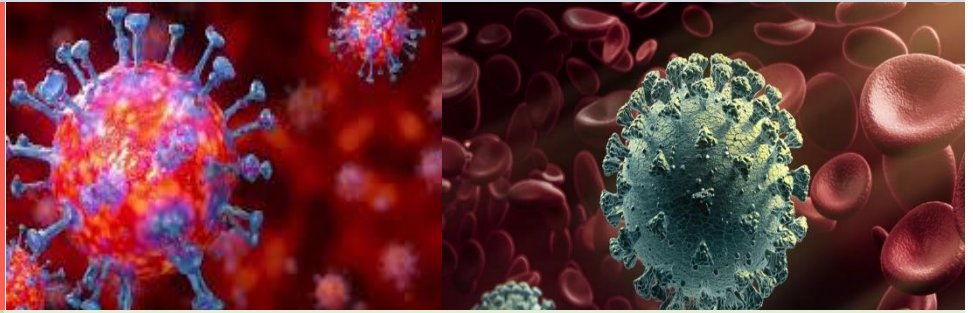


E-Newsletter on COVID-19



Vol. 02, No, 28



Issue: 03-05 April, 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

Dangerous third wave and charter of unity against Covid-19

Source: [Aftab Alam Khan](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-03

The third wave of Covid-19 is rising with a dangerous trend. Mass awareness campaigns by the government, media and private sector are important but insufficient to stop the violation of SOPs. The lives and livelihoods of millions of people are at risk and to prevent a catastrophic scenario Pakistan needs urgent reinvigoration at the national and local levels to persuade and motivate people to adhere.....[more >>](#)

Producing Locally

Source: [Editorial](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-03

In a breakthrough deal with a Chinese pharmaceutical company, the production of Covid-19 vaccines in Pakistan has officially been given the green light. Accordingly, the potential of expanding the vaccination drive has increased substantially. The only matter of concern right now is to determine the timeline since large doses of Sputnik V and Cansino are also expected to arrive shortly. Cooperatio.....[more >>](#)

Third wave repercussions

Source: [Sarwat Ali](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-04-04

A new solution was suggested at a concert held in Barcelona, which countered the optimism that the pandemic was receding any time soon. The current wave may have put a dampener on the sanguine souls wanting an early return to the activity that we have grown familiar with without ever thinking that it could be put to an end or halted due to circumstances arising unexpectedly. The event in Barcelona[more >>](#)

The third wave

Source: [Mubasher Bukhari](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-04-04

The third wave of the pandemic continues to sweep across Pakistan's cities and the ongoing government-run vaccination drive in the country has had no impact on it. The latest surge in fresh cases is being associated with a new variant of Covid-19 that is spreading rapidly across the globe. It has now hit Pakistan and the infections' spike is growing steeper by the day. Besides ordinar.....[more >>](#)

The rebound challenge

Source: [Sayem Z Ali](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-04-04

2020 was a challenging year for the Indian economy, witnessing its first recession since the 1980s. According to the latest IMFWorld Economic Outlookreport (January 2021), the Indian economy is expected to contract by 8 percent in 2020-21, making it the second-worst performer in Asia. The year started with countrywide protests by farmers, including the siege of the capital, New Delhi, amid clashe.....

[more >>](#)

Standard procedures?

Source: [Ahsan Zia](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-04-04

In a recent move, the city police have launched a crackdown on violators of the Covid-19 related Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) such as mask-wearing. The police have been arresting the violators and lodging FIRs against them. The drive is seen by many as a poor way to contain the spread of the pandemic. Videos and images of incidents in which the violators were subjected to corporal punish.....

[more >>](#)

The system in place!

Source: [Ahmed Ahsan](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-04-04

Lahore's Expo Centre — once the city's largest Covid-19 treatment facility — is currently operating as an adult vaccination centre (AVC) under the National Immunisation Management System (NIMS). The centre is now administering coronavirus vaccine to people aged 50 and above. It is scheduled to operate for 12 hours — that is, from 8am to 8pm — each day. A recent

[more >>](#)

Covid urgency

Source: [Editorial](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-04-04

The coronavirus pandemic has now taken the entire territory of Pakistan in its cruel grip. Already, travel to the UK has been put under strict restrictions by London while hospitals across the country are overwhelmed by the number of patients pouring in on a daily basis. The prevalence of the UK-strain of the virus means more serious disease, swifter transmission and more fatalities. There.....

[more >>](#)

Dangerous optics

Source: [Waqas Younas](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-04

ON March 25, Federal Minister of Information and Broadcasting Shibli Faraz shared a photo on his Twitter account that showed the prime minister who had tested positive for Covid-19 (I pray for his complete recovery) a few days before the picture was taken, meeting six men indoors. The minister captioned the photo, "Prime minister with the media team today at Bani gala". This photo was.....

[more >>](#)

Vaccine elitism

Source: [EDITORIAL](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-05

THE culture of entitlement prevalent in this society appears to have wavered not a whit even during a national health crisis. Reports have surfaced that 1,400 vaccine doses at three government hospitals in Lahore — Mayo, Services and Mozang — have allegedly either gone 'missing' or 'been administered to unauthorised persons', while many vials have spoiled. In Mo.....

[more >>](#)

An era of fake news?

Source: [Maleeha Lodhi](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-05

THE danger that misleading or false information poses to society has been grimly demonstrated during the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. Despite the deadly threat from the virus, many people's response across the world has often been shaped by misinformation fed through digital platforms. This has either made them trivialise the disease or resort to 'cures' without any basis in scienc.....

[more >>](#)

Rules in crisis

Source: [Neda Mulji](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-05

RULES are only as important as the purpose they serve and, like most other significant lifestyle changes, they must evolve with the times. Children have had to put up with stringent protocols during school hours due to the pandemic. From a no 'food sharing policy' to keeping masks on in the heat, from little or no play due to the risk of physical contact, to keeping vigilant at all ti.....

