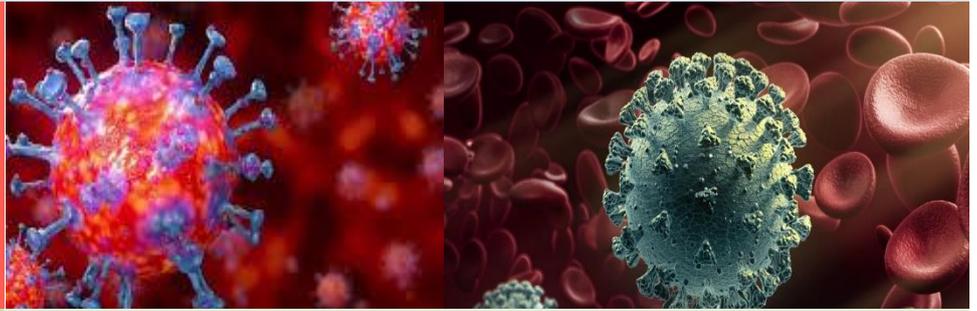


E-Newsletter on COVID-19



Vol. 02, No, 35



Issue: 27-30 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
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- Business Recorder
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- Pakistan Observer
- Pakistan Today
- Urdu Point

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Op-Eds/Articles/Editorials

Op-Eds/Articles/Editorials

Confusion about Cambridge exams

Source: EDITORIAL, [Daily Times](#), 2021-04-27

The government has so far done all it could to facilitate students, at least those that have the option of online learning, to face the worst of the pandemic with minimum disturbance to their education. It also rescheduled local exams when it could to relieve some of the pressure that has built around students. But, quite naturally, it finds its hands somewhat tied when it comes to tests, like the.....[more >>](#)

Human resource strategies during Covid-19

Source: Naveed Anwar Sandhu, [Daily Times](#), 2021-04-27

Every organization is currently experiencing unprecedented challenges running HR under COVID 19. Typically HR's role is to evaluate and add value to a larger scope that surrounds a organizations' mission, values, and societal impact with an emphasis on the welfare of employees, and other stakeholders i.e. community at large. HR under new normal shaped by pandemic COVID 19 need strategi.....[more >>](#)

Covid and A Level exams

Source: Noor Ali, [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-27

#cancelcaies remained the top trend in Pakistan time and again, but still students wait in dismay and anxiety of how the events will really unfold. The British Council's slow approach in reacting to the general outcry of students who are still waiting for a decisive solution to the whole April-June 2021 exam saga is clearly unacceptable. The problem lies in the fact that the policies adopted.....[more >>](#)

Public goods

Source: Boaventura De Sousa Santos, [The News, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-27

The consensus is that the current pandemic will be with us for a long time to come. We will enter a period of intermittent outbreaks of Covid-19, whose precise characteristics are yet to be defined. There are no clear rules governing the interplay between our immune system and the mutations of the virus. We will have to live with uncertainty, however dramatic the advances in contemporary biomedica.....[more >>](#)

Scourge of cosmetic piety

Source: Jawed Naqvi, [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-27

'Man na rangaae, rangaae jogi kapda.' The cosmetic yogi doesn't colour his soul, and dyes in piety his saffron robe. Kabir, the 15th-century mystic poet, may have anticipated the revivalist BJP in his caustic way, particularly its chief minister in Uttar Pradesh, the saffron-clad Yogi Adityanath, the viciously sectarian face from the Hindutva stable. Intolerant of criticism in ke.....[more >>](#)

Exam anxiety amid Covid: what needs to be done and why?

Source: Dr Shehzad Jeeva/Dr Naveed Yousuf/Hanif Shariff, [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-27

Exam anxiety, more commonly known as test anxiety, is a combination of physical symptoms and emotional reactions that interfere with students' ability to perform well on tests. Globally, young and adult students experience either low, mild, or high anxiety before or during an exam. Some of the symptoms of exam anxiety include rapid heartbeat, shortness of breath, dry mouth, nausea, low self-.....[more >>](#)

Health, not tradition

Source: [Muhammad Hamid Zaman](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-27

Across the border in India, things are awfully hard and do not seem to be getting any better. The images of people suffering are heartbreaking. Things there are harder for those who are poorer and marginalised. A former student of mine from India, whose father is in charge of a hospital, told me that for her, if there ever was a disease that was both indiscriminating in its individual impact and y.....

[more >>](#)

IDs and vaccines

Source: [Rafia Zakaria](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-28

PAKISTAN is once again on the brink. The past several days have seen rising death tolls — increasing to the point that they are daily records in themselves. The unforgiving coronavirus that has upended the world and killed more than half a million people in the world's richest country and millions all over the globe is threatening to choke Pakistan once again. Since Pakistanis have be.....

[more >>](#)

India in a pandemic: way out of the abyss

Source: [Dr Rana Jawad Asghar](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-28

Both, Pakistan and India, are similar in government structures and the people's attitudes towards their governments. To learn about government failures in India in dealing with Covid-19, we first need to identify what went wrong there. Epidemiologists consistently warned against declaring a premature victory. India had a difficult first wave which peaked mid-September 2020, while Pakistan h.....

[more >>](#)

World Immunisation Week 2021

Source: [Huma Khawar](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-28

What stood between Saima's children and their chance at getting immunisation against life-threatening diseases was the voice booming out of a handheld loudspeaker. That voice made all the difference. Of all the challenges life has thrown 24-year-old Saima's way, a lack of awareness has perhaps been the most detrimental. She is clueless about the dangers of her severe malnourishmen.....

[more >>](#)

The funeral pyres

Source: [Dr. Usman W. Chohan](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-28

The funeral pyres are burning brightly across India these days, as 300,000 daily cases and nearly 3000 daily coronavirus deaths are being reported in the official statistics. Given that there is persistent under-reporting and a chronic manipulation of the coronavirus statistics, one should multiply the official figures many times over to get an estimate of the wanton destruction that the BJP gover.....

[more >>](#)

Muddling through Covid

Source: [Khurram Husain](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-29

THIS is not how it's done. Anybody who has ever worked on completing a large task will tell you that you are supposed to anticipate the challenges that will come your way, not wait for them to materialise and then mobilise in a hurry. It is not rocket science. It is basic management. I read with disbelief a story that is still working its way through the news flow this week that shows how t.....

[more >>](#)

Grave matters

Source: F.S. Aijazuddin, [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-29

I HAVE just buried my nephew Shaharyaruddin. He fell victim to Covid-19. It no longer matters to which strain that virus belongs or to which wave. He is dead. Years ago, I felt his movements in my sister's womb as he — still an embryo — adjusted himself for greater comfort. I baby-sat for him and his three sisters in their teens. I supported him when he went to propose for his w.....

[more >>](#)

Army deployment

Source: Editorial, [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-29

IT is not a moment too soon for Pakistan to take extraordinary measures against the spread of Covid-19 within its borders. Reports emerging from India, showing horrific scenes of people dying on the street gasping for breath, offer a glimpse of what could lie in store for us if we continue to treat SOPs in a cavalier manner. A few days ago, Prime Minister Imran Khan had said that the army would be d.....

[more >>](#)

The great equaliser

Source: Inam Ul Haque, [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-29

The world moves in strange ways. There are small events — called “butterfly” events — with oversized implications like the fat-laden rifle cartridge that led to the Indian War of Independence in 1857. And then, there are moments — called “Suez” moments — that catapult an existing order with historic implications. The coronavirus pandemic is a Suez mo.....

[more >>](#)

Coronavirus: a tale of nationalism and religion

Source: Imran Jan, [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-29

The global pandemic has laid bare the deeply internalised misconceptions across the globe. It is almost a cliché to say that misinformation is a bigger pandemic than Covid-19. The conspiracy theories have grown keeping pace with the growth in the number of infections and deaths. I straddle two cultures; Pakistan and the United States, and I have a hard time pinpointing as to which country has show.....

[more >>](#)

Economic consequences of high military spending

Source: Durdana Najam, [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-29

What is more intimidating? A country with the highest stockpiles of nukes or a world inundated with a virus which changes its shape and target every few months? What is more disturbing? The decision to keep the tap of money running so that one's reserves to buy more nuke never dries, or the decision to tighten resources for the health sector? Though the coronavirus has laid bare the fragilit.....

[more >>](#)

Policies on vaccine sharing

Source: Will Bunch, [The News, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-29

The response from the Biden administration to India's desperate pleas – not to mention global demands for patent waivers that could speed the flow of vaccines to less-developed nations – has been shockingly underwhelming. Things can – and should – change rapidly, but so far the tone-deaf US response more closely echoes the heartless rejection of Nazi-era Jewish refuge.....

[more >>](#)

A deadly wave

Source: [Abdul Sattar](#), [The News, Islamabad](#) , 2021-04-29

A virulent second wave of the coronavirus continues to play havoc with the lives of Indians, ravaging cities after cities and towns after towns. More than 15000 people perished in a matter of a week. The second most populous country on the earth also witnessed the largest number of coronavirus cases in a single day since the pandemic hit it last year. India's health system seems to have been

[more >>](#)

Musings from the frontline

Source: [Javwad Malik](#), [Daily Times](#) , 2021-04-29

There was a time when doctors would live and patients would die. For 25 years, it worked for me. But now I am as vulnerable as the rest. By God, it's scary. For the first time, my patients and I are in it together. I feel the tightness in his chest, his helplessness, his fear. The low oxygen saturation. And I'm no longer God's agent telling him of his fate. How can I, when I&rsqu.....

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Fully digitised bureaucracy needed

Source: [Waheed Babar](#), [Daily Times](#) , 2021-04-29

Information Group of the Central Superior Services of Pakistan is an apropos platform to turn the entire bureaucratic fabric into a compatibly safe digital model across the occupational groups. The government needs to create more vacancies in the Information Group to be tasked with clipping the conventional wings of functional bureaucracy and staging new rudiments of a digitised environment. Pakis.....

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Source: [Waheed Babar](#), [Daily Times](#) , 2021-04-29

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UK Minister assures provision of halal food at quarantine hotels

Source: [Majid Khattak](#), [Daily Times](#) , 2021-04-29

British minister for public health Jo Churchill on Wednesday assured the parliament that quarantine hotels will provide halal and vegetarian meals to Muslims to ensure that their needs are fully catered for. People observing fasts will be provided meals at their appropriate times, the minister was responding to the question of MP for Wycombe Steve Baker who complained that his British Muslim con.....

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Invisible bio-force and 'covidism'

Source: [Senator Rehman Malik](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#) , 2021-04-29

The attack of the invisible force of 'Covidism' is worse than terrorism of all manifestations. Covidism has now become a bigger symbol of terror in society than terrorism. It has crippled life with multiple fears for us and our loved ones. It will not be wrong to say that it has engulfed more lives as compared to World War I and II. This Covidism has assumed the automatic role of biowa.....

[more >>](#)

May Day manifesto

Source: [Aasim Sajjad Akhtar](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-30

THERE was a time when May Day was one of the most important dates on the calendar. When the workers movement exercised significant influence over politics as well as intellectual debate. When governments, the media and corporations could not run roughshod over the working masses. When progressives all over the world had an internationalist agenda, unabashedly supporting oppressed nations like the

[more >>](#)

May Day in a pandemic

Source: [Dr Pervez Tahir](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-30

What is the state of work and workers on the 135th May Day falling tomorrow? The Covid-19 pandemic has seriously affected what Freud called the ability to love and work, his view of mental health. There is little pain of work and no pleasure in leisure, destroying the very foundations of neoliberal economics. In the land of Chicago bombing of workers, President Joe Biden signed an executive order I.....

[more >>](#)

Pakistan's evolving strategic paradigm

Source: [Shahzad Chaudhry](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-30

It essentially revolves around what may become of Afghanistan and what may befall Pakistan as its western neighbour takes another turn in events. And what may become of yet another India-Pakistan attempt at a rapprochement and what may it portend for Pakistan. True, there are other dynamics as China's hand and how it may continue to protect its interests here and in the region, and in how th.....

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First ICU ventilator

Source: [Editorial](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-30

With the country recording the highest single-day death toll since the start of the pandemic, the recent announcement that the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) has successfully developed the "first indigenous intensive care unit (ICU) ventilator" comes with high hopes. That the PAEC's scientists have designed the machine keeping in mind all essential quality standards and.....

[more >>](#)

Humanity at top

Source: [Dr Ramesh Kumar Vankwani](#), [The News, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-30

India is currently facing a critical period where the spread of the pandemic has resulted in a huge loss of precious lives. On a daily basis, hundreds of people are testing positive. Sadly, one death every four minutes is being reported only in Delhi. The WHO has described the terrible situation in India as "beyond heart-breaking". The Indian media is broadcasting horrific news reports

[more >>](#)

Rampaging death

Source: [EDITORIAL](#), [The News, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-30

South Asia appears to be a new hotbed for the Covid-19 pandemic. India has already crossed the mark of 200,000 deaths and it is ranking fourth in the world after USA, Brazil, and Mexico. In terms of active and critical cases India is only second to the US. In Pakistan the positivity rate of the novel coronavirus is nearly 10 percent, and it has seen the highest surge in number of deaths with over

[more >>](#)

ADB's growth forecast

Source: EDITORIAL, [Daily Times](#), 2021-04-30

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has only increased the confusion about Pakistan's growth prospects for this fiscal by adding to the long list of predictions about it. The IMF reckons this year's GDP growth will be 1.3 percent, the World Bank puts it at 1.5 percent, while the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) and the ministry of finance expect it to land at 3 percent and 2.9 percent respect.....

