

E-Newsletter on COVID-19



Vol. 02, No, 29



Issue: 06-09 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

Humanitarian response

Source: [Hossam Khalil Elsharkawi](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-04-06

A little over a year ago, the director-general of the World Health Organization declared the Covid-19 outbreak a pandemic. Many things have changed for all of us since then. I have seen for myself the burdens families across the Middle East have faced, and the extraordinary courage medical personnel and volunteers demonstrated in combating this deadly disease. At the International Federat.....[more >>](#)

Privilege and destruction

Source: [Muhammad Hamid Zaman](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-06

Last week around this time, like many I was outraged by the actions of a sitting federal minister, Tariq Bashir Cheema. Not only did he arrange for members of his family (many clearly under the national cut-off age) to get the Covid-19 vaccine at home, he had the nerve to lie about it on TV. He was defended by senior party officials, and other celebrities — all of whom came up with lame excu.....[more >>](#)

Covid-19; Govt 'miserably failed' to vaccinate public: Senate

Source: [Ali Hussain](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-06

ISLAMABAD: The Senate, on Monday, noted that the government of Pakistan has “miserably failed” to vaccinate the general public against Covid-19, and urged the government to provide either free of cost corona vaccine to the people or as per original international market price. The house passed a resolution with the majority of 43 votes against 31 votes. The resolution was move.....[more >>](#)

My bout with Covid

Source: [Farhan Bokhari](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-04-08

More than a year after Covid-19 struck the world including Pakistan, my bout with this potentially deadly ailment recently was an eye-opener. Needless to say, I embraced the necessary precautions prescribed by top-of-the-line experts. From Dr Faisal Sultan, the health minister, to local doctors in Islamabad, the recommendations have been abundant and rich. And yet, when the infection came

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Private Vaccinations

Source: [Editorial](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-07

With Sputnik V being distributed amongst major hospitals, labs and healthcare facilities, private vaccinations have finally opened up for the people of Pakistan. As those who can afford the price tag that the antidote comes with rush to register themselves for their doses, more places open up in the public vaccination drive for the poorer sections of society—fortunately so. Already, the.....

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Anti-patriarchy vaccine needed

Source: [R Umaima Ahmed](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-04-07

Recently, I came across the story of Sara (Saartjie) Baartman. Her life and death provide a stark reminder of the power and outreach of the patriarchy, even today. Born in South Africa, Sara was sold into slavery before being trafficked to Europe in the early 19th century. Once there, she became part of a freak show popular with British and French high society, which leered over her body shape. E.....

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The agenda health and Pakistan

Source: [Dr Rakhshinda Perveen](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-04-06

The current pandemic of COVID 19 is still unfolding not only its own mutations but several other pandemics of inequalities too. Multi-level and multi-faceted challenges are integrated in the health systems of all countries. As a part of its commitment to the agenda 2030, achieving the Universal Health Coverage with its 16 indicators is a critical task for nearly all member countries of the UN. Pak.....

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Success of SOEs' divestments; WB for addressing political economy implications first

Source: [Tahir Amin](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-07

ISLAMABAD: The World Bank has linked the success of divestments and restructuring of State Owned-Enterprises (SOEs) with the resolution of political economy implications, maintaining that fiscal risks from SOEs and civil service compensation and pensions continue to be significant. The World Bank report 'Pakistan Development Update' released on Tuesday stated the federal government.....

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The devil we know

Source: [BR Research](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-07

Over the past year, Covid-19 has metamorphosed from a devil we knew little to nothing about to a devil we now, ostensibly, know quite painstakingly. There are still gaps that need to be filled but there is a mountain of information being collected (and in turn analysed) on virus intensity, associated risks, impact on different demographics, strategies to combat the virus itself and mitigating meas.....

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Kamila Hyat April 8, 2021 HomeToday's PaperOpinion Covid and competence

Source: [Kamila Hyat](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-04-08

We can argue that pandemics fall upon humanity without warning, and possibly without anything possible to prevent them from occurring. However, in this age of science, it should be possible – indeed it is possible – to bring pandemics to an end. This is the benefit of the scientific knowledge we have accumulated over the decades and the manner in which we have learned to use it.....

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Corona — shackling the monster

Source: [Inam Ul Haque](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-08

It was December 24, 2020, when my piece "Corona, Vaccine Politics and the Fear", was published. Since then, we are officially in the third wave of the pandemic with an uncertain future. And every subsequent wave seems deadlier than the previous one; as suggested by doctors, scientists, epidemiologists and virologists (the community). However, key questions about the vaccine, its ability

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Covid: Relief in the offing?

Source: BR Research, [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#) , 2021-04-09

After tightening Covid-related restrictions (but still short of a brief-but-strict lockdown) in the face of third wave, the federal government seems to be considering a fresh round of fiscal relief for the people. The intent to ease the suffering was plainly stated by Prime Minister Imran Khan earlier this week on live television. “We are going to speak to the IMF, because we see disruptions.....

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On the path to immunity

Source: Editorial, [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#) , 2021-04-08

In a gloomy prognosis for this country a New York-based media company, Bloomberg, has claimed that it would take a decade for Pakistan to inoculate 75 percent of its population against Covid-19 – 70 percent is generally regarded as the benchmark for ensuring herd immunity. That though should not be as alarming as it sounds since Bloomberg’s projections keep moving up and down depending.....

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The third wave and students

Source: Editorial, [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#) , 2021-04-09

The announcement by federal minister of education Shafqat Mahmood – regarding the closure of schools for grades I to VIII and the resumption of classes and subsequent board exams for grades IX to XII and O, AS and A Levels – has been met with ire by all stakeholders. While the minister has ensured that the Matric, Inter and Cambridge exams will be held under strict observation of all S.....

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The third wave and students

Source: Editorial, [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#) , 2021-04-09

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National News

Islamabad

Citizens aged 80 and above to be vaccinated at home

Source: [Ikram Junaidi](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-06

ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) has decided to administer Covid-19 vaccines to citizens aged 80 years and above in their homes. The facility will commence in a few days. On the other hand, the country reported 4,323 cases and 43 deaths in a single day. Meanwhile, an American newswire, Bloomberg, has claimed that it would take a decade for Pakistan to inoculate 75 per ce.....[more >>](#)

Despite split in opposition: Govt faces defeat over resolution on corona vaccine

Source: [Mumtaz Alvi](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-04-06

ISLAMABAD: As the Senate met on Monday for its first regular session of a new parliamentary year, Leader of Opposition Yusuf Raza Gilani vowed to carry with him the entire opposition and also become the voice of the government, whereas the PML-N pledged to play its independent role as a real opposition. The new session was marred by loud charges and counter-charges from some senators of th.....[more >>](#)

Sindh asks Centre to ban inter-provincial transport

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-04-06

KARACHI: The Sindh government has requested the centre to immediately suspend the inter-provincial public transport service in view of the alarming situation of the third wave of coronavirus infections. Speaking at a press conference here on Monday, Sindh Education and Labour Minister Saeed Ghani said the federal government had not yet acted upon their request to stop the operations of inter-prov.....[more >>](#)

WHO provides logistics support to MCI

Source: [APP](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-04-06

Islamabad: World Health Organisation (WHO) provided logistic support to Metropolitan Corporation Islamabad (MCI) to strengthen its various health related activities including field surveillance, monitoring and evaluation. WHO Representative to Pakistan Dr Palitha Gunarathna Mahipala handed over the vehicles' keys in a ceremony held here. Administrator MCI, Syeda Shafaq Hashmi were al.....

