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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

Unprepared for locusts
Source: Editorial, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-28
WITH all eyes on the coronavirus outbreak, little has been done to deal with another emergency — the locust plague — which has been threatening the nation’s food security and the livelihoods of millions of farmers for over a year now. In spite of the warnings issued by the Food and Agriculture Organisation, as well as repeated calls for help from the farmers ever since the crop-eating pests entered Pakistan via Iran in summer la.....view more

Stopping a new wave
According to the government's health authorities, Pakistan’s Covid-19 cases have fallen by around 80 percent or possibly even more. While the country had been seeing a daily virus death peak of about 150 cases in June, on Saturday only 24 new fatalities were reported. Pakistan has confirmed over 274,000 cases at the height of the pandemic. The decline is immensely positive news for Pakistan. But the real question is if it can be maintai.....view more

Covid-19: impact on ‘populism’
Source: Dr Maqsud Nuri, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-07-28
Democracies throughout the world are facing increasing challenges from their failings, rise of ‘populism’ and damage to economies wrought by pandemic Covid-19. The trends are towards ill-liberalism, authoritarianism, racism, and narrow nationalism by certain populist leaders. The phenomenon of populism has preceded COVID-19 pandemic since the last decade. Originally, populism grew in Central and Eastern Europe in 2018. The popula.....view more

Humanitarian gesture
Source: Editorial, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-07-28
The coronavirus pandemic has affected the entire humanity and it has generated an equally compassionate response from the whole international community. There are, however, some ‘legally sane’ politicians who even now are blaming their adversaries for the pandemic on ‘flimsy’ grounds. They are being treated as ‘legally sane’, but they are not so considered by people, except for those who are benefiting from the.....view more

Fall in Covid-19 cases surprises health professionals
ISLAMABAD: The mammoth but welcome decline in the number of COVID-19 patients and deaths caused by the pandemic has puzzled acknowledged health professionals, who were painting a doomsday scenario if Pakistan did not change the course. The phenomenal break to the spread of the coronavirus in Pakistan has equally bamboozled doctors and experts in several countries of the world as their own nations are reeling under the heavy burden of the uncontr.....view more

A good step
Source: Editorial, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-29
THE Punjab government's nine-day Eidul Azha lockdown is a very sensible step. Whereas the number of Covid-19 cases has been falling, it would be dangerous to believe that the threat has disappeared. The virus is still lurking,
ready to strike if we let down our guard. The closure of shopping plazas and other public areas, which restricts large gatherings, is a good idea not least because it suggests that the officials in charge are willing .....[view more]

**A determined path to SDGs in 2030 despite COVID-19 pandemic**
As lock downs ease in countries across Asia and the Pacific in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, one thing is clear—a return to business as usual is unimaginable in a region that was already off track to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The virtual High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development recently convened governments and stakeholders across the globe to focus on the imperative to build back better while keeping a.....[view more]

**Progress in the fight against Covid-19**
It is no mean achievement that Pakistan has now recorded the lowest Covid-19 deaths in three months. According to the Special Assistant to Prime Minister on National Health Services Dr Zafar Mirza, the country witnessed a peak of 153 Covid-19 deaths on June 20, and the number had now come down to 20. And though he could have used more diverse statistics to further break down the trend, it is pretty clear that both new infections and deaths are now.....[view more]

**Paving the path to a plebiscite**
August 5, 2020 marks the first anniversary when India scrapped Article 35-A and 370, placed the population of around 14 million people under curfew, put its political leadership in detention, denied people access to the internet and employed its kinetic power in muzzling Kashmiri dissent. This plight was only to be compounded with the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic and reinforcement of the lockdown in Indian-Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK). Th.....[view more]

**Climate-smart healthcare**
Source: Maheen Dhanani, *The Express Tribune, Islamabad*, 2020-07-29
Pakistan is no stranger to the painstaking effects of climate change. It enjoys diverse seasons but is also impacted by the extremely divergent climate change concerns including excessive heat, droughts, and floods. Worsening heat stress and shooting temperatures put Pakistan in a defenseless position as it faces a rise in water scarcity, malnutrition, and vector-borne diseases that target the most vulnerable. Child-bearing women, children, pe.....[view more]

**Rays of hope**
Source: Khurram Husain, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2020-07-30
IT has been a difficult year for everybody, but as Eid approaches there are grounds to take some cheer. The pall of gloom that descended on the country with the start of the lockdowns on March 24 has now begun to lift and there is good reason to expect that the sun is rising after those dark days. It is premature to say that the danger is now behind us, and it would be reckless to lower our guard at this point. But the signs are unmistakable. Th.....[view more]
Dereliction of duty
Five months into the coronavirus pandemic, the US continues to be one of the worst affected countries. With five percent of the world's population, it has 25 percent of all coronavirus deaths. There is still a battle raging in the country as to whether this is a real threat, or not. Or whether face masks really help or not. And even whether the reported numbers of infections and fatalities mean anything. One would think dead bodies p.....view more

Covid-19 and deadly illusions!
Source: Dr Rana Jawad Asghar, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-07-30
Back when I was a young family physician in Lahore, a patient came to the clinic with some non-specific symptoms. He was in his mid-40s and had no history or risk factors for heart disease, but I did an ECG to be extra cautious. I took a second opinion but his ECG was clear. Later the same day, he developed chest pain and was rushed to the Punjab Institute of Cardiology (PIC). He suffered a heart attack. As a new clinician I became extremely worr.....view more

Prudent approach
Source: Editorial, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-07-30
Traders in Punjab have decided to resist the provincial government’s order for a nine-day lockdown of businesses on either side of Eid-ul-Azha meant to avoid mingling of people for shopping, thereby preventing a feared spike in the coronavirus infection which continues to die down across the country and needs to be suppressed further. The traders are genuinely worried – and angry too. They had barely reopened their shops and businesse.....view more

Beating Covid curiosity
Source: BR Research, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-07-30
In a stunning upset which perhaps many did not see coming, Pakistan has managed to bring down its number of daily cases dramatically (down 50 percent since 15-July). Many associated this to reduced testing, but it seems the decline of the positivity rate to 6.6 percent (as on 26-July) stands in the range that satisfies the World Health Organization’s (WHO) benchmark of adequate testing. In another indicator that measures tests per confirmed.....view more

Defying The Lockdown
Traders all over Punjab have not taken kindly to the provincial government’s decision of imposing a lockdown till August 5, in anticipation of Eid. The government clearly remembers the spike in cases due to Eid-ul-Fitr and is adamant on not repeating previous mistakes. However, traders’ unions all over Pakistan—even beyond Punjab—look to be unfazed by the prospect of rising infections, and came out in protest or defie.....view more

Post-Covid society
It is increasingly becoming clear that the post-Covid-19 world will be profoundly different from what humanity has been accustomed to for centuries. Geopolitics, economics, and the social order will undergo a visible change with huge dividends for some countries and unbearable losses for others – depending on how long the current crisis persists. The social landscape has already changed in both developed and developing countries but.....view more
### Battling the ‘hunger virus’
The deadly and disruptive Covid-19 pandemic has brought to the fore the fragility of human life as well the fissures and weaknesses in the global economic, trade and healthcare systems, social fabric and disaster response mechanisms. The pandemic also spawned socio-economic ramifications as the ‘hunger virus’. A significant proportion of the world’s population living close, on or below the poverty line struggled even to ......<a href='view more'>view more</a>

### Time for impact
Source: Illango Patchamuthu, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2020-07-31
AS I complete my stay in Pakistan, I am reminded of my first visit in the 1990s. A lot has changed. Poverty rates have fallen. Cities have grown and new roads built. In many ways, a lot has also remained the same. Human capital outcomes remain low, the country continues to experience periodic economic boom and bust cycles. The problems faced by Pakistan’s people are largely the same as they were 30 years ago, while over the same period peop.....<a href='view more'>view more</a>

### Divisive form of governance
Source: Iftikhar Ahmad, *Daily Times*, 2020-07-30
Picking daily fights with opponents distracts from challenges and gets up a divisive from of governance. Good governance is need for competent government. It requires new thinking and fresh planning as well as innovating and resolving conflicts. Decision-making requires institutional approach not personalized whimsical views and stumbling response. What takes to manage competently is the real significant question. Countries with leaders who gover.....<a href='view more'>view more</a>

### Interlude: Kashmir During a Pandemic
It is not without good reason and with quite some trepidation that Pakistan has, time and again, sought the assistance of the international community of nations to streamline the conflict in Kashmir. The time to do so is more urgent now than ever before, given the waning regional and international focus on conflict resolution in Kashmir at the looming cost of a passive acceptance of socio-political realities. This is simultaneous to an increase i.....<a href='view more'>view more</a>

### Human rights and the COVID-19 response
Source: Ayesha Alam Malik and Khadijah Ahmad, *The Nation, Islamabad*, 2020-07-31
At the time of writing, there have been over 16.4 million confirmed cases of COVID-19 worldwide and the outbreak has caused approximately 650,000 deaths. Despite the fact that infections continue to rise, many countries are now relaxing restrictions and attempting to return to a much touted ‘new normal’ in the hope of regaining some semblance of order. While the debate continues as to whether authoritarian, ‘secretive’ cou.....<a href='view more'>view more</a>

### Flattening of Covid-19 curve no accident
Source: M Bilal Lakhani, *The Express Tribune, Islamabad*, 2020-08-01
It’s rare for this government’s critics, experts and the government to agree on something. It’s shocking then that everyone agrees Pakistan has successfully flattened the Covid-19 curve ahead of expectations. That’s because the data is so irrefutably clear, be it the positivity rate, hospitalisations, ventilator usage, cases or deaths. The polarising debate now is whether the decline happened because of the government&rsquo.....<a href='view more'>view more</a>
The Festival of Sacrifice
Source: Editorial, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-08-01
Nearly 1.8 billion Muslims across the world are celebrating Eidul Azha between July 30 and August 3 — dates vary from country to country based on moon-sighting — amid the Covid-19 pandemic that has infected 17.2 million people and killed at least 671,000 around the world, according to Johns Hopkins University of the United States. While the reigning pandemic has eclipsed the celebrations of the Festival of Sacrifice in nearly the whol.....view more

A time to heal
Source: Fahd Husain, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-01
IT is a strangely conflicted Eid today. The threat of Covid-19 is degraded significantly but at a cost measured in thousands of lives. It is a day of relief for those of us who are spared from the virus, or recovered from it, but a time of mourning for those who lost loved ones in the months past. It is a day of satisfaction for those who led the battle against coronavirus and saw their efforts bear promising results, but a time of grief for the .....view more

Eid thoughts
Source: Editorial, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-01
THE spectre of the coronavirus continues to haunt Pakistan as the nation celebrates Eidul Azha, the feast of sacrifice. A question that deserves repetition is the same that confronted us in April as Ramazan neared: will the faithful observe the government’s SOPs to help check the spread of the pandemic that has by now taken almost 6,000 lives in Pakistan? Recall the consequences of the eleventh hour surrender by the government to the cleri.....view more

Eid, Haj and SOPs
Source: Editorial, Daily Times, 2020-08-01
Haj, the fifth pillar of Islam, is being observed with simplicity and the smallest number possible in Saudi Arabia, while Muslims across the world are marking Eidul Azha observing precautionary measures against the novel coronavirus like observation of social distance and wearing face masks along with regular temperature checks. These measures will address the concerns of health experts about the risks of the spread of coronavirus during such rel.....view more

Impacts of Covid-19 on foreign investors
Source: Farhat Ali, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-08-01
The Overseas Investors Chambers of Commerce and Industry (OICCI) conducted among its member companies a survey this month to evaluate the impact and challenges arising out of Covid-19 on the businesses of foreign investors in Pakistan. The results, reflecting the overall sentiments of the foreign investors, provide the policymakers of the government realistic statistics and pointers to plan a meaningful strategy for the post-pandemic revival of .....view more

COVID-19 and the call to look within
Source: Ahmad Butt, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-08-01
While the virus seems to be swiftly conquering our air, the tendency of humans to attach to and live in the delusion of certainty appears to be shaken with it. The pandemic has tragically, on an unprecedented scale, shown us how little control we really have in navigating our lives. With rampant loss of human life, health and interconnectedness, the consequences for the mental health of billions around the world seem bleak. How did we get here? H.....view more
Covid-19: Pakistan and China go fighting together
Source: Shakeel Ramay, Daily Times, 2020-08-01
It was an ill-fated spring for the Wuhan city residents of China. All the festival preparations were at their peak. People were returning to their hometowns to celebrate the Spring Festival and meet their loved ones. Houses, streets and markets were all being decorated. Children were anxiously waiting for the gifts they would receive and looking forward to enjoying their long holidays. But suddenly, the country was struck with Covid-19, the novel..... view more

What will future historians write about Pakistan?
Source: Shakir Lakhani, Daily Times, 2020-08-01
I wonder how future historians of the country will view Pakistan in these crisis-ridden times. I assume, of course, that humanity will survive the current pandemic and there will be historians in future. Perhaps they will write about how the dithering Chief Executive of the country went around in public without wearing a mask in the beginning and saying that the disease was just like the flu and would affect only the elderly and aged peop..... view more

The tragedy of testing
Covid-19 has become a truly global phenomenon of the 21st Century. Six months after coronavirus was first reported to the World Health Organisation, confirmed cases have surpassed 10.5 million, according to Johns Hopkins University. More than 500,000 people are known to have died from the virus, while over 5 million are known to have recovered. As the world grapples with Covid-19, chaos and negligence seem to be the only common denominator in re..... view more

Seize the Covid-19 moment
Source: Dr Saleem Akhtar, The News, International, 2020-08-02
The coronavirus has shaken the world to a new entropy. From the futuristic perspective, this dynamic of ‘increased disorder’ features three basic developments in political space: uncertainty, pressure and an urge for normalcy. All three are tied together in a ‘cause and effect’ relationship with countless socio-economic currents running underneath. In order to realise where we are, where we can drift to and where we prefe..... view more
National News

Balochistan

Saindak project operating despite Covid-19, says company chief
Source: Ali Raza Rind, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-28
CHAGAI: MCC Resource Development Ltd (MRDL) chairman He Xuping has said that the Saindak copper-cum-gold project remains in operation despite the coronavirus pandemic. In a statement issued on Monday, he said that only half of the total Pakistani workforce, or less than 900 employees, were working on the project as there had been a severe shortage of personnel this year. Mr Xuping said the company provided $30 to $105 additional allowance per m..... view more

Govt hints at lockdown if cases surge after Eid
Source: Mohammad Zafar, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-07-29
QUETTA: Balochistan government spokesperson on Tuesday warned of a complete lockdown throughout the province if coronavirus cases resurge after Eid. Addressing a news conference Shahwani said that strict directions have been issued to police to arrest people and shop owners violating SOPs during Eidul Azha. "We need to remain more cautious during the next 15 days because the public will be out for shopping," he said urging people to ..... view more

54 new Covid-19 cases reported in Balochistan
Source: NNI, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-07-31
QUETTA: According to a report released by the Balochistan Health Department, at least 140,535 people have been screened for the virus till July 29, out of which 48,578 were reported negative. The report further said that at least 10,097 affected patients have been recovered from the coronavirus so far while the death toll from the deadly virus has reached 136 in Balochistan. At least 54 persons were tested positive for coronavirus in Balochistan o..... view more

