…..About Newsletter

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

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

Newspapers Covered:

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

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A Product of ASRC-SDPI

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Tel: +92.51. 2278134, Fax: 2278135,
More testing needed
Source: Editorial, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2020-08-04
A CONSIDERABLE decrease in the number of active Covid-19 cases in the past couple of weeks has resulted in the easing of restrictions, the opening up of public spaces and reduced testing in several parts of the country. It is, however, too soon to let down our guard. As Prime Minister Imran Khan rightly pointed out, carelessness during Eidul Azha could cause a fresh spike in infections, putting further strain on our already overstretched healthca....

Changing world
For the past few years, or even decades, we have been discussing the dramatic changes brought to the world by new technologies in the fields of IT and communications. But today we need to discuss a very different kind of change which may potentially lie ahead. According to the WHO, Covid-19 is likely to be drawn out over some years and there is no certainty when or how it will go away. The US has expressed a lack of trust in vaccines being deve....

Mission not yet accomplished
Source: Muhammad Hamid Zaman, *The Express Tribune, Islamabad*, 2020-08-04
The official statistics around Covid-19 are impressive and encouraging. What could have been a disaster has been averted, at least for now. But now is not the time for complacency or self-congratulatory speeches and tweets. Let it not be George Bush’s “Mission Accomplished” moment of May 2003. Instead, we should recognise we are probably on the right track, analyse what has worked so far, and ensure that we continue on the right....

Covid and conflicts
The UN and other experts have warned that the Covid-19 pandemic could bring havoc not only to the health sector but also to other walks of life. They have said that the economic disaster caused by the pandemic could lead to an intensification of conflict and tensions around the world. There is already concern from aid agencies that Covid-19 is hampering humanitarian programmes, with teams unable to operate freely in conflict-hit zones or provide..

Reopening schools in Covid-19: no easy retort
Source: BR Research, *Business Recorder, Islamabad*, 2020-08-05
Early this year, school gates around the world were closed as a means to curb the spread of COVID-19. Little was known then that the schools would remain shut for such a long period of time. Even now that schools and educators across the globe are voicing reopening because of the loss that the children face, there is a lot of confusion, and conflicting information as well as research on how COVID-19 affects children and the youth and whether it i....
Never Forget
Source: Editorial, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-08-05
Billboards at New York city’s iconic Times Square are being lit up in solidarity with the eight million Kashmiri residents being held captive by an authoritarian Indian regime in the Himalayan valley. Due to COVID-19 and the Indian state’s attempts to brush away any criticism levied at it for its fascist occupation, it might be easy to forget that Kashmiris have been living in absolute oppression and deprivation of their essential human rights....view more

Doctrine, policy, and strategy: COVID-19 – litmus test for policy of agility?
Source: Saad Masood, Daily Times, 2020-08-05
Empty shelves in supermarkets, fights over basic commodities such as toilet rolls, absence of rudimentary hygiene products like antibacterial soaps and hand sanitisers, hoarding of non-perishable food items, unavailability of dairy produce and mile long queues to enter shops. These are not clips from a post-apocalyptic Hollywood flick! But some harrowing scenes witnessed at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic! Things were difficult, demand was high....view more

Masked Diplomacy
Source: Naila Tasneem, Daily Times, 2020-08-05
In order to decipher the unravelling of the post pandemic world order it will be essential to assess the post pandemic policies of governments. China first captured the attention of the world through the onset of the outbreak of the virus and later through its aid related activities worldwide. It will be fascinating to explore the post pandemic Chinese diplomacy and governance. The State Council in China has issued guidelines regarding im....view more

Time to help agribusinesses
Source: Editorial, Daily Times, 2020-08-04
The COVID-19 pandemic has hit the agricultural micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in Sindh and Balochistan, which if not uplifted with the government's timely support, may not survive, states a COVID-19 survey by the International Trade Centre (ITC). According to the Geneva-based ITC, Balochistan’s 29 per cent of agribusinesses and 34 per cent of farmers want a temporary wage subsidy from the government to help them bea....view more

