E-Newsletter on COVID-19

Issue: 01-03 July 2020
Vol. 01, No, 21

......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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A Product of ASRC-SDPI

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Op-Eds/Articles/Editorials

The politics of centralisation
The Covid-19 pandemic has played havoc with the world, resulted in a series of almost global lockdowns one after another, caused thousands of deaths and triggered an economic meltdown all over the world. But in the backdrop of this pandemic, one silver lining has been the mostly consistent and dependable performance of states and their various units. The effective way many states have countered this unparalleled health crisis speaks volume.... view more

Covid-19 and patents
During these unprecedented times, one area of law seems more relevant than ever – intellectual property rights. The big pharma companies are racing against time to beat the clock in the bid to make a curative drug for Covid-19. For now, it appears that US-based company Gilead has been lucky. Gilead developed Remdesivir in 2009 to cure Ebola, and is now coming up as the front-runner to treat Covid-19. Out of the several licences giv.... view more

More testing needed
Source: Editorial, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-01
Reports that new coronavirus cases are decreasing across the country are indeed welcome, but this latest trend must be analysed to get a clear picture of the threat from the infection. According to the National Command and Control Centre chair Asad Umar, the four parameters through which the spread of the virus can be gauged — that is, the number of daily positive cases, number of admitted patients, number of patients on ventilators and num..... view more

Poverty reduction and social protection
The whole debate on whether Pakistan should have a lockdown or not revolved around the lack of the government’s willingness to offer social protection to the poor after the one-time payments linked to Covid-19 made under the Ehsaas programme. This was when there was a partial lockdown. The government does not want to offer further social protection to the poor, and therefore it is opposed to the lockdown idea and wants the poor to f.... view more

Power woes
Karachi is once again in the grip of long and unannounced power outages across the city. Though the practice has become a routine matter, especially in summer months, this time around it seems even more senseless – possibly also because of the fact that entire households are stuck at home braving the times. And, as more and more people are getting infected with Covid-19, there is an increased need for uninterrupted power supply. Both the in.... view more
Connecting with learners
Source: Nishat Riaz | Mark Crossey, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-01
‘OVERWHELMED’ is a word used very often for the health sector, and rightly so, in reference to the pandemic. Similarly, the impact of Covid-19 on the education sector has been broad and dramatic. In less than 90 days, around 1.5 billion students and 65 million teachers found themselves suddenly out of their classrooms in 180-plus countries around the globe. In the UK, for instance, schools which had managed to remain open throughout t.....view more

COVID-19’s next victim: LG polls
Source: Yasir Habib Khan, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-07-01
After inflicting irreparable loss to the economy and development plans, COVID-19 has another new victim in its sights. The unfortunate victim is no other but the Punjab Local Government (LG) elections 2020. Nobody knows whether arrangements of elections may take place or ominousness will loom large. Even the government is not completely sure about holding the polls, and hence failed to set an exact date for Punjab LG elections 2020. The pand.....view more

Tourism, pandemic and sustainability
Source: Allia Bukhari, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-07-02
The Covid-19 pandemic has greatly jeopardised the tourism industry worldwide, making it one of the hardest hit sectors with nearly 75 million jobs at risk globally. Where countries are swiftly easing travel curbs, reopening borders and businesses and resuming flights in an attempt to salvage crippling economies and return to normalcy; revival of leisure travel to its 2019’s thriving, lucrative state seems like a far-fetched dream. The World.....view more

100,000 recoveries
Source: Editorial, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-07-02
In an encouraging sign in the fight against Covid-19 in Pakistan, the number of patients having recovered from the deadly disease has crossed the hundred thousand mark. As of mid-day on Wednesday, as many as 100,802 Covid-19 patients stood recovered from among a total of 213,470 patients across the country. The number of recoveries, thus, comes to something around 47% of the total cases of the lethal infection. In a breakup, Sindh takes the lead .....view more

Pakistan has lost 42 doctors among 58 healthcare providers to COVID-19
As many as 58 healthcare providers, including 42 doctors, have lost their lives due to COVID-19 in Pakistan, federal government officials said on Wednesday. "We have so far lost the lives of 58 healthcare providers to COVID-19 in the country and still counting. They are 42 doctors, 13 paramedics and other support staff, two nurses and one medical student. At the moment, 240 healthcare providers are hospitalised, of whom 231 are in a stable.....view more

Sepa issues guidelines for hospital waste disposal of COVID-19 patients
Four months after the first COVID-19 case was reported in Karachi, the Sindh Environmental Protection Agency (Sepa) has finally come up with some guidelines for the handling and disposal of waste generated by the patients infected with COVID-19 at the hospitals. Dozens of tons of highly infectious waste is being generated at around 20 public and private hospitals as well as isolation centres that are currently treating COVID-19 patients in Karac.....view more
It's time for telecom cos to outsource their infrastructure
Source: Niaz Malik, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-07-02
The Covid-19 crisis has fundamentally established the fact that industries, organizations, and people must change in order to remain relevant as the global world is experiencing the shock of coronavirus. In this regard, the telecoms must re-envision themselves in terms of new realities. They have to re-think and re-imagine their working models to keep up with the consumer's changing demands and preferences. The Corona crisis has eroded busi.....view more

Preventive Measures
Source: Editorial, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-07-02
The decision of the Punjab government to extend the smart lockdown in Lahore till mid-July was needed, as new cases are still surfacing. As Lahore makes the most significant and most critical hotspot area in Punjab, the government had no choice but to make stricter arrangements in certain areas of Lahore. However, the need is to ensure that the smart lockdown is more effective. The officials must learn from the weaknesses and faults that were exp.....view more

Covid by numbers
With the end of June, Pakistan completed its fourth month with the Covid-19 pandemic which had claimed its first two deaths in the country in the last week of February. Looking back at the four torturous months, though the number of deaths is not as staggering as it has been in some other countries, this is no time to forget about the disease. The pandemic is still raging across Pakistan and the death toll will be approaching the 5, 000 mark pret.....view more

Covid waste disposal
Source: Editorial, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-07-03
In view of the highly contagious nature of the coronavirus disease, the Sindh Environmental Protection Agency has issued guidelines for safe disposal of Covid-19 waste. All facilities treating the disease have been told to strictly adhere to the guidelines to protect those involved in the treatment and allied activities from the disease. The guidelines are part of the overall preventive measures. They make it mandatory for facilities' manag.....view more

Covid-19 and ‘disaster capitalism'
Source: Dr Omer Javed, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-07-03
Shock and awe are actions that create fears, dangers, and destruction that are incomprehensible to the people at large, specific elements/sectors of the threat society, or the leadership. Nature in the form of tornadoes, hurricanes, earth-quakes, floods, uncontrolled fires, famine, and disease can engender Shock and Awe. – Shock and Awe: Achieving Rapid Dominance, the military doctrine for the US war on Iraq Just like individuals, the .....view more

Interview with Jawad Khan - CEO, PSDF Youth skills development is a challenge during COVID-19
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-07-03
Jawad Khan is the Chief Executive Officer of Punjab Skills Development Fund in Pakistan (PSDF). PSDF manages over $200 million in contributions from the Government of Punjab, DFID UK and The World Bank. The Fund is shaping the future wellbeing of the poor and vulnerable youth of Punjab, with a population of 120 million, by training them in
demand-driven and market-relevant skills and supporting them in finding income-generating opportunities in P.....