[more >>](#)

The third wave and the vaccination emergency

Source: Ikram Sehgal, [Daily Times](#), 2021-04-30

Covid-19 has struck Pakistan with a third wave and has the country head-locked in a vice-like grip. This has come as a shock to many. For unlike Europe and the rest of the world, including neighbouring India, where the virus had been hurtling along at accelerated speed, Pakistan had so far been doing quite well. Now the number of infections is rising rapidly and it seems that these cannot be stopp.....

[more >>](#)

Pakistan's long overdue mask mandate

Source: Jahanzaib Ali, [Daily Times](#), 2021-04-30

It was April 2020, when Covid-19 started dominating both the world and its headlines. Cases surged and health officials became gravely concerned about the effects that local and international travel would have on the spread of the virus. Airports began screening flyers and many airlines even went as far as canceling flights based on WHO (World Health Organisation) warnings and recommendations. My.....

[more >>](#)

Perils of mismanaging a global pandemic

Source: Hassan Khan, [Daily Times](#), 2021-04-30

When the Covid-19 pandemic struck in early 2020, nobody knew how lethal it would be; even as multiple strains were gradually detected across the globe. The original Wuhan virus was superseded by these newer strains that kept evolving. There was talk of herd immunity in Sweden and certain South Asian countries — yet none of these assumptions was backed by scientific data and research since t.....

[more >>](#)

INDU: Profits in a pandemic!

Source: BR Research, [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-30

Indus Motor (PSX: INDU) is no longer in lockdown—whether it is from the government instated shutters-down on factories kind that took effect in April last year or the onset of economic downturn before that which had left vehicle inventories piling up. As far as the nine-month financials are concerned, Indus Motors is good; for investors: the company is stellar. Interestingly, the growth.....

[more >>](#)

A possible denominator in the spread of Covid-19

Source: Ahsan Munir, [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-30

President Trump held several dozen election rallies during his re-election campaign in states such as Pennsylvania, Minnesota, and Wisconsin, where coronavirus infection rates were already on the rise. Despite a new wave of Covid-19 cases across the country, President Donald Trump continued to hold frequent in-person rallies that brought together thousands of people with little regard for social d.....

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Vaccination Review

Source: [Editorial, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-30

According to Punjab Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid, there is enough vaccine available for the drive to continue unimpeded. While there is no reason not to believe the government, by their own statement that “citizens are turning up in overwhelming numbers,” one worries if the government will succeed in maintaining the vaccine supply in the face of high demand. The demand for vaccine.....

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National News

Balochistan

4 Levies men injured while enforcing SOPs

Source: [Mohammad Zafar](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-28

QUETTA: At least five people including four men belonging to the Levies force have been injured during a clash with employees of a shopping mall while enforcing coronavirus SOPs devised by the government. Earlier, the Balochistan government had announced closure of all the shopping malls, markets, business centers and shops throughout the province due to the rising cases of Covid-19 pandemic. I.....[more >>](#)

Iran imposes travel restrictions on Pakistanis amid Indian variant fears

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-28

QUETTA: The Iranian authorities on Wednesday imposed a travel ban on Pakistanis owing to situation emerging across the world after the third wave of novel coronavirus and an explosion of new cases of Covid-19 in India. The explosion in infections in India – 350,000 new cases were recorded there on Tuesday alone – has driven a surge in global cases to 147.7 million and the virus has no.....[more >>](#)

Islamabad

Govt opens vaccination for citizens above 40

Source: [news Desk](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-04-27

National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) Chairman and Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar on Monday announced the opening of Covid-19 vaccine registration for citizens who are above the age of 40. The NCOC head after chairing the morning session wrote on Twitter that the Forum has decided to initiate registration of citizens above 40 years of age and w.....[more >>](#)

Govt committed to protect children from all forms of violence: Riaz Fatyana

Source: [App](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-04-27

National Parliamentary Task Force on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Convener Riaz Fatyana on Monday said safeguarding the children from all forms of violence was a key priority area for the government. Mentioning The Zainab Alert, Response and Recovery Bill, 2020 and support by the government for the National Assembly Bill on Corporal Punishment, he said Pakistan's progress towards SD.....[more >>](#)

Cambridge exams start amid strict implementation of health protocols

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-04-27

Despite an uptick in Covid-19 deaths and infections across the country, Pakistan began its Cambridge International AS and A-level exams on Monday with officials assuring students that "strict implementation" of health protocols would be followed at all times. "These are tough times, and difficult decisions have been made keeping the students best interest in view," Educati.....[more >>](#)

SOPs violations committed on first day of O/A level exams

Source: [Muhammad Faisal](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-04-27

As Cambridge examinations kick started from Monday with the commitment to implement strict coronavirus standard operating procedures (SOPs) in place across Pakistan, large number of SOPs violations were committed during Examination. As per the details available with the Daily Times, large numbers of students were seen outside different exams centers, while no social distancing was practiced as re.....

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PM seeks debt relief for poorer nations amid pandemic

Source: [news Desk](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-04-27

Prime Minister Imran Khan has urged the international community to extend debt relief to developing nations and facilitate their recovery from the Covid-19 crisis. Addressing the virtual session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP) on Monday, the prime minister said that there is a dire need to mobilise adequate financing for poorer nations. &l.....

[more >>](#)

Private Covid vaccine supply in jeopardy as global stocks run out

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-04-27

The private supply of Covid-19 vaccines of the country has suffered a blow since 60,000 doses imported from Russia and China were used up earlier this month, with importers saying manufacturers are struggling to fulfil new orders from Pakistan due to rising global demand. Two of Pakistan's private pharmaceutical companies, AGP Limited and AJM Pharma, had imported 50,000 doses of Russia&rsqu.....

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To curb COVID-19: Army deployed across country

Source: [Muhammad Anis](#), [The News, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-27

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Army on Monday deployed troops across the country as 'emergency responder' in aide of the civil administration under Article 245 of the Constitution to help prevent the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. "From 6 this morning, the troops of Pakistan Army have arrived at district level across the country to help the civil administration in the present situation,.....

[more >>](#)

Registration of 40-plus citizens for vaccination begins today

Source: [Correspondent](#), [The News, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-27

ISLAMABAD: National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) has decided to begin registration of forty-plus citizens for COVID-19 vaccination from today (Tuesday). The decision was taken at a meeting of the NCOC in the federal Capital Monday. Planning and Development Minister Asad Umar chaired the meeting. In a tweet, Asad Umar said it has also been decided to allow walk-in vaccination of all registe.....

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Indian hospitals choke, patients struggle at home

Source: [news Desk](#), [The News, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-27

ISLAMABAD: As hospitals in Delhi and many other cities in India run out of beds, people have been forced to find ways to get treatment for sick patients at home. Many have turned to the black market, where prices of essential medicines, oxygen cylinders and concentrators have skyrocketed and questionable drugs are now proliferating. On Monday, the country reported another 319, 435 infections and 2.....

[more >>](#)

China to provide 500,000 vaccine vials under third batch

Source: [news Desk](#), [The News, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-27

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China on Monday signed handing over the certificate for providing the third batch of 500,000 vials of COVID-19 vaccine under grant assistance. Earlier, China had provided one million doses of vaccine to Pakistan under the first and second batch. According to an official announcement made here on Monday, Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Omar Ayub Khan witnessed the si.....

[more >>](#)

PM seeks regional, global coop for equitable access to corona vaccine for all

Source: [Mumtaz Alvi](#), [The News, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-27

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan Monday said only through enhanced regional and international cooperation can we reopen safely and sustainably, starting with equitable access to affordable COVID-19 vaccines for all. He said this while addressing the Opening Segment of the 77th Session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP). The prime minister e.....

[more >>](#)

PN distributes ration in coastal areas

Source: [Correspondent](#), [The News, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-27

ISLAMABAD: As the nation is rigorously fighting against the corona virus surge in the country, Pakistan Navy (PN) reached out to aggrieved families in coastal and creeks area to distribute ration among the deserving families during the Holy month of Ramzan. Pakistan Navy, in collaboration with Sahil Welfare Association, distributed ration bags to over 1100 deserving families of Sindh and Balochist.....

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Dr Faisal underlines significance of vaccination

Source: [Correspondent](#), [The News, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-27

Islamabad : The World Immunisation Week reminds us of our responsibility in taking action to bring the benefits of immunisation to all. I urge all parents to get their children vaccinated. When people ensure that their families and communities are protected with vaccines, we are all protected together. The PM's Special Assistant on Health Dr. Faisal Sultan expressed these views while addres.....

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Mosque, imambargah committees told to ensure SOPs in Islamabad

Source: [Munawer Azeem | Aamir Yasin](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-27

ISLAMABAD: With five deaths and 469 new Covid-19 cases reported on Monday, the capital administration issued directions to the administrations of mosques and imambargahs to ensure implementation of the standard operating procedures (SOPs) to prevent further spread of the virus. Officials toldDawnthat directives had been issued to mosques and imambargahs from the Auqaf Directorate. The directives

[more >>](#)

Govt increasing oxygen production capacity to meet demand: Faisal Sultan

Source: [News Desk](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-27

Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Health Dr Faisal Sultan on Tuesday said the government was increasing the country's oxygen production capacity in order to support the country's healthcare amid increasing Covid-19 cases. While addressing a press conference, the SAPM said Pakistan Steel Mills' (PSM) oxygen plant would be re-activated to meet the country's oxygen demand. &quo.....

[more >>](#)

'Homemade ventilators not useful', Shibli refutes Fawad's claim

Source: [Waqar Ahmed](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-27

Islamabad: Newly-appointed Science and Technology Minister Shibli Faraz has said locally produced ventilators are not useful and the country also lacked other resources including oxygen to deal with any emergency situation amid surging coronavirus cases. His statement refuted the claims of his predecessor Fawad Chaudhry, who in a recent cabinet reshuffle, was made the information minister. Fawad as.....

[more >>](#)

Covid-19 vaccine;Registration begins for citizens above 40 years

Source: [Abdul Rasheed Azad, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-27

ISLAMABAD: National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) Chairman, Asad Umar, on Monday, announced the opening of Covid vaccine registration for citizens who are above the age of 40. After chairing a NCOC meeting here, he in a tweet said the NCOC had decided to initiate registration of above 40 age citizens and walk-in vaccination facility for registered above 50 age citizens. "In t.....

[more >>](#)

Covid-19 cases tally crosses 800,000 with 4,825 new cases: NCOC

Source: [Abdul Rasheed Azad, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-27

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's coronavirus cases tally, on Monday, crossed the 800,000 mark with the emergence of 4,825 new cases, while Covid-19 death tally crossed 17,000 mark as the country reported 70 more deaths. According the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), in the past 24 hours, nationwide 50,161 tests were conducted and the national positivity rate was recoded at 9.61 persen.....

[more >>](#)

CII chief seeks Ulema role to enforce virus SOPs in Ramazan

Source: [Mansoor Ali, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-27

ISLAMABAD - Chairman of Council of Islamic Ideology (CII) Qibla Ayaz has once again asked Ulema to play their role in the implementation of Covid-19 SOPs amid spike in coronavirus cases across the country. While addressing a very important media talk here on Monday, Chairman CII Qibla Ayaz said that the role of Ulema in the implementation of SOPs was very important; adding that once again the.....

[more >>](#)

COVID-19 claims 70 lives, infects 4,825 more people

Source: [Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-27

ISLAMABAD - The national tally on Monday of total active COVID-19 cases was recorded 89,219 with 4,825 more people tested positive for the deadly virus and 4,234 people recovered from the disease during the last 24 hours. Seventy corona patients have died during past 24 hours, 65 of whom were under treatment in hospitals and five out of the hospitals in their respective quarantines or homes,

[more >>](#)

PM Khan urges joint efforts to regain pre-Covid-19 income levels

Source: [Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-27

ISLAMABAD - Prime Minister Imran Khan on Monday called for collective national actions, regional collaboration, and multilateral cooperation to avoid uneven recovery and regain pre-Covid-19 income levels. "We are ready to join hands for win-win outcomes. Our success lies in cooperative multilateralism and partnerships. Let Asia-Pacific take the lead. Pakistan is willing to work with all.....

[more >>](#)

PIMA requests healthcare workers to get COVID-19 vaccine

Source: [Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-27

Islamabad - Pakistan Islamic Medical Association (PIMA) on Monday appealed all healthcare workers to get COVID-19 vaccine without any delay. A statement released by PIMA said that in the current registration situation, vaccination is our personal and national responsibility. The government should extend the deadline of registration of healthcare workers to at least one month if not indefinitely. President PIMA.....

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Islamabad reports 469 Covid-19 cases

Source: [Rahul Basharat, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-27

ISLAMABAD -The novel coronavirus (COVID-19) cases in the federal capital on Monday witnessed an upward trend with over 460 cases in the previous 24 hours and five deaths. District Health Officer (DHO) Dr. Zaeem Zia while cautioning citizens about the increase in COVID-19 cases said on social media website, "469 positive cases for today with positivity of 12.59%." According to the.....

[more >>](#)

Registration of ventilators with Drap to be expedited, says minister

Source: [Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-28

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Science and Technology Senator Shibli Faraz on Tuesday said his ministry will expedite the registration of ventilators with the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (Drap) to ensure their timely availability for induction in the healthcare system and export. He stated this while chairing a meeting held to discuss efforts being made to counter the effects of Covid-19 pande.....

