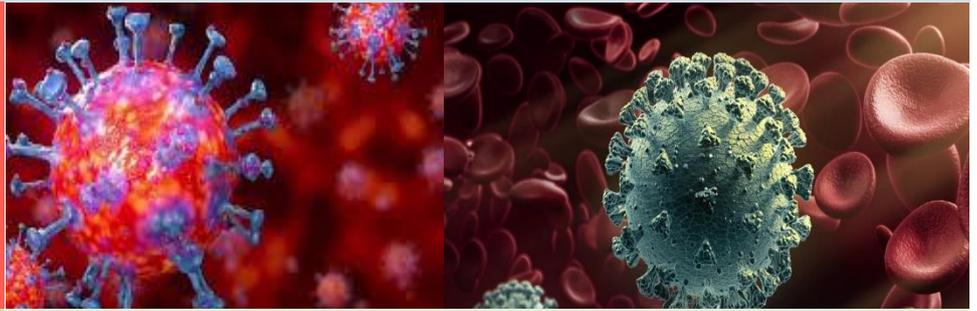


E-Newsletter on COVID-19



Vol. 02, No, 25



Issue: 23-26 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

The three Cs

Source: [Hamid Dabashi](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-23

Soon after my second Covid-19 shot, I received an email from a dear friend who I had been remiss in contacting, asking how I was coping with, as she put it, 'the three Cs' – the Covid-19 pandemic, the coup attempt at the Capitol, and the climate crisis. Donald Trump, and Donald Trump alone, was responsible for most of the calamity inflicted on us by these three Cs here in.....[more >>](#)

New surge

Source: [Editorial](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-23

The latest surge in the Covid-19 virus could take the country's total of 630,000 cases and over 13,800 deaths far higher. To add to the problems, the new variant of the virus is both more fatal and spreads more quickly than the previous variant of the coronavirus. The threat then is far greater. A meeting of the NCOC held on Monday morning has decided that SOPs already imposed in the country n.....[more >>](#)

Resurgent virus and vaccine worries

Source: [Editorial](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-23

The third wave of Covid-19 infections has seen records broken for daily infections, with positivity rates hitting as high as nine per cent. The prime minister's household has also been hit, with Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi both testing positive. The NCOC has thus ordered immediate restrictions on activities contributing to the surge in the infection. Under the decisions taken yesterday, no co.....[more >>](#)

Vaccine on holiday?

Source: [EDITORIAL](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-23

AS the third Covid-19 wave rages in the country, the management of the vaccination programme leaves a lot to be desired. With infection rates rising, school closures and new restrictions, the authorities must put all their resources into making the vaccine roll-out successful. Unfortunately, at present, certain decisions regarding the inoculation drive betray a non-serious approach. For example, t.....[more >>](#)

Vaccination for a few

Source: [Arifa Noor](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-23

THE day the coronavirus vaccination campaign began, a friend called as he waited at one of the inoculation centres in Islamabad. It was a mess, he said. Too many people had been called in and the hospital administration was unprepared. There was no system in place and neither was there any seating arrangement for those who waited, who consisted mostly of the elderly and frail. And it was overcrowd.....

[more >>](#)

Patriarchal pandemic

Source: [Belen Fernandez](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-24

Shortly after the onset of the pandemic here in Mexico last year, femicides and calls to domestic violence hotlines soared. Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador (AMLO) – who had previously expressed annoyance that the femicide issue should distract from a very important project to raffle the presidential plane – then took it upon himself to claim that 90 percent

[more >>](#)

Company versus country?

Source: [Farhan Bokhari](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-24

A few catchy numbers on Pakistan's economic trends have recently been bandied about by the country's rulers as evidence of a turnaround, as Pakistan like the rest of the world remains locked in the fallout from the Covid pandemic. Matters like the improving current account or the recent strengthening of the rupee against the US dollar have given fuel to such claims. While these number.....

[more >>](#)

Pandemic is not over, please!

Source: [Dr Zia Ul Haque Shamsi](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-03-24

Out in the streets of Islamabad, Lahore, Multan, and Karachi, the Pandemic is over because entire population of Pakistan has successfully received two shots of Pfizer vaccine and there is absolutely no risk of getting this deadly infection again. Life has returned to normal and Pakistan has been declared as a COVID-19 free country by World Health Organization (WHO). The travel restrictions by all

[more >>](#)

Covid-19: the third wave is here

Source: [Dr Rana Jawad Asghar](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-24

In early December, we had a peak in the second wave of Covid-19. Our number of Covid-19 cases started to decline but then plateaued around 1,000-1,500 daily cases and stayed there for weeks. In January and February, cases declined sharply for many weeks straight in the rest of the world. This decline in daily reported cases was up to 90% in many countries including our neighbour, India. Why we did.....

[more >>](#)

Virus of hatred

Source: [Bilal Mustikhan](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-25

The Biden Administration may have taken over the reins of power on January 20, 2021 – after a tumultuous transition – successfully overcoming multiple obstacles put forth by his predecessor. However, it still seems as if the previous president's policies and words have had a disastrous impact on the waning global power, which continue to wreak havoc domestically and tarnish.....

[more >>](#)

Fashion, literati and the love for books

Source: [Durdana Najam](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-25

What good has the pandemic brought to Pakistan? I wonder if social scientists have taken upon themselves to find out how Pakistan's society has changed, evolved or gone backwards during the complete and partial lockdowns. The lens we see Pakistan with only captures the rise and the fall of politics in which every institution has been drawn to spoil its worth. The extractive economic and poli.....

[more >>](#)

Covid-19: SOP violators must face fines

Source: [Editorial](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-25

As Pakistan stumbles through the third wave of Covid-19 pandemic, the National Command and Operation Centre has announced stiff measures to restrict activities contributing to the sharp rise in Covid-19 cases. At a meeting on Monday, aside from re-imposing some restrictions, such as closure of commercial activities by 8pm, ban on all types of large indoor gatherings, complete shutdown of amusement.....

[more >>](#)

Covid-19 vaccines: Thinking fast and slow

Source: [BR Research](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-25

The 7-day average for covid-19 new cases is trailing 3,500. Yesterday's fresh cases stood at 3,300. In mid-February, the 7-day average was around 1,100. In fact, the second-wave's peak happened during the first 10 days of December where the highest 7-day average stood at 3,200, lower than the current average of covid-19 weekly cases. It looks like Covid-19 is here to stay. Arguabl.....

[more >>](#)

Hospitals' management

Source: [Editorial](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-26

THE wrangling over three major Karachi hospitals between the Sindh and federal governments continues, with both sides trying to retain control of the facilities. In the latest developments, the Sindh administration has sought an agreement with the centre to run the JPMC, NICH and NICVD after Islamabad issued a notification calling for setting up a board of governors to manage the tertiary care fac.....

[more >>](#)

Intrusive and misplaced

Source: [Sakib Sherani](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-26

THE government is seeking to rush through (via presidential ordinances) consequential legislation to meet IMF conditionality. One of these pertains to changes in the Nepra Act that will, among other actions, remove the discretion of the government in notifying electricity tariffs, and will bind the regulator to a predetermined schedule for very substantial increases over the next two years. This m.....

[more >>](#)

What went wrong with Imran Khan?

Source: [Zafar Aziz Chaudhry](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-03-26

Before he entered in practical politics, Imran Khan had too many amazing feats to his credit as cricketing sportsman, educationist, philanthropist, social worker, traveller, charismatic personality, and a world-renowned figure. In personal attributes, he is extremely honest, very resolute and determined to achieve his object for which he zealously works hard. After founding a political party he ze.....

[more >>](#)

How vaccine nationalism is leading to vaccine apartheid

Source: [Mavra Bari](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-26

They say that everything that can go wrong will go wrong. The global political climate of the last six years, mixed with an aggressive pandemic, has brewed a perfect storm that has led to some countries sailing through, some hanging on to wreckage for dear life, while others are drowning. Many countries have or had populist governments when the Covid-19 pandemic hit. Brazil, the United States, Aus.....[more >>](#)

Third wave of Covid-19

Source: [Malik Muhammad Ashraf](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-26

Pmalik muhammad akistan is in the grip of the third wave of coronavirus which is spreading faster than its previous two stints. According to the NCOC, the current rate of infections stands at 8.2 percent which is indeed very alarming and if it continues with the same velocity, things are likely to get out of hand and put a lot of strain on our health system. Pakistan is lucky to have waded through.....[more >>](#)

National News

Balochistan

Balochistan decides against closing educational institutions

Source: [INP](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-25

QUETTA: Balochistan on Wednesday decided against closing the schools and other educational institutions. Parliamentary Secretary for Health Dr Rubaba Buledi has said that the ratio of positive cases of COVID-19 in Balochistan has been between 3 to 3.8 percent. The government is conducting screening of passengers at airport, railway stations and bus terminals, the parliamentary secretary[more >>](#)

Islamabad

Curbs on business, public transport as corona intensifies

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-23

ISLAMABAD/LAHORE: In view of a surge in coronavirus cases in the country, the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Monday issued renewed standard operating procedures (SOPs) to contain the virus, saying that these would be implemented with immediate effect. As per the new guidelines, all businesses will only be allowed to operate five days a week, while all commercial activities.....[more >>](#)

TIP writes to PM: 'Cancel private import of Covid-19 vaccines'

Source: [Shahina Maqbool](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-23

ISLAMABAD: Transparency International-Pakistan (TIP) has called upon Prime Minister Imran Khan to review the government's policy of allowing private import of COVID-19 vaccines and cancel the policy altogether as it believes the decision "will provide a window of corruption" for sale of government's vaccine to private hospitals. In a letter addressed to the PM.....[more >>](#)

Qureshi, Chinese FM discuss Covid vaccine supply

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-23

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi on Tuesday discussed with his Chinese counterpart the supply of COVID-19 vaccine from China to Pakistan during March-April 2021 to reinforce Pakistan's capacity to effectively and expeditiously fight the pandemic. In a telephonic conversation with State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi, Qureshi underscored that Pakistan had devised an[more >>](#)

Govt tightens SOPs

Source: [Abdul Rasheed Azad](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-23

ISLAMABAD: The government, on Monday, while revising the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to contain rapidly increasing Covid-19 cases, has issued stricter SOPs effective with immediate effect. These policy measures were taken here at a high-level meeting of the National Command and Operations Centre (NCOC) held under the chairmanship of Asad Umar, which was also attended by provincial ch.....[more >>](#)

Private sector refuses to sell vaccine on govt-approved rates

Source: [Abdul Rasheed Azad](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-23

ISLAMABAD: The private sector has refused to sell the coronavirus vaccine on the government-approved rates, saying the rates are even below the landing cost, and they are unable to sell the vaccine on the government-approved rates. Industry sources, on condition of anonymity, told Business Recorder the government had almost blocked the option of using imported Russian and Chinese Covid-19 vac.....