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PM Imran hints at seeking second Covid relief package from IMF

Source: [News Desk](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-06

Prime Minister Imran Khan has emphasised the need for providing second relief package to the masses particularly the poor segment of the society to deal with impact of the third coronavirus wave. He remarked while addressing the launching ceremony of UNDP's Pakistan National Human Development Report (NHDR) on Inequality held in Islamabad on Tuesday. PM Imran said he will personally tal.....

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Country records 4,323 new corona cases, 43 deaths: NCOC

Source: [Abdul Rasheed Azad](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-07

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has recorded 4,323 new coronavirus cases and 43 deaths in the past 24 hours, the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) said. According to the NCOC, during the past 24 hours, countrywide 43,362 Covid-19 tests were conducted of which 4,323 turned positive, reflecting a positivity ratio of 9.9 percent. Nationwide 2,902 coronavirus patients have recovered from the

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IHC dismisses petition challenging 'NAP for Coronavirus Disease Pakistan'

Source: [Terence J Sigamony](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-06

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC), on Monday, dismissed a petition challenging "National Action Plan for Coronavirus Disease Pakistan". Irum Malik has invoked the jurisdiction of the IHC under Article 199 of the Constitution challenging the "National Action Plan for Corona Virus Disease Pakistan". Irum, appearing in person, contended that the scientific re.....

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Pakistan seeks financial assistance to deal with Covid impact

Source: [Tahir Amin](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-06

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan, on Monday, urged the international community for providing additional financial assistance to developing countries to deal with the negative impact of corona pandemic on the economy and fight against the socioeconomic challenges. Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Makhdum Khusro Bakhtyar, on Monday, represented the country at the World Bank Group meeting on Human Capita.....

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Covid-19 SOPs; President seeks Ulema's, Mashaikh's cooperation

Source: [APP](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-06

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday urged the Ulema and Mashaikh to play their leading role in implementing Covid-19 Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) during Ramazan in mosques and Imambargahs. He advised the Ulema to get themselves vaccinated and act as role-models in following all SOPs to contain the spread of the virus amidst the third wave of the pandemic. The President ma.....

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Covid cases fall below 4,000 first time in 10 days

Source: [Ikram Junaidi](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-07

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan witnessed a decline in the daily count of Covid-19 cases as less than 4,000 patients were reported for the first time in 10 days. On the other hand, the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Tuesday decided to start matriculation and intermediate classes from April 19 and deferred resumption of classes 1 to 8 in most-affected areas till April 28. "Education/he.....

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Conference on Disarmament must overcome stagnation, webinar told

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-07

ISLAMABAD: A senior Pakistani official has expressed concern over the international security environment and asked the Conference on Disarmament, the multilateral negotiating forum on disarmament, to come out of its "stagnation". Director General at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Arms Control and Disarmament Division Kamran Akhtar, while speaking at a webin.....

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Prisoners, jail staff aged over 60 to be vaccinated

Source: [Mohammad Asghar](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-07

RAWALPINDI: The Punjab prison department has decided to vaccinate prisoners and staff aged over 60 years of age at 40 jails, including Adiala jail, against Covid-19. The provincial government has also imposed a temporary ban on meeting of prisoners with their families for 10 days to reduce the risk of the spread of the coronavirus. Inspector General of Prisons Shahid Saleem Baig has written a le.....

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WHO to help strengthen healthcare services in capital

Source: [Ikram Junaidi](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-07

ISLAMABAD: The World Health Organisation (WHO) has given assurance that it will take all possible steps to strengthen healthcare services in the federal capital. The assurance came at a meeting attended by WHO Country Director Dr Palitha Mahipala and Director General Health Metropolitan Corporation Islamabad (MCI) Dr Hasan Orooj at the WHO headquarters on Tuesday. It was decided that Dr Mahipala.....

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Covid-19 claims eight more lives in twin cities

Source: [Aamir Yasin](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-07

ISLAMABAD: Eight Covid-19 patients died in the twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad and 887 more people tested positive on Tuesday. During the last 24 hours, 7,500 tests were conducted in the capital and the positivity rate remained 8.79 per cent. Seven of the deaths were reported from Rawalpindi and one from Islamabad. Meanwhile, teams, comprising lady health workers, have been constituted

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103 more lose lives to Covid-19

Source: [news Desk](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-04-07

The national tally of total active Covid-19 cases on Tuesday was recorded at 63,102, as 3,953 more people tested positive for the deadly virus and 2,198 people recovered from the disease across country. One hundred and three patients died on Tuesday, 93 of whom were under treatment in hospitals and 10 in their respective quarantines or homes, according to the latest update issued by the National.....

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Covid-19: schools from class 1-8 to stay closed till April 28

Source: [news Desk](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-04-07

Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training Shafqat Mehmood on Tuesday said the schools from class 1 to 08 will be dysfunctional till April 28 in affected districts, in order to prevent children from third wave of Covid-19. However, the classes from grade 09 to 12 will resume on April 19 under strict coronavirus SOPs, Shafqat Mahmood announced while addressing a press conference. The.....

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AI-Shifa begins final trials of Chinese Covid vaccine

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-04-07

Final trials of coronavirus vaccine developed by Chinese multinational Anhui Zhifei Longcom Biopharmaceutical Co Ltd has been initiated at the AI-Shifa Trust Eye Hospital, after which it will be made available to the public across Pakistan. The vaccine has already been approved by the government of China, while trials have started at AI-Shifa after Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) rec.....

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President urges religious leaders to follow virus rules in mosques during Ramadan

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-06

ISLAMABAD - President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday urged the Ulema and Mashaikh to play their leading role in implementing COVID-19 Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) during Ramadan in mosques and Imambargahs. He advised the Ulema to get them vaccinated and act as role-models in following all SOPs to contain the spread of the virus amidst the third wave of the pandemic. The President made these r.....

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IHC rejects petition challenging NAP to counter Covid-19

Source: [Muhammad Asad Chaudhry](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-06

ISLAMABAD - Chief Justice of Islamabad High Court Justice Athar Minallah on Monday dismissed a petition challenging National Action Plan (NAP) to counter Covid-19 by sighting it contrary to the injunctions of Islam. The court also fined Rs20,000 by declaring the petition frivolous and unwarranted attempt to make NAP controversial. Petitioner Irum Malik appeared before the court in person and

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4,323 Covid-19 cases reported with 43 deaths

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-06

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan on Monday recorded as many 4,323 new Covid-19 cases and 43 deaths in the last 24 hours, the NCOC said. According to the latest data released by the National Command & Operation Centre (NCOC), most deaths occurred in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) followed by Punjab. Out of 43 deaths, seven Covid-19 patients died on ventilators while 40 patients died in hospitals and three o.....

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Coronavirus death toll surges past 15,000 mark in Pakistan

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-04-07

With 102 new cases, Pakistan's coronavirus death toll crossed the 15,000 mark, while the number of COVID-19 cases crossed the 700,000 mark on Wednesday. According to the NCOC'S data, the country reported 4,004 new coronavirus cases in the last 24 hours with a positivity ratio of 9.6%. Since the beginning of the pandemic, about 7,00,188 COVID-19 cases have been reported in Pakist.....

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103 more perish as corona steams ahead

Source: [Jamila Achakzai](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-04-07

ISLAMABAD: A staggering 103 people lost their lives to the virulent Covid-19 in the last 24 hours as the third wave of the virion took its toll across the country, while the total number of active cases reached 63,102 with an alarming 3,953 more testing positive in a day and 2,198 also recovering. Of the 103 patients, 93 were under treatment in hospitals, according to the National Command and Ope.....