**The civil society; increasing access and reach**  
Source: Huma Khawar, *The Nation, Islamabad*, 2020-07-03  
Why is Personal Protective Equipment necessary for a vaccinator? What are the Standard Operating Procedures for conducting an immunisation session? What message should be given out to the caregiver who brings the child for vaccination? Dr Nauman Ahmed Khan, Technical Officer WHO, was patiently responding to the volley of questions during a training session on Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) amid COVID-19; a timely exercise carried out.....

**National News**

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| **The News Special on COVID-19: New strategy against corona working in ICT**  
ISLAMABAD: Declining case positivity and a tremendous upward recovery trend portray the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) as reaping the dividends of smart lockdown within just two weeks of implementation of the Test, Trace and Quarantine (TTQ) strategy to restrain the vicious spread of Covid-19. The mortality rate in the federal capital, however, still remains high. According to the data available with The News, only 1,292 patients tested....... |
| **Pakistan committed to ending polio despite COVID-19**  
Islamabad : The Pakistan Polio Programme is determined to deal with the dual challenge of wild poliovirus and circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus amid the most exceptional social and economic upheaval occasioned by the worst pandemic in a century. While 2019 proved to be a challenging year for the programme, the October 2019 recommendations of International Monitoring Board are on course with implementation. Special Assistant to Prime Ministe..... |
| **Kishwar Nahid beats corona at 80**  
Islamabad : After an extremely painful and frustrating quarantine that lasted over three weeks, Kishwar Nahid came out victorious from her room, having successfully defeated ‘coronavirus’. Kishwar Nahid, the former Director-General of Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA), a renowned poetess and writer and women rights activist, went into quarantine on the day she was looking forward to welcome very few of her friends a..... |
| **Telenor donates Rs25m to PRCS for food distribution**  
Islamabad : In continuation of its COVID-19 relief efforts, Telenor Pakistan has extended its support for food distribution in partnership with Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) to the impacted families by handing over a cheque worth PKR 25 million at the PRC National Headquarters here, says a press release. Telenor Pakistan has.... |
made this donation to step up its support to the citizens of Pakistan and assist with building economic resilience

Covid-19 hampers polio campaigns, world body told
Source: Ikram Junaidi, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-01

ISLAMABAD: With one more case of polio reported in the country, Pakistan on Tuesday informed the Independent Monitoring Board (IMB) for Polio that the Covid-19 pandemic had also been a reason for a surge in polio cases in the country as it had hampered routine immunisation and campaigns against the crippling disease. The top world polio body, headed by Sir Liam Donaldson, was informed that though the government had been considering initiating an......view more

Traders warn of protest if relief package not announced
Source: Kalbe Ali, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-01

ISLAMABAD: Traders on Tuesday warned the government that they will protest in front of the Parliament House by blowing horns of vehicles if their demands were not met by July 18. The announcement was made by the traders’ leaders who had gathered at the National Press Club from across the country. Addressing a press conference, the leaders said the government should immediately announce a relief package for traders affected by coronavirus......view more

Nursing students protest against nonpayment of stipends
Source: Ikram Junaidi, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-01

ISLAMABAD: Nonpayment of 10-month stipends till the last day of the financial year forced over 150 nursing students of Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (Pims) to hold a protest on Tuesday. The issue not only echoed on the floor of the National Assembly but also resulted in the suspension of two of the hospital employees, including an accountant, further delaying the payment. The hospital management believed that the protest was a deliberate......view more

Daily count of new cases continues to decline in Islamabad
Source: Staff Report, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-01

ISLAMABAD: The daily count of the Covid-19 positive cases in the capital decreased further on Tuesday, with 132 people testing positive for the disease. There were 2,180 tests carried out in the last 24 hours. A few days ago, 2,007 tests found 248 positive cases. The total number of Covid-19 positive cases in the capital reached 12,775 and the death toll rose to 128, said officials, adding that out of the total patients 7,261 patients have reco......view more

Post-pandemic real estate dynamics
Source: Muhammad Omer Dogar, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-01

THE government needs to realise that its two primary goals, five million houses and 10m jobs, will remain just a dream unless the real estate sector does not revive. The global economy is projected to contract sharply by 3 per cent in 2020. The reform in the real estate industry presents a unique opportunity to revive economic growth. Covid-19's impact on the real state sector varied as the demand for residential flats and small house......view more
118 more lose lives as Covid-19 tally hits 213,000
Source: Agencies, Daily Times , 2020-07-01
The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Tuesday said that 118 people lost their lives in the country due to Covid-19 in the last 24 hours. It said though implementation on smart lockdowns has significantly reduced the number of deaths due to coronavirus, 2,846 more people were tested positive. The data released by NCOC said that 20,930 tests were conducted in the last 24 hours in the country. It said that 98,503 patient recovered so fa... view more

PRCS, Telenor join hands in fight against Covid-19
Source: Staff Report, Daily Times , 2020-07-01
Telenor Pakistan on Tuesday extended its support to the Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) for food distribution among families hit by coronavirus pandemic. The company handed over a cheque of Rs 25 million at a ceremony at PRCS National Headquarters in Islamabad. The donation aims at stepping up support to people and assist with building economic resilience for the most vulnerable in the society. Through the donation, the PRCS will distribute f..... view more

Working of courts disrupted as seven employees test positive for Covid-19
Source: Abdul Khaliq Qureshi, Daily Times , 2020-07-01
The working plan of judiciary stopped on the basis of pandemic coronavirus intensity in the regional territory, while smart lockdown was continuing for indefinite time. Director General Development Authority, Raza Ali Habib told that seven employees of the same institution diagnosed patients of the coronavirus, hence, the office has been closed down to avoid from such a fatal diseases spreading, Tuesday. Moreover, the litigants were coming in cou..... view more

China, Pakistan bus firms join hands to tackle coronavirus
Source: INP, Daily Times , 2020-07-01
China’s Zhengzhou Yutong Bus Co Ltd has shared anti-coronavirus SOPs regarding public transportation with the knockdown factory in Lahore, China Economic Net reported on Tuesday. On top of sharing tips on the control and prevention of Covid-19 pandemic, the bus firm has also donated a batch of 200,000 masks to Punjab. Provincial Minister for Transport Jahanzaib Khan Khichi, Secretary Transport Asad-ur-Rehman Gilani and other relevant officer..... view more

2019-2020; Collection target surpassed despite Covid-19
Source: Sohail Sarfraz, Business Recorder, Islamabad , 2020-07-01
ISLAMABAD: Despite Covid pandemic and slowdown of economy, the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has been able to provisionally collect Rs 3,974 billion during the entire financial year of 2019-20 against the downward revised target of Rs 3,908 billion, surpassing the target by Rs 66 billion. According to the data of provisional revenue collection issued by the FBR here on Tuesday, the FBR has surpassed the downward revised target of Rs Rs 3908..... view more

Export of PPEs: Ministry receiving many exporters’ enquiries
ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Commerce (MoC) has been receiving many exporters’ enquiries from all over Pakistan regarding the export of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). The Ministry on Tuesday clarified that export of all
PPEs, i.e. hand sanitizers, disposable gowns and gloves, face shields, biohazard bags, goggles and shoe covers are allowed to be exported. These exportable items may be made from various classes of materials, includ...view more

