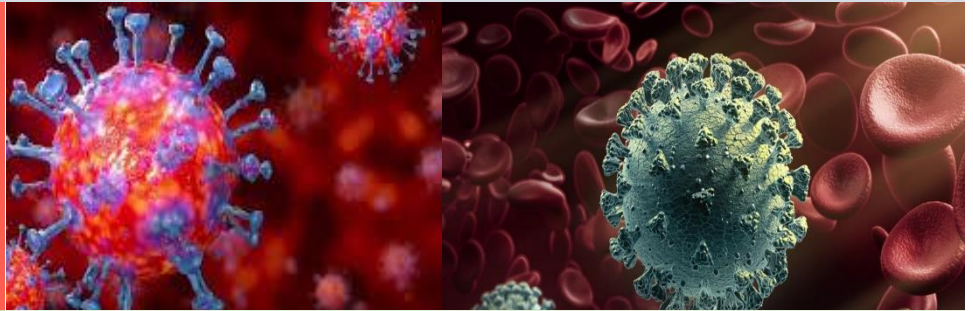


E-Newsletter on COVID-19



Vol. 02, No, 44



Issue: 29-31 May, 2021

.....About Newsletter

In order to keep abreast of emerging issues at the National/International and local level, the SDPI brings out a Bi-weekly E-Newsletter on "COVID-19".

It carries reference information's to the News items/Comments/Op-Eds appearing in leading National/International dailies.

Newspapers Covered:

- Dawn
- The News
- The Express Tribune
- The Nation
- Business Recorder
- Daily Times
- Pakistan Observer
- Pakistan Today
- Urdu Point

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Op-Eds/Articles/Editorials

Op-Eds/Articles/Editorials

Vaccinating residents with no ID cards

Source: [Editorial](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-05-29

Finally, the government has started scratching its head about the matter of vaccinating the very large number of people living in Pakistan that have no National Identity Cards (NICs), which by even the most conservative estimates runs into many millions of people. This subject was raised in this space before precisely so the government could give it some thought while there was still time, because.....[more >>](#)

Shades of conspiracy

Source: [Farrukh Khan Pitafi](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-05-29

Not a day passes by without a new set of totally crazy conspiracy theories reaching us. Now that Pakistan is making strides in vaccinating its citizens, you might have come across a video clip where someone is attaching a light bulb to various parts of his body and claiming that the microchips in the vaccine are responsible for that electricity. This one is easy. Microchips do not produce electric.....[more >>](#)

Night-time restrictions in Sindh

Source: [Editorial](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-05-29

The Sindh government was clearly forced into imposing a night-time curfew, even if they prefer to give it the more sanitised name of “sweeping restrictions on unnecessary movement”, because of the extraordinary number of fresh corona cases as well as deaths in the province. The biggest worry right now is that the new Indian variant - which leaves black fungus in the lungs and other sen.....[more >>](#)

Turning the corner?

Source: [Editorial](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-05-30

FINALLY, some light at the end of the tunnel. New cases of Covid-19 are falling in Pakistan, clocking in at 2,455 on Friday, the fifth consecutive day they remained below 3,000. The positivity rate detected during the same period was 4.42pc, the fourth day running it was less than 5pc. This is reason for hope, a validation of the measures taken thus far — and perhaps some as yet unknown fact.....[more >>](#)

Keeping receipts?

Source: [Dr Farrukh Saleem](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-05-30

The government of Pakistan raised an estimated Rs1,500 billion to “address the adverse impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.” In March 2020, PM Imran Khan chaired the cabinet meeting which granted approval to a Rs1,200 billion package for mitigating the effects of Covid-19. In April 2020, the IMF “approved the disbursement of \$1.386 billion under the Rapid Financing Instrument to add.....[more >>](#)

Combating Covid

Source: [EDITORIAL](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-05-30

The battle against the Covid-19 virus is continuing across the country. Pakistan has shown a distinct decline in its positivity rate, which has fallen to 4.42 percent. But there is still a way to go. While Pakistan now has a considerable stock of vaccine in the country, with over 100,000 doses of Pfizer biotech vaccine arriving in the country under the Covax programme on Friday, the question is wh.....[more >>](#)

Lost in living

Source: Ghazi Salahuddin, [The News, International](#), 2021-05-30

Where is the life we have lost in living? Eliot had, of course, posed this question in a philosophical vein. That is how the poet had also speculated about the wisdom that is lost in knowledge and the knowledge that is lost in information. Anyhow, I am reminded of this verse while trying to sort out the meaning of this life that I am living at this time, stuck in the web of the coronavirus pandemi.....