Masses urged to follow SOPs on Eid
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-07-31
QUETTA: Requesting the masses to follow SOPs during Eid, Provincial Minister Haji Noor Mohammad Khan Dummar on Thursday said people should celebrate the festival in limited gatherings. He added that the coronavirus has not yet been completely eradicated but the spread of the virus has declined across the province. "People of Balochistan should celebrate Eid in their homes with simplicity and avoid unnecessary travel in order to keep a tigh..... view more

Balochistan govt extends 'smart lockdown' till August 17, says virus threat 'still exists'
Source: Ghalib Nihad, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-03
The Balochistan government on Monday extended the province-wide 'smart lockdown' enforced to curb the spread of the coronavirus till August 17. A notification from the provincial government stated that the "threat of the coronavirus still exists and restrictions on social distancing and precautionary measures are required to be put in place for the safety of human lives". The lockdown expired on July 31. Balochistan has report..... view more
All businesses to reopen if Covid figures remain low, says PM
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-28
ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Monday said all businesses, including marriage halls, restaurants, educational institutions as well as those associated with the tourism sector, might reopen if the present trend of low Covid-19 cases persisted throughout Muharram. Addressing the nation, Prime Minister Khan urged citizens to continue taking precautionary measures during Eidul Azha and Muharram to prevent a spike in novel coronavirus cases.....view more

Mortality rate of Asian healthcare workers in Europe termed higher
Source: Ikram Junaidi, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-28
ISLAMABAD: While it is being claimed that the mortality rate in Pakistan, India and other countries of the region is fewer due to Bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG) vaccine and malaria belt, the higher mortality rate in Asian health workers in the United Kingdom and Europe may have been the result of their exposure to frontline Covid-19 patient response teams on account of racial consideration. Medical experts in Pakistan and the UK have alle.....view more

Pakistan seeks world help for coronavirus-hit nations
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-28
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Monday called for international cooperation to help the countries affected by Covid-19 rehabilitate their economy. This was stated during a virtual quadrilateral meeting of ministers from China, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Nepal for jointly dealing with the pandemic. The meeting was convened by Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi. “Pakistan was ready to both enhance cooperation in combating Covid-19 and in post-pandemic .....view more

More Covid-19 cases, deaths recorded in capital
Source: Munawer Azeem | Mohammad Asghar, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-28
ISLAMABAD: There were 43 more cases of Covid-19 reported in the capital on Monday, as well as one death, while 20 new cases and a death were reported on Sunday. The deceased was a resident of G-10, officials said. Of the new cases, four were reported from H-8, three each from Shah Allah Ditta, G-7, Bhara Kahu, Tarnol, Shahzad Town, G-9, G-6, G-11, G-10 and F-11, and one each from Sohan, Nust, Iqbal Town, I-8, I-10, H-13, Golra, Ghouri Town, G-8.....view more

Reduction in Covid-19 cases, deaths witnessed: Asad Umer
Source: APP, Daily Times, 2020-07-28
Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Asad Umar Monday said that significant reduction in coronavirus cases and mortality rate has been witnessed in the country including Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Addressing a press conference after presiding over the 4th Provincial Meeting the of National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) here at Civil Secretariat, the Minister said the high level meeting has deliberated and reviewed th.....view more

Pakistan’s efforts against Covid-19 appreciated globally: Kanwal Shauzab
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-07-28
Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) MNA Kanwal Shauzab Monday said that Prime Minister Imran Khan’s proactive efforts to curb the spread of the coronavirus outbreak and his visionary leadership’s balanced strategy to control it
effectively have been appreciated globally. Talking to a private news channel, she said the coronavirus outbreak in the country was "under control" and the role of Prime Minister Imran Khan in taking time.....view more

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<th>NCHD to raise awareness about Covid-19 through volunteer force</th>
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<td>Source: APP, Daily Times, 2020-07-28</td>
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| National Commission for Human Development (NCHD) has always relied on its 36,000 volunteers force in 128 districts across the country providing support in monitoring, training, advocacy and resource mobilization. An official of NCHD told APP on Monday that, NCHD has decided to utilize the services of its 2,929 volunteers in 16 districts as a pilot project for creating awareness among 96,100 households regarding COVID-19 pandemic. He said that this......view more

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<th>ICT closes parks, recreational spots till Eid holidays</th>
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<td>Source: Fazal Sher, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-07-28</td>
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| ISLAMABAD: Aimed at controlling the spread of the coronavirus during Eidul Azha holidays, the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Administration on Monday closed all parks and other recreational spots in the city till the end of Eid holidays. The Deputy Commissioner, Muhammad Hamza Shafqat, tweeted that all parks, recreational spots, hotels, picnic spots, hill stations and Murree Expressway have been closed from today (Monday) till the end of......view more

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<td>Source: Zaheer Abbasi, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-07-28</td>
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| ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Monday appealed to the people to fully adhere to the standard operating procedures (SOPs) announced by the government on coronavirus during the coming Eidul Azha and Muharram Speaking to media from the state-owned television, the prime minister forewarned the people that if precautionary measures were not adopted during Eidul Azha and Muharram, the country might face another spike of coronavirus c......view more

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<th>Pakistan takes lead in arresting Covid-19: PM</th>
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<td>Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-07-28</td>
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| ISLAMABAD - Prime Minister Imran Khan on Monday said that Pakistan is among the few countries that have largely controlled the Covid-19 pandemic in a short period. In a televised address to the nation, the Prime Minister said the deaths reported due to the coronavirus yesterday were the lowest in the last three months. He said that with a continuous declining trend of coronavirus cases in the country, the pressure on hospitals has reduced. ......view more

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<th>Confirmed COVID-19 cases surge to 275,225 in Pakistan</th>
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| Pakistan on Tuesday reported lowest number of new coronavirus cases in over 12 weeks, with only 936 cases as the number of positive cases surged to 275,225. The nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 5,865. According to the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) 23 coronavirus patients lost their lives in 24 hours. Sindh remains the worst-hit province by the pandemic in terms of cases followed by Punjab, Kh.....view more
Eid Preparations
Another smart lockdown is set to be in force in Punjab from Monday night. The lockdown will extend till August 5th. All educational and training institutes, marriage halls, business centres, expo halls, restaurants, theme and amusement parks, play areas and arcades, beauty parlours and spas, cinemas and theatres will remain closed. Yet keeping in line with the policies of the previous smart lockdown, which are drafted to prioritise small business.....view more

Covid-19 can be defeated only with global joint efforts: Qureshi
ISLAMABAD - Pakistan on Monday said that coronavirus could only be defeated through joint global efforts. Participating in the China-Afghanistan-Pakistan-Nepal Quadrilateral Foreign Ministers’ Video Conference on Joint Response to COVID-19, Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi stressed that global community needed unity, solidarity and multilateral cooperation to fight COVID-19 that knew no boundaries, no religion and no ethnicity. .....view more

Recreational spots to remain closed during Eid-ul-Azha holidays: DC Hamza
Source: APP, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-07-28
ISLAMABAD - The Islamabad administration has decided to keep closed all the recreational spots in the federal capital during Eid-ul-Azha holidays, aimed at preventing further spread of COVID-19. Talking to APP, Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Hamza Shafqat Monday said Murree Expressway, Margalla Hills and other picnic spots would remain closed on the occasion from July 31, Friday till August 2, Sunday. He appealed the public to stay at home a.....view more

New edition of Ehsaas Newsletter focuses on journey amid COVID-19 times
Source: APP, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-07-28
ISLAMABAD - Connecting with wide-ranging stakeholders today, Ehsaas has released the second volume of its newsletter focusing on the detailed journey of this ground breaking initiative during the COVID-19 situation. This electronic newsletter looks back at the Ehsaas program’s progress from January 01, 2020 to June 30, 2020, said a news release issued here. The brand-new edition of newsletter marks the launch of a number of new social .....view more

Covid-19 may lead to 31pc raise in infant, maternal mortality
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-07-28
ISLAMABAD - The Covid-19 pandemic may lead to 31 percent increase in infant and maternal mortality in 12 months in Pakistan if health services remain halted, cautioned Dr Shahzad Ali Khan, Head of Public Health Department, Health Service Academy, Islamabad, in a virtual consultative session here on Monday. The session was organized by the Health Service Academy Islamabad in collaboration with the Research and Development Forum for Safe Mothe.....view more

Chinese biker supports corona-hit slums
Source: INP, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-07-28
ISLAMABAD - To help the slums 20 kilometers away from here overcoming COVID-19 epidemic, Yang Xiaolong, a Chinese motorcyclist led a group of Chinese travellers to donate supplies to sulms in Pakistan. According to Gwadar
Pro, Yang Xiaolong is a Chinese globetrotter and a planner of the China-Pakistan friendship travel. He has organized motorcycle teams many times to ride along the KKH from China to Pakistan. “We do round tri.....view more

**MMU urges people to donate plasma**

Source: APP, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-07-28

ISLAMABAD - Mutahida Majlis-e-Ulema (MMU) Jammu Kashmir an amalgam of all religions and socio religious organizations across the valley headed by Mirwaiz Umar Farooq in Indian Occupied Kashmir has made a appeal to those people who have recovered from COVID-19 to come forward and voluntarily donate their plasma for COVID-19 patients. According to Kashmir Media Service, the MMU in Srinagar said, “It is the need of the hour and a .....view more

**Public called for reinforcement of SOPs to prevent spread of COVID-19**


Islamabad : The Ministry of National Health Services, UNICEF and the World Health Organisation (WHO) Tuesday called upon the public to reinforce adherence to COVID-19 Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and to strictly enforce key preventive behaviours against Coronavirus. Chaired by the PM’s Special Adviser on Health Dr. Zafar Mirza, the public online event highlighted that everyone in Pakistan has a role to play to protect themselves an.....view more

**Dramatic fall seen in Covid cases**

Source: Ikram Junaidi, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-29

ISLAMABAD: The number of coronavirus cases per day in the country has started dropping to the level recorded three months ago. While the Ministry of National Health Services (NHS) termed it a major success, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Health Dr Zafar Mirza on Tuesday advised the masses to strictly follow the government’s standard operating procedures (SOPs) to avoid re-emergence of the deadly virus. Spokesman fo.....view more

**PRCS to co-chair global body for coronavirus vaccination**


Islamabad : In another honour for the Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS), Secretary General Khalid bin Majeed has been nominated as Co-Chairman of the Red Cross Red Crescent Global Committee for COVID-19 Vaccination, Advocacy, Fundraising and Resource Mobilisation, says a press release. The coveted post has been bestowed upon Secretary General Khalid bin Majeed keeping in view his professional excellence, innovative approach, dedication.....view more

**Swiss embassy provides 2,000 PPE suits to Pims**

Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-29

ISLAMABAD: The Swiss embassy has provided 2,000 personal protective equipment (PPE) suits to the administration of Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (Pims). During a ceremony, held at the embassy, Ambassador of Switzerland to Pakistan Benedict de Cerjat said: “Healthcare providers have played an efficient role in straightening the curve of Covid-19 related morbidity and mortality in Pakistan. Frontline healthcare providers have delve.....view more
Capital sees slight increase in new Covid-19 cases
Source: Aamir Yasin | Munawer Azeem, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-29
ISLAMABAD: Only three new positive cases of Covid-19 were reported in Rawalpindi while there was a slight increase in the confirmed cases in the capital where 54 people tested positive on Tuesday. Officials of the capital administration said 20 positive cases were reported on Sunday followed by 43 on Monday and 54 on Tuesday. Out of the total 54 patients, 21 were women. During the last 24 hours, 1,266 Covid-19 tests were conducted in the city.

Pakistan reports lowest number of Covid-19 cases in three months
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-07-29
Pakistan on Tuesday reported the lowest number of new coronavirus cases in over 12 weeks, with only 936 fresh cases in the last 24 hours as the number of positive cases in the country surged to 276,013. The nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 5,881. According to the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), 23 coronavirus patients lost their lives in 24 hours. Sindh remains the worst-hit province by the pandemic.

PRCS to co-chair global committee on Covid-19 vaccination
Source: Staff Report, Daily Times, 2020-07-29
In another honour for the Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS), Secretary General Khalid bin Majeed has been nominated as Co-Chairman of the Red Cross Red Crescent Global Committee for Covid-19 Vaccination, Advocacy, Fundraising and Resource Mobilization. The coveted post has been bestowed upon Secretary General Khalid bin Majeed keeping in view his professional excellence, innovative approach, dedication towards the humanitarian cause and.....

Covid-19 may lead to 31% increase in infant, maternal mortality: expert
Source: Staff Reporter, Daily Times, 2020-07-29
According to estimate published in Lancet July 2020, Covid-19 may lead to 31% increase in infant and maternal mortality in 12 months in Pakistan if health services remain halted, said Dr Shahzad Ali Khan, Head of Public Health Department, Health Service Academy, Islamabad in a virtual consultative session organized by the Health Service Academy Islamabad in collaboration with the Research and Development Forum for Safe Motherhood. In this session.....

Pakistan urges worshippers to buy sacrificial animals online to prevent COVID-19 surge
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-07-29
Pakistani authorities are encouraging people to buy sacrificial animals online or at least wear masks when visiting cattle markets, fearing preparations for the Muslim festival of Eid ul Azha could reverse a decline in COVID-19 infection numbers. Government social-distancing restrictions this year including half-day closing have seen a drop in customers at the normally bustling markets which, like in other Muslim countries, are set up in urban ce.....

