covid-19 pandemic; 'Ehsaas Programme helped counter socioeconomic impact'

Source: [Sardar Sikander Shaheen](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-21

ISLAMABAD: Ehsaas Emergency Cash Programme helped Pakistan counter the socioeconomic fallout of Covid-19, reveals a report by International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth (IPC-IG). The 48-page report titled "What's next for social protection in light of Covid-19: country responses," says Ehsaas Emergency Cash (EEC) programme demonstrated how cash transfer programmes can .....

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### **Covid-19 positivity rate soars to 8pc**

Source: [Tahir Amin](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-20

ISLAMABAD: The daily positivity ratio of coronavirus cases in the country reached eight percent on Friday after 3,449 new cases emerged during the last 24 hours. According to the daily data available on the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) website, another 40 deaths have been reported in last 24 hours by novel coronavirus as the number of positive cases have surged to 619,259. The.....

[more >>](#)

### **China donates 500,000 doses of Covid-19 vaccine**

Source: [Reuters](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-18

ISLAMABAD: Government on Wednesday received a Chinese donation of 500,000 doses of Sinopharm vaccine, bringing the country's total supply to 1 million shots, Health Minister Faisal Sultan said. The South Asian nation of 220 million people launched COVID-19 vaccinations for the public on March 10, starting with older people. Health workers started receiving shots in early February. &q.....

[more >>](#)

### **Pakistan records 44 deaths, 3,667 new coronavirus cases in single day**

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-21

Pakistan has reported 44 deaths in the last 24 hours by novel coronavirus as the number of positive cases has surged to 626,802. The nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 13,843 on Sunday. According to the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) 3,667 persons tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 24 hours. Sindh remains the worst-hit province by the pande.....

[more >>](#)

### **Pakistan reports highest number of daily Covid-19 cases since July**

Source: [Tahir Niaz](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-21

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan on Saturday reported 3,876 fresh Covid-19 cases — the highest single day cases since July last year, according to the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC). The last time the country had reported more cases than this was on July 2, 2020 when 4,432 cases were recorded. Over the past 24 hours, Sindh reported 293 cases, Punjab 2,033 cases, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa 681.....

[more >>](#)

### **PM, wife contract Covid as positivity rate tops 9pc**

Source: [Ikram Junaidi](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-21

ISLAMABAD: As Pakistan's national positivity ratio surpassed nine per cent, Prime Minister Imran Khan on Saturday became the latest head of government in the world to contract Covid-19. His wife Bushra Bibi also tested positive for the virus. It was decided that the staff of Prime Minister Office and contacts of the premier would be tested under the contact-tracing policy. During the last.....

[more >>](#)

### **Most markets remain open in twin cities despite ban on commercial activities on weekends**

Source: [Munawer Azeem | Aamir Yasin](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-21

ISLAMABAD: Majority of markets in the twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad remained open on Saturday despite a ban imposed by the local administrations on commercial activities except essential services on the weekends. Rawalpindi Traders Association President Sharjeel Mir told Dawn that after a meeting with the local administration, the traders decided to open shops on Sunday and close them on Fr.....

[more >>](#)

**Corona resurge: Tough steps likely from today**

Source: [M Waqar Bhatti & News Desk & Noor Aftab, The News, International](#), 2021-03-22

ISLAMABAD/LAHORE: The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) will hold a special meeting today (Monday) to review issues ranging from imposing smart lockdowns to closing of schools and markets across the country in the face of deadly third wave of coronavirus pandemic. The participants of the meeting would evaluate the latest reports and statistics acquired from all the federating units alo.....

[more >>](#)

**Drap notifies formula for sale of Covid vaccine**

Source: [Ikram Junaidi, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-22

ISLAMABAD: With over 3,000 cases of coronavirus reported for the fourth consecutive day on Sunday across the country, the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (Drap) has notified a formula for maximum retail prices of Covid-19 vaccine. According to the notification, signed by Legal Affairs Assistant Director Hafiz Bilal Bin Akbar and available with Dawn, two formulas have been approved for sale o.....

[more >>](#)

**NCOC decision on school closures today**

Source: [Our Correspondent, The News, International](#), 2021-03-22

Islamabad: The National Command Operation Centre (NCOC) will hold an important session today (Monday) to take decision about the closure of schools and colleges for in-person learning beyond the current summer vacation and holding of exams due to a surge in coronavirus cases in the country, especially major cities. The experts say the current third wave of coronavirus is more lethal than t.....

[more >>](#)

**President advocates corona vaccination**

Source: [Our Correspondent, The News, International](#), 2021-03-22

Islamabad : President Arif Alvi on Sunday advocated vaccination to fight novel coronavirus. "It [the vaccine] is given in two doses and takes a few weeks to become effective. In most cases, it is 100% effective and in remaining, the severity of infection is greatly reduced which increases survival rate," he tweeted. President Alvi warned the nation to beware of 'those who .....

[more >>](#)

**Capital sees 25pc drop in Covid-19 cases over weekend**

Source: [Aamir Yasin | Ikram Junaidi, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-22

ISLAMABAD: As the capital administration conducted crackdowns against violations of standard operating procedures (SOPs) by restaurants, shops, wedding halls and other commercial activities, Covid-19 cases dropped by 25pc over the weekend. However, District Health Officer (DHO) Dr Zaeem Zia said the situation was still not under control and warned the citizens that more restrictions could be impo.....

[more >>](#)

**660 shops sealed in capital**

Source: [Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-22

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Capital Territory Administration (ICTA) has sealed 30 restaurants and closed down 660 shops for defying anti-coronavirus (Covid-19) standard operating procedures (SOPs) on Sunday, a spokesperson stated. The administration has step up efforts amid the third wave of the virus as the number of positive cases in the federal capital continues to rise. The authorities have impos.....

[more >>](#)

### **Govt rejects allegations against vaccine efficacy**

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Big News Network China](#), 2021-03-22

ISLAMABAD: Federal Information Minister Shibli Faraz has appealed to the nation to observe the standard operating procedures (SOPs) in fighting the third wave of Covid-19 pandemic. Addressing a news conference here on Sunday, the minister said as per the vision of Prime Minister Imran Khan, the government was striving to save the lives and livelihood in this crucial period. He said the t.....

[more >>](#)

### **Covid-19 vaccine 100pc effective, says Alvi**

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-22

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has said that the Covid-19 vaccination is a must, and it is given in two doses, and takes a few weeks to become effective. In a tweet on Sunday, the president said in most cases, it is 100 percent effective and in remaining, severity of infection is greatly reduced, which increases survival rate. He said beware of those who create doubt, as they know not.....

[more >>](#)

### **Covid-19;NTC to ensure safe, secure virtual meetings: MD**

Source: [APP](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-22

ISLAMABAD: Since the third wave of coronavirus (COVID-19) is considered the most lethal, the National Telecommunications Corporation (NTC) has started providing safe and secure services to ensure conducting virtual meetings. Taking precautionary measures, the government is mulling to restart virtual meetings of important nature including NCOC, ECC, Federal Cabinet etc. It is also being consid.....

[more >>](#)

### **SOPs violations endanger passengers' lives at PSVs**

Source: [APP](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-22

ISLAMABAD: Stern action is needed against the local transporters, who are violating anti-coronavirus standard operating procedures (SOPs) at Public Service Vehicles (PSVs) with impunity and posing serious threat to the lives of commuters. Citizens of twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad have complained about the slackness of local transporters, who were not ensuring the coronavirus health .....

[more >>](#)

### **Pakistan reports 3,669 new COVID-19 cases in 24 hours**

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-22

Pakistan has reported 20 deaths in the last 24 hours by novel coronavirus as the number of positive cases has surged to 630,471. The nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 13,863 on Monday. According to the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) 3,669 persons tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 24 hours. Sindh remains the worst-hit province by the pande.....

[more >>](#)

### **President dispels doubts, says Covid-19 vaccination is a must**

Source: [Tahir Niaz](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-22

ISLAMABAD - President Dr Arif Alvi says COVID-19 vaccine is a must and people should remain cautious of those who are creating doubt about vaccination. In a tweet on Sunday, the President said the vaccine is being given in two doses and it takes a few weeks to become effective. He said in most cases it is 100 percent effective and in remaining, severity of infection greatly reduces which incr.....

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### Rehman Malik urges to strictly follow SOPs in wake of third wave of COVID-19

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-22

ISLAMABAD - Former interior minister Rehman Malik on Sunday urged the people to strictly follow SOPs to combat the third wave of deadly pandemic. He prayed for the speedy recovery of Prime Minister Imran Khan of coronavirus. Rehman Malik said the third wave of coronavirus had spread not only in Pakistan but all over the world and unfortunately the increase in positive cases of coronavirus was.....