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Covid-19 scourge: World Bank projects rising public debt, increasing poverty

Source: [Mehtab Haider](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-04-07

ISLAMABAD: While presenting a dismal picture about Pakistan's economy, the World Bank has projected rising public debt, increasing poverty, and low GDP growth in the range of 1.3 percent for the current fiscal year. The WB released Pakistan Development Update on Tuesday and said that the country's Public and Publicly Guaranteed Debt (PPGD) to-GDP ratio is projected to peak at 94.....

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Study reveals new variants could render current vaccines less effective

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-04-07

Islamabad: A higher number of infections and the circulation of the new more contagious variants of coronavirus around the world have created an alarming situation. In particular, new variants of coronavirus that emerged recently in the UK, South Africa, and Brazil could pose a threat to vaccination and could diminish the effectiveness of the existing vaccines. These new variants of corona.....

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103 die of Covid-19 across country

Source: [Abdul Rasheed Azad](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-07

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan, Tuesday, reported 103 coronavirus deaths of which 88 only in Punjab, which is 85.44 percent of the total Covid-19 national deaths reported in the past 24 hours. According to the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), the country also reported 3,953 new Covid-19 cases in the past 24 hours, which took the national tally to 696,184, since the coronavirus outbreak in F.....

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Geopolitical aPM to talk to IMF for 'ways and means' to further protect poorliances

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-07

ISLAMABAD - Prime Minister Imran Khan on Tuesday said he would talk to the IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva for lifting conditions over aid money so that poor segments of the society could be provided relief package in order to mitigate impact of the third coronavirus wave. "We are going to speak to IMF because we see disruptions ahead. Just when our economy was recovering and.....

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Corona claims 103 more lives in 24 hours

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-07

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan has reported over 100 deaths from Coronavirus during the last 24 hours, taking the death toll close to 15,000, according to the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC). The country reported 3,953 new Coronavirus cases in the last 24 hours with a positivity ratio of 8.4 percent. About 103 more people succumbed to Coronavirus after which the death toll stood at 14,924 natio.....

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'New COVID-19 variants render current vaccines less efficient'

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-07

ISLAMABAD - A higher number of infections and the circulation of the new more contagious variants of coronavirus around the world have created an alarming situation. In particular, new variants of coronavirus that emerged recently in the UK, South Africa, and Brazil could pose a threat to vaccination and could diminish the effectiveness of the existing vaccines. These new variants of coronavirus ha.....

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Centre, Sindh to launch Covid-19 response project

Source: [Fawad Yousufzai](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-07

ISLAMABAD - The federal and Sindh government will jointly launch a COVID-19 response and other Natural Calamities Control programme, in the province costing Rs20.522 billion. The project shall provide universal health coverage to improve the health indicators of underserved areas of Sindh rovince, said the working paper of the project on COVID-19 response and other Natural Calamities Control

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Coronavirus in Pakistan: Shafqat Mehmood assured of SOPs compliance during Cambridge exams

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-04-08

ISLAMABAD: Federal Education Minister Shafqat Mehmood was assured by the British Council Pakistan on Thursday that the body will ensure that all coronavirus standard operating procedures are followed during the upcoming O and A level examinations. "The head of British Council and Cambridge in Pakistan came to see me today. They [British Council] assured me that all SOPs for conducting the ex.....

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13 COVID-19 deaths, 720 test positive from twin cities

Source: [Mushtaq Ghumman](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-04-08

Rawalpindi : As many as 13 patients from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district died of coronavirus illness, COVID-19 in the last 24 hours and it happened only for the second time in the last 138 days that over 12 patients lost their lives due to the illness from the region in a single day. However, the most alarming fact that is being ignored is record-high number of active c.....

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Clean water, soap demanded for all healthcare facilities

Source: [Myra Imran](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-04-08

Islamabad : On this World Health Day, WaterAid has demanded provision of clean water and soap to all healthcare facilities on emergency basis as 1.8 billion people are at higher risk of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases globally because they use or work in a healthcare facility that lacks basic water services. "It is a matter of urgency to make sure all healthcare facilities in

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PM Imran urges D-8 nations to evolve Covid recovery plan, boost engagements

Source: [News Desk](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-08

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan urged the Developing-8 (D-8) countries on Thursday to develop a strategy to deal with the economic and health crises brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic. "We must mobilise financing and resources to recover robustly from the economic and health crises induced by Covid pandemic." "We must come up with a strategy to deal with the emergency posed.....

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NCOC chief urged to take notice of Sindh's 'illegal' vaccine procurement

Source: [News Desk](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-08

ISLAMABAD: Transparency International approached on Wednesday the National Command and Operations Centre (NCOC), informing them about Sindh government's illegal procurement of 10 million doses of CanSinoBio vaccine from a private importer. In its letter addressed to the NCOC chief Asad Umar, the organisation stated that Sindh government had placed orders with AJM Pharma on April 2 to supply 10.....

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Pakistan reports 5,329 new coronavirus cases in 24 hours

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-08

Pakistan has reported 98 deaths in the last 24 hours by novel coronavirus as the number of positive cases has surged to 705,517. The nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 15,124 on Thursday. According to the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) 5,329 persons tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 24 hour. Punjab remains the worst-hit province in terms o.....

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Russia offers Pakistan vaccine, energy, military equipment

Source: [Shafqat Ali](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-08

ISLAMABAD - Russia on Wednesday assured Pakistan of full cooperation in diverse areas particularly to meet the country's requirements in energy, security equipment and supply of coronavirus vaccine. Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov in a joint press conference with Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi here at the Foreign Affairs Ministry said substantive talks were held on the ear.....

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Corona death toll crosses 15,000 mark

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-08

ISLAMABAD - The coronavirus death toll has crossed the 15,000 mark in Pakistan as the country reported 102 more deaths during the past 24 hours on Wednesday. With 102 new fatalities, Pakistan's coronavirus death toll reached 15,026 while the number of Covid-19 cases crossed the 700,000 mark on Wednesday. According to the NCOC, the country reported 4,004 new coronavirus cases during the last 24 h.....

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Corona vaccination registration to open for all citizens after Eid: Asad

Source: [Geo News](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-04-09

ISLAMABAD: National Command and Operations Centre (NCOC) head Asad Umar said on Thursday said that COVID-19 vaccination registration will be open to all citizens after Eid. The Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives was speaking to senior journalists when he announced the development. "Vaccinating the population has always been a priority. We began a phased-wise ap.....

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COVID-19 vaccination declared a challenge for government

Source: [Jamila Achakzai](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-09

Islamabad : Vaccination of the people against coronavirus will be a huge challenge for the government and the rural support programmes can help ensure an access of the residents of far-flung areas to the vaccine, said Islamabad deputy commissioner Hamza Shafqaat on Thursday. He was speaking during the National Convention of LSOs 2021, which was held by the Rural Support Programme Network (.....

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IWMB unable to implement SOPs on walking trails

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-09

Islamabad : The Islamabad Wildlife Management Board (IWMB) has showed its inability to implement Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on walking trails due to non-cooperation and irresponsible attitude of the visitors. The IWMB chairperson in her tweet message informed that when she visited Trail V there was a crowd of visitors but none of them was wearing facemask. She also stated that th.....

