E-Newsletter on COVID-19

Issue: 07-10 July 2020
Vol. 01, No. 23

…..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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International News

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A Product of ASRC-SDPI

Sustainable Development Policy Institute, SDPI

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Tel: +92.51. 2278134, Fax: 2278135,
### Op-Eds/Articles/Editorials

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<td><strong>Slowing trajectory?</strong></td>
<td>Editor, <em>Dawn, Islamabad</em>, 2020-07-07</td>
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<td>AS the official figures for daily new Covid-19 infections fall across the country, the prime minister wants to ensure that transmission rates continue to slow down as Eid approaches. At a visit to the NCOC over the weekend, Mr Khan said there should be strict implementation of SOPs and that officials should undertake the necessary administrative actions for smart lockdowns. He also stressed on the need for a strong awareness campaign to prevent a.....</td>
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<td>Number of daily positive cases in Pakistan are declining—weekly average positive cases dropped nearly 40 percent over the past three weeks. During the week of Jun-14, cumulative weekly tests conducted were over 203,000—the highest testing done in a week ever—which declined to about 158,000 tests by the week of Jun-28. Testing has declined by 16 percent while positivity rate of daily cases has declined by 22 percent between this.....</td>
<td>view more</td>
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<td><strong>United they stand</strong></td>
<td>Mujtaba Momeni and Khadijah Ahmad, <em>The Nation, Islamabad</em>, 2020-07-07</td>
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<td>Unity and resilience. These attributes, in a nutshell, encapsulate the effort of the Iranian people against the novel coronavirus during its first wave. The absence of Nowruz celebrations was unable to dispirit the public, and the country’s supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, and President, Hassan Rouhani remained resolute in their commitment to overcome the daunting disease while marking the beginning of the Persian New Year. Desp.....</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Labour After The Pandemic</strong></td>
<td>Editorial, <em>The Nation, Islamabad</em>, 2020-07-07</td>
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<td>On Prime Minister Imran Khan’s request, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) has agreed to convene a special session of its member states on July 8 to evolve a strategy for the well-being of labourers in the post-coronavirus scenario. This session was blatantly overdue, as nearly all countries struggle with alarming rates of unemployment and drop in livelihoods. Labourers all around the world are more disempowered now compared to pre.....</td>
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<td><strong>Covid-19 and the working class</strong></td>
<td>Editorial, <em>The Express Tribune, Islamabad</em>, 2020-07-07</td>
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<td>The Covid-19 pandemic has directly hit the pockets of over half of the country’s working population, according to a worrying new survey. The survey by Dun &amp; Bradstreet Pakistan and Gallup Pakistan found that 54% of the respondents had either lost their jobs or accepted pay-cuts due to the pandemic. Even more worried that they could be sacked in the near future. The only ‘bright spot’ in the survey would appear to be the samp.....</td>
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<td><strong>UN's 'Pause' campaign</strong></td>
<td>Editorial, <em>Daily Times</em>, 2020-07-07</td>
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<td>Even half-a-year into the coronavirus pandemic it is startling that the United Nations (UN) has had to note that misinformation is spreading faster than the virus itself, driven no doubt by all sorts of news items and individual posts</td>
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going viral on social media. Sometimes it can be some people's harmless sharing of a message that later turns out to be false or, in a slightly worse case scenario, such trends can also develop as a result of .....view more

**Education for 75 million out of Schools Pakistani Children! (Part II)**

Source: Kashif Mirza, *Daily Times*, 2020-07-07

Since Covid-19 was discovered and has spread across the world, a large amount of data has been collected on the morbidity, mortality and infection profile of the virus. As countries around the world – including several where daily death tolls exceed Pakistan's – reopen schools, it is instructive to examine the evidence regarding the health implications of doing so. On the other hand, as the U.S. debates when to bring children ba.... view more

**Handsome lockdown**

Source: Syed Kamran Hashmi, *Daily Times*, 2020-07-07

Imagine: a thief breaks into your house and steals your belongings. To file a complaint, you visit the police station. The officer on duty, instead of reassuring you, argues that no one can set foot in your property if it is locked. Puzzled, you respond that the house is kept bolted all the time. The quality of the locks then must not have met the safety standards; or probably your residence invites more criminals than your next-door neighbor, th.....view more

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**Pandemic: Institutional Responsiveness vs Social Responsiveness in Pakistan**

Source: Tariq Aziz Sindhu, *Daily Times*, 2020-07-07

Corona pandemic has become an overwhelming episode of the 21st century. Its paramount influence on the visible and invisible aspects of human life is an undeniable reality now. The government of Pakistan has claimed that the country has suffered more than 2.5 trillion economic losses due to the pandemic. The ministry of planning has estimated that around 12.3 million to 18.5 million people would become jobless. The COVID-19 situation will be eval.....view more
Children with disabilities and the pandemic
Source: Dr Abdul Hameed, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-07-08
Schools in Punjab have been closed for a while now. This long break in teaching and learning will have far-reaching consequences on students, teachers and the system as predicted by several writers. Some experts predict that the culture of online classes may become a part of regular education. Although online classes are being held in all expensive private schools and randomly in public schools, yet public schools are the main player, catering to.... view more

Unfair Restrictions
Source: Editorial, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-07-08
It is no surprise that repressive policies against immigrants are born out of the US—especially during the time of a pandemic. With the immigration status of international students under threat, widespread confusion poses concerns about whether the students of today will be able to become productive members of society being a part of a system that promotes institutionalised discrimination and robs them of the standard of education their pee.... view more

Pandemic Threat and Unavoidable Legislation
Source: Javaid-ur-Rahman, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-07-08
ISLAMABAD - The news of high profile names tested positive for COVID-19, on social media and TV channels, have now become a normal routine. Most of them, after passing 14 necessary days of self-quarantine, have also been seen attending the parliamentary proceedings in the budget session. While, some big names including leader of opposition in the national assembly Shehbaz Sharif are perhaps on a long leave. The PTIs’ government is the.... view more

COVID-19: counting costs
Source: BR Research, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-07-08
Much can be deciphered when qualitative variables like consumer behavior are given some quantitative value. Surveys and preliminary research on consumer sentiments, concerns and changing behavior globally as well as locally have shown how humans have adapted or reacted to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. A common theme in most of these surveys and studies is the increasing concerns over the impact of COVID-19 on health and finance; and the incr.... view more

Eidul Azha, Muharram: NCOC bracing for another spike in Covid-19 cases
Source: Sujata Rao, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-07-08
On a hot humid day in Islamabad, this writer entered a cool air-conditioned building of the National Command Operation Centre where journalists were invited to attend a briefing on the current spread of the coronavirus in Pakistan. Prime Minister’s Special Assistant for Health Dr Zafar Mirza, Minister for Planning and Development Asad Umar stood in a long board room talking to journalists. We were asked to seat ourselves at a long table with ..... view more

En route to a welfare state?
Source: M Ziauddin, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-07-08
ARTICLE: Because of Covid-19 we have already started spending a lot more on health cover than what we have been budgeting for this sector annually for most of the past 73 years. On education as well we are likely to be compelled to spend more than the usual amount that we allocate to the subject annually as online teaching is expected
to become the new normal because of the extended closure of schools due to the prevailing pandemic. The mobile p.....view more

**Saudi economy in light of Covid-19**  
Source: Arhama Siddiqa, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-07-08  
The global economic slowdown as a result of Covid-19 has meant that in order to cover losses in revenue, governments have had to choose fiscal stimuli to help ensure a system of welfare protection for their citizens. The Saudi Crown Prince, Muhammad bin Salman’s Vision 2030 was revealed in 2016, in the backdrop of falling oil prices that started in 2014. It envisioned an economy which branched away from reliance on oil revenues and also pu.....view more

**Away from Covid scare**  
Source: Editorial, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-07-08  
The coronavirus pandemic has been raging in most parts of the world in varying intensity, including Pakistan, for more than three months. Fortunately, there are 40 coastal villages and settlements with a combined population of around 60,000 located just 30 miles away from the Hawkesbay beach which have remained totally untouched by the deadly virus. Inhabitants of these villages know about the virus only through the word of mouth as they do not h.....view more

**A food insecure world**  
With its powerful potential to disrupt all global activities, the Covid-19 pandemic is causing a major humanitarian crisis, threatening the food security and nutrition of millions of people around the world. It is pivotal to point out that millions were already suffering from food insecurity before the pandemic hit us. Unless swift action is taken, we could see a global food emergency – affecting people from all walks of life. Such massive.....view more

**Kishwar’s undying poetry**  
Source: I.A. Rehman, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-09  
ORDINARY mortals have no role in dealing with Covid-19 except for receiving nerve-wracking figures of new cases and casualties — and the charade of a budget that cannot be implemented doesn’t need to be commented on. One may therefore look for a less gloomy landscape. Or a bright spot in our life such as the celebration of Kishwar Naheed’s 60 years as a poet. Kishwar Naheed dates the start of her life as a poet from the age of .....view more

**My battle with corona**  
Source: Inam Ul Haque, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-07-09  
It was late May and there were important commitments in the village that could not be avoided without damaging social cost. It was amidst the fear of corona that we left for the village after postponing the decision. True to expectations, there were no SOPs, no social distancing and no fear of anything called coronavirus in this microcosm of rural Pakistan. There was that characteristic fatalism in the air, laden with comments like,Allah maalik h.....view more
Our saviours abroad
Source: Editorial, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-07-09
The Covid-19 pandemic has disrupted the global economy. The contagious disease has forced many businesses and industries, which cannot switch to work from home, to shut. In part, it forced the national economy to register, for the first time, negative growth. And while the country tackles immense economic challenges at home, it is now facing a crucial problem — the loss of some external inflows. For years now, the only thing shoring up Pak.... view more

Judicial training and COVID-19
Source: Dr Rasool Buksh Mirjat, Daily Times, 2020-07-08
Education and learning is an on-going process, which begins in the life of a person from the lap of the mother until buried in the grave. The famous scientist Albert Einstein says,"Intellectual growth should commence at birth and cease only at death". Commonly there are three main ways of learning, acquiring knowledge, or education – formal, informal and non-formal. Training in the form of workshops and conferences is an informa.....view more

Accepting the new normal
Source: Muhammad Omar Iftikhar, Daily Times, 2020-07-08
With the spread of COVID-19 across the world in a matter of weeks and with the world under a state of lockdown, the future seems rather bleak. However, amid this confusion and chaos, the online world is still operational. Students are taking classes via video applications while professionals working in the corporate sector are completing their routine tasks through the miracles of digital technology. Truth be told, our societies shall nev.... view more

AJK health crisis
Source: Dr Sabahat Zahra, Daily Times, 2020-07-09
The specialized agency of the United Nations responsible for maintaining global public health, the World Health Organization or WHO, declared COVID-19 outbreak as a pandemic in March this year. The global economic powers, to avoid the world from sinking into the abyss of discontent and distress, made significant headways by pouring vast resources into their otherwise neglected health sectors. So severe was the blow dealt by the coronavirus that e.....view more

Covid-19: Optimism vs evidence (II)
Source: BR Research, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-07-09
Lockdown, mini-lockdown, smart lockdown, no lockdown. It seems Pakistan has tried everything. Right now, the country is neck deep into what the government is calling a smart lockdown where the government has identified localities which have been closed for contact. Travel outside these zones is restricted and many areas are under curfew. The National Command Operation Center (NCOC) together with the National Information Technology Board (NITB) ar.....view more

Elusive vaccine
Source: Abbas Sarwar Qureshi, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-07-09
The world is on pins and needles, waiting for the magical drug to step into a post-COVID era leaving an awful chapter written in pain, sorrow and fear behind. A coveted slot next to Louis Pasteur, Edward Wright and Green Morton is vacant for another Messiah who would rescue millions from horrible lockdowns and thousands more from ending up on ventilators. In the absence of an effective vaccine, however, nations have been relying on lockdowns.....view more
The second wave
Source: Editorial, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-10
EIGHT months after the first case of Covid-19 was reported in China, the fast-spreading, potentially fatal coronavirus is still on the rampage. Many countries, including the UK, Spain, France and China have started to reopen as infection rates and the number of deaths drop in the aftermath of strict lockdowns. But as some countries celebrate their success in curtailing transmission, fears of a ‘second wave’ of infection are very real...... view more

Disequilibrium in education
Source: Faisal Bari, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-10
ONE post-pandemic prediction is that irrespective of when the Covid-19 threat goes away, online education, especially at the undergraduate level, is here to stay. For many, the trend towards online education predates the virus; Covid-19 has just pushed us harder and faster in the direction of exploring online potentialities for education. What are the implications for how universities and the higher education sector are organised? Is there a pot...... view more

Panic and the pandemic
When the first cases of the virus we now know as Covid-19 occurred in the Chinese province of Wuhan late last year, no one had realized how significantly it would change lives and how Machiavellian politicians would be in their use of it to serve their own purposes. A prime example of this has come in the announcement by the US State Department on Monday that international students studying in the US at university would have to return to their h..... view more

Education hostage crisis
A Gallup poll suggests that 74 percent of parents now believe that the curfew on education should be lifted. This was quoted by the federal minister for education, while announcing the council of education ministers meet on July 2 (which was later postponed to July 8) to discuss data, trends and recommendations for safely reopening education. Meanwhile, without scientific evidence pertaining to such a sensitive matter, the education ministers of..... view more

Visa nightmare
The US government has announced that international students taking classes fully online for the fall semester would have to transfer to an institution with in-person classes or leave the country. This policy change will affect hundreds of thousands of international students in the US immediately as the Covid-19 pandemic has forced many educational institutions to suspend in-person classes for the rest of the year. If fully enforced, this policy w..... view more

Debt, deficits, and welfare during the pandemic
Source: Dr Omer Javed, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-07-10
‘The best way to predict your future is to create it’ – Abraham Lincoln The global pandemic has pushed the world, especially the developing countries, in a very uncertain territory with regard to economic recovery, which in most parts depends on finding an appropriately acceptable vaccine that may in itself take a year at least to reach, and another couple of months to administer. This immense uncertainty requires a huge go..... view more
The matter of reopening schools
Source: Editorial, Daily Times, 2020-07-10
While there is no denying the government's good intentions about reopening educational institutes in September, perhaps the decisions is being rushed just a little considering that the graph of new cases over time isn't exactly flattening at the moment and there's no telling really what might happen in the couple of months between then and now. That is so especially since Eidul Azha will be celebrated in July and Ashura will be ..... view more

Rationalising prices of medicines
Source: Editorial, Daily Times, 2020-07-10
Full marks to the prime minister for finally putting his foot down and taking away the power to set prices of medicines from pharmaceutical companies. According to news reports, the PM prevailed despite a fair bit of opposition from within the cabinet, which will no doubt feel like a breath of fresh air to people struggling to afford medicines that are getting expensive all the time. It turns out that Special Advisor on Commerce Razzaq Dawood and..... view more

Is it the beginning of the end?
Source: BR Research, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-07-10
Covid-19 positive cases are witnessing a decline and not just because of a slowdown in countrywide testing, but also because the positivity rate is coming down too – from the high of 22.3 percent on June 4, 2020, to 15.7 percent as on July 7, 2020. Challenges such as under reporting of cases, insufficient testing and measures to curb the spread have been discussed at length in this space in the last couple of weeks. (For more read: Smart lo..... view more

Educational activities
Source: Editorial, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-07-10
It is a sign of the improving coronavirus situation in the country that the government has decided to reopen schools and colleges in the first week of September. The decision was taken in an online meeting on Wednesday presided over by Federal Education Minister Shafqat Mahmood and attended by the education ministers of all the four provinces, Gilgit-Baltistan, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, and the Chairman of the Higher Education Commission. A final d..... view more
### National News

#### Balochistan

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<td>‘New Covid cases drop by half in Balochistan’ Balochistan’ Covid-19 tally soars past 10,800</td>
<td>Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad</td>
<td>2020-07-07</td>
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<td>QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Secretary Captain (retd) Fazeel Asghar has said that the number of people testing positive for the novel coronavirus in the province has reduced by half as only 20% were reported to have contracted Covid-19 during the last 24 hours as against 40% due to effective implementation of the standard operating procedures (SOPs). “People of the province are aware of Covid-19 and the government has strictly implement.</td>
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#### Implementation of SOPs must be ensured in cattle market: DC Gwadar

Source: APP, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-07-08

QUETTA - Deputy Commissioner Gwadar Capt (retd) Muhammad Wasim on Tuesday said implementation of standard operating procedures (SOPs) should be ensured in the cattle market set up for Eid-ul-Adha in view of the spread of coronavirus. He has directed the Assistant Commissioners of Gwadar District and Tehsil Municipal Officers in this regard and said that the implementation of SOPs in the cattle market should be ensured at any cost. The DC sai......