Coronavirus confirmed cases surge to 213,249 in Pakistan
Pakistan on Wednesday has confirmed 91 deaths in a single day by novel coronavirus as the number of positive cases has surged to 213,249. The nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 4,395. According to the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC), 4,133 persons have been tested positive for COVID-19 in 24 hours. Sindh has become the worst-hit province by the pandemic in terms of cases followed by Punjab, Khybe....view more

NDMA to be given ventilators on Friday: Fawad
Source: APP, The Nation, Islamabad , 2020-07-01
ISLAMABAD - Federal Minister for Science and Technology Chaudhry Fawad Hussain on Tuesday said the first consignment of 'Made in Pakistan' ventilators would be handed over to the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) on Friday. Speaking in the National Assembly (NA), he said Pakistan had started manufacturing personal protective equipments (PPEs) for the medical staff. "Pakistan will be exporting $100 million worth.....view more

Pakistani diaspora denounces UK media's blame game on Covid-19
Source: APP, The Nation, Islamabad , 2020-07-01
ISLAMABAD - The British Pakistani diaspora has strongly denounced the media campaign giving a false impression that the travel of people from Pakistan has had a significant contributory effect on the high COVID-19 death toll in the United Kingdom. Professionals from the top UK universities and research institutes in a statement rejected the recent misleading article published on June 26 in the Daily Telegraph and later.....view more

PIMS nurses stage protest over non-issuance of stipend
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad , 2020-07-01
Islamabad - Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) student nurses on Tuesday staged a protest against administration over non-issuance of stipend. Dozens of nursing staff protesting inside the hospital alleged that the accounts department froze the stipend declaring it violation of the rights of the frontline workers against novel coronavirus (COVID-19). Nursing instructor Liaqat Ali said that the administration has t.....view more

CAA bans protocol for VIPs at airports due to coronavirus
The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) in its new guidelines imposed a ban on giving protocol to VIPs at airports due to the coronavirus pandemic, reportedGeo News on Wednesday. According to the CAA, the guideline will also be applicable on domestic chartered flights, and passengers and staff of private planes. Under the new rules, apart from the passengers no one else will be allowed to proceed further than the parking area. The CAA has tasked airp.....view more
NIH issues advisory for CCHF, COVID-19 around Eid  
Islamabad: The movement of sacrificial animals ahead of Eidul Azha significantly carries the risk of the spread of Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) due to increased human-animal interaction. Moreover, visits to crowded places and direct contact with infectious materials and animals are also expected to amplify the risk of COVID-19 transmission. Recognising the threats, the Field Epidemiology and Disease Surveillance Division (FEDSD) o..... view more

City District Administration set a precedent to deal with COVID-19  
Islamabad: City district administration of Islamabad set a precedent to be followed for rest of the country administrations at respective districts and divisional levels across the country to deal with coronavirus pandemic. Arrangements as adopted by the district administration of federal capital to keep contain spread of COVID-19 are not only being hailed by city dwellers but by dignitaries and people visiting Islamabad from across the country..... view more

Islamabad: The residents of slum areas seem to be helpless against the threat of the coronavirus disease as they neither have resources to protect themselves nor proper knowledge about how to modify their living style to fight this pandemic. Azeem Alphonse, who lives in slum area located in F-7 sector, said the medical experts advise the people to wear face masks and use hand sanitizers but how can the dwellers who live in such kind of c..... view more

Pakistan exporting Covid-19 equipment worth $100m: Fawad  
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-07-02  
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is exporting Covid-19 equipment worth $100 million, and after local production of ventilators, the figure will rise further. This was stated by Federal Minister for Science and Technology Fawad Chaudhry, while addressing a press conference, here on Wednesday. The minister further stated that a training group of 300 engineers would be formed to teach people how to operate the ventilators, whose production was expected..... view more

Pakistan’s confirmed COVID-19 cases surge to 217,809  
Source: Web Desk, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-07-02  
Pakistan on Thursday has confirmed 78 deaths in a single day by novel coronavirus as the number of positive cases has surged to 217,809. The nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 4,473. According to the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC), 4,339 persons have been tested positive for COVID-19 in 24 hours. Sindh remains the worst-hit province by the pandemic in terms of cases followed by Punjab, Khyber Pa..... view more

New method to help detect at-risk areas for COVID-19 spread  
Source: APP, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-07-02  
ISLAMABAD - In the fight against Covid-19, researchers have developed a strategy to use data from existing cellular wireless networks to identify areas that are at the greater risk of disease. The new method helps identify places where asymptomatic carriers have a higher chances of coming in close contact with large numbers of healthy people. The technique, published in the IEEE Open Journal of Engineering in Medicine and Biology, could help regi..... view more
NDMA provides 1.43 million PPEs to hospitals
Source: APP, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-07-02
ISLAMABAD - National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has so far provided 1.424699 million Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) to hospitals across the country amid onward distribution among doctors and Health Care Workers (HCWs). According to spokesman of NDMA, the distribution of tenth tranche of PPEs was being transported to all provinces. Right now PPEs transportation was continuing to Balochistan and Gilgit-Baltistan. He said Balochistan.....view more

HAS, ADB join hands in fight against COVID-19
Source: Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-07-02
ISLAMABAD - The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Health Services Academy of Pakistan on Wednesday signed an agreement to strengthen Pakistan’s public health response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and to support frontline health workers by providing a national rapid critical care training programme. The Vice Chancellor of the Health Services Academy Dr. Assad Hafeez and ADB Country Director for Pakistan Xiaohong Yan.....view more

Majority supports Imran Khan’s handling of corona crisis: survey
ISLAMABAD: A majority of Pakistanis support Prime Minister Imran Khan's approach and handling of the prevalent coronavirus situation, according to a survey report by Institute for Public Opinion Research (IPOR) published on Thursday. The report showed that among the 52 percent of the "satisfied" Pakistanis, 25 percent said the performance was "very good" and 27 percent believe it was "good". As many as 63 .....view more

Poll reveals majority support for PTI's coronavirus response
A poll published on Wednesday revealed that more than 50% Pakistanis are in support of Prime Minister Imran Khan's approach and handling of the prevalent coronavirus situation. The report by Institute for Public Opinion Research (IPOR), showed that among the 52% of the "satisfied" Pakistanis, 25% said the performance was "very good" and 27% believe it was "good". On the other hand, a substantial 42% seem dissati.....view more

Screening of passengers made mandatory; Pakistan not ‘exporting’ coronavirus: Moeed
Source: Abdul Rasheed Azad, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-07-03
ISLAMABAD: The government of Pakistan has made mandatory, screening of Pakistani passengers travelling abroad, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SPAM) on National Security Dr Moeed Yusuf has said. Briefing media persons here on Thursday at the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC), he said the passengers should act responsibly and should not embark upon foreign travel, if they had symptoms of Covid-19. He rejected the impr.....view more
Uber drives up safety awareness amid Covid-19
Source: Press Release, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-07-03
ISLAMABAD: As the government begins to ease off lockdown and workplaces slowly resume operations, Uber Pakistan's #MoveWithSafety campaign aims to educate and raise awareness of the additional safety measures it has put in, in order to help the app's users stay safe. Uber partner drivers in Pakistan will be asked, as part of a new in-app safety checklist, to verify that they are wearing a mask using their new object recognition t.... view more