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Over 1m kids may drop out of schools after pandemic

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-04-09

Islamabad : Pakistan no longer has the luxury to focus on bringing the colossal pre-pandemic figure of 22.8 million out-of-school children into schools but must now actively strategize to prevent a roll-back on important gains made vis-à-vis education, especially girls' access to education in the last decade. Inaction can result in millions of more Pakistani children dropping-out of s.....

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98 deaths, 5,329 Covid-19 cases reported

Source: [Abdul Rasheed Azad](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-09

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan, Thursday, reported 5,329 Covid-19 cases and 98 deaths taking the cases tally to 705,517 and deaths tally to 15,124, the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) said. According to official data, the Punjab, the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) are the worst-hit areas of the second and third wave of the Covid-19. Out of 705,517 cas.....

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102 die of Covid-19 across country

Source: [Abdul Rasheed Azad](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-08

ISLAMABAD: The country reported 102 deaths in the last 24 hours by the coronavirus bringing the nationwide tally of fatalities to 15,026, says the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC). According to the NCOC data, the number of positive cases has surged to 700,188 as 4,004 persons were tested positive for the COVID-19 in the past 24 hours. During the period of a day, the total count of.....

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Vaccination for all after Eid

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-09

ISLAMABAD: The final phase of the ongoing vaccination campaign against coronavirus would be initiated after Eidul Fitr, covering people of every age group, Planning Minister Asad Umar announced on Thursday, as the country witnessed the highest number of new Covid cases in a day in nearly 10 months. The country remains in the firm grip of the third wave of Covid-19, driven by the UK strain of the.....

[more >>](#)

Covid tally increases by 564 in capital

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-09

ISLAMABAD: The federal capital continued to witness a surge in the number of coronavirus cases with 564 new patients on Thursday, a National Command Operation Centre spokesperson said. He said so far 62,775 cases have been reported while 588 deaths have occurred in the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT). Meanwhile, the Rawalpindi District Administration (RDA) has launched a crackdown against the.....

[more >>](#)

Pakistan reports 5,312 coronavirus cases in 24 hours

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-09

Pakistan has reported 105 deaths in the last 24 hours by novel coronavirus as the number of positive cases has surged to 710,829. The nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 15,229 on Friday. According to the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC), 5,312 persons tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 24 hours. Punjab remains the worst-hit province by the pa.....

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PM proposes five-point roadmap to materialise D-8 vision

Source: [Shafqat Ali](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-09

ISLAMABAD - Prime Minister Imran Khan yesterday proposed a five-point roadmap to materialize the vision of D-8. The proposals included mobilizing financial resources to recover robustly for the economic and health crises incurred by the COVID-19 pandemic. Addressing the 10th D-8 virtual summit, he invited the D-8 leaders to consider his five-point plan and join advocacy for COVID-19 related

[more >>](#)

Centre reports highest single-day spike with 5,329 new infections

Source: [Tahir Niaz](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-09

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan reported 5,329 more coronavirus cases and 98 deaths during the last 24 hours. This is the highest number of daily Covid-19 infections so far this year as well as the highest since June 16, 2020 when 5,090 cases were reported. The current positivity ratio is 10.7 percent. According to the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), Punjab reported 2,990 cases and 62 dea.....

[more >>](#)

2 bus stations sealed

Source: [APP](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-09

PESHAWAR - District administration Peshawar during crackdown against the violators of corona preventive standard operating procedures (SOPs) sealed two bus stations and arrested their managers on Thursday. The officers of district administration along with the officers of the Regional Transport Authority (RTA) inspected bus stands in respective areas of jurisdiction and collectively sealed two bus stations.

[more >>](#)

Covid isolation hospital being upgraded to 150 beds with enhanced facilities

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-09

ISLAMABAD - The Isolation Hospital and Infectious Treatment Centre (IHITC) is being upgraded by the Health Ministry to 150 beds with enhanced facilities. According to the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination, the IHITC is a 250-bed purpose-built facility for infectious diseases. The hospital has been serving Covid-19 patients since its inauguration by the Prime Minister.

[more >>](#)

Pakistan sounds alarm as 105 more succumb to coronavirus

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-04-09

ISLAMABAD: The coronavirus situation is worsening in the country with each passing day as Pakistan reported 105 more deaths, taking the national death tally to 15,229 on Friday. As per the data on the National Command and Operations Centre's (NCOC) official website, the coronavirus positivity rate has been recorded at 9.6% and the number of active cases in the country stands at 69,811.

[more >>](#)

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

SOPs execution assured in Tank

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-04-06

TANK: District Police Officer Sajjad Ahmad Sahibzada Monday said that COVID-19 standard operating procedures (SOPs) were being implemented at all police stations, police lines, pickets, barracks and residential rooms to avoid corona spread. He told media that as per the directives of Inspector General of Police Sanaullah Abbasi and Regional Police Officer Shaukat Abbas hand sanitizers and disinfectants are being provided to all police stations.

[more >>](#)

YDA concerned at alleged oxygen gas supply disruption

Source: [Bureau Report](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-04-06

PESHAWAR: The Young Doctors Association (YDA) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa spokesman Dr Faisal Barakzai has asked the government to bring forward the report of the inquiry committee about the disruption of oxygen supply to the coronavirus patient at the Lady Reading Hospital. Speaking at a news conference at Peshawar Press Club on Monday, he said it was the second incident within a few months, which is a serious concern.

[more >>](#)

Experts call for training of medics to control pandemic

Source: [Bureau Report](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-07

PESHAWAR: Covid-19 claimed 27 lives and infected 829 more people in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as health experts called for mandatory use of personal protective equipment and training of healthcare providers to safeguard them against the virus and control the pandemic. So far, the province has registered 2,496 mortalities and 93,862 incidences of the virus, according to a report of health department. It is a serious concern.

[more >>](#)

Six shops sealed for violation of corona SOPs

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-06

LAKKI MARWAT - The tehsil administration sealed six shops and imposed fines on violation of coronavirus related SOPs in Naurang on Monday. Additional AC Aminullah Khan paid visits to different bazaars in the town to check implementation of weekly lockdown and observance of relevant protocols by the business community. The AAC expressed anger over non-compliance of SOPs issued by the govern.....

[more >>](#)

COVID-19 SOPs being implemented strictly: DPO

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-06

TANK - District Police Officer (DPO) Sajjad Ahmad Sahibzada on Monday said that NCOC standard operating procedures (SOPs) for COVID-19 were strictly being implemented at all police stations, police line, pickets, barracks and police residential rooms to avoid coronavirus spread. Talking to media persons, he said that as per directives of KP Inspector General of Police Sanaullah Abbasi and Reg.....

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Opposition asks govt to reduce upper age limit for corona vaccination

Source: [Nisar Mahmood](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-04-07

PESHAWAR: Calling for accelerating the vaccination drive, the members of the opposition lawmakers in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly on Tuesday asked the government to reduce the upper age limit for the Covid-19 vaccination and ensure the availability of the vaccines. Inayatullah Khan of Jamaat-e-Islami raised the issue on a point of order, saying that it seemed the corona pandemic would c.....

[more >>](#)

17 die of Covid-19 in Swat in two days

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-04-07

MINGORA: About 17 people have died from the novel coronavirus at the Saidu Sharif Teaching Hospital in the last two days, health officials said. The officials said that a total of 157 people had so far died from the coronavirus in Swat district. They said that some 148 corona patients were still under treatment at the Saidu Sharif Teaching Hospital while three people were discharged after.....