[more >>](#)

China will send more doses of Covid-19 vaccines: Wang

Source: [Ali Hussain](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-23

ISLAMABAD: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi has said that China will send Pakistan more doses of Covid-19 vaccines by the end of this month as a gift. According to Foreign Office, the Chinese foreign minister stated this during a telephonic conversation with Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi, on Monday. During the conversation, the two foreign ministers exchanged views on issues of m.....

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Centre tightens virus restrictions as cases spike

Source: [Iqtidar Gilani](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-23

ISLAMABAD/LAHORE - The National Command and Operation Centre Monday decided to broader lockdowns for the containment of coronavirus pandemic with stringent enforcement protocols based on risk assessment. During Monday's session held under the chairmanship of Minister for Planning Asad Umar, the forum expressed grave concern over current COVID-19 situation in the country. To cont.....

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Pakistan records 72 deaths, 3,270 new coronavirus cases in 24 hours

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-23

Pakistan has reported 72 deaths in the last 24 hours by novel coronavirus as the number of positive cases has surged to 633,741. The nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 13,935 on Tuesday. According to the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC), 3,270 persons tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 24 hours. Sindh remains the worst-hit province by the pan.....

[more >>](#)

10 cities put under stiff lockdown till April 11

Source: [Ikram Junaidi](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-23

ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Monday imposed further restrictions which will remain in force till April 11 in view of the rising cases of Covid-19. The NCOC, at its meeting, decided to impose broader lockdowns, with no mobility except for emergencies, in 10 cities where the positivity ratio is over 8pc. They are Islamabad, Lahore, Multan, Rawalpindi, Faisalabad, B.....

[more >>](#)

PM asked to review policy on import of Covid-19 vaccines

Source: [Amin Ahmed](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-23

ISLAMABAD: Transparency International Pakistan (TIP) has asked Prime Minister Imran Khan to review the policy of allowing private import of the Covid-19 vaccine, and cancel it altogether, as across the globe, governments are procuring vaccines and administering it to their citizens for free because it is the responsibility of the state. In a letter to the prime minister on Monday, Chairperson of

[more >>](#)

Smart lockdowns planned for virus hotspots in capital

Source: [Munawer Azeem](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-23

ISLAMABAD: The District Health Office has set indicators to evaluate the spread of Covid-19 in different areas so that smart lockdowns can be imposed as the capital saw an increase in cases with 672 people testing positive and three losing their lives on Monday. Officials of the capital administration said two deaths were reported in the age group of 60-69 and one in the age group of 90-99. All w.....

[more >>](#)

Cities with 8% positivity to face extra restrictions

Source: [News Desk](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-03-23

The National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) and all the federating units including that of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and Gilgit Baltistan (GB) will implement high impact interventions in cities with over eight percent positivity ratio during the rising third wave of the pandemic till April 11. The NCOC morning session held under the chairmanship of Federal Minister for Planning, Developme.....

[more >>](#)

Islamabad approaches Beijing for more vaccine

Source: [Ikram Junaidi](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-24

ISLAMABAD: As over 3,000 new Covid-19 cases were reported for the sixth consecutive day on Tuesday and the number of active cases doubled in less than three weeks, Pakistan has contacted China for more vaccine. Federal Minister for Planning and Development Asad Umar said that Pakistan would receive its first purchase of over one million doses of Chinese Sinopharm and Cansino vaccines by the

[more >>](#)

Ehsaas averted catastrophe during pandemic: report

Source: [Bakhtawar Mian](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-24

ISLAMABAD: A report released by an international organisation based in Brazil has found that Pakistan's innovative emergency cash programme (Ehsaas) helped avert an economic catastrophe during the Covid-19 pandemic. The report, "What's next for social protection in light of Covid-19: country responses" released by the International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth (IPC-I.....

[more >>](#)

Islamabad yet to start issuing Covid-19 vaccination cards

Source: [Ikram Junaidi](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-24

ISLAMABAD: While Covid-19 vaccination card is going to become a travel document, over 29,000 people so far vaccinated in the federal capital have not been issued the cards. District Health Officer (DHO) Dr Zaeem Zia agreed that the vaccination card would be a travel document in the near future and claimed that the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) would soon introduce a portal to downl.....

[more >>](#)

Alarm as 72 lose lives to Covid-19 in a single day

Source: [News Desk](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-03-24

The national tally of total active Covid-19 cases on Tuesday was recorded at 34,535, as 3,270 more people tested positive for the deadly virus and 1,733 people recovered from the disease across country. Seventy-two coronavirus patients died, 64 of whom were under treatment in hospitals and eight perished in their respective homes or quarantines, according to the latest update issued by the Nation.....

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Closure of schools: Shafqat Mehmood chairs NCOC meeting

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-24

ISLAMABAD: Federal Education Minister Shafqat Mehmood is chairing an important meeting of education and health ministers at the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) during which a decision would be taken regarding the closure of schools due to the deteriorating COVID-19 situation. According to the NCOC data, the number of COVID-19 active cases has more than doubled in Pakistan in the last.....

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SOP Violations: ICT admin launches crackdown

Source: [Muhammad Faisal Kaleem, Daily Times](#), 2021-03-24

A major crackdown has been launched by Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration in different areas of the capital against COVID-19 guidelines' violations, overcharging by shopkeepers and some other violations during commercial activities. The authorities stepped up action after a large number of public complaints were lodged on Prime Minister's Performance Delivery Unit (PMDU).....

[more >>](#)

Corona vengeance on rise as 72 more die

Source: [Our Correspondent, The News, International](#), 2021-03-24

ISLAMABAD: The national tally of active COVID-19 cases Tuesday stood at 34,535 with 3,270 more people testing positive and 1,733 recovering during 24 hours. Seventy-two patients died during 24 hours of whom 64 were under treatment in hospital and eight in their respective homes or quarantines, according to the National command and Operation Centre (NCOC). Most of deaths occurred in the Punjab fol.....

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PML-N's Senator Abbasi tests positive for Covid-19

Source: [Agencies, Daily Times](#), 2021-03-24

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Senator Javed Abbasi tested positive for the Covid-19 on Tuesday. The lawmaker has quarantined himself after being confirmed of infection. He has appealed to masses and his well-wishers to pray for his speedy recovery. Earlier this week, Prime Minister Imran Khan along with his wife tested positive for coronavirus on Saturday. Meanwhile, coronavirus claimed 72

[more >>](#)

Hungary flags delay in reopening as COVID-19 deaths scale new high

Source: [Agencies, Daily Times](#), 2021-03-24

Hungary cannot reopen its economy before all citizens older than 65 who have registered for a COVID-19 vaccine are inoculated, Prime Minister Viktor Orban said on Tuesday, as the country reported a record number of daily deaths from the coronavirus. Hungary reported a daily rate of 252 deaths on Tuesday after a surge in hospitalisations and people put on ventilators pushed its health system to the.....

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Coronavirus vaccine declared Sharia compliant

Source: [News Desk, Daily Times](#), 2021-03-24

Dar-ul-Ifta Pakistan, one of the county's top seminaries, has declared vaccination against the novel coronavirus 'legal' and 'permissible' according to Islamic law. In a press conference on Monday, Prime Minister Imran Khan's aide on religious harmony, Maulana Tahir Ashrafi, announced a religious decree, under which getting vaccinated against coronavirus was ne.....

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Source: [news Desk, Daily Times](#), 2021-03-24

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Government-funded vaccine programme to cost Rs726b less

Source: [Shahbaz Rana, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-24

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) has said that the Russian vaccine, if administered by the government to the entire eligible population, will cost Rs438 billion, which appears to be Rs726 billion less than the money that the private sector will collect from people even at official rates. PIDE - a public sector institute - has recommended the government to fund the va.....

[more >>](#)

No Covid vaccine for foreigners

Source: [Razya Khan, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-24

ISLAMABAD: The policymakers in Pakistan seem to have completely ignored the need to vaccinate the foreign nationals residing in the country against coronavirus disease, causing great indignation among these foreigners over what they describe as a discriminatory behaviour. Talking to The Express Tribune, a number of foreigners complained that the Ministry of Health has adopted a discriminatory at.....

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FM Qureshi, Chinese counterpart discuss Covid vaccine supply

Source: [Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-23

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi on Tuesday discussed with his Chinese counterpart the supply of COVID-19 vaccine from China to Pakistan during March-April 2021 to reinforce Pakistan's capacity to effectively and expeditiously fight the pandemic. In a telephonic conversation with State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi, Qureshi underscored that Pakistan had devised an

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Covid-19 claims 72 more lives across country

Source: [Abdul Rasheed Azad, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-24

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has recorded 72 coronavirus deaths and 3,270 Covid-19 cases over the past 24 hours following which the national tally of Covid-19 infections has reached 633,741 and death toll has reached 13,935. The Covid-19 data released by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), here on Tuesday, said that over the past 24 hours, 1,733 people have recovered, after which the nat.....

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Govt to receive first purchase of over 1m doses of Chinese vaccines

Source: [Reuters, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-24

ISLAMABAD: Government will receive its first purchase of over 1 million doses of Chinese Sinopharm and CanSino Covid-19 vaccines by the end of March, the minister in charge of pandemic operations told Reuters on Tuesday. This will be the first consignment of COVID-19 vaccines the Pakistani government has purchased from any manufacturer for its 220 million people. Pakistan has previously relied on

[more >>](#)

Pakistan reports 3,301 new coronavirus cases in one day

Source: [Web Desk, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-24

Pakistan has reported 30 deaths in the last 24 hours by novel coronavirus as the number of positive cases has surged to 637,042. The nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 13,965 on Wednesday. According to the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) 3,301 persons tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 24 hours. Sindh remains the worst-hit province by the pa.....