[more >>](#)

Going digital

Source: Sarwat Ali, [The News, International](#), 2021-05-30

As whole world suffers on account of the pandemic, the performing arts have been one of the worst hit sectors. However, ways and means have been devised to make a virtue of this situation that has now been there for more than a year. In Europe, major festivals and concerts have been put on the digital mat: the Glastonbury Festival and the Eurovision Music contest. The Glastonbury Festival is perh.....

[more >>](#)

IMF terms

Source: EDITORIAL, [The News, International](#), 2021-05-29

As the budget-making exercise is coming to a close, the government appears to be facing a tough challenge to finalize the budgetary targets. The IMF terms are a hard nut to crack, and the government is bound to consult the IMF, which is hinting at slapping additional taxes to the tune of Rs500 billion in the upcoming budget. The IMF is not keen on increasing salaries of government employees wherea.....

[more >>](#)

The Indian variant arrives

Source: Kamal Siddiqi, [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-05-31

Last week, the first-ever case of the highly infectious Indian variant of coronavirus was detected in Pakistan despite a ban on travellers from India since April. After India's explosive outbreak of Covid-19 fuelled by the new strain earlier this year, Pakistan had imposed a ban on travellers arriving from that country. Unfortunately, the variant was detected in Thai travellers who had visit.....

[more >>](#)

Of friendship, Covid and loss

Source: Hafeez Khan, [Daily Times](#), 2021-05-29

It is human nature to share joy and success. We internalise our pain and put on a brave face. Everyone likes to bask in the glory of success and we all enjoy a good time. Pain is an orphan few want to own. However, this pandemic has inflicted so much suffering that I feel I will burst if I don't share. Throughout last year till now, opening Facebook has become akin to reading the obituary p.....

[more >>](#)

Covid needs global response

Source: Dr Zia Ul Haque Shamsi, [Daily Times](#), 2021-05-30

The prevalent crisis due to COVID-19 must be treated as a global emergency. It is unlike a routine seasonal storm, or an earthquake, or a Tsunami, or an eruption, or an epidemic in Africa or elsewhere. COVID-19 is unique in its nature and characteristics. The entire world is facing a lockdown which is unprecedented in recorded history. Travel, tourism, entertainment, and sports are hard hit are.....

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COVAX saves the day

Source: [Haya Fatima Sehgal, Daily Spokesman](#), 2021-05-30

America has pledged to share 80 million doses of the coronavirus vaccine. This makes it the largest provider to COVAX, which, in turn, helps bring vaccines to Pakistan. The US is additionally the primary global sponsor for assistance via vaccination donations. Germany and the UK take second and third place, respectively, under the COVAX umbrella. There has been much excitement as the first Pfizer

[more >>](#)

Slow Progress

Source: [Editorial, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-05-30

As our fight against Covid-19 continues, recent diagnoses of the Indian and South African variants threatens our prospects of building herd immunity. Considering that these two strains are highly infectious, it is vital that our authorities are proactive in limiting transmission and dispensing vaccines across the country. It's alarming that these variants were able to cross the border.....

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Covid needs global response

Source: [Dr Zia Ul Haque Shamsi, Daily Times](#), 2021-05-30

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GDP growth rate in 2019-20; The impact of Covid-19

Source: [Dr Hafiz A Pasha and Shahid Kardar, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-05-31

The recent announcement by the National Accounts Committee of the growth rates of GDP for the year 2020/21 of just under 4% with a rather modest downward revision of the contractions of the COVID hit economy during 2019/20 has taken most commentators by surprise, generating a fair amount of animated debate, if not controversy, on the veracity of the estimates. Using all available official dat.....

[more >>](#)

Somewhere between luck and action

Source: [BR Research, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-05-31

About 7 million doses have been administered across Pakistan according to the latest update by National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), of which about 1.5 million people have been fully vaccinated. The rate of shots given daily has picked up dramatically over the past month as though a new life has been breathed into the campaign so much so that the government has opened registration for indi.....

[more >>](#)

National News

Islamabad

'Pandemic has forced more kids out of schools'

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-05-29

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan needs an estimated investment of Rs12 trillion over the next decade to ensure every out-of-school child in Pakistan is finally in schools. This was the crux of different speakers' views on the state of education in the country. A virtual dialogue was organised by Education Champions Network (ECN), a platform of 12 civil society organisations advocating 12 years of free,.....[more >>](#)

First case of Indian variant detected in Pakistan

Source: [Ikram Junaidi | Aamir Yasin](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-05-29

ISLAMABAD: After the UK variant made inroads into various cities of the country, Pakistan reported its first confirmed patient carrying the Indian strain. Meanwhile, the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) decided to open walk-in vaccination for citizens aged 30 years and above as well as for teachers over 18 from Saturday (today). The National Institute of Health (NIH) on Friday announ.....[more >>](#)