Minister appreciates Covid-19 crisis response facility of AIIB
ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Makhdum Khusro Bakhtyar addressed the annual meeting of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) through a video link at the Ministry of Economic Affairs this afternoon, said a press release issued on Tuesday. The minister appreciated the AIIB for successfully arranging this event.
during the COVID-19 pandemic. “The pandemic has caused severe disruptions in the global economic syst.....view more

**Active Covid-19 cases drop in capital**
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-07-29
ISLAMABAD: The active cases of Covid-19 in the federal capital have dropped to 17.14 percent as out of total 14,938 confirmed cases only 2,561 were active as on Tuesday. According to official data, out of total 14,938 cases, 12,377 patients have completely recovered since the spread of the Covid-19 in the country. The recovery rate of coronavirus patients has risen to 83 percent, the data says. It says that there were 54 more cases.....view more

**Pakistan reports 1,063 COVID-19 cases in one day**
Pakistan on Wednesday has confirmed 27 deaths in a single day by novel coronavirus as the number of positive cases has surged to 276,288. The nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 5,892. According to the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) 1,063 persons have been tested positive for COVID-19 in 24 hours. Sindh remains the worst-hit province by the pandemic in terms of cases followed by Punjab, Khyber Pa.....view more

**Recovery rate from Covid-19 improving**
Source: Tahir Niaz, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-07-29
ISLAMABAD - Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Health, Dr. Zafar Mirza has cautioned the nation not to repeat the mistakes made on the Eid-ul-Fitr and strictly adhere to the SOPs on the coming Eid for containing the spread of coronavirus as number of recoveries from COVID-19 continues to rise. Briefing media here on Tuesday, the SAPM said although the spread of virus in the country has declined by 80 percent and the number of recoveries .....view more

**Govt, UNICEF and WHO stress adherence to SOPs**
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-07-29
ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination, Unicef and WHO on Tuesday called on the people to reinforce adherence to Covid-19 SOPs and strictly enforce key preventive measures against the novel coronavirus. Addressing an online event Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Health, Dr Zafar Mirza said everyone in the country had a role to play to protect themselves from the virus. “The goal is to ......view more

**Roadmap needed to provide health services**
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-07-29
ISLAMABAD: With the novel coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic placing immense stress on the health systems of the country, it may lead to higher infant and maternal mortality. To navigate this, a roadmap is needed to ensure service delivery to expectant mothers. This was discussed during a virtual, consultative session organised by the Health Service Academy Islamabad in collaboration with the Research and Development Forum for Safe Motherhood. &l.....view more
Govt focusing on inclusive education
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-07-29
ISLAMABAD: The closure of educational institutions due to the novel coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic has forced the education sector of the country to aggressively adopt information technology, said Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training Shafqat Mahmood on Tuesday. Online teaching has become a necessity, compelling both teachers and students to adopt digital technologies, he said at the launch of Global Education Monitoring (GE... view more

Blow to govt as two key PM aides step down
Source: Ikram Junaidi, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-30
ISLAMABAD: As the tug of war between the elected and non-elected members of the federal cabinet intensified, two special assistants of the prime minister (SAPMs) — Dr Zafar Mirza and Tania Aidrus — resigned from their posts on Wednesday. Their resignations come days after the opposition lambasted the government following the latter’s move to make public details of the assets and dual nationality of 20 advisers and SAPMs. Two not..... view more

Capital’s Covid-19 count nears 15,000
Source: Aamir Yasin | Munawer Azeem, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-30
ISLAMABAD: The capital reported 25 new cases of Covid-19 on Wednesday, bringing the total to 14,963. So far, 165 patients have died and 12,377 have recovered. There are 2,421 active cases in Islamabad, administration officials said. So far, the coronavirus has spread to 86 areas in the capital, while 17 areas do not currently have any active cases. The 36 patients who had been living in these 17 areas have recovered. Seven cases were reported ..... view more

Random testing finds 24 virus cases in Chitral village
Source: Zahiruddin, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-30
CHITRAL: Twenty four residents of Madak Lusht village here have been diagnosed with Covid-19 during a random testing. Swab samples were collected from 40 villagers basis before being sent to the laboratory for testing by the health department. Regional head of Aga Khan Health Service Pakistan Mirajuddin confirming the development in the isolated village bordering Swat district and said most of the confirmed cases found in the random testing had..... view more

Covid-19 kills 27 more; infects 1,063 in a day
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-07-30
Pakistan on Wednesday confirmed 27 deaths in a single day by novel coronavirus as the number of positive cases surged to 276,942. The nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 5,909. According to the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) 1,063 persons 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 Islama..... view more

Technology works: Pakistan effectively fights Covid-19
Source: News Desk, Daily Times, 2020-07-30
When many countries in the world are reporting thousands of cases a day, Pakistan seems little to worry about this pandemic as on Wednesday National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) reported only 1,879 patients admitted in 734 hospitals across the country. As per latest daily, 244,883 patients recovered so far across Pakistan...
making it a significant count while only 227 ventilators have been occupied across the country out of 1,859 vents alloca.....view more

Only 25 new cases of Covid-19 reported in capital
ISLAMABAD: The number of confirmed Covid-19 cases in the federal capital on Wednesday decreased significantly as only 25 new cases of the deadly virus were reported from various parts of the city. According to official data, the number of Covid-19 cases declined to 25 from 54 reported on Tuesday. The total number of Covid-19 cases rose to 14,963, after 25 new cases emerged in the city, it says. It said that so far 12,377 patients h.....view more

Only 1879 patients under treatment in 734 hospitals
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-07-30
ISLAMABAD - When many countries in the world are reporting thousands of cases a day, Pakistan seems little to worry about this pandemic as on Wednesday National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) reported only 1,879 patients admitted in 734 hospitals across the country. As per latest daily, 244,883 patients recovered so far across Pakistan making it a significant count while only 227 ventilators have been occupied across the country out of .....view more

Islamabad, federal territories collectively record less than 100 cases on 4th consecutive day
ISLAMABAD - Islamabad, Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan have collectively recorded less than 100 cases for the fourth straight day as the number of fresh COVID-19 cases in the country is on the decline. According to the details, Islamabad has reported 25 cases, AJK 15 cases and 1 death, GB 32 cases and 2 deaths during the last 24 hours. Punjab has reported 173 new cases and eight fatalities during the last 24 hours, according to t.....view more

Girl students clinch top positions in HSSC exam
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-31
ISLAMABAD: The Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (FBISE) on Thursday announced the results of the Higher Secondary School Certificate (HSSC) examination with girl students outnumbering boys in clinching the top positions. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, this year the exam could not be held and the results were prepared on the basis of last year’s 11th grade results with additional three percent marks in the 12th grade. Th.....view more

Virus kills another 32, infects 1,114 in a day
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-07-31
Pakistan on Thursday confirmed 32 deaths in a single day by novel coronavirus as the number of positive cases has surged to 277,402. The nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 5,924. According to the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) 1,114 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.....view more
Muslims urged to pray for end to pandemic
Islamabad: International Islamic University rector Dr. Masoom Yasinzai, president Dr. Hathal bin Hamoud Al Otaibi and vice-president Dr. Nabi Bux Jumani have wished to the Muslims in Pakistan and around the world a blessed and peaceful Eidul Adha. In a joint message, they urged Muslims to pray for an early end of COVID-19 pandemic and stressed the need for unity to fight coronavirus. They also called upon Muslim youth to disseminate Isl... view more

Covid-19 tally continues to drop as lowest daily cases reported since May
Source: Anadolu Agency, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-07-31
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's daily coronavirus tally continued to fall as authorities on Friday reported around 900 new coronavirus cases, the lowest daily figure in three months. With 903 new cases reported over the past 24 hours, the total number of infections to date reached 278,305, with 1,146 of them currently in critical condition, according to Health Ministry data. This is the lowest daily figure since May 14 when the country reported only..... view more

Following SOPs on Eid will benefit Pindiites
Social gatherings in the city are a matter of routine during Eid days, but the Coronavirus Pandemic demands firm restrictions and self-restraint on this occasion of Eid. Avoiding large gatherings and assemblies of all sorts at all costs is crucial to reducing the chance of spreading the virus. “Under the public health policy given by the health minister and expounded by the PM the city residents have been told to avoid family gather..... view more

President Alvi, PM Imran urge people to follow Covid-19 SOPs on Eidul Azha
Source: News Desk, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-08-01
President Arif Alvi and Prime Minister Imran Khan on Saturday urged the nation to strictly observe precautionary measures on the occasion of Eidul Azha in order to mitigate the risk of an increased number of Covid-19 cases post-Eid. The two also asked the people of the country to take care of the poor and needy segment of the society. In their separate Eid messages, felicitating the nation, the president and prime minister said it is a day of r..... view more

Number of recoveries from Covid-19 on the rise
Source: Tahir Niaz, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-08-01
ISLAMABAD - A significant increase is being witnessed in recoveries of patients from Covid-19 as so far 247,177 patients from across the country stand recovered from the disease. According to the latest statistics issued by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), 906 new coronavirus cases were reported in the country during the last 24 hours taking the tally of infections to 278,305. Another 1,046 people in the country have recover..... view more

Coronavirus kills another 27 across country; infects 903 more in a day
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-08-01
Pakistan on Friday confirmed 27 deaths in a single day due to novel coronavirus as the number of positive cases surged to 278,892. The nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 5,967. According to the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), 903 persons 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..... view more
Covid-19: Muslims across Asia perform Eid prayers with social distancing, masks  
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-08-01
Muslims across Asia, taking precautions against the novel coronavirus such as wearing face masks and temperature checks, performed prayers on Friday to mark the festival of Eid ul Azha in mosques with reduced capacity as well as on the streets. In Indonesia, worshippers were advised to maintain social distancing during the prayers as the world’s biggest Muslim-majority country struggles to contain the spread of the virus. Indonesia&…..view more

Pakistan records lowest COVID-19 death count since April  
In the last 24 hours, six COVID-19 fatalities were reported in the country which makes it the lowest number of deaths recorded in a single day since April while the total death count stands at 5,976. Three of the deaths were reported in Sindh, two in Punjab and one in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, read the statement issued by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Sunday. The previous lowest death toll in the country was recorded on April 17…..view more

Wall Street Journal highlights Pakistan’s sharp decline in Covid-19 cases  
Source: News Desk, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-08-03
The cover of the Wall Street Journal newspaper is seen with other papers at a news stand in New York US, November 9, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS American newspaperWall Street Journalon Sunday highlighted the sharp decline in Pakistan's Covid-19 cases and deaths. The number of cases were increasing rapidly in Pakistan until recently, recording a dramatic decline in coronavirus cases and deaths,.....view more

Pims put on red alert  
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-01
ISLAMABAD: To deal with any untoward situation during Eid days, the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (Pims) has been put on a red alert. The hospital had been on a high alert for two months due to the Covid-19 pandemic during which the management had also banned protests by the employees. Pims media coordinator Dr Waseem Khawaja said the hospital was always put on a red alert on occasions of Eid to deal with any untoward situation such as.....view more

Slight increase seen in new Covid-19 cases  
Source: Aamir Yasin | Munawer Azeem, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-01
ISLAMABAD: Once again, a slight increase was seen in new confirmed Covid-19 cases in the capital on Friday. Officials said 27 positive cases were reported on Friday compared to 24 a day earlier. They said 11 of the cases were reported from the Airport Security Force (ASF) camp at Islamabad International Airport, four from F-11, two from F-7, one each from Tarnol, G-11, Tarlai Kalan, G-7, I-8, F-6, Golra, H-13, G-10 and I-1. The tally of confi.....view more

Pakistan’s COVID-19 cases, deaths decline 80pc: WSJ  
Source: INP, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-08-03
Pakistan, where corona virus was spreading out of control some two months ago, has “dramatically reversed course, recording a sharp decline in corona virus cases and deaths, which are both down more than 80% from their peaks.” According to leading US newspaper Wall Street Journal report, major hospitals report beds are freeing up in previously overflowing corona virus wards, even in Pakistan’s biggest and hardest-hit city, .....view more
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

CM Mahmood Khan says Covid-19 pandemic hit KP’s tourism sector hard


PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Mahmood Khan on Monday said the coronavirus pandemic had badly affected the tourism sector in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He was addressing a press conference along with Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar after attending the meeting of National Command and Operation Centre held here, said an official handout. Mahmood Khan added that the government was aware of the difficulties faced by t..... view more

Timely steps decreasing cases: KP CM


PESHAWAR, July 27- KP Chief Minister Mahmood Khan has said that due to timely and effective measures of the government corona cases are significantly decreasing and the situation is getting better day by day. Addressing a press conference along with Federal Minister Asad Umar after attending the meeting of National Command and Operation Centre here Monday, he said that the government has decided yet to open the tourism sector. He said t..... view more

Owners announce private schools to reopen on Aug 15

Source: Bureau Report, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-29

PESHAWAR: The owners of private educational institutions on Tuesday rejected the government’s decision about opening of schools on September 15 and announced that they would start classes from August 15. Speaking at a joint press conference at Peshawar Press Club, Private Educational Network (PEN) provincial vice president Fazalullah Daudzai and Wafaqul Madaris Al-Arabia Pakistan provincial chief Maunala Hussain Ahmad said that government ..... view more

Testing declines as six more die of virus

Source: Bureau Report, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-29

PESHAWAR: Tests for Covid-19 continue to drop during the last one week as six more persons died of the virus in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Tuesday. The province-wide death count from the pandemic reached 1,186 with Peshawar accounting for 567, the highest number of fatalities as two more fell victim during the last 24 hours. The province also recorded 214 new patients, taking the overall number of cases to 33,724 while 527 recovered from the ailmen..... view more

Tourist points to remain closed during Eid holidays


ABBOTTABAD: A top official said on Tuesday that all tourist points in Abbottabad district, including Nathiagal, Changla Gali, Ayubia and Thandiani, would remain closed during Eid holidays and special checkposts were established at all entry and exit points to stop tourists from entering the hilly tourist resorts. SSP Traffic Abbottabad Tariq Mehmood told reporters that as per provincial government strategy to cope with Covid-19, all the tourist p..... view more
Four more test positive for Covid-19
NOWSHERA: Four more people tested positive for coronavirus in the Nowshera district on Tuesday, said officials. District Health Officer Dr Gulman Shah and Coronavirus Control Centre In-charge Dr Saeed Khan said four more people reported positive for the viral infection. It raised the number of infected patients to 906 in the district since the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic in the country. They said that five more patients had recovered fr.....view more

WHO concerned over decrease in Covid-19 testing
Source: Ashfaq Yusufzai, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-30
PESHAWAR: The World Health Organisation is concerned over less Covid-19 testing in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and wants the government to scale up testing capacity to know about the exact quantum of pandemic, according to officials. WHO chief is visiting Peshawar on Thursday (today) to discuss the issue of less testing with the health minister, according to Islamabad-based officials. They said that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has been recording 19 per cent posi.....view more

COVID-19 fallout: CM Mahmood Khan to launch economic recovery plan today
PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Planning and Development Department has prepared a three-year economic recovery plan, Azm-e-Nau to overcome the socioeconomic fallout caused by the COVID-19 pandemic through 43 interventions in nine key development sectors. Chief Minister Mahmood Khan will formally launch the Rs29 billion economy recovery plan on July 30 (today) along with Chief Secretary Dr Kazim Niaz and Additional Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir.....view more

Two more die of coronavirus
Source: Bureau Report, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-31
PESHAWAR: Two persons died of Covid-19 and 113 new patients were reported throughout Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Thursday as the number of deaths and positive patients continue to fall over the past week. Overall the number of patients dying of the pandemic reached 1,194 and total count of the infected people has risen to 33,958, a report by the health department said. The province also recorded 133 more recoveries from the virus, taking the total nu.....view more

SOPs being violated in Swabi bazaars
Source: Correspondent, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-31
SWABI: The influx of people in bazaars and cattle markets just ahead of Eidul Azha has made it impossible to follow the standard operating procedures (SOPs) devised for containing the spread of coronavirus. During a visit to the cattle markets and bazaars this correspondent noted that because of the rush it was difficult to get a foothold, while in Topi tehsil headquarters the traffic got jammed several times. Same was the case in the Swabi city.....view more

Coronavirus pandemic: Situation improving in KP
PESHAWAR: After having suffered heavily from the coronavirus, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is now witnessing improvement in the situation as there is a considerable decline in fatalities caused by the viral infection and the number of new patients in the province. In KP, the first Covid-19 patient was reported on March 16. The patient, Saadat Khan belonged to Manga town in Mardan. He had contracted the virus during his stay in Saudi Arabia where he.....view more
### 3 more test positive for Covid-19 in Nowshera