[more >>](#)

China, five S. Asian nations ponder over cooperation during pandemic

Source: [Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-28

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Ministers of China and five South Asian countries including Pakistan on Tuesday held their virtual dialogue on promoting cooperation against Covid-19 pandemic. The meeting was part of the series of meetings hosted by China since July last year on cooperation against the pandemic and economic revival. The meetings are being seen as Beijing's fresh outreach to the region.

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Covid-19 claims another nine lives in Rawalpindi, Islamabad

Source: [Aamir Yasin | Munawer Azeem, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-28

ISLAMABAD: Five people died of Covid-19 and 354 more people were found infected in the capital on Tuesday. Another four lost their lives in the neighbouring garrison city. Officials of the capital administration said two deaths were reported in the age group of 30-39 and both were males. The death of a male each was reported in the age group of 60-69 and 80-89. A woman in the age group of 70-79 a.....

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Source: [Aamir Yasin | Munawer Azeem, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-28

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Virology institute's services in fight against Covid-19 highlighted

Source: [Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-28

ISLAMABAD: Emphasising the significance of national research centres playing key role in combating Covid-19, Prof Dr Iqbal Choudhary said on Tuesday said that the National Institute of Virology (NIV) of ICCBS conducted over 140 ,000 PCR based tests helping in national fight against the health crises. Dr Iqbal Choudhry who is director International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCB).....

[more >>](#)

Pakistan records highest Covid-19 death toll since start of pandemic

Source: [Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-28

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan recorded about 201 Covid-19 related deaths in the last 24 hours which is the highest since the pandemic reached the country last year. According to the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), the country's death toll climbed to 17,530 after the latest death count wherein most deaths occurred in Punjab followed by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (K-P). The NCOC further reported that

[more >>](#)

142 Covid-19 deaths, 4,487 infections reported countrywide: NCOC

Source: [Abdul Rasheed Azad, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-28

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan, Tuesday, reported 4,487 coronavirus infections and 142 Covid-19 deaths, taking the national cases tally to 804,939 and death tally to 17,329. According to the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), following the detection of 4,487 new Covid-19 cases the nationwide tally of active cases surged to 87,794. According to data, 5,770 coronavirus patients have recovered.....

[more >>](#)

No concrete policy made to overcome Covid-19: Abbasi

Source: [Fazal Sher, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-28

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) senior leader and former prime minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi said the government has so far not made any concrete policy to overcome Covid-19. Talking to the media after appearing before an accountability court in Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) case, Abbasi said this is very strange that the government has so far not made any concrete policy regard.....

[more >>](#)

Govt monitoring oxygen demand/supply situation: Dr Faisal

Source: [Abdul Rasheed Azad, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-28

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Health Dr Faisal Sultan has said that the government is closely monitoring the oxygen demand/supply situation in the country and is trying to improve it. Addressing a press conference here on Tuesday, Dr Sultan said that a special committee of the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) was assigned to monitor the oxygen situation.....

[more >>](#)

All board exams postponed till June 15th

Source: [Abdul Rasheed Azad, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-28

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Education Shafqat Mehmood Tuesday announced that as per the suggestion of the National Command and Operation Centre, all board exams have been postponed till June 15th due to the rising number of Covid-19 cases in the country. The minister, while addressing a press conference related to Cambridge exam centres as well as the overall situation of infections in the.....

[more >>](#)

Sarwar, Qureshi discuss COVID-19 pandemic, overall political situation

Source: [APP, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-28

ISLAMABAD - Punjab Governor Chaudhry Muhammad Sarwar met Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi here on Tuesday and discussed the matters of mutual interest, including the challenge of COVID-19 pandemic and overall political situation in the country. The Governor told the Foreign Minister that in order to protect the people from COVID-19 pandemic, all resources were being utilized to ensure.....

[more >>](#)

All exams postponed, Covid restrictions tightened for Eid

Source: [Tahir Niaz / Rahul Basharat, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-28

ISLAMABAD - The federal government on Tuesday decided to impose a complete ban on inter-provincial and inter-city travel during the Eid holidays. The decision has been taken in the light of the recommendations by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) which met here on Tuesday. However, locals of Gilgit-Baltistan will be allowed to travel back to GB during the Eid holidays. Accordi.....

[more >>](#)

Covid-19 continues to pose major economic challenge to Pakistan: ADB

Source: [Imran Ali Kundi, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-28

ISLAMABAD - The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has noted that Covid-19 pandemic continues to pose a major health care and economic challenge to Pakistan. "Continued efforts toward fiscal consolidation and policy reforms will be key to sustaining improvements in macroeconomic stability, especially in broadening the tax base and improving the business environment," the ADB noted in it.....

[more >>](#)

PAEC develops Pakistan's 'first ICU ventilator'

Source: [APP, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-28

ISLAMABAD: Living up to the nation's expectations amid third wave of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) announced to have indigenously developed its own intensive care unit (ICU) ventilator named "i-LIVE". According to an official statement issued on Wednesday, the ventilator has been developed by a PAEC team of diligent scientists and engineers app.....

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With 201 deaths, Pakistan records highest single-day Covid-19 death toll

Source: [Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-28

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan recorded more than two hundred COVID-19 deaths in a day for the first time since the start of the pandemic on Tuesday, as the government said it was considering stricter lockdowns. A total of 201 new deaths were recorded on Tuesday, bringing the country's overall death toll from the virus to 17,530, according to the National Command Operation Center (NCOC), which oversees

[more >>](#)

More than 100,000 vaccinated in a single day: Umar

Source: [News Desk, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-28

National Command and Operations Centre (NCOC) chief Asad Umar said on Wednesday that Pakistan crossed the 100,000 Covid-19 vaccination mark in a single day, in a first since the inoculation drive began. The single-day vaccination tally has now taken the total number of country's vaccinations to over 2.1 million. In a tweet, Umar stated that a total of 117,852, people were vaccinated in Pakistan o.....

[more >>](#)

Six Asian states oppose politicisation of Covid-19

Source: [APP, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-28

ISLAMABAD: Foreign ministers of Pakistan, China, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka have agreed upon distribution of Covid-19 vaccine in accordance with the "principle of equity and justice", terming the vaccine the "key weapon to defeat" coronavirus pandemic. In a joint statement issued on Wednesday by the Foreign Office, the foreign ministers from the six nati.....

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Asad Umar urges traders to follow SOPs

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-29

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar has urged the business community to ensure a strict implementation of the standard operating procedures (SOPs) in markets and commercial areas in order to curb the spread of Covid-19 pandemic. During an online meeting with Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) President Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, the

[more >>](#)

Pakistan records 5,480 new Covid-19 cases, 151 deaths in 24 hours

Source: [News Desk](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-29

Pakistan recorded 5,480 new coronavirus cases in the last 24 hours, taking the country's Covid-19 tally to 815,711. According to the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), the country's death toll climbed to 17,680 after 151 people succumbed to the deadly disease during the last 24 hours. Most deaths occurred in Punjab followed by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (K-P). Meanwhile, 3,699 patients recovered.....

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Corona closing down country

Source: [news Desk](#), [The News, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-29

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Interior announced fresh restrictions across the country on Tuesday, which includes a complete ban on tourism from May 8-16. A meeting of the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) was held Tuesday where important decisions were taken by the body. A press release issued by the ministry announced that the NCOC had decided to ban tourism from May 8-16. "Closu.....

[more >>](#)

Cabinet okays setting of COVID-19 vaccine's retail price

Source: [Correspondent](#), [The News, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-29

ISLAMABAD: The federal cabinet on Tuesday approved setting of the retail price for COVID-19 vaccine in the country. Briefing media persons after the federal cabinet meeting, which was chaired by Prime Minister Imran Khan, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Fawad Chaudhry said Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Health Dr Faisal Sultan and Minister for Planning Asad Umar briefed.....

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Over 200 Covid-19 deaths in a day

Source: [Abdul Rasheed Azad](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-29

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Wednesday recorded 201 coronavirus deaths, which is the highest single day coronavirus toll, the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) said. The highest number of corona fatalities previously in Pakistan was recorded on April 24, 2021, when 157 people have died of the deadly virus. According to the NCOC, the country in the past 24 hours reported 5,292 new Covid.....

[more >>](#)

Govt speeds up coronavirus vaccination

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-29

ISLAMABAD: Chairman National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) Asad Umar, Wednesday, said Pakistan has speed up the coronavirus vaccination to the citizen, saying that in a single day 100,000 Covid vaccinations were administered to the people countrywide. Umar, who is also the planning minister tweeted, "Daily vaccinations crossed 1 lakh in a day for the first time on April 27".....

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Pakistan sees record Covid-19 deaths as govt considers stricter lockdowns

Source: [news Desk](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-04-29

Pakistan recorded more than two hundred Covid-19 deaths in a day for the first time since the start of the pandemic, as the government said it was considering stricter lockdowns. A total of 201 new deaths were recorded, bringing the country's overall death toll from the virus to 17,530, according to the National Command Operation Centre (NCOC), which oversees the government's pandemic.....

[more >>](#)

PAEC develops first ICU ventilator in Pakistan

Source: [App](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-04-29

Living up to the nation's expectations amid the third wave of COVID-19 pandemic, Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) announced to have indigenously developed its own intensive care unit (ICU) ventilator named "i-LIVE". According to a news release issued here, the ventilator has been developed by a PAEC team of diligent scientists and engineers applying all essential quality.....

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PM for equitable delivery of Covid-19 vaccines to poor countries

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-04-29

Prime Minister Imran Khan has underscored the importance of equitable, timely and scaled delivery of Covid-19 vaccines to low-income countries. In a telephonic conversation with co-chair of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Bill Gates, the prime minister commended the Gates Foundation's strong advocacy to promote equitable access to Covid-19 vaccines. The prime minister and Bill Gates

[more >>](#)

FMs of 6 nations urge 'equity' in Covid-19 vaccine distribution

Source: [App](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-04-29

The foreign ministers of Pakistan, China, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka have agreed upon distribution of Covid-19 vaccine in accordance with the "principle of equity and justice". Terming the vaccine as "key weapon to defeat Covid-19", the foreign ministers expressed that "vaccine nationalism" would hinder the global efforts to defeat the pandemic.....

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Pandemic exacerbates debt vulnerabilities of Pakistan: IMF

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-04-29

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has said that the Covid-19 pandemic has exacerbated existing debt vulnerabilities of Pakistan and led to a surge in its financing needs. According to the IMF, across the Middle East, North Africa, Afghanistan and Pakistan (MENAP), countries responded to the Covid-19 pandemic with unprecedented scale and urgency. While this strong response helped save lives an.....

[more >>](#)

Despite COVID-19, Pak GDP to grow by 2.0pc: ADB

Source: [Mehtab Haider](#), [The News, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-29

ISLAMABAD: With the forecast of achieving GDP growth of 2 percent for the outgoing fiscal, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has warned that Pakistan's economic outlook was subject to downside risks depending on persistent containment measures for providing vaccination to eligible population. "However, the economic outlook is subject to downside risks, depending on persistent containme.....

[more >>](#)

Pakistan reports 5,480 new coronavirus cases in one day

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-29

Pakistan has reported 151 deaths in the last 24 hours by novel coronavirus as the number of positive cases has surged to 815,711. The nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 17,680 on Thursday. According to the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC), 5,480 persons tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 24 hours. Punjab remains the worst-hit province by the pand.....

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Imran, Gates discuss COVID-19 situation, polio eradication

Source: [Correspondent](#), [The News, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-29

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan held a telephonic conversation with Bill Gates, co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. They exchanged views on the latest situation of COVID-19 pandemic, polio eradication campaign, health and development issues and climate change. The premier expressed appreciation for the work of Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for fighting poverty, combating.....

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Another 9 COVID-19 deaths, 416 cases from twin cities

Source: [Muhammad Qasim](#), [The News, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-29

Rawalpindi : Another nine confirmed patients of coronavirus illness, COVID-19 belonging to Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district have died of the illness in the last 24 hours taking death toll from the region to 1,549 that makes over 8.8 per cent of the total deaths so far caused by the disease in Pakistan. In the last 24 hours, as many as 416 new patients have been tested positive

[more >>](#)

NIH set to make Chinese COVID vaccine

Source: [Correspondent](#), [The News, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-29

Islamabad: The National Institute of Health is understood to begin the production of a Chinese coronavirus vaccine early next month. The single-dose CanSino Bio vaccine will be available for use by the end of May, sources claimed. According to them, the raw material for the vaccine is provided by the Chinese company and the vaccine production is being managed by an NIH team trained by CanSino Bi.....

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Asad urges traders to ensure strict implementation of SOPs

Source: [App](#), [The News, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-29

Islamabad : Federal Minister for Planning and Development Asad Umar has urged that the business community to ensure strict implementation of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in markets and commercial areas in order to curb the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic. He said that the third wave of covid-19 has spread to a dangerous level and this situation demanded that business community should play a.....

[more >>](#)

Over 100,000 vaccinated against COVID in single day

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-29

ISLAMABAD - Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar Wednesday said that a total of 2.1 million Covid-19 vaccines had been administered in the country — over 100,000 of which were administered on Tuesday alone. The federal minister posted on Twitter that daily vaccinations crossed 100,000 in a day for the first time. "Total vaccinations yesterday wer.....