Smart lockdown policy helped achieve 3.94pc GDP growth: SAPM

Source: [Hamid Waleed](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-05-29

LAHORE: Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Revenue Dr Waqar Masood has said that the smart lockdown policy of the government has helped the government in achieving 3.94 percent GDP growth in the fiscal year 2020-21. "A continuity of the business activities during the second and third wave of Covid-19 has helped Pakistan to achieve 3.94 percent GDP growth," he asserted. Ta.....[more >>](#)

First shipment of Pfizer vaccine arrives

Source: [INP](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-05-29

ISLAMABAD: The first shipment of doses of Pfizer-BioNTech Covid-19 vaccine has arrived in Pakistan that is provided by Covid-19 Vaccines Global Access (COVAX), citing sources. A special flight carrying the shipment of 100,000 doses of Pfizer Covid-19 vaccine landed in Pakistan Friday, whereas, syringes for the vaccination will also arrive in the country in the next two days. Pakistan has.....[more >>](#)

21pc of Islamabad's population vaccinated: Umar

Source: [Tahir Niaz](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-05-29

ISLAMABAD - Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar on Friday said that 21 percent of Islamabad's target population has been vaccinated against Covid-19. Addressing the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce here, Umar said the city has reached a point in terms of vaccinations where the "first rays of sunlight have started to appear." He said the.....[more >>](#)

PIAF for extending permission to grocery stores to operate 24/7

Source: [Press Release](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-05-29

LAHORE - The Pakistan Industrial and Traders Association Front (PIAF) has appealed to the Punjab government to extend permission to the grocery stores to operate round the clock or at least till 10 pm, with full implementation of SOPs, enabling the masses to buy their basic food items without any panic. PIAF Chairman Mian Nauman Kabir, while talking to a delegation of Chain store Association of Pa.....[more >>](#)

Drap to register Pfizer vaccine as doses arrive

Source: [Ikram Junaidi](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-05-30

ISLAMABAD: The arrival of Pfizer vaccine has caught government officials unawares, with experts questioning its legality in the absence of necessary clearance and registration. In the wake of this development, the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (Drap) has called a meeting of its registration board on June 1 (Tuesday) to register Pfizer vaccine. A senior official of the National Health Ser.....

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Covid-19 forced legislatures to adopt innovative ways: Senate secretary

Source: [Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-05-30

ISLAMABAD: Senate Secretary Mohammad Qasim Samad Khan has said that Covid-19 created hardships for the national parliaments across the world; however, more innovative ways were adopted to transact the legislative business and play the most significant role of oversight. He said this while addressing the joint virtual meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), the Association of Secretaries G.....

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What causes deadly 'Black Fungus' to spread?

Source: [news Desk](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-05-30

ISLAMABAD: The hospital of the Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences, a medical school in the town of Sevagram in the Indian state of Maharashtra, has been taking in patients afflicted with COVID since May 2020. But in the middle of last month, something changed. Patients arrived with problems the physicians there had not yet seen in the pandemic: people were not only breathless and feveris.....

[more >>](#)

COVID-19: Deaths, cases on decline in twin cities

Source: [Muhammad Qasim](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-05-30

Islamabad : The lowest number of cases and the lowest positivity rate of COVID-19 have been recorded from Islamabad Capital Territory in the last 24 hours since the beginning of the third wave of the outbreak in Pakistan with 80 new cases at a positivity rate of 1.8 per cent. The virus, however, claimed as many as three more lives from ICT and Rawalpindi district in the last 24 hours including tw.....

[more >>](#)

A new challenge requires cautious approach from management

Source: [Muhammad Qasim](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-05-30

Islamabad : Mucormycosis, a rare but potentially fatal infection also known as the black fungus has been reported among several thousand people around the globe, mostly among diabetics recovering or having recovered from COVID-19. It has emerged as a new challenge for those managing coronavirus illness as it has a fatality rate of well over 50 per cent. India has already started facing the proble.....

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Pakistani contracted Indian variant in Gulf

Source: [Ikram Junaidi](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-05-31

ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Sunday released details of the only confirmed Pakistani infected by the Indian variant of Covid-19. On the other hand, Prime Minister Imran Khan is set to chair a meeting of the National Coordination Committee (NCC) on Monday (today), during which the virus situation in the country and the progress of the steps taken to check its s.....

[more >>](#)

30pc population of Islamabad vaccinated against Covid-19

Source: [Mohammad Asghar | Ikram Junaidi | Aamir Yasin, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-05-31

ISLAMABAD: While Islamabad's over 30pc population has been vaccinated, World Health Organisation (WHO) country head Dr Palitha Mahipala on Sunday observed the arrangements and assured the local administration of all possible support in achieving the target of herd immunity. Moreover, 109 people were found infected with the virus in the capital. The weekly positivity, which was 11.28pc in th.....