#### Gilgit Baltistan

#### Polls in GB

Source: Sajjad Ahmad, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-08

GILGIT-BALTISTAN will hold elections on Aug 18, 2020, for the Legislative Assembly’s 24 constituencies. The government’s five-year term ended on June 24. The Gilgit-Baltistan Empowerment and Self-Governance Order of 2009 divides the administration of the region into the Gilgit-Baltistan Legislative Assembly and the Gilgit-Baltistan Council. The reform package grants some legislative powers to the Assembly but most of the important sub.....

#### Elections for GB Legislative Assembly set for Aug 18

Source: Jamil Nagri, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-10

GILGIT: The Gilgit-Baltistan Election Commission has decided to postpone elections for the GB Assembly till October this year, according to sources. The new schedule of the elections will be issued in a couple of days. The GB Assembly elections were scheduled for August 18. The election schedule was announced after the assembly completed its five-year tenure on June 24, after which a caretaker government was formed. However, the sources s.....

#### Islamabad

#### First ventilators production facility opened

Source: Syed Irfan Raza, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-07

ISLAMABAD: In a significant step towards making Pakistan self-reliant in production of medical equipment, Prime Minister Imran Khan inaugurated the country’s first indigenous ventilators’ manufacturing facility on Monday. Separately, the prime minister in a video conference with the director general of World Health Organisation (WHO) raised the matter of coronavirus-related travel restrictions on Pakistan and sought his cooperation i.....
2,629 Covid-19 cases, 73 deaths reported in single day
Source: Ikram Junaidi, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-07
ISLAMABAD: While the government claims it has pushed the novel coronavirus on back foot across the country and the number of cases has come down by 40 per cent, the opposition Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) on Monday doubted the government figures, saying data revealed that the number of deaths had increased. On the other hand, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Health Dr Zafar Mirza has been infected with the deadly virus. .....view more

Anti-Covid drug to be available in three weeks
Source: Nasir Iqbal, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-07
ISLAMABAD: The Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (Drap) said on Monday that remdesivir, a drug which has proved effective against coronavirus, will be available in the country within three weeks. Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Asim Rauf told Dawn that Drap, after registration of the medicine, had allowed two pharmaceutical companies to import this critical drug. The regulator has given licences to 14 manufacturers for producing the medicine a.....view more

Minister offers Comsats member countries coronavirus support
Source: Staff Report, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-07
ISLAMABAD: Minister for Science and Technology Chaudhry Fawad Hussain on Monday offered Comsats member countries and other developing nations support for their coronavirus response through expertise sharing and the provision of equipment. “Pakistan is ready to support Comsats member countries as well as other developing countries in Covid response through sharing expertise and providing PPE,” Mr Hussain said during a meeting in which.....view more

SAPM Dr Zafar Mirza tests positive for Covid-19 as tally nears 234,000
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-07-07
Prime minister’s aide Dr Zafar Mirza on Monday announced that he was isolating himself at home after testing positive for the novel coronavirus.In a tweet, the special assistant to the prime minister on health said that he was experiencing ‘mild symptoms’ and was taking all precautions. He also applauded the services of his colleagues, saying, “Keep up the good work! You are making a big difference and I am proud of you.&.....view more

All opposition MPs cured of virus
ISLAMABAD: With testing negative of coronavirus former Speaker National Sardar Ayaz Sadiq of the Pakistan Muslim League (PML-N) and Sajid Toori of the PPP, all members of the united opposition in the Parliament recovered from the virus who could not show up for the budget session of the National Assembly ended last week. The ruling PTI claimed after budget session that its ten members have been tested positive with coronavirus and they co.....view more

Fawad offers support to Comsats’ activities
Islamabad:Federal Minister for Science and Technology, Chaudhry Fawad Hussain Monday assured Pakistan"s willingness to support COMSATS member countries as well as other developing countries in COVID response through sharing expertise and providing Personal Protective Equipments (PPEs). The minister stated this during a meeting
with the Executive Director of the Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in t.... view more

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<tr>
<th>PM opens first-ever ventilator production unit</th>
<th>Source: APP, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-07-07</th>
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<td>HARIPUR: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Monday inaugurated the facility of country’s first-ever indigenously made ventilators at National Radio and Telecommunication Corporation (NRTC) in Haripur. The Prime Minister opened the project of local manufacturing of portable ventilators named ‘SafeVent SP100’, having the FDA/CE approval as economical and reliable ventilator in terms of usage and safety. Terming the occasion as &amp;lsq..... view more</td>
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<th>85 coronavirus cases reported in capital</th>
<th>Source: Sardar Sikander Shaheen/Tahir Amin, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-07-07</th>
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<td>ISLAMABAD: As many as 85 confirmed coronavirus cases were reported in the federal capital on Monday with confirmed cases in the federal capital having reached 13,494 and the total number of deaths due to coronavirus, so far, have been recorded at 137 within the jurisdiction of Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT). Earlier on Sunday, the number of confirmed coronavirus cases in Islamabad was recorded at 13,409, which jumped to 13,494 on Monday, sh..... view more</td>
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<th>Post-coronavirus scenario; ILO will convene special session tomorrow</th>
<th>Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-07-07</th>
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<td>ISLAMABAD: The International Labour Organization (ILO) will convene a special session tomorrow (Wednesday) to chalk out a strategy for the well-being of labourers in the post-coronavirus scenario, particularly in the developing countries. In a series of tweets, the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development (OP+ACY-HRD) stated that the ILO had invited Prime Minister Imran Khan to address the special session being convened..... view more</td>
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<th>Pakistan reports 2,691 COVID-19 cases in one day</th>
<th>Source: Web Desk, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-07-07</th>
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<td>Pakistan on Tuesday has confirmed 77 deaths in a single day by novel coronavirus as the number of positive cases has surged to 234,509. The nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 4,839. According to the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) 2,691 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</td>
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<th>Pandemic-hit int’l flights delay timely dispatch of mails</th>
<th>Source: APP, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-07-07</th>
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<td>ISLAMABAD - Owing to an ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the international flight operation had been badly affected which was resulting in delay in dispatching mails to different countries, said Director General (DG) Pakistan Post Muhammad Akhlaque Rana here on Monday. He said that all the postal circles and regions were directed to encourage customers to book EMS Plus, adding that EMS Plus articles were being delivered in six to seven working days. He..... view more</td>
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PM seeks WHO role for removal of Covid-19 related restrictions
Source: Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-07-07
ISLAMABAD - Prime Minister Imran Khan on Monday called upon World Health Organization (WHO) to play its role in engaging member states to remove COVID-19 related travel restrictions for Pakistan and other developing countries. Talking to Director General WHO Dr. Tedros Adhanom via video conference, the Prime Minister also stressed the need to work towards a data driven system of non-discriminatory travel rules. The Prime.....view more

Smart lockdown strategy proved effective in coping with COVID-19: Shibli
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-07-07
ISLAMABAD - The way Pakistan has addressed the COVID-19 challenge is really commendable and Pakistan is a role model in this context. Mr. Christian Turner, the British High Commissioner to Pakistan said this in a meeting with Senator Shibli Faraz, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting here on Monday. He said that effective communication and care are effective weapons in the fight against COVID-19 pandemic. Senator Shibli Faraz s.....view more

NDMA sends 10th tranche of PPEs to Punjab, Sindh
Source: Kasim Abbasi, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-07-07
ISLAMABAD - The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has sent tenth tranche of Personal Protective Equipments (PPEs) to Punjab and Sindh. Consignment has already been released to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan, Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Kashmir. The NDMA’s tenth tranche of PPE include 1,670,729 masks, 1,546,960 N-95, KN-95 and D-95 surgical masks, 13 lakh 30 thousand protective suits, 10 lakh 11 thous.....view more

Cases slow in twin cities
Source: Saleh Mughal, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-07-07
RAWALPINDI: Government officials on Monday claimed that the rate at which new novel coronavirus cases are being registered in the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi have declined. As a result, the provincial government is looking to reopen restaurants and hotels for restricted dine-in facilities later this month. According to the health department, 85 novel coronavirus (Covid-19) cases were registered in the federal capital on Monday, taki.....view more

Minister anticipates virus cases spike during Eid, Muharram
Source: Ikram Junaidi, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-08
ISLAMABAD: The federal government has provided 1,227 oxygenated beds to hospitals across the country for the patients suffering from novel corona virus. Although all data and statistics show the Covid-19 graph has started moving downwards and there is no need for further beds and equipment, the government has decided to fulfil its commitment to providing 2,100 oxygenated beds by July 31. The country reported 2,776 Covid-19 cases and 70 deaths o.....view more

New Covid-19 cases continue to drop in Islamabad
Source: Munawer Azem | Aamir Yasin, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-08
ISLAMABAD/RAWALPINDI: A further decrease was recorded in the number of Covid-19 confirmed cases as 63 people tested positive on Tuesday. Officials said out of the 63, as many as 41 were male and 22 female patients. Eight of the cases were reported from Tarlai, seven from Bhara Kahu, four each from Sihala, I-8, E-11, three each....view more
Restaurant owners demand opening of businesses
Source: Staff Report, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-08
ISLAMABAD: Restaurant owners of the twin cities have demanded the government to allow eatery businesses to operate under standard operating procedures (SOPs). Members of the hotels and business community staged a protest in front of the National Press Club (NPC) to make their demands known as they were facing losses and had been unable to meet fixed costs due to continuous closure. They said if their demands were not accepted, they would hold a......view more

President urges privileged ones to help the poor amidst COVID-19
Source: News Desk, Daily Times, 2020-07-08
President Dr. Arif Alvi has said that the affluent section of society needed to support the relief efforts of the government and help the poor families affected by COVID-19 pandemic. He said the Pandemic had brought many economic and social challenges which could be met by the joint efforts of all segments of society. The President expressed these views while talking to the CEO, Telenor Pakistan, Mr. Irfan Wahab Khan, who called on him, at Aiwan-e.....view more

‘Pandemic carries long-term economic repercussions for global economies’
Source: Staff Report, Daily Times, 2020-07-08
Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani has said that Covid-19 pandemic carries long-term economic repercussions for global economies specially the developing world and more coordinated efforts are required to overcome the diseases on one hand and work together for economies to flourish. He expressed these views in a meeting with British High Commissioner Dr. Christian Turner in Islamabad on Tuesday. He said that developed as well the developing w.....view more

Pakistan reports 77 deaths by coronavirus, 2,691 cases in a day
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-07-08
Pakistan has confirmed 77 deaths in a single day by novel coronavirus as the number of positive cases has surged to 234,509 and the nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 4,839. According to the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) 2,691 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 Pakhtunkhwa and Isla.....view more

Pakistan’s confirmed COVID-19 cases surge to 237, 489
Pakistan on Wednesday has confirmed 83 deaths in a single day by novel coronavirus as the number of positive cases has surged to 237,489. The nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 4,922. According to the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) 2,980 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 Pakhtunkhwa and Isla.....view more
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<td>Pandemic carries long term economic repercussions for global economies: Sanjrani</td>
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<td>NDMA to install 2,500 oxygen beds in hospitals</td>
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<td>Covid-19 carries long-term economic repercussions: Senate chairman</td>
<td>Our Staff Reporter, <em>The Nation, Islamabad</em></td>
<td>2020-07-08</td>
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<td>Drop in cases due to lesser testing in Islamabad: Official</td>
<td>Rahul Basharat, <em>The Nation, Islamabad</em></td>
<td>2020-07-08</td>
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<td>World leaders should devise ways to protect labourers from impacts of Covid-19: PM</td>
<td>Fahad Zulfikar, <em>Business Recorder, Islamabad</em></td>
<td>2020-07-08</td>
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<td>Strategy devised to enhance ICU beds in hospitals</td>
<td>Abdul Rasheed Azad, <em>Business Recorder, Islamabad</em></td>
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*ISLAMABAD -* Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani here on Tuesday said that COVID-19 pandemic carried long term economic repercussions for global economies specially for the developing world and more coordinated efforts were required to overcome the diseases and work together for economies to flourish. He expressed these views in a meeting with British High Commissioner Dr. Christian Turner, said a press release. He said that developed a.....

*ISLAMABAD -* The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has planned to complete the installation of 2,500 oxygen aided beds in across country hospitals by July 31. A spokesman of NDMA said the provision of more oxygen beds were part of the plan to enhance the capacity of Intensive Care Units (ICU) of the country wide hospitals. He said from out of a total of 2,500 beds, the fixture of some 1,434 oxygen supported beds had already been c.....