[more >>](#)

Special plane carrying vaccine doses from China arrives in Islamabad

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-29

An aircraft of the Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) carrying 0.3 million COVID-19 vaccine doses from China has landed in Islamabad today (Thursday). The PIA aircraft was being operated by the Government of Pakistan and the Ministry of Health in a bid to accelerate the delivery of vaccines to combat the coronavirus epidemic. According to sources, the second plane of PIA with more doses will

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Govt to start vaccination for age group 40-49 from May 3

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-29

Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar Thursday said vaccination for the age group 40 to 49 years would start from May 3. In a tweet, the National Command and Operation (NCOC) Chief Asad Umar said more than 100,000 people vaccinated in a single day on the second consecutive day on Wednesday. "Second successive day of more than 1 lac vaccinations. Encouraging t.....

[more >>](#)

PM Imran, Bill Gates discuss joint action on COVID-19

Source: [Maqbool Malik](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-29

ISLAMABAD - Prime Minister Imran Khan on Wednesday held a telephonic conversation with Bill Gates, Co-Chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and underscored the need for equitable, timely, and scaled delivery of Covid-19 vaccines to low-income countries. According to a release issued by the PM media office, they exchanged views on the latest status of Covid-19 pandemic, polio eradication.....

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Big cities brace for two-week lockdown as country sees highest daily Covid-19 deaths

Source: [Tahir Niaz](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-29

ISLAMABAD - Amid the rising coronavirus cases and deaths in the country, the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) Wednesday directed the provincial authorities to start preparations for a two-week lockdown in 20 cities starting from May 3. In the letter, titled 'Input / Feedback — City Wise Lockdown', the NCOC stated that a two-week city-wise lockdown in districts/cities.....

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Survey finds consumer confidence slipping

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-30

LAHORE: Consumer confidence in Pakistan further deteriorated during the period between January and March this year, primarily owing to the restrictions renewed by the government to stop the rising Covid-19 infections that heralded the third wave of the pandemic in the country. The major worry concerned the survey respondents the most was loss of jobs as the government imposes smart lockdowns in t.....

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Walk to create awareness of SOPs held

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-30

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad police on Thursday organised walk along with traders' community to create awareness of SOP to prevent coronavirus. The police said the walk was organised following the directions of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Qazi Jamilur Rehman at Aabpara and Super markets of the city. DIG (Operations) Afzaal Ahmed Kausar, SSP (Operations) Syed Mustafa Tanveer, SS.....

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No respite from Covid-19 deaths, new cases

Source: [Aamir Yasin | Munawer Azeem, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-30

ISLAMABAD: Eight patients succumbed to Covid-19 and 665 more people tested positive in the twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad on Thursday. Officials said two people died of the virus in Islamabad and six in Rawalpindi. There was confusion over the number of tests conducted in the capital during the last 24 hours. According to a Covid-19 website of the government, 3,812 tests were conducted

[more >>](#)

COVID-19: 151 die, 5,480 infected

Source: [Agencies, The News, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-30

ISLAMABAD/KARACHI: The national tally of total active corona cases Thursday reached 89,838 with 5,480 new cases during the last 24 hours. According to the latest update issued by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), as many as 3,699 people recovered while 151 died due to COVID-19 of whom 128 were under treatment in the hospitals and 23 out of the hospital in their respective quaranti.....

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Lockdown to be imposed if corona cases crossed 15pc: Fawad

Source: [Correspondent, The News, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-30

SLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Fawad Chaudhry Thursday said that so far no decision been taken about lockdown but if ratio of the coronavirus positive cases reaches 15 percent, then there would be no option but to impose lockdown. Fawad came hard on head of Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) Maulana Fazlur Rehman for trying to undermine the nation, the army and the national s.....

[more >>](#)

ICT hospitals gasp for oxygen

Source: [Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-30

ISLAMABAD/RAWALPINDI: Given the number of critical coronavirus cases in the federal capital, prices of oxygen cylinders have doubled in the open market on Thursday. According to the latest rates, a small oxygen cylinder that was being sold for Rs6,000 a couple of days ago is now being sold for Rs12,000 while the bigger cylinder previously priced at Rs12,000 is now rated at Rs20,000. Sources sta.....

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Corona death toll gets grimmer

Source: [Muhammad Anis, The News, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-29

ISLAMABAD: A complete lockdown seems imminent as more than 200 COVID-19 deaths were reported for the first time in Pakistan since the start of the pandemic. According to the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), as many as 201 people died of COVID-19 in the last 24 hours — taking the death toll to 17,530 in the country. Pakistan conducted 49,101 tests in the last 24 hours with 5,29.....

[more >>](#)

Govt to get 15.4m doses of vaccine: SAPM

Source: [Reuters, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-30

ISLAMABAD: Government has purchased 13 million doses of Covid-19 vaccine from three Chinese companies, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) Faisal Sultan told Reuters on Thursday. He said Pakistan had procured the vaccine from Sinopharm, CanSinoBio and Sinovac. The purchased vaccine is expected to begin arriving in May with 6.7 million doses and the rest in June. He didn't.....

[more >>](#)

Covid-19 pandemic; Police, traders organise walk to create awareness

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-30

ISLAMABAD: The city police, on Thursday, organised a walk along with traders' community to create awareness against the coronavirus and urged the citizens to strictly follow the standard operating procedures (SOPs) devised to fight against the pandemic. The walk was organised following the directions of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Qazi Jamilur Rehman at Aabpara and Super.....

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Corona reinfection possible in young people: study

Source: [news Desk](#), [The News, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-30

ISLAMABAD: A past COVID-19 infection does not completely protect young people from reinfection, and vaccination is still necessary to boost immune response and reduce disease transmission, according to an observational study published in The Lancet Respiratory Medicine journal. The research was conducted on more than 3,000 healthy members of the US Marines Corps most of whom were aged 18-20 years.....

[more >>](#)

Islamabad police hold awareness walk against coronavirus

Source: [Crime Correspondent](#), [The News, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-30

Islamabad : Islamabad police on Thursday organised a walk along with traders' community aimed to create awareness against coronavirus and urged the citizens to follow precautionary measures. The walk was organised following the directions of Islamabad Inspector General of Police (IGP) Qazi Jamil ur Rehman at Aabpara and Super markets of the city. DIG (Operations) Afzaal Ahmed Kausar, SSP (.....

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NCOC unveils 'Stay Home, Stay Safe' plan to contain Covid spread on Eid

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-04-30

The National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) on Thursday announced 'Stay Home Stay Safe' strategy to control mobility from May 8 to 16 including Eid holidays. The current spike of Covid-19 in the country needs effective measures to contain its further spread with special emphasis on reducing mobility during forthcoming Eid, said an NCOC tweet. The guidelines issued by the NCOC inc.....

[more >>](#)

No ban on Aitekaf, Ashrafi rejects rumors categorically

Source: [App](#), [The News, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-30

Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Religious Harmony and Middle East Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi on Thursday clarified that the government did not impose any ban on observing Aitekaf at the country-wide Mosques, rather issuing anti-coronavirus SOPs (standard operating procedures) to contain the spread of coronavirus among Moatakif (Aetikaf observers). Addressing a news conference.....

[more >>](#)

Enhanced budget allocations for education urged

Source: [App](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-04-30

Chairman, Prime Minister's Task Force on Science and Technology, Prof. Dr. Atta-ur-Rahman Thursday recommended increase in allocation to education by federal and provincial governments by 0.5 percent of GDP annually till it reaches 5.0 percent of GDP over next five years. "National education emergency is need of the hour", he said while addressing a live webinar on the topic of

[more >>](#)

NCOC curtails inbound flights from May 5 to 20 as corona situation worsens

Source: [Tahir Amin](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-30

ISLAMABAD - The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Thursday decided to curtail inbound flights to Pakistan from May 5 to May 20 amid the worsening coronavirus situation in the country. The forum in its meeting chaired by Minister for Development and Planning Asad Umar decided to review the restrictions on May 18. A statement issued by the NCOC after the meeting said that the details.....

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Vaccination for people above 40 to begin Monday as virus kills 151 more in a day

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-30

ISLAMABAD - The total active coronavirus cases in country Thursday reached 89,838 with 5,480 new infections during the last 24 hours. According to the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), as many as 3,699 people recovered while 151 died due to COVID-19 of whom 128 were under treatment in the hospitals and 23 out of the hospital in their respective quarantines or homes. Most of the deaths.....

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Govt likely to procure 18m vaccine doses by June: Dr Faisal

Source: [Rahul Basharat](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-30

ISLAMABAD - Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on National Health Services (SAPM) Dr. Faisal Sultan has said that the government will likely to procure above 18 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine in the country by June this year. "The government will likely to procure 18.7 million doses till the month of June and 78 percent of them are already purchased," said Dr. Faisal yesterday.....

[more >>](#)

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Economic activities grind to halt amid Lockdown in Landi Kotal Bazaar

Source: [Ahmad Nabi](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-04-27

Amid rising Covid -19 cases in Landi Kotal, new set of lockdown measures have been implemented in main Bazaar and business activities have been brought to a halt. As per the direction of the provincial government, lockdown will be implemented in all bazaars at 6 pm and all the shopping and business centers will be closed, however bakery and medicine stores will remain open to provide relief to the.....

[more >>](#)

KP trying to restrict business activities to minimum: Jhagra

Source: [news Desk](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-04-27

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Health Taimur Saleem Jhagra has said that the government is trying to restrict business activities to the minimum due to the coronavirus pandemic and lockdowns. Responding to a call attention notice in the provincial assembly session on Monday, Taimur Saleem Jhagra said that the government is compelled to take strict actions in implementing Covid-19 SOPs in the.....

[more >>](#)

Balakot protesters asked to pack up or face action

Source: [Correspondent](#), [The News, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-27

MANSEHRA: Tehsil administration Balakot has warned organizers of a sit-in, being staged by people whose land and houses were acquired for the Suki Kanari hydropower project, to end their week-long protest, otherwise the law would take its due course. "In the current situation where the Covid-19 cases are on the rise, the street agitation couldn't be allowed and you should end your pro.....

[more >>](#)

Four more die of Covid-19 in Swat

Source: [Correspondent](#) , [The News, Islamabad](#) , 2021-04-27

MINGORA: Four more patients died of Covid-19 in the Swat district on Monday. The fatalities from the coronavirus reached 229 with new casualties in the district. Officials of Health Department said that 154 patients infected by Covid-19 were under treatment at the Saidu Teaching Hospital. They said that four Covid-19 patients died while battling for life for the last several days at the hospital.....

[more >>](#)

21 cops have lost lives during Covid duties so far

Source: [Javed Aziz Khan](#), [The News, Islamabad](#) , 2021-04-27

PESHAWAR: As many as 21 policemen have been martyred and 692 have suffered from Covid-19 while performing duties across the province. A report prepared by the Central Police Office stated a large number of policemen deployed in different parts of the province to enforce lockdown and make people follow Covid SOPs tested positive. "Among those tested positive included a number of deputy insp.....

[more >>](#)

Ulema asked to help implement corona SOPs

Source: [Correspondent](#) , [The News, Islamabad](#) , 2021-04-27

NOWSHERA: A senior official on Monday asked the Ulema and elders to help in the administration in the implementation of the SOPs to stem the spread of coronavirus pandemic in the district. District Khateeb Muhammad Hamid, tehsil Khateeb Mufti Abdullah Jan, Additional Deputy Commissioner Asif Ali Khan and others attended the meeting.

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Provincial Task Force meeting: Strategy evolved to cover kids missing anti-polio drops

Source: [Bureau Report](#), [The News, Islamabad](#) , 2021-04-27

PESHAWAR: A special strategy has been chalked out to focus on areas having a big chunk of children who had missed the anti-polio drops, said officials at a meeting. They said this while attending a meeting of the Provincial Task Force Meeting here Monday at Civil Secretariat chaired by Chief Secretary Kazim Niaz. Member Provincial Assembly and chairperson of the Standing Committee on Health, Rab.....

[more >>](#)

Markets to remain closed for two days

Source: [Correspondent](#) , [The News, Islamabad](#) , 2021-04-27

HANGU: The district administration has ordered the closure of all markets and bazaars for two days a week to contain the spread of the novel coronavirus. According to a press release issued from the office of Hangu Deputy Commissioner Hameedullah Shah, the shops would remain closed on Friday and Saturday in Hangu district while on other days, shops would have to shut at 6 pm.

[more >>](#)

K-P health minister, others booked for violating Covid SOPs

Source: [Shahzeb Khan](#) , [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#) , 2021-04-27

PESHAWAR: Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Health Minister Taimur Saleem Jhagra was booked on Tuesday for violating Covid-19 SOPs after pictures of him attending a large gathering in Peshawar went viral on social media. Assistant Commissioner Matni, Peshawar asked the FIR to be registered against the minister, and the owner and manager of the restaurant for flouting Covid-19 SOPs, and ordered action against.....

[more >>](#)

Three hospitals burdened with Covid patients

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-27

PESHAWAR: Three major hospitals of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa have been overburdened with coronavirus patients, a source in the provincial health department confirmed on Monday. However, 88 beds designated for Covid patients at Lady Reading Hospital, Khyber Teaching Hospital and Hayatabad Medical Complex remain vacant. 798 beds were allotted by the hospital administration for patients suffering with the pr.....

[more >>](#)

Complete lockdown imposed in KDA Town

Source: [The Newspaper's correspondent](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-28

KOHAT: The district administration on Tuesday enforced complete lockdown in posh KDA Town here for seven days in view of the surge in Covid-19 cases. A notification issued from the office of the district police officer Sohail Ahmed said during the lockdown all public places, playgrounds, markets and food points would remain closed. It said the police and the district administration had made all

[more >>](#)

Govt asked to set up more vaccination centres

Source: [Bureau Report](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-28

PESHAWAR: Pakistan Islamic Medical Association has demanded of the government to increase the number of vaccination centres and expedite awareness campaign about significance of vaccine to overcome the Covid-19 pandemic in the country. Addressing a news conference at Peshawar Press Club on Tuesday, PIMA representatives Dr Tayyab, Dr Wahab, Dr Fakhr Alam and Abdul Wadood said that government shoul.....