**Source:** [Our Correspondent, The News, International](#), 2020-08-01  
**NOWSHERA:** Another three persons tested positive for the coronavirus in the district, taking the number of confirmed patients to 912, officials said on Friday. Officials said that up to 840 people had recovered from the viral infection while 25 patients were still under treatment. District Health Officer Dr Gulman Shah and District Coronavirus Control Centre In-charge Dr Saeed Khan Paracha said that so far the tests of 3,552 people were co......[view more](#)

### Tourist areas with low Covid-19 incidence to be opened after Eid

**Source:** [Manzoor Ali, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-01  
**PESHAWAR:** The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has planned the ‘controlled’ reopening of the tourist areas with low coronavirus incidence after Eidul Azha, claim officials. Officials told Dawn that the plan called ‘bubble tourism’ was conceived by the National Tourism Coordination Board headed by special assistant to the prime minister Zulfi Bukhari. They said Chief Minister Mahmood Khan, who holds the tourism portfolio.....[view more](#)

### Experts rule out repeat of Eidul Fitr virus outbreak

**Source:** [Ashfaq Yusufzai, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-01  
**PESHAWAR:** Experts have ruled out the possibility of a large-scale coronavirus outbreak on Eidul Azha like last Eidul Fitr saying a large number of people have recovered from the infection and developed immunity. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Friday recorded five Covid-19 deaths, which took its overall tally of the people killed by the virus to 1,199. According to a government report, 98 more new people were diagnosed with coronavirus in the province, s.....[view more](#)

### Experts rule out repeat of Eidul Fitr virus outbreak

**Source:** [Ashfaq Yousafzai, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-03  
**PESHAWAR:** Experts have ruled out the possibility of a large-scale coronavirus outbreak on Eidul Azha like last Eidul Fitr saying a large number of people have recovered from the infection and developed immunity. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Friday recorded five Covid-19 deaths, which took its overall tally of the people killed by the virus to 1,199. According to a government report, 98 more new people were diagnosed with coronavirus in the province, s.....[view more](#)
Punjab

Trade leaders in Punjab refuse to close businesses, warn of agitation
LAHORE: Traders have announced agitation on forced closure of markets as announced by the government as part of the smart lockdown starting from Tuesday (today) till August 5. The traders said that they would not accept the government decision of closing of shops, shopping malls, markets on Eid as more than routine business activities were recorded on the special events. Instead of relaxing the business hours before Eid, the government an.....view more

Punjab closes down markets, malls for nine days
Source: Mansoor Malik, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-28
LAHORE: The Punjab government on Monday imposed a fresh lockdown in the entire province for nine days directing closure of all retail outlets, markets, shopping malls and plazas to contain the spread of coronavirus on the occasion of Eidul Azha. Considering ‘smart lockdowns’ in the province as a ‘success’ story, the government notified lockdown from Monday midnight to Aug 5 (Wednesday) midnight to fight against the spread.....view more

Punjab reapplies smart lockdown
ISLAMABAD/LAHORE: Prime Minister Imran Khan Monday said owing to all the measures the government had taken, Pakistan was today one of the few countries that had overcome the coronavirus. Addressing the media here, he said by the grace and blessings of Allah Almighty, the number of coronavirus cases in Pakistan had come down drastically and that pressure on the hospitals had eased and the number of patients in the Intensive Care Unit (ICUs) had c.....view more

Security for Eid, lockdown days
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-28
LAHORE: A video link conference of regional police officers (RPOs) on Monday finalised security arrangements for Eidul Azha and lockdown in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic. The conference was attended by Inspector General of Police Shoaib Dastgir, RPOs and district police officers. The IGP said that RPOs and DPOs should constitute security plans for sensitive mosques, imambargahs and other Eid congregations in which coronavirus SOPs should be.....view more

Dasti, 300 others booked for ignoring Covid SOPs
Source: Correspondent, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-28
MUZAFFARGARH: Police on Monday registered a case against former MNA Jamshed Ahmad Dasti and 300 others, including five identified persons, for holding a gathering without following Covid-19 standard operating procedures (SOPs). According to police, the case was registered under Punjab Infectious Diseases Prevention and Control Ordinance 2020 at Khan Garh police station against Mr Dasti and others for holding a political gathering at a public pla.....view more

Traders announce plans to resist nine-day lockdown in Punjab
Source: Mohammad Asghar, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-28
RAWALPINDI: The announcement by the Punjab government to close all markets in the province from Tuesday till August 5 to check the spread of Covid-19 during the Eidul Azha holidays triggered anger among traders. As the
announcement was made and a notification issued to enforce a lockdown for nine days, a large number of shoppers thronged markets causing gridlocks at the main crossings of Murree Road and in Raja Bazaar. The traders rejected the.....

**Ulema urged to ensure implementation of SOPs**
Source: Correspondent, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2020-07-28
TAXILA: Religious scholars and clerics were on Monday urged to ensure implementation of Covid-19 standard operating procedures (SOPs) besides strictly following government instructions regarding hide collection on Eidul Azha. The request was made by officials of the district administration Attock at a meeting with members of the District Peace Committee. The meeting was chaired by Deputy Commissioner Ali Anan Qamar. Keeping in view the increase.....

**Coronavirus: Punjab reports zero deaths for first time in two months**
Source: Agencies, *Daily Times*, 2020-07-28
Punjab has reported 172 new cases of novel coronavirus in the past 24 hours, the government’s Covid-19 portal said, however, no death was reported in the province for the first time since May 26. The total number of confirmed cases in Punjab is now 92,073. Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah said 513 coronavirus cases and 11 deaths have been reported in the province during the past 24 hours. In a statement, he said 8,742 tests were.....

**IGP orders RPOs, DPOs to ensure strict compliance of SOPs on Eid ul Azha**
Source: Staff Report, *Daily Times*, 2020-07-28
Punjab Inspector General of Police Shoaib Dastgir Monday said that on the event of Eid ul Azha, RPOs and DPOs under their own supervision should constitute security plan of all sensitive mosques, Imambargahs and other Eid congregations in which compliance of coronavirus SOPs should be strictly ensured. He said that before Eid prayers, checking and clearance of all mosques, Imambargahs and other congregations should be ensured at any cost whereas.....

**One dies in capital, no death in Rawalpindi**
Rawalpindi: Another confirmed patient of coronavirus illness, COVID-19 died here in the federal capital in last 24 hours taking death toll from Islamabad Capital Territory to 164 while no death has been reported from Rawalpindi district due to the illness in last five days though a total of 274 patients have already lost their lives due to the disease in the district. In last 24 hours, however only three new patients have been tested posit.....

**No death from corona in last 24 hours: CM Usman Buzdar**
LAHORE: Chief Minister Usman Buzdar has said no death is reported from coronavirus during the last 24 hours in Punjab while 172 new cases were detected. In a statement issued here on Monday, the CM said the number of active cases was 8,697 while 81,260 had recovered. The CM said that the government steps helped overcome the virus and the cooperation extended by people also yielded positive results, adding that observance of the standard operating.....
639 COVID-19 patients recovered in 24 hours
The Punjab government has released the data and statistics of available health facilities for coronavirus patients, including treatment, high dependency units, isolation wards and ventilators, in all hospitals on the directives of Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid here on Monday. According the data released by the Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department and the Specialised Healthcare and Medical Education Department, 76,882 patients have recov.... view more

Zero death of Covid-19 in last 24 hours: Buzdar
LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar has stated that no one died due to coronavirus during the last 24 hours in Punjab; while 172 new cases have been detected. The Chief Minister in a statement on Monday said the number of active cases is 8,697 while 81,260 have been recovered. Similarly 699,636 have been tested. The government’s initiatives have helped in overcoming the virus and cooperation extended by people also yielde..... view more

Govt should adopt SOPs instead of shutting down business: LCCI
LAHORE: The Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) has urged the government to adopt safety measures instead of shutting down the business before Eid-ul-Azha. LCCI President Irfan Iqbal Sheikh and Senior Vice President Ali Hussam Aghar expressed these views while talking to a delegation of traders from different markets at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry. They informed the LCCI office-bearers that closure of busin.....view more

Punjab govt imposes complete lockdown till Aug 5
Source: Safdar Rasheed, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-07-28
LAHORE: The Punjab government has announced to impose complete lockdown for nine days across Punjab from Tuesday (today) to 5th of August. A notification in this regard was issued on Monday with the approval of chief minister Punjab. According to the notification, there will be no ban on inter-city and inter-districts public transport. “All education and training institutions, marriage halls, business centres, expo centers, restau.....view more

Status of facilities for COVID-19 patients in Punjab released
Source: Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-07-28
LAHORE - Punjab has released the data and statistics of available facilities including treatment, High Dependency Units, Isolation Wards and Ventilators in all Hospitals on Monday. As per the latest data released by the Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department and the Specialized Healthcare and Medical Education Department, as many as 76882 patients have recovered from 200 government hospitals and returned to their homes whereas in the la.....view more

Jamshaid Dasti booked for violating coronavirus SOPs
Source: APP, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-07-28
MUZAFFARGARH - Ex MNA Jamshaid Dasti and another 300 unknown persons were booked on violation of coronavirus SOPs as they convened huge political meeting amid COVID 19 situation. According to official sources, Ex MNA Jamshaid Khan Dasti addressed a political gathering at Noor Hospital. Ex candidate of Muthidda Majlis Amal
Dr Abdur Rasheed along with his scores of companions joined Jamshaid Dasti's political party Pakistan Awami Raaj Pa.....view more

No death due to coronavirus during 24 hours, clarifies CM
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-07-28
LAHORE - Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar Monday disclosed that no patient died of coronavirus during the last 24 hours in Punjab, while 172 new cases have been detected. In a statement, he said the number of active cases stood at 8,697 while 81260 had been recovered. Similarly, 699,636 have been tested so far, he said. He said governmental steps had helped in overcoming the virus and the cooperation extended by the people also yi.....view more

IGP orders strict implementation on corona SOPs to detain virus
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-07-28
LAHORE - Inspector General of Police (IGP), Punjab Shoaib Dastgir said that on the event of Eid-ul-Azha, RPOs DPOs under their own supervision should constitute security plan of all sensitive mosques, Imam Bargahs and other Eid congregations in which corona SOPs should be strictly followed despite security arrangements. He further said that before Eid prayers, full checking and clearance of all mosques, Imam Bargahs and other Eid congregatio.....view more

51 shops sealed over SOPs violation
Source: APP, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-07-28
LAHORE - The City district administration, during an inspection operation in the provincial capital on Monday, sealed 51 shops and imposed Rs 17,800 fine over violation of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), announced by the government to prevent the spread of COVID-19 virus. A spokesperson for the City district administration said that violation of the SOPs would not be tolerated and all shops and markets violating the orders in this regard wo.....view more

Coronavirus positive cases tally in Attock reaches 569
Source: Our Staff Report, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-07-28
ATTOCK - The number of patients of novel coronavirus in Attock surged to 569 on Monday as seven new cases were detected in the district during last 24 hours, according to district health authorities. According to District Attock Focal Person for COVID-19, Dr Asif Arbab Niazi, new cases belong to Attock city. Responding a question, he said that there are 128 active patients across the district. While giving details of these patients, he informed t.....view more

In Lahore: Traders oppose business shutdown
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-07-28
LAHORE: The government should give directives to businesses to apply safety measures before Eidul Azha rather than ordering a complete shutdown, suggested officials of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI). In a statement on Monday, LCCI President Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, Senior Vice President Ali Hussam Asghar and Vice President Mian Zahid Jawaid Ahmad said the closure of businesses before Eidul Azha would deal a huge blow to traders, .....view more
Shopping rush ahead of Eid
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-07-28
RAWALPINDI: After the Punjab government announced to extend the lockdown in the province until after Eidul Azha to prevent the novel coronavirus (Covid-19) from spreading, it triggered panic buying on Monday. A large number of people flocked to the markets of the city, creating traffic snarl-ups in and around the major markets of the garrison city on Monday. Thoroughfares including Murree Road, Saidpur Road, Mall Road, Haider Road, and other ar.....

Strict lockdown starts across Punjab, business community protests closure of markets
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-07-28
LAHORE: A strict lockdown started across Punjab on Tuesday as police closed shops while traders protested and dismissed the provincial government’s orders meant to mitigate the spread of coronavirus during of Eidul Azha. Most of the shops in the province remained closed while some were reportedly open, which were closed down by local law enforcement. However, some traders opened shops again after the police left. The business community acr.....

Lahore traders’ attempt to open shops foiled
LAHORE: Hide-and-seek between traders and administration including police continued the whole day for opening and closing markets and shops, following the smart lockdown imposed by the Punjab government for nine days that started from Tuesday. Trade leaders attempted to instigate the small traders and shopkeepers for opening shops and markets and incited them to agitate against the police and administration while keeping their own shops c.....

One death due to corona
Rawalpindi: Coronavirus illness, COVID-19 continued to claim lives in the federal capital as another patient died of the disease here in Islamabad Capital Territory in last 24 hours taking death toll from ICT to 165 while another 54 confirmed cases have been reported from Islamabad taking tally to 14,938. On the other hand, only three new patients have been tested positive from Rawalpindi district in last 24 hours and that too from scat.....

Police use batons to control traders
Source: Dawn Report, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-29
FAISALABAD: Protesting traders staged demonstrations on Tuesday and threw traffic out of gear at various places in the city after police thrashed some of their fellows for opening shops defying “smart lockdown” imposed by the government to curb spread of coronavirus. The police also took some traders into custody following which protest demonstrations were staged at different places, including Ghanta Ghar (clock tower), Jhal Chowk, B.....