[more >>](#)

### Lok Virsa changes time for museums due to COVID-19

Source: [APP](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-22

ISLAMABAD - National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage (Lok Virsa) on Monday changed the timing for Virsa Heritage Museum and Pakistan Monument Museum due to COVID-19 pandemic. Talha Ali, Executive Director Lok Virsa told APP, that both the museums would remain open for public from Tuesday to Sunday daily, between 10 am to 6 pm (with a break for prayer on Friday from 1pm to 2:30pm). .....

[more >>](#)

### 30 restaurants sealed, 660 shops closed down in 24 hours for SOPs violations

Source: [APP](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-22

ISLAMABAD - The teams of Islamabad Capital Territory administration has sealed some 30 restaurants and closed down 660 shops for defying coronavirus related standard operating procedures (SOPs) during the last 24 hours. The authorities imposed over Rs100,000 fine to the violators by conducting as many as 2,000 inspections. Similarly, 16 individuals booked and 10 vehicles were impounded over n.....

[more >>](#)

### Country reports 2,511 new corona cases, 58 deaths

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-17

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan on Tuesday morning reported 2,511 new coronavirus cases, taking the country's Covid-19 tally to 609,964. The country's death toll climbed to 13,595 after 58 more people succumbed to the deadly virus, according to the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC). The nationwide infections on Tuesday surged to the new high during the last more than one month as .....

[more >>](#)

### Business community urges govt to introduce Covid-19 vaccination certificate

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-17

ISLAMABAD - The Pakistan Readymade Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PRGMEA) has suggested the government to launch a 'COVID-19 vaccination certificate' for the vaccinated people as an 'immunity passport' in line with the practice of China to facilitate its citizens for international travelling. PRGMEA Central Chairman Sohail A. Sheikh and Chief Coordinator .....

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### NHA headquarters closed to avoid COVID-19 spread

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-17

ISLAMABAD - The National Highway Authority closed its headquarter in Islamabad to avoid community spread of COVID-19 till this Friday. A sudden surge in COVID-19 cases at the building was reported last week and in response, a number of sections including revenue, confidential, EALS, and MIS have already been closed. According to a notification issued by the Member Administration NHA Muhammad .....

[more >>](#)

### Capital Health Regulatory Authority suspends vaccination at Akbar Niazi Teaching Hospital

Source: [Rahul Basharat](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-17

ISLAMABAD-Islamabad Health Regulatory Authority (IHRA) on Tuesday suspended the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccination activity at National Command and Operations Centre (NCOC) designated private hospital alleging that the permission was not sought by the authority. The IHRA suspended the vaccination at Akbar Niazi Teaching Hospital in the evening during the field inspection. The health au.....

[more >>](#)

## Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

### Three more patients die of Covid-19 in Nowshera

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-18

NOWSHERA: Three patients died of Covid-19 in the district on Wednesday. With the new casualties, the fatalities from the coronavirus reached 70 in the district. Briefing media, Deputy Commissioner Mir Reza Ozgen and District Health Officer Dr Gulman Shah said that Gul Shad, Farasat Bibi, wife Fahimullah, and another patient were infected by the fatal virus and were under treatment. However, the.....

[more >>](#)

### Lockdown imposed in six Peshawar areas

Source: [Bureau Report](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-18

PESHAWAR: District administration on Wednesday imposed lockdown in six localities of the district on the recommendation of the health department. The administration has imposed lockdown in Haryana Payan, Larama, Pishtakhara and Sarband villages and New Zaryab Colony and Zintara Residences on Charsadda Road. The administration has banned the entry and exit to these areas except those supplying es.....

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### Official urges stakeholders to implement anti-Covid-19 SOPs in KP tourist spots

Source: [Bureau Report](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-18

PESHAWAR: Director General Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Culture and Tourism Authority Kamran Ahmad on Wednesday said that standard operating procedures (SOPs) against coronavirus would be implemented in letter and spirit to save precious lives. Speaking at a video conference, he said that necessary steps have been taken to protect tourists and visitors and the scenic spots from the third wave of fast-sprea.....

[more >>](#)

### KP Task Force on Covid-19 shuts schools in nine districts

Source: [Bureau Report](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-17

PESHAWAR: The Provincial Task Force on Covid-19 has decided to close down schools in nine districts of the province due to the increasing number of positive cases of coronavirus. The decision was taken at a meeting of the Provincial Task Force here on Tuesday with Chief Minister Mahmood Khan in the chair, said an official handout. The schools would be shut in Peshawar, Charsadda, Nowshera, Mardan.....

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### Traders in Peshawar oppose closure of businesses at 8pm

Source: [Bureau Report](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-17

PESHAWAR: The trader community has expressed concern over the imposition of new Covid-19 restrictions and asked the government to immediately withdraw these curbs. The reservations were raised by different delegations of trade bodies and office-bearers of bazaar unions during a meeting with Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) President Sherbaz Bilour at the Chamber's House here.....

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### **KP Task Force on Covid-19 shuts schools in nine districts**

Source: [Bureau Report](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-17

PESHAWAR: The Provincial Task Force on Covid-19 has decided to close down schools in nine districts of the province due to the increasing number of positive cases of coronavirus. The decision was taken at a meeting of the Provincial Task Force here on Tuesday with Chief Minister Mahmood Khan in the chair, said an official handout. The schools would be shut in Peshawar, Charsadda, Nowshera, Mardan.....

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### **Schools, eateries sealed for violating corona SOPs**

Source: [Bureau Report](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-17

PESHAWAR: The district administration here on Tuesday sealed schools and eateries for violation of the precautionary measures of the coronavirus. The administration claimed that 42 schools and 18 restaurants were sealed across the district for violation of the standard operating procedures (SOPs) while 62 citizens were also fined for not observing the social distancing rules. The administration .....

[more >>](#)

### **Coronavirus claims 10 lives in KP**

Source: [Mushtaq Yusufzai](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-16

PESHAWAR: Amid slow pace of vaccination process and the limited number of covid vaccines, the coronavirus has again started a surge in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and begun claiming more human lives. On Monday the coronavirus took 10 lives, the highest number of people died in a single day after a long time in the province. There could be many reasons but the it was widely believed as if the pandemic has o.....

[more >>](#)

### **KP CM asks people to follow corona SOPs**

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-16

Peshawar - Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan, expressing concern on the increasing cases of COVID-19 in the province, on Monday appealed to the general public to strictly follow precautionary measures and SOPs issued by the government in order to prevent the possible mass scale breakout of the pandemic. Mahmood Khan also urged upon the business community to cooperate with govern.....

[more >>](#)

### **People asked to follow corona SOPs**

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-16

Tank - The district administration on Monday issued strict directives for the citizens to follow the NCOC and health department's SOPs - use of sanitizer, keeping social distance etc - to check spread of COVID-19 pandemic. These views were expressed by Assistant Commissioner Hameed Khan Afridi, while talking to media persons at an awareness meeting regarding COVID-19 pandemic. Additiona.....

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### **School closed in Khar over Covid cases**

Source: [Correspondent](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-20

BAJAUR: Authorities closed a high school for boys in Khar after three of its students tested positive for Covid-19 here on Friday. A statement issued by the deputy commissioner's office here said that the Governor Model School for Boys, situated in Civil Colony, Khar, was closed after three of its students tested positive for coronavirus. The statement said that the school had been closed .....

[more >>](#)

### **School sealed in Mansehra as 7 teachers test positive for corona**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-21

MANSEHRA: The district administration sealed the Government Girls High School Chitta Batta after its seven teachers and a lower grade employee tested positive for the novel coronavirus on Saturday. According to an official order issued by the deputy commissioner, Dr Qasim Ali Khan the school would remain closed for the seven days. The Tehsil Municipal administration Mansehra was ordered by DC to d.....

[more >>](#)

### **New corona restrictions; Business activities remain closed across KP**

Source: [Amjad Ali Shah](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-21

PESHAWAR: A complete lockdown was observed as all the markets, business centres and shopping malls across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were remained closed following the decision of the provincial government to shut down businesses on Saturday and Sunday under the new coronavirus restrictions. Qissa Khawani, Khyber Bazaar, Karimpura Bazaar, Meena Bazaar Chowk Yadgar Shoba Bazaar, Saddar, University Road,.....