[more >>](#)

Walk-in vaccination of teachers okayed

Source: [Correspondent, The News, International](#), 2021-05-29

Islamabad : The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Friday announced the start of walk-in vaccination facility for teachers for the safety of students in schools and examination halls. "To ensure safe environment for education and conduct of exams, walk-in vaccination for teachers above 18 years of age is opened," it said in a tweet. The NCOC, the country's nerve centre.....

[more >>](#)

PRCS raises alarm over COVID-19 vaccine acceptability issues

Source: [Correspondent, The News, International](#), 2021-05-29

Islamabad : The Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) Wednesday expressed concerns over hurdles being faced by Pakistanis via-a-vis international travelling due to lack of universal acceptability of different brands of Covid-19 vaccine being administered in the country. In a statement issued here on Wednesday, the Chairman of PRCS Abrar ul Haq said that under the directions of the President of Pak.....

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Pakistan reports first case of Indian variant of Covid-19

Source: [news Desk, Daily Times](#), 2021-05-29

The first case of so-called Indian coronavirus variant has been detected in Sindh, provincial minister for health Dr Azra Pechuho confirmed on Friday. Dr Pechuho said that the South African variant of coronavirus is also rapidly spreading in Karachi. "So far, seven cases of the South African variant and one case of the Indian Covid-19 variant have been detected in the province," she s.....

[more >>](#)

COVID-19 claims 67 lives, infects 2,482 more people

Source: [App, Daily Times](#), 2021-05-29

The national tally on Friday of total active COVID-19 cases recorded 58,611 with 2,482 more people tested positive for the deadly virus and 2,822 people recovered from the disease during the last 24 hours. Sixty-seven corona patients have died during the past 24 hours, 60 of whom were under treatment in hospital and seven out of the hospital in their respective quarantines or homes, according to

[more >>](#)

NCOC allows provinces to start matric, inter classes

Source: [news Desk, Daily Times](#), 2021-05-30

The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) has granted permission to the provinces to begin regular classes of matric and intermediate students from May 31. The forum met with Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar in the chair. It decided that the examinations for classes 10 and 12 will be held between June 23 to July 29. The provinces can start prepara.....

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Pakistan likely to receive five million doses of vaccines in June

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-05-31

Pakistan on Monday likely to receive consignments of various Covid vaccines in June with over five million doses. A PIA plane landed at Islamabad airport yesterday with about 500,000 Sinovac Covid vaccines, sources inside the health ministry confirmed the development. In first 10 days of the next month the shipments of over 3.5 million doses of the vaccines expected to reach Pakistan, which

[more >>](#)

Over 383,000 people vaccinated against Covid in a day, says Asad Umar

Source: [Tahir Niaz](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-05-31

Pakistan reports positivity ratio below 5pc for 6th consecutive day on Sunday | PIA plane with 500,000 doses of Sinovac vaccine reaches Pakistan from China ISLAMABAD - Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Asad Umar, said that more than 383,000 anti-Covid doses were administered across the country in a single day (Sunday), terming it a new record. "Around 11.7.....

[more >>](#)

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Sentinel site visitors, vaccinators record high Covid incidence in KP

Source: [Ashfaq Yusufzai](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-05-30

PESHAWAR: With seven more Khyber Pakhtunkhwa residents, including a gynaecologist, losing life to coronavirus on Saturday, the World Health Organisation has revealed that high Covid-19 incidence was reported among visitors to sentinel sites of hospitals, polio vaccinators, other health workers, and contacts of confirmed patients. The health department said in a report that the province detected c.....

[more >>](#)

In-person classes resume in five more districts

Source: [Bureau Report](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-05-30

PESHAWAR: The elementary and secondary education department has allowed both government and private schools in five more districts to resume in-person classes tomorrow (Monday) after a decline in coronavirus positivity rate. According to a notification of the department, the classes in Hangu, Charsadda, Haripur, Nowshera and Swabi districts will be held in staggered manner. Meanwhile, the health.....

[more >>](#)

Staff of schools told to get vaccinated against Covid

Source: [A Correspondent](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-05-30

HARIPUR: The district health officer has directed teaching and other staff members of all educational institutions in Haripur to get themselves vaccinated against coronavirus before June 5. A letter issued by the DHO's office said all teachers, clerical and janitorial staff of public and private sector universities, colleges and schools should receive coronavirus vaccine by June 5. ".....