[more >>](#)

Covid-19 scare: Third wave kills Swat's hospitality industry

Source: [Umer Farooq](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-06

PESHAWAR: Still reeling from the impact of the first and second waves of Covid-19, the hospitality industry in Swat, appears to be struggling for its survival during the third wave of the super spreader. Already devastated by the plummeting number of visitors, the tourism and hospitality industry in Swat appears to be on its knees since the onset of the third wave of Covid-19. With tougher SOPs

[more >>](#)

One killed, 37 more infected in Nowshera Covid-19 spree

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-04-08

NOWSHERA: A patients died of Covid-19 while 37 more tested positive for the viral infection in the district on Wednesday. With the new casualty, the fatalities from the coronavirus reached 76 in the district. The administration also imposed a heavy fine on two shops owners while sealed five other shops for violating standard operating procedures (SOPs) against the virus. Deputy Commissio.....

[more >>](#)

Alleged death of Covid-19 patients: LRH admin forms another body to probe incident

Source: [Mushtaq Yusufzai, The News, International](#), 2021-04-08

PESHAWAR: Taking note of the alleged death of eight Covid-19 patients in the hospital, the administration of Lady Reading Hospital (LRH) on Wednesday constituted another two-member committee to investigate the causes of the human losses that is believed to have happened due to mismanagement, officials told The News. LRH is Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's largest and oldest public sector hospital....

[more >>](#)

Situation in KP worsening as corona claims 34 more lives

Source: [Bureau Report, The News, International](#), 2021-04-09

PESHAWAR: Situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is getting worse with each passing day, with hospitals being flooded with coronavirus patients as the fast-spreading virus on Thursday claimed 34 more lives in the province. In Mardan, the angry attendants of corona patients blocked the main busy Mardan-Peshawar road for traffic to lodge their protest against shortage of oxygen to their critical patients....

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Covid-19 kills 2, infects 85 more in Nowshera

Source: [Our Correspondent, The News, International](#), 2021-04-09

NOWSHERA: Two patients died of Covid-19 while 85 more tested positive for the viral infection in the district on Thursday. With the new casualties, the fatalities from the coronavirus reached 78 in the district. Deputy Commissioner Mir Reza Ozgen said that a woman of Pabbi Town and a man identified as Noorul Basar of Badrashi, who were infected by the Covid-19, died while struggling for life....

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Punjab**13 die of COVID-19, 770 test positive from twin cities**

Source: [Muhammad Qasim, The News, International](#), 2021-04-06

Rawalpindi: As many as 13 confirmed patients of coronavirus illness, COVID-19 belonging to Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district have died of the disease in the last 24 hours which is the highest number of deaths recorded in a single day from the twin cities in the last 136 days. Earlier, on December 11 last year, the virus claimed 13 lives from the region though at that time,....

[more >>](#)

Cases registered against SOPs violators

Source: [APP, The News, International](#), 2021-04-06

Rawalpindi: District Administration Rawalpindi Monday registered FIRs against 100 persons including the chief guest of a programme on violation of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) issued by Punjab government to contain spread of coronavirus. According to a district administration spokesman, Assistant Commissioner (AC) Saddar, Mehar Ghulam Abbas along with police conducted a raid at an i....

[more >>](#)

15 more die from corona

Source: [Our Correspondent, The News, International](#), 2021-04-06

LAHORE: Around 15 COVID-19 patients died and 2,275 new positive cases were confirmed in Punjab during the last 24 hours. According to P&SHD report issued on Monday, the toll of fatalities was raised to 6,587 in Punjab, while confirmed cases became 233,348 in the province. As per the spokesperson for Corona Monitoring Room at P&SHD, 17,994 tests have been conducted in the last 24 hours, which....

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1130 FIRs registered against violators of corona SOPs

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-04-06

LAHORE: Lahore Police have registered as many as 1130 FIRs against different corona SOPs violations including not wearing face masks during the last eight days. Police lodged 576 cases on violation of corona SOPs including maintenance of social distance and not following timings of commercial activities whereas 554 FIRs were registered against persons for not following the government direct....

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Punjab IG prisons directs competent authority to vaccinate prisoners above 50, staff

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-06

LAHORE: The Punjab Inspector-general of prisons on Tuesday directed competent authority to vaccinate all prisoners above 50 years, jail staff and their families [against Covid-19] as per the policy of the provincial health department. According to a circular issued from the office of Punjab IG prisons, the intimation is to be followed on a priority basis with the help of the health chief executive

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Punjab reports 2,775 fresh corona cases, 15 deaths

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-06

LAHORE: There is no let up in the spread of coronavirus in the province, as out of 17,994 Covid-19 tests conducted during the last 24 hours, as many as 2,775 fresh virus cases and 15 fatalities were reported across Punjab with positivity rate of 12.64 percent and taking the provincial tally of cases to 233,348 and death toll to 6,587. With the recovery of 1,699 more virus patients, the number.....

[more >>](#)

Relentless third wave of Covid

Source: [news Desk](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-07

LAHORE: A record 88 people died of the Covid-19 in Punjab during the last 24 hours, taking the death toll to 6,675 while there are alarming reports of 100 bed occupancy in critical care units (ICUs) of the teaching hospitals of many cities. It was the highest number of deaths reported in a day in the province since the beginning of the pandemic in March 2020. Of the new deaths, 42 people died in.....

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Govt utilising all out resources to combat corona pandemic, says Health Minister

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-06

LAHORE - Punjab Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid chaired the Cabinet meeting on dengue prevention at the Darbar Hall of the Civil Secretariat here on Monday. Chief Secretary Punjab, Secretary Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department Sarah Aslam, Commissioner Lahore Captain (retd) Muhammad Usman Younis, Director General Health Services Punjab Dr Haroon Jahangir attended the meeting while Commiss.....

[more >>](#)

8 more die of COVID-19, 875 cases from twin cities

Source: [Muhammad Qasim](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-04-07

Rawalpindi: Another eight confirmed patients of coronavirus illness, COVID-19 from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district have died of the illness in the last 24 hours taking the death toll from the region to 1,358 while another 875 patients have been tested positive for COVID-19 from the twin cities that has taken the total number of patients so far registered from the region to 80,2.....

[more >>](#)

Schools to remain closed for classes 1 to 8 till Eid

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-04-07

LAHORE: In the light of the decisions taken in the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) meeting held on Tuesday, the Punjab schools minister announced that all public and private schools will remain closed for classes 1 to 8 till Eidul Fitr in the districts most affected by coronavirus. However, all schools in Lahore, Sheikhpura, Gujranwala, Gujrat, Rawalpindi, Multan, Bahawalpur,.....

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New corona vaccine trials begin at Al-Shifa

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-07

ISLAMABAD: The final trial of another coronavirus vaccine developed by Chinese multinational company Anhui Zhifei Longcom Biopharmaceutical Co Ltd has been initiated at the AlShifa Trust Eye Hospital after which it will be made available to the masses across Pakistan, a spokesperson said on Tuesday. The vaccine has already been approved by the Government of China while trials were started at Al-S.....

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Punjab reports 2,221 fresh corona cases, 88 deaths

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-07

LAHORE: The novel Corona pandemic continued to play havoc, as record 88 fatalities including 42 in Lahore were reported across the province during the last 24 hours taking the provincial tally of death toll to 6675. Out of 19,304 Covid-19 tests conducted during the past 24 hours, as many as 2,221 fresh virus cases were reported across Punjab with positivity rate of 11.50 percent from previous 12.6.....