[more >>](#)

### **Over 60 eateries, 70 schools closed in Peshawar last week**

Source: [Bureau Report](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-21

PESHAWAR: The district administration sealed 62 restaurants, 76 schools and 32 marriage halls in Peshawar during the last one week over failure to enforce Covid-19 safety protocols. According to a report issued by the administration, officials fined SOP violators over Rs300,000 and sealed 49 shopping malls and shops in interior city, Saddar, Pishtakhara, Hayatabad, University, Warsak and Dalazak .....

[more >>](#)

### **Swabi university closed over Covid cases**

Source: [Correspondent](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-21

SWABI: The University of Swabi was closed till March 28 over emergence of coronavirus cases here on Saturday. A notification issued by the varsity registrar said after Covid-19 infected some students, faculty and staff members, the university was closed with immediate effect till March 28. However, classes during the period will be conducted online. The notification said chairpersons/heads of de.....

[more >>](#)

### **Strict SOP enforcement ordered amid coronavirus surge in KP**

Source: [Ashfaq Yusufzai](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-21

PESHAWAR: With the coronavirus positivity rate reaching more than 10 per cent in Peshawar district, provincial chief secretary Dr Kazim Niaz has issued directives for the strict implementation of the Covid-19 standard operating procedures in the province. According to the officials, the chief secretary asked the home secretary, commissioners and regional police officers to ensure that the people .....

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### **Managers of 38 wedding halls held for violating Covid SOPs**

Source: [Dawn Report](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-22

PESHAWAR: The traders in Peshawar kept their shops closed on second consecutive day on Sunday under the government's plan to contain Covid-19 pandemic. However, managers of 38 wedding halls were arrested for violating the standard operating procedures devised for Covid-19. Almost all the markets and shops remained closed in Peshawar on Sunday. Only the shops of essential commodities includ.....

[more >>](#)

**91 more test positive for Covid-19 in Nowshera**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-22

NOWSHERA: At least 91 more patients reported positive for the Covid-19 despite complete lockdown in most parts of the district on Sunday. With the new cases, the number of coronavirus affected patients reached 3,113 in the district. Briefing media, Deputy Commissioner Mir Reza Ozgen and District Health Officer Dr Gulman Shah said that the number of coronavirus-infected patients were increasing w.....

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**SOPs compliance week observed in Hazara**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-22

ABBOTTABAD: In pursuance of the directions from the National Command and Control centre (NCOC) and the KP government, Covid-19 SOPs compliance week has been observed in the whole Hazara Division and standard operating procedures (SOPs) have been implemented in different sectors. Hazara Division Commissioner Riaz Mehsud directed all the deputy commissioners in Hazara to ask the field staff,.....

[more >>](#)

**Violations of Covid-19 SOPs; Managers of 38 marriage halls arrested**

Source: [Amjad Ali Shah](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-22

PESHAWAR: The traders in Peshawar kept their shops closed on Sunday, second consecutive day, under the government plan to contain Covid-19 pandemic. However managers of 38 wedding halls were arrested for violating the SOPs. It was observed that following the decision of the provincial government all the markets and shops remained closed on Sunday apart from shops of essential commodities including.....

[more >>](#)

**Corona claims 6 more lives in KP**

Source: [APP](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-22

Peshawar - In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 6 people died from corona during last 24 hours, an official of the KP Health Department said on Sunday. With six more dead, the death toll from corona in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has risen to 2,208. 592 new cases of corona are also reported during last 24 hours taking the total number of corona cases in the province to 79,245, the official of the Health Department .....

[more >>](#)

**'Pakistan's past experience to help mitigate 3rd wave of corona infection'**

Source: [APP](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-22

Peshawar - The novel coronavirus had created widespread panic and alarm in the world after its detection at Wuhan City of China on January 7, 2020 that had killed over 2.694 million people in almost all continents including Europe and Asia till March 18, 2021. Keeping in view the surge in mortality due to the corona infection, the World Health Organisation (WHO) had declared COVID-19 as a Pub.....

[more >>](#)

**Corona vaccination of health workers, senior citizens continues in KP**

Source: [APP](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-22

Peshawar - Corona vaccination of health care workers and senior citizens continues all across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and so far, a total of 1,546 senior citizens have been vaccinated in the last two days. According to an official of the Health Department Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, appropriate measures have been taken for the vaccination process and it is ensured that each of the visitors get vaccination.....

[more >>](#)

### Schools in 9 KP districts closed till 28th as Covid-19 resurfaces

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#) , 2021-03-17

Peshawar - Provincial Task Force on Covid-19 has decided to close schools in 9 districts of the province including Peshawar, Charsadda, Nowshera, Mardan, Swabi, Kohat, Malakand, Swat and Dir Lower due to increasing number of positive cases of Corona. It has been further decided to close schools in other districts as well where positivity ratio of corona cases increases up to 5 per cent. A mee.....

[more >>](#)

### 159 individuals fined over violation of corona SOPs

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#) , 2021-03-17

PESHAWAR - The district administration Tuesday fined 159 individuals over violation of coronavirus preventive SOPs and not wearing safety masks. The district administration has decided the observance of coronavirus SOPs awareness week and inspecting public places including bazaars, bus stands and schools for the purpose. The administration has also sealed 42 private sector schools over violations .....

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## Punjab

### 2 COVID-19 deaths, 419 cases from twin cities

Source: [Muhammad Qasim](#), [The News, International](#) , 2021-03-16

Rawalpindi: Another two patients suffering from coronavirus illness, COVID-19 from Islamabad Capital Territory have died of the illness taking death toll from the federal capital to 526 while no death was reported from Rawalpindi district in the last 24 hours from where a total of 671 patients have already died of the disease. The alarming fact is that another 419 patients have been tested.....

[more >>](#)

### 3 deaths, 590 cases in a day

Source: [Muhammad Qasim](#), [The News, International](#) , 2021-03-18

Rawalpindi: The third wave of coronavirus illness, COVID-19 outbreak is continuing to hit population in Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district severely as in the last 24 hours, another three patients have died of the illness while 590 patients have been tested positive for the disease from the region that is the highest number of cases reported in a day after December 4 last year. ....

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### Dr Yasmin Rashid lauds arrangements at Expo vaccination centre

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#) , 2021-03-18

LAHORE:On the directions of Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid, vaccination for citizens over 60 years of age was ongoing at full pace at Expo Centre here on Wednesday. The minister said best quality arrangements have been made for the vaccination of people of over 60 years of age. She said, "The staff is providing excellent services at the centre which is being excellently managed by Secreta.....

[more >>](#)

### 41 more die from corona

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#) , 2021-03-18

LAHORE:Around 41 patients died from COVID-19 and 1,137 new infections were confirmed in Punjab during the last 24 hours. According to report issued by Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD) on Wednesday, the death toll reached 5,851, while confirmed cases became 189,362 in the province. As per the spokesperson for Corona Monitoring Room at P&SHD, 16,132 tests were conducted in.....

[more >>](#)

**Holding public rallies during pandemic not wise: Punjab CM**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-17

LAHORE: Chief Minister Usman Buzdar on Tuesday visited Corona Vaccination Centre set up at Expo Centre and observed the process of giving vaccination to elderly citizens. He also reviewed the facilities being provided to the senior citizens who came for vaccination. He also talked to the health workers who were administered the vaccine there and lauded their services. Usman Buzdar also inquir.....

[more >>](#)

**3 deaths, 532 COVID-19 patients from twin cities**

Source: [Muhammad Qasim](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-17

Rawalpindi : The number of patients tested positive for coronavirus illness, COVID-19 from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district in a day has crossed the figure of 500 on Tuesday after 98 days as in the last 24 hours, 532 patients have been confirmed positive for the disease from the region taking the tally to 62,469. The virus claimed another three lives from the region, all from R.....

[more >>](#)

**LHC issues COVID-19 SOPs**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-17

LAHORE:The Lahore High Court has directed the heads of district judiciary of Punjab to strictly implement the Covid-19 related SOPs in wake of the third wave of the pandemic. In a directive issued by the LHC, all district & sessions judges in the province have been directed to hold meetings with the representatives of the bars to seek their cooperation in implementation of the SOPs. As per th.....

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**No PIN code for over 70-year old citizens vaccination**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-17

LAHORE:Punjab Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid has said that all citizens above 70 years of age will be vaccinated without PIN codes at designated vaccination countres. According to a handout issued here on Tuesday, the minister said the people between the age of 60 and 70 years will only be vaccinated through PIN code. She said the staff was busy serving people over 60-year old. The facility of v.....