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Pashto fiction writer contracts coronavirus

Source: [Bureau Report](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-05-31

PESHAWAR: Noted Karachi-based Pashto and Urdu fiction writer Turkistan aka Tahir Afridi has admitted to hospital due to contracting coronavirus few days ago. Hailing from Dara Adamkhel, Tahir Afridi never went to school due to financial condition of his family, however, he received informal education and shifted to Karachi in 1961 and got affiliated with profession of transport when he was 22. O.....

[more >>](#)

Health dept steps up Covid vaccination as cases drop

Source: [Bureau Report, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-05-31

PESHAWAR: The health department is stepping up Covid-19 vaccination following drop in daily cases as 13 more people have died and 379 new infections have been recorded in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Except few high-risk districts, the province has been reporting below 400 cases for the past 10 days. The department is strengthening vaccination and has planned to increase it to 70,000 from the present 37,.....[more >>](#)

Lingering apprehensions : Dose mismatches adding to public vaccine concerns

Source: [Umer Farooq, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-05-31

PESHAWAR: On one end, the government has tried leaving no stone unturned in its fight against the pandemic, which has also meant reshaping the public's opinion on Covid-19 vaccines. On the other, it seems to have dropped the hammer on its own foot, with reports of mismatched vaccines being a source of growing concern among the general public. Owing to such apprehensions, many in the provin.....[more >>](#)

Punjab**Minister for vaccination of teachers ahead of schools opening**

Source: [Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-05-29

LAHORE: Punjab Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid said Friday that 3.5 million people had been vaccinated in Punjab so far since the vaccination drive started nearly two months ago. Talking to media, here today, she said the government was striving to vaccinate both teachers and non-teaching staff because it did not want the schools to be shut again because of teachers contracting the corona vi.....[more >>](#)

Punjab reports 702 fresh coronavirus cases

Source: [Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-05-29

LAHORE: The overall positivity rate of coronavirus in the province has slightly increased to 03.35 percent from previous 3.03percent, as out of 20,903 Covid-19 tests conducted during the last 24 hours, as many as 702 fresh virus cases and 26 fatalities were reported across Punjab taking the provincial tally of cases to 337,775 and death toll to 9925. With the recovery of 1167 more virus patien.....[more >>](#)

241,626 persons vaccinated

Source: [Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-05-29

FAISALABAD - As many as 241,626 people have so far been vaccinated against COVID-19 in Faisalabad district. District Health Officer Dr Ataul Mun'im said on Friday that 174,975 people had been given the first dose while 39,615 were administered second dose of vaccine. He further said that 16,554 health workers were also given first dose while 10,472 received second dose of vaccine. He said th.....[more >>](#)

Attock records decline in Covid-19 positivity rate

Source: [Our Monitoring Desk, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-05-29

ATTOCK - Coronavirus positivity ratio has fallen to the lowest level in the district during last one week, due to strict measures by the government as well as local administration especially during the Eid-ul-Fitr. According to official data from the district health department, 3 cases were reported on Saturday, 2 on Sunday, no case was reported on Monday, 11 cases were reported on Tuesday, 5 case.....[more >>](#)

Covid-19 cases further decline in Islamabad, Pindi district

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-05-30

RAWALPINDI: Islamabad and Rawalpindi district maintained downwards trend in Covid-19 cases as the capital reported 80 cases and 59 tested positive in the Pindi district on Saturday. Three more lost battle against the infection. Amina Bibi, 66, a resident of Muslim Town, was brought to the Isolation Hospital and Infection Treatment Centre on May 28 where she died. There are 1,013 active patients.....

[more >>](#)

Sharp decline in Covid cases in Lahore

Source: [Asif Chaudhry](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-05-30

LAHORE: The Covid cases are on the decline with every passing day as the infectivity rate in Lahore has dropped to its lowest 1.5 per cent and in Punjab two per cent. The situation is fast improving in Lahore which has shared enormous burden of deaths and new infections since the outbreak of the virus in March last year. An official said the Punjab government was vaccinating on average 140,000 p.....

[more >>](#)

602 fresh cases, 35 fatalities; Overall corona positivity rate drops to 2.39pc in Punjab

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-05-30

LAHORE: The overall positivity rate of coronavirus in the province has declined to 2.39 percent from previous 3.35 percent, as out of 25,181 Covid-19 tests conducted during the last 24 hours, as many as 602 fresh virus cases and 35 fatalities were reported across Punjab taking the provincial tally of cases to 338,377 and death toll to 9960. With the recovery of 559 more virus patients, the nu.....

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Punjab govt to allow opening of parks, water sports

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-05-30

LAHORE: In the light of guidelines of National Command and Operations Center (NCOC), the Punjab government has decided to allow opening of amusement parks and water sports under SOPs in districts with less than five percent positivity rate of corona virus. The decision was taken in a meeting chaired by Provincial Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid to review the situation of corona pandemic at t.....