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Vaccination centres scope to be expanded: CM

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-04-08

LAHORE: Chief Minister Usman Buzdar has announced in principle gradually expanding the scope of vaccination centres in the province. Chairing a meeting to review corona situation, the CM said Rs1.5 billion was being allocated for procurement of more than one million doses of corona vaccine. The government is striving hard to save the citizens from coronavirus and many steps will also be tak.....

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Punjab to buy 1m doses of corona vaccine: Dr Yasmin Rashid

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-04-08

LAHORE: Punjab Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid Wednesday said that one million doses of corona vaccine will be procured after the approval of the cabinet in near future in the first phase. Chairing a meeting at the Civil Secretariat to review status of vaccine procurement and preparation, the health minister said that local preparation of vaccine would be possible between 6 and 10 months.

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Corona kills 56 more in Punjab

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-04-08

LAHORE: Around 56 COVID-19 patients died and 2,025 new positive cases were confirmed in Punjab during the last 24 hours. According to Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD) report issued Wednesday, the toll of fatalities reached 6,731 while confirmed cases became 237,594 in the province. As per the spokesperson for Corona Monitoring Room at P&SHD, 17,290 tests have been.....

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1,394 beds, 270 ventilators available at 81 private hospitals for Covid-19 patients

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-08

LAHORE - After continuous special inspections and guidance of the Punjab Healthcare Commission (PHC), 81 private hospitals in 12 major cities of the province are treating Covid-19 patients. As per the data updated by the Wednesday evening, these hospitals have a total of 1,394 beds and 270 ventilators available to treat corona patients. These healthcare establishments have these facilities fo.....

[more >>](#)

Police register 1,195 FIRs over various SOPs violations

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-08

LAHORE - Lahore Police registered 1,195 FIRs over various SOPs violations during last ten days in the city. The police lodged 609 cases on violations of corona SOPs including social distancing condition and not following timings of commercial activities, whereas 586 FIRs were registered against persons who were not wearing masks. Most of the cases of not wearing mask were recorded on Tuesday in M.....

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CM announces to expand scope of vaccination centres gradually

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-08

LAHORE - Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar has announced, in principle, to gradually expand the scope of vaccination centres in the province. While presiding over a meeting to review the corona situation, the CM informed that an amount of Rs 1.5 billion was being allocated for the procurement of more than one million doses of anti-corona vaccine. The government is striving hard to sa.....

[more >>](#)

Pandemic claims 56 more lives, 2,025 new cases of virus reported in Punjab

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-08

LAHORE - As many as 2,025 cases of coronavirus were reported in Punjab on Wednesday while the pandemic claimed 56 precious lives in last 24 hours which turned the death toll to 6,731. 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 237,594. The P&SHD confirmed that

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Punjab all set to procure 1m doses of corona vaccine: Health Minister

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-08

LAHORE - Punjab will procure one million doses of corona vaccine following approval of the cabinet in near future, said Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid here on Tuesday. Chairing a meeting at the Civil Secretariat to review status of vaccine procurement and preparation, she said that local preparation of vaccine will be possible between 6 to 10 months. Present in the meeting were Secretary S.....

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Five more die of coronavirus, 938 more cases reported

Source: [Muhammad Qasim](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-04-09

Rawalpindi: Coronavirus illness, COVID-19 has claimed another five lives from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district in the last 24 hours while as many as 938 new patients have been tested positive from the twin cities showing the outbreak is still hitting population much harder in this region of the country. It is alarming that the number of active cases from the twin cities

[more >>](#)

Vaccination centres to remain closed today: Yasmin Rashid

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-04-09

LAHORE: Punjab Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid has said that in compliance with directions of the NCOG all vaccination centres will remain closed on Friday, 9 April. She said in order to avoid inconvenience people were being informed. She added that vaccination centres would remain open on Sunday and people can contact 1033 for guidance. Meanwhile, on the directions of Chief Minister Usman.....

[more >>](#)

62 more die from corona in Punjab

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-04-09

LAHORE: Around 62 COVID-19 patients died and 2,990 new positive cases were confirmed in Punjab during the last 24 hours. According to Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD) report issued on Thursday, the death toll reached 6,793, while confirmed cases became 240,584 in the province. As per the spokesperson for Corona Monitoring Room at P&SHD, 21,325 tests have be.....

[more >>](#)

13 shops, marriage halls sealed

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-04-09

LAHORE: District Administration Lahore while implementing corona SOPs sealed a total of 13 shops, stores and marriage halls while a fine of over Rs1 Lakh was imposed on the violators here on Thursday. Assistant Commissioner City Faizan Ahmed sealed four restaurants and three shops. Assistant Commissioner Shalimar Mansoor Qazi fined 11 shops and stores and imposed a fine of over Rs100,000. A.....

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Corona positivity rate jumps to 14.02pc in Punjab

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-09

LAHORE: The positivity of coronavirus jumps to 14.02 percent in Punjab, as out of 21,325 Covid-19 tests conducted during the last 24 hours, as many as 2,990 fresh virus cases and 62 fatalities were reported across the province taking the provincial tally of cases to 240,584 and death toll to 6,793. With the recovery of 912 more virus patients, the number of recovered patients in the province

[more >>](#)

Covid-19 claims 56 more lives in Punjab

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-08

LAHORE: There is no let-up in coronavirus spread and casualties, as another 56 fatalities were reported across the province during the last 24 hours, taking the provincial tally of death to 6731. Out of 17,290 Covid-19 tests conducted during the last 24 hours, as many as 2025 fresh virus cases were reported across the province with positivity rate of 11.71% from previous 11.50%, taking the p.....

[more >>](#)

Gradually expanding scope of vaccination centres: CM

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-08

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar has announced to gradually expand the scope of vaccination centres in the province. While presiding over a meeting to review the corona situation, the CM informed that an amount of Rs 1.5 billion was being allocated for the procurement of more than one million doses of anti-corona vaccine. The government is striving hard to save the citizens f.....

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Vaccination centres to remain closed today

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-09

LAHORE - Punjab Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid has said that in compliance with directions of the NCOG all vaccination centres will remain closed today (Friday). She said in order to avoid inconvenience people were being informed. She added that vaccination centres will remain open on Sunday and people can contact 1033 for guidance.

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Shops, marriage halls sealed over SOPs violation

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-09

LAHORE - The city district administration sealed as many as 13 shops, stores, restaurants, marriage halls and imposed Rs 113,500 fine on violation of coronavirus related Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) here on Thursday. According to spokesperson of the district administration, Assistant Commissioner (AC) City Faizan Ahmed sealed three shops, four restaurants in his jurisdiction. AC Shalimar Ma.....

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Police arrest 7 persons on charges of firing, violating corona SOPs

Source: [Israr Ahmad](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-09

Islamabad - The police arrested a guest of a wedding party for resorting to aerial firing with automatic weapon while appearing from sunroof of a vehicle on Satra Mile Road in Bhara Kahu area, informed sources. A case has also been registered against the groom, his father, two brothers and other guests under sections 188/337Hii/109 of PPC with Police Station (PS) Bhara Kahu, they said. Accor.....

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COVID-19 patients in hospitals doubled in last four weeks: Punjab health secretary

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-04-09

Citizens wear face masks as a preventive measure against coronavirus in Pakistan. Photo: PPI The number of patients in Punjab hospitals has doubled in the last four weeks, with over 8,000 patients admitted to hospitals in just the last few days. Punjab Specialised Healthcare and Medical Education Department Secretary Nabeel Awan gave this update while talking about the worsen.....