[more >>](#)

**43 more die from corona**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-17

LAHORE:Around 43 more patients died from COVID19 and 1,566 new infections were confirmed in Punjab during the last 24 hours. According to report issued by Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD) on Tuesday, the death toll reached 5,811, while confirmed cases became 188,225 in the province. As per the spokesperson for Corona Monitoring Room at P&SHD, 13,727 tests had been conduc.....

[more >>](#)

**2 COVID-19 deaths, 419 cases from twin cities**

Source: [Muhammad Qasim](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-16

Rawalpindi: Another two patients suffering from coronavirus illness, COVID-19 from Islamabad Capital Territory have died of the illness taking death toll from the federal capital to 526 while no death was reported from Rawalpindi district in the last 24 hours from where a total of 671 patients have already died of the disease. The alarming fact is that another 419 patients have been tested positi.....

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### Shops sealed for SOPs breach

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-16

LAHORE: District Administration Lahore sealed a school and more than 20 shops in an operation to implement Corona SOPs here on Monday. Officials said Assistant Commissioner Cantt Zeeshan Nasrullah Ranjha sealed a private school in Phase 05, DHA. He said that the school was open and examinations were being held against the government's direction. Meanwhile, Assistant Commissioner City Faizan A.....

[more >>](#)

### Steps to check coronavirus spread stressed

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-16

LAHORE: Pakistan Medical Association (PMA) has expressed concern over the speedy surge of COVID-19 patients in the country, particularly in Punjab, during this third wave of pandemic. The number of active cases has jumped from 16,000 to 21,000 in just two weeks with the national positivity ratio rising to 6.2 percent. According to a press release issued here Monday, PMA (Centre) Secretary General .....

[more >>](#)

### Smart lockdown extended

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-16

LAHORE: The Punjab government has extended smart lockdown in hotspot areas in three districts with maximum Covid-19 cases amid rising third wave of coronavirus. According to separate notifications issued by Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD) Punjab here on Monday, the smart lockdown has been imposed in Rawalpindi, Sialkot and Lahore till March 23, 25 and 27, respectively. In L.....

[more >>](#)

### Five deaths, 703 corona patients from twin cities

Source: [Muhammad Qasim](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-19

Rawalpindi : Coronavirus illness, COVID-19 has claimed another five lives from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district but the much alarming fact is that 703 new patients have been tested positive for the disease from the twin cities in the last 24 hours setting a new record as for the first time during the third wave of the COVID-19 outbreak, over 700 patients have been tested positiv.....

[more >>](#)

### Punjab reports 1824 fresh coronavirus cases, 43 fatalities

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-19

LAHORE: Out of 17,127 COVID-19 tests conducted during the last 24 hours across the province, 1824 fresh virus cases and 43 fatalities were reported in Punjab taking the provincial tally of cases to 191,186 and death toll to 5894. With the recovery of 980 more virus patients, the number of recovered patients in the province has reached 174,269. As per breakup of coronavirus cases and deaths in.....

[more >>](#)

### Covid situation in Punjab worrisome

Source: [Abdul Rasheed Azad](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-16

ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) revealed on Monday that Punjab was contributing 55 percent to the national Covid-19 mortality rate. A top level meeting of NCOC held here with the provincial chief secretaries and other relevant officials, the forum expressed concern over the rising Covid-19 positivity ratio. According to fresh Covid-19 data released by NCOC, Pa.....

[more >>](#)

**1191 fresh cases, 16 fatalities; Coronavirus positivity rate drops to 5.19pc in Punjab**

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-16

LAHORE: The positivity rate of coronavirus in the province has declined to 5.19%, as out of 22,916 Covid-19 tests conducted during the last 24 hours, as many as 1191 fresh virus cases and 16 fatalities were reported across the Punjab taking the provincial tally of cases to 186,659 and death toll to 5768. With the recovery of 943 more virus patients, the number of recovered patients in the pro.....

[more >>](#)

**Positivity rate of corona jumps to 11.40pc in Punjab**

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-17

LAHORE: The positivity rate of coronavirus in the province has jumped to 11.40 percent, as out of 13,727 Covid-19 tests conducted during the last 24 hours, 1566 fresh virus cases and 43 fatalities were reported across Punjab taking the provincial tally of cases to 188,225 and death toll to 5811. With the recovery of 461 more virus patients, the number of recovered patients in the province has.....

[more >>](#)

**Pragma suggests to govt to launch 'Covid-19 vaccination certificate'**

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-17

LAHORE: The Pakistan Readymade Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PRGMEA) has suggested the government to launch "Covid-19 vaccination certificate" for the vaccinated people as an "immunity passport" in line with the practice of China to facilitate its citizens for international travelling. PRGMEA central chairman Sohail A Sheikh and chief coordinator Ij.....

[more >>](#)

**735 COVID-19 patients, 11 deaths from twin cities**

Source: [Muhammad Qasim](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-20

Rawalpindi : For the first time after June 14 last year, over 730 patients have been tested positive for coronavirus illness, COVID-19 in a single day from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district setting a new record for the third-highest number of patients confirmed positive in a day from the region since the outbreak hit Pakistan while at least 11 confirmed patients belonging to the .....

[more >>](#)

**23 more die from COVID-19**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-20

LAHORE: Around 23 patients died from COVID-19 while 1,868 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 5,917, while confirmed cases became 193,054 in the province. As per the spokesperson for Corona Monitoring Room at P&SHD, 15,818 tests w.....

[more >>](#)

**'Govt to reconsider decision on marriage halls' closure**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-20

LAHORE: The Punjab government will reconsider the decision of closing restaurants and the marriage halls knowing the importance of the businesses which is the backbone of the economy of the country. Lahore Division Commissioner Zulfiqar Ali Ghuman said this while addressing to the business community of Punjab at the Lahore region office of Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Ind.....

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### **10,000 medics, elderly people vaccinated**

Source: [APP](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-20

MULTAN: Over 10,000 individuals including health workers, doctors and senior citizens have been vaccinated against novel coronavirus. The administration sped up the drive by increasing the vaccination centres in the district up to 11 and issued schedule for vaccination of another 18,000 people. The process of vaccination has been accelerated on the orders of deputy commissioner Ali Shahzad and ov.....

[more >>](#)

### **Covid-19 claims 23 more lives in Punjab**

Source: [APP](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-20

LAHORE: The coronavirus pandemic has claimed 23 more lives in Punjab during the past 24 hours. As per the data shared by the spokesperson of Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD), as many as 1,868 cases of coronavirus were reported in Punjab on Friday while the number of coronavirus cases in the province exceeded 193,050. The death toll due to the pandemic across the provi.....

[more >>](#)

### **Shops, halls, hostels sealed for SOPs breach**

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-20

SIALKOT - Assistant Commissioner Sonia Sadaf on Friday sealed more than dozen shops, including four marriage halls and four hotels, in different areas over violating coronavirus SPOs. The Assistant Commissioner imposed a fine of Rs282,000 for violating one-dish and coronavirus SOPs. She appealed traders and the business community to ensure implementation on SOPs. Four robbers arrested The .....

[more >>](#)

### **Punjab reports 1,868 new cases, 23 deaths**

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-20

LAHORE - As many as 1868 cases of coronavirus were reported in Punjab on Friday while the pandemic claimed 23 precious lives in 24 hours which pushed the death toll to 5,917. According to data shared by the spokesperson of Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD), the number of coronavirus cases in the province reached 193,053. The P&SHD confirmed that 1159 new cas.....

[more >>](#)

### **114,818 corona suspects visit 26 quarantine facilities in Rawalpindi**

Source: [APP](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-20

Rawalpindi-Around 114,818 COVID-19 suspects have so far been brought to the quarantine facilities of the division, out of which 15,812 cases were tested positive including 14,401 from Rawalpindi and 1,411 belonging to other districts who were provided the required treatment and 14,036 were discharged after recovery. According to daily situation report issued by District Corona Management Cent.....

[more >>](#)

### **14,502 senior citizens vaccinated against coronavirus in 5 days**

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-16

LAHORE - Deputy Commissioner Mudassar Riaz on Monday said that 14,502 people above 60 years of age were vaccinated against coronavirus in the provincial capital during the last five days. He disclosed this during his visit to Expo Centre to review arrangements regarding coronavirus vaccination. He also visited counters, beds set up for coronavirus patients and checked duties of civil defence staff.....