*ISLAMABAD -* Senate Chairman Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani has said that Covid-19 pandemic carries long-term economic repercussions for global economies specially the developing world. He further said that more coordinated efforts were required to overcome the diseases on one hand and work together for economies to flourish, said a statement issued by the Senate Secretariat. Senate chairman expressed these views in a meeting with British High Comm.....

As the federal capital observed a sharp decline in the number of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) cases, the health official said that the recent drop in cases is due to lesser involvement of people in testing. The federal capital on Tuesday observed a sharp decline in the number of positive novel coronavirus cases (COVID-19). However, the death rate again surged to three people in a day. Director General (DG) Health Services, Municipal .....

(Karachi) Prime Minister Imran Khan has said that the world leaders should devise ways to protect the vulnerable segments of the society, especially the labourers from the negative impacts of coronavirus. Addressing an online International Labour Organization (ILO) Global Summit on COVID-19 on Wednesday, he said many developing countries, including Pakistan depend upon remittances sent by the overseas workers. He said, “There is need the h.....

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has devised a strategy to enhance Intensive Care Unit (ICU) beds by 2,500 in various hospitals across the country, which would be completed in two phases by the end of July 2020. According to a spokesperson of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), the first phase of the project has been
completed on July 5, 2020, with the installation of 1,434 ICU beds, and installation of 1,066 ICU beds would be co.....view more

Covid-19 positive cases drop to 31 percent in capital
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-07-08
ISLAMABAD: Active cases of the coronavirus in the federal capital has dropped to 31 percent as out of total 13,557 confirmed cases only 4,154 are active, and the remaining 9,403 have fully recovered since the spread of Covid-19 in the country. According to official data, on Tuesday, the number of new coronavirus cases dropped to 63, the lowest in the last over two months. At least, 9,403 Covid-19 patients have recovered so far in the city, taki.....view more

All educational institutions to reopen in first week of September
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-07-08
ISLAMABAD: The provincial education ministers on Wednesday agreed to reopen all educational intuitions across the country in the first week of September. The educational institutions had been closed since March following the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic. The decision was taken during an inter-provincial education ministers’ conference was presided by Federal Minister for Education Shafqat Mahmood. All the provinces presented their op.....view more

Covid-19 boosts digital economy, e-commerce in Pakistan
Source: APP, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-07-08
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan’s e-commerce and digital economy has received a huge sales boost during the current coronavirus pandemic as physical mobility of shoppers has remained limited. In recent years, the country has made efforts to expand digitisation of its economy by promoting online businesses in a bid to boost exports and create jobs for young people, Arab News reported. “We have received an overwhelming response… our data .....view more

Start-ups hit hardest by pandemic in Pakistan
Source: APP, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-07-08
ISLAMABAD: The National Incubation Centre (NIC), in its report on “Impact of Covid-19 on Pakistani start-ups and the way forward”, highlighted that start-ups across the world were struggling to sustain themselves and Pakistan was no different. Many businesses had come to a grinding halt, some had even shut down, while most were struggling to minimise costs and keep cash in reserves, it added. According to the report, prior to the p.....view more

Imran calls for global strategy to help workers amid pandemic
Source: Syed Irfan Raza, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-09
ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan has urged the international community to devise a joint strategy to support workers and lessen the impact of novel coronavirus on the most vulnerable labour community across the world. “The most vulnerable section of society is labourers. We need a joint strategy to support labourers,” the prime minister said while addressing a virtual Global Summit on ‘Covid-19 and the World of Work’,.....view more

Schools should reopen in September, education ministers decide
Source: Kashif Abbasi, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-09
ISLAMABAD: Schools should be reopened in September subject to approval from the National Coordination Committee (NCC), provincial education ministers said on Wednesday. It was decided during the interprovincial
education ministers’ virtual conference that educational institutions will be opened in the first week of September, provided there is permission from the Ministry of National Health Services and approval from the NCC, which had pre.... view more

Education ministry refuses to open school grounds
Source: Staff Report, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-09
ISLAMABAD: Education Ministry on Wednesday rejected the proposal of opening schools grounds for walk. In response to a calling attention notice moved by two lawmakers of ruling PTI Ali Nawaz Awan and Khurram Shahzad Nawaz, Federal Education Minister Shafqat Mahmood and Parliamentary Secretary Wajiha Akram categorically said that schools grounds could not be used for public walk. The two lawmakers had sought minister’s attention regarding no.... view more

Four sub-sectors unsealed after two-week lockdown
Source: Munawer Azeem, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-09
ISLAMABAD: The capital administration on Wednesday unsealed G-6/1, G-6/2, G-7/2 and G-10/4. A notification issued by the office of the deputy commissioner said that the sub-sectors were unsealed after a detailed survey, contact tracing, group surveillance and testing of suspected Covid-19 patients. It said the reopened areas will still be regulated by prevailing section 144 orders issued on March 23 and amend from time to time. Violations of st..... view more

Millions at risk as lockdown lifted ahead of COVID-19 outbreak peak
Islamabad: Action Against Hunger has expressed strong concern about the COVID-19 related hunger threat to vulnerable populations living in countries already weakened by conflicts, climate change and poverty, and has called for immediate efforts to assist and protect populations and to encourage funding opportunities for NGOs working in the field. The region’s health crisis is quickly escalating, with more than 30,000 confirmed cases in Af..... view more

Nationwide Covid-19 cases near 240,000; 4,954 succumb to virus
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-07-09
The nationwide tally of Covid-19 patients soared to 239,596 on Wednesday, with 83,599 cases reported in Punjab, 99,362 in Sindh, 29,052 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 10,919 in Balochistan, 1,599 in Gilgit Baltistan, 13,650 in Islamabad and 1,419 in Azad Jammu and Kashmir so far. The virus has claimed at least 4,954 lives while around 140,965 coronavirus patients have recovered as yet. As many as 1,736 fresh coronavirus cases were reported in the province..... view more

Four more sub-sectors desealed
Islamabad: Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Administration announced desealing of areas, sealed after confirmation of COVID-19 positive cases in sectors G-6/2, G-6/1, G-10/4 and G-7/2. These areas were sealed after rising confirmation of COVID-19 cases in the federal capital and specifically in these sectors. With effective arrangements on part of city district administration of Islamabad, coronavirus cases has reportedly declined as on 15 Jun..... view more
NCOC forms body to prevent dis-information about Covid-19
Source: News Desk, Daily Times, 2020-07-09
The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Wednesday formed a committee under chairmanship of Interior Minister Brig (Retd) Ejaz Ahmed Shah to prevent spread of dis-information and fake news about COVID-19 pandemic on social media. The committee will prepare legal framework to prevent and counter dis-information and suggest action against those involved in spreading false information about the pandemic. Representatives of ministries of Info..... view more

FM Qureshi shoots down false reports of death
ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi rejected reports Thursday that he had died, after it emerged that changes had been made to his Wikipedia profile to say he had passed away. The foreign minister said that he was fine and on the path to recovery from the coronavirus. Earlier this month, Qureshi said he had tested positive for COVID-19 and had gone into self-isolation. The foreign minister, in a tweet, had said: “This afternoon..... view more

New Trump order
Source: Editorial, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-07-09
US President Donald Trump’s hatred of foreigners was already well known, but he now appears to be taking it to new levels. The US is now threatening to deport foreign students whose universities have shifted classes online in light of the Covid-19 coronavirus pandemic. Thus the foreign students in the US — 8,000 of whom belong to Pakistan, according to the US embassy in Islamabad — are left with the option of risking their lives..... view more

PM Imran inaugurates 250-bed health facility in Islamabad
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-07-09
ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Thursday appealed to the citizens to celebrate the upcoming festival of Eidul Azha with simplicity and in compliance with coronavirus SOPs prepared by the government. He urged the people to practice caution when sacrificing animals and in celebrating the holiday. Inaugurating an infectious disease hospital in Islamabad, PM Imran said that "we were careless on Eidul Fitr". "We didn't consi..... view more

Four virus ‘hotspots’ reopened in Islamabad
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-07-09
ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Capital Territory Administration (ICTA) on Wednesday issued directives to reopen four sub-sectors of the city after the novel coronavirus (Covid-19) cases there reportedly declined. Islamabad Deputy Commissioner (DC) Hamza Shafqat issued a notification on Wednesday to unseal Sector G-6/2, G-6/1, G-10/4, and G-7/2. These areas had been placed under a ‘smart lockdown’ on June 24. However, the DC said that th..... view more

Vulnerable labour populace; PM stresses global strategy to ‘soften’ pandemic’s impact
Source: Zaheer Abbasi, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-07-09
ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Wednesday said coronavirus pandemic had hit labourer community the most word-wide and stressed a joint global strategy to address the challenges pertaining to this highly vulnerable populace. Speaking at the virtual Global Summit on ‘COVID-19 and the World of Work’, organized by International Labour Organization, Imran Khan said lockdown in countries had left a big population jobless, most ..... view more
Covid-19 pandemic; Body formed to prevent misinformation
Source: Nuzhat Nazar, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-07-09
ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Wednesday constituted a committee to prevent misinformation regarding Covid-19 pandemic on media. The decision was taken during an NCOC meeting chaired by Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar and attended by Brig Shah, focal person for COVID-19 Dr Faisal Sultan, and other senior officials. It is decided to constitute as committee under Ministe.....view more

Coronavirus cases reach 239,225 across country
Source: Abdul Rasheed Azad, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-07-09
ISLAMABAD: The coronavirus cases in Pakistan have reached 239,225, with 4,945 deaths and 140,965 recovered, according to the latest data released by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) and the provincial health departments. The Punjab has reported 930 new Covid-19 cases, taking the provincial tally to 83,599, according to the government’s database. The province has also reported 30 additional fatalities from the virus, tak.....view more

Pakistan and Spain agree to boost mutual cooperation
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-07-09
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Spain have agreed to further increase the frequency of bilateral political exchanges at various levels with a view to enhance bilateral relations and mutual cooperation. Foreign Office said Wednesday that Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood and Spanish State Secretary for Foreign Affairs Cristina Gallach held a video conference and exchanged views on a broad range of subjects including response to Covid-19 pandemic, bila.....view more

Pakistan adopted most responsible air travel policy to contain COVID-19: Moeed
Source: Tahir Niaz, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-07-09
ISLAMABAD - Rejecting a propaganda against Pakistan, Special Assistant to Prime Minister on National Security Moeed Yusuf on Wednesday said that Pakistan have had the most responsible policy for air travel in the wake of COVID-19 outbreak. “We tested everyone that came to the country for 2 and a half months totally at our expense and never complained about positives showing up from other countries,” he said in a tweet adding he w.....view more

Pakistani researchers monitoring coronavirus structure in '100 genome project': Dr Atta-ur-Rahman
Top Pakistani scientist Dr Atta-ur-Rahman said Thursday researchers in the country were monitoring the structure of the novel coronavirus genome as part of the ‘100 genome project’, with samples taken from different patients. Dr Rahman, who also chairs Prime Minister Imran Khan's task force on science and technology, told the Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) that "scientists and researchers at Jamilur Rahman Centre for Genome .....view more

PM warns of virus spike if SOPs violated on Eid
Source: Syed Irfan Raza, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-10
ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan has warned that there could be another spike in coronavirus cases in the country if people give up efforts against the disease and violate precautionary measures on the occasion of Eidul
Azha. However, he expressed satisfaction over what he called decline in Covid-19 cases and said the “curve of viral disease is going down in the country”. “If we behave carelessly on Eid, there is fear that..... view more

Schools, varsities may reopen on Sept 15: minister
Source: Kashif Abbasi, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-10
ISLAMABAD: All educational institutions in the country will be reopened on September 15 provided the Covid-19 pandemic is brought under control by then, announced the federal education minister on Thursday. Speaking at a press conference, Shafqat Mahmood said that although all educational institutions, including universities, were slated to be reopened on Sept 15, the final decision in this regard would be taken once the relevant health indicator..... view more

SOPs finalised for cattle markets in capital
Source: Munawer Azeem, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-10
ISLAMABAD: Standard operating procedures (SOPs) have been prepared for the cattle markets to be established for Eidul Azha to check the spread of Covid-19 and Congo virus in the capital. Officials said under the SOPs, eateries and food services would not be allowed on the premises of the cattle markets. There will also be a ban on sanitisation tunnels to disinfect visitors in the markets. Besides, children and senior citizens will not be allowe..... view more

Nationwide Covid-19 death toll crosses 5,000 mark
Source: Agencies, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-10
The nationwide tally of Covid-19 patients soared to 242,740 on Wednesday, with 84,587 cases reported in Punjab, 100,900 in Sindh, 29,406 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 11,052 in Balochistan, 1,605 in Gilgit Baltistan, 13,771 in Islamabad and 1,459 in Azad Jammu and Kashmir so far. The virus has claimed at least 5,032 lives while around 145,311 coronavirus patients have recovered as yet. On Thursday, Sindh’s tally crossed the 100,000 mark after the p..... view more

NCOC contributing 'greatly' in controlling coronavirus: Chinese ambassador
The National Command and Control Centre has played a great role in curbing coronavirus in the country, Chinese ambassador to Pakistan Yao Jing said Thursday. "Commanding system of NCOC is contributing greatly for the prevention and control of this terrible virus," Jing said in a video message after attending the inauguration ceremony of the Isolation Hospital and Infections Treatment Centre in Islamabad. Spread over 40-Kanal la..... view more

Survey of coronavirus-tested people launched
Islamabad : Pakistan Islamic Medical Association (PIMA), National Institute of Health (NIH) and Health Research Advisory Board (HealthRab) have jointly launched a national survey of people tested for the coronavirus in Pakistan aimed to build ‘confirmative database’ of the pandemic in the country, leading to immediate and drastic measures while helping the decision-makers to devise strategy in line with trends and numbers. PIMA Presi..... view more
**SOPs issued for cattle markets to prevent COVID-19, Congo spread**
Islamabad : The district magistrate, Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) has issued Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for trading and transportation in cattle markets across the federal capital in wake of COVID-19 pandemic and Congo spread. Metropolitan Corporation, Islamabad (MCI), District Administration, health department, Ministry of Health Services Regulation and Coordination, was taking necessary measures to prevent and control spread of COVID-19.

**RAI hands over relief goods to health department**
Islamabad : Rabta-e-Alam-e-Islami (RAI) handed over relief goods to health department Rawalpindi, including equipment's for corona patients like oxygen cylinders, ECG machines, oxymeters, nebulisers and safety kits for medical staff, says a press release. All these goods were handed over to health department officials in a ceremony. In which Saudi Ambassador Nawaf bin Saeed Al-Malki and PGTF President Dr. Jamal Nasir, specially participated.