[more >>](#)

Pakistan reports 72 virus deaths in single day

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#) , 2021-03-24

ISLAMABAD - The national tally on Tuesday of total active COVID-19 cases recorded 34,535 with 3,270 more people tested positive for the deadly virus and 1,733 people recovered from the disease during the last 24 hours. At least 72 coronavirus patients died during past 24 hours, 64 of whom were under treatment in hospital and eight of them perished in their respective homes or quarantines. According.....

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Markets and parks likely to cause trouble as SOPs rarely followed

Source: [Mansoor Ali](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#) , 2021-03-24

ISLAMABAD - The crowded markets, parks and mosques across Islamabad are likely to cause trouble as people rarely bother to follow Coronavirus SOPs. The market, parks and mosques in the capital are getting heavily crowded with no precautionary measures despite the fact that the district administration is frequently asking citizens to adopt all the SOPs as the number of cases in Islamabad is in.....

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TIP urges PM to review policy of private import of vaccine

Source: [Rahul Basharat](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#) , 2021-03-24

ISLAMABAD - The Transparency International Pakistan (TIP) Tuesday urged Prime Minister Imran Khan to review the policy of private import of Covid-19 vaccine and cancel such permissions altogether. A letter written by the chairperson of TIP to the PM office said that allowing private import of the Covid-19 vaccine in the commercial sector will open the window of corruption as it will increase

[more >>](#)

Govt extends closure of educational institutions till April 11

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#) , 2021-03-24

Educational institutions in Pakistan that are located in coronavirus hotspot areas will remain closed till April 11, Federal Education Minister Shafqat Mehmood announced Wednesday. He was speaking to the media after an important meeting of education and health ministers at the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) to decide on the closure of schools amid an alarming rise of coronavirus.....

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Markets, mosques and parks likely to cause trouble as SOPs rarely followed

Source: [Mansoor Ali](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#) , 2021-03-24

ISLAMABAD - The crowded markets, parks and mosques across Islamabad are likely to cause trouble as people rarely bother to follow Coronavirus SOPs. The market, parks and mosques in the capital are getting heavily crowded with no precautionary measures despite the fact that the district administration is frequently asking citizens to adopt all the SOPs as the number of cases in Islamabad is in.....

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COVAX to provide AstraZeneca's COVID-19 vaccine for free to Pakistan

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The News, International](#) , 2021-03-24

The COVAX scheme will provide AstraZeneca's COVID-19 vaccine free of charge to Pakistan, sources informed Geo News Wednesday. Following the development, according to the publication, the federal government has approved the SOPs for the vaccine's rollout after a nod from the National Expert Committee. As per the standard operating procedures, two doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine will be a.....

[more >>](#)

Ehsaas emergency cash programme averted economic catastrophe

Source: [Myra Imran](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-25

Islamabad: A new report released by the International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth (IPC-IG) says that Pakistan's emergency cash programme helped avert an economic catastrophe during the COVID-19 pandemic. Released by IPC-IG, the report, 'What's Next for Social Protection in Light of COVID-19: Country Responses' focuses on experiences from countries in Asia, including P.....

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Coronavirus in Pakistan: Positivity ratio jumps past 10%

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-25

ISLAMABAD: The third wave of the coronavirus continues to wreck havoc in the country as the national positivity ratio crossed 10% on Thursday, showed the the latest government data. As per the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), 38,858 tests were conducted across the country in the last 24 hours out of which 3,946 were positive, taking the national positivity ratio to 10.15%. With the

[more >>](#)

Social media lashes out at PM Imran Khan for holding in-person meeting while being COVID-19 positive

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-25

Social media went up in arms on Thursday after it emerged that Prime Minister Imran Khan had held a meeting earlier in the day, after testing positive for coronavirus last week. "Prime minister with the media team today at Bani gala," tweeted Faraz with a picture in which the prime minister can be seen sitting in a room with six other persons. Even though the premier apparently maintai.....

[more >>](#)

Pakistan reports highest Covid single-day tally in nine months

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-25

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Thursday recorded at least 3,946 confirmed Covid-19 cases, the highest single-day tally reported in nine months as the third wave of the pandemic continued to rage across the country. Earlier, on June 24, 2020, the highest number of positive cases reported in a single day was 3,892. The country also recorded at least 63 fatalities from the virus in the last 24 hours, takin.....

[more >>](#)

PTA continues to support efforts to contain Covid-19

Source: [Press Release](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-25

ISLAMABAD: Completing one year since March 2020, the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) has been continuously supplementing the government's efforts to contain Covid-19 through various means from sending cautionary SMSs to setting up awareness ringtones, said a press release. Two billion coronavirus awareness messages have so far been sent since 19th March 2020 in Urdu, English.....

[more >>](#)

3,301 fresh cases detected; 30 more die of Covid-19 across country

Source: [Abdul Rasheed Azad](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-25

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has detected 3,301 coronavirus cases and 30 Covid-19 deaths over the past 24 hours, following which the national tally of Covid-19 infections has reached 633,741, and death toll stands at 13,965. The Covid-19 data released by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), here on Wednesday, said that over the past 24 hours, 957 people had recovered taking the national t.....

[more >>](#)

COVAX programme; WHO chief assures Pakistan of vaccine supply

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-25

ISLAMABAD: The World Health Organisation (WHO) chief has assured Pakistan of supplying Covid-19 vaccine under the COVAX programme. The WHO chief, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, gave this assurance to Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on National Health Services Dr Faisal Sultan in two tweets following a detailed discussion with him. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus informed Dr Sultan tha.....

[more >>](#)

Pakistan reports 3,946 new COVID-19 cases in one day

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-25

Pakistan has reported 63 deaths in the last 24 hours by novel coronavirus as the number of positive cases has surged to 640,988. The nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 14,028 on Thursday. According to the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC), 3,946 persons tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 24 hours. Sindh remains the worst-hit province by the pa.....

[more >>](#)

Private sector allowed to import Covid-19 vaccine: Ministry

Source: [Rahul Basharat](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-25

ISLAMABAD - The Ministry of National Health Services (NHS) in its response to the Transparency International Pakistan (TIP) on Wednesday said that it allowed the private sector to import vaccine to cater those segments of the society, which were not on the immediate priority list of the government. Responding to the TIP concerns, Secretary Ministry of NHS Aamir Ashraf Khawaja wrote a letter t.....

[more >>](#)

Wifaq-ul-Madarris holds exams by adopting corona SOPs

Source: [Mansoor Ali](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-25

ISLAMABAD - The Wifaq-ul-Madarris Arabia Pakistan held annual examinations following corona SOPs fixed by the government. The exams were held across the country with adopting all precautionary measures and over 0.3 million students took part in the exams for which more than 2300 examination halls were established. According to the official statement of Wifaq-ul-Madarris, in order to make the.....

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With 652 active Covid-19 cases, Lohi Bher becomes most affected area of capital

Source: [Tahir Niaz](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-25

ISLAMABAD-With 652 active Covid-19 cases, Lohi Bher has emerged as the most affected area of the federal capital, according to the official sources. As of Tuesday, Lohi Bher reported 652 active Covid-19 cases and 45 deaths, making it the most hit area of the capital city in terms of active cases and Covid-related deaths. Tarlai has so far reported 311 cases and 17 deaths, Bhara Kahu 309.....

[more >>](#)

Deaths from Covid cross 14,000 mark in Pakistan

Source: [Ikram Junaidi](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-26

ISLAMABAD: With 3,946 new cases reported in a single day, the number of Covid-related deaths in the country surpassed the figure of 14,000 on Thursday. A spokesperson for the Ministry of National Health Services (NHS), Sajid Shah, said that over one million doses of the vaccine would reach the country next week. According to data of the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) with 63 more d.....

[more >>](#)

Two centres set up to vaccinate 4,000 people a day in capital

Source: [Aamir Yasin | Munawer Azeem, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-26

ISLAMABAD: As vaccination of the elderly goes on, arrangements have been made in the capital to vaccinate at least 4,000 people a day through the establishment of a mass vaccination centre. The centre has been set up at the Isolation Hospital and Infections Treatment Centre where vaccination will begin next week. Officials of the capital administration said 548 people were diagnosed with the vir.....

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Pakistan reports highest number of daily Covid cases since July

Source: [Agencies, Daily Times](#), 2021-03-26

Pakistan on Thursday reported 3,946 cases of coronavirus, the highest since July 2, 2020, when 4,432 cases were recorded in the country. The positivity rate also rose to 10.1%, as the total caseload for Pakistan increased to 640,998 cases. The deadly virus claimed 63 more lives in the country, taking the overall death toll to 14,028, according to the latest statistics of the National Command and

[more >>](#)

Spectacular Pakistan Day parade held under Covid SOPs

Source: [Agencies, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-26

The contingents of the three armed forces and other security forces conducted a march past and displayed their professionalism and military prowess at the spectacular Pakistan Day Military Parade held at the Parade Avenue on Thursday. The impressive ceremony started with the fly past of fighter jets of Pakistan Air Force and Pakistan Navy led by Air Chief Zaheer Ahmad Babar Sidhu, presenting salu.....

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Pakistan reports over 4,000 coronavirus daily cases for first time in 8 months

Source: [Web Desk, The News, International](#), 2021-03-26

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan, for the first time in eight months, has registered more than 4,000 cases of coronavirus as a third wave of the COVID-19 washes over the country. The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) shared that Pakistan carried out 42,418 tests in the last 24 hours, out of which 4,368 were positive. The new cases put the national positivity ratio at 10.3%. A look at the corona.....

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'Dialogue way forward for peace in South Asia'

Source: [APP, The News, International](#), 2021-03-26

Islamabad : Indian-American Academic from Harvard University Dr Homi K. Bhabha has said that lasting peace in the South Asian region could be achieved by promoting the culture of conversations and dialogue at the people-to-people level, terming it a way forward. More conversations, more dialogue at the people-to-people level is the way forward for forging peace in South Asia, he said while.....