[more >>](#)

**Virus: GCU postpones convocation**

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-16

LAHORE - The Government College University (GCU) Lahore has postponed its convocation scheduled to be held on Friday, March 19 and Saturday, March 20, 2021. Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Asghar Zaidi said that the convocation is postponed due to a prevailing situation of COVID-19 in Lahore. Prof Zaidi also announced that all scheduled examinations are postponed immediately for at least two weeks. &ldquo;....

[more >>](#)

**Punjab extends smart lockdown in three districts**

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-16

LAHORE - Punjab government has extended smart lockdown in hotspot areas in three districts with maximum emergence of COVID-19 cases amidst the rising third wave of dreaded novel coronavirus. According to separate notifications issued by Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD), Punjab, on Monday, the smart lockdown has been imposed in Rawalpindi, Sialkot and Lahore till March 23, Ma.....

[more >>](#)

**Soaring cases of Covid test limits of health facilities**

Source: [Asif Chaudhry](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-20

LAHORE: The provincial capital is persistently reporting more than 60pc of the positive cases in Punjab, creating an alarm for the health authorities to take drastic measures to contain the virus. The Covid-19 situation is worsening with every passing day in the city having an over 11 million population as the total number of the infections in Lahore crossed 100,000 mark on Friday. Corona Expert.....

[more >>](#)

**Vaccination of people aged 50 plus after four weeks**

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-20

LAHORE: Punjab Relief Commissioner Babar Hayat Tarar said on Friday that Covid-19 vaccination of the people 50 and above would start after four to five weeks. "At present, the government's top priority is to vaccinate all those aged 60 and above. Till to date, over 45,000 elderly people have been vaccinated at the Expo Centre in Johar Town which is not only the largest one in Pakistan.....

[more >>](#)

**Highest number of cases from twin cities since advent of COVID-19**

Source: [Muhammad Qasim](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-21

Rawalpindi: As many as 935 patients have been tested positive for coronavirus illness, COVID-19 from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district in the last 24 hours setting a new record for the highest number of cases reported from the twin cities in a single day since the disease hit Pakistan last year. It is worth mentioning here that in the last one year, there have never been .....

[more >>](#)

**Steps being taken to cope with alarming corona situation: Yasmin**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-21

LAHORE: In the wake of increase in the cases of coronavirus in different cities, including Lahore, the Punjab government has decided to increase the capacity of hospitals for the treatment of COVID-19 patients. Chairing a meeting via video link on Saturday, Punjab Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid said that the number of coronavirus patients in Lahore had increased alarmingly in the last fe.....

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### 34 shops sealed over violation of corona SOPs

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-21

LAHORE: District Administration Lahore continued its action against violators of corona SOPs and sealed 34 shops, stores and marriage halls besides imposition of a fine of Rs 37,000 here on Saturday. DC Lahore Mudassar Riaz said that Assistant Commissioner Shalimar Mansoor Qazi registered FIRs against 09 shops and stores and 03 marriage halls and imposed a fine of Rs 37000. Assistant Commi.....

[more >>](#)

### Private hospitals directed to increase beds for COVID patients

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-21

LAHORE: The Punjab Healthcare Commission on Saturday directed all the private hospitals of the province to increase the number of beds considering the current surge in the COVID-19 patients. According to a directive issued to the administrations of all the private hospitals, which are treating the COVID-19 patients, to increase the number of beds in the isolation wards, high dependency uni.....

[more >>](#)

### Corona claims 25 more lives, 2033 new cases

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-21

LAHORE: As many as 25 patients died of COVID-19 and another 2,033 new infections were confirmed in Punjab during the last 24 hours. According to report issued by Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD) on Saturday, the toll of fatalities was raised to 5,942 in Punjab, while confirmed cases of coronavirus reached 195,087 in the province. As per the spokesperson of Corona Mo.....

[more >>](#)

### Covid: Punjab reports highest single-day spike

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-21

LAHORE: As many as 2,033 coronavirus cases, the highest since the third wave of the pandemic in Punjab, were reported on Saturday. In Lahore alone, 1,262 cases of coronavirus positive cases were reported during the last 24 hours. The total number of cases across the country stood at 3,836 for Saturday. Health experts blamed public behaviour and attitude towards standard operating procedures (SOPs).....

[more >>](#)

### PCJCCI, Surgimed ink MoU on Covid-19 medical tests

Source: [Press Release](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-21

LAHORE: Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry inked MoU with Surgimed Laboratory in which Surgimed lab is offering discount @30% per PCR for Covid19 and other tests to the members of PCJCCI and their families. Both organizations agreed to conduct awareness sessions regarding various diseases. Under the MoU, first session was conducted Thursday "How to remain safe from Co.....

[more >>](#)

### Positivity rate soars; No let-up in spread of coronavirus in Punjab

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-21

LAHORE: There is no let up in the spread of coronavirus, as Punjab has reported 2,033 fresh Covid-19 cases and 25 deaths during the last 24 hours taking the provincial tally of cases to 195,087 and fatalities to 5,944. This is for the first time that Punjab has reported more than 2,000 cases in a single day since July last year. On the other hand, as many as 1,446 virus patients were rec.....

[more >>](#)

### Hotel and restaurant owners demand opening of outdoor dining

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-18

LAHORE: The Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry has supported the hotels & restaurants owners' point of view and demanded immediate opening of outdoor dining under strict compliance of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). The demand was raised at an emergent joint press conference at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry. LCCI President Mian Tariq Misbah, representati.....

[more >>](#)

### Squad for South Africa One cricketer tests positive for corona

Source: [Muhammad Saleem](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-18

LAHORE: A total of 35 coronavirus tests were conducted on the South Africa-bound Pakistan men's national cricket team on Tuesday and all squad members have tested negative, except for one player. Those who have tested negative will now assemble in Lahore on Thursday (today) for the training camp, which will commence at the Gaddafi Stadium on Friday. The player who has tested positi.....

[more >>](#)

### 787 people above 60 vaccinated against coronavirus

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-21

OKARA - As many as 787 people above 60 years of age were vaccinated against coronavirus in the district. District Health Officer Dr Sajjad Gillani said that first shot of corona vaccine had been given to 2,382 front line health workers while 887 front line health workers had also got second dose of corona vaccine in the district. He urged the people above 60 years of age to get themselves reg.....

[more >>](#)

### Virus: Govt to increase capacity of hospitals

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-21

LAHOR - In the wake of alarming rise in Covid-19 cases in different cities including Lahore, the Punjab government has decided to increase the capacity of hospitals. The decision was taken at a meeting held to review the situation of coronavirus in the province, here on Saturday. Provincial Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid, via video link, chaired the meeting that was attended by the Chief Secreta.....

[more >>](#)

### Travel from 12 countries banned amid spike in Covid cases

Source: [Mohammad Asghar](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-21

RAWALPINDI: In an effort to curb the spike of coronavirus cases in Pakistan, the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) on Saturday notified a fresh list of countries categorised into A, B and C after emergence of South African and Brazilian strain of virus and imposed a complete ban on travel from 12 countries. The travel restrictions and a ban on inbound passengers from 12 countries, categorised as C, .....

[more >>](#)

### 15 SOPs flouting shops sealed

Source: [Correspondent](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-21

KASUR: Kot Radha Kishan tehsil administration on Saturday sealed 15 shops in the main bazaar of the city for flouting the standards operating procedures (SOPs). The administration also issued a press release, saying the violators would be dealt with in accordance with law. PROTEST: Scores of students of the Government Islamia College staged a protest demonstration against the Punjab University fo.....

[more >>](#)

### **2,033 new Covid cases as 25 more succumb to virus**

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-21

LAHORE: The number of new Covid cases jumped to 2,033 in Punjab in the last 24 hours, the highest in a day so far in the province this year, taking the total number to 195,087. However, despite the massive increase in the new infections the Puniab govt did not enhance the percentage of Covid tests to gauge the actual disease burden in the province. The official figures showed that only 15,362 te.....

[more >>](#)

### **Another 7 COVID-19 deaths, 786 cases reported**

Source: [Muhammad Qasim](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-22

Rawalpindi: Over 700 cases of coronavirus illness, COVID-19 in a day have been reported from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district for seven times since the virus hit the population in Pakistan and it is alarming that for the last four days, the number of patients being tested positive for the illness from the twin cities has been over 700. In the last 24 hours, the virus claimed an.....

[more >>](#)

### **SOPs violations endanger commuters' lives**

Source: [APP](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-22

Islamabad : Stern action is needed against the local transporters, who are violating anti-coronavirus standard operating procedures (SOPs) at Public Service Vehicles (PSVs) with impunity and posing serious threat to the lives of commuters. Citizens of twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad have complained about the slackness of local transporters, who were not ensuring the coronavirus hea.....