**Pakistan becomes 11th most affected country from COVID-19**
Pakistan became the 11th worst-affected country hit by the coronavirus after it overtook Italy in the number of COVID-19 cases reported, showed data from the John Hopkins University on Friday. According to the NCOC, the number of positive cases in the country jumped to 243,599 after 2,751 cases were reported on Thursday. On the other hand, Italy’s positive cases stand at 242,363 as per data from the university's resource center.

**No DRAP nod for Covid-19 vaccine trials**
Source: APP, *The Express Tribune, Islamabad*, 2020-07-10
SLAMABAD: Renowned scientist and PM’s Task Force on Science and Technology Dr Attaur Rahman on Thursday said Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) needs to take emergency measures regarding approval of conducting clinical trials of an internationally recognised vaccine for Covid-19 in Pakistan. "The application for conducting clinical trials of this vaccine produced by a well acclaimed international company was submitted to DRAP, it needs to be approved on emergency basis," said Rahman.

**Only three public holidays on this Eidul Azha amidst COVID-19**
Source: INP, *Daily Times*, 2020-07-10
Amid coronavirus situation, the federal government has decided to give only three Eidul Azha public holidays, sources said on Thursday. The official sources claimed Eidul Azha is likely to be on Friday (July 31) this year and it has been decided to implement SOPs amid three holidays including Eid day (Friday) and on Saturday and Sunday to prevent coronavirus spread. "No additional holidays will be given to prevent unnecessary travelling that....."

**Infinix joins hands with DOW to further fight against COVID-19**
Source: News Desk, *Daily Times*, 2020-07-10
Taking the lead in ensuring the safety of the masses with their CSR initiative, Infinix, a globally acclaimed smartphone brand, has joined hands with DOW, one of the leading health institutes in the country fighting on the frontlines against COVID-19. In an activity that took place at DOW today, the smartphone manufacturers have announced a donation of 40,000 masks to DOW medical institute to play its part with small steps that will help reach them.
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<td>Imran inaugurates 250-bed hospital</td>
<td>Zaheer Abbasi, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-07-10</td>
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<td>COVID-19 cases surge to 243,599 in Pakistan</td>
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<td>ICT issues SOPs for cattle markets to prevent spread of COVID-19</td>
<td>Tahir Niaz, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-07-10</td>
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The first virtual meeting of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) on COVID 19 outbreak was held on Thursday. Members from Pakistan who participated in the meeting included Senator Nuzhat Sadiq, Senator Muhammad Ali Khan Saif and Senator Zeeshan Khanzada. The meeting was co-hosted by the Grand National Assembly of Turkey and the Asian Parliamentary Assembly. It focused on best practices to suppress the pandemic and restart the economy of the region.

Prime Minister Imran Khan inaugurated 250-bed Isolation Hospital and Infectious Treatment Centre for coronavirus patients in the federal capital on Thursday along with Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa and the Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan. Speaking to media persons, later on, the prime minister underlined the need and urged the entire nation to celebrate Eidul Azha with simplicity, and observing standard operating procedure.

Pakistan has reported 3,070 coronavirus cases during the past 24 hours, which took the national toll to 242,740 cases, of which 5,024 deaths and 145,311 recoveries, national and provincial health authorities reported on Thursday. According to data released by the provincial authorities here, the country lost 79 lives during the past 24 hours, which took the national tally to 5,024. The government of Sindh reported 40 deaths.

Pakistan on Friday has confirmed 75 deaths in a single day by novel coronavirus as the number of positive cases has surged to 243,599. The nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 5,058. According to the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) 2,751 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 Pakhto.

Capital Territory (ICT) administration has issued Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the cattle markets opened in the city to prevent spread of communicable diseases such as COVID-19. According to details, Metropolitan Corporation Islamabad, the district administration, District Health Office, Ministry of Health Services Regulation and Coordination, Islamabad have finalized the SOPs to prevent and control spread of these contagious diseases.
Khabar Pakhtunkhwa

Number of hospitalised Covid-19 patients declines in KP
Source: Ashfaq Yusufzai, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-07
PESHAWAR: The number of Covid-19 patients visiting public sector hospitals for admission declined in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa during the last one week, according to a report of World Health Organisation. On June 30, the total number of admitted patients was 907 and 362 of them were stable, 442 were critical, 83 were on ventilators while 11,667 were in isolation in home or elsewhere. On July 6, the number of admitted patients dropped to 495 and 151 of.......

People becoming wary of smart lockdown
Source: Ashfaq Yusufzai, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-08
PESHAWAR: The people are becoming wary of smart lockdown imposed by the district administration in hotbeds of coronavirus amid the government’s claims that number of Covid-19 cases has drastically come down due to the new strategy, according to sources. There has been a sharp decrease in number of new infections but the number of tests has also registered a decrease, according to doctors. “The transition from lockdown to smart or mi.....

Bodies of 14 more expats reach home
Source: Bureau Report, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-08
PESHAWAR: Adviser to the chief minister on information Ajmal Wazir on Tuesday said bodies of 14 more overseas Pakistanis had reached the country taking the overall tally of such deceased to 78. He told reporters during a visit to the Bacha Khan International Airport here that 24,785 Pakistanis had so far landed in Peshawar from abroad through 162 flights, while 2,754 passengers flew to different countries from there. Airport manager Ubaidur Reh.....

Nowshera reports 48th fatality from Covid-19
NOWSHERA: Another man lost life to Covid-19 in Nowshera on Tuesday, which brought the total number of the fatalities in the district from the viral infection to 48, officials said. District Health Officer Dr Gul Man Shah and District Coronavirus Control Centre In-charge Dr Saeed Khan told the media the new victim was Inayatullah, 70, a resident of the Akora Khattak town of Nowshera. The officials said apart from 48 people who died in the dis.....

Adviser says 24,785 passengers arrived at Peshawar airport
PESHAWAR: Adviser to Chief Minister on Information and Public Relations Ajmal Wazir on Tuesday said around 24,785 passengers arrived in the country through the Bacha Khan International Airport on 162 flights. He was talking to reporters during his visit to Bacha Khan International Airport where he was briefed by Airport Manager Ubaid-ur-Rahman Abbasi about the arrangements being made for the arrival and departure of passengers in the wake of the.....

KP Health dept gets 2,016 corona kits
PESHAWAR: The Sarhad Rural Support Programme (SRSP) has handed over 2,016 corona testing kits to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Health Taimur Salim Jhagra. A communique said that the SRSP gave the testing kits to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Health Department with the financial assistance of PATRIP Foundation. The Health Department......
was also handed over 2,010 swabs and 800 personal protective equipment worth Rs12.91 million. The director
general He.....view more

LRH launches project to increase beds for COVID-19 patients by 3pc
Source: APP, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-07-08
PESHAWAR - The Lady Reading Hospital (LRH) Peshawar has launched a mega project to increase beds for
coronavirus patients by three percent, computerize record of patients and provide online advice to ailing people of
the remote areas by specialists doctors. Under the project, extensive training to doctors, nurses and paramedics
would be provided against COVID-19, officials in LRH told APP on Tuesday. The computerization of patients record
w.....view more

Nearly 1m people under ‘smart lockdown’ in K-P
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-07-08
PESHAWAR: At least 0.8 million people in the province cannot move about after their neighbourhoods were included
in the ‘smart lockdown’ zones to curb the spread of the novel coronavirus, a top government aide said on Tuesday.
He added that these lockdowns, which target virus hotspots, have helped lower the number of virus cases, especially
the ratio of active cases and fatalities. This was claimed by the Adviser to the Khyber-Pakht.....view more

Another doctor dies of corona
ABBOTTABAD: Another doctor died of Covid-19 in the ICU of Ayub Teaching Hospital here on Wednesday. District
Health Officer Abbottabad Dr Faisal Khanzada confirmed to The News that Dr Faisal Qureshi had died in ATH. He
was admitted to the hospital two weeks back. The DHO said the doctor had got infected from his clinic at Havelian,
which was later sealed by the local administration. Dr Faisal Qureshi had been working as a medical officer in Dist.....view more

Another 18 test positive for Covid-19 in Nowshera
NOWSHERA: Another 18 people tested positive for coronavirus on Wednesday which put the number of those
affected by the viral infection at 838 in the Nowshera district. District Health Officer Dr Gul Manshah and Dr Saeed
Khan, District Coronavirus Control Centre In-Charge, said 37 more people recovered from Covid-19 in the district and
this made the tally of the recovered patients 668. The health officials said as many as 2834 people had been tes.....view more

Death toll from virus reaches 1,063 in KP
Source: Staff Report, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-10
PESHAWAR: Death toll from Covid-19 reached 1,063 as nine more passed away due to the infection in Khyber
Pakhtunkhwa on Thursday. The province also recorded 354 new confirmed cases, taking the total to 29,406. Of the
dead, three belonged to Kohat, two Peshawar, and one each Malakand, Abbottabad, Mansehra and Haripur,
according to a report released by the health department. It said that 712 patients recovered from Covid-19 in the last
24 hours,.....view more
CM promises to increase capacity of hospitals
Source: Bureau Report, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-10
PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Mahmood Khan has inaugurated the first Covid-19 hospital to provide specialised treatment facilities to the patients affected by coronavirus in the province. “The 58-bed hospital, to be enhanced to 110 beds in a month, has 37 isolation beds, 16 high dependency beds and five intestine care beds. It has three specialists, 16 medical officers, 24 nurses, 37 technicians and 50 support staff,” the chief minister t.....view more

To fight Covid-19 pandemic: SRSP hands over Rs3.4m protective kits to health dept
CHITRAL: The Sarhad Rural Support Programme (SRSP) with cooperation of Partrip Foundation on Thursday handed over equipment worth Rs3.4 million to the health department under its ‘emergency plan’ to tackle coronavirus pandemic. The safety gears were given to the district health authorities at a ceremony held at the lawn of District Headquarters Hospital, Chitral. They included cover-all suits, face sheds, surgical KN95 masks, surgica.....view more

Afghan refugees seek relief over Covid-19 pandemic
PESHAWAR: Afghan refugees in Pakistan have asked the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and other donor agencies to announce special package for those dislocated people who have been either infected with Covid-19 or have died of the virus in Pakistan and elsewhere in the world. “Unlike permanent citizens, the Afghan refugees who had become victims of coronavirus in Pakistan have neither special package or compensa.....view more

HMC takes lead in handling coronavirus pandemic professionally
PESHAWAR: In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the Hayatabad Medical Complex (HMC) is stated to be the first public sector hospital that didn’t wait for the government and initiated efforts to professionally handle the Covid-19 pandemic and now become the first tertiary care hospital to make a post-covid plan and resume elective services. Also, keeping in view the official data of covid patients, there is a decline noted in the number of patients.....view more

998 virus patients recover in Mardan
Source: APP, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-07-10
PESHAWAR - As many as 998 patients of the coronavirus have so far recovered in Mardan district while 95 others are under-treatment at different hospitals. The latest data issued by the office of Deputy Commissioner here on Thursday revealed that 26 more patients had defeated the virus during the last 24 hours, raising the total number of patients recovering in the district to 998. A total of 1,152 cases were reported in Mardan since the outbreak .....view more
Punjab

BISEs suggest students promotion formula
Source: Majeed Gill, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-07
BAHAWALPUR: A committee of the chairmen of intermediate boards in Punjab has submitted recommendations to the government for the promotion of students of classes IX and XI to next grades across the province. This was stated by Dr Muhammad Mazhar Saeed, the chairman of the Bahawalpur Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BISE), on Monday. Talking to Dawn, he said it was expected that the Punjab government would approve these recommendations.

Admin gives Covid surveillance teams the cold shoulder
Source: Fareedullah Chaudhary, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-07
LAYYAH: The health department and the district administration organised a ceremony to acknowledge the services of the workers who worked hard during the crisis situation in the wake of the coronavirus outbreak by giving them commendation certificates; however, they ignored the surveillance teams that worked round the clock to trace and track the Covid patients in the area. In a ceremony held on Sunday, the health department, Deputy Commissioner... view more

Covid-19 claims 13 more lives in Punjab
Source: Staff Report, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-07
LAHORE: As many as 13 more patients died of Covid-19 across the province during the last 24 hours, taking the death toll to 1,884 in Punjab so far. Similarly, the total number of the confirmed cases of the virus reached 81,963 in Punjab after 646 more tested positive for the virus during the same period. Of them, 334 were reported from Lahore, 40 from Rawalpindi, 37 from Faisalabad and 32 from Multan, according to the official figures released.

10,519 Actemra injections in stock, Drap tells court
Source: Staff Report, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-07
LAHORE: The Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (Drap) has informed the Lahore High Court that there are 10,519 Actemra injections available in the country for Covid-19 patients. In a report filed after a petition questioned shortage of the lifesaving injection, the authority stated that before the pandemic broke out, the consumption of Actemra injection in the country was 400 per month and sufficient stock was available. However, it said, af... view more

18 shops sealed for violating SOPs
Source: Staff Report, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-07
RAWALPINDI: The district administration on Monday sealed 18 shops and markets, besides imposing a fine of Rs27,000 for violating SOPs for prevention of Covid-19. Besides, the local police have arrested as many as 45 violators of government ban on gathering in Airport and Westridge police areas. The Airport police arrested 35 people in a raid on a club where they gathered for smoking ‘sheesha’. The Westridge police arrested 10 peopl... view more

Two more cases of Covid-linked rare syndrome emerge at Lahore hospital
Source: DNA, Daily Times, 2020-07-07
Two more cases of Kawasaki syndrome believed to be found among children infected with Covid-19 have surfaced in Lahore, taking the tally of such cases reported so far at Children Hospital Lahore to six. Prof Dr Masood Sadiq, the hospital's dean, said cases of the Kawasaki disease are being diagnosed among the children recovering from the novel coronavirus. Three children have been diagnosed as being afflicted with the rare disease in two day... view more
Four more die of COVID-19, 116 test positive, 354
Rawalpindi: Coronavirus illness, COVID-19 claimed another four lives here in the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi in last 24 hours taking death toll from the region to 382 while as many as 116 new patients have been tested positive for the illness in the twin cities however the number of patients recovered from the disease in last 24 hours remained significantly high. Data collected by ‘The News’ on Monday reveals that a t.... view more

‘Smart Lockdown’ lifted from all areas in city
Rawalpindi: The local administration has lifted ‘Smart Lockdown’ from all areas in garrison city here on Monday. The officials of local management with the help of police removed barbed wires and barricades from all localities. The administration has issued a notification to open Khayaban-e-Sir Syed, Dhoke Ali Akbar, Takhat Pari, Morgha, Kotha Kalan, Barra Market, Narnkari Bazaar and Gulzar-e-Quaid. Similarly, the administration, fiv..... view more