Traders defy lockdown
Source: Khalid Hasnain, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-29
LAHORE: Traders in Lahore and several parts of the province opened their Eid-related businesses on Tuesday, rejecting the lockdown and offering severe resistance to police. The police also reportedly took several shopkeepers into custody and later released them. The government has announced an eight-day lockdown in Punjab to control the spread of coronavirus. Earlier, when markets were allowed to work on Eidul Fitr, the ensuing days saw a huge.....
Nine more virus fatalities in Punjab
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-29
LAHORE: As many as nine more patients died of Covid-19 in Punjab during the last 24 hours, taking the death toll to 2,125 across the province. Similarly, the total number of confirmed cases in Punjab reached 92,279 after 206 more people tested positive for the virus during the last 24 hours. He said the provincial capital has reported 47,158 positive cases, the highest in Punjab, followed by Rawalpindi 7,313, Multan 5,766 and Faisalabad 5,752. ... view more

Butchers undergo screening for Covid
GUJRAT: As many as 2,019 butchers have so far been screened for coronavirus in the district aimed at issuing certificates to only healthy persons for slaughtering sacrificial animals during the three days of Eidul Azha. Deputy Commissioner Dr Khurram Shahzad told Dawn on Tuesday that as per the official survey conducted by the assistant commissioners of three tehsils of the district, there were around 2,500 regular butchers doing the business of..... view more

Few buyers for sacrificial animals
Source: Correspondent, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-29
BAHAWALPUR: Though the main cattle market of the city has sacrificial animals in abundance but their owners are disappointed due to the low number of buyers. This is mainly because of buyers’ reluctance to pay the asking price. It is worth mentioning that both owners and buyers are violating coronavirus-related SOPs announced by the government. During a visit to the market and other sales points on Tuesday, this correspondent saw the vio..... view more

Pindi administration, traders agree on observing eight-day lockdown
Source: Amjad Iqbal | Aamir Yasin, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-29
RAWALPINDI: Traders across the garrison city violated the first day of a nine-day lockdown in Punjab and opened shops in the Rawalpindi’s main markets on Tuesday. The district administration has warned that they will face action if they do so again today (Wednesday). According to a notification issued by the Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department, the lockdown will be in effect from midnighton Tuesday until Aug 5. Shops in Raja Bazaa..... view more

Cattle markets; PCJCCI, Punjab govt highlight importance of SOPs
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-07-29
LAHORE: The Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) in collaboration with the Punjab government on Tuesday highlighted the importance of implementation of SOPs in the cattle markets to curb the spread of Covid-19 on occasion of Eidul Adha. The PCJCCI also set up ‘free mask distribution stall’ in the cattle market located at Lackodair Mandi, Harbanspura. Minister, Livestock and Dairy Development Sardar Hasna..... view more

Post-Covid-19 scenario: More IT-driven start-ups needed
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-07-29
ISLAMABAD: Experts have expressed the opinion that the industry would have to reemerge with new parameters and practices based on knowledge economy compared to the previous human resources-centric practices. Pakistan
needs to develop a comprehensive framework for a new industrial look by incorporating new technologies. Poverty-stricken and resource-deficient Pakistan needs to develop more IT-driven start-ups to engage youth for productivity. T.....view more

**Basharat directs strict enforcement of lockdown**  
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-07-29  
LAHORE - Punjab Law Minister Raja Basharat and Chief Secretary Jawwad Rafique Malik Tuesday visited various parts of the provincial capital to review the enforcement of smart lockdown and arrangements made at the cattle markets. They visited Liberty Market in Gulberg and markets in Johar Town and issued instructions to the Capital City Police Officer (CCPO) to deploy more police personnel in the markets. They said that government's mea.....view more

**Commissioner for strict implementation of corona SOPs**  
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-07-29  
BAHAWALPUR - Commissioner Bahawalpur Division Asif Iqbal Chaudhry on Tuesday said that standard operating procedures (SOPs) issued by the government would be implemented strictly in order to contain the spread of coronavirus. He said that following of COVID-19 SOPs during Eid-ul-Azha would be ensured in the division by the authorities concerned. He was presiding over a high-level meeting at his office here. The meeting was attended by Deput.....view more

**Coronavirus help desk set up**  
Source: APP, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-07-29  
FAISALABAD: A coronavirus help desk has been established by Assistant Commissioner (AC) Zainul Abideen at the cattle market in Jaranwala to create awareness among the animal dealers regarding the Covid-19 pandemic. He said that the government had spelled out the standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the cattle markets to protect people from the virus. He directed the market management to take strict action over violation of the SOPs and said .....view more

**No new virus case reported in 19 dists of Punjab**  
Source: Asif Chaudhry, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-30  
LAHORE: As many as 19 districts of Punjab for the first time reported not a single new coronavirus case during the last 24 hours. However, 173 new cases have been reported in the provincial capital during the same period. Meanwhile, three districts reported two each cases, and four others three each new positive cases of the virus during the same period. The official figures show that the downward trend in the Covid-19 cases has been continuing.....view more

**Shopkeepers violating lockdown thrashed, arrested**  
FAISALABAD: More than four dozen shopkeepers were booked by the Kotwali police for staging a protest demonstration against the government and violating the lockdown restrictions on Wednesday. Scores of traders of different bazaars of Clock Tower staged a protest demonstration and refused to accept the lockdown citing financial hardships. Police raided the shops, thrashed the shopkeepers and arrested them. Submitting an application, Kotwali pol.....view more
Lockdown enforced in Murree
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-30
RAWALPINDI: District administration on Wednesday imposed complete lockdown in Murree for Eidul Azha and closed all the hotels and restaurants as well as rest houses to avoid spread of coronavirus and advised people against travelling to the hill station during holidays. Deputy Commissioner Captain retired Anwarul Haq told Dawn that nobody would be allowed to go to Murree during Eid holidays and only local residents were allowed to go to their hometown. view more

No death due to COVID-19
Rawalpindi: No death due to coronavirus illness, COVID-19 has been reported from the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi in last 24 hours though 33 more patients have been tested positive for the illness from the region taking the tally to 20,839 of which 439 patients have died of the disease. It is for the seventh time since May 23 that the population in Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district witnessed a day without a report o view more

Rawalpindi gives Eid festival look despite coronavirus
Every year Pindilites celebrate the annual Islamic holiday of Eidul Azha with the traditional sacrifice of a sheep, cow or goat, despite deepening financial hardship. With just two days left in Eidul Azha, the longing for buying sacrificial animals is becoming intense among the city residents. The cattle markets set up at places designated by the city administration are seeing more bargain hunters because permission was not given to establ view more

Sale of animals without corona test, lockdown challenged in LHC
LAHORE: Sale of sacrificial animals without coronavirus test and imposition of lockdown on Eidul Azha have been challenged in the Lahore High Court through a writ petition. A citizen, Khawar Abbas, says in his petition the country’s economy has been suffering loss of billions of dollars and people’s business had ruined due to lockdown. He says lockdown in Punjab is worst of Kashmir, adding in the past federal government has criticised view more

Smart lockdown a must to contain virus: minister
LAHORE: Minister for Industries and Trade Mian Aslam Iqbal has said imposition of smart lockdown is a unanimous decision taken by National Command Operation Centre (NCOC) and the lockdown was necessary on Eidul Azha. In a meeting with a delegation headed by president All Pakistan Traders Wing of PTI at Civil Secretariat, the minister discussed the matter pertaining to smart lockdown. The minister said the real motive of the decision was to view more

Governor praises medics’ efforts to curb COVID-19 spread
LAHORE: Punjab Governor/Chancellor Ch Muhammad Sarwar has said the cases of COVID-19 are decreasing and this has been made possible due to the selfless services of health care professionals and producing awareness among the citizens. He stated this at the launching ceremony of special issue of Annals of King Edward Medical University on COVID-19 and also policy manual of excellence in medical education at KEMU on Wednesday. Punjab Higher Educ view more
173 new infections in Punjab
Source: Our Staff Reporter, *The Nation, Islamabad*, 2020-07-30
LAHORE - The number of coronavirus cases has reached 92,452 in Punjab after the registration of 173 new cases during the last 24 hours. Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department on Wednesday the death toll has reached 2133 after the death of eight corona patients in the province during the same period while the total of recovered patients are 82,592. As many as 86 new cases were reported in Lahore, 34 in Rawalpindi, 2 in Gujranwala.....view more

Five more die from Covid in Punjab
Source: Staff Reporter, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2020-07-31
LAHORE: The death toll of Covid-19 in Punjab reached 2,138 after five more patients succumbed to the virus during the last 24 hours. According to the official figures released by the provincial health department on Thursday, all five deaths occurred in Lahore. The total number of deaths from coronavirus in Lahore has reached 817, followed by 360 in Rawalpindi, 216 in Faisalabad and 145 in Multan, according to the official figures. Similarly, th.....view more

Health minister opens modern laboratory
Source: Correspondent, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2020-07-31
SIALKOT: Punjab Minister for Health Dr Yasmin Rashid inaugurated the newly-established Biosafety Level-3 Laboratory at the Khwaja Muhammad Safdar Medical College Sialkot on Thursday. This well-equipped laboratory would help control the Covid-19 in the district by providing advanced testing facilities to the people at the local level, she said while addressing the inaugural ceremony. The minister announced establishment of a new 250-bed hospital.....view more

Murree traders oppose extension in lockdown
Source: Correspondent, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2020-07-31
MURREE: Traders here have rejected the decision of the Murree tehsil administration to extend the Covid-19 lockdown in the town during the Eid holidays. Tufail Akhlaq Abbasi, Raja Akmal Nawaz Abbasi, Wajid Abbasi, Khawar Mir and Imran Butt of Anjuman-i-Tajiran in a joint statement said people of Murree spent the entire summer working hard every year but this year due to the pandemic there was no business. On the occasion of Eidul Azha when not a .....view more

SOPs not being followed 26 test positive for COVID-19 from twin cities
Rawalpindi: A number of health experts including those serving at the district health departments in this region of the country have expressed deep concern over non-serious attitude of individuals who have not been following standard operating procedures announced by the government to avoid spread of COVID-19, coronavirus illness. Many a doctors are of the view that even the concerned government authorities have not been taking prompt ac.....view more

Plan to revive businesses affected by virus, says minister
LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Industries and Trade Mian Aslam Iqbal has said the PTI government is initiating a mega programme after Eid to revive the businesses affected due to coronavirus. The smart lockdown was imposed
to protect the masses from the dangers of coronavirus while the PTI government was not inclined to close businesses because its greatly affects the economy, said the minister during a meeting with a Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce

26 test positive for COVID-19 in twin cities
Rawalpindi: A number of health experts including those serving at the district health departments in this region of the country have expressed deep concern over non-serious attitude of individuals who have not been following standard operating procedures announced by the government to avoid spread of COVID-19, coronavirus illness. Many a doctors are of the view that even the concerned government authorities have not been taking prompt action again......

Corona situation improving in Punjab: Dr Yasmin Rashid
SIALKOT: Punjab Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid has said that COVID-19 pandemic situation in the province is improving as the number of coronavirus positive cases is decreasing gradually. Talking to media after inaugrating a level-III free laboratory for coronavirus tests here on Thursday, she said the number of coronavirus patients had also decreased in Sialkot district. She said that 19 districts of the province were now free-of-coronavirus p....

Minister reviews cattle market SOPs
Source: APP, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-07-31
MULTAN: Provincial Minister for Livestock and Dairy Development Sardar Hasnain Bahadar Dreshak paid a surprise visit to Kabeer Wala Cattle Market to ensure coronavirus Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)implementation and review facilities being offered to the visitors on Thursday. He reviewed arrangements being made in the market after visiting the Rescue 1122 and livestock department counters to assess the provision of required facilities in.....

ICTA lauded for not imposing lockdown
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-07-31
RAWALPINDI: Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) has welcomed Islamabad Capital Territory Administration (ICTA) decision for allowing businesses to remain opened before Eidul Azha. ICCI President Muhammad Ahmed Waheed said that respecting the demands of the business community of the federal capital, the ICTA did not impose any lockdown in the federal capital before Eidul Azha and allowed business activities to continue with SOPs, wh.....

OPDs, main OTs to get functional from Monday
Rawalpindi:Outpatient departments and main operation theatres of the three teaching hospitals in town including Holy Family Hospital, Benazir Bhutto Hospital and District Headquarters Hospital shall not operate from Friday to Sunday in connection with Eidul Azha however corona management units established at the hospitals shall work as per routing during Eid holidays. During Eid holidays, from Friday to Sunday, accident and emergency depa.....
One dies of COVID-19, 38 more cases from twin cities taking tally to over 20900
Rawalpindi: Another confirmed patient of COVID-19 lost his life due to the disease here in Rawalpindi district taking death toll from the district to 275 though the virus claimed first life in the district after July 22. The patient, 85-year-old male died of COVID-19 at Social Security Hospital was a resident of Dhoke Charagh Din in Rawalpindi city however, no death due to coronavirus illness was reported from Islamabad Capital Territory i.....view more

Hospitals put on alert in twin cities
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-08-01
RAWALPINDI/ ISLAMABAD: To deal with any emerging situation over Eidul Azha, hospitals in the federal capital were put on alert on Friday. Managements of all government hospitals in the federal capital have directed their respective departments to remain alert and keep a stock of medicines and essential items. The management of the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (Pims) issued a notification for the alert on Friday. However, the notice s.....view more

Pindi traders finally comply with lockdown
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-08-01
RAWALPINDI: Traders of the garrison city finally accepted the provincial government’s decision to impose a lockdown in commercial areas ahead of Eidul Azha to prevent the novel coronavirus (Covid-19) disease from spreading. The compliance came on a day when the district administration sealed three areas which were deemed as virus hotspots. On the fourth day of the lockdown, all large and small shopping malls, business centres, markets, a.....view more

Over 94% Covid-19 infected policemen have recovered: Punjab IGP
Source: APP, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-08-01
LAHORE: Punjab Inspector General of Police (IGP) Shoaib Dastagir in a statement issued on Friday revealed that around 1,700 policemen were infected with Covid-19 out of which at least 1,600 policemen have recovered from the disease and rejoined duties. The provincial police chief highlighted that Punjab police performed duties to implement the lockdown as well as at the quarantine and Ehsaas Kafalat centres with full diligence and honesty. &ld.....view more

Opp’s negative politics during pandemic failed: CM Usman Buzdar
LAHORE: Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar on Friday said that those engaged in negative politics in the backdrop of COVID-19 pandemic have faced defeat. The opposition should shun their politics of deceit and stop point-scoring over the coronavirus, he added. In his statement, the CM maintained that the anti-coronavirus policy of Prime Minister Imran Khan had been acknowledged at the global level, he asserted. Usman Buzdar said that opposition .....view more

SOPs for virus patients on Eid’
LAHORE: The Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD), Punjab, has issued Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for COVID-19 patients in home quarantine during holidays of Eid-ul-Azha. In a notification issued on Friday, the P&SHD has directed to ensure enforcement of SOPs for quarantine of infected persons during Eid
holidays. It also directed that home quarantine of all infected persons should be monitored closely during the ho.....view more

**Two more killed by corona in Punjab**
Source: Iqtidar Gilani, *The Nation, Islamabad*, 2020-08-01
LAHORE - Two more COVID-19 patients breathed their last on Friday, taking death toll in Punjab to 2,140. Confirmed cases of novel coronavirus reached 92,873 with the addition of 218 new infections in the province. According to report issued by Primary and Secondary Healthcare (P&SH) Department on Friday, out of a total of 92,873 infections in Punjab, as many as 90,093 citizens have contracted the virus through local transmission. The re.....view more

**Registration, exam fee of PBTE for one year waived off due to COVID-19 pandemic**
Source: Our Staff Reporter, *The Nation, Islamabad*, 2020-08-01
LAHORE - Punjab Minister for Trade and Industries Mian Aslam Iqbal on Friday announced to waive off registration and examination fee of Punjab Board of Technical Education for one year due to coronavirus pandemic. It was expected that 90,000 students would take admission in TEVTA institutions in 2020-21 and admission fee amounting to Rs320 million would not be received from them as well. Board registration and examination fee of 17,000 stud..... view more

**Implementation on COVID-19 SOPs during Eid holidays to be ensured**
Source: Staff Reporter, *The Nation, Islamabad*, 2020-08-01
LAHORE - Inspector General of Police (IGP) Punjab Shoaib Dastgir said that it was necessary to strictly implement SOPs regarding COVID-19 during Eid holidays to control the pandemic. He said that irresponsible behavior and violation of precautionary measures could cause spread of pandemic again. He said that special focus should be on implementation of SOPs devised especially for cattle markets, and social gatherings during Eid. He said tha.....view more