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'No time for complacency about COVID'

Source: [Our Correspondent, The News, International](#), 2021-03-26

Islamabad: The British high Commissioner has urged the people not to become complacent about coronavirus amid rising incidence. In a video message on his official Twitter handle, Dr Christian Turner said it was illegal to travel from UK for leisure, while border measures could change at short notice. He said coronavirus cases were rising in Pakistan during the third wave prompting the gove.....

[more >>](#)

Shops to remain closed on Friday and Saturday

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-26

ISLAMABAD - The administration of Islamabad Thursday announced that local markets, shopping centres and shops would remain closed on Friday and Saturday instead of Saturday and Sunday as part of the government's measures to contain the spread of Covid-19. Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Hamza Shafqaat made this announcement while appealing to the residents of capital to cooperate with the.....

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Covid-19 deaths cross 14,000-mark

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-26

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Covid-19 death tally, on Thursday, crossed 14,000-mark as the country reported 63 more deaths due to Covid-19 along with detecting 3,946 new positive cases. According to the latest Covid-19 data released by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOCC), country's Covid-19 positivity ratio also shot past 10 percent and the death toll crossed 14,028 as the c.....

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Covid-positive PM throws caution to the wind

Source: [Rizwan Shehzad](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-26

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Thursday chaired a meeting of the party leadership in person after being tested positive for the coronavirus a couple of days ago to take stock of PML-N Vice President Maryam Nawaz's decision to take a rally to the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) office in response to a call-up notice. Soon after Senator Shibli Faraz shared a photo of himself, P.....

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Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Situation getting worse: Coronavirus claims 10 more lives in KP

Source: [Bureau Report](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-23

PESHAWAR: Situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is getting worse with each passing day in terms of transmission of the coronavirus as the infectious disease claimed 10 more lives and infected 482 people on Monday. KP has so far reported 8,0519 positive cases and the number is rapidly rising due to lack of awareness and poor implementation of the standard operating procedures at public places. According

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Three educational institutions sealed in Abbottabad

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-23

ABBOTABAD: The district administration Abbottabad on Monday sealed three educational institutions after teachers and students tested positive for the novel coronavirus. The authorities also imposed a smart lockdown in 11 areas to stop the further spread of the contagion. According to the notification issued by the Abbottabad DC office, Government High School Ghambeer and Government High School

[more >>](#)

25 K-P police personnel test positive for Covid

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-23

BAJAUR: At least 25 police constables undergoing training at the Buner Training Centre tested positive for the prevailing coronavirus over the weekend. The District Police Officer of Bajaur, Shehzad Kokab Farooq said that all the Covid positive constables hail from tribal districts. "Only 25 out of the 150 men from Bajaur Levies being trained since few weeks tested positive," he said.....

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Prayer leaders' help sought in enforcing SOPs

Source: [Bureau Report](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-23

LAKKI MARWAT/BAJAUR: The Naurang tehsil administration has sought the help of religious scholars, particularly prayer leaders, in enforcement of the Covid-19 standard operating procedures in letter and spirit. Speaking at a meeting with ulema in Naurang city the other day, additional assistant commissioner Aminullah Khan said the third coronavirus wave was the deadliest and there was need to sens.....

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15 staffers of Mardan hospital contract Covid

Source: [Correspondent](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-23

MARDAN: Fifteen staffers, including eight doctors of the Mardan Medical Complex Hospital, tested positive for coronavirus, varsity officials confirmed here on Monday. They said a total of 100 cases were reported to the hospital, of which, 34 tested positive for Covid-19. They said a lady doctor also included the affected doctors. Besides, they said two women affected by coronavirus died, taking.....

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Health dept wants cut in number of passengers in public transport

Source: [Ashfaq Yusufzai](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-23

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa health department wants reduction in the number of passengers travelling in public transport vehicles to and from the infected districts to prevent spread of Covid-19 to other areas. Officials said that they would recommend imposition of complete lockdown after continuous surge in Covid-19 cases, particularly in central districts and Swat. On Monday, the provinc.....

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Lockdown imposed in more Bajaur areas

Source: [Correspondent](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-24

BAJAUR: The district administration on Tuesday imposed smart lockdown in 21 more localities of Bajaur after emergence of fresh cases of Covid-19. According to a statement issued here by the DC office, the administration had taken measures in consultation with the local health department after the new cases were reported. It said that the smart lockdown was imposed in Dag Qilla, Sadiqabad town, R.....

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KP records 13 Covid deaths, 685 cases

Source: [Bureau Report](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-24

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa reported 13 deaths and 685 new Covid-19 cases on Tuesday. According to the daily situation report of the health department, the provincial tally of deaths from the virus has reached 2,238, with total infections totaling 81,204. Eight of the fresh mortalities occurred in Peshawar, three in Mardan, and one each in Upper Chitral and Kohat districts. The provincial capi.....

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7 more test positive for Covid-19 in Nowshera

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-24

NOWSHERA: Seventeen more suspected patients tested positive for the Covid-19 in the district on Tuesday. With the new cases, the number of coronavirus affected patients reached 3,193 in the district. Deputy Commissioner Mir Reza Ozgen and District Health Officer Dr Gulman Shah told media that the number of coronavirus-infected patients were increasing with the passage of time as people were ignor.....

[more >>](#)

Managers of 29 restaurants arrested over SOPs violation

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-24

PESHAWAR - District administration Peshawar has arrested the managers of 29 restaurants and 18 shopkeepers during a crackdown on violators of Covid preventive standard operating procedures (SOPs) here Tuesday. District administration was observing Coronavirus awareness week and ensuring the implementation of official Covid-19 preventive SOPs and in this connection, Assistant Commissioner (AC).....

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More areas brought under smart lockdown in Peshawar

Source: [Bureau Report](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-25

PESHAWAR: The Peshawar district administration on Wednesday brought several areas under smart lockdown to control transmission of Covid-19. The district administration as per recommendations of the health department announced 'controlled entry and exit' of certain localities in the city owing to fear of transmission of the viral infection to other places. The areas brought under the

[more >>](#)

Rise in Covid-19 cases: Schools in 10 most affected KP districts to remain closed till April 11

Source: [Bureau Report](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-25

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has decided to continue with the closure of schools in the 10 most coronavirus-affected districts until April 11. The decision came in the wake of the directives of the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), which met in Islamabad on Wednesday. The NCOC at its meeting decided to authorise provinces to make decisions whether or not to reop.....

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24 shopkeepers arrested for violating SOPs in Peshawar

Source: [Bureau Report](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-25

PESHAWAR: District administration has arrested 24 shopkeepers during crackdown against the violators of the government set regulations for the control of Covid-19 cases. A press release issued from the office of the deputy commissioner said the administration was taking every step to control the spread of the coronavirus. It added that the officials inspected various bazaars across the dis.....

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Former senator Javed Abbasi contracts Covid-19

Source: [APP](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-25

ABBOTTABAD: Thirteen new cases of the novel coronavirus (Covid-19), including Pakistan Muslim League – Nawaz's former senator Barrister Javed Abbasi, tested positive in the district Abbottabad on Wednesday. He was quarantined at his residence in Abbottabad. The administration has imposed a smart lockdown in seven additional localities on the recommendations of the health department to.....

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Smart lockdown clamped on 18 localities of Peshawar

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-25

PESHAWAR: In wake of the third wave of Corona virus, district administration Peshawar has clamped smart lockdown in 18 localities of districts to arrest the growing cases of the pandemic. Out of the total 18 hotspots, 10 are situated in Hayatabad Township while two each are situated in Peshawar Cantonment and Warsak Road, while one each in the city and Jehangirabad localities. The distri.....

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Woman dies of Covid-19 in Nowshera

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-26

NOWSHERA: Another person lost life to coronavirus in Nowshera on Thursday, bringing the toll from the viral infection in the district to 71, officials said. Deputy Commissioner Raza Ozgan and District Health Officer Dr Gulman Shah shared the figures with the media. The officials said the latest victim of coronavirus was Yasmeen Bibi, a 57-year-old woman, from Pabbi tehsil of the Nowshera district.....

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Walk-in inoculation facility for senior K-P citizens

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-26

PESHAWAR: The Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa government on Wednesday allowed senior citizens of the province to avail the walk-in vaccination facility in the entire province. This development was confirmed by Public Health Director Dr Ikram Ullah. While speaking to The Express Tribune, he said that this facility is for those elderly citizens who did not receive their code despite the registration process. &.....

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Punjab

7 more deaths, 786 test positive in a day

Source: [Muhammad Qasim](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-23

Rawalpindi: On the fifth consecutive day, on Monday, well over 700 cases of coronavirus illness, COVID-19 have been reported from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district and it is alarming that the average number of patients being reported per day from the region has touched the highest figure since the advent of coronavirus in Pakistan. In the last 24 hours, the virus has claimed.....

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29 marriage halls sealed for SOPs breach

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-23

LAHORE: The district administration continued its crackdown on the violation of corona SOPs till late at night and sealed 29 marriage halls and other businesses here on Monday. Additional Deputy Commissioner General Shahid Abbas Kathia and Assistant Commissioner Shalimar Mansoor Qazi conducted a joint operation and sealed 22 marriage halls and eight shops. Assistant Commissioner City.....

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Punjab govt announces amendments to Covid-19 restrictions

Source: [News Desk](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-23

The Punjab government on Tuesday announced amendments in the restrictions earlier announced amid rising coronavirus cases in the province. According to the notification by Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department, all agriculture-related establishments and entities are exempted and allowed to operate 24 hours, seven days a week subject to the adoption of COVID-19 SOPs. All types of indoor d.....