Coronavirus claims 19 lives in Mianwali
MIANWALI: Coronavirus cases reached 365 in the district on Monday. Briefing the commissioner during a meeting at the DC office, District Health Officer preventive services Dr Kashif Ali said confirmed cases of Covid-19 are 365 and 19 people have died of the virus and 283 had been recovered so far. Six POs held: Police Monday claimed to have arrested 23 people, including 6 proclaimed offenders (POs) and recovered cash, narcotics and weapons from ..... view more

Afridi lauds role of Tiger Force in implementation of SOPs
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-07-07
RAWALPINDI: - Minister of State for Safron and Narcotics Control Shehryar Khan Afridi on Monday lauded the performance of the prime minister’s Tiger Force volunteers and said they were playing an active role in ensuring implementation on Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to prevent spread of the coronavirus. Addressing the oath-taking ceremony of the Tiger Force volunteers of Rawalpindi Cantonment Circle here at Rawalpindi Arts Coun..... view more

Pakistani scientists find method to prevent future outbreak of coronavirus
Source: Muhammad Irtaza, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-07-07
MULTAN - Utilising polio environment surveillance network, a team of Pakistani scientists from the National Institute of Health (NIH) Islamabad has detected SARs-CoV-2 (COVID-19) in wastewater, saying this method can be used as an early warning system to prevent any future outbreak, The Nation has learnt. The researchers, led by Dr Salman Sharif, conducted the study titled, “Detection of SARS-Coronavirus-2 in wastewater, using the exist..... view more

As Covid tests in Punjab decline 30pc, senior doctors claim virus peaked in June
Source: Asif Chaudhry, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-08
LAHORE: The number of tests conducted for coronavirus has witnessed a 30 per cent decline in Punjab during the supposed peak of the virus, triggering a controversy regarding its reasons and public reservations that the government has deliberately reduced the tests. Mayo Hospital Chief Executive Prof Dr Asad Aslam, who is leading the Covid-19
Another 4 deaths, 88 new cases from twin cities

Rawalpindi : Coronavirus illness, COVID-19 continues to claim significant number of lives every day here in the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi though the number of patients being tested positive has started showing consistent downward trend as another four patients died of the illness in the region in last 24 hours. Data collected by ‘The News’ has revealed that only 88 new patients were tested positive from the twin cities.....view more

Civil Defence vigilant against COVID-19

Rawalpindi: District Officer Civil Defence Talib Hussain has said that teams of District Civil Defence volunteers are vigilant for anti Covid-19 activities. Giving details about the working of Civil Defence office Rawalpindi, he said that under the directives of Deputy Commissioner Rawalpindi Capt. (r) Anwar ul Haq, Civil Defence volunteers had been deployed in lock down areas and other localities to take part in corona virus preventive act.....view more

Hairdressers violate SOPs

Rawalpindi : The majority of hairdressers in the city are making mockery of the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) introduced by the Punjab government so they may become a tool to spread coronavirus among the people. When hairdressers and barbers were allowed to run their shops they were given SOPs and warned that in case of violation they would be fined and stopped from doing business. Ayaz Bhatti, a resident of New Katarian, said when he vis.....view more

Out of 24,577 corona tests, only 2,691 reported positive

Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-07-08
LAHORE - The positive coronavirus cases have decreased substantially across the country. According to officials, 24,577 corona tests were carried out during the last 24 hours out of which some 2,691 new positive cases were reported during the last twenty-four hours, taking the tally to 234,509 The COVID-19 recoveries in Pakistan reached 134, 957 on Tuesday. These include 82,669 in Punjab, 96,236 in Sindh, 28236 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 10841in.....view more

ACS pays tribute to medical staff

Source: APP, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-07-08
MUZAFFARGARH - Additional Chief Secretary(ACS) South Punjab, Zahid Akhtar Zaman on Tuesday paid rich tribute to medical gear working as frontline force against Coronovirus. During his visit to Recep Tayyip Erdogan Hospital here, ACS Zahid said nation salutes to its heroes for zeal and zest they showed in fighting global pandemic. “Doctors, nurses and paramedics are performing their duties with commitment and high spirit to fight COVI.....view more
Pakistan facing economic challenge due to corona: Governor
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-07-08
LAHORE—Provincial Ministers Ansar Majeed Niazi and Hafiz Mumtaz Ahmed called on Governor Punjab Chaudhry Muhammad Sarwar here on Tuesday, while Governor Punjab also approved the names of two Syndicate members of University of Education Lahore. According to details, Punjab Minister for Labour Ansar Majeed Niazi, Provincial Minister for Excise Hafiz Mumtaz Ahmed and Parliamentary Secretary Adil Pervez called on Governor Punjab Chaudhry Muhammad.....view more

COVID-19 under control due to govt’s effective policies: Aleem
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-07-08
LAHORE—Punjab Senior Minister Abdul Aleem Khan on Tuesday said that due to effective policies of the government the situation of the coronavirus pandemic in the country was under control. He said that Pakistan remained a relatively safe and better country than the rest of the world. In a tweet on Tuesday, Senior Minister Abdul Aleem Khan said that Prime Minister Imran Khan had taken effective steps to control the pandemic, adding that various.....view more

Week-long lockdown to be imposed in more areas of Lahore
Source: Aisha Mahmood, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-07-08
The district administration of Lahore announced on Wednesday that seven more areas in the city will be put under lockdown. The administration announced that a week-long lockdown will be imposed in these areas where the cases have increased. The deputy commissioner said the decision was taken after 877 coronavirus cases were reported from these areas, local media reported. The lockdown will start from tonight. Punjab reports highest number of.....view more

Alhamra centre plans online classes
Source: APP, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-07-08
LAHORE: Lahore Arts Council (LAC) Executive Director Saman Rai has announced a plan to launch online classes in all fields of arts. The executive director presided over a meeting with the teachers of the Alhamra Academy of Performing Arts regarding launch of online classes on Tuesday. According to a spokesperson, the teachers briefed Rai about the status of classes in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic. After a discussion, the executive director.....view more

Chinese pledge to cooperate with security agencies
Source: Staff Report, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-09
LAHORE: The Primary Joint Working Group (PJWG) on Chinese Security at a meeting on Wednesday decided that the Chinese Consulate would ensure that their nationals extend cooperation to law enforcement agencies in security measures, besides complying with the coronavirus SOPs and security protocols. The PJWG meeting chaired by Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Momin Agha discussed various steps to improve the security of Chinese nationals working.....view more

Man files $20bn damages suit against US for ‘Covid outbreak’
Source: Staff Report, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-09
LAHORE: A civil court has issued notices to US embassy in Pakistan and others on a $20 billion damages suit filed by a citizen who recovered from Covid-19 pandemic. The plaintiff, Raza Ali, alleged in his suit that United States was responsible for the losses suffered by him and the country due to coronavirus as the country was behind unchecked
spread of the pandemic. Besides the US embassy, US consul general in Lahore, US secretary of defence …..view more

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<td>Seven new city areas under ‘smart lockdown’</td>
<td>Staff Report, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-09</td>
<td>LAHORE: Keeping in view rising number of new Covid-19 cases, the city district administration on Wednesday decided to place seven new areas under “smart lockdown” till July 15. Following the decision, the police closed down entry and exit points in these areas, restricting mobility of the residents. The areas where lockdown was imposed from 12 midnight (Thursday) are: Township (A2 sector), EME Society-DHA (complete), Wapda Town (com.....view more</td>
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<td>Webinar calls for exploring new ways to support arts</td>
<td>Staff Report, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-09</td>
<td>LAHORE: The UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco) Pakistan on Wednesday hosted the second session of a webinar on the impact of Covid-19 on arts and craft in Pakistan. ResiliArt is a global movement, initiated by Unesco at the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic. It is built around a series of virtual debates with experienced professionals in the creative and cultural industries to raise awareness about the devastating imp.....view more</td>
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<td>No death due to corona in last 24 hours</td>
<td>Muhammad Qasim, The News, International, 2020-07-09</td>
<td>Rawalpindi : Coronavirus illness, COVID-19 did not claim any life here in the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi in last 24 hours however significantly higher number of patients were tested positive for the disease once again on Wednesday as the twin cities reported 171 cases in a day. It is only for the third time in last 45 days that the population in the region witnessed a day without reporting of a death due to the illness that has alre.....view more</td>
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<td>Smart lockdown in 7 more areas</td>
<td>Sabah, The News, International, 2020-07-09</td>
<td>The district administration has decided to seal seven more areas in Lahore under the government’s smart lockdown policy to tackle the rising cases of COVID-19. The district administration has decided to seal more coronavirus hotspots in Lahore to prevent further spread of the virus. The areas that will be sealed after 12.00AM on Wednesday night include Wapda Town, EME, Green Town and Chungi Amar Sadhu Main Bazar. There will be a selective .....view more</td>
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<td>1,036 patients recover in 24 hours</td>
<td>Our Correspondent, The News, International, 2020-07-09</td>
<td>LAHORE:Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department and Specialised Healthcare and Medical Education Department released the data and statistics of facilities including treatment, high dependency units, isolation wards and ventilators available in all hospitals on directives from Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid here on Wednesday. As per the latest data, 47,284 patients have recovered from government hospitals and returned homes whereas in the la.....view more</td>
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COVID-19: Pakistani citizen files $20b suit against US for damages  
LAHORE: A COVID-19 recovered Pakistani citizen has filed a damages suit worth 20 billion dollars against the United States of America for the losses suffered by him and Pakistan due to the coronavirus pandemic alleging that the US was behind the unchecked spread of the COVID-19 under the rule of President Donald J. Trump. The plaintiff said that as the leader of the free world and sole superpower, the US had the moral as well as physical obligat.....view more

Covid-19 impact on arts, cultural events highlighted  
LAHORE: ResiliArt is a global movement initiated by Unesco at the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic. The movement is built around a series of virtual debates with experienced professionals in the creative and cultural industries to raise awareness of the devastating impact of this global health crisis on arts and culture around the world. The second session of ResiliArt Pakistan was held here on Wednesday and it focused on the impact of Covid-19.....view more

Webinar held on Digital Education during pandemic at UoS  
SARGODHA: Universities around the world are under immense pressure on connectivity, continuity, excellence, equity and the quality of education in online learning process. Radical transformation of the education system would be the only way out to provide, maintain and ensure the quality of education in this new landscape. The policymakers have to think about strategically utilising and allocating resources in a manner that allows smaller insti.....view more

Shrinking GDP, growing poverty; Experts for countering impact of coronavirus on economy  
Source: Hassan Abbas, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-07-09  
LAHORE: During the three-month lockdown due to the coronavirus Pakistan's annual GDP growth for the calendar year 2020 is expected to contract by 3.2pc and job losses is estimated at 1.6 million. These were the findings made in the study on “Immediate policy for countering the impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic on Pakistan’s economy must focus on Poverty” conducted by Lahore School of Economics Modelling Lab Innovatio.....view more

12 more persons tested COVID-19 positive in Attock Share:  
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-07-09  
ATTOCK - There is an uninterrupted spike in novel coronavirus cases in Attock as 12 more persons were tested positive including a frontline health worker, a female doctor working in health department, health department officials told on Wednesday. With the appearance of 12 new cases of novel coronavirus during the last 24 hours in Attock district, the number of confirmed cases increased to 478. The district focal person for COVID-19 Dr Asif Arbab.....view more

Punjab reports 26 more virus fatalities  
Source: Staff Report, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-10  
LAHORE: With 26 more deaths during the last 24 hours and 966 new corona cases reported in Punjab on Thursday, the total number of deaths has reached 1,955, with 84,587 patients, says primary and secondary healthcare department. Lahore is still leading the way with 466 new cases, with Faisalabad reporting 73 patients, Multan 13,
Rawalpindi 63, Sargodha 33 and Sheikhupura and Gujranwala 22 each. According to the primary and secondary healthcare, 9.....view more

Schools demand relief package
Source: Staff Report, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-10
LAHORE: The Serving School Association of Pakistan (SSAP) on Thursday demanded a relief package in the wake of the closure after the announcement of the schools reopening on Sept 15. SSAP President Mian Raza Rehman praised the government decision to open schools in September and said they were ready to cooperate with the government. He said they would ensure implementation of the coronavirus pandemic related SOPs as the closure of schools was .....view more

PRCS to help Covid-hit journalists, paramedics, artists and have-nots
Source: Staff Report, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-10
LAHORE: Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) Chairman Abrarul Haq on Thursday announced a cash assistance package for journalists, paramedics, orphans, widows, people with special needs, artists and daily wagers affected by coronavirus pandemic across the country. He was addressing a press conference along with PRCS Secretary General Khalid Bin Majeed here at a local hotel on Thursday. He said that healthcare workers and journalists have been i.....view more

60pc of beds for Covid-19 patients in Pindi hospitals vacant: commissioner
Source: Aamir Yasin | Munawer Azeem, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-10
RAWALPINDI: There were 47 more cases of Covid-19 reported in Rawalpindi on Thursday, along with two deaths and no recoveries. The number of new cases reported daily has been falling in the city, and 60pc of the beds allocated for Covid-19 patients in government hospitals are empty. But doctors at Rawalpindi hospitals have said that testing has slowed down in Rawalpindi, as the provincial government has not increased the daily testing capacity f.....view more

Four deaths, 121 more test positive
Rawalpindi: Another four confirmed patients of the disease caused by 2019 novel coronavirus, COVID-19 lost their lives here in the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi in last 24 hours taking death toll from the region to 390 while another 121 patients have been tested positive for the illness in the region taking total number of confirmed patients so far reported from the region to 19270. According to district health department Rawalpindi, .....view more

PRCS package for corona victims
LAHORE: Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) Chairman Abrar ul Haq on Thursday announced a cash assistance package for journalists, paramedics, orphans, widows, special persons, artists and daily wagers affected by coronavirus pandemic across the country. Addressing a press conference along with PRCS Secretary General Khalid Bin Majeed here at a local hotel, Abrar ul Haq said that healthcare workers and journalists have been in the forefront of f.....view more
Four more die of COVID-19, another 121 test positive in twin cities
Rawalpindi: Another four confirmed patients of the disease caused by 2019 novel coronavirus, COVID-19 lost their lives here in the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi in last 24 hours taking death toll from the region to 390 while another 121 patients have been tested positive for the illness in the region taking total number of confirmed patients so far reported from the region to 19270. According to district health department Rawalpindi, tw.....view more

‘Sept 15 tentative date for schools reopening’
LAHORE: Punjab School Education Minister Dr Murad Raas has announced that September 15 is a tentative date for reopening of public and private schools across the province. The minister said that conditions of Covid-19 in Punjab were being monitored on daily and weekly basis by School Education Department and added the schools would only open with favourable conditions while strict SOPs would be followed once schools reopen. .....view more