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Sindh

Easter celebrated amid social distancing

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-06

KARACHI: Easter, the day of resurrection of Jesus Christ, was celebrated by the Christian community across churches of the city on Sunday. There were happy faces all around unlike on Good Friday which, which is the day of his crucifixion. Easter is the celebration of life, of rebirth and hope. Celebration and church mass Easter start around midnight on Saturday with readings from the Holy Bible,.....

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Businesses to remain shut on Friday, Sunday in Sindh as coronavirus cases rise

Source: [Kamran Razi](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-04-06

Businesses across Sindh will remain closed on Fridays and Sundays, the Sindh government said Monday, following an increase in the country's coronavirus infections. The Home Department, in a notification issued Monday, said grocery shops, medical stores, dairy shops, and other businesses that fall under the category of essential services will be exempted from the restriction. "Kee.....

[more >>](#)

Educational institutions shut out of compulsion, says Saeed Ghani

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#) , 2021-04-06

Sindh Education and Labour Minister Saeed Ghani has said positive coronavirus cases in educational institutions of the province stand at 2.7 per cent, and the government could not have waited till this percentage exceeded 10 per cent before suspending classroom teaching in schools and colleges. Speaking at a press conference in Karachi on Monday, he said the suspension of in-person classro.....

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Covid kills one more as another 308 test positive in Sindh

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#) , 2021-04-06

One more person has died due to Covid-19 and 308 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 4,510 in the province. Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said in his daily situation report on the health emergency on Monday that 10,300 samples were tested in the past 24 hours, resulting in 30.....

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Increased restrictions slowing Covid-19 positivity: Umar

Source: [News Desk](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#) , 2021-04-06

KARACHI: National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) chief Asad Umar said on Tuesday that increased restrictions, broader lockdowns and stronger SOP enforcement had started having an impact as initial signs of Covid-19 positivity were slowing. However, the minister cautioned that due to the momentum of the last two weeks, patients in critical care and mortality rate would stay at high levels for

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Covid-19 claims one more life in Sindh

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#) , 2021-04-06

KARACHI: One more patient of Coronavirus died overnight lifting the death toll to 4,510 and 308 new cases emerged when 10,300 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued here on Monday. He added that one more patient of Covid-19 died lifting the death toll to 4,510 that constituted 1.7 percent death rate. Murad Ali Shah said that 10,.....

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Traders vow to continue protest against Covid-related restrictions on Karachi markets

Source: [Imran Ayub](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#) , 2021-04-07

KARACHI: Traders and businessmen took to the streets and staged a protest demonstration outside the Karachi Press Club on Tuesday after their multiple meetings with the authorities failed to reach an agreement. They vowed to continue their campaign against the fresh restrictions on business hours imposed by the government amid growing cases of the coronavirus. A large number of traders riding mot.....

[more >>](#)

Sindh Police report 10 new COVID-19 patients in seven days

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#) , 2021-04-06

KARACHI - As many as 10 cops contracted COVID-19 in last seven days lifting the toll of total infected cops to 6,366, informed the spokesperson to Sindh police on Monday. He said that currently 45 officers and personnel were under treatment. The spokesperson told that 6,297 policemen had recovered from the disease. He said that 24 policemen lost their lives battling against the pandemic.

[more >>](#)

Ghani demands ban on inter-provincial transport including air, rail

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-06

KARACHI - Sindh Education Minister Saeed Ghani on Monday demanded to ban inter-provincial transport including air and rail from Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) amid a sharp increase of COVID-19 cases. Coronavirus can rapidly increase in Sindh if people continue to commute from Punjab and KP, Ghani said while addressing a press conference in Karachi. He said the situation in Sindh is under

[more >>](#)

20pc of Pakistan's population to be vaccinated

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-07

KARACHI - The federal government on Tuesday said that 20 percent population of the country would be vaccinated against COVID-19 by December 2021. The federal government shared the details of the vaccination process in a written form with the Sindh High Court (SHC), saying that they have earmarked an amount of \$150 million for the vaccination process. "From a period of June to December

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Vaccination of prisoners of 50 years and above starts in Sindh's 22 jails

Source: [M Waqar Bhatti](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-04-08

Sindh's health authorities on Wednesday started inoculating prisoners of 50 years of age and above at all the 22 prisons in the province against Covid-19, while jail staff and officials in the same age group were also given the jab. "We have started vaccinating around 2,500 prisoners of 50 years of age and above all over the province from today (Wednesday). In addition to them,.....

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Covid-19 claims four lives in Sindh, 374 more infected

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-04-08

Covid-19 claimed four more lives in Sindh during the previous 24 hours, raising the death toll to 4,520 in the province, said Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Wednesday in his daily statement on the pandemic situation in the province. In addition to four more deaths, he said, 374 new cases of Covid-19 emerged during the previous 24 hours after the results of 9,411 tests were obtained.....

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'Covid pandemic has underscored importance of personal hygiene, proper nutrition'

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-04-08

The Covid-19 pandemic has served to further underline the significance of clean water, sanitation, personal hygiene and adequate nutrition. Our aim should be to provide access to these necessities to promote a healthy society. This inequality still exists which is not only unfair but also it is preventable. These views expressed by Mrs. Sadia Rashid, president of the Hamdard Foundation Pak.....

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Centre has allocated \$150m for procurement of Covid-19 vaccines, SHC told

Source: [Jamal Khurshid](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-04-08

The federal government has allocated an amount of \$150 million for procurement of safe and effective life-saving Covid-19 vaccines to immunise the eligible population in the country with a special focus on the most vulnerable segments, a deputy director of the federal ministry of health services told the Sindh High Court (SHC) on Tuesday. Filing comments on a court query with regard to gen.....

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Covid accelerates edtech boom in Pakistan

Source: [Salman Siddiqui, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-08

KARACHI: A group of graduates from renowned Pakistani and global schools LUMS and Harvard are running an education-technology startup Edkasa to help students learn science subjects online. It provides learning solutions mostly to the students unable to find teachers at schools and in their neighbourhood. The startup founders launched a mobile app on Wednesday ahead of exams for classes 9-12 tentatively....

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Combining health and technology - a pandemic plus

Source: [Kashif Hussain, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-08

KARACHI: On April 7, 2021, people across the globe observed World Health Day in the backdrop of persistently rising Covid-19 infections and deaths. The pandemic, which brought the world to a standstill, claimed millions of lives, confined many others to isolation and badly damaged the global economy, continues to trouble the world to date. Joblessness, growing domestic violence, deaths, healthcare....

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Covid inoculation drive begins in prisons in Sindh

Source: [Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-08

KARACHI: The process of administering coronavirus vaccines to inmates and jail staff aged over 50 began on Wednesday. The inoculation of prisoners began with Karachi Central Jail as a team of doctors and health workers arrived and carried out routine checkups before administering the first dose to an elderly inmate. Jail officials and other inmates followed next. Read: Pakistan to start single-dose....

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'Stricter SOPs in Karachi, Hyderabad will draw political backlash'

Source: [Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-07

KARACHI: Stricter lockdown restrictions have not been imposed in Karachi and Hyderabad, despite both the cities reporting relatively higher infection rates, as the move is likely to draw a "political backlash," said Sindh Health Minister Dr Azra Pechuho on Tuesday. The minister, while addressing a National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) meeting via a video link, added that Covid-19....

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COVID-19 claims four more lives, infects 374 others

Source: [Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-08

KARACHI - As many as four more patients of coronavirus died overnight lifting the death toll to 4,520 and 374 new cases emerged when 9,411 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued on Wednesday. He added that four more patients of COVID-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 4,520 that constituted 1.7 percent death rate. Mur....