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National News

AJK

AJK PM warns of three-week lockdown if SOPs not observed

Source: [APP](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-04-04

MUZAFFARABAD: Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Prime Minister Raja Farooq Haider Khan has signaled that three weeks complete lock down would be imposed if the citizens continued violating SOPs as the corona cases were swiftly increasing in the state. He warned that if this pandemic was not controlled, the dead bodies would be found on the roads helplessly and nobody will be available to collect and bur.....[more >>](#)

Gilgit Baltistan

Pak-China border to be reopened as soon as Chinese authorities lift COVID-19 restrictions

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-04

GILGIT/ISLAMABAD - Federal Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed said Saturday that Pakistan Tahreek-e Insaf government had taken concrete measures to revive tourism industry in Gilgit-Baltistan. "Online visa facility has been introduced to encourage foreign tourists in the country," the minister said during his visit to Altit Fort, Hunza, Gilgit-Baltistan. On this occasion music[more >>](#)

Islamabad

COVID-19 situation gets alarming in twin cities

Source: [Muhammad Qasim](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-04-03

Rawalpindi : For the first time in the history of COVID-19 in Pakistan, it happened that over 1,000 patients have been tested positive in a day from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district setting a new record for the highest number of cases reported in a day with 1,143 patients. Along with confirmation of 1,143 patients positive, another nine patients from the region have lost.....[more >>](#)

Pakistan sees slight decrease in number of daily Covid-19 cases At least 84 people lost their lives in the past 24 hours

Source: [News Desk](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-03

Pakistan recorded 4,723 new coronavirus cases on Saturday for the previous 24-hr period, bringing the total nationwide tally of active patients to 58,500. At least 84 people lost their lives during the past 24 hours, out of which eight patients were on ventilator support. Province-wise, most deaths occurred in Punjab followed by Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P). Four cities with the highest ventilator occupan.....[more >>](#)

388 positive cases in ICT, 308 in Rawalpindi

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-03

ISLAMABAD/RAWALPINDI: The third wave of the novel coronavirus has continued to intensify in the twin cities, with the federal capital reporting 388 more positive cases and Rawalpindi recording 308 new cases. As many as 52 Covid-positive patients are on ventilators in Islamabad. Moreover, beds have been allotted for Covid-positive patients at Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences, Poly Clinic Ho.....[more >>](#)

Academic policies be centred around post-Covid world

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-03

ISLAMABAD: The education industry has taken a massive hit since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic last year. Educational institutions have had to re-visit policies with regard to online and distance learning, however, efforts need to be made to rebuild the role of academic institutions. This was stated by speakers at a webinar entitled 'Role of institutions and teachers in shaping the youth.....

[more >>](#)

83 more die of Covid-19 across country

Source: [Abdul Rasheed Azad](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-03

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has recorded the highest number of coronavirus infections after nine months as the country reported 5,234 new Covid-19 cases in the past 24 hours, and reported 83 Covid-19 deaths. According to the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), the country on June 20, 2020 during the first Covid-19 wave registered 6,604 coronavirus cases. The NCOC data said that over th.....

[more >>](#)

Centre reports record single-day rise in infections

Source: [Tahir Niaz](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-03

ISLAMABAD - The national tally on Friday of total active COVID-19 cases recorded 56,347 with 5,234 more people tested positive for the deadly virus and 1,931 people recovered from the disease during the last 24 hours. At least 83 corona patients have died during past 24 hours, 76 of whom were under treatment in hospital and seven out of the hospital in their respective quarantines or homes.

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No major deviation in positivity ratio among children: NCOC

Source: [Aamir Yasin](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-03

ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Friday said there was no major deviation in positivity ratio of the coronavirus among children from the statistics of two previous waves. The NCOC, however, said that it had taken stock of the reported surge in positive Covid-19 cases among children. "There is no deviation in positivity ratio in children as compared to previous

[more >>](#)

World Bank to help KP govt deal with post-Covid situation

Source: [Amin Ahmed](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-03

ISLAMABAD: The World Bank is working with the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government to prepare a programme that will help the latter respond to the post Covid-19 recovery agenda and deal with longstanding deficiencies in the public finance management. The programme, titled Spending Effectively for Enhanced Development (Speed), will support selected actions of public financial management strategy, health

[more >>](#)

Opposition wants PM to answer queries in NA

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-03

ISLAMABAD: Describing Prime Minister Imran Khan's initiative to receive 'direct' phone calls from the public (in a telethon) to solve their problems as 'an attempt to seek political mileage', the opposition in the National Assembly on Friday asked him to answer queries of the lawmakers who represented the 220 million people of Pakistan. Besides, the opposition lashed.....

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FPSC set to go ahead with exam from April 12 despite Covid-19

Source: [Malik Asad](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-03

ISLAMABAD: While educational institutions are still unsure of resuming classes after April 11, the Federal Public Service Commission (FPSC) is firmed to hold the exam of under-training officers of three service cadres from April 12. According to the schedule for final passing-out examination 2021, under-training officers of Information Group, Postal Group and Police Service of Pakistan will come.....

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Seven more areas in capital sealed

Source: [Mohammad Asghar](#) | [Munawer Azeem](#) | [Aamir Yasin](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-03

ISLAMABAD: Seven more areas in the capital were on Friday sealed due to a sharp increase in the Covid-19 cases. These areas are Bahria Town Phase II and III, Soan Garden Block B, PWD Block C, Korang Town, Pakistan Town Phase I, National Police Foundation Block A and DHA Phase II sector A, B, D and E. Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Mohammad Hamza Shafqaat said these localities were sealed as the

[more >>](#)

Over 5,000 test positive for coronavirus in Pakistan as third wave continues unabated

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-04-04

The third wave of the coronavirus continued to intensify its grip on the country, with over 5,000 testing positive for the virus on Saturday, as per data from the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC). The NCOC said eighty-one people died from the coronavirus on Saturday, among them 74 died in hospitals while seven passed away outside of hospitals. As many as 5,020 people tested po.....

[more >>](#)

'Pandemic has threatened education systems'

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-04-04

Islamabad : The education systems and educational institutions are under serious threat after the outbreak of COVID-19, so there's a need to review their relevant policies and rebuild the role of academic institutions and teachers to be better equipped in the new virtual world, improved learning process through innovative capacity building programmes and leadership development mechanisms.

[more >>](#)

Pakistan sees highest ever number of Covid patients in critical care

Source: [News Desk](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-04

ISLAMABAD: National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) chief Federal Minister Asad Umar said on Sunday that Pakistan's tally for critical Covid patients reached 3,568 yesterday, the highest the country has seen so far. "This is the highest number since Covid started," the minister said, expressing his concern on Twitter. Cautioning the masses, Umar further said that there was a need.....

[more >>](#)

People can get single-shot vaccines from tomorrow

Source: [Razya Khan](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-04

ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) was informed on Saturday that the public administration of single-dose CanSino coronavirus vaccine would commence in all the provinces from Monday (tomorrow). The morning session of the NCOC, co-chaired by Planning Minister Asad Umar and National Coordinator Lt Gen Hamooduz Zaman Khan, reviewed the prevailing Covid-19 pandemic situation a.....

[more >>](#)

Mosques to remain open during Ramazan

Source: [APP & PPI](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-04-04

ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) Saturday issued Ramadan guidelines to control the spread of person-to-person transmission of COVID-19. According to NCOC, the guidelines were issued as per a unanimous declaration from the president in consultation with the Ulema for Taraweeh prayers arrangements in mosques and Imambargahs. The administrations of mosques and Imambargahs.....