For those celebrating the holidays, as the country is somewhat open, please do so with caution
Source: Haya Fatima Sehgal, Daily Times, 2020-08-04
Recently, I was turned away nicely but firmly from the entrance of a shopping mall/ supermarket as the person with me could not be let in due to SOPs; him being a senior citizen. I didn’t mind as those were the rules, so we went elsewhere. In another part of the city, a pack of ladies flew in from Islamabad for a wedding party during the age of isolation and social distancing. The itinerary was fantastical; a bit of shopping, a wedding part.....view more

Return from death
Source: F.S. Aijazuddin, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-06
LIVING through a Covid-19 lock-down is like being imprisoned in a cell, alleviated by home-cooked food, a television set and an unlimited choice of programmes. It is a couch-potato's heaven, without having to pass through the constriction of death. For the serious-minded, one of the television programmes on offer is a collection titled Intelligence Squared. It brings together panels comprising poets, thinkers, philosophers, social savants,.....view more
Revitalising four key areas to cope with the new normal
Source: Shixin Chen, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-08-06
To date, some 700,000 people around the world have died from the coronavirus disease (Covid-19). The pandemic has brought despair to countless families and caused unprecedented economic damage. The response has been significant: governments halted global travel, imposed nationwide lockdowns, quarantined large swaths of the population and scaled up medical care services. Governments have also funded the development and production of testing techno.....view more

A disaster for seafarers
Source: CAPT ANWAR SHAH, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-08-06
Prior to 2020, it would have been considered unimaginable that a virus could disrupt the global economy, sequestering billions in their homes with global productivity sinking like a stone. It has been 8 months since the previously inconceivable became an everyday reality and since then, most of the world’s population has been under lockdown. As a result of COVID-19, in the midst of an unavoidable persistence of social distancing rules,.....view more

Oil sales: bottomed out?
Source: BR Research, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-08-06
Petroleum sales ebb and flow with economic growth that drives and restricts consumption. Economic slowdown in the country since 2019 and COVID-19 outbreak in 2020 has shown how consumption has faded in comparison to previous years. However, seeing how oil sales have performed in the two last months, there are now voices that petroleum sales by the oil marketing companies might have bottomed out. The factors that are driving such speculations.....view more

COLDER THE COVID, COLDER THE WAR POLITICS
Source: Fatima Umar, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-08-06
COVID-19, a non-state actor, invisible to naked eye, has shaken the world order, and the practical demonstration of a globalised system since late last year. For now, countries are struggling to develop a vaccine, but having a broader look at the aftermath of this gives indications about a possible change in the world order. The two prominent, liberal, yet rival states -- China and USA -- might play vital role in re-shaping the global politics of.....view more

Covid-19 and women workers
The Covid-19 pandemic has hit every sector of life, especially health, and the economies of the world hard. Because of the restrictions imposed on cross-border movement of goods and people, international trade has suffered a lot. Though restrictions are being lifted gradually, a lot of damage has already been done. In this scenario, the textiles sector of Pakistan was affected adversely. This sector contributes a major share to the country&rsquo.....view more

Welcome turnaround
Source: Editorial, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-07
NEARLY five months after the first Covid-19 cases were detected in Pakistan, all indicators suggest that we have managed to prevent the all-out pandemic-induced healthcare calamity that was feared. With cases consistently falling, the positivity ratio in decline and critical care units designated for Covid-19 patients clearing out, it appears
that the measures to curb the spread of the virus have been successful. Latest figures shared by the gove.....view more

Return to normalcy?
Source: Editorial, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-08-07
So, we are all set to revert to pre-corona routine — from the beginning of the next week. As announced by Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar, the chair of the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) — which is tasked with reviewing the Covid-19 situation on a daily basis and making recommendations in consultation with provinces — everything is allowed to function nearly normally in .....view more