**SOPs issued for infected persons celebrating Eid at home**
Source: Staff Reporter, *The Nation, Islamabad*, 2020-08-01
LAHORE - Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD), Punjab, has issued Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for COVID19 patients in home quarantine during holidays of Eid-ul-Azha. In a notification issued on Friday, the P&SHD has directed to ensure enforcement of SOPs for quarantine of Infected Persons (IPs) during Eid ul Azha Holidays. It also directed that home quarantine of all infected persons should be monitored clos.....view more

**3 persons tested positive for COVID-19 in Attock**
Source: APP, *The Nation, Islamabad*, 2020-08-01
Attock-Three more people were tested positive for COVID-19 during the last 24 hours in the district Attock raising the tally of positive cases to 575. The district focal person for COVID-19, Dr Asif Arbab Niazi informed that among these three positive cases, one belongs to Hazro while two are from Pindigheab including a doctor. He informed that the number of corona patients in the district rose to 65. He said that the number of suspected ca..... view more
**Coronavirus tests reduced in Punjab**
Source: Asif Chaudhry, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2020-08-01

LAHORE: The Punjab government has surprisingly reduced tests of Covid-19 to approximately 30-40 per cent across the province against its original capacity. According to official figures, it has performed 5,301 tests during the last 24 hours in Punjab while the capacity was said to be 17,000 per day. Of the total tests, around 7,000 were being performed officially while others in the private sector. Some health and medical experts believe that t..... [view more](#)
### Sindh

**COVID-19 claims: 11 more lives, infects 513 others**  
As many as 513 new cases of the coronavirus were detected when 8,742 samples were tested, bringing the tally of positive cases to 118,824 in Sindh, where 11 more patients died of the viral infection in the past 24 hours. This was stated by Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued from the CM House on Monday. The chief minister said 8,742 samples were tested against which 513 cases were detected, constituting a six per cent detect..... [*view more*](#)

**Covid-19 claims 11 more lives, infects 513 in Sindh: CM**  
KARACHI: As many as 513 new cases of Covid-19 were detected out of 8,742 tested samples lifting the tally to 118824 while 11 more patients died taking the death toll to 2,162, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said in a statement issued here from CM House. The chief minister said 513 new cases constituted six percent current detection rate. He added that so far 718,548 samples have been tested so far which diagnosed 118,824 cases con..... [*view more*](#)

**513 more tested positive for COVID-19 in Sindh: CM**  
Source: Our Staff Reporter, *The Nation, Islamabad*, 2020-07-28  
KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah Monday said 513 new cases of coronavirus had been reported taking the tally to 118,824 during the last 24 hours in Sindh. In a statement, he said 8,742 people were tested for COVID-19. 11 more deaths were also witnessed surging the death toll to 2162 during the period. The chief minister said the current deduction rate was six percent adding so far 718,548 samples were tested constituting ov..... [*view more*](#)

**Sindh Assembly makes masks mandatory in public**  
Source: Hafeez Tunio, *The Express Tribune, Islamabad*, 2020-07-28  
KARACHI: Passing four different laws on Monday, the Sindh Assembly pushed forward an amendment to the Sindh Covid-19 Emergency Relief Bill, 2020, making it mandatory for citizens to wear masks in public places. Moving the amendment, Sindh Parliamentary Affairs Minister Mukesh Kumar Chawla explained it was meant to mitigate the spread of the coronavirus. The amendment further stated that any person employed at any establishment would be permit.... [*view more*](#)

**‘Hepatitis patients at high risk from Covid-19’**  
Source: Our Correspondent, *The Express Tribune, Islamabad*, 2020-07-28  
KARACHI: Hepatitis patients are at high risk of contracting Covid-19 due to baseline liver damage and therefore must be extra careful during the pandemic, cautioned Ziauddin University pro-chancellor Dr Nida Hussain during a webinar on Monday. The virtual seminar, titled ‘Find the Missing Millions,’ was organised for World Hepatitis Day and aimed to provide awareness to health professionals and the community at large to fight against he..... [*view more*](#)

**PMA fears spike in coronavirus cases if SOPs not followed on Eid**  
Source: Staff Reporter, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2020-07-29  
KARACHI: Fearing a spike in coronavirus cases after Eidul Azha, the Pakistan Medical Association (PMA) has called upon the government to ensure strict implementation of its standard operating procedures (SOPs) at cattle markets
before and during Eid holidays and abolish small cattle markets inside cities. It also urged the government not to get complacent over an improved Covid-19 situation in the country as experience in many countries had show...view more

Coronavirus and the villages
Source: Peerzada Salman, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-29
KARACHI: Make no mistake: the coronavirus pandemic is endangering our lives with the kind of rapidity that can only be checked by keeping away from it, that is, by maintaining physical distance from one another. Whoever is in denial, by now, must've cottoned on to the fact that the virus is life-threatening and can spread at a breakneck speed. There is no use burying one’s head in the sand. But then there are quite a few mixed signal...view more

Hepatitis patients are at higher Covid-19 risk: experts
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-29
KARACHI: Hepatitis patients are at a higher risk of catching Covid-19 due to liver damage so these patients need to be extra careful during the pandemic, said Dr Nida Hussain during a virtual seminar organised on Monday by Ziauddin University. Dr Hussain is the pro-chancellor at Ziauddin University and consultant physician of internal medicine at Dr Ziauddin Hospital. The event themed ‘Find the Missing Millions’ was held to mark Wor...view more

10 more die from COVID-19 in Sindh
COVID-19 claimed 10 more lives during the last 24 hours, while 574 new coronavirus cases surfaced in the province, said Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Tuesday. The coronavirus death toll had risen to 2,172, he said, adding that the total number of COVID-19 patients stood at 119,398 in Sindh. He said 509 more patients recovered overnight, lifting the number of recovered patients to 108,989. According to the CM, 8,237 patients....view more

Fighting Covid-19: SBP receives more than $500m from World Bank
Source: News Desk, Daily Times, 2020-07-29
The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has received $505.5 million from the World Bank on Tuesday to sustain itself in the fight against the novel coronavirus that has adversely affected the economy of the country. Last week, Pakistan had signed two loan agreements valuing $750 million with the World Bank (WB) and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) for the Resilient Institutions for Sustainable Economy (RISE) programme. The World Bank was .....view more

With 10 more deaths, Sindh reports 574 new infections
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-07-29
KARACHI - As many as 574 new cases of coronavirus emerged when 9,571 samples were tested lifting the tally to 119,398 and 10 more patients died lifting the death toll to 2,172. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued here from CM House. He said that 9,571 tests were conducted which detected 574 new cases that constituted six percent current detection rate. He added that so far 728,119 samples had be.....view more
10 more die of Covid-19 in Sindh
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-07-29
As many as 574 fresh coronavirus cases were reported in Sindh overnight, shared Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Tuesday, adding that 10 more people had succumbed to the contagious disease. He said that 9,571 samples were tested for the virus, of which 574 turned out to be positive, taking the total number of affected persons to 119,398. Meanwhile, the 10 more deaths raised the province’s Covid-19 death toll to 2,172, he added. H..... view more

Casual attitude towards Covid-19 in Pakistan remains cause for concern: study
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-30
KARACHI: One in six Pakistani adults believe that they and their families are safe from Covid-19 even if they take no preventive measures, according to a study conducted by the Aga Khan University (AKU) and The Chinese University of Hong Kong. Pakistani researchers conducted an online survey of 1,406 adults across Pakistan over the first two weeks of May and compared the results with a similar study in Hong Kong. Hong Kong is widely regarded as..... view more

17 more coronavirus patients die: CM
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-30
KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Wednesday said 17 more patients of coronavirus lost their lives lifting the death toll to 2,189 while 654 new cases emerged when 9,520 samples were tested raising the tally to 220,052. In a statement issued here from CM House, he said that 9,520 samples were tested which detected 654 cases constituting seven per cent current detection. He said that so far 737,639 tests had been conducted whic..... view more

PIAF backs traders to run businesses 24/7 till Eid
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-07-30
The Pakistan Industrial and Traders Associations Front, while announcing full support to the traders, has appealed to the government to extend permission to the business community to run their businesses 24/7 till Eid-ul-Azha, reopening of all markets with strict implementation of the government SOPs to avoid spread of coronavirus. PIAF chairman Mian Nauman Kabir, in a joint statement with senior vice chairman Nasir Hameed and vice chairman Jave..... view more

Coronavirus kills 17 more in Sindh
Seventeen more people have died due to COVID-19 and another 654 cases have been reported during the past 24 hours in Sindh, with the death toll due to the viral disease reaching 2,189 in the province. Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said in his daily situation report on the health emergency on Wednesday that 9,520 samples were tested in the past 24 hours, resulting in 654 people, or seven per cent of those who were screened, being diagnost..... view more

17pc Pakistanis don't believe in taking COVID-19 preventive measures: study
One in six Pakistani adults believe that they and their families are safe from COVID-19 even if they take no preventive measures, according to a study conducted by the Aga Khan University (AKU) and The Chinese University of Hong Kong. Pakistani researchers conducted an online survey of 1,406 adults across Pakistan over the first two weeks of
May and compared the results with a similar study in Hong Kong. Hong Kong is widely regarded as a COVID-19 hotspot. 

### ‘Pakistanis’ casual attitude worrisome’
Source: News Desk, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-07-30
One in six Pakistani adults believe that they and their families were safe from the coronavirus even without any preventive measures, revealed a study conducted by Aga Khan University (AKU) and the Chinese University of Hong Kong. As many as 1,406 adults across Pakistan took part in a survey conducted by the Pakistani researchers over the first two weeks of May and compared the results with a similar study conducted in Hong Kong, which is widely regarded as a COVID-19 hotspot.

### 60pc subsidy being provided to non-traditional items: TDAP
KARACHI: Acting Secretary Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), Riaz Sheikh has informed business community that TDAP is giving 60 percent subsidy to non-traditional items and 80 percent to non-traditional markets. Participating in a webinar on ‘Promotion of Exports of Non Traditional Items’ organised by FPCCI through video link, he suggested the need of organising single country exhibition in Central Asian countries, Africa.

### 3,060 Sindh police personnel test positive for Covid-19
KARACHI: As many as 3060 personnel of Sindh police have so far been tested positive for Covid-19, said the provincial police spokesperson on Wednesday. He said that 17 police personnel, including officers, lost their lives due to the coronavirus while performing their duties. Of them 14 were from Karachi while three from the Hyderabad region.

### ‘20 more die of Covid-19’
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-31
KARACHI: As many as 20 patients of coronavirus died overnight lifting the death toll to 2,209 and 498 others contracted the virus, lifting the tally to 120,896. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued here from CM House on Thursday. The CM said that 689 more patients recovered raising the number of patients cured so far to 110,233. According to the CM, currently 8,454 patients are under treatment, of which 6,084 are in the ICU.

### COVID-19 kills 20 more, infects another 498 in Sindh
Twenty more people have died due to COVID-19 and another 498 cases have been reported during the past 24 hours in Sindh, with the death toll due to the viral disease reaching 2,209 in the province. Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said in his daily situation report on the health emergency on Thursday that 10,842 samples were tested in the past 24 hours, resulting in 498 people, or five per cent of those who were screened, being diagnosed with the virus.
Adverse impacts of Covid-19 contained: SBP
Source: Rizwan Bhatti, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-07-31
KARACHI: The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has said that improved macroeconomic fundamentals have provided room for fiscal and monetary policy adjustments to contain adverse impacts of COVID-19. The State Bank has released its Third Quarterly Report FY20 on ‘The State of Pakistan’s Economy’ on Thursday. According to the report, successful stabilization measures that had fostered macroeconomic improvement in Jul-Feb FY20 prov.....view more

Covid-19 claims 20 lives, infects 498 others: Murad
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-07-31
KARACHI: As many as 20 patients of coronavirus died overnight lifting the death toll to 2,209 and 498 others contracted with the virus lifting the tally to 120896. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued here from CM House on Thursday. The CM said that 20 more patients lost their lives while struggling against the virus lifting the death toll to 2209 that constituted 1.8 percent death rate. He ad.....view more

‘Pakistanis’ casual attitude worrisome’
Source: News Desk, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-07-31
One in six Pakistani adults believe that they and their families were safe from the coronavirus even without any preventive measures, revealed a study conducted by Aga Khan University (AKU) and the Chinese University of Hong Kong. As many as 1,406 adults across Pakistan took part in a survey conducted by the Pakistani researchers over the first two weeks of May and compared the results with a similar study conducted in Hong Kong, which is widely.....view more

11 more fall prey to coronavirus in Sindh
The novel coronavirus claimed 11 more lives in Sindh during last 24 hours, Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said on Friday, adding that the death toll from the viral infection stood at 2,220 in the province. As many as 11,555 samples were tested, against which 489 new cases emerged, which constituted a four per cent detection rate, he said in his daily COVID-19 situation report. So far, 760,036 samples have been conducted in Sindh, and .....view more

Sindh posts 489 new Covid-19 cases, 11 deaths
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-08-01
KARACHI: As many as 11,555 samples were tested against which 489 new cases emerged positive taking the tally to 489 while 11 more patients lost their lives lifting the death toll to 2,220. Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said in a statement issued here on Friday. The CM said new cases constituted four percent detection rate. So far 760,036 samples have been conducted which diagnosed 121,039 cases that constituted 16 percent overall det.....view more

COVID claims 11 lives, infects 489 others in Sindh: CM
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-08-01
KARACHI - As many as 11555 samples were tested against which 489 new cases emerged positive taking the tally to 489 while 11 more patients lost their lives lifting the death toll to 2220. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued here on Friday. The CM said 11555 tests were conducted against which 489 new cases were detected with percentage of four percent. So far, about 760036 samples have been taken .....view more
Around 3,812 coronavirus patients recover
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-08-01
DADU - As many as 3,812 COVID-19 patients, out of total 4,410, have recovered in Hyderabad district since the outbreak of the pandemic while 536 patients are still under treatment at different isolation centers or are in home isolation and 60 have succumbed to the contagion. According to official figures released here on Friday, as many as 31048 tests have been conducted in the district till July 30, 2020. Ration, facemasks distributed As t.....view more

Selling sacrificial animals in the times of Covid-19
Source: Lubna Jerar Naqvi, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-01
KARACHI: The coronavirus pandemic has apparently changed the world forever. The world is adapting itself to new ways. People are trying to adjust to the new normal and many are still struggling to adapt to this changed situation. However, interestingly, the coronavirus has been unable to bring about a major change to Pakistan. It seems people here are making their own rules as they go about their lives. Like Eidul Fitr two months ago, we are re......view more

Auction of old Sabzi Mandi plot cancelled due to Covid-19
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-01
KARACHI: The Karachi Metropolitan Corporation said on Friday that the auction of a plot at Old Sabzi Mandi had been cancelled and the resolution adopted by the City Council was deferred. A spokesman for the city’s municipal administration said that after the auction, many people approached the director land and officials concerned and maintained that they could not take part in the auction due to Covid-19 as they were in isolation at the t.....view more