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Govt plan aimed at vaccinating 70m people against Covid-19 by CY21-end: IMF

Source: [Tahir Amin](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-04

ISLAMABAD: The government is targeting vaccinating 70 million people by the end of calendar year 2021 as under the National Deployment and Vaccination Plan (NDVP), the country has put together an ambitious plan to procure vaccines through three channels including donations, outright government purchases, and private imports of vaccine. This has been stated by the International Monetary Fund (.....

[more >>](#)

CanSino Covid vaccine;Single dose administration to commence from tomorrow, NCOC told

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-04

ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), on Saturday, was informed that the single dose CanSino Covid vaccine administration would commence in all the provinces from Monday (5 April) onwards. The NCOC morning session was held with Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar in chair through video link and co-chaired by National Coordinator

[more >>](#)

UK Travel Ban

Source: [Editorial](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-04

The United Kingdom has made a worrying announcement—the British High Commissioner Christian Turner in Islamabad stated that the UK added a number of countries to its travel “red list”, which bans entry to people arriving from those countries unless they are British or Irish nationals. That list includes Pakistan, along with Bangladesh, Kenya and the Philippines. This is not

[more >>](#)

Administration of single dose Cansino begins tomorrow

Source: [Ikram Junaidi](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-04

ISLAMABAD: As over 4,700 more people have been infected with coronavirus, the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) has issued guidelines for Ramazan, banning entry of people older than 50 years and adolescents in mosques/imambargahs for Namaz and Taraweeh and advising the people to perform Aitikaf at home. Moreover, Sehr and Iftar will not be arranged at mosques or imambarg.....

[more >>](#)

Rawalpindi, Islamabad report over 1,000 coronavirus cases

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-04

ISLAMABAD: There was no letup in Covid-19 cases in Islamabad and Rawalpindi as the twin cities on Saturday reported 1,022 with six deaths. Officials of the capital administration said that during the last 24 hours 7,591 tests were conducted in the city, which showed 796 people had coronavirus with positivity rate remaining at 10.5pc, they added. Two more deaths from Covid-19 were also reported

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COVID-19: Single-dose CanSino vaccination to start from tomorrow 84 more deaths with 4,723 new cases reported in a day

Source: [Tahir Niaz](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-04

ISLAMABAD - The administration of Chinese CanSino single-dose Covid-19 vaccine is set to commence in all the provinces from tomorrow, the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) was briefed on Saturday. The NCOC morning session was held with Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar in the chair through video link and co-chaired by National Coordinator

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6 persons arrested, marriage hall sealed over Covid-19 SOPs violation

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-04

ISLAMABAD - The Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration has been continuing a campaign against violation of the Standard Operating Procedures to contain the spread of the Coronavirus and arrested six persons for violation of the same. According to details, AC (Secretariat) along with Islamabad police, ITP, Excise Department, representatives of the traders association and Tiger Force

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4 persons die of Covid-19 in Rawalpindi

Source: [Israr Ahmad](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-04

Rawalpindi-As many as four persons died of coronavirus in the district on Saturday, sources informed. Some 227 patients including an admin officer of Planning Wing of Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA) tested positive of the deadly virus and 203 patients discharged from the hospitals after recovery, they said. According to sources, Mian Altaf, 85, resident of Afshan Colony, died at Rawa.....

[more >>](#)

7 deaths, 981 COVID-19 cases reported in a day

Source: [Muhammad Qasim](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-04-05

Islamabad : The intensity of the third wave of coronavirus illness, COVID-19 outbreak is on a continuous increase hinting that there is almost no control on the spread of the virus particularly in Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district and it is obvious from the fact that the weekly positivity and number of cases have been registering a constant rise at least for the last eight weeks.....

[more >>](#)

Weekly positivity rate keeps climbing in Islamabad

Source: [Aamir Yasin | Ikram Junaidi](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-05

ISLAMABAD: While 714 more people were found infected in the federal capital, the positivity rate rose to 11.28 per cent during the week ending on April 4 compared to 9.69pc between March 22 and March 28. District Health Officer Dr Zeem Zia said there has been a continuous increase in the weekly positivity rate for the last 10 weeks. According to a graph, in the first week of February the positiv.....

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Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Corona claims 34 more lives in KP

Source: [Bureau Report](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-04-03

By PESHAWAR: Coronavirus has become deadliest in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as it claimed 34 lives on Friday, the highest number of fatalities caused by the viral infection since the second outbreak. Death toll with the latest losses from the viral infection has risen to 2,417 in KP. Also, 1007 people tested positive for the viral infection, taking the toll from the infectious disease to 90,262.

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Section 144 imposed in Abbottabad to implement corona SOPs

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-04-03

ABBOTTABAD: The district administration has imposed Section 144 to ensure compliance with the standard operating procedures (SOPs) set by the government to help contain the spread of the novel coronavirus. The wearing of facemasks has become mandatory for the general public while visiting public places in Abbottabad district after the death of 39 people from the Covid-19 in the last one mo.....

[more >>](#)

Two more KP health workers die of coronavirus

Source: [APP](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-04-03

PESHAWAR: The third wave of coronavirus took away lives of two more health workers in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as Class-4 employee of Ayub Teaching Hospital, Abbottabad and a Dispenser of THQ Takht Bhai succumbed to the virus infection, a report of Health Department said on Friday. Anwar Kamal, an employee of Ayub Teaching Hospital Abbottabad who was infected with coronavirus died at the hospit.....

[more >>](#)

Covid-19 vaccination to be included in Sehat Card: CM Mahmood Khan

Source: [Bureau Report](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-04-03

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan has decided to get the Covid-19 vaccination covered in Sehat Card Plus Scheme, enabling the people to have a free vaccination facility. The chief minister has directed the high-ups of the Health Department to take all the necessary steps to include Covid-19 vaccination in Sehat Card Plus Scheme on priority basis and to complete the p.....

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Senior lawyer Kamran Arif dies of Covid

Source: [Bureau Report](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-03

PESHAWAR: Senior lawyer and known human rights activist Kamran Arif advocate passed away due to Covid-19 on Friday. He was 55. He was admitted to a hospital in Islamabad after contracting coronavirus in March. He fought the disease for a month and expired on Friday. He was laid to rest at his ancestral Jalozei village of Nowshera district. He was the son of retired Col Arif. He left behind a wid.....