[more >>](#)

22 die of Covid in Punjab

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-05-31

LAHORE: Coronavirus has claimed 22 more lives and infected 696 people in the province during the last 24 hours. Of the 696 new coronavirus infection cases across the province, 257 cases have been reported from Lahore, 51 from Rawalpindi, 42 from Multan, 31 from Faisalabad and 28 from Rahim Yar Khan. Of the 22 deaths, six have been reported from Lahore. The total number of Covid positive cases in.....

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Consistent vaccination to help fight Covid in months: minister

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-05-31

LAHORE: Punjab Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid says strict implementation of SOPs and mass vaccination of people has significantly interrupted the chain of coronavirus transmission. Stating that the positivity rate in Lahore has decreased to 1.5 per cent, she said, the increase in the number of vaccinated people in next three to four months would help significantly reduce the number of Covid cas.....

[more >>](#)

37,425 policemen vaccinated

Source: [Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-05-31

LAHORE: As many as 37,425 policemen above 40 years of age were administered coronavirus vaccine in different districts of the province. Punjab Inspector General of Police (IGP) Inam Ghani said policemen were performing their duties as a frontline worker for the protection of life and property of the people during the coronavirus pandemic. He said several policemen had lost their lives while perf.....

[more >>](#)

Muhammad Qasim

Source: [Muhammad Qasim, The News, International](#), 2021-05-29

Rawalpindi : As many as 195 new patients have been tested positive for coronavirus illness, COVID-19 in the last 24 hours from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district showing the outbreak is still intense in the region, though the positivity rate of COVID-19 has dropped down to below five per cent. The virus claimed another six lives from the twin cities that took the death toll from

[more >>](#)

Rawalpindi reports three Covid deaths

Source: [Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-05-31

RAWALPINDI: As many as 40 new positive cases were reported in Rawalpindi during the last 24 hours, raising the tally of confirmed cases to 26,235 in the district while three patients succumbed to the deadly virus on Sunday. As per the latest data released by the District Health Authority (DHA), the total infected cases included 24,234 from Rawalpindi and 2,001 from other districts. The report re.....

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Swimming pools, tubewells can turn into corona hotspot

Source: [APP, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-05-31

MULTAN: Local swimming pools and tube wells situated at adjacent areas of the city can turn into corona hotspot as public gathering amid violations of corona virus standard operating procedure (SOPs) foiling all efforts of the government to control virus spread. As the temperature started crossing 40C from last few days, the locals moved towards the swimming pools and tube well in adjacent ar.....

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Week-long corona awareness drive concludes in Sahiwal

Source: [Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-05-31

SAHIWAL - The week-long corona awareness drive, launched under the auspices of Civil Defence department, concluded here on Sunday. Deputy Commissioner Sahiwal Bashir Babar was chief guest at the concluding ceremony which held outside the city bus stand. During the awareness drive, camps were set up at High Street, Mission Chowk, Tehsil Chowk, Sadr Chowk, Mazdoor Pulli, Bhindri Chowk and Jinn.....

[more >>](#)

33 fined in a day for not wearing masks in Multan

Source: [Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-05-31

MULTAN - District administration imposed fine on 33 citizens for not wearing face masks and sealed four business points over violations of corona Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) during a crackdown launched here on Sunday. As per directives of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ali Shahzad, the officers launched a crackdown against violators of corona SOPs and imposed fine of Rs16,500 on 33 citizen.....

[more >>](#)

37,425 cops vaccinated against coronavirus

Source: [Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-05-31

LAHORE - DIG Welfare Agha Muhammad Yousuf told a meeting, chaired by IGP Punjab on Sunday, that so far a total of 37,425 police personnel have been vaccinated against coronavirus. According to a news release, the meeting was informed that 18,146 officers aged 50 to 60 years and 19,279 officers aged 40 to 50 years had been vaccinated until now.

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Sindh

Micro lockdowns imposed in Karachi South district

Source: [Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-05-29

KARACHI: The South district administration has put four houses and surrounding streets under a micro lockdown after residents were found infected with the novel coronavirus disease (Covid-19), according to a statement issued on Friday. A house on Khyabane Sehar, one on Khyabane Badar and another on Khayabane Shamsheer were placed under smart lockdown besides a residence in the Garden East area.

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COVID-19 vaccination centre to be inaugurated at KU today

Source: [Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-05-29

KARACHI - COVID-19 vaccination centre would be established at the University of Karachi today (Saturday) for its employees. It was revealed in the statement issued by the university on Friday. Adviser to Sindh Chief Minister on Law, Environment, and Coastal Development, Barrister Murtaza Wahab will inaugurate the COVID-19 Vaccination Centre.