[more >>](#)

### **2,090 more contract Covid in Punjab**

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-22

LAHORE: The coronavirus infections are raging as in last 24 hours some 2,090 new Covid cases have been reported in Punjab as compared to 2,033 a day earlier. The total cases have reached 197,177. Similarly, 30 more Covid-related deaths have been reported from across Punjab during the last 24 hours as compared to 25 deaths a day earlier. The total Covid death toll in Punjab has reached 5,972. Of .....

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### **DC wants weekly business lockdown on Friday, Saturday**

Source: [Correspondent](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-22

CHINIOT: The deputy commissioner (DC) has asked the health secretary to change the two weekly business closure days in view of Covid-19 spread to Friday and Saturday. DC Muhammad Riaz has requested the primary healthcare secretary to change the business closure days from Saturday and Sunday to Friday and Saturday. In a letter addressed to the secretary, the DC submitted that as a local custom in.....

[more >>](#)

### **30 shops sealed over SOPs violation**

Source: [Correspondent](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-22

MULTAN: As many as 30 shops were sealed on Sunday over the violation of Standard Operating Procedures during the smart lockdown in the district. According to an official handout, the district administration accelerated its crackdown on violators of government's safety guidelines during the ongoing third wave of coronavirus in the country. It stated that besides sealing the shops a fine of R.....

[more >>](#)

**30 more die from corona in Punjab**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-22

LAHORE: Around 30 patients died from COVID-19 and 2,090 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 5,972, while confirmed cases became 197,177 in the province. As per the spokesperson for Corona Monitoring Room at P&SHD, 15,149 tests had been co.....

[more >>](#)

**63 outlets sealed**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-22

LAHORE: The district administration continued its operation against violators of Corona SOPs and sealed over 63 businesses besides implementing heavy fines here on Sunday. Deputy Commissioner Mudassar Riaz said a total of 63 shops, stores and marriage halls were sealed and fines of Rs37,000 were imposed. Assistant Commissioner Shalimar Mansoor Qazi imposed fines of Rs37,000 on three marriage hall.....

[more >>](#)

**LGH launches test to evaluate effects of corona vaccine**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-22

LAHORE: A receptor binding domain (spike protein) test has been launched at Lahore General Hospital (LGH), a state-of-the-art central research lab, to test the effects of the corona vaccine and its resistance to the disease. The World Health Organization in collaboration with the government has provided the latest machine to undertake four tests of jeans. The required kits have been provid.....

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**Traders in Punjab face penalties for opening shops**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-22

LAHORE: Punjabtraders faced penalties as they violated smart lockdown orders by opening their shops on Sunday. City police and local administration imposed fines and sealed dozens of shops and banquet halls over violation of coronavirus safety standard operating procedures (SOPs) and smart lockdown orders. All commercial areas and markets remained closed except grocery store, pharmacies and sma.....

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**Return of Covid-19 spells trouble for furniture industry**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-22

KARACHI: When the novel coronavirus Covid-19 started to spread inKarachiin February 2020, many industries found themselves facing an economic crisis. The furniture sector was among them, though for long it had enjoyed the privilege of being one of Karachi's most well established businesses. Lamentably, for the sector, the virus appeared in the city during peak-business season, otherwise k.....

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**Return of Covid-19 spells trouble for furniture industry**

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### **LGH launches test to check effects of Covid-19 vaccine**

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#) , 2021-03-22

LAHORE:A receptor binding domain (Spike Protein) test has been launched at the Lahore General Hospital, state-of-the-art Central Research Lab to test the effects of the corona vaccine on the human body and its resistance to disease. For which purpose World Health Organization, in collaboration with the Government has provided latest machine to undertake 4 tests of jeans. The required kits hav.....

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### **Lockdown in six more Rawalpindi areas on cards**

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#) , 2021-03-22

RAWALPINDI - Despite clear directives of the Federal and Provincial governments to ensure the availability of sanitizers and use of masks at business centers amid rising cases of Covid-19, the violation of C SOPs were found in various parts of the city. People without fear were openly violating SOPs in bazaars and markets while the DHA has suggested the district administration to impose smart lock.....

[more >>](#)

### **Travel from 12 countries banned**

Source: [News Desk](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#) , 2021-03-22

LAHORE - Civil Aviation Authority has updated its travel advisory putting a complete travel ban for international travelers from 12 Category C countries in the wake of resurgence in coronavirus cases. The Authority has withdrawn all earlier exemptions given to Pakistani passport holders, Pakistan Origin Cardholders, and those having National Identity Card for Overseas Pakistanis. Category C countries.....

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### **20 shops sealed for flouting SOPs**

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#) , 2021-03-22

CHICHAWATNI - Assistant Commissioner (AC) sealed more than 20 shops on Sunday over violations of coronavirus Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) here. AC Sarmad Hussain said operation was underway across the district to enforce the Corona Code of Conduct. He said more than 20 shops were sealed over violations. "Corona code of conduct and smart lockdown were being strictly enforced and actio.....

[more >>](#)

### **Pandemic claims 30 more precious lives in 24 hours**

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#) , 2021-03-22

LAHORE - As many as 2,090 cases of coronavirus were reported in Punjab on Sunday, while the pandemic claimed 30 precious lives in 24 hours which pushed the death toll to 5,972. According to data shared by spokesperson of Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD) ,the number of coronavirus cases in the province reached 197,177. P&SHD confirmed that 1,236 new cases of C.....

[more >>](#)

### **LGH launches receptor-binding domain test to assess effects of Covid-19**

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Frontier Post](#) , 2021-03-22

LAHORE - Lahore General Hospital (LGH) has launched receptor binding domain (spike protein) test to assess the effects of Covid-19 vaccine on the human body and its resistance to disease. The World Health Organization (WHO) has provided the latest machine to undertake four tests of genes. The required kits have also been provided for this research work with special funds provided by Punjab C.....

[more >>](#)

**131 shops sealed over SOPs breach**

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-17

LAHORE - The city district administration sealed 131 shops, restaurants, marriage halls and imposed Rs 200,000 fine on violation of coronavirus related Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) here on Tuesday. According to a spokesperson of the district administration, Assistant Commissioner (AC) Cantt Zeeshan Ranjha ordered to seal 27 shops and three marriage halls, besides imposing fine amounti.....

[more >>](#)

## Sindh

**Provinces told to set up mass vaccination centers by Thursday**

Source: [M Waqar Bhatti](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-16

KARACHI: The federal authorities have directed provincial governments to establish Mass COVID-19 Vaccination Centers (CVCs) in 15 major cities of the country with multiple counters and having facilities for 'vaccinating thousands in a day' by Thursday as two to three million doses of three different vaccines are expected to reach Pakistan within the next few days, health officials told.....

[more >>](#)

**Micro smart lockdowns ordered in six UCs of District Central**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-18

The authorities have ordered micro smart lockdowns in six union councils of District Central after observing a significant number of Covid-19 cases being reported in those localities. According to a notification issued from the office of the deputy commissioner of the district on Wednesday, lockdowns have been ordered in UC-3, UC-4, UC-5, UC-6, UC-8 and UC-9 for a two-week period until March 31. ....

[more >>](#)

**Covid-19 claims one more life, infects 384 others in Sindh**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-18

The novel coronavirus claimed one more life in Sindh during the last 24 hours, bringing the death toll from the infectious disease in the province to 4,469 and showing a fatality rate of 1.7 per cent. As many as 10,590 samples were tested and 384 people test positive, with the detection rate standing at 3.6 per cent, said Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in his daily Covid-19 update report on W.....

[more >>](#)

**Covid-19 vaccination centre opens at Arts Council**

Source: [M Waqar Bhatti](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-18

Sindh Health Minister Dr Azra Pechuho said on Wednesday that instead of establishing mass Covid-19 vaccination centres (CVCs), they were establishing adult vaccination centres at district, taluka hospital and basic health unit levels, and urged the elderly people to avail the walk-in facility to get themselves vaccinated at the earliest. "Instead of setting up large vaccination centers, we .....

[more >>](#)

**Sindh cabinet decides to involve private hospitals, labs in mass Covid-19 vaccination**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-17

The Sindh cabinet on Tuesday decided to engage private hospitals and laboratories in Covid-19 mass vaccination in the province and to encourage the private health sector to import coronavirus vaccines, allocate human resources and establish vaccination centres, especially in Karachi. The health department told the cabinet that during the pandemic, the provincial response to the novel coronavirus .....