[more >>](#)

Study shows people's growing indifference to SOPs

Source: [Bureau Report](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-03

PESHAWAR: The adherence to Covid-19 standard operating procedures by the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa declined between the time of the imposition of the first lockdown in March 2020 and Jan 2021, shows a study. The 'Study on Covid-19 SOPs' was conducted by the Merged Areas Governance Project with the support of UNDP and USAID. A total of 3, 774 people from across the province were int.....

[more >>](#)

38 arrested in Peshawar for violation of SOPs

Source: [Bureau Report](#), [The News, International](#) , 2021-04-04

PESHAWAR: The administration on Saturday arrested 38 persons, including public transport drivers, and sealed 11 shops for violation of coronavirus regulations. The administration claimed that 16 drivers were arrested for plying inter-city passenger vehicles despite ban. The officials also impounded the vehicles. The Home Department through a notification had directed the public transport o.....

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2,480 get vaccinated against corona in DI Khan

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#) , 2021-04-04

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: As many as 2,480 people including 471 healthcare staff got vaccinated against the Covid-19 at four centres set up across the district on the direction of Khyber Pakht-unkhwa Health Department, official sources said on Saturday. During the vaccination drive that started amid surge in the corona cases across the province, 2480 people including elderly people and officials o.....

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Abbottabad Covid-19 positive rate hits alarming 7.8 per cent

Source: [Zubair Ayub](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#) , 2021-04-04

ABBOTABAD: Deputy Commissioner Abbottabad has imposed Section 144 in the district making it mandatory for people to wear face masks while visiting public places in Abbottabad district. This order comes into force immediately and shall remain valid for a period of 30 days. According to a notification issued by Abbottabad Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Mughees Sanaullah, it has become necessary for

[more >>](#)

Doctors' body demands hospital for Covid patients

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#) , 2021-04-04

PESHAWAR: The Provincial Doctors Association (PDA) has demanded of the government and Health Department to allocate a separate hospital for the Covid-19 patients with its own staff in order to properly handle the emergency. Talking to The Express Tribune Dr Abdul Wadud Khan, Dr Mudasar Afridi and Dr Attiqur Rehman said that the government has decided to allocate a separate building at Lady Reading.....

[more >>](#)

LRH suspends elective services to handle influx of Covid patients

Source: [Ashfaq Yusufzai](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#) , 2021-04-04

PESHAWAR: The Lady Reading Hospital, Peshawar, has stopped attending to the people with general medical conditions to handle the growing number of coronavirus patients. The development came after the health department formally asked the hospital, the largest government one in the provincial capital, to immediately halt elective services and refer non-Covid patients to Khyber Teaching Hospital for.....

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Traffic police fine thousands for not following SOPs

Source: [Bureau Report](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#) , 2021-04-04

PESHAWAR: The Peshawar traffic police fined over 100,000 transporters and passengers for violating the Covid-19-induced SOPs during a three-month-long campaign. Chief traffic police officer Abbas Majeed Marwat told Dawn that their effort was to compliment the nationwide campaign to enforce SOPs to help control the third coronavirus wave. He said transporters had been directed time and again to c.....

[more >>](#)

Punjab

1,143 positive cases set new record, nine deaths reported

Source: [Muhammad Qasim](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-04-03

Rawalpindi : As many as 1,143 new patients have been tested positive for COVID-19 from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district in the last 24 hours which is the highest number of cases reported in a single day from the region since the advent of coronavirus in Pakistan. Data collected by 'The News' on Friday reveals that the virus has claimed another nine lives from.....

[more >>](#)

58 die from corona in Punjab

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-04-03

LAHORE: Around 58 patients died from COVID-19 while 2,772 new infections were confirmed in Punjab province during the last 24 hours. According to report issued by Primary and Secondary Healthcare (P&SH) Department Punjab on Friday, the death toll reached 6,485, while confirmed cases became 225,953 in the province. As per the spokesperson for Corona Monitoring Room at P&SHD, 23,039 t.....

[more >>](#)

918 cases registered over SOPs breach

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-04-03

LAHORE: Capital City Police Officer Lahore, Additional IG Ghulam Mahmood Dogar has said that joint teams comprising personnel of police, district administration and health department have been continuously monitoring the implementation of corona SOPs. Lahore Police, registered 918 FIRs in different areas of the city against violations of corona SOPs; 476 FIRs over violations of SOPs, social.....

[more >>](#)

Cops directed to observe, enforce coronavirus SOPs

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-04-03

LAHORE: Inspector General of Police Punjab Inam Ghani has said that despite the COVID-19 serious threat, police force is working day and night for protection of lives and properties of the people. The IG expressed these views while giving instructions to all RPOs of the province during a video link conference at the Central Police Office here Friday. During the conference, all the RPOs of t.....

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Three bus stands sealed

Source: [APP](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-03

SIALKOT: District Regional Transport Authority (DRTA) Secretary Muzaffar Hayyat sealed three bus stands at Lorry Addah over violating coronavirus SOPs. Secretary DRTA inspected eight general bus and wagon stands. He imposed a fine of Rs35,000 to passenger vehicles for violating coronavirus SOPs

[more >>](#)

Inquiry launched against hospital MS Vaccine theft investigation is underway

Source: [Adnan Lodhi](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-03

LAHORE: Punjab Health Department has launched an inquiry into the vaccine theft from the different public hospitals of Lahore. In this regard, the medical superintendent (MS) of Services Hospital Dr Muhammad Zahid was interrogated by the officials about the alleged mismanagement and theft at the hospital on Friday. The MS told the officials that he was 'not involved' in any mishandling.....

[more >>](#)

DC inspects corona SOPs implementation in markets

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-03

LAHORE - Deputy Commissioner Mudassar Riaz Friday paid a surprise visit to Anarkali and adjoining bazaars to review implementation of coronavirus-related standards operating procedures (SOPs). According to a spokesperson for the city district administration, the DC also distributed face-masks among the citizens. He said: "Our teams are in the field and will make sure the markets close at 6....."

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Ashrafi urges masses to receive vaccine

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-03

LAHORE - Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Interfaith Harmony and Middle East Affairs Maulana Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi has urged the masses to receive coronavirus vaccine for their protection. Delivering a sermon at a mosque in Behria Town here on Friday, he said that rich people should provide vaccine to the deserving people from Zakat amount. "SOPs announced by the go....."

[more >>](#)

Joint teams monitoring implementation on corona SOPs: CCPO

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-03

Lahore - Capital City Police Officer Lahore Additional IG Ghulam Mahmood Dogar has said that joint teams comprising police personnel, district administration and health department have been continuously monitoring implementation on Corona SOPs. CCPO Lahore said special pickets were being set up at different points of the city on regular basis to check implementation of guidelines of wearing mas.....