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DRAP allows emergency authorisation to fifth Covid-19 vaccine

Source: [M Waqar Bhatti, The News, International](#), 2021-04-09

KARACHI: The registration board of Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) has allowed another Chinese vaccine, CoronaVac, for COVID-19, officials said on Thursday adding that despite its low efficacy shown during the trials, the vaccine was allowed to counter the third wave of pandemic in Pakistan. "DRAP's registration board in its 304th meeting on Thursday gave Emergency....

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People must wear masks to avoid Covid-19, says MPA Shahzad Qureshi

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The News, International](#) , 2021-04-09

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) activist and Sindh Assembly member Shehzad Qureshi has expressed concern over the third wave of the coronavirus epidemic, and urged the people to wear mandatory masks. The lawmaker expressed deep sorrow over the demise of renowned singer Shaukat Ali. During a function recently, he wore a special mask designed with Sindhi ajrak to highlight the culture of Sind.....

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Covid-19 kills one more

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#) , 2021-04-09

One more person has died due to Covid-19 and 358 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 4,521 in the province. Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said in his daily situation report on the health emergency on Thursday that 9,392 samples were tested in the past 24 hours, resulting in 3.....

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31 more test positive for COVID-19 in Hyderabad

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#) , 2021-04-09

HYDERABAD - As many as 31 more COVID-19 positive cases have been reported during the last 24 hours, taking the number of total coronavirus cases to 12513 in Hyderabad district on Thursday. Out of 12513 COVID-19 cases, 11769 have so far been recovered while 287 patients had lost their lives due to the contagion, daily situation report stated. The number of total active cases has reached to 457, of

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Rally held to raise COVID-19 awareness in Kandhkot

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#) , 2021-04-09

KANDHKOT - An awareness rally was held in connection to take precautionary measures against spread of COVID-19 here on Thursday. The rally was taken out from Ghantaghar roundabout to Press Club Kandhkot under the auspices of Pakistan Islamic Medical Association (PIMA) and association with Al Khidmat foundation Kashmir led by Dr Waqar ul Islam Khawaja, Dr Amanullah Baloch, Dr Khalid Illahi Bh.....

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International News

Countries News

Clear link between AstraZeneca vaccine & blood clots in brain

Source: [Reuters](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-06

ROME: There is a link between AstraZeneca's Covid-19 vaccine and very rare blood clots in the brain but the possible causes are still unknown, a senior official for the European Medicines Agency (EMA) said in an interview published on Tuesday. "In my opinion we can now say it, it is clear that there is an association with the vaccine. However, we still do not know what causes this reac.....

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Saudi Arabia to allow only Covid vaccinated pilgrims to perform Umrah

Source: [News Desk](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-06

Authorities in Saudi Arabia on Monday announced that only vaccinated or immune worshippers will be given permits to perform Umrah and regular prayers at the Grand Mosque in Makkah and the Prophet's Mosque in Madina during the holy month of Ramazan in a bid to contain the spread of coronavirus. The Saudi Press Agency (SPA) quoted the kingdom's Ministry of Hajj and Umrah as saying that the pe.....

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New Zealand, Australia launch 'travel bubble' to boost tourism

Source: [AFP](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-07

WELLINGTON: New Zealanders and Australians rushed to book flights on Tuesday as the beleaguered tourism industry welcomed the "lifeline" of a travel bubble between the largely coronavirus-free neighbours. New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern announced the two-way, quarantine-free travel corridor would open from 11:59pm on April 18. Jim Boulton, the mayor of New Zealand's Que.....

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India to review Covid-19 vaccines after blood clot warning - report

Source: [Reuters](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-09

A government panel of experts is investigating for any domestic cases of blood clotting, even mild ones, as a side effect of the two Covid-19 vaccines being administered in India, financial daily Mint reported on Friday, citing two people aware of the development. India is currently administering AstraZeneca's Covid-19 vaccine, which is manufactured by the Serum Institute and branded Covishield.....

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China repeats call to resist 'vaccine nationalism', pledges to keep monetary support

Source: [Reuters](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-09

TOKYO: China urged the international community to resist "vaccine nationalism" and to coordinate policy to make vaccines accessible for developing countries in order to contain the pandemic and for the sake of the global economy. Yi Gang, Governor of the People's Bank of China, said in a statement delivered to the International Monetary Fund's steering committee on Thursd.....

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Other SDPI Engagements

Webinar News

Govt urged to improve ease of doing business

Source: APP, [The News, International](#), 2021-04-06

ISLAMABAD: Experts on Monday called on the government to improve the ease of doing business (EODB) for the private sector, as it would help revive the country's economy. They were speaking at a pre-budget digital consultation on better business regulations jointly organised by Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) and National Textile University Faisalabad (NTUF). Punjab B.....[more >>](#)

Experts stress need for ease of doing business

Source: APP, [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-06

ISLAMABAD: Experts on Monday underlined the need for ease of doing business and a favourable business environment for reviving economic growth in the country. "The private sector has a critical role in the growth of economy," said a statement issued by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI). At a pre-budget digital consultative session on better business regulations, join.....[more >>](#)

EXPERTS CALL FOR ENSURING EASE OF DOING BUSINESS

Source: DNA, [Daily Islamabad Post](#), 2021-04-07

ISLAMABAD, APR 7 -Tax reforms and more fiscal powers to provinces would improve the revenue collection. Sales tax should be collected by the provinces instead of federal agencies for efficient tax regime. The speakers said this while sharing their views during the public private dialogue (Hybrid) to discuss pre-budget proposals and Better Business Regulations jointly held by Sustainable Development P.....[more >>](#)

Experts advocate sales tax collection by provinces

Source: Our Correspondent, [The News, International](#), 2021-04-08

KARACHI: Experts on Wednesday tied improved revenues to tax reforms and more fiscal powers to provinces and termed sales tax collection by the federating units critical to an efficient tax regime. Views to this effect were expressed by economists during a virtual dialogue to discuss pre-budget proposals and better business regulations. The talk was jointly held by Sustainable Development P.....[more >>](#)

Experts call for ensuring ease of doing business

Source: Our Correspondent, [The News, International](#), 2021-04-08

Islamabad: Tax reforms and more fiscal powers to provinces would improve the revenue collection. Sales tax should be collected by the provinces instead of federal agencies for efficient tax regime. The speakers said this while sharing their views during the public private dialogue to discuss pre-budget proposals and Better Business Regulations jointly held by Sustainable Development Policy.....[more >>](#)

Reforms to help improve tax receipts

Source: Our Correspondent, [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-08

ISLAMABAD: Experts have voiced a unanimous opinion that tax reforms, coupled with increased fiscal powers for provinces, will significantly improve revenue collection by the country. Sharing their views at a public-private dialogue held to discuss pre-budget proposals and business regulations on Wednesday, they stressed that sales tax should be collected by the provinces instead of federal agenc.....[more >>](#)

EXPERTS CALL FOR ENSURING EASE OF DOING BUSINESS

Source: [DNA News](#), [DNA News](#), 2021-04-07

ISLAMABAD, APR 7 -Tax reforms and more fiscal powers to provinces would improve the revenue collection. Sales tax should be collected by the provinces instead of federal agencies for efficient tax regime. The speakers said this while sharing their views during the public private dialogue (Hybrid) to discuss pre-budget proposals and Better Business Regulations jointly held by Sustainable Development.....

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