Confirmed COVID-19 cases surge to 221,896 Share:
Pakistan on Friday has confirmed 78 deaths in a single day by novel coronavirus as the number of positive cases has surged to 221,896. The nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 4,551. According to the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC), 4,087 persons have been tested positive for COVID-19 in 24 hours. Sindh remains the worst-hit province by the pandemic in terms of cases followed by Punjab, Khyber Pakh..... view more

Covid-19 deaths rate reduces to 1 per day in capital
Source: Rahul Basharat, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-07-03
ISLAMABAD - The average number of deaths due to novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in the city has reduced to one only in the previous 72 hours, The Nation learnt on Thursday. As per the official data the number of positive cases of COVID-19 in the city is fluctuating at an average of 146 per day in the previous 72 hours. The city has observed a significant drop in the number of deaths as well. As per the National Command Operation Centre (NCOC) ..... view more

Khabar Pakhtunkhwa

Study by academician says Covid-19 assuming dangerous proportions
PESHAWAR: A statistical study carried out by Prof Dr Sareer Badshah, Dean Faculty of Basic & Social Sciences at historic Islamia College University Peshawar, has revealed that coronavirus has assumed extremely dangerous proportions in the length and breadth of the country. The findings of the study revealed that Covid-19 caused six times higher fatalities in just 37 days since May 22. The Punjab province showed a constant increase in death r..... view more

Corona kills one more patient in Jamrud
JAMRUD: A patient of coronavirus lost battle for life in Jamrud tehsil in Khyber district on Tuesday. With the new casualty, the number of fatalities from coronavirus reached six in Khyber district since the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic in the country. Officials said that 40-year old Jalal Khan, a resident of Nai Abadi in Jamrud tehsil, was admitted to isolation ward of the hospital in a serious condition for cough, fever and other ailm..... view more

Two more deaths reported from Covid-19 in Nowshera
NOWSHERA: Two more people died of coronavirus Tuesday, taking the death toll from the viral infection in the Nowshera district to 48, officials said. District Health Officer Dr Gul Man Shah and In charge of District Coronavirus Control Centre Dr Saeed Khan told the media the first victim was 47-year-old Waheed Khan of Akbarpura. They said
the deceased was an anaesthesia specialist at a hospital and was suffering from Covid-19. He had tested posi... view more

Man who recovered from Covid-19 urges caution
SWABI: A man, who recently recovered from coronavirus, on Tuesday asked the people to adopt precautionary measures to stay safe as the treatment of the contagious disease was quite expensive. Talking to this scribe, Ali Zaman belonging to Dobian village said that he spent Rs1 million on his treatment. He said that he was admitted to the Bacha Khan Medical Complex Shahmansoor when he contracted coronavirus. He said that he was put on venti..... view more

Tracing contacts of Covid-19 patients a daunting challenge
Source: Ashfaq Yusufzai, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-01
PESHAWAR: The health department is facing the daunting challenge of testing the contacts of Covid-19 patients as people are not giving swabs for laboratory analysis fearing that in case of positivity their areas would face smart lockdown, according to officials. They said that since the strategy of smart lockdown was adopted by the government on the national and international guidelines, the health department was finding it hard to trace the con..... view more

Covid-19 claims 16 more lives in KP
Source: Bureau Report, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-01
PESHAWAR: The Covid-19 claimed 16 more lives, taking the tally to 951 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Tuesday. The victims also included Dr Gul Marjan, a former ENT surgeon, who was admitted to the Mufti Mahmood Memorial Teaching Hospital, Dera Ismail Khan, according to the provincial doctors’ association. It said that number of the total health professionals falling prey to the coronavirus had reached 13 in the province. Meanwhile, the province..... view more

Smart lockdowns proved fruitful in containing spread of COVID-19: Wazir
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-07-01
PESHAWAR - Adviser to the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) on Information Ajmal Wazir on Tuesday said the strategy of smart lockdown was proving much fruitful as it had helped a lot in containing the further spread of coronavirus in the province. During a media briefing, he said in order to contain the spread of the virus, the policy of smart lockdown would continue as directed by Prime Minister Imran Khan. He informed that in differe..... view more

Apex Committee discusses coronavirus situation, locust threat
PESHAWAR: The Apex Committee, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, on Wednesday reviewed the overall security situation in the province, particularly in the tribal districts, as well as the Covid-19 situation and locust threat. Governor Shah Farman chaired the meeting, which was attended by Chief Minister Mahmood Khan, Minister Health Taimur Salim Jhagra, Corps Commander, Peshawar, Lt-Gen Nauman Mehmood, Chief Secretary Kazim Niaz, Inspector General Police Sanau..... view more
Two more areas sealed in Peshawar
PESHAWAR: The district administration on the recommendation of the district health officer has opened two more areas for “controlled entry and exit.” The administration issued a notification on Wednesday said two more areas have been sealed in the wake of the raising incidents of coronavirus. The administration said that Sra Khawra near Matani and Sheen Drang in Mashogagar had been sealed for routine activities. Shops had been ordered.....view more

Tally of coronavirus patients in Nowshera reaches 751
NOWSHERA: The number of coronavirus patients was put at 751 on Wednesday as 12 more people were confirmed to be suffering from the viral infection in the Nowshera district, officials said. District Health Officer Dr Gulman Shah and of District Coronavirus Control Centre In charge Dr Saeed Khan told the media three people who had died the previous day were confirmed to be Covid-19 patients as the results of their tests were received now. The off.....view more

Smart lockdown enforced in 214 affected areas of KP
PESHAWAR: Adviser to the Chief Minister on Information and Public Relations Ajmal Wazir has said that an effective policy of smart lockdown is being implemented to curb coronavirus in 214 affected areas in various districts. This he said while briefing media at Civil Secretariat. He said the number of affected people was 2,410, while 805,877 people were confined to their homes due to the smart lockdown. Ajmal Wazir said that Chief Secretary Dr .....view more

EU safety agency to suspend PIA authorisation for six months
Source: Amin Ahmed | Mohammad Asghar, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-01
RAWALPINDI/ISLAMABAD: After the International Air Transport Association (IATA) expressed concerns over the ‘serious lapse in the licensing and safety oversight by the aviation regulator’, the European Union Air Safety Agency (EASA) on Tuesday suspended Pakistan International Airlines’ authorisation to operate to the EU member states for a period of six months effective from Wednesday (today), with the right to appeal against the .....view more

One death, 209 new cases of corona from twin cities
Rawalpindi : Coronavirus illness, COVID-19 has claimed one life in last 24 hours here in Islamabad Capital Territory taking death toll from federal capital to 128 while no death due to the disease was reported from Rawalpindi district in last 48 hours. It is important that the virus has claimed as many as 20 lives in the federal capital in last one week while only two patients died of the disease in Rawalpindi district in last seven days. To dat.....view more