[more >>](#)

People complain of corona SOPs violations in Mingora

Source: [Haroon Siraj](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-28

Swat - The fully crowded markets of Mingora city have not only made social distancing ineffective but also likely to create trouble as the people rarely bother to follow corona Sops. Swat is under severe grip of corona and according to Dr Najeeb, spokesperson of Saidu Sharif Teaching Hospital, 4 more corona patients died on Tuesday taking the death toll to 244 while another 111 patients were

[more >>](#)

Hospitals to use oxygen for Covid, emergency cases only

Source: [Ashfaq Yusufzai](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-29

PESHAWAR: As Khyber Pakhtunkhwa recorded 37 more deaths from coronavirus on Wednesday, the health department directed the government hospitals across the province to provide medical oxygen only to Covid-19 patients and visitors needing emergency care. The department issued a set of guidelines for the use of oxygen stocks to the director general (health services), hospital and medical directors of.....

[more >>](#)

Two Kohat schools sealed, owners fined

Source: [A Correspondent](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-29

KOHAT: The district administration on Wednesday sealed two schools and fined the owners over violation of the closure orders issued by the government. Additional assistant commissioner-III Mohammad Iqbal, acting on public complaints paid surprise visits to the schools in Togh Bala and Gumbat, and found them open. He sealed them on the spot and imposed heavy fines on the owners. He also visited th.....

[more >>](#)

Torghar closes schools over 15pc Covid positivity rate

Source: [The Newspaper's correspondent, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-29

MANSEHRA: The administration on Wednesday notified the closure of educational institutions in Torghar district as the coronavirus positivity rate reached 15 per cent. According to an order issued by deputy commissioner Tanveerur Rehman, all public and private sector schools and seminaries had been closed with an immediate effect until further orders. The development came in view of the rising co.....

[more >>](#)

ANP Shangla leader dies of coronavirus

Source: [A Correspondent, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-29

SHANGLA: Awami National Party senior leader Anwar Ali Khan died of coronavirus here on Wednesday. ANP district president Azam Khan told Dawn that Mr Ali had been battling the deadly virus for last three weeks, and breathed his last on Wednesday morning. He said the deceased was among the most senior leaders of ANP in Shangla. He contested elections on provincial seat of PK-24, Shangla-2 twice on.....

[more >>](#)

KP health minister booked for violating corona SOPs

Source: [Javed Aziz Khan, The News, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-29

PESHAWAR: The police have lodged a case against Khyber Pakhtunkhwa health minister and management of a local restaurant for arranging and attending an Iftar-dinner in violation of the Covid-19 standard operating procedures (SOPs). The case was lodged by the Sarband Police Station late Monday night on the complaint of Assistant Commissioner Matani, Adil Ayub under Section 6-17 of the KPEECA. Those.....

[more >>](#)

People of Hazara requested to follow coronavirus SOPs

Source: [Correspondent, The News, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-29

ABBOTTABAD: Hazara Commissioner Division Riaz Khan Mehsud has said the third wave of coronavirus is very dangerous and people from all walks of life including elected representatives, the local leadership of political parties, religious scholars, media, trader community and the minority will have to play their role by following all precautionary measures. He was addressing a specially called meet.....

[more >>](#)

Mardan admin cracks down on lockdown violators

Source: [Mohammad Riaz Mayar, The News, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-29

MARDAN: The district administration here on the second day of lockdown cracked down against the violators of the standard operating procedures (SOPs) set by the government to check the spread of the Covid-19. The officials took steps to ensure the implementation of lockdown in the district. The police, army and officials of district administration took part in the crackdown. Deputy Commissioner.....

[more >>](#)

KP govt in a fix whether to take action against minister Taimur Jhagra

Source: [Mushtaq Yusufzai, The News, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-29

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government is in a fix as it has yet to decide whether to take action against Minister for Health and Finance Taimur Saleem Jhagra for violating the Covid-19 standard operating procedures (SOPs). The provincial home secretary and attorney general were scheduled to hold a meeting Tuesday night to discuss the issue. It is to be noted that the KP government has bann.....

[more >>](#)

Flag march held in Nowshera to raise awareness about corona SOPs

Source: [Correspondent, The News, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-29

NOWSHERA: Eighteen more patients tested positive as officials of the district administration, army and police held a joint flag march to raise awareness about implementation of standard operating procedures (SOPs) against the Covid-19 pandemic on Tuesday. The district administration also continued imposing smart lockdown to contain the spread of fast-spreading virus after coronavirus cases report.....

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Routine immunization lagging due to Covid situation

Source: [news Desk, Daily Times](#), 2021-04-29

The urgency of the safety measures taken for Covid-19 have impacted routine immunization of children in Sindh and it must be countered with a mass awareness campaign regarding vaccination safety. These views were expressed by experts at a webinar debunking vaccination myths, organized by Jinnah Sindh Medical University (JSMU) with Extended Immunization Programme, Sindh (EPI). The webinar titled

[more >>](#)

Arrest of cleric, non-arrest of minister goes viral on social media

Source: [Shahid Khan, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-29

Peshawar - While KP Health Minister Taimur Saleem Jhagra got pre-arrest bail on Wednesday, an interesting debate started on the social media, with the people questioning why the authorities arrested a Nowshera-based religious scholar who spoke against the anti-corona SOPs recently and the provincial health minister was not arrested even after registration of an FIR against him for violation of the.....

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Mardan Covid positivity rate down to 14pc from 23pc

Source: [Ashfaq Yusufzai, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-30

PESHAWAR: Though Khyber Pakhtunkhwa recorded 36 deaths from coronavirus on Thursday, the Covid-19 positivity level in Mardan came down to 14 per cent from 23.3 per cent in a day. On average, 35 people were killed by the virus and 1,000 people were infected with it in the province daily during the last one month, officials told Dawn. They said half of Covid-19 beds in the district headquarters hos.....

[more >>](#)

Doctors fear oxygen shortage in K-P

Source: [Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-30

PESHAWAR: The Provincial Doctors Association (PDA) has raised fears of a looming shortage of oxygen in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) due to the rapid spread of Covid-19 infections and demanded that a Covid emergency be declared immediately. The association also demanded an inquiry into the death of eight patients at Lady Reading Hospital (LRH) due to lack of facilities in the past few weeks. PDA urg.....

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Jl chief opens special unit for corona patients at Al-Khidmat Hospital

Source: [Bureau Report, The News, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-30

PESHAWAR: Jamaat-e-Islami chief Sirajul Haq inaugurated a special care unit for corona patients at the Al-Khidmat Hospital here on Thursday. The state-of-the-art healthcare unit has been set up in the wake of alarming increase in the number of corona patients and shortage of beds in the tertiary hospitals in the provincial metropolis. The 25-bed unit is fully equipped with latest facilities like.....

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656 FIRs lodged as Mardan police launch drive on SOPs

Source: [Correspondent](#), [The News, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-30

MARDAN: As many as 656 FIRs have been lodged over violation of the anti-coronavirus SOPs in the district during the last four days, while the police also launched campaign on SOPs on Wednesday. District Police Officer Dr Zahidullah Khan told journalists that the district police have launched a campaign to raise awareness among the public about the importance of standard operating procedures (SOPs.....

[more >>](#)

Punjab

Army steps in to protect people from Covid-19

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-04-27

Pakistan Army on Monday said in view of the deteriorating situation of Covid-19 pandemic, Pakistan Army will use all its capabilities to take all possible steps for the health of the people and ensure their safety by reaching out to every corner of the country. Addressing a news conference Director General of Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Major General Babar Iftikhar said the Pakistan Ar.....

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Oxygen supply crisis in Ghulam Muhammadabad hospital

Source: [Qadeer Sikander](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-04-27

The Government General Hospital of Ghulam Muhammadabad in Faisalabad, which was dedicated to treating the coronavirus infected patients in the first wave of coronavirus, could not be provided high flu oxygen under the central supply even after several months. As a result, coronavirus patients are now being transferred to the Allied Hospital for high-flu oxygen. However, at present, about 95% of th.....

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Battling COVID-19: Emergency strategy needed to save country, says Shahbaz

Source: [Correspondent](#), [The News, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-27

LAHORE: PML-N President Shahbaz Sharif has expressed deep concern over oxygen shortage in the country due to spike in corona cases. "A comprehensive emergency strategy should be formulated in consultation with all the political parties to save country from the same misfortune as India is facing today," he said in a statement here Monday. He said focus should be given on improving stra.....

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Highest number of COVID-19 deaths in a day

Source: [Muhammad Qasim](#), [The News, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-27

Rawalpindi: Coronavirus illness, COVID-19 outbreak has set a new record for the highest number of deaths reported from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district in a day by claiming lives of as many as 16 patients belonging to the region in the last 24 hours. As many as 11 confirmed patients from Rawalpindi district have died of COVID-19 in the last 24 hours that is also the highest num.....

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Govt allows citizens aged 40, above to sign up for vaccination

Source: [Ikram Junaidi](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-27

ISLAMABAD: In a major development, the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Monday decided to open registration of around 12 million people in the age group of 40 to 50 years and allowed walk-in vaccination facility for citizens over 50. Minister for Planning and Development Asad Umar said people who were 40 years and above could get themselves registered for vaccination from Tuesday (.....

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Alarm bells ringing as small Punjab districts report high positivity ratio

Source: [Asif Chaudhry](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-27

LAHORE: Punjab's districts of Okara, Vehari and Sahiwal reported the highest Covid-19 positivity ratio of 51, 41 and 35 per cent, respectively during the last 24 hours, raising an alarm that the virus is now spreading from major populated cities to the rural areas. According to the official update, 12 districts recorded alarmingly high positivity rates during the last 24 hours, including La.....

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Police, army in action against SOPs violators

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-27

LAHORE: The police and army jointly took action in the city and got the heavily crowded Kareem Block market in Iqbal Town and others closed here on Monday. Many shopkeepers were also arrested for running their businesses in violation of the Covid guidelines as well as people not wearing face masks. The major interventions were made in Iqbal Town, Ichhra and Wahdat Road where joint teams of the p.....

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Pindi reports 11 deaths, 129 new Covid cases

Source: [APP](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-27

RAWALPINDI/ISLAMABAD: The novel coronavirus continues to spread in the twin cities as 469 cases were reported in the federal capital and 129 in the garrison city with 11 fatalities on Monday, a National Command Operation Center (NCOC) official said. According to the details, so far 73,450 cases were reported from the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT), resulting in 665 deaths while 59,993 patient.....

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Punjab reports 2,190 fresh corona cases, 26 deaths

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-27

LAHORE: There is no let up in the spread of coronavirus, as out of 19,445 Covid-19 tests conducted during the last 24 hours across Punjab, as many as 2,190 fresh virus cases and 26 more fatalities were reported in the province taking the provincial tally of cases to 290,788 and death toll to 7,990. The positivity rate of the virus has reached to 11.26 percent. With the recovery of 2015 more v.....

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Covid-19 surge in Lahore; Joint teams of LEAs to ensure closure of markets, bazaars at 6pm

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-27

LAHORE: Capital City Police Officer (CCPO) Ghulam Mahmood Dogar has said that all the bazaars including wholesale and retail markets as well as shopping and business centres will be closed down by 6pm by joint teams of police, Pak Army, Rangers and district government. "All the bazaars, including wholesale and retail markets and shopping malls and business centres will be closed down by.....

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PA Speaker calls for closure of educational institutions in Gujarat

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-27

LAHORE - Speaker Punjab Assembly Chaudhry Parvez Elahi has expressed grave concern over the opening of public and private educational institutions in Gujrat. In a statement, the Punjab Assembly Speaker said that in view of the severity of corona, educational institutions have been closed all over the country and even Allama Iqbal Open University exams including Cambridge A & O level exams have.....

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35,724 senior citizens vaccinated in Faisalabad

Source: [APP](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-27

FAISALABAD - As many as 35,724 senior citizens have so far been vaccinated against COVID-19 in Faisalabad district. District Health Officer Dr Ata Al-Moenum said on Monday that 27,930 citizens have been given the first dose while 7,794 were administered second dose of vaccine. He said that vaccination process is continued at six vaccination centers, established in the district in double shift. Me.....

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People asked to follow SOPs as corona third wave can prove to be disastrous

Source: [Ch Ashraf](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-27

BAHAWALPUR - Bahawalpur Commissioner Captain (retd) Zafar Iqbal inspected corona SOPs on busy highways of the city before Iftar and distributed masks among motorcyclists and people traveling in vehicles without masks at Farid Gate and Circular Road. The commissioner reprimanded the youths who were walking around without masks and gave them masks. During the "Wear Masks" campaign,

[more >>](#)

Third wave of Covid-19 becomes fatal: Commissioner

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-27

LAHORE - Commissioner Lahore Division, Captain (retired), Muhammad Usman has expressed the government's firm resolve to adopt zero tolerance policy against the violators of COVID-19 SOPs with the help of Police and Pakistan Army. Addressing a press conference along with CCPO Lahore Ghulam Mehmood Dogar and officers of Pakistan Army and Rangers on Monday, he elaborated action plan to enf.....