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COVID claims 15 more lives in Sindh

Source: [Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-05-29

KARACHI - As many as 15 more patients of coronavirus died overnight lifting the death toll to 5,003 and 1,252 new cases emerged when 15,440 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued on Friday. He added that 15 more patients of COVID-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 5,003 that constituted 1.6 percent death rate. Mr Shah.....

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Karachi University gets Covid vaccination centre

Source: [Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-05-30

KARACHI: The University of Karachi in collaboration with the Sindh Health Department established a Covid-19 Vaccination Centre at CBSCR Research Institute, International Centre for Chemical and Biological Sciences, University of Karachi. CM's Advisor Barrister Murtaza Wahab on Saturday inaugurated the vaccination centre which would provide free of cost vaccinations to teaching and non-teach.....

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Obesity; silent killer as deadly as Covid-19

Source: [Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-05-30

KARACHI: In addition to Covid-19, the pandemic of obesity is also sweeping the world with equally devastating effects. This was stated by medical experts who were speaking at a webinar to mark World Digestive Health Day 2021. The event was organised by the Pak Gastroenterology and Liver Disease Society (PGLDS) in collaboration with The Express Media Group. Experts from Middle Eastern and South A.....

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Sindh reports first case of Indian corona variant

Source: [news Desk](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-05-29

KARACHI/ISLAMBAD: The first case of the deadliest Indian coronavirus variant has been detected in Sindh, Minister for Health Dr Azra Pechuho confirmed on Friday. Speaking to Geo News, she said the South African variant of coronavirus was also rapidly spreading in Karachi. "So far, one case of the Indian COVID-19 variant and seven cases of the South African variant have been detected in the

[more >>](#)

Vaccination against Covid-19 termed safe, harmless

Source: [From the Newspaper](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-05-31

KARACHI: Covid-19 vaccines are safe, effective and harmless and, therefore, all people including patients of chronic ailments such as diabetes, arthritis, cancer, cardiac issues, stroke etc can get vaccinated against the pandemic without any fear. This was stated by Dr Farhan Essa during an online session held under the auspices of the Pak-US Alumni Network's Karachi chapter on Saturday eve.....

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Long queues for Covid vaccination at Expo Centre

Source: [Kashif Hussain](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-05-31

KARACHI: Long queues in sweltering heat, lack of shelter from the sun and mismanagement has left people visiting the coronavirus vaccination centre at the Expo Centre exasperated. According to officials, over 10,000 visitors are being vaccinated against the novel coronavirus disease (Covid-19) at the Expo Centre on a daily basis. However, some of the visitors told The Express Tribune that they

[more >>](#)

Over 900 Covid cases detected in Sindh

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-05-31

KARACHI: Sindh reported over 900 fresh infections and six coronavirus deaths on Sunday. According to a statement issued by the Chief Minister's House, 913 persons were diagnosed when 15,916 samples were tested for the contagion. The provincial pandemic death toll and tally of infections rose to 5,020 and 317,648, respectively, with the recent cases. Another 286 persons also recovered from.....

[more >>](#)

An engineer counters pandemic blues with stories

Source: [Sameer Mandhro](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-05-31

KARACHI: The pandemic brought life as we know it to a standstill. Loneliness and boredom engulfed many people as they were confined to their homes and restricted from engaging in social activities. Sanjay Raja saw the bustling metropolis enveloped in silence and found a way to bring adventures to people's door steps in the form of books. Sanjay has a long list of friends whom he has never

[more >>](#)

Coronavirus cases drop, Sindh decides to keep restrictions unchanged

Source: [Inp](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-05-29

A meeting of the Sindh Corona Task Force on Thursday decided to keep the restrictions unchanged to control the coronavirus cases in the province. Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah presiding over the session said that the strict measures have helped in decreasing the rate of the positive cases in Sindh this week. "People's cooperation, if continued, will help to overcome the spread of the

[more >>](#)

COVID claims 11 more lives

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-05-30

KARACHI - As many as 11 more patients of coronavirus died overnight lifting the death toll to 5,014 and 1,342 new cases emerged when 18,340 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued on Saturday. He added that 11 more patients of COVID-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 5,014 that constituted 1.6 percent death rate. Syed

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COVID claims 6 more lives

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-05-31

KARACHI - As many as six more patients of coronavirus died overnight in Sindh, lifting the death toll to 5,020 and 913 new cases emerged when 15,916 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued on Sunday. He added that six more patients of COVID-19 lost their lives, lifting the death toll to 5,020 that constituted 1.6 percent dea.....