DCs to decide about lockdown in virus-hit areas
LAHORE: Chief Secretary Jawwad Rafique Malik Tuesday said that after the end of the smart lockdown, the deputy commissioners would decide whether to seal or open the affected localities, keeping in view the number of Covid-19 cases in their districts. He expressed these views during a meeting presided over by Punjab Senior Minister Abdul Aleem Khan held at Chief Secretary’s Office to review the new strategy after the end of smart loc.....view more
Cases of children suffering from rare disease alarm experts
Source: Asif Chaudhry, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-01
LAHORE: Cases of an ailment like Kawasaki Disease (KD), which is believed to be a post-infection complication among the children infected with Covid-19 have started surfacing in various parts of the country, causing an alarm among experts. The Institute of Child Health/Children Hospital Lahore has received three such cases while some others have been reported in Karachi, Islamabad and Rawalpindi. These cases have alarmed “unprepared”.....view more

‘Smart lockdown’ extended in Lahore
Source: Staff Report, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-01
LAHORE: As the “15-day smart lockdown” in seven cities of the province ended on Tuesday midnight, the Punjab government has empowered the deputy commissioners to decide “if further extension in any particular areas” under their jurisdiction is required. The district administration of Lahore extended lockdown in areas identified in the June 15 order. They include Shahdra, Mazang, Shad Bagh, Harbanspura, Old Lahore, Nishtar.....view more

Vendors protest seizure of merchandise
Source: Correspondent, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-01
KASUR: Scores of fruit and vegetable vendors held a sit-in before the office of the Chunian Tehsil Administration on Tuesday that impounded their pushcarts along with fruit and vegetables. The pandemic-stricken vendors said the administration had been holding their carts for the last three days, making them unable to start their business and feed their families. Tehsil Administrator Adnan Badar said the administration was only taking action aga.....view more

District admin rejects traders’ demand to postpone lockdown until after Eidul Azha
Source: Aamir Yasin, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-01
RAWALPINDI: The district administration on Tuesday rejected traders’ demands to lock down Narankari Bazaar and Bara Market after Eidul Azha and also unsealed 22 areas that had been sealed two weeks ago after a surge in Covid-19 cases. However, eight other areas localities have been locked down. The district administration has also rejected traders’ demands to seal Narankari Bazaar and Bara Market after Eid. “We did not give r.....view more

6,000 Tiger Force volunteers working in Jhelum: DC
Source: Correspondent, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-01
GUJAR KHAN: Over 6,000 Covid-19 Relief Tiger Force volunteers are working in four tehsils of Jhelum to raise awareness among people. This was stated by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Saif Anwar Jappa during a meeting with district administration officials. He said the Tiger Force volunteers were performing their duties in Ehsaas Kafalat centres, utility stores, shopping malls, banks and mosques. The DC said the volunteers would also be performing their.....view more

Six cricketers test negative for Covid-19
LAHORE: After being tested negative for Covid-19 for the second time in three days, Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has allowed six cricketers to join the Pakistan men’s national cricket team in Worcestershire. The players namely
Fakhar Zaman, Mohammad Hasnain, Mohammad Hafeez, Mohammad Rizwan, Shadab Khan and Wahab Riaz were retested on Monday following a first negative test on 26th June. The PCB will now start making their travel arrang.....view more

Punjab records 723 new coronavirus cases, 46 deaths
LAHORE: With 723 fresh Corona positive cases and 46 deaths across the province in the last 24 hours, Punjab has so far reported 75,501 Covid-19 cases and 1,727 deaths so far. As per the government's Covid-19 portal, about 493,225 tests of coronavirus have so far been conducted across the province with 7729 tests conducted during the last 24 hours. As per data made available to Business Recorder, as many as 1085 more patients have re.....view more

Yasmin approves new security contract, procurement of lab equipment
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad , 2020-07-01
LAHORE - Punjab Health Minister Dr. Yasmin Rashid chaired the 8th syndicate meeting of the Faisalabad Medical University at the Committee Room of the Specialized Healthcare and Medical Education Department here on Tuesday. Present in the meeting were Additional Secretary SHME Asif Tufail, MPA Chaudhry Adil Pervaiz and through video link Vice-Chancellor Faisalabad Medical University Dr Zafar Chaudhry along with Syndicate members. Registrar F.....view more

Despite COVID-19 outburst, agri sector expands by 2.67pc
LAHORE - Though the covid-19 pandemic struck a devastating blow to a low economic base country like Pakistan, certain sectors here survived while giving hopes of recovery to the national economy. According to the Pakistan Economic Survey 2019-20, there was no significant impact of Covid-19 on the agriculture sector as the sector grew by 2.67 per cent. Positive growth of 2.90 per cent in important crops was observed due to an increase in produ.....view more

22 virus ‘hotspot’ in Rawalpindi unsealed
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad , 2020-07-01
RAWALPINDI: As many as 22 streets and neighbourhoods of Rawalpindi, which had been sealed after being declared as ‘hotspots’ over fears of novel coronavirus (Covid-19) clusters developing there, will formally reopen today (Wednesday). Blockades and pickets set up on the entry and exit points of these areas were also removed late on Tuesday. After a significant rise in Covid-19 cases was detected there, the Punjab government had dec.....view more

No death due to COVID-19, 192 new cases from twin cities
Rawalpindi : No death due to coronavirus illness, COVID-19 was reported in the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi in last 24 hours while only 192 new patients have been confirmed positive for the illness from the region and it happened exactly after a month that less than 200 new cases have been reported in a day from the region. It is also worth mentioning here that the population in twin cities witnessed a day without death due to COVID-1.....view more
Smart lockdown lifted from 22 localities, imposed in 8 more areas
Rawalpindi: The local administration in Rawalpindi on Wednesday lifted smart lockdown from 22 hotspots areas of coronavirus after ten days. The local administration has issued a notification to open Dhoke Kala Khan, Qayumabad, Iqbal Town, Dhoke Paracha, Dhoke Kashmirian, Kurri Road, Ali Abad, Dhoke Ali Akbar, Sadiqabad, Magistrate Colony, Satellite Town, A-Block, C-Block, Muslim Town, Khurram Colony, Dehri Hasanabad, Tahl Morri, Ghausia Ch.....view more

Covid-19 PCR test charges set at Rs6, 500
LAHORE: The Punjab Healthcare Commission (PHC) Wednesday fixed the maximum charges for the PCR test for Covid-19 at Rs6, 500. According to a PHC letter issued to all private laboratories, the collection centres and hospital labs of the province, the maximum charges for the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test, which is the only diagnostic test for Covid-19, would be Rs6, 500. They have been directed not to charge more than the fixed amount. More.....view more

‘Adequate facilities available for corona patients in govt hospitals’
LAHORE: Adequate facilities are available in Punjab, according to the provincial health authorities statistics of health facilities for Covid-19 patients, including treatment, HDUs, isolation wards and ventilators available in all government hospitals. According the latest data released by the Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department and the Specialised Healthcare and Medical Education Department about the facilities in government hospitals o.....view more

Drive against blame game on Covid-19 lauded
LAHORE: Punjab Minister of human rights and minority affairs Ijaz Alam Augustine has expressed that their campaign to curb accusing different groups of spreading Covid-19 in the country has been appreciated at a large scale. The campaign was launched by the ministry with the support of an NGO working on peace and harmony. The minister said he had presented a report of this campaign titled “A campaign to counter hate and discrimination durin....view more

55 shops sealed on SOPs violation
LAHORE: The district administration along with heavy police contingents sealed dozens of shops in the various markets of the City for not following the corona SOPs on Wednesday. Officials said more than 55 shops were sealed and warning was issued to a number of shopkeepers in several city areas. All assistant commissioners, following the orders of DC Lahore, visited busy markets in their respective jurisdictions and took action against the shopkee.....view more