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More beds, ventilators to be reserved for corona patients: Yasmin

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-27

LAHORE - Punjab Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid chaired a meeting on directions from Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar at the Specialized Healthcare and Medical Education Department on Monday to review the emerging pandemic situation and status of available and required facilities. Present in the meeting were Special Secretary Silwat Saeed, Additional Secretary Usman Khalid, Dr Salman Shahi.....

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Three shops sealed over SOPs violations

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-27

Three shops sealed over SOPs violations Share: Our Staff Reporter April 27, 2021 LAHORE - The city district administration sealed three shops in Cantonment area besides imposing heavy fines on violations of coronavirus related Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), on Monday. According to

[more >>](#)

Arrests, sealing of shops make people wear masks

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-28

LAHORE: Accompanied by the civil administrative officials, army troops visited various parts of the city, especially the busy shopping markets and malls to ensure wearing of masks, social distancing and other Covid-19 SOPs and precautionary measures by the public at large. The joint teams of army, police and civil administration while visiting various markets appealed to the people to keep wearin.....

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Record 107 Covid deaths: Understaffed centres stymie vaccination pace in Punjab

Source: [Asif Chaudhry](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-28

LAHORE: With record 107 Covid deaths in a day in Punjab, mismanagement at the understaffed vaccination centres in the province is adding to the woes of the elderly people. A majority of the centres are understaffed and heavily crowded with people of 50 to 69 years of age. The situation is disturbing at three mega centres of Lahore – Expo Centre Johar Town, Minar-i-Pakistan and the Pakistan.....

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Punjab govt to spare Rs1.5bn for Covid vaccination

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-28

LAHORE: The Punjab government on Tuesday decided to spare Rs1.5 billion for the purchase of coronavirus vaccination and constituted a committee to review the proposal regarding closing down all activities after 6pm. Both these decisions were made at a meeting of the cabinet committee for coronavirus, chaired by Chief Minister Usman Buzdar here at his office. The meeting decided to maintain exempt.....

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Pandemic shuts newspaper readers' favourite haunt

Source: [Zulfikar Baig](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-28

ISLAMABAD: Established in 1924 by Mian Nazar Hussain, Nazar Muslim Library nestled in the heart of Rawalpindi, has long been the cornerstone of the region's literary culture. For the past 97 odd years, the modest, one-roomed space, which remains the favourite haunt of the city's newspaper readers, has offered all who've walked through its dusty gate's gratuitous access to a

[more >>](#)

Politicising pandemic height of apathy: CM

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-28

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister (CM) Sardar Usman Buzdar said on Tuesday that the politicisation of Covid-19 pandemic exposes the height of apathy among members of the opposition. "They are point-scoring at the cost of human lives," he lamented. In his recent statement, the chief minister appealed to the nation that it is time to heal the wounds of ailing humanity and not engage in mu.....

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Buzdar takes stock of corona situation

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-28

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar chaired the meeting of the cabinet committee for corona at his office on Tuesday to take stock of the coronavirus situation in the province. The meeting reviewed additional steps to secure the lives of the people and it was decided in principle that the Punjab government will also procure corona vaccine with an amount of Rs 1.5 billion. The CM.....

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Punjab govt to procure vaccine;

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-28

LAHORE: Punjab government will procure corona vaccine with an amount of Rs. 1.5 billion and the CM directed authorities concerned to take necessary steps in this regard. The CM Sardar Usman Buzdar chaired the meeting of the cabinet committee for corona at his office on Tuesday to take stock of the coronavirus situation in the province. The meeting reviewed additional steps to secure the

[more >>](#)

28 shops sealed for SOPs violations

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-28

LAHORE - The district administration sealed 28 shops, mega marts, restaurants and imposed heavy fines on violations of coronavirus related Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) here on Tuesday. According to a spokesperson for the district administration, Assistant Commissioner (AC) Cantt Zeeshan Ranjha sealed two marble factories and four shops in Ghazi Road, a gym in DHA Y.....

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More than 1 million people vaccinated: Health Minister

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-28

LAHORE - Punjab Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid said here on Tuesday that the vaccination of citizens is underway and registration process of 40 plus age category has been started. She said, "So far 198,000 healthcare workers have received first dose of corona vaccine and over 138,000 healthcare workers have received second dose. So far more than 495,000 elderly citizens have received

[more >>](#)

CM orders to procure corona vaccine

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-28

LAHORE - Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar chaired meeting of cabinet committee for corona on Tuesday to review steps for controlling the pandemic. The CM directed taking steps for procuring corona vaccine with an amount of Rs1.5 billion. He directed to constitute a committee to review the proposal and give recommendations regarding closing down all activities up to 6:00pm excluding medica.....

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Ban on hoarding, profiteering on oxygen supplies imposed

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-28

LAHORE - The Punjab government on Tuesday imposed a ban on hoarding, profiteering on oxygen supplies and related medical devices for two months. The Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD), under "Punjab Infectious Diseases (Prevention and Control) Act 2020" and with the approval of Chief Minister, restricted "hoarding of and profiteering on oxygen supplies a.....

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Punjab govt imposes stricter lockdown in all districts

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-28

LAHORE - Punjab government has imposed stricter lockdown from 6:00 pm till Sehr in week days besides declaring weekends as closed days with immediate effect in all districts. According to a notification issued by Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD) on Tuesday, the lockdown will remain effective till May 17, 2021 ensuring closure of all commercial activities, establishments.....

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More vaccination centres planned

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-29

RAWALPINDI: Deputy Commissioner retired Capt Anwarul Haq on Wednesday asked assistant commissioners of all the seven tehsils of Rawalpindi district to identify areas for establishment of new vaccination centres as the number of registered person to get vaccination was increasing. He was visiting Fatima Jinnah Women University vaccination centre to inspect the working of the health officials and f.....

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Another nine succumb to virus in twin cities

Source: [Munawer Azeem | Aamir Yasin, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-29

ISLAMABAD: There was no let-up in Covid-19 casualties as nine more people died from the infection in the twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad. However, both the cities saw a decline in the number of cases with the capital reporting 327 cases and the garrison city 95. Officials of the capital administration said five patients-- three men and two women in the age groups of 40-49, 70-79, 80-89,

[more >>](#)

After Islamabad, Pindi police suspends licence services

Source: [Mohammad Asghar, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-29

RAWALPINDI: Issuance and renewal of driving licences has been suspended for two months due to the spread of Covid-19, City Traffic Police announced on Wednesday. "It is a national emergency, therefore, the issuance of all kinds of driving licences has been suspended," Chief Traffic Officer Mazhar Iqbal told Dawn, adding: "All driving licences with an expiry date between the suspe.....

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Medic questions treatment of Covid patients

Source: [Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-29

LAHORE: Medical experts have warned that the Covid situation is aggravating everyday and suggested the Punjab government to expand the scope of healthcare to the patients at the state-run and private hospitals to prevent more deaths. A senior medical teacher of a public sector hospital blames the Punjab health authorities for the rising trend in Covid deaths saying that no proper treatment is bei.....

[more >>](#)

QAMC constructs oxygen tank for eventuality

Source: [The Newspaper's correspondent, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-29

BAHAWALPUR: The Quaid-i-Azam Medical College (QAMC) administration has launched construction of a gas tank at a cost of Rs1.03 million to store the liquid oxygen gas for the health facilities in the city. This was stated by QAMC Principal Prof Dr Shafqat Ali Tabbasum while speaking to Dawn here on Wednesday. The principal who is the chief executive officer of three allied hospitals Nawab Sadiq Kha.....

[more >>](#)

Jails asked to ensure availability of oxygen for Covid patients

Source: [Staff Correspondent, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-29

FAISALABAD: After a spike in Covid-19 cases in Faisalabad, the jail officials have been directed to ensure availability of oxygen cylinders and other necessary equipment to deal with coronavirus patients at the prisons. Through a letter sent to the superintendents of all jails of Faisalabad and Sargodha regions, Faisalabad Deputy Inspector General (Prisons) Saeedullah Gondal said the third wave o.....

[more >>](#)

Violation of SOPs: 'Selective' action imperils lives of market-goers

Source: [Asif Chaudhry, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-29

LAHORE: The city and police authorities seem selective in taking action against traders by allegedly ignoring the markets in major housing societies or in elite areas. Most food outlets, shops and other business points are being run round the clock at Johar Town, Wapda Town, Valencia Town, Lake City, Bahria Town and many parts of Defence Housing Authority (DHA). There are a number of housing soci.....

[more >>](#)

Over 400 medics yet to get Covid-19 jabs as third wave intensifies

Source: [Tariq Ismail, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-29

DERA GHAZI KHAN: The health department could not complete the vaccination of its health workers even after corona cases have surged sharply in the district of Dera Ghazi Khan. More than 415 health workers were devoid of vaccinations due to which the nurses and their families were infected. Sources said the health department could not complete the vaccination of frontline fighters, doctors and n.....

[more >>](#)

High Covid infection rate districts ban jail visits

Source: [Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-29

LAHORE: A few days ahead of Eidul Fitr, Punjab government has once again barred visitors from meeting inmates in districts demonstrating Covid positivity ratio 8% and above to avoid spread of disease among those housed in jails across the province. The decision came about amidst coronavirus scare claiming lives of 1,739 citizens in the month of April alone. This year families and friends would

[more >>](#)

Punjab to further tighten restrictions in Covid-19 hotspots

Source: [DNA / News Desk, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-29

LAHORE: In view of the third and potentially more dangerous wave of coronavirus, the Punjab government on Wednesday decided that more stringent restrictions will be imposed in cities with high positivity ratio of Covid-19. The decision was taken during a provincial apex committee meeting chaired by Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar. Special Assistant to CMPunjabDr Firdous Ashiq Awan, in.....

[more >>](#)

127 dead in a day in Punjab

Source: [Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-29

LAHORE: Despite smart lockdown in several areas and increasing restrictions on routine activities, Wednesday proved to be the deadliest day for Punjab since the outbreak of coronavirus as the pandemic claimed 127 lives in the province. At least 2,676 new patients of coronavirus were brought to hospitals across the province. In the wake of increasing coronavirus cases and resulting deaths, the p.....

[more >>](#)

Lahore bears the brunt of Covid wave

Source: [Adnan Lodhi, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-28

LAHORE: As many as 107 people lost their lives to coronavirus in Punjab on Tuesday, including 54 in Lahore. The figure was higher than the previous highest death toll in 24 hours since the outbreak of the pandemic of 104, recorded on April 20. An official of the provincial health department said a variant of the virus from the United Kingdom was causing increasing deaths during the third wave o.....

[more >>](#)

79 shops, banks, schools sealed for 'violating SOPs'

Source: [Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-29

LAHORE: The Lahore District Administration sealed 79 shops, banks, schools and restaurants while 17 persons were arrested for not complying with the Covid-19 standard operating procedures. Assistant Commissioner City Faizan Ahmed sealed 35 shops and two restaurants and arrested 10 persons. Among the shops and restaurants that were sealed included RA Mobile, Mobile Shop, Fashion Gallery, Colle.....

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Routine immunization lagging due to Covid situation

Source: [App, Daily Times](#) , 2021-04-29

The urgency of the safety measures taken for Covid-19 have impacted routine immunization of children in Sindh and it must be countered with a mass awareness campaign regarding vaccination safety. These views were expressed by experts at a webinar debunking vaccination myths, organized by Jinnah Sindh Medical University (JSMU) with Extended Immunization Programme, Sindh (EPI). The webinar titled

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Punjab to expand Covid restrictions in districts with over 8pc positivity rate

Source: [news Desk, Daily Times](#) , 2021-04-29

The Punjab government announced on Monday that further lockdowns will be enforced in districts with a Covid-19 positivity of more than 8 per cent to curb the spread of the disease. The apex committee has taken important decisions after a detailed review of steps for saving the lives of the people, said Punjab Chief Minister Usman Buzdar while speaking to the media. A cabinet committee for anti-c.....

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DC for strict implementation of SOPs at public places

Source: [Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad](#) , 2021-04-29

ATTOCK - Attock DC Ali Anan Qamar along with his team paid 2373 visits to different areas to ensure implementation of covid SOPs, which include markets, hotels, railways stations, bus stands, educational institutes and public parks. During these surprise visits three educational institutes, 217 shops, eight hotels were sealed, said a press release. Beside this fine worth Rs9,13,500 was also impos.....

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578 coronavirus patients recovered

Source: [Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad](#) , 2021-04-29

LAHORE - As many as 578 coronavirus patients were recovered during the past 24 hours, reported by the Health Department. According to the data shared by the Health Department, 219,468 coronavirus patients recovered altogether so far in public sector hospitals being run under the control of Specialized and Primary & Secondary Healthcare departments across the province. The Specialized Healthcar.....

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67 shops sealed, 17 arrested for flouting corona SOPs

Source: [Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad](#) , 2021-04-29

LAHORE - The city district administration on Wednesday got arrested 17 people for not wearing face masks in public places and sealed 67 shops over corona related SOPs violations. According to spokesperson, Assistant Commissioner (AC) City Fizan Ahmed sealed 35 shops, two restaurants and arrested 10 people over SOPs violations in his jurisdiction while AC Shalimar Mansoor Ahmed Qazi sealed nine sho.....