11 more corona patients die: CM
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-01
KARACHI: As many as 11,555 samples were tested against which 489 new Covid-19 cases emerged while 11 more patients lost their lives overnight lifting the death toll to 2,220. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued here on Friday. The CM said that 11,555 tests were conducted against which 489 new cases were detected that constituted four per cent detection rate. “So far 760,036 samples have been t.....view more

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# International News

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| **Cat tests positive for coronavirus in England**  
LONDON: A pet cat has tested positive in England for the new coronavirus that causes Covid-19, the government said on Monday in the first confirmed case of an animal being infected with the virus in Britain. The British environment ministry said “all available evidence” suggested the cat had contracted the coronavirus from its owners, who had both tested positive for Covid-19. Both the cat and the humans made a full recovery and the.....[view more](#) |
| **US national security adviser tests positive for Covid-19**  
WASHINGTON: Donald Trump’s national security adviser tested positive for Covid-19 Monday, as the president prepared to visit a North Carolina facility where one of the leading vaccine candidates is being manufactured. Trump has placed his hopes in the emergence of a successful vaccine by this fall to both contain the country’s still raging coronavirus outbreak and revive his faltering election hopes. National security advisor Robert.....[view more](#) |
| **Global coronavirus death toll passes 650,000**  
PARIS: Recorded deaths from the coronavirus passed 650,000 on Monday as the disease surged back at hotspots in Asia, Europe and the Americas, prompting renewed restrictions, targeted lockdowns and compulsory mask-wearing orders. Australia has been rocked by its deadliest surge since the start of the pandemic, Hong Kong is experiencing record daily numbers and Spain’s caseload has tripled in the last fortnight. With the new surges promptin.....[view more](#) |
| **Covid-19: China shares TCM diagnosis and treatment protocol with Pakistan**  
China has exchanged views on Traditional Chinese Medicines (TCM) diagnosis and treatment protocol for COVID-19, effective TCM prescriptions and clinical experiences with 82 countries and regions including Italy, Germany, Japan, South Korea and Pakistan, and donated TCM products to more than 10 countries. Besides, it also dispatched TCM doctors to 27 countries and regions for epidemic relief, which indicated the sense of responsibility of a major.....[view more](#) |
| **Florida records 9,300 new coronavirus cases, blows past New York**  
Source: Agencies, [Daily Times](https://www.dailytimes.com.pk), 2020-07-28  
Florida on Sunday became the second state after California to overtake New York, the worst-hit state at the start of the U.S. novel coronavirus outbreak, according to a Reuters tally. Total COVID-19 cases in the Sunshine State rose by 9,300 to 423,855 on Sunday, just one place behind California, which now leads the country with 448,497 cases. New York is in third place with 415,827 cases. Still, New York has recorded the most deaths of a.....[view more](#) |
| **Asia battles second wave of coronavirus with fresh lockdowns**  
Source: Agencies, [Daily Times](https://www.dailytimes.com.pk), 2020-07-28  
Countries around Asia are confronting a second wave of coronavirus infections and are clamping down again to try to contain the disease, with Australia recording a record daily rise in cases and Vietnam locking down the city of |
Danang. In China, infections not involving people returning from overseas hit the highest number since early March, with a total of 57 domestic transmissions reported out of 61 new cases. In the northeast, Liaoning province ......

**Saudi Arabia gears up for downsized haj**
Source: Agencies, *Daily Times*, 2020-07-28

Saudi Arabia on Wednesday begins hosting the annual haj pilgrimage, dramatically downscaled due to the coronavirus pandemic that has barred millions of international pilgrims for the first time in modern history. Up to 10,000 people residing in the kingdom will participate in the Muslim ritual, a tiny fraction of the 2.5 million that attended last year, after what many saw as an opaque selection process that left a wave of applicants rejected. Th.....

**Vietnam curbs movement in city of 1.1m as virus-free run ends**
Source: Agencies, *Daily Times*, 2020-07-28

Vietnam will suspend all flights and public transport into and out of a city of 1.1 million people where the country’s first coronavirus cases in months were recently detected, authorities said Monday. Until the weekend it appeared that the Southeast Asian country had managed to stub out the virus — and with lockdowns lifted since late April, domestic tourists had flocked back to the coastal city of Danang. But fresh restrictions on mo.....

**Virus-hit Iran warns against weddings and funerals**

Tehran - Tehran on Monday warned Iranians against holding wedding and funeral gatherings as the country’s novel coronavirus outbreak showed no signs of abating, claiming another 212 lives. "Despite repeated calls to not hold weddings and mourning ceremonies, reports from across the country still indicate they are taking place," said health ministry spokeswoman Sima Sadat Lari. "The presence of people at these overcrowded .....*

**Can you get coronavirus twice?**

WASHINGTON: Can you get the coronavirus twice? Scientists don’t know for sure yet, but they believe its unlikely. Health experts think people who had Covid-19 will have some immunity against a repeat infection. But they don’t know how much protection or how long it would last. There have been reports of people testing positive for the virus weeks after they were believed to have recovered, leading some to think they may have been re.....

**Head of China CDC gets injected with experimental vaccine**

BEIJING: The head of the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention says he has been injected with an experimental coronavirus vaccine in an attempt to persuade the public to follow suit when one is approved. I’m going to reveal something undercover: I am injected with one of the vaccines, Gao Fu said in a webinar on Sunday hosted by Alibaba Health, an arm of the Chinese e-commerce giant, and Cell Press, an American publisher of sci.....
UK quarantine move hits fragile airline recovery hopes
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-07-29
Britain’s surprise move to quarantine passengers arriving from Spain dealt a heavy blow to European airlines already reeling from the coronavirus crisis – and sowed new doubts about the prospects for a steady travel recovery. Airlines slammed what they characterized as a disproportionate decision, as their shares sank across the board amid fading hopes that an improvement in traffic could yet allow them to salvage part of the critical.....view more

Peru says over 900 girls, women feared dead since pandemic began
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-07-29
A staggering 900-plus girls and women are missing and feared dead in Peru since COVID-19 confinement began, authorities said Monday. The Andean nation home to 33 million people long has had a horrific domestic violence problem. But COVID-19, which has compounded home confinement combined with job losses and a health crisis, has seen an already scary situation grow worse in just 3-1/2 months, according to Eliana Revollar, who leads the women’s.....view more

Spectre of the Spanish Flu haunts old US mining town
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-07-29
“Gone but Not Forgotten.” So reads the tombstone of Carl Axel Carlson, an Army private who died of the Spanish Flu in 1918. The train that carried his body home to Bisbee brought the deadly flu with it. More than a century later this once flourishing Arizona mining town, now visited by tourists and home to hippies and retirees, is struggling to survive a new deadly pandemic. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, gold, silver and co.....view more

Coronavirus crisis threatens internet opportunity for Native Americans
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-07-29
The COVID-19 crisis has disrupted a rare opportunity for Native American communities to address a lack of critical internet access, supporters and elected officials say, by missing a deadline to obtain free broadband licenses from the government. The cutoff for tribes to apply for licenses from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) expires on August 3, and the process entails submitting complex applications, surveys and maps, said official.....view more

Trump wears mask, voices hope on coronavirus vaccine in North Carolina
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-07-29
President Donald Trump wore a mask and talked up the possibility of a coronavirus vaccine by the end of the year on Monday as he looked to show voters in the battleground state of North Carolina that he is responding to the pandemic. Trump, whose job approval ratings have dropped as many Americans believe he has handled the virus badly, sought for the second week to look in command after setting aside his hands-off approach. “I trust all .....view more

Chile hospitals ensure patients do not die alone despite pandemic
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-07-29
All over the world, people are dying alone as relatives are barred from visiting them in hospital for fear of catching and spreading the coronavirus. But not in Chile. Here, special units have been set up where family members and loved ones are able to say their goodbyes even inside public hospitals where the virus is rife. “Everyone leaves behind a family and we tried to get to know every person in the time we had,” Natalia Ojeda, .....view more
Vietnam locks down its 3rd-largest city as virus cases grow
Source: Agencies, Daily Times , 2020-07-29
Vietnam on Tuesday locked down its third-largest city for two weeks after 15 cases of COVID-19 were found in a hospital, the government said. Public transport into and out of the central city of Da Nang was cancelled. Over the weekend, thousands of mostly Vietnamese tourists had to end their summer holidays in the popular beach destination. The lockdown has dealt a hard blow to the city’ tourism industry, which was just being revived after ..... view more

Bring a chair and sunscreen: boarding schools prepare for students’ return
Source: Agencies, Daily Times , 2020-07-29
Students at a small boarding school in California received an unusual set of instructions this summer: return to campus in the fall armed with a portable chair, a sun hat and sunscreen. Taking classes out into the open is one key part of Midland School’s plans to get its roughly 85 students back to in-person lessons, while reducing the risk of spreading the novel coronavirus. The move is not too big a stretch for the students, who grow much o..... view more

Virus fears force animal sellers online for Muslim festival
Source: Agencies, Daily Times , 2020-07-29
Prancing in front of a camera with its blond mane blowing in the wind, “007” is one of thousands of goats being sold online as Muslims prepare for a key religious festival shaken this year by the coronavirus pandemic. Millions of goats, sheep and cattle are slaughtered annually at Eid al-Adha — the festival of sacrifice — one of two major holy days observed by Muslims across the world, including some 600 million in South As..... view more

Pandemic to bring surge in child wasting cases: UN
Source: Agencies, Daily Times , 2020-07-29
The unprecedented social and economic crisis caused by the coronavirus pandemic will see nearly seven million more children experience stunting as a result of malnutrition, the United Nations said Tuesday. Even before COVID-19 there were an estimated 47 million children under five who were moderately or severely wasted, most living in sub-Saharan Africa and southeast Asia. Now as lockdowns and international trade routes disrupt vital aid suppli..... view more

India virus cases jump past 1.5 million, but slum study raises questions on official data
NEW DELHI: India's coronavirus infections jumped passed 1.5 million and deaths neared 35,000 on Wednesday, but test results in Mumbai cast have raised questions regarding the official data in the world's second-most populous nation. Even as case numbers soar and more areas impose lockdowns, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said this week India was in a "better position that other countries", and winning international praise. The h..... view more

Fitch lowers credit outlook on Japan to negative on COVID-19 impact
Source: Agencies, Daily Times , 2020-07-30
Rating agency Fitch on Wednesday revised its outlook on Japan’s long-term foreign currency debt rating to negative from stable, citing the sharp coronavirus-induced domestic economic contraction. “The coronavirus pandemic has caused a sharp economic contraction in Japan, despite the country’s early success in containing the virus,” Fitch said. The global rating agency affirmed Japan’s rating at ‘A’. Japan..... view more
Slow tests, poor tracing: virus disaster unfolds in Florida
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-07-30
Florida has emerged as a major new epicenter of the US coronavirus battle, but two key weapons in the state’s fight are misfiring badly: testing and contact tracing. Health officials say that when a person is tested they need to get the results in 48 hours or less, so if they are in fact positive they can self-isolate right away and avoid infecting others. But in the Sunshine State it is taking up to 10 days for results to return. Such w....see more

Pilgrims wearing facemasks, observing social distancing begin arriving in Makkah for Hajj
Source: News Desk, Daily Times, 2020-07-30
Pilgrims, donning face masks and moving in small groups after days in isolation, began arriving in Makkah on Wednesday for the start of a historically unique and scaled-down Hajj experience reshaped by the coronavirus pandemic. The Hajj, both physically and spiritually demanding, is intended to bring about greater humility and unity among Muslims. Rather than standing and praying shoulder-to-shoulder in a sea of people from different walks of life,.....see more

Too early for Pakistan to celebrate improved Covid-19 situation
NEW YORK: The United Nations has commended Pakistan’s gains in the fight against the coronavirus but warned complacency during the coming Islamic festival of Eid-ul-Azha could lead to a new surge in cases, foreign media reported. The warning comes a day after Prime Minister Imran Khan said Pakistan was among the few countries in the world that have largely controlled the pandemic. The outbreak hit the county of 220 million peoplein.....see more

COVID-19 deaths jump past 150,000 in worst-hit US
WASHINGTON: The United States became the first country to report over 150,000 deaths from the novel coronavirus on Wednesday — leaving behind all other nations hit by the pandemic. Brazil is second to the US in terms of cases and fatalities, and also reported a sobering figure as it surpassed 90,000 deaths. Nations around the globe, even those that believed they had largely curbed the disease, are seeing a rise in cases that are damaging .....see more

Hundreds begin Hajj as virus halts millions to reach Makkah
Source: Agencies, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-07-30
SAUDI ARABIA - Annual Hajj rituals began in Makkah with the arrival of pilgrims in Mina on Wednesday. Hundreds of pilgrims are performing Hajj this year due to crowd control restrictions put in place by Saudi Arabia in the wake of Covid-19 pandemic. For the first time in decades, international travelers were barred from the Hajj due to coronavirus pandemic. Some seventy percent of the worshippers this year are foreign residents of Saudi Ara.....see more

Pilgrims converge on Maidan-e-Arafat: ‘Corona result of our sins, wrongdoing’
MAKKAH: Chanting ‘Labbaik Allahumma Labbaik’, masked pilgrims entered Maidan-e-Arafat on Thursday to supplicate for the atonement of their sins and hoping for acceptance of their pilgrimage. The global coronavirus pandemic has cast a shadow on every aspect of this year’s pilgrimage, which last year drew 2.5 million Muslims from
across the world to Mount Arafat where Prophet Muhammad (SAW) delivered his final sermon. They liste.....view more

Trump suggests delaying polls due to Covid-19
Source: Anwar Iqbal, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-31
WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump suggested on Thursday that November’s presidential election be postponed until people can vote safely without the fear of getting infected by the coronavirus. Mr Trump, who often uses social media to announce major decisions and for floating his ideas, once again went to Twitter to test his latest idea. “With Universal Mail-In Voting (not Absentee Voting, which is good), 2020 will be the most IN.....view more

Former US presidential candidate dies of Covid-19
Source: Reuters, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-31
WASHINGTON: Herman Cain, a television host and former Republican presidential candidate, died on Thursday after contracting Covid-19, according to a statement on his website and Facebook page. Cain, 74, was diagnosed with the disease late last month and later hospitalised after attending a Tulsa, Oklahoma, rally for President Donald Trump, where many attendees crowded close together without wearing face masks to prevent the spread of the novel c.....view more

Pilgrims pray on Hajj day in shadow of coronavirus
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-07-31
Masked pilgrims arrived on Thursday at Mount Arafat, a desert hill near the Holy Kaaba, to pray and repent on the most important day of the Hajj, in Makkah, Saudi Arabia. The global coronavirus pandemic has cast a shadow over every aspect of this year’s pilgrimage, which last year drew 2.5 million Muslims from across the world to Mount Arafat, where the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) delivered his final sermon nearly 1,400 years ago. The silver of.....view more

Boeing reports big loss, signals more job cuts
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-07-31
Boeing suffered a bigger-than-expected loss in the latest quarter, the company announced Wednesday, and signaled additional job cuts are likely as it contends with a protracted air travel downturn amid the coronavirus pandemic. The aerospace giant, which previously suspended the dividend for shareholders and announced a 10 percent staff downsizing, also said it would phase out production of the iconic 747 jumbo jet and ratchet back production pl.....view more