[more >>](#)

24 shops sealed over SOPs breach

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-03

LAHORE - The city district administration sealed 24 shops, restaurants, marriage halls and imposed Rs 26,000 fine over violations of coronavirus related Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) here on Friday. According to spokesperson for district administration, Assistant Commissioner (AC) Shalimar Mansoor Ahmed Qazi sealed 10 shops and marriage halls, besides imposing Rs 26,000 fine over SOPs

[more >>](#)

Over 0.2m citizens administered COVID-19 vaccine

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-03

LAHORE - The Punjab Health Department has administered the first dose of coronavirus vaccine to 203,043 common citizens in the province so far. According to a spokesperson for the Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD) on Friday, so far 4,234 citizens have been administered the 2nd dose of the vaccine. As many as 125,511 health workers have also been given the first dose of the

[more >>](#)

Covid-19 devours 58 more lives in Punjab

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-03

LAHORE - As many as 2772 cases of coronavirus were reported in Punjab on Friday while the pandemic claimed 58 precious lives in 24 hours which turned the death toll 6,485. According to the data shared by the spokesperson of Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD), the number of coronavirus cases in the province reached 225,953. The P&SHD confirmed that 1,484 new ca.....

[more >>](#)

Last year's Covid hotspot, Hyderabad braces for cases during third wave

Source: [Mohammad Hussain Khan, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-03

HYDERABAD: Fawad Talpur always carries a pulse oximeter with him on all occasions since the day he had contracted novel coronavirus in March last year in Hyderabad. Fawad returned from London on March 16 only to become the second positive coronavirus case of Hyderabad district on March 23 when the Sindh government enforced lockdown across the province. His 14-year-old son, Abiyan, contracted the.....

[more >>](#)

Covid more destructive in Jan-March in Punjab

Source: [Asif Chaudhry, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-03

LAHORE: Coronavirus has wreaked much more havoc in the first three months of this year in Punjab as compared to the whole of last year that saw two peaks of the infection. The new UK variant of the virus has particularly contributed to the damage in the largest province as it spreads 70 per cent faster than the previous one. This is evident from a comparative analysis of the official Covid-19 fig.....

[more >>](#)

Over 1,000 cases for 2nd consecutive day, six deaths reported

Source: [Muhammad Qasim, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-04

Rawalpindi : More than 1000 patients of coronavirus illness, COVID-19 have been added to the existing pool of patients from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district for the second straight day on Saturday setting a new record for the second-highest number of cases reported in a day from the region since the advent of COVID-19 in Pakistan. As many as 1,008 new patients have been

[more >>](#)

Government urged to negotiate lower vaccine price

Source: [Our Correspondent, The News, International](#), 2021-04-04

Islamabad: The Transparency International Pakistan, anti-corruption group, has urged the Sindh government to negotiate better coronavirus vaccine price with manufacturers and disclose all relevant information. The demand comes after the provincial government allocated Rs500 million funds for the direct procurement of Cansino vaccine from China. In a letter to provincial chief minister Sye.....

[more >>](#)

Over 1000 FIRs lodged for violation of corona SOPs last week

Source: [Our Correspondent, The News, International](#), 2021-04-04

LAHORE : Lahore police registered as many as 1001 FIRs during the last one week in different areas of the City for violations of corona related SOPs as well as for not wearing of face masks in the wake of third wave of coronavirus pandemic. Following the directions of government, police registered 517 FIRs on violations of corona SOPs and on continuing commercial activities. As many a 484

[more >>](#)

20 camps to be set up for distributing free masks

Source: [Our Correspondent, The News, International](#), 2021-04-04

LAHORE: Commissioner Muhammad Usman has directed for establishing at least 20 free facemask distribution camps in poor localities and populous areas of the provincial metropolis. In a meeting held here on Saturday, he said free facemasks distribution camps will be established in poor and populous areas such as bus stands, railway stations and other commercial points. He said strong Covid-.....

[more >>](#)

Punjab admin asked to implement guidelines for corona victims burial

Source: [Ali Raza, The News, International](#), 2021-04-04

LAHORE: The majority of the families of Covid-19 victims are not following the SOPs issued by Primary and Secondary Health Department during their burial. Commissioner Lahore Division took notice of this issue and directed the district administration to ensure implementation of the burial guidelines of Primary and Secondary Health Department. Following the direction of the commissioner, D.....

[more >>](#)

6 shops sealed, 7 held for lockdown violations 29 more public vehicles impounded for flouting SOPs

Source: [Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-04

RAWALPINDI: The Regional Transport Authority impounded 29 public vehicles and imposed fines on 41 for violating SOPs set by the Punjab government amid the third wave of coronavirus on Saturday. RTA Secretary Arshad Ali said the Punjab government had banned intra-city transport from April 1 to April 11. However, some transporters were still running the service in violation of the government order.....

[more >>](#)

Jhelum reports 29 cases There have been nine deaths amid the third wave of coronavirus

Source: [Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-04

JHELUM: Twenty-nine people tested positive for Covid-19 in Jhelum on Saturday, according to a district health authority report. DHA Spokesperson Dr Mian Azhar Hayat said 125 asymptomatic patients in the Jhelum district were observing isolation at homes. He said 12 infected patients were receiving treatment at the district headquarters (DHQ) hospital while 39 suspected Covid patients were admitted.....

[more >>](#)

Alarming shortage' of beds for critical Covid patients

Source: [Asif Chaudhry, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-04

LAHORE: The Punjab government seems to be indifferent to the unending sufferings of the Covid-19 critical patients in the provincial capital where the bed occupancy in both the public and private sector hospitals has reached an alarming proportion. According to the emerging reports, the dearth of bed for the hospitals of the city is one of the leading factors behind massive surge in Covid death r.....

[more >>](#)

800 senior citizens vaccinated against Covid-19 so far : DC

Source: [Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-04

KHANEWAL - Deputy Commissioner (DC) Agha Zaheer Abbas Sherazi said more than 800 senior citizens were vaccinated against coronavirus so far at corona vaccination centre here. During a visit of the vaccination centre on Saturday, Agha Sherazi said that vaccine was being administered to senior citizens. He said recent wave of virus was more dangerous as compared to 1st two waves, adding that as per.....

[more >>](#)

Besakhi festival cancelled amid third wave of COVID-19

Source: [Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-04

HASSANABDAL - Besakhi festival, the biggest festival of Sikh community has also been cancelled amid third wave of COVID-19. All the celebrations of the festival to be scheduled from April 12 to 14 at Gurdwara Panja Sahib Hassanabdal have been canceled, an organiser of Besakhi festival informed media. Now this festival would not be held and Sikh pilgrims from India would not come to Pakistan f.....