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4 persons die of Covid-19 in Rawalpindi

Source: [Israr Ahmad, The Nation, Islamabad](#) , 2021-04-29

Rawalpindi-As many as four people died of Coronavirus in Rawalpindi district on Wednesday, informed sources. Similarly, 95 patients tested positive for coronavirus and 120 patients got discharged from the hospital after recovery during last 24 hours, they said. According to sources, Naseer Agha, 76, a resident of Lane 4 Peshawar Road, was brought to Hearts International Hospital on April 27 and

[more >>](#)

COVID-19 positive patients tally in Attock reaches 1942

Source: [APP](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-29

Attock - In district Attock, another patient lost battle to the coronavirus on Wednesday raising the tally of the deaths during the month of April. Talking to APP, officials confirmed that the city has been witnessing alarming increase in fatalities in the third waves during the month of April where as many as 20 persons succumbed to virus in the district. A 65-year-old man Rab Nawaz, resident of

[more >>](#)

Travel ban on inbound passengers extended till May 4

Source: [Mohammad Asghar](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-30

RAWALPINDI: As many countries are imposing additional travel restrictions due to surge in Covid-19 cases – the Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (PCAA) has extended travel ban on inbound passengers arriving from category C countries till May 4, 2021. The government had also been planning to limit the number of flights into the country. The countries, categorised C, were South Africa, Botswana.....

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1,005 Covid patients on oxygen in Punjab

Source: [Asif Chaudhry](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-30

LAHORE: With 103 more deaths reported during the last 24 hours, 1,005 Covid-19 patients are struggling for life on high-flow oxygen while 368 are on ventilators in Punjab. The death toll in Punjab reached 8,327. Of them, 34 died in Lahore where the total number of casualties reached 3,428, according to the Covid update released by the Punjab government here on Thursday. The official figures rele.....

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Shehbaz urges govt to act on a war footing

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-30

LAHORE: PML-N President and National Assembly Opposition Leader Shehbaz Sharif has said the PTI government must act on a war footing to ensure the provision of vaccines across the country. Speaking to party parliamentarians at his Model Town residence here on Thursday, Shehbaz expressed alarm and concern over the surge of Covid-19 cases in Pakistan, expressing solidarity and empathy with the affe.....

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Most of ministers propose lockdown in select cities

Source: [Mansoor Malik](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-30

LAHORE: Most of the Punjab Cabinet members have proposed that the provincial government must go ahead to impose lockdown in the cities facing high coronavirus rate. As many as 2,100 coronavirus deaths and 85,900 new positive cases have been reported during the past one month. Lahore alone is facing 22.7 per cent positivity rate at present. Twenty-three districts are reporting over 8pc infection r.....

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Vaccine centre opening postponed thrice

Source: [Abid Mahmood](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-30

NAROWAL: The district administration has postponed the inauguration of an anti-corona vaccination centre in Zafarwal thrice for administrative and political reasons. Like the other parts of the country, the corona vaccine has been administered to the citizens of Narowal district in Narowal and Shakargar tehsils for the past 45 days. When it comes to Zafarwal tehsil, an eight-bed vaccination centre.....

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Eight die of corona, 657 test positive

Source: [Muhammad Qasim](#), [The News, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-30

Rawalpindi : As many as eight 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 while another 657 patients have been tested positive for COVID-19 from the twin cities. The death of another eight patients has taken the death toll from the region to 1,557 while the total number of patien.....

[more >>](#)

CM, Governor Punjab discuss political, administrative issues, COVID-19 situation

Source: [App](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-04-30

Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar called on Governor Punjab Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar here on Thursday and discussed political, governmental and other issues including the Coronavirus situation. Governor and Chief Minister Punjab agreed to exploit all resources for development and prosperity in the province including South Punjab. During the meeting held at Governor's House Lahore, t.....

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Punjab to impose 'complete lockdown' in Lahore on weekends

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-30

Authorities have decided to impose a "complete lockdown" in the city on Saturdays and Sundays. The announcement was made by the Commissioner Lahore Division Muhammad Usman on Friday, who said that part of the complete lockdown entailed that businesses and markets across the city will remain closed. The step is being taken to save lives as coronavirus cases continue to surge across the

[more >>](#)

Sarwar, CM, PA Speaker discuss politics, corona situation

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-30

LAHORE - Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar, Governor Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar and Punjab Assembly speaker Ch Parvez Elahi held separate meetings on Thursday and discussed political issues including the Coronavirus situation. The meeting between Punjab governor and the chief minister took place at Governor's House Lahore. According to an official handout, they discussed current polit.....

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Corona situation getting worse with each passing day, warns Dr Firdous

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-30

LAHORE - Special Assistant to Chief Minister on Information Dr Firdous Ashiq Awan on Thursday said that the past government befooled those living in South Punjab through hollow slogans. Talking to media here, she said that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government was fulfilling its promises made with the people and working day-and-night for the welfare of masses. She said that the secretaries ap.....

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Corona pandemic creates a situation of emergency in Punjab: Health Minister

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-30

LAHORE - Punjab Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid reviewed the status of facilities at government sector hospitals in the wake of rising number of corona cases at the Specialized Healthcare and Medical Education Department here on Thursday. Present in the meeting were Prof Dr Mehmud Shaukat, Special Secretary Silwat Saeed, Dr Asif Tufail, Additional Secretary Dr Salman Shahid, Consultant Prof Asad.....

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60 shops sealed, 11 held for flouting virus SOPs

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-30

LAHORE - The city district administration sealed 60 shops, businesses points, restaurants and arrested 11 persons for not complying with the COVID-19 Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), here on Thursday. According to a spokesperson for the district administration, Assistant Commissioner City Faizan Ahmed sealed 35 shops in his jurisdiction. AC Shalimar Mansoor Ahmed Qazi sealed 10 shops and ar.....

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Punjab to increase vaccination centres

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-30

LAHORE - Punjab Health Department has prepared a plan to increase the number of corona vaccination centres from 135 to 246 to facilitate citizens. The plan for setting up 111 new vaccination centres was presented at a meeting held at the Civil Secretariat here on Thursday. Law Minister Raja Basharat, Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid, Chief Secretary Punjab and senior civil and military officials

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Sindh

Pakistan Navy distributes ration in Coastal, Creeks area amid pandemic

Source: [App](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-04-27

As the nation is rigorously fighting against the corona virus surge in the country, Pakistan Navy reaches out to aggrieved families in coastal and creeks to distribute ration among the deserving families during the Holy month of Ramazan. Pakistan Navy in collaboration with Sahil Welfare Association distributed ration bags to over 1,100 deserving families of Sindh and Balochistan, said a Pakistan N.....

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Sindh tightens restrictions to curb Covid-19 spread

Source: [news Desk](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-04-27

The Sindh government has announced that all schools, colleges and universities will remain closed due to the rising coronavirus cases in the provinces. In a tweet on Monday, Murtaza Wahab, spokesperson for the provincial government, announced that Sindh government offices will operate with an essential staff of 20 percent only as the country battles a dangerous third wave of coronavirus. ".....

[more >>](#)

Sindh closes educational institutions amid surge in COVID-19

Source: [News Report](#), [The News, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-27

KARACHI: Sindh government spokesperson Murtaza Wahab announced that all schools, colleges and universities will remain closed in the province due to the rising coronavirus cases in the provinces. Wahab tweeted that Sindh government offices will operate with an essential staff of 20 percent only as the country battles a dangerous third wave of coronavirus. "All schools, colleges and universi.....

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There is a crisis due to corona situation but no panic: Fawad

Source: [news Desk](#), [The News, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-27

KARACHI: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Fawad Chaudhry admitted on Monday that there was a crisis due to Covid situation, but no panic. While talking at a webinar, convened by the CPG Dialogue platform on 'Pakistan at the Crossroads', along with Muhammad Azfar Ahsan, founder of Corporate Pakistan Group (CPG) and Nutshell Group, the federal minister said, "Whe.....

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Six coronavirus patients die in Hyderabad since Saturday evening

Source: [Staff Correspondent, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-27

HYDERABAD: Six Covid-19 patients died in Liaquat University Hospital's city branch over the last 48 hours, it was stated on Monday evening. Hyderabad Commissioner Mohammad Abbas Baloch, chairing a meeting in his office on Monday, asked all deputy commissioners and district health officers to identify each and every health facility within their respective area in the division. He told them t.....

[more >>](#)

'Govt wants to vaccinate 26m people in first phase'

Source: [Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-27

KARACHI: The federal government is hoping to vaccinate 26 million people in the first phase and at a later stage give jabs to 100m Pakistanis to meet the huge challenge of inoculating 70 per cent of the population to come out of the Covid-19 threat. The details of the national vaccination plan came from Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Hussain while sharing his tho.....

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Sindh gov't's year-long lethargy keeps LUH ill-equipped to cope with fresh Covid-19 wave

Source: [Mohammad Hussain Khan, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-27

HYDERABAD: As the city yet again becomes a hotspot for coronavirus exactly after a year since outbreak of the pandemic with positivity ratio fluctuating between 23 and 24 per cent over the past one week, nothing has changed for Covid-19 patients in Liaquat University Hospital (LUH) Hyderabad — the only tertiary healthcare facility in lower Sindh other than Karachi — as far as quality o.....

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PMA urges govt to impose emergency, suspend flights to tackle Covid-19

Source: [Faiza Ilyas, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-27

KARACHI: The federal government's "absolute failure" in preventing the spread of Covid-19 variants demands that it impose an emergency in the country and suspend international and domestic passenger flights, train and public transport services till it puts in place an effective Covid-19 screening and monitoring system at all entry points, especially airports. This was stated by

[more >>](#)

Sindh okays army deployment for Covid SOPs' implementation

Source: [Hafeez Tunio, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-27

KARACHI: The Sindh cabinet gave the nod on Tuesday to deploy army in the province in aid of civil powers to ensure adherence to Covid-19 SOPs. The decision was taken in view of the decisions of the National Coordination Committee (NCC) and the prevailing situation. Two days ago, on Sunday, Sindh wrote to the federal government, wherein it sought deployment of army personnel in the province. ".....

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Sindh Assembly likely to hold online session

Source: [Muhammad Sabih, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-27

KARACHI - As the restrictions were enhanced across Pakistan in the wake of surge in COVID-19, entire Sindh Assembly's sessions were also likely to be held online for the first time as Treasury and Opposition both agreed to sit together and find mechanism for holding virtual session to minimise the risk to lives of lawmakers, staffers and journalists covering the Assembly. Muttahida Qaum.....

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COVID-19 claims six more lives, infects 727 others: Sindh CM

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-27

KARACHI - Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah said that 727 new cases of COVID-19 emerged and six more patients died overnight lifting the death toll to 4,605 that constituted 1.7 percent death rate which was lower than other provinces, except Balochistan. Syed Murad Ali Shah said that 11,855 tests were conducted overnight with 727 new cases that constituted 6.1 percent current dete.....

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SAU management decides to close varsity due to COVID-19 spread

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-27

HYDERABAD - The management of Sindh Agriculture University (SAU) TandoJam has decided to close the varsity from today April 27, 2021 due to the spread of the third wave of COVID-19. The university spokesperson informed on Monday that decision to this effect has been made in the meeting of Deans Committee which chaired by Vice Chancellor (VC) Dr Fateh Marri. It was decided that the academic pr.....

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Show-cause notices issued to secretaries for not fixing corona vaccine price

Source: [Ishaq Tanoli](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-28

KARACHI: The Sindh High Court on Tuesday issued show-cause notices to secretaries of the cabinet division and ministry of national health services and head of the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (Drap) for not fixing price of Covid-19 vaccine. The single-judge bench of SHC headed by Justice Nadeem Akhtar observed that besides a divisional bench, the federal authorities concerned had also un.....

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Contempt notices issued to DRAP head, others

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-28

KARACHI: The Sindh High Court issued on Tuesday contempt of court notices to the health secretary, cabinet division secretary and Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) chairperson over their failure to fix the price of Covid-19 vaccines. The court issued the notices in a plea pertaining to the price of Covid-19 vaccines, filed by the federal government, after the assistant attorney genera.....

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Nearly 1100 new Covid cases detected in Sindh

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-28

KARACHI: As many as 19 more patients of Covid-19 have died inSindh, said Sindh Chief Minister in a statement issued on Tuesday, when the province reported 1,084 new coronavirus cases. The CMsaid following the recent deaths and detections, the province's Covid-19 death toll had climbed to 4,624, and the infection tally to 280,355. He said 626 Covid-19 patients had recovered overnight, lifting.....

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Covid-19;Sindh govt urges SHC to hear urgent cases only

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-28

KARACHI: Sindh government has requested the Sindh High Court (SHC) to only allow hearings of urgent cases due to the increasing number of Covid-19 cases in the country. In the letter, Wahab spoke about the recent surge in active cases of Covid-19 and the rising death toll because of it. He informed the SHC that the provincial task force on Covid-19 is monitoring the situation daily and h.....

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Number of shops, markets, hotels sealed in Karachi

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-28

KARACHI: The city administration on Tuesday came in action against the violators of Covid-19 standard operating procedures (SOPs) as a number of shops, markets, hotels etc were sealed across the city till further orders. DC Central Karachi said the actions have been taken by exercising Section 3 (1) Sindh Epidemic Diseases Act 2014.

.....

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Sindh Cabinet approves Rs1m compensation for govt employee dying due to COVID

Source: [Abullah Zafar](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-28

KARACHI - Sindh Cabinet in its around five hours prolonged sitting approved important water act, devolution of Sindh Building Control Authority (SBCA) to the divisional level, ratified Pak Army requirement in support of civil administration, upgraded posts of town officers from Grade BS-11 to BS-16 and approved Rs1 million compensation for government employees dying due to coronavirus. This d.....