Rescue 1122, RWMC jointly conduct disinfection activity about COVID-19, dengue
Source: APP, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-07-02
RAWALPINDI - Punjab Emergency Rescue Service 1122 and Rawalpindi Waste Management Company (RWMC) conducted joint disinfectant spray and anti-dengue awareness activity in different residential and commercial areas
of the district here on Wednesday. According to a spokesperson, the disinfectant squad carried out disinfectant spray besides mechanical sweeping with chlorinated water in Ganj Mandi market, Cloth Market, Naswar bazaar, Perwadian ma.....view more

PHC fixes PCR test for Covid-19 at Rs 6,500
Source: Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad , 2020-07-02
LAHORE - The Punjab Healthcare Commission on Wednesday has fixed maximum price of the PCR test of Covid-19 at Rs 6,500. According to a letter issued to all private laboratories, collection centres and hospital labs of the province, the maximum price of the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test, which is the only diagnostic test for Covid-19, at Rs 6,500, and they have been directed not to charge more than the fixed amount. Moreover, the healthcare.....view more

Huge crowds in markets, individuals ignoring SOPs
Rawalpindi : The number of patients being tested positive for coronavirus illness, COVID-19 and deaths caused by the disease started showing a downward trend in the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi particularly for the past one-and-a-half week but instead of following standard operating procedures (SOPs) more vigorously, the majority of individuals has started taking spread of illness non-seriously. The government has so far imposed smart.....view more

Stores sealed over dexamethasone sale
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-07-03
RAWALPINDI: Drug control teams in the city on Thursday sealed three drug wholesalers for selling dexamethasone - a cortisone which is used for treating critical novel coronavirus (Covid-19) patients, without a drug license. Teams of the Rawalpindi Drug Control department inspected different pharmacies and wholesalers in the Bohar Bazaar on Thursday. They also checked stores buying and selling of dexamethasone medicine and their records for procu.....view more

Sialkot gets Rs150m worth COVID-related medical equipment
Source: APP, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-07-03
SIALKOT - The COVID-related medical equipment worth Rs150 million arrived here on Thursday, boosting the city’s capacity to cope with the coronavirus pandemic effectively. The medical supplies, including 5,000 PCR testing kits, 20 Intensive Care Unit ventilators, 25 Oximeter, one Bio Safety Cabinet and other critical instruments were provided by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) to Govt Khawaja Muhammad Safdar Medical C.....view more
**Sindh**

### 34 die as another 2,655 test positive for COVID-19 in Sindh


Thirty-four more people have died due to COVID-19 and another 2,655 cases have been reported during the past 24 hours in Sindh, with the death toll due to the viral disease reaching 1,377 in the province. “Yesterday we had lost 74 people due to the lethal viral infection. In this way, we have lost 108 people within two days, which is extremely alarming. This situation is getting out of control at a rapid pace,” said Sindh Chie.....[view more](#)

### Governor inaugurates Al-Khidmat’s COVID-19 testing facility


Sindh Governor Imran Ismail inaugurated a COVID-19 testing facility at the Virology and Genetic Lab of the Al-Khidmat Hospital Karachi on Tuesday, and said NGOs had also done a wonderful job in the upgradation of three Karachi hospitals, including Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre (JPMC). “NGOs are doing a wonderful job in the health sector, and even at public hospitals of Sindh, major services are being provided by NGOs. For insta.....[view more](#)

### 34 die, 2,655 test positive for coronavirus in Sindh


KARACHI: The coronavirus has claimed 34 more lives and infected another 2,655 persons overnight, lifting the death toll to 1,377 and tally of the cases to 84,656. This was stated by Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Tuesday in a statement issued here. He said that 9,435 samples were tested, which detected 2,655 new cases that constituted 28 per cent detection rate. He added that so far 453,386 tests had been conducted against which 84,656 .....[view more](#)

### Infodemic amidst pandemic

Source: *Mutaher Khan, Dawn, Islamabad*, 2020-07-01

THE accelerating number of Covid-19 cases has turned the world upside down. From knowing a guy who knows someone with the virus to it penetrating our close friends and family circle, the situation has become eerily similar to an apocalyptic movie. The government has tried to take a proactive role when it comes to providing details about the number of cases, deaths and geographical breakdowns. It also quickly set up covid.gov.pk and built an app to.....[view more](#)

### FPCCI conducting survey on impact of Covid-19 on trade


KARACHI: The Vice President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), Shaikh Sultan Rehman, has said that the FPCCI has been conducting a survey to analyze the impact of COVID-19 on trade and industry on different countries. Speaking at a Specialized Committee Meeting of Industry, Investment and SMEs Promotion of ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ECO-CCI) held through a video link and attended by representa.....[view more](#)
Covid-19:Sindh witnesses 28pc new cases out of 9435 tested samples: CM
KARACHI: Out of 9435 tested samples, 2655 found infected of Covid-19 persons overnight while 34 more died lifting the death toll to 1377 and tally of the cases in Sindh to 84656, the CM told. Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued from CM House said 2655 new cases out of 9435 tests, constituted one of the highest 28 percent detection rate. He added that so far 453386 tests have been conducted against which 84656 .....view more

34 more lose lives in Sindh, 2,655 others infected: CM Murad
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-07-01
KARACHI - The coronavirus on Tuesday claimed 34 more lives in Sindh and infected another 2,655 persons, lifting the death toll to 1,377 and the tally of cases to 84,656 in the province. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued here from the CM House. He said that 9,435 samples were tested which led to the detection of 2,655 new cases that showed 28 percent detection rate. The CM further said th.....view more

Sindh sees highest single-day ratio of positive cases
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-07-01
Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said on Tuesday that 2,655 fresh coronavirus cases were reported in the province overnight, while the contagious disease claimed 34 more lives. Following this, the number of infected persons has increased to 84,656 and he death toll has climbed to 1,377 in Sindh, he added. The CM said that of 9,435 samples tested between Monday and Tuesday, 2,655 were found to be carrying the virus- 28 per cent of tested.....view more

50-bed health facility for COVID-19 patients on University Road to start functioning tomorrow
The 50-bed Infectious Diseases Hospital (IDH) near NIPA Chowrangi on University Road will be operational by tomorrow (Friday) as another health facility in the city for COVID-19 patients. Meanwhile, 29 more people lost their lives due to the viral disease in the province during the last 24 hours, said Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in his daily statement on Wednesday about the epidemic situation in the province. "We have lost 29.....view more

Sindh extends ‘smart’ lockdown until July 15 to control rising COVID-19 cases
On the recommendations of the Sindh government, the home department has extended the date of ‘smart’ lockdown throughout the province until July 15. The notification issued on Wednesday said that in continuation of the order issued on June 1 and “for the same reasons recorded therein” by the Sindh government under Section 3(1) of the Sindh Epidemic Diseases Act, 2014, the home department has extended the lockdown until Ju.....view more