[more >>](#)

3 marriage halls, 60 shops sealed for violating SOPs

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-04

SARGODHA - The district administration on Saturday sealed threemarriage halls, a marquee, 60 shops and arrested four persons from various localities of the city for violating coronavirus Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). On the direction of Deputy Commissioner Naila Baqir, a team of district administration headed by Assistant commissioner Sargodha Umer Daraz Gondal visited various markets and.....

[more >>](#)

770 Lahore cops test COVID-19 positive so far: CCPO

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-04

LAHORE - Capital City Police Officer (CCPO) Lahore/ Additional IGP Ghulam Mahmood Dogar has said that 770 police officers and officials of the Lahore police have tested COVID-19 positive so far, and out of them, 651 have resumed their duties after complete recovery. As per details, two DIGs, three senior police officers of SSP rank, seven SPs, 19 DSPs, 25 Inspectors, 83 Sub-Inspectors, 120 tra.....

[more >>](#)

38 more Covid deaths in Punjab

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-05

LAHORE: The coronavirus claimed the lives of 38 more people during the past 24 hours in Punjab, taking the tally of its toll in the province so far to 6,523. As per the Punjab government figures, 2,717 new coronavirus cases have been reported during the past 24 hours, pushing the number of total Covid-positive patients up to 231,073. Of the new cases, the highest number -- 1,525—was report.....

[more >>](#)

24 booked for SOPs violations

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-05

RAWALPINDI: The police registered 24 first information reports (FIRs) against citizens, majority of whom were shopkeepers, for violating Covid-19 standard operating procedures (SOPs). Some of them were not wearing face masks while others were involved in doing business after 6pm. Following the government's new directives to implement SOPs, police has been continuing a crackdown against com.....

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Sindh

Sindh orders 2m doses of Chinese vaccine Convidecia

Source: [M Waqar Bhatti](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-04-03

Sindh Information Minister Syed Nasir Hussain Shah said on Friday the provincial government had placed an order for the procurement of two million doses of Chinese vaccine Convidecia, adding that they would procure more doses by cutting development and other expenditures so that the entire population of the province could be protected from this deadly disease. Addressing a news conference

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Two die of Covid-19 in Sindh, another 256 infected

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-04-03

Covid-19 claimed two more lives in Sindh during the previous 24 hours, raising the death toll due to the viral disease in the province to 4,506. In the meantime, 282 patients of Covid-19 remained under treatment at different hospitals of Sindh, the condition of 258 of whom was stated to be critical and 33 of them were on life support. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali

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Russian vaccine Sputnik V available at three hospitals

Source: [Babar Ali Awan](#), [The News, International](#) , 2021-04-03

Four-hundred-and-thirty people were vaccinated against Covid-19 overnight at three hospitals in Karachi as sale of the privately imported Russian vaccine Sputnik V has begun in the country. The Russian vaccine is now available for people above 18 across the country, said AGP Pharma Managing Director Kamran Mirza while speaking to Jang. He said his firm had procured two million doses from R.....

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Microbiologists lauded for services during pandemic

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#) , 2021-04-03

KARACHI: Health experts lauded the services of microbiologists working at Covid-19 testing facilities and hospitals on Friday, stating that had it not been for them, the pandemic death toll would have been significantly higher. They must be praised for their courage and dedication, as they have been working day and night during the pandemic and handling millions of Covid-19 samples, helping heal.....

[more >>](#)

Covid-19 protocols wishy-washy amid govt tussle

Source: [Aamir Khan](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#) , 2021-04-03

KARACHI: Unlike previous spells, the third wave of the novel coronavirus has proven to be a tough row to hoe for the country. The situation is further exacerbated by the federal and provincial authorities failing to agree on a single mitigation plan. On the one hand, where the federal government has been pressing to suspend all trade activity past 08.00pm in view of surging positive cases across.....

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Over 250 fresh Covid infections detected in Sindh

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#) , 2021-04-03

KARACHI: Sindh reported over 250 fresh coronavirus cases and two more pandemic-related fatalities on Friday. According to a statement issued by the Chief Minister's House, 256 new cases were diagnosed when 9,050 samples were tested for the contagion. The provincial coronavirus tally and pandemic death toll rose to 266,172 and 4,506 on the day. Moreover, the statement apprised that 95 person.....

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Sindh to approach NCOC for inter-provincial transport ban

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#) , 2021-04-03

KARACHI/LAHORE: The provincial taskforce on Covid-19 in Sindh decided on Friday to approach the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), seeking a two-week ban on interprovincial transport. This was decided during a meeting presided over by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah - a day after he renewed the call for a ban on inter-city bus transport - to restrict people from travelling to t.....

[more >>](#)

Sindh orders to buy 2m vaccine doses: Nasir Shah

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#) , 2021-04-03

KARACHI - Provincial Minister for Information and Local Government Sindh Syed Nasir Hussain Shah has said that the Sindh government had immediately placed order to purchase two million cansino bio-vaccine doses. Sindh government would procure more doses by cutting development and other expenditures so that the entire population of the province could be protected from this deadly disease, he s.....

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Coronavirus: Sindh may close schools for classes eight and below

Source: [Rana Javaid](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-04-03

KARACHI: The Sindh government may decide to close schools for classes eight and below, it was learnt as the education department wrapped up Saturday its steering committee meeting to decide the fate of Sindh's schools as coronavirus cases continue increasing. Education Minister Saeed Ghani chaired the meeting. Two proposals were put forth: a closure of schools till class eight or a closure o.....

[more >>](#)

Russian vaccine Sputnik V available at three hospitals

Source: [Babar Ali Awan](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-04-03

Four-hundred-and-thirty people were vaccinated against Covid-19 overnight at three hospitals in Karachi as sale of the privately imported Russian vaccine Sputnik V has begun in the country. The Russian vaccine is now available for people above 18 across the country, said AGP Pharma Managing Director Kamran Mirza while speaking to Jang. He said his firm had procured two million doses from R.....

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Vaccination

Source: [news Desk](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-03

KARACHI: Careem has recently released a new feature in its super app which enables users to book a ride to any Covid-19 vaccination centre in Pakistan with just two taps, says a press release. The new 'Get vaccinated' tool includes detailed information from government sources on the vaccines being offered in the country, its eligibility, and the timings and locations of all centres ac.....

[more >>](#)

Good Friday observed amid SOPs with special prayers

Source: [Shazia Hasan](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-03

KARACHI: Good Friday, the day associated with crucifixion of Jesus Christ, was observed in churches across the city with special prayers for the country and health of citizens during sermons to remind the people of the sacrifice of Jesus. Traditionally, the solemn occasion is divided into three parts — the Word of God, Veneration of the Cross and Communion. But this year, apart from follow.....