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COVID in Sindh claims 19 more lives, infects 1,084 others

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-28

KARACHI - As many as 19 more patients of coronavirus died across Sindh overnight, lifting the death toll to 4,624 and 1,084 new cases emerged when 14,465 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued on Tuesday. The chief minister added that 19 more patients of COVID-19 lost their lives, lifting the death toll to 4,624 that consti.....

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SMBBMU reviews facilities for COVID-19 patients

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-28

LARKANA - Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Medical University (SMBBMU) finally held a meeting on Tuesday to review the existing facilities for COVID-19 patients after the surfacing of several positive cases during third wave in the home district of martyred Bhutto leaders. The meeting was presided over by Vice Chancellor (VC) Prof Dr Aneela Attaur Rahman which was participated by faculty members an.....

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Jl offers govt Al-Khidmat's services to handle pandemic

Source: [From the Newspaper](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-29

KARACHI: Jamaat-i-Islami (JI) Karachi chief Engr Hafiz Naeemur Rehman said that Al-Khidmat is offering its services to handle the Covid pandemic's latest wave, according to a press release. The JI leader held a press conference on Wednesday at JI Karachi headquarters, Idara Noor-i-Haq, to offer Al-Khidmat's cooperation to the government and authorities over the issue. Detailing the m.....

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SOPs' violators get murgha punishment in Mirpurkhas markets

Source: [Dawn Report](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-29

MIRPURKHAS: Officers of district administration with the help of Pak Army officials and troops launched a campaign across the district on Wednesday to enforce SOPs for coronavirus in markets and on roads in line with guidelines of National Command and Operation Centre. Deputy Commissioner Salamat Memon, who led a team of assistant commissioners, army troops and police, paid surprise visits to Mun.....

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'Govt, citizens need to take tough decisions'

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-29

KARACHI: Sindh government spokesperson Murtaza Wahab called on Wednesday for the government, as well as citizens, to take tough decisions, in order to contain the spread of the coronavirus. Addressing a press conference, Wahab stated that while over 100,000 citizens getting vaccinated in the country the previous day was appreciable, private sector should also be permitted to sell vaccines. Stre.....

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Sindh sees over 1,000 new Covid-19 cases

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-29

KARACHI: As many as 1,029 new Covid-19 infections were detected against 14,716 tests in Sindh on Wednesday, when five coronavirus-related deaths were reported in the province, according to a statement issued by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on the day. The CM said following the recent detections and deaths, Sindh Covid-19 death toll had increased to 4,629, and its coronavirus tally had

[more >>](#)

Covid: Mind the shopping

Source: [BR Research](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-29

Not quite the catastrophe that the Eastern neighbors are facing, Pakistan's third Covid wave finally seems to be waking the administration from the slumbers. The 7-day moving average positivity rate touched 10 percent, first time since mid-July 2020. The daily case toll is nearing the first peak, at less than half the positivity rate. Hopefully, the authorities won't be waiting for the.....

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Five more lose lives in Sindh as COVID continues to play havoc

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-29

KARACHI - As many as five more patients of coronavirus died in Sindh overnight, lifting the death toll to 4,629 and 1,029 new cases emerged when 14,716 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued on Wednesday. He informed that five more patients of COVID-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 4,629 that constituted 1.7 per cent.....

[more >>](#)

Shops, beauty parlors sealed over violation of COVID SOPs

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-29

HYDERABAD - The district administration on Wednesday sealed two shops and as many beauty parlors for not following coronavirus standard operating procedures (SOPs). The Assistant Commissioner (AC) Qasimabad Gada Hussain Soomro visited different areas and inspected implementation of SOPs approved by health authorities and sealed two beauty parlors for not following health guidelines with regard to

[more >>](#)

Karachi reports cases of corona variant 'B1135': Dr Azra Pechuho

Source: [News Report](#), [The News, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-30

KARACHI: Sindh Health Minister Dr Azra Pechuho on Thursday said that along with the UK variant, a variant 'B1135' has also been detected in the coronavirus cases reported in Karachi. The minister said that out of 22 coronavirus cases that were investigated, the UK variant was confirmed in 18 cases, while the B1135 variant was confirmed in two cases. She regretted that despite launchi.....

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Al-Khidmat offers free oxygen for Covid-19 patients

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-30

KARACHI: Al-Khidmat has offered free supplies of oxygen and medical service to the government to tackle the new variant of Covid-19, plaguing the country in a rapid wave, Chief of JI Karachi Chapter Engr Hafiz Naeemur Rehman said the other day while addressing a press conference at Idara Noor-e-Haq. He said Alkhidmat had opened its Liaquatabad offices to cope up with the situation that o.....

[more >>](#)

'Continuation of business process during pandemic a challenge'

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-30

KARACHI: Korangi Association of Trade and Industry (KATI) Patron-in-Chief S.M Muneer and President Saleem-uz-Zaman have said that the continuation of business and industrial processes during the current coronavirus pandemic is a major challenge that the federal government has to address. Wise steps should be taken at the provincial level. The government and the industrialists can develop a jo.....

[more >>](#)

Minister warns of complete lockdown if SOPs violated

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-30

KARACHI: Sindh Information Minister Syed Nasir Hussain Shah said the situation of covid-19 is very alarming and that is why we have to take tough decisions in this regard. He added that NCOC guidelines on covid-19 and the government's recommendations must be followed if a complete lockdown is to be avoided. The minister made these remarks in a video statement issued after a meeting of t.....

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How many COVID-19 vaccines are allowed, being used in Pakistan?

Source: [M Waqar Bhatti](#), [The News, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-30

KARACHI: Pakistan has so far inoculated only two million of its population with mix and match of mostly Chinese and a few thousand doses of Russian Sputnik V vaccine, which is less than one percent of the entire population of 220 million, officials said. They however added that the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) has allowed five vaccines including three Chinese, one Russian and a Eu.....

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Sindh CM announces to ban inter-city transport service from April 30

Source: [App](#), [The News, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-30

Chief Minister of Sindh (CM) Murad Ali Shah on Thursday announced to ban inter-city bus transport service across the province in the wake of controlling the third wave of coronavirus. While chairing a meeting of the coronavirus task force, the CM said that increasing COVID-19 cases and deaths in the country is alarming. We need to ensure strict implementation on standard operating procedures (SOP.....

[more >>](#)

PIA transports another one million doses of Covid-19 vaccine to Pakistan from China

Source: [App](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-04-30

Three special flights of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) carrying a fresh batch of one million doses of COVID-19 vaccine left here on Thursday for Pakistan as the country is combating the third wave of pandemic. The fresh consignment is in addition to one million doses of COVID-19 vaccine transported to Pakistan from China by three planes of the national flag carrier on April 25 Qadir Bux S.....

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COVID-19 SOPs must be followed to avoid complete lockdown: Nasir Hussain Shah

Source: [App, Daily Times](#), 2021-04-30

Sindh Information Minister Syed Nasir Hussain Shah has said that the situation of covid-19 is very alarming and that is why we have to take tough decisions in this regard. He added that NCOC guidelines on covid-19 and the government's recommendations must be followed if a complete lockdown is to be avoided. The minister made these remarks in a video statement issued after a meeting of the Pr.....

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Strict measures for corona eradication termed need of hour

Source: [Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-30

KARACHI - Sindh Information Minister Syed Nasir Hussain Shah has said that the situation of Covid-19 is very alarming and that is why we have to take tough decisions in this regard. He added that NCOC guidelines on Covid-19 and the government's recommendations must be followed if a complete lockdown is to be avoided. The minister made these remarks in a video statement issued after a meetin.....

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Covid vaccination of cops begins

Source: [Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-30

KARACHI - The administration of first dose of Covid-19 vaccine to Karachi Police officials had begun, said Karachi Police spokesperson on Thursday. A total of three vaccination centers have been set up in the three zones of Karachi Range and in Karachi Police Hospital. "All the police officials are being vaccinated against coronavirus," he said. Karachi Police spokesperson added that

[more >>](#)

'South African, Brazilian Covid variants found in Sindh'

Source: [News Desk, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-30

KARACHI: Sindh Health Minister Dr Azra Pechuho informed on Monday that the South African and Brazilian variants of the novel coronavirus disease have been found in samples taken by the Aga Khan University Hospital (AKUH). In a video message posted on the Sindh Health and Population Welfare Department's official Twitter account, the provincial health minister disclosed that the AKUH collected.....

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International News

Countries News

Turkey's Erdogan adopts 'full closure' until May 17 over COVID-19

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-04-27

Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan on Monday imposed a nationwide "full closure" until May 17 including a continuous lockdown, school closures and intercity travel restrictions to curb a surge in coronavirus cases and deaths. Total daily cases in Turkey had peaked above 63,000 on April 16 before dropping sharply to below 39,000 on Sunday, while the daily death toll has remained above 30.....[more >>](#)

SOS messages, panic as virus breaks India's health system

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-04-27

Dr. Gautam Singh dreads the daily advent of the ventilator beeps, signaling that oxygen levels are critically low, and hearing his desperately ill patients start gasping for air in the New Delhi emergency ward where he works. Like other doctors across India, which on Monday set another record for new coronavirus infections for a fifth day in a row at more than 350,000, the cardiologist has taken[more >>](#)

US corona cases decline following vaccination

Source: [News Report](#), [The News, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-27

WASHINGTON: The rate of new coronavirus cases is declining in the United States, with the most recent seven-day averages dipping below the 60,000 mark for the first time in over a month, as experts hail the impact of inoculation of the masses. Data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention showed that as of April 24, the rolling average was 57,123 cases, and a month-long mini bump was n.....[more >>](#)

'Nomadland' wins best picture at a social distanced Oscars

Source: [Agencies](#), [The News, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-27

LOS ANGELES: Chloé Zhao's "Nomadland," a wistful portrait of itinerant lives on open roads across the American West, won best picture Sunday at the 93rd Academy Awards, where the China-born Zhao became the first woman of color to win best director and a historically diverse group of winners took home awards, reported international media. In the biggest surprise of a socia.....[more >>](#)

Maskless Thai PM fined as Covid cases spike; Coronavirus cases declining in America

Source: [AFP](#), [The News, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-27

Washington: The rate of new Covid cases is declining in the United States, with the most recent seven-day averages dipping below the 60,000 mark for the first time in over a month as experts hailed the impact of vaccines. Data from the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention showed that as of April 24, the rolling average was 57,123 cases, and a month-long mini bump was now over. It comes as th.....[more >>](#)

Situation in India 'beyond heartbreaking': WHO chief

Source: [Agencies](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-27

GENEVA: The World Health Organisation chief voiced alarm on Monday at India's record-breaking wave of Covid-19 cases and deaths, saying the organisation was rushing to help address the crisis. "The situation in India is beyond heartbreaking," Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told reporters. He spoke as India battled a catastrophic coronavirus wave that has overwhelmed hospitals, with.....[more >>](#)

COVID-19 unleashes death on India as 3,285 more die

Source: [News Report](#), [The News, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-29

NEW DELHI: The first emergency medical supplies arrived in India on Tuesday as part of a global campaign to staunch a catastrophic wave in the latest pandemic hotspot, with the United States also pledging to export millions of AstraZeneca vaccine doses. Crates of ventilators and oxygen concentrators from Britain were unloaded at a Delhi airport early Tuesday, the first emergency medical supplies

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Indian politician 'feeds' cow urine to COVID patient on ventilator

Source: [news report](#), [The News, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-29

LONDON: viewers online were horrified to see viral footage of a man allegedly pouring cow urine into the mouth of a woman with a ventilator suffering from COVID-19, foreign media reported. According to ABP Live, the shocking video was initially posted on Twitter by Surat General Secretary Kishor Bindal of India's Bharatiya Janata Party last week. The video was subsequently deleted after it am.....

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Relentless new wave sends India corona death toll past 204,000

Source: [News Report](#), [The News, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-29

NEW DELHI: India's coronavirus death toll shot past 204,000 Wednesday as a relentless wave of new cases swamped hospitals and sent desperate families out into the streets of the capital in search of oxygen supplies and medicine. Infection and death rates are soaring in the vast country of 1.3 billion, in contrast with the United States and some European nations which are taking tentative st.....

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Source: [Agencies](#), [The News, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-29

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WHO warns European govts of Covid spike if curbs are eased prematurely

Source: [AFP](#), [The News, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-30

COPENHAGEN: The World Health Organisation warned European governments on Thursday that relaxing Covid restrictions too soon could cause cases to spiral again, potentially triggering a wave of new infections as seen in India. Hans Kluge, the head of WHO's Europe region, said relaxing protective measures when there are more contagious variants and vaccine coverage is still low can lead to &ld.....

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India corona deaths, infections climb again

Source: [News Report](#), [The News, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-30

KOLKATA: India's coronavirus disaster deepened on Thursday with the daily death toll climbing above 3,500 as dozens of countries sent urgent medical aid to help tackle the spiralling crisis. The United States and several European nations are starting to ease restrictions as vaccination campaigns pick up, but the pandemic is still worsening in many parts of the world. The World Health Organ.....

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SDPI Engagements

Researcher Articles

Pandemics and inequality

Source: [Sana Malik](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-04-28

The world, unfortunately, is an unequal place. This means that people do not have equal access to the same rights, opportunities, or quality of life. From a social perspective, countries have developed unevenly, which has been represented as the North-South divide. This has prevailed since WWII between the Northern world, which are countries that are more developed, industrialised and wealthier as.....[more >>](#)

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