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1,863 fresh cases, eight deaths reported; Corona positivity rate jumps to 10.77pc in Punjab

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-23

LAHORE: The positivity rate of coronavirus in the province has jumped up to 10.77 percent, as out of 17,298 Covid-19 tests conducted during the last 24 hours, as many as 1,863 fresh virus cases and eight fatalities were reported across Punjab taking the provincial tally of cases to 199,040 and death toll to 5,980. With the recovery of 999 more virus patients, the number of recovered patients

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Gilani, Mandviwalla get Covid jab

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-23

LAHORE: Former premier Yusuf Raza Gilani and former deputy chairman Senate Salim Mandviwalla received the first dose of Covid-19 vaccine at Expo Centre on Monday. Both of them visited the Expo Centre to get a dose of the vaccine. Speaking on the occasion, Mandviwalla expressed his concern over the rising number of corona patients in the country, saying that the public should use a face mask w.....

[more >>](#)

Marriage halls, shops, restaurants sealed over SOPs breach

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-23

LAHORE - The city district administration sealed 29 marriage halls, 12 shops and two restaurants and imposed heavy fine for violation of coronavirus related Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) here on Monday. According to a spokesperson for the district administration, Additional Deputy Commissioner General Shahid Kathia along with AC Mansoor Ahmed Qazi sealed 29 marriage halls and eight shops in Shal.....

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Theatre actors seek work opportunities amid pandemic

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-23

LAHORE: Members of the Punjab Artists and Producers Association in a press conference on Monday lamented that the commercial theatre industry was facing a severe crisis owing to the coronavirus. Addressing the conference at the press club, actor Shahid Khan said on one hand Covid had wreaked havoc on the theatre industry, while on the other, artists and producers were not safe. Association Chairm.....

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1,863 more Covid cases in Punjab

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-23

LAHORE: The Punjab province has recorded a total of 199,040 infections after 1,863 more people tested positive for the Covid-19 during the last 24 hours. Meanwhile, the Punjab government changed the schedule of closure of markets in seven districts of the province. It has directed the authorities to allow the districts including Gujrat, Bhakkar, Mianwali, Mandi Bahauddin, Faisalabad, and Multan

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Fatwa in favour of Covid vaccine

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-23

LAHORE: Issuing a fatwa (religious decree), Darul Ifta Pakistan on Monday declared vaccination against the coronavirus legal and permissible in accordance with Shariah, saying that it was needed to prevent the pandemic. At a press conference in the office of Muttahida Ulema Board, Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Religious Harmony and Middle East Hafiz Tahir Ashrafi announced the religious

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Three students, teacher contract Covid

Source: [Correspondent](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-24

SAHIWAL: Three students and a teacher of a private college have contracted Covid-19. An Urdu teacher and three students, two girls among them, have been tested positive. Masood Faridi, Director Colleges, Sahiwal Division told Dawn that the campus of the private college had been closed down for a week. Deputy Director Colleges Shabab Fatima said there were lapses in the implementation of the SOP.....

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Record one-day death tally in Punjab in five months

Source: [Asif Chaudhry](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-24

LAHORE: With record 57 deaths in a day for the previous five months, the total infections in Punjab crossed the 0.2 million mark after 1,929 more people tested positive for the virus during the last 24 hours. Punjab's total Covid deaths also crossed the 6,000 figures, the highest one in all the provinces and other regions of the country. Being the hotspot of coronavirus, Punjab is the only.....

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A year on, coronavirus cases continue to rise

Source: [Munawer Azeem | Aamir Yasin](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-24

ISLAMABAD: A year after the first Covid-19 case was detected in Pindi on March 23, Rawalpindi and Islamabad continue to reel from effects of the disease as 708 more patients were detected in the twin cities on Tuesday with positivity rate in the capital climbing to 10.9pc. Two people lost their lives in the garrison city while 109 were discharged from hospitals after recovering. Rohida Bibi, 67,.....

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Pakistani to get 7m vaccine jabs from China by April 15: Yasmin

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-03-24

Punjab Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid said on Tuesday that Pakistan would receive seven million more doses of the coronavirus vaccine by mid-April from China. "On March 28, another 1 million SinoPharm corona vaccines will arrive, and by April 15, 6 million vaccines from Sinopharm or CansinoBio will arrive," Dr Yasmin Rashid said on Twitter, referring to two Chinese vaccines cleared f.....

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Rise of Social Media in the World

Source: [Asif Malik](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-03-24

Social media has transformed the whole fabrication of the world. The rapid and vast adoption of social media technologies is changing how people build relationships, how they reach out to required information about entertainment, celebrities, businesses, and favorite topics of discussion, and importantly how people organize to demand political change. Who uses social media? When did the rise of so.....

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Twin cities witness another day with over 780 corona cases

Source: [Muhammad Qasim](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-24

Rawalpindi: For the fourth consecutive day, on Tuesday, 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 780. In the last 24 hours, 784 new patients have been confirmed positive for the disease from the region taking the tally to 67,788 while another five patients died of the il.....

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CCPO lauds police officials' role in enforcing corona SOPs

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-24

LAHORE:Capital City Police Officer Additional IG Ghulam Mahmood Dogar has said that Lahore police, being frontline soldiers, against COVID-19 have rendered exemplary services while facing vulnerable situations during the previous waves of corona pandemic. Along with the district government and other allied departments, Lahore police during the present severe wave of pandemic are also ensuring imp.....

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57 more die from corona

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-24

LAHORE: Around 57 patients died from COVID-19 and 1,929 new infections were confirmed in Punjab during the last 24 hours. According to report issued by Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD) on Monday, the death toll reached 6,037, while confirmed cases became 200,969 in the province. As per the spokesperson for Corona Monitoring Room at P&SHD, 20,279 tests have been conducted

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Public places; Police ensuring SOPs implementation: CCPO

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Big News Network China](#), 2021-03-24

LAHORE: Capital City Police Officer (CCPO), Ghulam Mehmood Dogar has said that the city police in collaboration with the district government and other allied departments ensuring implementation of Covid-19 Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in markets, trade centres and other public places to save citizens from this deadly virus. He said the Lahore police, being the frontline soldier against.....

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1,929 fresh cases, 57 deaths reported in Punjab

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-24

LAHORE: The positivity rate of coronavirus in the province has slightly declined from 10.77% to 9.51%, as out of 20,279 Covid-19 tests conducted during the last 24 hours, 1929 fresh virus cases reported. 57 fatalities were reported across Punjab taking the provincial tally of cases to 200,969 and death toll to 6037. With the recovery of 1200 more virus patients, the number of recovered patients.....

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Govt asked to commence corona vaccination for taxpayers

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-24

LAHORE: The Pakistan Industrial and Traders Association Front (PIAF) Chairman Mian Nauman Kabir has asked the government to also commence corona vaccination for taxpayers at the earliest, as mere less than 2 million tax payers are supporting the economy of the whole country. "At least taxpayers deserve this incentive of getting COVID-19 vaccinated on priority basis along with the health.....

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29 marriage halls, 12 shops sealed for violating SOPs

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-24

LAHORE: The Lahore District administration has sealed 29 marriage halls, 12 shops and three restaurants were sealed while the owners of marriage halls were arrested for not complying with the Coronavirus standard operating procedures (SOPs). As per the details released by the administration here on Monday, in a joint operation Additional Deputy Commissioner General Shahid Abbas Kathia and Ass.....

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Over 10 educational institutes sealed in Attock as corona cases surface

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-24

Attock - More than 10 educational institutes have been sealed for one week by the district administration owing to appearance of corona positive cases among the teachers and students. The step has been taken to control the rising cases. Meanwhile, number of positive cases in the district has reached upto 1,455. Those institutes which have been sealed include Government Degree College for Women Attock.....

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10 die of COVID-19, 579 test positive

Source: [Muhammad Qasim, The News, International](#), 2021-03-25

Rawalpindi: Another 10 confirmed patients of coronavirus illness, COVID-19 from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district died of the illness in the last 24 hours taking the death toll to 1,257 while 579 new patients have been tested positive for the disease that has taken tally to over 68,350 on Wednesday. It is worth mentioning here that less than 720 cases in a day have been reported.....

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Nine more die from corona in Punjab

Source: [Our Correspondent, The News, International](#), 2021-03-25

AHORE: Around nine patients died from COVID-19 and 1,774 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 6,046, while confirmed cases became 202,743 in the province. As per the spokesperson for Corona Monitoring Room at P&SHD, 17,933 tests have been cond.....

[more >>](#)

Resolution in PA against corona vaccine import

Source: [Our Correspondent, The News, International](#), 2021-03-25

LAHORE: A PML-N MPA tabled a resolution in Punjab Assembly against the decision of federal government to allow a private company to import corona vaccine. The text of the resolution submitted by PML-N member Hina Pervez Butt said that Pakistan was the first country to allow a private company to import the vaccine. The federal cabinet has set the price of the vaccine at Rs 8,449, which was 160.....

[more >>](#)

Lahore's coronavirus positivity ratio jumps past 18%

Source: [Web Desk, The News, International](#), 2021-03-25

LAHORE: Signs of the third coronavirus wave dying out looked dim in Lahore as the city's positivity ratio crossed 18% Thursday. The provincial health department said that 7,532 tests were carried out in Lahore in last 24 hours, out of which 1,366 returned positive. The new cases makes the positivity ratio of Lahore 18.14%. Meanwhile, Punjab as a whole recorded its highest number of single-da.....

[more >>](#)

Corona positivity rate jumps to 9.89pc in Punjab

Source: [Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-25

LAHORE: The positivity rate of coronavirus in the province has slightly increased from 9.51% to 9.89%, as out of 17,933 Covid-19 tests conducted during the last 24 hours, as many as 1774 fresh virus cases and 09 fatalities were reported across Punjab taking the provincial tally of cases to 202,743 and death toll to 6046. With the recovery of 44 more virus patients, the number of recovered pat.....

[more >>](#)

Seven shopkeepers arrested, 21 shops sealed for violating SOPs

Source: [Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-25

MULTAN - Local administration intensified crackdown against violators in view of rising numbers of coronavirus cases getting seven shopkeepers arrested, impounding 22 buses and sealed 21 shops on violations of coronavirus SOPs. According to details, Assistant Commissioner city Multan, Khawaja Umair Mahmood has arrested seven shopkeepers and sealed six shops during his visits to different markets.....