[more >>](#)

RPOs moot reviews Covid SOPs, security

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-03

LAHORE: The regional police officers (RPOs) conference on Friday reviewed implementation of Covid-19 guidelines and security arrangements for Easter across Punjab. Inspector General of Police Inam Ghani chaired the conference through a video link from the Central Police Office. All the RPOs briefed the IGP on implementation of the Covid standard operating procedures (SOPs). Addressing the confer.....

[more >>](#)

Home dept orders strict implementation of Covid-19 SOPs

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-04-04

The Sindh home department, on the directives of the provincial government, has issued an order to various departments to strictly implement the recently announced standard operating procedures (SOPs) to check the spread of the novel coronavirus. The letter was moved to the Sindh IGP, the commissioners throughout the province, the additional IG of the national highways and other relevant de.....

[more >>](#)

WHO advises Sindh to boost its testing capacity for Covid-19

Source: [M Waqar Bhatti](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-04-04

The World Health Organisation (WHO) mission in Pakistan has recommended the Sindh government to “to increase its testing capacity” for Covid-19 and also develop its capacity to test variant of concern (VoC), including the B.1.1.7 (the so-called UK variant) whose cases are being reported in Pakistan these days. A WHO delegation led by its country representative in Pakistan, Dr P.....

[more >>](#)

Covid kills three more in Sindh as another 205 test positive

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-04-04

Three more people have died due to Covid-19 and 205 others have tested positive for the disease during the past 24 hours in Sindh, with the death toll due to the viral coronavirus infection reaching 4,509 in the province. Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said in his daily situation report on the health emergency on Saturday that 9,347 samples were tested in the past 24 hours, resulting i.....

[more >>](#)

Sindh orders 15-day suspension of physical classes for grades 1-8 from April 6

Source: [Safdar Rizvi](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-04

KARACHI: The Sindh education department announced suspending physical classes in all public and private schools for 15 days across the province starting Tuesday (April 6). The decision was taken in light of the rising Covid-19 cases across the province said Minister for Education Saeed Ghani on Twitter. Read: [Asad Umar backs Sindh's Covid restrictions](#) However, he added that “Children&.....

[more >>](#)

Covid-19 vaccines; Emirates SkyCargo delivers 50m doses to 50 destinations

Source: [Press Release](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-04

KARACHI: Emirates SkyCargo delivers 50 million doses of Covid-19 vaccines to 50 destinations. In the run up to World Health Day (April 7), Emirates SkyCargo has become the first airline cargo carrier in the world to have transported more than 50 million doses of Covid-19 vaccines on its flights. The carrier has also transported more than 100 tonnes of syringes across the world to support the deliv.....

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Stocks lose 2.7pc amid Covid resurgence

Source: [Equities Correspondent](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-04

KARACHI: Bears dominated the stock market in the outgoing week as the KSE-100 index tumbled by 1,221 points, or 2.7 per cent, to close at 44,301. The market has been unable to gain a firm foothold after it slipped from the recent high of 47,000 points. In the outgoing week, the market was held hostage to the flare-up in Covid-19 infection cases that forced the Punjab government to impos.....

[more >>](#)

Sindh to recruit 900 health workers, revive isolation centres to meet third wave challenge

Source: [Imran Ayub](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-04

KARACHI: As the third wave of the coronavirus pandemic goes on the rampage in many parts of the country, authorities in Sindh are preparing themselves for the upcoming challenge in case of a rise in the number of Covid-19 patients in the province by recruiting some 900 health workers and putting isolation centres at standby, officials said on Saturday. They said major isolation centres set up dur.....

[more >>](#)

Steering committee on education reviews Covid-19 situation in Sindh

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-04

KARACHI: As the third wave of Covid-19 spreads across the country at an alarming rate, Sindh Education Minister Saeed Ghani presided over a meeting of the steering committee on education here on Saturday to decide the fate of schools in the province. The minister was briefed on the situation of the virus in different schools. He also asked for advice from the health department. A day earlier, th.....

[more >>](#)

Sindh introduces one-shot COVID vaccine

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-04

KARACHI - Sindh Health Department has introduced one-shot or single dose COVID vaccine for people having 80 years and above while no prior registration is required for elderly people, a top health official told media on Saturday. Director, Health Karachi, Dr Ismail Memon, while talking to media, informed that Sindh health department had introduced one-shot (single dose) COVID vaccine at Mass

[more >>](#)

Sindh schools to suspend physical attendance till class 8 for 15 days

Source: [Shazia Hasan](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-05

KARACHI: All private and government schools across Sindh have been directed to suspend regular classes from nursery to eighth due to the Covid-19 situation in the province for two weeks (15 days), beginning on April 6. However, the students of these classes and their parents, too, are encouraged to not miss out on learning activities and keep in touch with teachers on WhatsApp, through email, or t.....

[more >>](#)

No Covid-19 death reported, 240 new cases emerge

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-05

KARACHI: Fortunately no death stemming from coronavirus was reported on Sunday, however 240 new cases emerged when 8,797 tests were conducted. In a statement issued here from CM House, Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said that fortunately no death was reported on Sunday, adding that the number of deaths till last Saturday was 4,509. He said that 8,797 samples were tested which detected 240 ca.....

[more >>](#)

Growers' body advises govt to ensure buffer stocks of wheat to cope with shortages

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-05

HYDERABAD: The Sindh Abadgar Board (SAB) on Sunday demanded the provincial government to immediately start procurement of wheat and ensure collecting a sizeable buffer stock to protect consumers in case of shortage of the grain in future. The board members, who met here with SAB senior vice president Mehmood Nawaz Shah in the chair, called for implementing the ban on paddy cultivation on the left.....

[more >>](#)

Hyderabad polio-free for third month

Source: [Correspondent](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-05

HYDERABAD: Environmental sample of poliovirus from Hyderabad district was reported to be negative in March 2021, making it a poliovirus-free district in the third consecutive (Jan-Mar) month, according to the district administration. Environmental sampling is done to determine presence of poliovirus in sewage. The sample is collected from Tulsi Das pumping station which is one of the designated.....

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International News

Countries News

Maharashtra CM warns of full lockdown as second wave hits hard

Source: [Reuters](#) , [Dawn, Islamabad](#) , 2021-04-03

NEW DELHI: The chief minister of India's Maharashtra state warned on Friday of a full lockdown to curb coronavirus infections if people did not limit their movement, as the country hit a six-month high for daily cases. India's richest state, which is home to Mumbai, has been hit hard by the virus, while the country as a whole has now recorded 12.3 million cases, including 81,466 new i.....