Covid-19 waste;Comprehensive guidelines for hospitals in Sindh issued
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-07-02
KARACHI: Sindh Environmental Protection Agency has issued the guidelines for handling and disposal of the waste generated by hospital facilities dealing with COVID-19 patients, which shall be enforced throughout Sindh. According to the guidelines issued under Section 6(1) of SEPA Act 2014, every hospital owner, occupier, the operator shall be responsible for the management of hospital waste/handling of waste from COVID-19 patients generated .....view more
Sindh extends Covid-19 lockdown for 15 days
Source: Mohammad Bilal Tahir, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-07-02
KARACHI: The Sindh Government on Wednesday extended the ongoing Covid-19 lockdown in the province including Karachi for another 15 days till July 15, 2020, a notification issued by Sindh Home Department said. According to the notification, it has been decided to maintain the restrictions as previously. Business centres will be allowed to open five days a week from Monday to Friday from 6am to 7pm. Compl.....view more

Corona claims 29 more lives in Sindh
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-07-02
KARACHI - As many as 2139 new cases of coronavirus have been detected after testing 8201 samples and 29 more patients died the death toll to 1406. This was stated by the Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a Press statement issued here on Wednesday. He said that 8201 samples were tested against which 2139 new cases of coronavirus were detected that constituted 28 per cent detection rate, one of the highest r.....view more

Over 1,250 policemen infected with COVID-19: Spokesman
Source: Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-07-02
KARACHI - With 30 new cases reported in last two days, around 1255 personnel and officers of Sindh Police have been infected with coronavirus so far, informed spokesman to Sindh Police on Wednesday. He said 13 officials lost their battle against COVID-19, out of them 11 belonged to Karachi Range and two from Hyderabad Range of Sindh Police. The spokesman added that currently 910 officers and personnel are under treatment while 332 have retu.....view more

COVID-19 claims 31 more lives, another 2,430 test positive in Sindh
As many as 31 more people lost their lives due to COVID-19 in the province in a day, said Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Thursday. He said the death toll due to the novel coronavirus now stood at 1,437. “We have lost 31 more people in Sindh due to COVID-19 in the last 24 hours and now the death toll is 1,437. We have 1,578 people under treatment at hospitals, of whom 754 are in critical condition and 101 are on life sup.....view more

Sindh police lose three more officers to coronavirus
The Sindh police on Thursday lost three more officers who had contracted the novel coronavirus infection. The tally of the law enforcers who have perished due to COVID-19 has reached 16. The latest victims of the viral disease were identified as Superintendent of Police (SP) Shakeel Ahmed, Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Ahmed Nawaz and Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) Abdul Rahimuddin. SP Shakeel Ahmed, 59, son of Muhammad Shafi, was perform.....view more

COVID-19 pandemic: Sindh against setting up cattle markets, province tells federation
KARACHI: The Sindh Government has conveyed to the federal government that it does not back the idea of setting up cattle markets for Eid-ul-Azha, said provincial Information Minister Nasir Shah on Friday. Shah said that people
who wished to sacrifice animals should contact religious scholars or local mosques, who can, in turn, perform the service for them. The minister also shared that the provincial government has made arrangements for ......

City authorities to ‘seal’ another set of virus hotspots in Karachi
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-07-03
KARACHI: The Karachi commissioner’s office notified on Friday another set of Covid-19 hotspots in the city which are to be sealed for up to two weeks. According to the notifications issued by deputy commissioners of districts South, West, and Malir, the following areas have been identified as areas with coronavirus clusters by district health officers:
District West Gadap: Gulshan-e-Maymar Block X, Y and Z (UC5 Songal) Kemari: Docks

Small businesses; Meezan Bank’s SSB approves guidelines for Covid-19 related re-finance schemes
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-07-03
KARACHI: The 47th meeting of Meezan Bank’s Shariah Supervisory Board (SSB) was recently held as an online event, with the goal of preventing contagion and staying consistent with the recommendations of global and local health authorities and the government. This was the first Shariah Supervisory Board meeting conducted completely online where members from across different countries participated via video conferencing. The meeting was c

Smart lockdown isn’t half bad
Source: BR Research, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-07-03
Testing has gone down. Deliberate or otherwise, is anyone’s guess. Is the fatigue setting in? The past week was the lowest weekly tests in three weeks, despite having trebled the testing capacity from the beginning of June. Daily test as a percentage of capacity was also the lowest ever last week. Surely, testing anywhere near enough, or testing for a reason, are not the plan. It largely looks that people who privately turn up for testing,.....

With 2,430 cases reported, Sindh’s tally stands at 89,225: CM Murad
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-07-03
KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah said on Thursday that 2,430 new cases of the coronavirus were detected in the province during the last 24 hours, increasing the tally to 89,225 while 31 more patients died, taking the death toll to 1,437. In a statement issued here from the CM House, the chief minister said that 9,436 samples were tested which led to the detection of 2,430 fresh cases, showing 26 percent detection rate.....

17 more COVID-19 cases reported in district Matiari
Source: APP, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-07-03
HYDERABAD - The number of coronavirus patients increased to 172 as 17 more people tested positive for the virus in district Matiari on Thursday. According to media reports, two corona patients had lost their lives in the district while 70 active patients are under treatment at different hospitals as well as at their homes while 102 patients have recovered so far. The district administration has appealed to the general public to stay at thei......
**Indus Motor donates Rs7.5m to SIUT to fight Covid-19**  
KARACHI - As part of its CSR initiatives, Indus Motor Company (IMC) has made a Rs.7.50 million donation to the Sindh Institute of Urology and Transplantation (SIUT) to support the hospital to provide quality medical treatment, particularly during the unprecedented COVID-19 crisis. Ali Asghar Jamali, CEO IMC, presented the cheque to Dr Adib ul Hasan Rizvi, founder SIUT, in admiration of the generous work that SIUT has been doing over the years und.....view more

**Three more cops lose battle against COVID-19**  
Source: Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-07-03  
KARACHI - Sindh Police on Thursday lost three more officers infected with COVID-19, with death toll of officials reaching 16, informed the spokesman to Police. Late officers include Superintendent of Police Shakeel Ahmed, Deputy Superintendent of Police Ahmed Nawaz and an Assistant Sub-Inspector Abdul Rahim-ud-Din. SP Shakeel was performing duties as an Incharge of Ehsaas Programme Center, DSP Ahmed Nawaz was posted at Bilawal House Lahore .....view more

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**International News**

**Countries News**

**Pakistan earns from overseas community during pandemic**  
DUBAI: Pakistan has earned more than Dh700 million (Rs3.2billion) from stranded Pakistanis in United Arab Emirates (UAE), by flying them back to homeland according to the Pakistan diplomatic officials. Pakistan Consulate Dubai estimated Dh450 million (Rs2.05 billion) collections through overseas Pakistanis going back from Dubai after the suspension of normal international flights at the end of March. While, the rest of the amount amassed .....view more

**Global employment crisis deepening, equivalent of 400m jobs lost, says UN**  
Source: AFP, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-01  
GENEVA: The coronavirus crisis has taken a much heavier toll on jobs than previously feared, the UN said on Tuesday, warning that the situation in the Americas was particularly dire. In a fresh study, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) estimated that by the mid-year point, global working hours were down 14 percent compared to last December — equivalent to some 400 million full-time jobs. That is more than double the number forecasted.....view more