Fully Operational Industries
Source: Editorial, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-08-07
As the curve continues to flatten in Pakistan the Primary & Secondary Healthcare Department has allowed for industries in Punjab to work around the clock—7 days a week, 24 hours a day. In light of the economic strife faced by business from all sectors, it is imperative for regulations—concerning Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and worker conditions—to be stringent so that exploitation and virus transmission can be kept .....view more

Debunking baseless propaganda about Xinjiang
Source: S M Hali, Daily Times, 2020-08-07
COVID-19 brought out the best in humanity as well as its worst. The world’s second largest economy-China-where the deadly pandemic was first reported successfully managed to insulate its residents and protect them from the epidemic spreading in an uncontrolled manner. It built hospitals, quarantine centers and isolation cells to shield its citizens and kept the death toll down stopping the onset. It then reached out to other countries, dona.....view more

Adapting to ‘new normal’
Source: Muhammad Omar Itikhar, Daily Times, 2020-08-07
Much has been written in the print media of Pakistan about how the lockdown has altered our lives. We are now living in a time when terms such as social distancing and following SOPs have become a part of our lifestyles. It is in human nature to accept the situation and adapt to the change. Whether humans like it or not, they have adhered to all changes that have been made to their lives. Such changes stem mainly from an alteration in the socio-e.....view more
# National News

## Balochistan

### Balochistan extends lockdown till Aug 17
Source: Saleem Shahid, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2020-08-04
QUETTA: The Balochistan government has extended the lockdown in the province for another 15 days, despite a decline in Covid-19 cases during the last 15 days. "The smart lockdown, which ended on July 31, now will continue till August 17 with the same SOPs announced by the authorities concerned," an official notification issued by the Home and Tribal Affairs Department said on Monday. It said to reduce Covid-19 cases in Quetta and ot...... [view more](#)

### Balochistan has far larger Covid-19 prevalence than officially cited: experts
QUETTA: As the world is grappling with the Covid-19 pandemic since December last, medical experts say Balochistan — the largest province in terms of land area of more than 12.2 million people — has likely many more cases in the interior and remote areas of the province than the numbers currently being reported. The number of deaths and infected people caused by Covid-19 in the province is confusing as the official death toll un...... [view more](#)

### Balochistan extends lockdown till August 17
Source: Mohammad Zafar, *The Express Tribune, Islamabad*, 2020-08-04
QUETTA: The Balochistan government on Monday extended the lockdown in the province for another 15 days despite a massive drop in Covid-19 cases that continue to decline. As per the notification issued by the provincial home department in view of the spread of coronavirus, the lockdown in the province would continue till August 17. During the lockdown, there shall be a complete ban on gathering of ten or more people. Sit-ins, processions and ral...... [view more](#)

### Smart lockdown extends in Balochistan
Source: APP, *The Nation, Islamabad*, 2020-08-04
QUETTA - In a bid to curtail risk of COVID-19, the Balochistan government on Monday extended the smart lockdown imposed across the province by 15 days more. Smart lockdown with previously designated SOPs would remain enforced till August 17, 2020, said a notification issued by the Home and Tribal Affairs department. As an official notification, all shopping malls, markets, and other business outlets across the province will be allowed to remain ...... [view more](#)

### Balochistan reports 34 virus cases during Eid No deaths reported since July 22
Source: Our Correspondent, *The Express Tribune, Islamabad*, 2020-08-05
QUETTA: “Even though we have been witnessing a declining in Covid cases we cannot say that the virus has been eradicated,” he said. “Not a single death has been reported from coronavirus in Balochistan since July 22 which is encouraging but still the general public has to continue pursuing the SOPs.” While addressing a news conference in Quetta, Shahwani added that the next fifteen days would be very important for Baloch...... [view more](#)
Islamabad