‘Immediate policy for countering impact of COVID-19 must focus on poverty’
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-07-10
We have made a quarterly update of the estimated impact of the Coronavirus pandemic on Pakistan’s GDP and employment. Using a General Equilibrium Macro (GEM) model for the Pakistan economy developed at the Lahore School of Economics. For a three-month lockdown scenario, for March to May 2020, annual GDP growth for the calendar year 2020 is now expected to contract by 3.2%. Annual job loss over 2020, is now estimated at 1.6 million. With the ma.....view more

Punjab CM reviews steps to curb Covid-19
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-07-10
LAHORE: The Punjab government by undertaking effective measures has curbed the spread of corona pandemic to a great extent and 51,450 patients have been recovered from coronavirus up till July 9, in Punjab. Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar while presiding over meeting here Thursday apprised that 564,893 record corona tests have been conducted in Punjab and 9,587 corona tests have been conducted in the past 24 hours. He highlighted t.....view more

PRCS announces relief package for pandemic-hit people
Source: Iqtidar Gilani, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-07-10
LAHORE - Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) Chairman Abrarul Haq on Thursday announced a relief package for those affected by the lockdown, including journalists, doctors, paramedics, orphans, widows, special persons, artists and daily wagers. Addressing a press conference here at a local hotel along with PRCS Secretary General Khalid Bin Majeed, he said that healthcare workers and journalists had been on the forefront in fight against Cov.....view more

Centre to check fake news about virus on social media
Source: News Desk, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-07-10
LAHORE - The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) has formed a committee led by Interior Minister Brig (retired) Ijaz Ahmed Shah to prevent spread of disinformation and fake news about COVID-19 pandemic on social media. The decision was taken in a meeting of the National Command and Operation Centre with Minister for Planning
and Development, Asad Umar in the chair. The committee will prepare legal framework to prevent and counter disi......view more

**SOPs be strictly implemented to curb spread of corona: Sarwar**  
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-07-10  
LAHORE - Governor Punjab Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar while initiating the distribution of face shields against corona among the school students with the help of philanthropists said that SOPs must be strictly implemented 100% to curb the spread of corona from cattle markets or else the results can be devastating. If the country and the economy become strong then 220 million Pakistanis will be strong. He was addressing a function at Governor Ho......view more

**Sindh**

**Covid-19 claims 46 more lives: Murad**  
Source: Staff Report, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-07  
KARACHI: Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Monday said that overnight Covid-19 claimed 46 more lives and infected 1,708 lifting the death toll to 1,572 and the tally of cases to 96,236. In a statement issued here from CM House, he said that 46 more patients lost their lives while struggling against coronavirus lifting the death toll to 1,572 that constituted 1.6 per cent death rate. He added that 1,708 new cases emerged when 12,479 samples .....view more

**LCCI members, marriage hall owners ask govt to let them operate under SOPs**  
Source: Jamal Dawoodpoto, Daily Times, 2020-07-07  
Larkana Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) and All Marriage Halls Association (AMHA) have demanded of the provincial government to allow them to open their business under SOPs which have remained closed since past four months in compliance with the provincial government directives. They further demanded the opening of movie and photography shops, echo sound, beauty parlours and flower decoration shops which are related to their trade. In th.....view more

**46 more die as another 1,708 test positive for coronavirus in Sindh**  
Forty-six more people have died due to COVID-19 and another 1,708 cases have been reported during the past 24 hours in Sindh, with the death toll due to the viral disease reaching 1,572 in the province. Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said in his daily situation report on the health emergency on Monday that 12,479 samples were tested in the past 24 hours, resulting in 1,708 people, or 14 per cent of those who were screened, being diagn.....view more

**Covid-19 claims 46 more lives, infects 1,572 overnight: CM**  
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-07-07  
KARACHI: Covid-19 has claimed 46 more lives and infected 1708 overnight lifting the death toll to 1572 and tally of the cases to 96236. In a statement issued here from the CM House, the chief minister said 46 more patients lost their lives while struggling against coronavirus lifting the death toll to 1,572 that constituted 1.6 percent death rate. He added that 1,708 new cases emerged when 12,479 samples were tested which constituted 14 perc......view more
**SHC stresses need for e-library**
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-07-07
KARACHI: The Covid-19 pandemic has made the need of e-library (e-education) more viable, the Sindh High Court (SHC) has observed. According to a written order of the court, secretary of culture department contended that after direction by this court, funds of 20 million rupees were allocated and released for enhancing the capacity of the Daudpota Library in Hyderabad, but this amount was frozen by the finance department due to Covid-19 pandemic.

**Virus claims 46 more lives, infects 1,708 others in Sindh: CM**
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-07-07
KARACHI - Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that COVID-19 has claimed 46 more lives overnight while infected 1,708 others. In a statement issued here from the CM House on Monday, the chief minister said that 46 more patients lost their lives while struggling against the coronavirus, lifting the death toll to 1,572 that showed 1.6 percent death rate. He added that 1,708 new cases were also reported when 12,479 samples were tested.

**Murtaza Wahab recovers from coronavirus infection**
Source: Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-07-07
Karachi - Sindh government spokesman Murtaza Wahab has fully recovered from the coronavirus infection. Wahab shared the news on Twitter. He had tested positive for the virus on June 21. The Sindh government spokesman thanked people for their prayers during his time in isolation. “Alhamdolillah, [I] have fully recovered & tested negative,” he said in his tweet. “May Allah SWT protect all of us & our loved ones from this pandemic.”

**Comstech to help OIC institutes in developing diagnostic kits for COVID-19**
Source: Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-07-07
KARACHI - COMSTECH in collaboration with the International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS), University of Karachi is planning to help the OIC institutions in developing diagnostic kits for COVID-19. This was stated by COMSTECH Coordinator General Prof. Dr. Iqbal Choudhary while addressing an online meeting with scientists and heads of the virology diagnostic laboratories of OIC institutions network belonging to Saudi Arabia.

**SBP enhances scope of Covid-related refinance facility**
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-07-07
KARACHI: The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) on Monday expanded to the scope of the Refinance Facility to Combat Covid-19 (RFCC) to allow manufacturers of protective gears and equipment to avail the financing under the facility. The RFCC, introduced on March 17, 2020 is highly subsidised facility where the SBP provides refinance to banks at 0% whereas banks can keep a maximum margin of 3%. Some of the banks treating this as part of their CSR are:

**‘SIUT continuing with all clinical activities’**
Source: Staff Report, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-08
KARACHI: The Sindh Institute of Urology and Transplantation (SIUT) is continuing with its mandated clinical activities along with facilities that are earmarked for Covid-19 patients, stated a spokesperson of the institute on Monday. “In March this year when the Covid-19 pandemic started surfacing, the institute took a historic decision and stepped forward voluntarily by initiating its professional services for incoming patients of coronavirus.”
Covid-19 claimed 42 lives overnight, says CM
Source: Staff Report, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-08

KARACHI: The coronavirus claimed 42 more lives overnight, lifting the death toll to 1,614, and infected 1,388 others, raising the tally to 97,626. In a statement issued here on Tuesday from the CM House, Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah said the new casualties constituted 1.7 per cent death rate which “was 1.6pc in Sindh till Monday”. It needed to be controlled through awareness and timely treatment, he added. He said that 1,.....view more

42 more fall prey to COVID-19 in Sindh

Forty-two people have died due to COVID-19 and another 1,388 cases have been reported during the past 24 hours in Sindh, with the death toll due to the viral disease reaching 1,614 in the province. Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said in his daily situation report on the health emergency on Tuesday that 9,317 samples were tested in the past 24 hours, resulting in 1,388 people, or 15 per cent of those who were screened, being diagnosed .....view more

Reply sought on plea against denial of first aid without COVID-19 test

The Sindh High Court (SHC) on Tuesday ordered the federal and provincial law officers to file comments on a petition seeking direction to public and private hospitals for providing first aid and emergency medical treatment to every patient in the initial stages without asking them to first produce their COVID-19 test results. Advocates Asim Iqbal and Nadeem Sheikh had filed a petition in the SHC saying that all public and private hospital.....view more

COVID-19 claims 42 more lives, infects 1,614 others: CM Sindh
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-07-08

KARACHI - The Coronavirus claimed 42 more lives, lifting the death toll to 1614 and infected 1388 others raising the tally to 97626. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued here from CM House on Tuesday. He said that overnight 42 more patients of coronavirus lost their lives, lifting the death toll to 1614 which constituted 1.7 per cent death rate. “Till Monday the death rate in Sindh was 1.6 .....view more

One more corona patient dies in Hyderabad
Source: Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-07-08

HYDERABAD - One more patient on Tuesday died of COVID-19 here in isolation ward, taking the tally to 50 in Hyderabad. 60 years old Maqbool Memon, resident of Qasimabad phase-1, has succumbed to the COVID-19 here at isolation ward of Civil Hospital Hyderabad. The burial of the deceased was carried out as per Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) at a local graveyard under supervision of district administration. .....view more

SHC seeks report on treatment of patients other than Covid-19
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-07-08

KARACHI: Sindh High Court (SHC) sought a detailed report from provincial government on Tuesday about the treatment of patients diagnosed with disease other than Covid-19 and the conditions of hospitals in province. A division bench of SHC ordered Sindh Healthcare Commission and other departments to submit the report in the court on 22 July. High Court sought the details about the measures being taken to treat the patients at a time when Covid-1.....view more
Sindh govt plans cash transfers for welfare of COVID-19 patients
The Sindh government has planned to transfer cash to persons affected by the coronavirus infection for their economic welfare, and for the purpose a sum of Rs20 billion has been reserved in the provincial budget for 2020-21. Chief Secretary Syed Mumtaz Ali Shah stated this as he chaired a meeting at the Sindh Secretariat on Wednesday of the steering committee constituted to oversee the initiatives of the government to ensure social protec.... view more

Survey of coronavirus-tested people launched across Pakistan to build ‘confirmative database’
Source: imran Ayub, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-09
KARACHI: The fraternity of medical scientists, key public health institutions and leading healthcare professionals on Wednesday launched a national survey of people tested for the coronavirus in Pakistan that the experts said would build “confirmative database” of the pandemic in the country, leading to immediate and drastic measures while helping the decision-makers to devise their strategy in line with trends and numbers. The annou..... view more

Implementation of Sindh govt’s ‘pro-poor initiatives’ started
Source: Staff Report, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-09
KARACHI: The Sindh government has said that it has started execution of its “Pro-poor social protection and economic sustainability” initiatives for which the provincial budget of Rs34 billion had been set aside, it emerged on Wednesday. A statement issued from Sindh Chief Secretary Syed Mumtaz Ali Shah said that the chief secretary presided over a meeting of steering committee to oversee the implementation of the initiatives. The m..... view more

HU announces steps to cope with Covid-19 challenges
Source: Staff Report, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-09
KARACHI: The Habib University announced on Tuesday a series of steps to help its students and staff members cope with the challenges presented by the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. According to a university press release, no student will be allowed to drop out due to financial difficulties; students will be given multiple options of support ranging from additional financial aid to deferred fees. The university will not increase student fee (tuition ..... view more

Covid-19 claims 22 more lives: Murad
Source: Staff Report, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-09
KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Wednesday said that Covid-19 had infected 1,736 people raising the tally to 99,362 and claimed 22 more lives overnight lifting the death toll to 1,637. In a statement issued here from CM House, he said that 9,318 samples were tested which detected 1,736 new cases constituting 19 per cent detection rate. He added that so far 533,540 tests had been conducted against which 99,362 cases were diag..... view more

22 more lose battle against coronavirus as another 1,736 test positive in Sindh
COVID-19 claimed 22 more lives in Sindh during last 24 hours, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said on Wednesday, adding that after these deaths, the number of patients who died due to the viral illness had reached 1,637 in the province. “With 22 more deaths in Sindh, the death toll has reached at 1,637 in the province. At the
moment, 1,801 patients are under treatment at various hospitals, of whom the condition of 655 is serious,&.....view more

Survey launched to ascertain prevalent medical conditions among Pakistani COVID-19 patients
Hypertension has emerged as the most prevalent comorbidity among patients infected with coronavirus in the world as meta-analysis of seven studies with 1,576 COVID-19 patients around the globe has showed that 21.1 per cent of the COVID-19 patients were hypertensive. Diabetes has emerged as the second most prevalent comorbidity which was found among 9.7 per cent. "Latest scientific studies have revealed that hypertensive patients not only a.....view more

Survey to examine Covid-19 dynamics in Pakistan
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-07-09
KARACHI: With the coronavirus pandemic taking different trajectories around the globe, Pakistan Islamic Medical Association (PIMA), National Institute of Health (NIH) and Health Research Advisory Board (HealthRab) have jointly launched a country-wide survey the dynamics and nature of the crisis in Pakistan. Addressing a press conference on Wednesday, medical experts stated that the survey was being conducted to ascertain the prevalence of comor......view more

K-P registers over 2,000 health facilities during Covid-19 pandemic
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-07-09
PESHAWAR: The rise of the novel coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic has proved to be a boon for private hospitals and healthcare centres in the province, with over 2,000 new facilities registered in the province since the outbreak began. The Khyber-Pakhtunkhawa (K-P) Healthcare Commission Operations Director Syed Wilayat Shah said they have registered some 7,200 health facilities so far this year. This includes some 2,064 facilities which were regi.....view more

Coastal villages near Karachi safe from Covid-19
Source: Shakir Sultan, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-07-07
Unlike the rest of the province, more than 40 coastal villages near Karachi are safe from the spread of Covid-19 because of their secluded location. With the imposition of Section 144 in Karachi, which bans the gathering of four or more people in one place, the beaches of the city have become deserted. Since villagers have had no contact with city dwellers, especially after the lockdown, no coronavirus cases have emerged in any of the villages s.....view more

COVID-19: Sindh crosses 100,000 cases mark, Karachi remains most affected
KARACHI: Sindh surpassed 100,000 coronavirus cases on Thursday after 1,538 more people tested positive, as Karachi remains the most affected with infections nearing 80,000 in the city. As of today, Pakistan has recorded a total of 242,386 infections. Sindh remains at the top with 100,900 cases, while Punjab has recorded 84,587, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa 29,052, Balochistan 11,052, Gilgit-Baltistan 1,605, and Azad Jammu and Kashmir 1,459 cases. The gov.....view more
Banks return to pre-virus timings from Monday
Source: Staff Report, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-10
KARACHI: Banks will resume the pre-coronavirus timings from next Monday, said the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) on Thursday, reflecting the government’s approach for normalising the businesses after living under the Covid-19 influence for four months. Banking hours were grossly reduced after a massive increase in the number of virus cases across the country. Banks were maintaining different timings for different branches keeping the virus s......view more