[more >>](#)

### **Covid kills seven more as another 241 test positive**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-17

Seven more people have died due to Covid-19 and 241 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 4,468 in the province. Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said in his daily situation report on the health emergency on Tuesday that 8,878 samples were tested in the past 24 hours, resulting in 241 pe.....

[more >>](#)

### **Centenarian gets Covid jab as elderly queue up for walk-in vaccination**

Source: [M Waqar Bhatti](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-17

Israel Ahmed Menai, a 100-year-old man from Karachi's DHA neighbourhood, has become Pakistan's oldest person to get vaccinated against Covid-19, Sindh's health officials said on Tuesday. They described the centenarian being healthy and in good spirits after the jab. "The staff of the adult vaccination centre [AVC] at the Aga Khan University Hospital [AKUH] was astonished t.....

[more >>](#)

### **Covid-19 claims three more lives, infects 171 others**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-16

Covid-19 claimed three more lives in Sindh during the previous 24 hours, raising the death toll to 4,461 in the province. Chief Minister Murad Ali said in his daily situation report on the health emergency on Monday that 8,511 tests were conducted and 171 were diagnosed with Covid-19, constituting a 2 percent detection rate. He said the government had so far conducted 3,152,760 tests, against whi.....

[more >>](#)

### **Lockdown restrictions reimposed across Sindh for a month**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-16

The home department of the Government of Sindh on Monday issued a notification announcing lockdown restrictions for a period of one month until April 15, 2021. "In pursuance of the directions of the NCOC [National Command & Operation Centre], Government of Pakistan, and in review of this department's order of even number dated March 1, 2021, the Government of Sindh in exercise of .....

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### **Covid-19 mass vaccination; Sindh cabinet decides to engage private sector**

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-17

KARACHI: The provincial cabinet has passed a resolution reposing confidence and trust in Election Commission of Pakistan, its chairman and members and has called upon the federal government not to intervene in discharge of the constitutional obligations of the ECP. The Sindh cabinet met under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah here at the CM House on Tuesday. The meeting w.....

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### **Covid-19 claims five more lives, infects 293 others**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-20

Covid-19 has claimed five more lives in Sindh during the last 24 hours, raising the death toll to 4,478 in the province, the chief minister said on Friday. With five more deaths, the fatality rate stood at 1.7 per cent, said Syed Murad Ali Shah said in his daily Covid-19 update report. He added that 10,445 samples were tested, and 293 cases emerged, constituting a 2.8 percent current detectio.....

[more >>](#)

### Coronavirus claims five more lives in Sindh 293 new infections were detected in the province

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-20

KARACHI: Sindh reported five more coronavirus-related deaths on Friday, when 293 new infections were detected in the province, said Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued on the day. The CM said that after the recent deaths and new cases, the Covid-19 death toll in the province had climbed to 4,478 and the infection tally to 262,795. According to the CM, 130 of the new ca.....

[more >>](#)

### COVID-19 claims 3 more lives

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-16

KARACHI - As many as 3 more patients of coronavirus died overnight lifting the death toll to 4,461 and 171 new cases emerged when 8,511 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued on Monday. He added that 3 more patients of COVID-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 4,461 that constituted 1.7 percent death rate. Shah sa.....

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### Sindh notifies restrictions to contain spread of COVID-19

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-16

Karachi - Sindh government on Monday announced to change market and marriage hall timings as well as directed for 50 percent attendance in all public and private offices under work-from-home formula with immediate effect till April 15 to control the spread of COVID-19 in the province. The provincial government issued the new Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in pursuance of the directions .....

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### One more dies of Covid-19 in Sindh, 262 others infected

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-21

Covid-19 claimed one more life in Sindh during the previous 24 hours, raising the death toll due to the viral disease in the province to 4,479. In the meantime, 279 patients of Covid-19 remained under treatment at different hospitals, of whom the condition of 256 patients was stated to be critical and 40 of them were shifted on life support. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Mur.....

[more >>](#)

### Study reveals vaccines less effective against UK variant

Source: [Suhail Yusuf](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-21

KARACHI: Amid the anti-Covid drive under way in the country, local research has confirmed that the current vaccines have some efficacy against the UK variant — considered more transmissible than the original Wuhan one — but do not provide complete immunity, cautioning citizens to continue adhering to the SOPs. Pakistan on Saturday recorded at least 3,876 confirmed cases of Covid-19 &.....

[more >>](#)

### COVID-19 claims one more life, infects 262

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-21

KARACHI - As many as one more patient of coronavirus died overnight lifting the death toll to 4,479 and 262 new cases emerged when 10,443 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued on Saturday. He added that one more patient of COVID-19 lost his life lifting the death toll to 4,479 that constituted 1.6 percent death rate. Shah.....

[more >>](#)

### **Pandemic will not affect academic, literary events, says minister**

Source: [Mohammad Hussain Khan](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-21

HYDERABAD: The 6th Hyderabad Literature Festival got under way at Sindh Museum here on Saturday. Sindh Culture Minister Syed Sardar Shah inaugurated the event. Speaking at the opening ceremony, the minister said that such literary festivals showed there was the urge in youth to learn and they were taking keen interest in literature. Initially, he said, it was difficult to hold literary festivals .....

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### **Covid-19 compounds labour woes**

Source: [Afshan Subohi](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-22

Mild-mannered Ameena, a widow, was fairly content before Covid-19. She lived with her son's family. He was a driver and she worked as a part-time cook. She was looking forward to her only granddaughter's admission to a private English medium school in the vicinity. His son earned Rs30,000 a month. With Rs20,000 that she made as a cook on call, her life was hard but tolerable. The pand.....

[more >>](#)

### **The social multiplier effect**

Source: [Jawaid Bokhari](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-22

Many countries including Pakistan are actively engaged in developing a new set of social policies and widening the social safety net not only to help calamity-hit poor but also those vulnerable to technology disruptions in a post-covid-19 world. In 2020, about 600 social protection programmes were launched worldwide. However, at this point, direct cash transfer (DCT) to help the poor and vulnerab.....

[more >>](#)

### **Obesity and Covid-19**

Source: [Dawn Report](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-22

Countries, where more than half of adults are overweight, have recorded Covid-19 mortality rates more than 10 times those in other nations, according to a report by the World Obesity Federation. ....

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### **'Sindh, Balochistan must impose strict restrictions to ward off third Covid wave'**

Source: [M Waqar Bhatti](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-22

Sindh and Balochistan need to take bold decisions, including strict restrictions on inter-provincial movement as well as travel between cities, to prevent the disaster being caused by the so-called UK strain of the novel coronavirus, which has wreaked havoc in Punjab, the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) and some cities of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, officials and experts warned on Sunday. "The UK.....

[more >>](#)

### **Sindh gets respite from Covid deaths second time this month**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-22

No people have died due to Covid-19 during the past 24 hours in Sindh. This is the second time this month that the province has gotten respite from deaths due to the viral coronavirus infection. However, 232 more people have tested positive for the disease. "Fortunately, no death was reported due to Covid-19 in Sindh during the past 24 hours. The province's death toll due to th.....

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**Sindh records 232 new cases of Covid-19**

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-22

KARACHI: Fortunately no death stemming from coronavirus reported on Sunday, however 232 new cases emerged when 8,975 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued here from CM House on Sunday. Shah said that fortunately no death was reported on Sunday. He added that till last Saturday the number death and was 4,479. Shah said that 8,97.....

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**18 more patients test positive for COVID-19 in Hyderabad**

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-22

HYDERABAD - About 18 more patients were tested positive for COVID-19 during the last 24 hours, taking the tally of active coronavirus cases to 333 in Hyderabad district on Sunday. Out of 333 active COVID-19 patients, 19 are admitted in LU Hospital Hyderabad while 312 are isolated at their homes, daily situation report stated and added that positivity ratio of the coronavirus cases was recorded as .....

[more >>](#)

**Sindh reports 232 more COVID-19 cases, no new death**

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-22

KARACHI - Sindh has reported 232 new COVID-19 cases in the last 24 hours, according to the daily update shared by Chief Minister (CM) Murad Ali Shah's office. This has taken the provincial caseload to 263,290. No new death from the virus was registered, with the death toll standing at 4,479. According to the update, 8,975 tests were conducted across the province in the 24-hour period, w.....

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**Sindh Cabinet decides to engage private hospitals, labs for COVID-19 mass vaccination**

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-17

KARACHI - The Sindh Cabinet has decided to engage private hospitals and laboratories in COVID-19 Mass Vaccination programme and encourage the private health sector to import COVID-19 vaccine, allocate human resources and establish vaccination centers, especially in Karachi. The meeting was held under the chairmanship of Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah at CM House on Tuesday. The .....