**China study warns of possible new ‘pandemic virus’ from pigs**  
Source: Reuters, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-01  
SHANGHAI: A new flu virus found in Chinese pigs has become more infectious to humans and needs to be watched closely in case it becomes a potential "pandemic virus", a study said, although experts said there is no imminent threat. A team of Chinese researchers looked at influenza viruses found in pigs from 2011 to 2018 and found a “G4” strain of H1N1 that has “all the essential hallmarks of a candidate pandemic virus.....view more
Europe restricts visitors from US amid virus resurgence
Source: Ap, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-01
The European Continent on Tuesday reopened to visitors from 14 countries, but not the US, where some of the states that pushed hardest and earliest to reopen their economies are now in retreat because of an alarming surge in confirmed coronavirus infections. The European Unions decision came a day after Arizona Gov Doug Ducey closed bars, gyms, movie theaters and water parks, and officials in Republican and Democratic strongholds alike mandated.....view more

Goodbye Dubai: Photographer captures laid-off expat families as they leave
Source: Reuters, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-01
DUBAI: Louisa Sumagui and her family wanted a final momento of their 12 years in Dubai before returning to Australia after losing jobs in the tourism industry due to the coronavirus pandemic. The moment was captured for Sumagui, her husband and two children on a sun-drenched beach courtesy of photographer Paula Hainey, who is offering free photo sessions to some of the tens of thousands of expatriates leaving the United Arab Emirates. “Th.....view more

Iraq virus spike risks pushing strained doctors over the edge
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-07-01
Unpaid salaries, mask shortages, threats from patients’ families — doctors across Iraq are cracking under such conditions, just as they face a long-feared spike in coronavirus cases.”We’re collapsing,” said Mohammed, a doctor at a COVID-19 ward in Baghdad who declined to use his full name so he could speak freely.”I just can’t work anymore. I can’t even focus on the cases or the patients,” he.....view more

Changes in military recruiting may endure after pandemic
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-07-01
With his Army recruiting office shuttered due to the coronavirus, Staff Sgt. Anthony Holt has had to be creative to meet his enlistment goals. Using social media is one way. Signing up the grocery delivery guy is another. Holt asked the man how he ended up with the virtual shopping job. It turned out, he wanted to be a boat operator, but a job with an Alaskan cruise company fell through because of the pandemic. The Army also has maritime jobs, Holt.....view more

Virus hits entire Venezuelan family in Peru
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-07-01
The 14 members of the Hernandez family arrived in Peru from Venezuela two years ago with hopes high for a better life, but the coronavirus pandemic has cruelly shattered the dream: the grandfather died and now the entire family is struggling with the disease.”I think that life is slipping away from me,” gasps Wilmer Hernandez, 44, lying in his cramped home in southern Lima, an oxygen mask covering his face. His 63-year-old father, Wilm.....view more

US keen to include Pakistan in $3b regional fund
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-07-02
ISLAMABAD: The United States intends to launch a regional fund for development in Central Asian Republics (CARs), which will include Pakistan as well. In this regard, US International Development Finance Corporation (IDFC) CEO Adam Boehler informed Adviser to Prime Minister on Commerce Abdul Razak Dawood that they intended to start a regional fund for development in CARs, which had shown keen interest in including Pakistan in the fund. He adde.....view more
**Donors News**

**Covid-19 assistance fund; SCB donates Rs19.7m to Covid-19 funds**  
KARACHI: Standard Chartered Bank Pakistan has donated some Rs 19.7 million to charities in Pakistan as part of its Covid-19 assistance fund. Standard Chartered Bank has further shared details on how the Bank is providing short-term relief to communities who have been impacted through COVID-19. According to the Bank, it is providing Rs 19.7 million to support communities in need. The Bank will be enabling the set-up of modular High Depen..... *view more*

**US keen to include Pakistan in $3b regional fund**  
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-07-02  
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**Covid-19: US donates 100 ventilators to Pakistan**  
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-07-03  
ISLAMABAD: The United States (US) on Friday donated 100 ventilators to Pakistan to support its fight against Covid-19. Through the US Agency for International Development (USAID), in cooperation with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), US has donated a shipment of 100 brand-new, state-of-the-art ventilators to Pakistan. The ventilators arrived in Karachi on July 2 and will be distributed in hospitals across the country. A state..... *view more*
## SDPI Engagements

### Researchers Articles

**Issues associated with COVID-19**  
The first case of COVID-19 surfaced on 26 February 2020 in Pakistan. Since then the reported number of cases has increased rapidly despite social distancing measures put in place by the federal and provincial governments.1 Pakistan’s Preparedness and Response Plan (PPRP) outlines measures required to strengthen Pakistan’s capacity and reduce gaps in emergency, prevention, preparedness, response and relief and build health .....[view more](#)

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**Negotiating the climate What’s next after COVID-19**  
Source: Dr Imran Saqib Khalid, *Trade Insight Nepal*, 2020-07-01  
The world is in the midst of a pandemic. COVID-19 has wreaked havoc across the world. It is also a sign of things to come if the global community does not act on time to address the climate crisis. One of the regions to be most affected by the impacts of global warming is South Asia. Home to nearly two billion people, the effects of climate change are already being felt across the region in the form of changing monsoons, extreme flooding.....[view more](#)

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### Webinars News

**Indian hegemonic designs hurdle to regional economic ties: experts**  
Islamabad: Indian hegemonic designs have sabotaged the opportunity to enhance regional economic cooperation and integration being felt in the wake of COVID-19 and has made the situation in South Asian region more volatile putting the socio-economic wellbeing of millions of people as well as the peace and stability in the region at stake. These views were expressed by the experts, scholars and academics at an online dialogue titled: ‘South .....[view more](#)

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**Reforms needed to boost e-commerce in Pakistan**  
Source: Our Correspondent, *The Express Tribune, Islamabad*, 2020-07-02  
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has one of the lowest internet penetrations, which is hindering it from making gains in the e-commerce sector, said World Bank Senior Economist Gonzalo Valera, adding that the World Bank was keen to help the commerce ministry with e-commerce reforms. Valera shared these views during an online dialogue on ‘E-commerce – the scope and facilitation’ organised by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDP).....[view more](#)

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**Experts Demand Tax Relief to Boost E-Commerce in Pakistan**  
Source: Jehangir Nasir, *ProPakistani.com*, 2020-07-02  
E-commerce offers huge scope and potential for Pakistani markets. The right policy reforms and facilitation by the government could play a key role in tapping this potential. Representatives from the public & private sector and civil society organizations said this while sharing their views with the participants at ‘E-commerce-the scope and facilitation’ organized by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI). Hussan Ba.....[view more](#)
India’s hegemonic designs a real obstacle in way of regional economic ties: experts
Source: Staff Report, Daily Times, 2020-07-02
Indian hegemonic designs have sabotaged the opportunity to enhance regional economic cooperation and integration being felt in the wake of COVID-19 and has made the situation in South Asian region more volatile putting the socio-economic wellbeing of millions of people as well as the peace and stability in the region at stake. These views were expressed by the experts, scholars and academics at an online dialogue titled: ‘South Asia: Regio..... view more

Indian attitude real impediment to peace
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-07-02
India’s hegemonic designs have made the situation in South Asian region more volatile, putting the socio-economic wellbeing of millions of people, as well as the peace and stability in the region at risk amidst the novel coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic. These views were expressed by the experts, scholars and academics on Wednesday during an online dialogue on ‘South Asia: Regional Stability and Security amid Covid-19’. The dial..... view more

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