[more >>](#)

Two schools closed after employees test positive

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-25

MUZAFFARGARH - Two more schools were closed for ten days here on Wednesday by District Education Authority Muzaffargarh, after two officials were tested positive for novel coronavirus, officials said. A teacher of government elementary school Chopar Pur, Markaz Khangarh and a clerk of government higher secondary school Sheher Sultan were tested positive for novel coronavirus. District Education Au.....

[more >>](#)

Pandemic claims nine more lives

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-25

Lahore - As many as 1,774 cases of coronavirus were reported in Punjab on Wednesday while the pandemic claimed nine precious lives which turned the death toll to 6,046. According to the data shared by the spokesperson for Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (PP&SHD), the number of coronavirus cases in the province reached 202,743. The PP&SHD confirmed that 1184 new ca.....

[more >>](#)

Trains to run with 70pc occupancy

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-26

LAHORE: Pakistan Railways (PR) has decided to run passenger trains with 70 per cent occupancy and directed its all reservation offices to avoid making 100pc booking. A decision to this effect has been taken under the new restrictions imposed by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) in the wake of the third wave of the pandemic. "We have directed our entire reservation offices no.....

[more >>](#)

Load of critical patients in Lahore increasing alarmingly

Source: [Asif Chaudhry](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-25

LAHORE: The Covid-19 situation continues to worsen in Lahore's government teaching hospitals where the load of critical patients is increasing alarmingly, making it hard for the medical experts to manage the critical units. At the government hospitals, the intensive care units (ICUs) and the high dependency units (HDUs) are the two key facilities where the patients are reporting multiple co.....

[more >>](#)

11 areas in three Punjab cities under smart lockdown

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-26

LAHORE: Following the reports of persistent surge in the number of Covid-19 deaths and new positive cases in Punjab, the government has imposed smart lockdown in 11 areas of Rawalpindi, Gujranwala and Sialkot here on Thursday. While issuing a notification in this respect, the government said that the police and district authorities have sealed four areas each in Gujranwala and Sialkot and three i.....

[more >>](#)

Vaccination of Shehbaz ordered

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-26

LAHORE: An accountability court on Thursday allowed an application of Leader of Opposition in National Assembly Shehbaz Sharif, an under-trial prisoner of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB), and directed the Punjab home department to get him vaccinated against Covid-19 pandemic within two days. Earlier, the jail officials presented Shehbaz before the court for hearing of money laundering re.....

[more >>](#)

New catering regulations issued for domestic flights

Source: [Mohammad Asghar, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-26

RAWALPINDI: In light of the recent surge in Covid-19 cases in the country, Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (PCAA) has tightened catering regulations aboard domestic flights. Packaged water will now be available for passengers at their seats. All airlines engaged in operation of domestic flights within Pakistan are to serve only packaged water that must be placed in the designated space at seat.....

[more >>](#)

193 new Covid cases in Sialkot in two days

Source: [Nouman Abid Mehdi, Daily Times](#), 2021-03-26

The total number of Coronavirus patients increased to 1,369 from 1,176 in Sialkot district as 193 new cases of Coronavirus were reported in Sialkot district here during the last two days. Senior officials of the Sialkot health department confirmed this and said that the Coronavirus cases were on rise in both urban and rural areas of Sialkot district and the above mentioned Coronavirus patients we.....

[more >>](#)

865 COVID-19 cases, 2 deaths from twin cities

Source: [Muhammad Qasim, The News, International](#), 2021-03-26

Rawalpindi : The third wave of coronavirus illness, COVID-19 outbreak is hitting Rawalpindi district the worst for the last one week with over 1260 confirmed cases in the last seven days along with 28 deaths. In the last 24 hours, as many as 317 new patients have been reported from Rawalpindi which is the highest number of cases recorded from the district in a single day since the advent of coron.....

[more >>](#)

Pakistan has performed very well in corona 2nd, 3rd wave

Source: [Our Correspondent, The News, International](#), 2021-03-26

LAHORE: Punjab Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid distributed ventilators for 18 divisions at a ceremony held at Rescue 1122 Headquarters on Thursday. Punjab Emergency Services Director General Dr Rizwan Naseer, senior officials of Punjab Emergency Service, rescue and safety officers of 18 divisions and the representatives of different welfare organisations were also present on the occasion. Health

[more >>](#)

COVID-19 kills 51 more

Source: [Our Correspondent, The News, International](#), 2021-03-26

LAHORE: Around 51 more patients died from COVID-19 and 2,571 new infections were confirmed in Punjab during the last 24 hours. According to report issued by Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD) on Thursday, the death toll reached 6,097 in Punjab, while confirmed cases became 205,314 in the province.

[more >>](#)

Passengers without masks to be fined

Source: [Our Correspondent, The News, International](#), 2021-03-26

LAHORE: The Pakistan Railways authorities have ordered that only 70 per cent booking of passengers be made in trains in the wake of the corona epidemic. The authorities also said those travelling in trains without wearing masks would be fined.

[more >>](#)

Scientist Lone loses life to COVID-19

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-26

LAHORE: Professor Khalid Pervaz Lone, 72, former head to Department of Physiology and Cell Biology died following a couple of weeks' battle against COVID-19. He was a talented researcher, said UHS Vice-Chancellor Professor Javed Akram in his message on Thursday. "Beyond that, he will be remembered for his kindness, generosity and simplicity," said UHS VC offering sincere condole.....

[more >>](#)

CS directs implementation of corona SOPs in govt offices

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-26

LAHORE: The Punjab chief secretary on Thursday issued directions to the officers concerned for strict implementation of the SOPs prepared for prevention of coronavirus in all government offices, including Civil Secretariat. The CS issued the instructions during a briefing by the Services Secretary and Welfare Additional Secretary at Civil Secretariat. The chief secretary directed the Services Sec.....

[more >>](#)

Two more die of coronavirus in Rawalpindi

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-26

RAWALPINDI/ISLAMABAD: Two novel coronavirus patients lost their battle against the deadly disease at the Holy Family Hospital on Thursday in Rawalpindi while the number of patients on ventilators has also increased, a spokesperson said. He stated that there is a fear of a shortage of ventilators given a rise in cases in the twin cities. Moreover, with an addition of 317 more Covid-positive cases.....

[more >>](#)

51 more deaths, 2,571 new cases of coronavirus in Punjab

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-26

LAHORE - As many as 2,571 cases of coronavirus were reported in Punjab on Thursday, while the pandemic claimed 51 precious lives in 24 hours which pushed the death toll to 6,097. 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 205,314. P&SHD confirmed that 1366 new case.....

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71,433 senior citizens inoculated in 13 days

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-26

LAHORE - Deputy Commissioner Lahore, Mudassar Riaz on Thursday said that coronavirus vaccination has been administered to 71,433 senior citizens of ages 60 and above during last 13 days here in the provincial capital. In a statement, DC Lahore said that senior citizens expressed satisfaction over arrangements made for them at the vaccination centre at Expo Centre Lahore. He said that special per.....

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AC directs home dept to get Shehbaz vaccinated for Covid-19

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-26

LAHORE: An accountability court on Thursday directed the home department to get Leader of Opposition in National Assembly Shehbaz Sharif vaccinated for Covid-19 pandemic within two days. The court adjourned further hearing till Friday for testimony of more witnesses. Earlier the defence also cross-examined a prosecution witness Tanvir Hussain, a deputy commissioner of Inland Revenue depa.....

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23 shops, stores sealed for violating SOPs

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-26

LAHORE: For failing to comply with the Coronavirus standard operating procedures (SOPs), the Lahore district administration Lahore has sealed 23 shops, stores and marriage halls and imposed Rs 20,000 fines in the provincial capital. As per the details released by the administration here on Thursday, the Assistant Commissioner Cantonment sealed three marriage halls and 11 shops, including Roos.....

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Sindh**Sindh reports no death from Covid second day in a row**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-23

After reporting no death due to Covid-19 in Sindh over a 24-hour period on Sunday, the provincial government has announced that the province's respite has continued for 48 hours now. However, 174 more people have tested positive for the viral coronavirus infection. Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said in his daily situation report on the health emergency on Monday that since no de.....

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CAD shrinks 76pc to \$50m in February

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-23

KARACHI: The country's current account deficit (CAD) shrank 76 per cent month-on-month to \$50 million in February from \$210m in January. On a year-on-year basis, the CAD contracted 74.6pc from \$197m in February 2020. The State Bank's latest data showed the CAD was still in surplus with \$881 million during the first eight months of 2020-21. During the same period of last year the coun.....

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Importer to re-export Sputnik V if desired price not fixed

Source: [M Waqar Bhatti](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-24

KARACHI: Russian vaccine Sputnik V importer has threatened to 're-export' 50,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccine if the government does not set the desired price, officials say. The importer has also confirmed selling the shipment to some other country as "an option if appropriate price is not fixed". "AGP Limited, which imported 50,000 doses of Sputnik V, has durin.....

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Micro smart lockdowns ordered in more District Central areas

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-24

Due to an increase in Covid-19 cases, the District Central authorities have ordered micro smart lockdowns in more areas under its jurisdiction. Last week the district administration had ordered micro smart lockdowns in nine union councils of North Karachi, North Nazimabad and Gulberg until March 31. On Tuesday the District Central administration ordered lockdowns in three subdivisions in the Nort.....

[more >>](#)

Covid-19 claims three more lives, infects 200 others

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-24

Covid-19 claimed three more lives in Sindh during the last 24 hours, raising the death toll to 4,482 in the province. Chief Minister Murad Ali said in his daily situation report on the health emergency on Tuesday that 6,304 tests were conducted and 200 people were diagnosed with Covid-19, constituting a 3.2 per cent detection rate. He said the government had so far conducted 3,225,544 tests, agai.....

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Sindh reports 3 deaths, 200 Covid infections

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-24

KARACHI: After two days of no coronavirus-related fatalities reported, Sindh saw three coronavirus-related deaths on Tuesday and 200 fresh cases, according to a statement issued by the Chief Minister's House on the day. With the recent cases and fatalities, the provincial pandemic tally stood at 263,663 while the death toll climbed to 4,482, said Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah. As many as.....