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**COVID-19 claims seven more lives, infects 241 others**

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-17

KARACHI - As many as seven more patients of coronavirus died overnight across Sindh, lifting the death toll to 4,468 and 241 new cases emerged when 8,878 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued on Tuesday. He added that seven more patients of COVID-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 4,468 that constituted 1.7 perc.....

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## International News

### Countries News

#### Major EU nations suspend use of AstraZeneca vaccine

Source: [News Report](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-16

BERLIN: Germany, France and Italy on Monday became the latest countries to suspend the use of AstraZeneca's COVID-19 vaccine over reports of dangerous blood clots in some recipients, though the company and European regulators have said there is no evidence the shot is to blame, foreign media reported. Germany's health minister said the decision was taken on the advice of the country&rs.....[more >>](#)

#### Finland world's happiest country despite pandemic, says UN report

Source: [HELSINKI](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-20

HELSINKI: Covid-19 has done little to alter the ranking of the world's happiest countries, with Finland at the top for a fourth year running, an annual UN-sponsored report said on Friday. The researchers behind the World Happiness Report, now in its ninth year, used Gallup data asking people in 149 countries to rate their own happiness, also taking into account measures such as GDP, social .....[more >>](#)

#### Parisians flee French capital as new Covid-19 lockdown looms

Source: [AFP](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-20

PARIS: Parisians packed inter-city trains leaving the capital on Friday hours ahead of a new lockdown in the French capital imposed to combat a surge in coronavirus infections. The new restrictions, announced by Prime Minister Jean Castex late on Thursday, apply from midnight Friday to around a third of the country's population affecting Paris and several other regions in the north.....

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#### Europe's Covid-19 setbacks risk another summer travel washout

Source: [Sarah Young and Laurence Frost](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-21

Europe's airlines and travel sector are bracing for a second lost summer, with rebound hopes increasingly challenged by a hobbled Covid-19 vaccine rollout, resurgent infections and new lockdowns. Airline and travel stocks fell on Friday after Paris and much of northern France shut down for a month, days after Italy introduced stiff business and movement curbs for most of the country inc.....

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#### Milestone as half of all UK adults vaccinated against virus

Source: [Reuters](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-21

LONDON: Britain has hit a Covid-19 vaccination milestone with more than half of all adults having had at least one injection, health secretary Matt Hancock said on Saturday, making it the world's first major economy to achieve that level of inoculation. Britain's vaccine roll-out, which has raced ahead of those in the European Union and the United States, means the country is on track.....

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#### New lockdowns in Europe

Source: [AFP](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-21

PARIS: Several European countries introduced new lockdown measures on Saturday as they battled surging coronavirus infections, while Tokyo Olympics organisers were forced to announce an "unavoidable" ban on overseas fans to keep the Games safe. Residents in Poland, parts of France and Ukraine's capital Ukraine all woke up to new restrictions, with most shops shut and people urge.....

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**Coronavirus: Saudi leaders wish PM Imran Khan 'speed recovery'**

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The News, International](#) , 2021-03-22

RIYADH: Following Prime Minister Imran Khan's positive COVID-19 test result, Saudi Arabia's King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz on Sunday wished a "speedy recovery" to the Pakistani premier. State-run Saudi Press Agency (SPA), reported that the two leaders inquired about PM Imran Khan's health in cables they sent to Islamabad.....

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**Married 66 years, husband, wife die minutes apart of Covid**

Source: [AP](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#) , 2021-03-22

FORT LAUDERDALE: Bill and Esther Ilinsky spent nearly seven decades together as Christian ministers and missionaries, including stints in the Caribbean and Middle East before preaching for 40 years in Florida. They complemented each other he the bookworm, she outgoing and charismatic. One without the other seemed unthinkable. So when they died minutes apart of Covid-19 this month at a Palm Beach.....

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## SDPI Engagements

### Researchers Articles

#### **Textile industry of Pakistan in the time of Covid-19**

Source: [Syed Shujaat Ahmed](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-03-16

Pakistan's textile sector has seen to go through different challenges in the time of Covid-19 pandemic shocks. During this period sector though witnessed recovery and have been growing but overall industry seemed to fluctuate significantly over the period. In terms of export, sector witnessed a significant shift. According to the statistics given by State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) textile expor.....

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#### **The influencers' stunt**

Source: [Sana Malik](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-20

Social media plays a big part in our lives today. The last decade saw social media grow rapidly with 45% of the world's population actively using social media platforms, according to 2019 We Are Social report. A trend that has risen in the digital world is of influencers who are members of society that build a reputation for their knowledge on a specific topic by regularly posting about cert.....

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#### **Budget dilemma**

Source: [Dr Sajid Amin Javed](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-21

The government will be presenting the annual budget in a couple of months with economic stability and economic recovery claims. The upcoming budget is important for at least three reasons: One, this budget will shape the post-pandemic economic recovery after the Covid-19 hit Pakistan. Two, the government will be under pressure to make its voter base happy, but it may face some constr.....

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#### **Textile industry of Pakistan in the time of Covid-19**

Source: [Syed Shujaat Ahmed](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-03-16

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## SDPI's Related News

### **Nestlé Pakistan, LUMS commemorate World Water Day**

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-21

KARACHI - Nestlé Pakistan and LUMS pledged to continue playing their role as water stewards in a session for World Water Day, under this year's theme 'Valuing Water'. The webinar featured speakers from WWF, Hisaar Foundation and Pakistan Agricultural Research Council, and focused on valuing water in agrarian economies like Pakistan by encouraging a collective action appra.....

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## Webinars News

### **COVID-19 An Awakening Call To Invest More In Healthcare System: UHS VC**

Source: [APP](#), [UrduPoint](#), 2021-03-17

ISLAMABAD, (APP - UrduPoint / Pakistan Point News - 16th Mar, 2021): University of Health Sciences (UHS) Vice Chancellor Dr Javed Akram on Tuesday said the COVID-19 should be taken as an awakening call to change priorities at the national level, especially by investing more to improve the healthcare system. "This priority shift is the only way forward to revive the economy and ensure that o.....

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### **'Debunking myths against Covid-19 vaccination to save population from pandemic'**

Source: [DNA](#), [Daily Islamabad Post](#), 2021-03-16

ISLAMABAD, MAR 16 (DNA) – The Covid-19 should be taken as an awakening call to change our priorities at national level, especially by investing more to improve our healthcare system. This priority shift is the only way forward to revive the economy and ensure that our population is staying safe. Dr Javed Akram, Vice Chancellor, University of Health Sciences (UHS) Lahore, said this while sha.....

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### **Covid-19 continues its upward trend, 414 more tests positive in capital**

Source: [Zubair Qureshi](#), [Pakistan Observer](#), 2021-03-17

The Islamabad administration is set to put a number of areas under smart lockdown as an upward trend of COVID-19 cases continues to ring alarm bells for the health authorities. Positivity rate of COVID-19 cases has jumped beyond 7 pc and if it continues the authorities fear of might jump past 10pc. Among the areas where smart lockdown would be imposed include G-10/4 where police have been deplou.....

[more >>](#)

### **COVID vaccine safe for pregnant women, expert**

Source: [DNA](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-18

ISLAMABAD: The Covid-19 pandemic should be taken as an awakening call to change our priorities at the national level, especially by investing more to improve our healthcare system. This priority shift is the only way forward to revive the economy and ensure that our population is staying safe. These views were expressed by University of Health Sciences (UHS) Lahore Vice Chancellor Dr Javed Akram.....

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## Other SDPI Engagements MoUs

### **SDPI-PCSTSI Ink MoU To Promote Research Small Traders**

Source: [APP](#), [UrduPoint](#), 2021-03-18

ISLAMABAD, (APP - UrduPoint / Pakistan Point News - 18th Mar, 2021): Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) and Peshawar Chamber for Small Traders and AMP, Small Industry have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to facilitate the relevant policy research and outreach during a meeting held at SDPI office here. The collaboration aims at improving the voice of micro and small enterprises i.....

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### **SDPI, PCSTSI ink MoU to promote research**

Source: [News Desk](#), [Pakistan Observer](#), 2021-03-19

Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) and Peshawar Chamber for Small Traders & Small Industry (PCSTSI) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to facilitate the relevant policy research and outreach during a meeting held at SDPI office in Islamabad. The collaboration aims at improving the voice of micro and small enterprises in the policy circles through beefing up publi.....

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