[more >>](#)

US becomes first nation to reach 100 million vaccination mark

Source: [AFP](#) , [Dawn, Islamabad](#) , 2021-04-03

WASHINGTON: The United States has started reaping the fruits of its vaccination campaign against Covid-19 as it became the first nation on Friday to reach 100 million people, but Europe's rollout faced fresh impediments and South America tightened restrictions in the face of Brazil's soaring infections. The United States reported surging job growth and loosened travel curbs as it reac.....

[more >>](#)

Judge who headed Saddam trial dies of Covid

Source: [AP](#) , [Dawn, Islamabad](#) , 2021-04-03

BAGHDAD: A retired Iraqi judge who presided over the trial of Iraq's late ruler Saddam Hussein has died after battling Covid-19, the country's top judicial body said on Friday. According to Iraq's Supreme Judicial Council, Judge Mohammed Oreibi al-Khalifa, 52, passed away in a hospital in Baghdad where he was being treated for complications from the coronavirus. Oreibi graduate.....

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Canada introduces more restrictions as country passes 1mn coronavirus cases

Source: [AFP](#) , [The News, International](#) , 2021-04-04

Canada has crossed the one million mark of coronavirus cases across the country, ramping up restrictions. With 2,000 new cases of Covid-19 announced in British Columbia on Saturday evening, Canada topped one million cases since the start of the pandemic, according to figures reported by Canadian broadcasters. Just over 23,000 people have died so far. Canada is grappling with a third wave.....

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British MP says Pakistan travel curbs led by 'politics not data'

Source: [Atika Rehman](#) , [Dawn, Islamabad](#) , 2021-04-04

LONDON: A British Labour MP has criticised the UK government's decision to curtail travel from Pakistan in view of Covid-19 cases, dubbing the move "consciously and knowingly discriminatory". Bradford West MP Naz Shah wrote a letter to UK Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab, asking for an explanation about why Pakistan was added to the 'red list' when it has "substa.....[more >>](#)

Actor Akshay Kumar tests positive for virus

Source: [AFP](#) , [Dawn, Islamabad](#) , 2021-04-05

MUMBAI: Bollywood star Akshay Kumar said on Sunday he has tested positive for Covid-19, becoming the latest Indian celebrity to contract the virus as the vast nation battles a new wave of cases. India reported 93,249 new daily infections on Sunday, according to health ministry data, the highest increase since September, taking the total known cases to almost 12.5 million. "I wish to inform.....[more >>](#)

Covid-19 hits South Asia hard

Source: [Anwar Iqbal](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-05

WASHINGTON: Statistics released by various monitoring agencies show that the Covid-19 virus is now spreading more rapidly in South Asia than in any other region in the world. Worldometer, a reference website that provides counters and real-time statistics for diverse topics, noted that on Saturday, South Asia recorded a total of 103,404 new Covid-19 cases, higher than any other region. India, th.....

[more >>](#)

Donors News**WHO asks Sindh govt to enhance Covid-19 testing capacity**

Source: [Imran Ayub](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-05

KARACHI: Although no case of UK Covid-19 variant has been reported so far this year in Sindh, which is conducting highest number of tests, the World Health Organisation has recommended the provincial health system to increase its testing capacity and also develop the capacity to test Variants of Concern (VoC) including the B.1.1.7, which are being reported in other parts of the country. A WHO del.....

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SDPI Engagements

Articles

The new normal is waiting

Source: [Zahra Khalid](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-04-04

Several lockdowns have been imposed in recent times. We adopted new habits, learned and worked through video conferences, made social distancing an everyday habit and face masks a fashion item. But we all hate these, don't we? It's 2021, and economies all around the world are suffering following a global pandemic that has disrupted them to their core, trying to find financial short-ter.....

[more >>](#)

Webinars News

Experts call for innovation to meet emerging challenges in post-Covid-19

Source: [News Desk](#), [Pakistan Observer](#), 2021-04-03

Pakistan's education system and the country's educational institutions are facing serious threat in view of the increase in number of Covid-19 cases. The educational institutions therefore need to revisit their policies. Educational experts, senior academicians VCs and deans expressed these views while speaking at a webinar titled 'Role of institutions and teachers in shaping yo.....

[more >>](#)

'Pandemic has threatened education system'

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-04-04

Islamabad: The education system and educational institutions are under serious threat after the outbreak of COVID-19, so there's a need to review their relevant policies and rebuild the role of academic institutions and teachers to be better equipped in the new virtual world, improved learning process through innovative capacity building programmes and leadership development mechanisms.

[more >>](#)

Other SDPI Engagements

Other Webinar News

Tackling energy, environmental crises important to ensure national security: Speakers

Source: APP, [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-04

ISLAMABAD- The speakers at a webinar on “Non-traditional security challenges- energy and environment crises” organised by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) Saturday urged upon the need to give an equal importance to the country’s non-traditional security challenges such as energy and environment crises to ensure our national security. They were of the view[more >>](#)

‘Non-traditional challenges hinder development’

Source: APP, [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-05

ISLAMABAD: The Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) organized a webinar the other day wherein speakers urged upon the need to give equal importance to the country's non-traditional security challenges such as energy and environment crises. They were of the view that traditional security challenges were already being tackled by the security apparatus and by focusing on non-traditio.....[more >>](#)

EXPERTS CALL FOR EASE OF DOING BUSINESS TO REVIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH

Source: DNA News, [DNA News](#), 2021-04-04

ISLAMABAD, APR 4 (DNA) – The private sector has a critical role in the growth of the economy. There, the Punjab government is looking forward to receiving proposals from the business community prior to finalizing the provincial budget for the next financial year. Dr Erfa Iqbal, CEO, Punjab Board of Investment and Trade (PBIT) said this during a pre-budget digital consultation on better busin.....[more >>](#)

Experts call for ease of doing business for economic revival

Source: Rasheed Khalid, [The News, International](#), 2021-04-05

Islamabad : Dr. Erfa Iqbal, CEO, Punjab Board of Investment and Trade, has said that the Punjab government is looking forward to receiving proposals from the business community prior to finalising the provincial budget for the next financial year. Dr. Erfa was addressing a pre-budget meeting on ‘Better business regulations’ jointly organised here line by Sustainable Development.....[more >>](#)

Experts call for ease of doing business to revive economic growth in the country

Source: News Desk, [Daily Spokesman](#), 2021-04-04

Islamabad: (April 04, 2021)- The private sector has a critical role in the growth of the economy. There, the Punjab government is looking forward to receiving proposals from the business community prior to finalizing the provincial budget for the next financial year. Dr Erfa Iqbal, CEO, Punjab Board of Investment and Trade (PBIT) said this during a pre-budget digital consultation on better busines.....[more >>](#)

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