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Covid-19 claims 3 more lives in Sindh

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-24

KARACHI: As many as 3 more patients of coronavirus died overnight lifting the death toll to 4,482 and 200 new cases emerged when 6,304 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued here on Tuesday. He added that 3 more patients of Covid-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 4,482 that constituted 1.7 percent death rate. Sh.....

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COVID-19 claims 3 more patients, infects 200 others

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-24

KARACHI - As many as 3 more patients of coronavirus died overnight lifting the death toll to 4,482 and 200 new cases emerged when 6,304 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued here on Tuesday. He added that 3 more patients of COVID-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 4,482 that constituted 1.7 percent death rate. Shah

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Karachi: Smart lockdowns to be imposed in few union councils of Baldia Town, SITE

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-24

A person getting his temperature checked as part of the government's mandated coronavirus standard operating procedures (SOPs). Photo: File. The government of Sindh on Wednesday announced that a smart lockdown will be imposed in two sub-divisions of Keamari District in Karachi. According to a notification issued in this regard, the decision was taken after the district health officer id.....

[more >>](#)

No death as 151 test positive for Covid-19 in Sindh

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-25

Sindh Education Minister Saeed Ghani said on Wednesday that all the educational institutions across the province will continue to function in accordance with the current policy of the provincial government. "At present, the situation in Sindh is under control, but if the SOPs [standard operating procedures] are not implemented, it would create problems," Ghani said while.....

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Central District; Micro-smart lockdown imposed in some areas

Source: [INP](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-25

KARACHI: The deputy commissioner of the Central District of Karachi on Wednesday imposed micro smart lockdown in some areas of three subdivisions to stop the spread of coronavirus. The micro smart lockdown will remain implemented in union councils and units of North Karachi, North Nazimabad and Liaquatabad till April 6 according to the notification. The lockdown has been imposed after identificati.....

[more >>](#)

151 new cases of corona detected, no death reported

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-25

KARACHI - Fortunately no death stemming from coronavirus was reported on Wednesday; however, 151 new cases emerged when 8,000 tests were conducted in Sindh. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued from CM House on Wednesday. Shah said that fortunately, no death was reported on Wednesday. He added that till last Tuesday, the number deaths across S.....

[more >>](#)

Ex-Governor visits COVID-19 vaccination centre

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-25

KARACHI - Senior leader of PML-N and former Governor Sindh Muhammad Zubair got COVID-19 jab at the Arts Council's vaccination centre on Wednesday. Speaking on the occasion, Muhammad Zubair said that Arts Council deserved appreciation for taking the responsibility of providing COVID-19 vaccination facility. He was happy to see the efforts and hard work of the Arts Council's team and pra.....

[more >>](#)

Health dept enhances COVID screening, testing in Karachi

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-25

KARACHI - Sindh Health Department has enhanced the screening and testing capacity of coronavirus (COVID-19) suspected cases in Karachi division and District Health Officer (DHO) has been instructed to conduct at least 600 PCR tests per day. Sources at Sindh Health Department told PPI that screening and testing of COVID suspected cases had been increased after a surge in corona cases in Punjab and

[more >>](#)

All educational institutions to remain open in Sindh

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-25

KARACHI: Sindh Education Minister Saeed Ghani announced on Wednesday that all educational institutions across Sindh would remain open as usual. He made this announcement while talking to the media after the meeting of the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC). About what is going on regarding education as per the NCOC, the minister said that it was agreed in the meeting that no one would

[more >>](#)

O Level exams to be held after May 15, says minister

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-26

KARACHI: Federal Education Minister Shafqat Mahmood said on Thursday that the Cambridge Assessment International Education would hold O Level exams in Pakistan after May 15, but the A Level exams would be held as per schedule. However, the Cambridge International made no announcement and the minister said the organisation would share the details later. Mr Mahmood said in a tweet: "After de.....

[more >>](#)

Health workers to lose job for Covid-19 vaccine refusal: Pechuho

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-03-26

Sindh Health Minister Dr Azra Fazal Pechuho warned on Thursday that over 33,000 frontline health workers in her province could lose jobs if they refuse inoculation against Covid-19. "If you do not get yourself vaccinated in the coming days, I can assure you that you will lose your job," Dr Pechuho warned in a video message. She said that 142,315 health workers had registered themselv.....

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Dr Azra warns health workers refusing vaccine of being fired

Source: [M Waqar Bhatti](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-26

Sindh's health minister has once again warned the healthcare workers who have been refusing the Covid-19 vaccine that they can lose their jobs, saying that they are among the few fortunate people in the world who have not only been offered the vaccine free of charge but also on a priority basis. Dr Azra Pechuho said in her video message on Thursday that 142,315 healthcare workers had gotten.....

[more >>](#)

Covid-19 claims four more lives, infects 247 others

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-26

Covid-19 claimed four lives in Sindh during last 24 hours, raising the death toll to 4,486 in the province while 280 patients were under treatment at different hospitals, of which condition of 251 patients was stated to be critical while 40 were on life support. In addition to four more deaths overnight in the province, 247 new cases emerged when 8,506 tests were conducted, Sindh Chief Minister S.....

[more >>](#)

More areas come under smart lockdown in District Central

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-26

For the third time in March, different areas of District Central have been placed under a smart lockdown. Last week, the district administration had ordered micro smart lockdowns in nine union councils of North Karachi, North Nazimabad and Gulberg until March 31. On Tuesday, the administration ordered lockdowns in three subdivisions in the North Karachi, North Nazimabad and Liaquatabad towns until.....

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'Record number of complaints in 2020'

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-26

HYDERABAD: Federal Ombudsperson Syed Tahir Shahbaz has said that his office received and issued orders on a record number of complaints during 2020, despite the Covid-19 pandemic and recurring lockdowns. Addressing a press conference in Hyderabad on Thursday, he said his department received a record number of over 135,000 complaints and issued decisions over more than 130,000 complaints- both th.....

[more >>](#)

'Over 30,000 health workers yet to receive anti-Covid jabs'

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-26

KARACHI: Over 30,000 health workers have yet to be inoculated with the coronavirus vaccine, said Sindh Health Minister Dr Azra Pechuho on Thursday as she reassured health workers and citizens that despite speculation the anti-Covid jab is safe to receive. The health minister stressed that healthcare workers who do are refusing the vaccine are at risk of infecting others as well as they may come

[more >>](#)

Over 200 new infections emerge in Sindh

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-26

KARACHI: The pandemic claimed four lives in Sindh and over 200 new infections were detected, it emerged on Thursday. Another 247 infections were diagnosed when 8,506 samples were tested for the contagion, according to a statement issued by the Chief Minister's House on the day. The provincial pandemic tally and death toll rose to 264,061 and 4,486, respectively, with the recent cases and death.....

[more >>](#)

COVID-19 claims four more lives

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-26

KARACHI-As many as four more patients of coronavirus died in Sindh overnight, lifting the death toll to 4,486 while 247 new cases emerged when 8,506 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued on Thursday. He added that four more patients of COVID-19 lost their lives in the province, lifting the death toll to 4,486 that constitu.....

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No major side effect of Covid-19 vaccine: minister

Source: [PPI](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-26

KARACHI: Minister for Health and Population Welfare, Sindh, Dr Azra Pechuho in her video message to healthcare workers refusing to get the vaccine said on Thursday that about 142,315 healthcare workers were registered to receive the Covid-19 vaccine; however, 33,356 had not done so. There may be some fake news and disinformation regarding the vaccine that is why some healthcare workers may be.....

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International News

Countries News

Growing global vaccine gap 'grotesque': WHO

Source: [AFP](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-23

GENEVA: The World Health Organization on Monday blasted the growing gap between the number of coronavirus vaccines administered in rich and poor countries, branding the inequity a global "moral outrage". The WHO tore into wealthy nations now vaccinating younger people at low risk of developing Covid-19 disease, bluntly saying they were costing vulnerable people's lives in low-income[more >>](#)

Germany poised to tighten curbs into April as virus rages

Source: [Agencies](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-23

Berlin - Germany is poised to tighten a partial lockdown into April to halt an exponential spread of the coronavirus driven by variants. Europe's biggest economy had progressively began easing restrictions, first reopening schools in late February, before allowing some shops to resume business in March. But hopes for indoor dining, cultural and leisure facilities to follow suit will no.....[more >>](#)

Madagascar leader backs herbal 'cure' over Covid vaccines

Source: [Agencies](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-23

Antananarivo - Madagascar's President Andry Rajoelina has said he does not plan to vaccinate himself against Covid-19, preferring a herbal "remedy", and is in no hurry to launch mass inoculations for his citizens. "Personally I have not yet been vaccinated and I do not have any intention of getting vaccinated," he said in a televised address late Saturday. Rajoel.....

[more >>](#)

One in three Covid survivors suffer long-term health issues: review

Source: [AFP](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-23

PARIS: At least one in three patients hospitalised with Covid-19 suffer long-term health issues including multiple organ problems and deteriorated mental health, according to a review of studies looking at the lasting impact of the disease. Published in the journal Nature Medicine on Monday, the review looked at the frequency of symptoms among Covid "long-haulers", the most common of

[more >>](#)

Growing global vaccine gap 'grotesque', says WHO

Source: [AFP](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-23

GENEVA: The World Health Organisation on Monday blasted the growing gap between the number of coronavirus vaccines administered in rich and poor countries, branding the inequity a global "moral outrage". The WHO tore into wealthy nations now vaccinating younger people at low risk of developing Covid-19 disease, bluntly saying they were costing vulnerable people's lives in low-in.....

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Germany to enter strict Easter shutdown amid 'new pandemic'

Source: [AFP](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-24

BERLIN: Germany will enter a strict shutdown for five days over Easter amid surging virus rates, Chancellor Angela Merkel and regional leaders agreed on Tuesday as criticism mounted over the government's handling of the pandemic. As well as extending existing measures including keeping cultural, leisure and sporting facilities shut through to April 18, Merkel and Germany's 16 state pr.....

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AstraZeneca US trials thrown into doubt after promising data

Source: [AFP](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-24

WASHINGTON: A US health agency raised concerns on Tuesday that AstraZeneca may have included out-of-date information during trials of its Covid-19 vaccine, a day after the company said its drug was highly effective in preventing the disease. The Anglo-Swedish pharma giant stood by its assessment of the results of its US trials, saying it would publish new data “within 48 hours” in res.....