Brazil’s COVID-19 death toll surpasses 90,000
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-07-31
Brazil registered record daily numbers of infections and deaths from the new coronavirus Wednesday, sending its overall death toll surging past 90,000 people. Despite the record figures, the government issued a decree reopening the country to foreign visitors arriving by plane, ending a four-month travel ban in hopes of reviving a lockdown-devastated tourism industry. Brazil, which has been hit harder than any country except the United States i.....view more
Despite fewer virus cases, Hawaii hesitant to open schools
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-07-31
The principal of the only school on Lanai thought reopening with full, in-person instruction next month was a no brainer: The Hawaiian island has had no confirmed coronavirus cases, and breezes flow through many of the school’s classrooms. But even there, faculty pushed back, said Lanai High and Elementary School Principal Elton Kinoshita. In the end, only kindergartners and first-graders will meet face to face daily. While Hawaii has o.....view more

Pandemic purgatory: Irish priest in holy island virus vigil
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-07-31
As people in Ireland endured months of coronavirus lockdown limbo, priest Laurence Flynn experienced his own private purgatory, keeping solitary vigil on a hallowed island usually crowded with pilgrims. After the nation shut down in late March, Father Flynn became the sole inhabitant of St. Patrick’s Purgatory on Lough Derg, a lake in County Donegal said to be where Christ showed Ireland’s patron saint the entrance to hell. Dating b.....view more

Costa Rica to begin staggered reopening as July coronavirus cases jump
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-07-31
The Costa Rican government will begin an economic reopening on Saturday in a bid to reverse a sharp coronavirus-induced slowdown, the president said on Wednesday, even though the official tally shows the COVID-19 caseload continuing to rise. President Carlos Alvarado offered a plan for a staggered reopening of the Central American country’s economy, which has been battered by the global pandemic since March. The government will all.....view more

Global economies, companies hit hard as virus cases top 17 million
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-07-31
Economies from Europe to the United States on Thursday reported record economic slumps and companies from banks to car makers warned of losses in the latest fallout from the pandemic that has infected more than 17 million people across the globe. Six months after the World Health Organization declared a global emergency, countries around the globe are struggling to control infections even as they seek to restart damaged economies. Even nations t.....view more

In just days, Vietnam shifts from virus-free paradise to panic
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-07-31
There had been so few coronavirus cases in Vietnam that every patient was known by a number: Patient 17 brought the virus back from Europe after an initial wave of infections from Wuhan. Patient 91, a British pilot, almost died.Now there is a new number that has become an unwelcome marker. Patient 416, a 57-year-old man in the central city of Danang, tested positive for coronavirus last week after more than three months without a new infection i.....view more

Global coronavirus cases cross 17 million
Confirmed coronavirus cases in the country topped 17 million on Thursday as many countries reported a resurgence in cases. Six months after the World Health Organisation (WHO) declared a global emergency, the novel coronavirus has infected more than 17 million people across the globe. The WHO warned Thursday that young people are "not invincible" and were helping to drive resurgences in many places that had largely curbed the disease......view more
Hajj amid pandemic
Source: Editorial, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-07-31
Pilgrims gathered in Makkah to perform what may be the lowest-attendance Hajj since the early years of Islam. It has been one of the most pronounced images of the impact of Covid-19 on religion. Unlike the yester years when millions of people, stretched as far as the eye could see, would be inside and around the Holy Kaaba, this year, between one and ten thousand pilgrims performed the Hajj. Masked pilgrims moved in small groups — less than......view more

WHO says COVID-19 impact will be felt for decades to come
PARIS: The world health body on Saturday warned of long drawn out virus pandemic as India and the Philippines reported a record rise in new cases. Six months after the World Health Organization declared a global emergency, the novel coronavirus has killed more than 680,000 people and infected more than 17.5 million, according to an AFP tally. Mexico also overtook Britain to became the third hardest hit country for virus deaths after Braz.....view more

Thousands in Berlin protest against measures to stem the spread of COVID-19
It was a rare sight to see thousands in Berlin, Germany, protest against measures taken by the government against the novel coronavirus, such as face masks and vaccines, on Saturday. Police put turnout at around 17,000 -- well below the 500,000 organisers had announced as they urged a “day of freedom” against the coronavirus restrictions. Despite Germany’s comparatively low toll, authorities are concerned at a rise in infections.....view more

Amid the pandemic, Big Tech reports mixed earnings
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-08-01
Big Tech companies reported mixed quarterly earnings on Thursday, a day after their top executives faced a tough congressional grilling over their market power and alleged monopolistic practices. All four were affected by the pandemic, although in strikingly different ways. Google and Facebook reported slowing growth in the April-June quarter due to lagging digital ad sales, while Apple and Amazon saw profits and revenue rise. Shares o.....view more

Record economic plunge, bleak jobs numbers reveal virus toll
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-08-01
The coronavirus pandemic sent the US economy plunging by a record-shattering 32.9% annual rate last quarter and is still inflicting damage across the country, squeezing already struggling businesses and forcing a wave of layoffs that shows no sign of abating. The economy’s collapse in the April-June quarter, stunning in its speed and depth, came as a resurgence of the viral outbreak has pushed businesses to close for a second time i.....view more
Pandemic job losses and flooding spark fears of hard times in Bangladesh
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-08-01
After losing his job at a garment factory in Dhaka in April as the coronavirus pandemic hit, Mohammad Sumon returned to his village in Jamalpur, about 160 kms away, hoping to support his family working as a part-time mechanic. But severe floods that struck Bangladesh the last week of June, driven by heavy monsoon rains, are now keeping the 22-year-old from that work as well. Instead, he finds himself stuck at home, one of millions of B.....view more

India’s coronavirus cases rise by a daily record of 55,078
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-08-01
India reported another record surge in daily COVID-19 cases on Friday, taking the total to 1.64 million, as the government further eases virus curbs in a bid to resuscitate the economy, while also trying to increase testing. Infections jumped by 55,078 in the past 24 hours, while the death toll rose by 779 to 35,747, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare said on its website. The ministry also said it aimed to raise the country&rsquos testing capacity.....view more

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Global COVID-19 cases jump past 18 million as Melbourne imposes curfew
MELBOURNE: The global tally of coronavirus cases crossed 18 million on Monday with the illness continuing its march as Australia’s second-largest city imposed restrictions to curb the spread of the disease. Six months after the World Health Organisation declared a global emergency, the virus has killed more than 687,000 people since it first emerged in China late last year, according to an AFP tally compiled from official sources. Fr.....view more

Socially distanced, masked Muslims offer Eid prayers
Source: Reuters, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-01
JAKARTA: Masked and socially distanced to fight the coronavirus, Muslims around the world offered prayers on Friday to mark the festival of Eidul Azha, with mosques at reduced capacity and some praying in the open air. Saudi Arabia’s King Salman bin Abdulaziz, 84, whose country is home to two of Islam’s holiest sites, tweeted holiday congratulations a day after leaving hospital in Riyadh. Haj is being held in the country with attenda.....view more

Major Australian city in virus ‘limbo’ as outbreak rages
Source: AFP, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-01
MELBOURNE: Hopes that Australia may have escaped the worst ravages of the coronavirus pandemic were fast fading on Friday as a growing outbreak in its second-largest city has officials eyeing draconian measures to curtail the spread. With hundreds of new infections emerging every day despite people in Melbourne entering a fourth week of lockdown, many on the streets said they were saddened and anxious. The virus has forced millions back indoors.....view more
**US to pay $2.1bn to Sanofi, GSK in Covid-19 vaccine deal**
Source: Reuters, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-01
WASHINGTON: The US government will pay $2.1 billion to Sanofi SA and GlaxoSmithKline for COVID-19 vaccines to cover 50 million people and to underwrite the drug makers’ testing and manufacturing, the companies said on Friday. The award is the biggest yet from “Operation Warp Speed”, the White House initiative aimed at accelerating access to vaccines and treatments to fight Covid-19, the respiratory disease caused by the novel c......view more

**UK ‘puts brakes’ on reopening, imposes local rules as virus cases rise**
Source: AFP, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-01
LONDON: Britain on Friday “put the brakes on” easing lockdown measures and imposed new rules on millions of households in northern England, following concerns over a spike in coronavirus infections. The reopening of high-risk activities such as casinos, bowling alleys and skating rinks, which was meant to begin on Saturday, will be delayed until at least August 15, as will the reintroduction of indoor performances and pilot schemes o......view more

**WHO to reexamine COVID-19 emergency status, six months on**
Source: Agencies, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-07-28
Geneva - The World Health Organization said Monday that a key committee would meet later this week to discuss COVID-19's emergency status, six months after it was declared. WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told reporters that the UN health body's emergency committee would convene to reexamine the declaration that the outbreak constituted a "public health emergency of international concern". A so-called PHEIC declaration.....view more

**WHO says Covid-19 pandemic is ‘one big wave’, not seasonal**
Source: Reuters, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-07-29
GENEVA: The World Health Organisation on Tuesday warned against complacency about new coronavirus transmission in the northern hemisphere summer, saying that this virus did not behave like influenza that tended to follow seasonal trends. "People are still thinking about seasons. What we all need to get our heads around is this is a new virus and…this one is behaving differently," Margaret Harris told a virtual briefing in Geneva, ......view more

**Swiss envoy donates PPEs to PIMS**
Islamabad : Healthcare services through well planned and synchronised directions have played an efficient role in straightening the curve of COVID-19 related morbidity and mortality in Pakistan. The frontline healthcare providers have delivered their best in alleviating the sufferings of infected patients. The Ambassador of Switzerland to Pakistan Benedict de Cerjat expressed these views as he eulogised the professional work of frontline healthc.....view more

**WHO says COVID-19 pandemic is ‘one big wave’, not seasonal**
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-07-29
The World Health Organization on Tuesday warned against complacency about new coronavirus transmission in the northern hemisphere summer, saying that this virus did not behave like influenza that tended to follow seasonal trends. “People are still thinking about seasons. What we all need to get our heads around is this is a new virus and…this one is behaving differently,” Margaret Harris told a virtual briefing in Geneva, u.....view more
World Health Organisation lauds Pakistan’s response to Covid-19
Source: Ashfaq Yusufzai, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-07-31
PESHAWAR: The World Health Organisation has appreciated Pakistan’s response to Covid-19 as it reduced mortalities and cases. The world health agency has recommended strict adherence to SOPs to sustain the gains achieved during the last few months and prevent the pandemic to bounce back. “Pakistan’s timely response to Covid-19 is the best in the region but it still needs to enhance testing of people and strictly observe physica..... view more

US donates 100 more ventilators for COVID-19 patients
Islamabad: In partnership, Pakistan’s National Disaster Management Authority and the United States Government, through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), are working together to fight COVID-19 by contributing a second shipment of 100 respiratory ventilators. The ventilators arrived in Islamabad on July 28 and will be deployed in hospitals across Pakistan. The arrival of these ventilators delivers on President Do..... view more
SDPI Engagements

Researchers Articles

The opportunity in an epidemic
Recycling and eliminating mountains of solid waste is central to the goal of moving towards a pollution-free planet. Contaminated rubbish pollutes the air, water and soil, leading to environmental degradation and having serious human health repercussions. Covid-19 has brought drastic changes to our daily lives, social interactions, communication, and more specifically, how we celebrate our festivities. Large gatherings, such as marriages, consul... view more

Webinars News

Experts Urge For Steps For Better Business Regulation For SME Sector
Source: APP, Urdu Point, 2020-07-30
ISLAMABAD, (APP - UrduPoint / Pakistan Point News - 29th Jul, 2020 ):The experts urged for some pragmatic steps to improve the business regulation for Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) sector in Punjab Province The Small and Medium Enterprise (SMEs) need enabling policy measure to recover from the worst impacts of Covid19 pandemic, they said. The provincial governments also need to evaluate the situation to respond with urgent facilitation to s..... view more

Experts call for facilitation of SMEs
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-07-30
ISLAMABAD: Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) need an enabling policy measure to recover from the worst impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. Provincial governments also need to evaluate the situation to respond with urgent facilitation to save such businesses. These remarks were made by experts and analysts from the public and private sectors during an online consultative dialogue on “Better business regulation for SME sector in Punjab provi..... view more

Experts urge for steps for better business regulation for SME sector
Source: DNA, Centreline.com, 2020-07-29
ISLAMABAD, JUL 29 (DNA) – Small and Medium Enterprise (SMEs) need enabling policy measures to recover from the worst impacts of Covid19 pandemic. The provincial governments also need to evaluate the situation to respond with urgent facilitation to save such business. The experts and analysts on the economy from public and private sectors said this while sharing their views with the participants at online consultative dialogue ‘Bette..... view more

Better business regulation sought for SMEs
Islamabad:The small and medium enterprises need enabling policy measures to recover from losses caused by coronavirus pandemic, say economic experts. According to them, the provincial governments should also evaluate the situation to respond with urgent facilitation to save such business. These experts and analysts on the economy...
from public and private sectors were engaged by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute in an online dial.....view more

**SDPI, AIOU Forms Platform To Address Higher Education Issues**
Source: APP, UrduPoint, 2020-07-31
ISLAMABAD, (APP - UrduPoint / Pakistan Point News - 30th Jul, 2020) :SDPI in collaboration with AIOU on Thursday launched a think-tanks and academia joint venture named Council for the Advancement of Sustainable Policy, Education and Research (CASPER), to address the critical challenges for the academia and education sector in after Covid19 scenario. The online launch held by Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) and Allama Iqbal Open University.....view more

**Academia – Think Tank join hand for greater collaboration in Policy**
Source: Saifullah, Daily Islamabad Post, 2020-07-31
Islamabad: (July 30, 2020) - To address the critical challenges for the academia and education sector in after Covid19 scenario, a think-tanks and academia joint venture named as Council for the Advancement of Sustainable Policy, Education and Research (CASPER), has been launched formally here on Thursday. The online launch held by Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) and Allama Iqbal Open University AIOU, was participated by a large n.....view more

**Experts urge for the steps for better business regulation for SME sector in Punjab Province**
Source: Tariq Ullah Wardak, Daily Times, 2020-07-31
Small and Medium Enterprise (SMEs) need enabling policy measure to recover from the worst impacts of Covid19 pandemic. The provincial governments also need to evaluate the situation to respond with urgent facilitation to save such business. The experts and analysts on economy from public and private sectors said this while sharing their views with the participants at online consultative dialogue ‘Better business regulation for SME sector i.....view more

**Academia, think tank agree on collaboration in research**
Islamabad: To address the critical challenges for the academia and education sector in after Covid19 scenario, a think-tanks and academia joint venture named as Council for the Advancement of Sustainable Policy, Education and Research (CASPER), has been launched formally here on Thursday. The online launch held by Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) and Allama Iqbal Open University AIOU, was participated by a large number of s.....view more

**Council on policy, research launched**
Source: DNA, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-07-31
ISLAMABAD: To address critical challenges for the academia and the education sector after the novel coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic, think-tanks and the academia have decided to come together under a joint venture. Called the Council for the Advancement of Sustainable Policy, Education and Research (CASPER), the council was formally
launched online on Thursday by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) and the Allama Iqbal Open Uni... view more