Educationists discuss challenges of teaching rural students amid pandemic
Source: Shazia Hasan, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-10
KARACHI: ‘Is access to education during the Covid-19 pandemic a privilege or a right?’ This was the topic of an online session organised by the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) through Zoom on Thursday. The speakers were Sadiqa Salahuddin, founder and executive director of the Indus Resource Centre, and Rahila Fatima, head of strategic development, The Citizens Foundation (TCF), with Kausar S. Khan, adviser, community engag.....view more

40 more die of COVID-19 in Sindh as number of patients since first case crosses 100,000
The COVID-19 curve might be flattening overall in Pakistan but not in Sindh where the number of positive cases crossed the 100,000 mark on Thursday when 1,538 more people tested positive for the viral disease during last 24 hours, raising the total number of COVID-19 cases in the province to 100,900, said Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Thursday. “We have lost 40 more lives in the province due to COVID-19 overnight while.....view more

‘Wear a mask’ drives to be launched in Sindh
Sindh Chief Secretary Syed Mumtaz Ali Shah presided over a meeting on Thursday to review the COVID-19 situation in Sindh with regard to the implementation of the smart lockdown, anti-locust operation, and price-control and monsoon contingency plan in the province. The meeting also discussed the problem of continued load-shedding across Sindh. Additional Home Chief Secretary Muhammad Usman Chachar, Health Secretary Kazim Jatoi, the secreta.....view more

Corporate Corner: HabibMetro, EFU Life collaborate
Source: Press Release, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-07-10
HabibMetro Bank and EFU Life strengthened their partnership by taking the initiative to launch “Covid-19 Cover” - a first-of-its-kind product that aims to provide a financial solution to HabibMetro customers, who are financially and medically impacted during the ongoing pandemic. A digital signing ceremony was held, where President and CEO Mohsin Ali Nathani and Head Retail Banking at HabibMetro Bank Ahmed Shah Durrani along with CEO .....view more

Sindh approves health risk allowance for medical staff
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-07-10
KARACHI: Even as the Sindh government approved on Thursday the provision of health risk allowance to medical personnel battling the coronavirus pandemic on the frontlines, it failed to placate the disgruntled health workers who were promised the provision of the allowance from March this year. Instead, a notification issued by the finance department on Thursday said that Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah had approved the provision of the.....view more
**40 more die of Covid-19: CM**  
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-07-10  
KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that coronavirus claimed 40 more lives and infected 1538 others while 1254 patients recovered and returned to normal life. In a statement issued here from CM house, Shah said that 40 more patients lost their lives while struggling against the virus lifting the death toll to 1677 that constituted 1.6 percent death rate. He said that 1538 new patients were detected by testing 9860..... view more

**Village women start making PPEs to meet local demand**  
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-07-10  
HYDERABAD: Village women in three districts Badin, Tando Muhammad Khan and Hyderabad have started making personal protective equipment (PPEs), including face masks, gowns and hand gloves at their homes for market. It has been observed that PPEs either are in shortage or unavailable in local markets. Thus, the skilled women in 15 villages have been imparted a training for stitching these valuable products at homes to meet the demand in local ..... view more

**Sindh CS for launching ‘Wear a Mask’ drive**  
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-07-10  
KARACHI: Sindh Chief Secretary Syed Mumtaz Ali Shah presided over an important meeting on Thursday to review the implementation of smart lockdown, anti-locust operation, prices control and monsoon contingency plan. The meeting also discussed the continued loadshedding across the province. Additional Chief Secretary Home Muhammad Usman Chachar, Secretary Health Kazim Jatoi, Secretaries of Rehabilitation, Public Health Engineering and Agricult..... view more

**Covid-19; Sindh govt allocates Rs200m to bar associations**  
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-07-10  
KARACHI: Sindh Finance Department has allocated Rs.200 million for bar associations of province in the budget 2020-21. This was disclosed in a reply of Provincial Law Department, furnished with Sindh High Court (SHC) in response to the petitions pertaining to financial assistance to lawyers who have been affected by Covid-19. According to the reply of Law Department, a mechanism should be devised to give financial assistance to the dese..... view more

**Schools to be reopened with three shifts as per SOPs: Sindh govt**  
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-07-10  
KARACHI - While the government has agreed on the reopening of education institutes in September after five-month closure, All Private Schools Association’s chairperson Tariq Shah said on Thursday the SOPs had been worked out to safeguard school-goers against the pandemic. The Centre and provinces agreed on Wednesday that schools, colleges and universities be allowed to reopen in the first week of Sept with strict enforcement of the standar..... view more
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| **Saudi Arabia announces Haj health measures**  
Source: Reuters, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-07  
CAIRO: Saudi Arabia announced health protocols to prevent the spread of novel coronavirus during the 2020 Haj season, banning gatherings and meetings between pilgrims, the state news agency said on Monday. In June, Saudi Arabia decided to limit the number of domestic pilgrims attending Haj to around 1,000 to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, after barring Muslims abroad from the rite for the first year in modern times. Touching the Kaaba w..... [view more](#) |
| **China detains professor over virus criticism**  
Source: AFP, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-07  
BEIJING: Chinese authorities on Monday detained a law professor who published essays criticising President Xi Jinping over the coronavirus pandemic and accusing him of ruling “tyrannically”, according to friends of the man. Xu Zhangrun, a rare outspoken critic of the government in China’s heavily censored academia, was taken from his home in suburban Beijing by more than 20 people, one of his friends said on condition of a..... [view more](#) |
| **Louvre reopens after 16-week coronavirus shutdown**  
Source: AFP, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-07  
PARIS: The world’s most visited museum, the Louvre in Paris, reopened on Monday after nearly four months of coronavirus closure, with a restricted number of visitors enjoying a rare chance to view the “Mona Lisa” without the usual throngs. Several dozen visitors queued outside the vast former palace of France’s kings, eagerly awaiting the opening at 9am (0700 GMT) as the famed museum hopes to start recuperating losses est..... [view more](#) |
| **India surges in cases as virus slams US hospitals**  
Source: AFP, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-07  
NEW DELHI: India on Monday became the country with the third-highest coronavirus caseload in the world, as officials warned that hospitals in the United States were in danger of being overwhelmed by a surge in infections. Despite signs of progress in parts of Europe — where the Louvre museum in Paris reopened on Monday — total global infections are fast approaching 11.5 million, with more than 533,000 deaths, since the pandemic first..... [view more](#) |
| **Covid-19 imperils AIDS progress, warns UN**  
Source: AFP, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-07  
PARIS: Covid-19 could cause an additional half a million AIDS deaths if treatment is disrupted long term, the United Nations said on Monday in a warning that the pandemic was jeopardising years of progress against HIV. At the start of a week of virtual International AIDS Conferences, the UN said the world was already way off course in its plan to end the public health threat even before Covid-19. Although AIDS-related deaths have fallen by 60 p..... [view more](#) |
| **Egypt arrests doctors, silences critics over virus outbreak**  
Source: Ap, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-07  
CAIRO: A doctor arrested after writing an article about Egypt’s fragile health system. A pharmacist picked up from work after posting online about a shortage of protective gear. An editor taken from his home after questioning official |
coronavirus figures. A pregnant doctor arrested after a colleague used her phone to report a suspected coronavirus case. As Egyptian authorities fight the swelling coronavirus outbreak, security agencies have.... view more

**Mediterranean marine life flourished during lockdown**
Source: Reuters, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-07
LAZIO: Marine life in the Mediterranean off Italy flourished during the coronavirus lockdown as water quality improved and species moved into spaces vacated by people and ships, the Italian coastguard has found. The strict rules halting business and movement for two months offered an unprecedented opportunity to monitor the impact of human activity on the sea that surrounds Italy. Since April, the coastguard has used water samples, underwater f.... view more

**WHO recognises Pakistan’s ‘positive trend’ in Covid-19 curtailment**
Source: News Desk, Daily Times, 2020-07-07
World Health Organisation Director General Dr Tedros Adhanom lauded Pakistan’s response against the coronavirus pandemic and ‘recognised the positive trend of virus curtailment’ in the country, Federal Minister Asad Umar said on Monday. The minister posted on his Twitter handle that Prime Minister Imran Khan spoke to the WHO DG and urged him to formulate travel rules without any discrimination for all the countries in the light o..... view more

**US pandemic forces cruel choice on asylum seekers**
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-07-07
In early June, asylum seeker Jose Munoz decided it was time to flee for his life – by getting deported from a Texas immigration detention center where coronavirus was sweeping through the population and going home to El Salvador. As the number of COVID-19 cases rose in the Houston Contract Detention Facility – it has had at least 105, according to US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) data – Munoz said he had few ways to.... view more

**Dubai reopens doors to tourists after long shutdown**
Source: AFP, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-08
DUBAI: With a “welcome” passport sticker and coronavirus tests on arrival, Dubai reopened its doors to international visitors on Tuesday in the hope of reviving its tourism industry after a nearly four-month closure. But businesses are mainly betting on those already living in the gleaming desert city to energise its ailing economy and serve as a test run before wary foreign holidaymakers return. “A warm welcome to your second..... view more

**Foreign students asked to leave US if classes go online**
Source: AFP, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-08
WASHINGTON: The United States said on Monday it would not allow foreign students to remain in the country if all of their classes are moved online in the fall because of the coronavirus crisis. “Nonimmigrant F-1 and M-1 students attending schools operating entirely online may not take a full online course load and remain in the United States,” the US Immigration and Custom Enforcement (ICE) said in a statement. “Active student..... view more

‘At war time speed’, China leads Covid-19 vaccine race
Source: Reuters, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-08
SEOUL: China is forging ahead in the race to develop a vaccine to help control the Covid-19 pandemic, with Sinovac Biotech’s experimental vaccine set to become the country’s second and the world’s third to enter final stage testing
later this month. While a laggard in the global vaccine industry, China, where the new coronavirus is thought to have originated, has brought state, military and private sectors together in a quest t..... view more

Strains of hope: Chilean nurse serenades COVID-19 patients with violin
Source: Agencies, Daily Times , 2020-07-08
When most Chilean nurses finish their long shifts caring for the country’s many COVID-19 patients, there is little else on their minds but seeing their families, eating and sleeping. Not so Damaris Silva, who twice a week when she finishes her shift at 6 p.m. picks up her violin and returns to the ward. Silva, 26, spends several hours walking the corridors of the Hospital El Pino, in the capital Santiago’s poor southern La Pintana neigh..... view more

Displaced Yazidis head back to Sinjar as coronavirus lockdown bites
Source: Agencies, Daily Times , 2020-07-08
Hundreds of Yazidi families driven from their hometown of Sinjar in northern Iraq years ago are now returning as the impact of coronavirus lockdown measures makes their lives in exile even harder. Many have lost their jobs and aid from donors in Sharya, where they have been living since they fled Sinjar in 2014. Mahma Khalil, the mayor of Sinjar but now in exile in Dohuk in Iraq’s Kurdistan region, said more than 1,200 displaced families have..... view more

Coronavirus praise as Greek PM completes first year in office
Source: Agencies, Daily Times , 2020-07-08
Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis completes a year in office Tuesday riding high in opinion polls, his reputation further enhanced by his government’s positive handling of the coronavirus pandemic. But analysts note that tackling the severe impact of the coronavirus lockdown on Greece’s fragile economy will be the true test of his leadership. “Even before (last year’s) elections, Mitsotakis cultivated the image of a se..... view more

Australia deploys police, army to enforce border closure amid COVID-19 outbreak
Source: Agencies, Daily Times , 2020-07-09
Hundreds of police officers and army troops are being deployed to enforce the closure of the busy border between Australia’s two most populous states as officials grapple to contain a fresh coronavirus outbreak. The state line between New South Wales (NSW) and Victoria, which is highly porous and stretches hundreds of kilometres, is scheduled to close at 11.59 p.m. on Tuesday for the first time in 100 years. Underscoring the need for decis..... view more

Fauci warns US is ‘knee-deep’ in first wave of coronavirus
Source: Agencies, Daily Times , 2020-07-08
The United States is still “knee-deep” in its first wave of coronavirus infections and must act immediately to tackle the recent surge, the country’s top infectious diseases expert said Monday. Anthony Fauci said the number of cases had never reached a satisfactory baseline before the current resurgence, which officials have warned risks overwhelming hospitals in the country’s south and west. “It’s a serious situ..... view more
New Zealand restricts entry for Kiwis escaping coronavirus
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-07-08
New Zealand began restricting the return of its own nationals Tuesday as the country faces an accelerating influx of citizens fleeing coronavirus outbreaks overseas and limited quarantine facilities. National carrier Air New Zealand put a three-week freeze on new bookings and the government is in talks with other airlines to limit capacity, officials said. New Zealand has gone 67 days without any cases of coronavirus in the community and its 22 act.....view more

Brazil's Bolsonaro says lungs 'clean' after coronavirus test
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-07-08
Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro said on Monday he had undergone another test for the novel coronavirus and his lungs were "clean," after local media reported he had symptoms associated with the COVID-19 respiratory disease. Bolsonaro has repeatedly played down the impact of the virus, even as Brazil has suffered one of the world’s worst outbreaks, with more than 1.6 million confirmed cases and 65,000 related deaths, according .....view more

UAE says it will test two million people for COVID-19 as cases rise
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-07-08
The United Arab Emirates plans to test two million people, or about 20% of the population, for the novel coronavirus over the next two months after the infection rate climbed again following the lifting of restrictions, a government spokesperson said. The regional business and tourism hub on June 24 removed a nationwide curfew in place since mid-March. It has gradually reopened commercial businesses and public venues and the emirate, or state, of .....view more

Voting in time of the coronavirus, Singaporeans question foreign hires
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-07-08
For many Singaporeans, voting on Friday under the cloud of the coronavirus pandemic, a big election issue is job prospects and whether their rich little island needs so many foreigners taking better-paid roles. No-one expects a change of government on this Southeast Asian rock of stability. The People’s Action Party has been in power since independence in 1965, and has always commanded an overwhelming parliamentary majority, even when its vo.....view more

Iran records highest daily death toll from COVID-19
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-07-08
Iran has recorded its highest number of deaths from COVID-19 within a 24-hour period, Health Ministry figures showed on Tuesday. The 200 deaths reported on Tuesday exceed the previous record from Sunday, when the ministry reported 163 deaths in a day. The Islamic Republic has recorded a total of 11,931 deaths and 245,688 infections from the coronavirus, ministry spokeswoman Sima Sadat Lari said in a statement on state TV. The number of new daily .....view more