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Women in 40s, 50s who survive Covid more likely to suffer persistent problems: UK studies

Source: [Reuters](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-24

LONDON: Women in their 40s and 50s appear more at risk of long-term problems following discharge from hospital after Covid-19, with many suffering months of persistent symptoms such as fatigue, breathlessness and brain fog, two UK studies found on Wednesday. One study found that five months after leaving hospital, Covid-19 patients who were also middle-aged, white, female, and had other health pro.....

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India detects novel coronavirus variant

Source: [Reuters](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-24

NEW DELHI,: India has detected a new “double mutant variant” of the novel coronavirus, the health ministry said on Wednesday, adding to concern as the government struggles with the highest single-day tally of new infections and deaths this year. Genome sequencing and analysis of samples from Maharashtra state found mutations in the virus that do not match previously catalogued &ldquo.....

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‘Alarm bells’: Brazil’s Covid-19 chaos sparks fear, countermeasures from neighbors

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-03-26

When the Copa America basketball tournament got underway last month in the midst of a pandemic, the hosts in Cali, Colombia took no chances. Players and staff from participating men’s national teams from around Latin America lived in a local “bubble” without contact with outsiders; all were tested regularly for Covid-19. Missing from the contest was Brazil. The country has been.....

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CAREC mulls role of think-tanks amid Covid

Source: [News Desk](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-03-26

The Central Asian Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Institute – a knowledge arm of the CAREC Programme – organized a virtual dialogue under the CAREC Think Tank Network (CTTN) to encourage regional perspectives and raise the critical role of think tanks in bridging the gap between knowledge and policy, says a press release issued by the institute. CAREC is an inter-governmental fo.....

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COVAX vaccines for countries including Pakistan delayed by India: Gavi

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-03-26

India is holding up export licences for COVID-19 vaccines destined for poor countries including Pakistan due to increased domestic demand as its own cases rise, COVAX facility co-leader Gavi said on Thursday. The AstraZeneca-Oxford vaccine is being produced under licence in India for the Covax scheme, also led by the World Health Organization (WHO), which is meant to ensure that low-income countr.....

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Macron’s Covid strategy: ‘third way’ or wrong way?

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-03-26

Is it a lockdown, a loose lockdown or something different? A week after the announcement of new restrictions in Paris, many residents in the capital are unsure what to call it and the government is still adjusting its strategy. “People are still working, taking the metro, going shopping, life’s carrying on,” 64-year-old hospital worker Lydia Moyal told AFP as she strolled near t.....

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COVAX vaccine deliveries to be delayed as India holds back export licences

Source: [AFP](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-26

BRUSSELS: Gavi Alliance says vaccine supply to poor countries could face a setback as India was delaying exports of much-needed jabs. The widening gap for vaccine access complicates the world’s eventual exit from the pandemic through a global immunisation drive, as third waves sweep several countries and force governments to reimpose tough anti-virus restrictions. At the centre of much of th.....

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Other SDPI Engagements

MoUs News

PCSTSI, SDPI sign MoU

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-24

PESHAWAR: Peshawar Chamber of Small Traders & Small Industries (PCSTSI) and Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for conducting joint research for developing business friendly policies and exchange of researchers and technical information between each other, said a news release issued here Tuesday. The memorandum was signed by Preside.....[more >>](#)

PCSTSI, SDPI sign accord for joint research

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-25

Peshawar - Peshawar Chamber of Small Traders & Small Industries (PCSTSI) and Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) on Wednesday signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for conducting joint research for developing business-friendly policies and exchange of researchers and technical information between each other, a release issued here said. The MOU was signed by President PCST.....[more >>](#)

Webinar News

Distributive justice in water management underscored

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-24

Islamabad: Distributive justice in water management is direly needed to address water shortages, especially in the South Asian region. Without a comprehensive understanding of real and multidimensional value of water, safeguarding this critical resource for the benefit of everyone would not be a possibility. This was crux of the thoughts shared by experts from water, environment and agricu.....[more >>](#)

Justice in water distribution only way forward to deal with its growing scarcity: Experts

Source: [News Desk](#), [Pakistan Observer](#), 2021-03-24

Bringing distributive justice in water management is need of the hour to overcome water scarcity, especially in the South Asian region. Without a comprehensive understanding of real and multidimensional value of water,

safeguarding this critical resource for the benefit of everyone would not be a possibility. The experts from water, environment and agriculture sectors said this while sharing the.....[more >>](#)

Distributive Justice is the way forward for dealing with growing water scarcity: Experts

Source: [Tariq Ullah Wardak](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-03-24

Bringing distributive justice in water management is need of the hour to overcome water scarcity, especially in the South Asian region. Without a comprehensive understanding of real and multidimensional value of water, safeguarding this critical resource for the benefit of everyone would not be a possibility. The experts from water, environment and agriculture sectors said this while sharing their.....[more >>](#)

'BOT mode be preferred in public-private partnership'

Source: [Rasheed Khalid](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-25

Islamabad: Muhammad Ali Qureshi from United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) has said that more Public-Private Partnership models need to be explored and the projects based on Build Operate and Transfer (BOT) mode should be preferred as they are more financially feasible Mr Qureshi was addressing a hybrid public-private dialogue on "Potential of renewable energy and hydro.....[more >>](#)

Public-private Partnership In Energy Sector An Excellent Proposition

Source: [APP](#), [UrduPoint](#), 2021-03-25

ISLAMABAD, (APP - UrduPoint / Pakistan Point News - 24th Mar, 2021) :Adviser to the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Energy and Power, Himayat Ullah Khan Wednesday said public-private partnership in energy sector was an excellent proposition. The Hydro projects were environmental-friendly and create good socio-economic impacts besides being cost-effective. Thus, it makes hydro-projects suitable.....

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'Distributive justice solution to water scarcity'

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-25

ISLAMABAD: It is an indisputable fact that for life to sustain itself on the planet, water is the most precious resource as humans are resilient to bear the harshest vicissitudes of life but can not do so without the lifeblood that is water. It is therefore paramount and imperative to bring distributive justice in water management which is the need of the hour to overcome water scarcity, especially.....

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Himayat says KP offers huge prospects for public-private partnership

Source: [DNA](#), [DNA News](#), 2021-03-24

ISLAMABAD, MAR 24 (DNA) – Advisor to Chief Minister, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Energy and Power, Himayat Ullah Khan, has said that the profit-sharing with provinces in hydropower sector is necessary for the effective sustainability of the projects. He said this while sharing his views with the participants at public-private dialogue 'Potential of renewable energy and hydropower development.....

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Renewable energy sector: 'KP offers huge prospects for public-private partnership'

Source: [Amjad Ali Shah](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-26

PESHAWAR: Speakers at a dialogue stated that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has offered huge prospects for public-private partnership in renewable sector. A dialogue on "Potential of renewable energy and hydropower development in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: Opportunities and Challenges" arranged by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Board of Investment and Trade (KP-BOIT) here, in which Advisor to Chief Minister on Energy.....

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KP offers huge prospects for public-private partnership in renewable energy sector

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Pakistan Observer](#), 2021-03-26

Advisor to Chief Minister, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Energy and Power, Himayat Ullah Khan, has said that the profit sharing with provinces in hydropower sector is necessary for the effective sustainability of the projects. He said this while sharing his views with the participants at public private dialogue 'Potential of renewable energy and hydropower development in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: Opportu.....

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TACKLING ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT CRISES ARE IMPORTANT TO ENSURE NATIONAL SECURITY: SPEAKERS

Source: [DNA News](#), [DNA News](#), 2021-03-26

ISLAMABAD, MAR 26 (DNA) – The speakers at a webinar on “Non-traditional security challenges- energy and environment crises’ organized by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) urged the need to give an equal importance to country’s non-traditional security challenges such as energy and environment crises to ensure our national security. They were of the view t.....

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Tackling Energy, Environment Crises are Important to Ensure National Security: Speakers

Source: [DNA](#), [Daily Islamabad Post](#), 2021-03-26

ISLAMABAD, MAR 26 (DNA) – The speakers at a webinar on “Non-traditional security challenges- energy and environment crises’ organized by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) urged the need to give an equal importance to country’s non-traditional security challenges such as energy and environment crises to ensure our national security. They were of the view t.....

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Tackling energy, environment crises are important to ensure national security: Speakers

Source: [Web News](#), [Telecoalert](#), 2021-03-26

ISLAMABAD (Web News) The speakers at a webinar on “Non-traditional security challenges- energy and environment crises’ organized by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) urged the need to give an equal importance to country’s non-traditional security challenges such as energy and environment crises to ensure our national security. They were of the view that tradi.....

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SDPI's Related News

World Water Day 2021 – Experts stress collaborative measures to value depleting natural resources

Source: [Web Desk](#), [Daily Pakistan](#), 2021-03-23

LAHORE - A panel of distinguished experts stressed the need for collaborative national measures to value the “Source of Life” across multiple sectors keeping in view the dwindling natural resource. The experts gathered for a webinar under the banner of International Water Management Institute (IWMI) Pakistan on World Water Day, here on Monday. Moderating the session, Dr Mohsin Hafe.....

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‘Think tanks need to be relevant in crises’

Source: [Our Reporter](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-03-26

LAHORE: Think tanks need to produce topical, timely, and user-friendly analysis in the right form and right hands, and at the right time to remain relevant in an increasingly noisy and challenging operational environment, a statement said on Thursday. This consensus came to fore in a virtual dialogue organised by the Central Asian Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Institute under the C.....

[more >>](#)**CAREC Institute organises virtual dialogue under CTTN**Source: [Press Release](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-03-26

LAHORE-The Central Asian Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Institute - a knowledge arm of the CAREC Programme – organized a virtual dialogue under the CAREC Think Tank Network (CTTN) to encourage regional perspectives and raise the critical role of think tanks in bridging the gap between knowledge and policy. CAREC is an inter-governmental forum representing 11 countries - Afghanistan, A.....

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