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Over 6,400 policemen contracted COVID-19 so far: Spokesperson

Source: [Staff Report](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-05-31

KARACHI - As many as 6,457 cops contracted COVID-19 so far and currently 25 policemen were under treatment, informed the spokesperson for Sindh Police on Sunday. He said that 26 policemen lost their battle against coronavirus while 6,406 had recovered from the disease. The spokesperson said that all due care was being provided to the affected cops and steps were being taken on regular basis. Offic.....

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One patient dies of COVID-19 as 53 more reported positive

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-05-31

HYDERABAD - One coronavirus patient has died and 53 more positive cases were emerged during last 24 hours, taking the number of total coronavirus active cases to 2,122 in Hyderabad district. According to daily situation report, number of deaths due to coronavirus was reached to 404 as one more patient had succumbed to the virus during last 24 hours in the district. Out of 2,122 COVID-19 case.....

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Traders urge govt to expand business hours, allow six days a week

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-05-31

KARACHI - The vice chairman of Sindh's trader alliance Muhammad Kashif Sabrani said on Sunday in a press conference the curb in COVID spread in the recent days is a favourable outcome of people and government ensuring SOPs compliance thus businesses should be rewarded with six working days and more hours. VC Sindh Tajir Ittehad Sabrani said the Chief Minister of Sindh and his commissioned ta.....

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International News

Countries News

Hayatt Med-Tech develops fully-automated Covid-19 Rapid Screening Device

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-05-29

NEW YORK CITY: Hayatt Med-Tech, an innovative startup in the medical technology industry, Friday announced the development of Hayatt Thermox-D, a patent pending fully-automated state-of-the-art device capable of performing rapid multi-parameter Covid-19 screening. This groundbreaking device provides communities and businesses a novel solution to mitigate the risk of infectious disease transmi.....[more >>](#)

Pfizer jab less effective, still protects against Indian straina

Source: [AFP](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-05-30

PARIS: The Pfizer vaccine is slightly less effective but appears to still protect against the more transmissible Indian strain of the virus that causes Covid-19, according to a study by France's Pasteur Institute. "Despite slightly diminished efficacy, the Pfizer vaccine probably protects" against the Indian variant, according to laboratory test results, said Olivier Schwartz, the.....[more >>](#)

Pandemic won't be over until 70 percent are vaccinated: WHO

Source: [AFP](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-05-29

COPENHAGEN: The WHO's European director warned on Friday that the Covid-19 pandemic won't be over until at least 70 percent of people are vaccinated, while deploring that the vaccine rollout in Europe is still "too slow". "The pandemic will be over once we reach 70 percent minimum coverage in vaccination," the World Health Organisation's regional director for.....[more >>](#)

Delhi announces easing of lockdown

Source: [AFP](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-05-29

NEW DELHI: Indian authorities on Friday announced a tentative easing of the lockdown in the capital New Delhi as coronavirus infections fall in major cities after weeks of restrictions. Rural areas of the country are now seeing the brunt of a surge in cases that has overwhelmed the health care system and killed at least 160,000 people since the start of March. Arvind Kejriwal, Delhi's chief.....[more >>](#)

Donors News

Covid origins search 'being poisoned by politics': WHO

Source: [AFP](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-05-29

The World Health Organization warned Friday that efforts to uncover the Covid-19 pandemic's origins were being hampered by politics, insisting scientists needed space to work on solving the mystery. "We would ask that we separate the science from the politics, and let us get on with finding the answers that we need in a proper, positive atmosphere," WHO emergencies chief Michael.....[more >>](#)

Other SDPI Engagements

Research Study

Cigarette output figures being fudged to evade tax: SDPI

Source: [Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-05-30

ISLAMABAD: Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) has said strong lobbies were involved in figure fudging of the cigarette productions in the country to obtain benefits from the authorities. SDPI study titled "Regional Tobacco Tax Regime and Its Implications for Health" released on Saturday has said that the tobacco lobby in the country was powerful due to its connections in t.....[more >>](#)

Webinar News

Experts suggest immediate steps to ensure transition to clean energy in Pakistan

Source: [DNA News, DNA News](#), 2021-05-30

Islamabad, MAY 29 – /DNA/ – Right steps should be taken at every level to ensure transition towards clean energy in Pakistan. The experts in oil and gas sector said this while sharing their views with the participants at the public private dialogue 'The role of Oil and Gas Sector in clean energy transition of Pakistan-Rural Sindh,' jointly organized by sustainable Developme.....[more >>](#)

Energy Experts Emphasize On Gradual Shifting To Clean Energy Resources

Source: [Arif Rana, NEWSMAN](#), 2021-05-31

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan needs to gradually shift towards the renewable resources of energy to respond to various environmental challenges. Energy sector experts said this during the public private dialogue 'Role of Thar Coalfield in Socio-Economic Development of the region: Prospects and Challenges,' organized by sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), here on Saturd.....[more >>](#)

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