Scientists warn of potential wave of Covid-linked brain damage
Source: Reuters, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-07-08
LONDON: Scientists warned on Wednesday of a potential wave of coronavirus-related brain damage as new evidence suggested Covid-19 can lead to severe neurological complications, including inflammation, psychosis, and delirium. A study by researchers at University College London (UCL) described 43 cases of patients with Covid-19 who suffered
either temporary brain dysfunction, strokes, nerve damage, or other serious brain effects. The research ad.... view more

'At war time speed', China leads Covid-19 vaccine race
Source: Reuters, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-07-08
SEOUL/SINGAPORE: China is forging ahead in the race to develop a vaccine to help control the Covid-19 pandemic, with Sinovac Biotech's experimental vaccine set to become the country's second and the world's third to enter final stage testing later this month. While a laggard in the global vaccine industry, China, where the new coronavirus is thought to have originated, has brought state, military and private sectors together i..... view more

Online classes: Foreign students in US fear deportation over Trump visa threat
NEW YORK: Pakistani student Taimoor Ahmed is one of hundreds of thousands of foreigners enrolled in American universities now fearing for their future after Donald Trump's administration threatened to revoke their visas. The US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) announced this week that foreign students whose entire courses have moved online because of the coronavirus pandemic must return to their home country. "I might be affec..... view more

Belgians holiday in trees as Covid-19 prompts staycations
Source: Reuters, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-09
BORGLOON: Rather than take a summer holiday abroad during the coronavirus pandemic, some Belgians are trying a novel camping experience at home, spending a night in a tear drop-shaped tent hanging from a tree. The idea of Dutch artist Dre Wapenaar, the tree tents double as an art installation and are considered sculpture, rather than a commercially-produced tent. "The tents are fully booked every summer, but this year, the bookings went m..... view more

US crosses three million Covid-19 cases
Source: AFP, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-09
WASHINGTON: The United States on Wednesday passed another grim coronavirus milestone with three million confirmed cases, as President Donald Trump downplayed the risks posed by the pandemic and aggressively pushed for schools to reopen. The coronavirus is surging in several southern hotspots including Texas, Florida, Louisiana and Arizona, while it has almost entirely receded from its former epicentre in New York and the north-east. Johns Hopki..... view more

Pakistan urges UNESCO to ensure upholding of human rights amid Covid-19
Source: News Desk, Daily Times, 2020-07-09
The Ambassador of Pakistan to France and Permanent Representative of Pakistan to UNESCO Moinul Haque has called upon UNESCO to reject policies pursued by certain countries to exploit COVID-19 health crisis to stigmatize some ethnic and religious minorities in their countries in contravention of the principles and values of UN Charter and international humanitarian law. He said this while addressing the 209th virtual session of UNESCO Executive Bo..... view more
US coronavirus cases hit 3 million, stoking fears of overwhelmed hospitals
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-07-09
The number of confirmed coronavirus cases in the United States pushed past 3 million on Tuesday, according to a Reuters tally, roughly equal to the population of Nevada, stoking fears that hospitals will be overwhelmed. The United States has the highest known numbers of both COVID-19 cases and deaths in the world. More than 130,000 Americans have died from the disease, a toll that experts warn will likely surge following recent record spikes in c.....view more

Ignoring outrage, Trump makes good on WHO pullout
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-07-09
President Donald Trump on Tuesday formally started the withdrawal of the United States from the World Health Organization, making good on threats to deprive the UN body of its top funding source over its response to the coronavirus. Public health advocates and Trump’s political opponents voiced outrage at the departure from the Geneva-based body, which leads the global fight on maladies from polio to measles to mental health — as well .....view more

Poor data obscures COVID-19 death toll at Spain’s nursing homes
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-07-09
The Spanish government is still not able to say how many nursing home residents have died because of the coronavirus, according to a Health Ministry document seen by Reuters, which puts the blame on a lack of good enough data from regional authorities. Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez has repeatedly pledged to disclose the impact of the coronavirus in nursing homes — whose elderly residents are particularly vulnerable to the respiratory disease .....view more

‘Trapped’ illegal workers in Saudi look to virus for escape
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-07-09
Jobless and broke, Sudanese electrician Hatem is stranded in limbo in Riyadh like countless other illegal workers, but he hopes the fast-spreading coronavirus will offer a chance for escape. While coronavirus drives a huge exodus of expatriates, campaigners say potentially hundreds of thousands of illegal workers remain stranded in Saudi Arabia, complicating efforts to fight the disease. The pandemic has laid bare what activists call systemic injus.....view more

Masks, disinfectant, social distancing: Japan responds to disaster amid coronavirus
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-07-09
Boxes of surgical masks, bottles of disinfectant and a sign saying “Please wear a mask” mark the entrance to a public gym in Yatsushiro city, a shelter for residents fleeing devastating floods in southwestern Japan this week. Elsewhere in the gym, cardboard partitions separate the 233 evacuees’ sleeping areas and another sign instructs them to check their temperature each morning, then sterilise the thermometers. The measures show.....view more

In Africa, lack of coronavirus data raises fears of ‘silent epidemic’
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-07-09
When the new coronavirus hit Tanzania in mid-April, President John Magufuli called for three days of national prayer to seek God’s protection from the scourge. Barely a month later, he claimed victory over the disease and invited tourists to return to his East African nation. His rush to reopen came despite alarm from the World Health Organization (WHO) over an almost total lack of information on the spread of the virus in the country of 55 .....view more
US to welcome Pakistani students: official
Source: A Correspondent, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-10
WASHINGTON: US Assistant Secretary of State for Education and Cultural Cooperation Marie Royce has encouraged Pakistani students to consider the United States as their number one destination for higher education. Addressing a webinar arranged by the Pakistan Embassy on Wednesday, she assured those who want to study in this country that the United States would continue to welcome students from Pakistan. The United States, she said, was committed ......

Five million go under fresh lockdown in Melbourne
Source: AFP, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-10
MELBOURNE: Millions in Australia’s second-biggest city went into lockdown on Thursday to battle another coronavirus outbreak, as spikes across the world added to the devastation already wrought by the pandemic. The number of infections and deaths has risen relentlessly in many of the world’s biggest nations, with the United States crossing three million confirmed cases. In Melbourne, five million people began a fresh lockdown just w.......

Beijing warns Washington against ‘McCarthy-style paranoia’
Source: AFP, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-10
BEIJING: China’s foreign minister warned the United States on Thursday against “McCarthy-style paranoia” as tensions rise between the two superpowers. Beijing and Washington have been sparring over a slew of issues, from a new national security law in Hong Kong to trade and US criticism of China’s handling of the coronavirus pandemic. “The current US policy toward China is based on strategic misjudgements...and McC.....

World equities crumble under shutdown fears
Source: Reuters, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-10
NEW YORK: Equity markets slid on Thursday after US data raised worries about the economy’s recovery and doused enthusiasm that drove a Chinese stock rally for an eighth straight day, while the dollar gained as new coronavirus cases hit another record. The dollar had struggled earlier in the session, with China’s yuan climbing to a four-month peak, as investors poured into Chinese stocks on growing signs of a recovery that also helped.......

Bolsonaro bets ‘miraculous cure’ for COVID-19 can save Brazil — and his life
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-07-10
Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro has gone all in on hydroxychloroquine to help his coronavirus-ravaged country beat COVID-19. He has pushed his government to make the malaria drug widely available and encouraged Brazilians to take it, both to prevent the disease and to treat it. Now the far-right populist is putting his convictions to the ultimate test: Bolsonaro on Tuesday announced that he had tested positive for the disease and was taking hyd.....

Working in shops and cafes, refugees hardest hit by coronavirus jobs cuts
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-07-10
Often working in shops, cafes and factories, refugees have been harder hit by coronavirus-triggered job cuts than citizens in their host countries, US development groups said on Wednesday. Refugees were 60% more likely to lose...
Working in shops and cafes, refugees hardest hit by coronavirus jobs cuts
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-07-10
Often working in shops, cafes and factories, refugees have been harder hit by coronavirus-triggered job cuts than citizens in their host countries, US development groups said on Wednesday. Refugees were 60% more likely to lose jobs or income due to the pandemic, found a study covering eight countries – Colombia, Ethiopia, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Peru, Turkey and Uganda – that host about 37% of the world’s refugees. &ld.....view more

US coronavirus cases rise by over 60,000, setting single-day record
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-07-10
The United States reported more than 60,000 new COVID-19 cases on Wednesday, the biggest increase ever reported by a country in a single day, according to a Reuters tally. The United States faces a bleak summer with record-breaking infections and many states forced to close parts of the economy again, leaving some workers without a paycheck. In addition to nearly 10,000 new cases in Florida, Texas reported over 9,500 cases and California reported.....view more

Spread through a market, coronavirus overwhelms Venezuelan oil hub
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-07-10
The pain of breathing made butcher Elkin cry. He caught the coronavirus in a street market where he works in Maracaibo, the main city in a once-prosperous oil producing region of Venezuela that has been left destitute by a fuel shortage and frequent blackouts. It’s also a virus hotspot. The outbreak of cases in the western Zulia state that borders Colombia unleashed a “horrible” situation in Maracaibo’s Hospital Un.....view more

WHO monitoring China bubonic plague situation
Source: AFP, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-08
GENEVA/MOSCOW: The World Health Organisation (WHO) said on Tuesday it was monitoring a case of bubonic plague in China after being notified by the authorities in Beijing. A herdsman in China’s northern Inner Mongolia region was confirmed at the weekend to have the bubonic plague. Two other cases were confirmed in Khovd province in neighbouring Mongolia last week involving brothers who had eaten marmot meat, China’s state news agency.....view more

PRCS relief efforts: CEO Telenor presents Rs 61 million donation to President
Source: Press Release, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-07-08
ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has said that the affluent section of society needed to support the relief efforts of the government and help the poor families affected by Covid-19 pandemic. He said the pandemic had brought many economic and social challenges which could be met by the joint efforts of all segments of society. The President expressed these views while talking to the CEO, Telenor Pakistan, Irfan Wahab Khan, who called on him, at.....view more
EU seeks to reform WHO after US exit
Source: Ap, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-09
GENEVA: Germany’s health minister on Wednesday lamented the formal US notification of its withdrawal from the World Health Organisation as a setback for international cooperation and said Europe would work to reform the UN health agency. The comments from German Health Minister Jens Spahn epitomised concerns in Europe over the WHO’s largest contributor preparing to pull out following the Trump administration’s complaints that t..... view more

Evidence emerging that Covid-19 may spread by air: WHO
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-07-09
The World Health Organisation (WHO) has pointed to ‘emerging evidence’ that the coronavirus might spread by air further than previously thought, and warned the pandemic was still accelerating. The WHO said it would put out a new scientific brief within days, after an international group of scientists concluded the virus could travel far beyond two metres. The two-metre physical distancing guideline has been a major element in the fight ..... view more

IMF predicts economic recovery in Pakistan next year
Source: The Newspaper's Correspondent, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-10
WASHINGTON: A gradual recovery in Pakistan is expected in the fiscal year 2021 as the country’s economy reopens, says a report released by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The report — “Policy Actions Taken by Countries” — reviews various steps Pakistan has taken since March to deal with the Covid-19 crisis. The IMF notes that the near-term economic outlook of the country has worsened nota..... view more

WHO launches probe into its pandemic response
Source: AFP, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-10
GENEVA: The World Health Organisation, which faced fierce US criticism over its handling of the coronavirus crisis, launched an independent panel on Thursday to review its response to the pandemic. The Independent panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response will be headed by former New Zealand prime minister Helen Clark and former Liberian president Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. “Through you, the world will understand the truth of what happened..... view more

WHO sets up panel to review handling of COVID-19 pandemic
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-07-10
The World Health Organization (WHO) said on Thursday it was setting up an independent panel to review its handling of the COVID-19 pandemic and the response by governments worldwide. The announcement follows strong criticism by U.S. President Donald Trump’s administration, which accused the WHO of being “China-centric”, and U.S. formal notification on Tuesday that it was withdrawing from the U.N. agency in a year’s time. F..... view more
Lessons from the quarantine
Source: Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri, The News, International, 2020-07-08
The writer heads the Sustainable Development Policy Institute. I was down with Covid-19 and in isolation for the whole month of June. That does not turn me into a Covid-19 expert – just as a diabetic person does not become an expert of diabetes. But having survived this disease, I believe I can make certain observations and suggestions that might help other patients. First thing first, the symptoms of Covid-19 can be different in differen....

Politics powered by public funds
Source: Hassan Murtaza Syed, Daily Times, 2020-07-08
The main source of funding for all public sector departments and projects all over the world is the revenue which is being collected from citizens either by direct or indirect taxes. On other hand that collected revenue is known as public funds whenever government spends on any project, activity, services or infrastructure. However case is different in oil rich countries as those countries have minimum dependency on taxes to run their public sector.....

South Asia’s covid responses; a comparison of India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka
Source: Ayesha Ilyas, Daily Times, 2020-07-09
As COVID-19 brought the developed world to its knees the challenge is far bigger for the developing world. Countries that are already struggling with their enormous populations, high rate of poverty, unemployment, impacts of Climate Change and security challenges of all types imaginable. South Asia as a sub-region stands in the same line. The impacts of the pandemic are likely to reverse the progress made by the region by multiple years, as a vas.....

Awareness on exports’ promotion facilities termed key to tap global opportunities
Source: News Desk/Staff Reporter, Pakistan Observer, 2020-07-10
Islamabad: The awareness on various instruments that are available to facilitate exports’ promotion and compliance with the international standards could open the doors of new markets across the globe for the Pakistani small and medium enterprises (SMEs). These views were expressed by experts on trade, investment and economy including from the public and private sectors said this while speaking to the participants at online consultative di.....

Pakistan’s productivity lower than Bangladesh
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-07-10
ISLAMABAD: Experts have said that raising awareness of various instruments available to facilitate export promotion and compliance with international standards can open doors to new markets across the globe for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) of Pakistan. In an online dialogue titled “Textile and Garment Industry Outlook amid Covid-19,” on Thursday, World Bank Senior Economist Gonzalo Varela pointed out that productivity of Paki.....
Awareness on exports’ promotion facilities critical to tap global opportunities

Source: Staff Report, Daily Times, 2020-07-10

The awareness on various instruments that are available to facilitate exports’ promotion and compliance with the international standards could open the doors of new markets across the globe for the Pakistani small and medium enterprises (SMEs). The experts on trade, investment and economy including from the public and private sectors said this while sharing their views with the participants at online consultative dialogue “Textile &am.... view more