PM’s charity hospital chief appointed aide on health
Source: Ikram Junaidi, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-04
ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Monday appointed Dr Faisal Sultan as his special assistant on health with the status of federal minister days after the resignation of Dr Zafar Mirza amid declining number of coronavirus cases. Dr Sultan, who has already been serving as PM’s focal person on Covid-19 besides heading Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital and Research Centre (the charity hospital founded by Mr Khan) as its chief exec. .... view more

Amid Covid-19 fight, NIH becomes headless again
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-04
ISLAMABAD: While Pakistan’s achievement in fight against the coronavirus needs constant efforts to prevent a spike in new cases, the National Institute of Health (NIH) that played a key role in establishing a number of labs for Covid-19 tests has again become headless after three years. NIH Executive Director Maj Gen Aamer Ikram’s tenure was completed on July 20 and since then the organisation has been functioning without an executiv. .... view more

Sharp decline in daily Covid-19 cases, deaths in Pakistan
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-08-04
The number of coronavirus cases and fatalities continues to go down in Pakistan as the country reported eight more deaths in the last 24 hours. According to the latest figures released by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC), 330 confirmed Covid-19 cases were diagnosed in last 24 hours. The active coronavirus cases in the country stands at 25,172. The nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 5,9992, according to the the NCOC. Acc. .... view more

No one dies of corona on Eid
Rawalpindi: Unlike the festive occasion of Eidul Fitr at the end of May, not a single death has been reported from the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi due to coronavirus illness, COVID-19 on Eid days, from Saturday to Monday though 69 new patients have been tested positive for the illness taking tally to 20972. On Eidul Fitr, from ‘Chand Raat’ to the third day of Eid, May 26, at least 10 patients died of COVID-19 in the twin c. .... view more

Over 1,200 Pakistanis lost to Covid-19 while abroad
ISLAMABAD: We take for granted how small the world seems thanks to rapid travel and instantaneous communication – or at least we used to. The novel coronavirus pandemic has exposed how fragile the travel infrastructure the world blindly relied upon really was. When one travels to another nation, either for a small visit or a rather permanent basis, one leaves behind both loved ones and cherished memories believing they would be only a ste. .... view more

Dengue threat amid pandemic
Source: Editorial, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-08-04
We are not yet done and dusted with the scourge of novel coronavirus, and yet one more health emergency is staring us in the eye. It is no small mercy that coronavirus cases are in constant decline and health authorities have been...
heaving a sigh of relief. But, as some would caustically remark, 'not so fast'. The monsoon season in conjunction with authorities’ inability to carry out preventive measures has heightened the risk of.... view more

Nationwide coronavirus infections reach 280,282
Source: Abdul Rasheed Azad, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-08-04
ISLAMABAD: The nationwide coronavirus infections have reached 280,282 with 5,992 deaths, 1,038 people in critical condition, and 248,873 recoveries, data released by the federal and provincial authorities said. According to the data, Sindh with 121,705 Covid-19 cases is on top of the table followed by Punjab with 93,197, the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (KP) with 34,253 cases, the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) 15,076 cases, Balochistan 11,774 case.... view more

PM’s efforts to contain coronavirus successful, says Fawad
Source: APP, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-08-04
ISLAMABAD - Minister for Science and Technology, Fawad Chaudhry Monday assured that Prime Minister Imran Khan's government wants to boost the country’s solar industry in a bid to drive the economy of the country. In his exclusive talk with private news channel, the minister said that the government in this regard planned a big shift to solar energy in coming few years to fulfill the demands of electricity. He said that the prese.... view more

300 new cases, 8 deaths in 24 hours: NCOC
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-08-04
ISLAMABAD - The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), on the third day of Eid, confirmed above 300 new novel coronavirus (COVID-19) positive cases with eight more deaths in the last 24 hours. The data released by the NCOC on COVID-19 situation in the country said that 330 people were tested positive with COVID-19 in the last 24 hours taking the toll of the infected patients in the country to 280,029. It also said that with eight new de..... view more

Modi regime turns IIOJK into new epicenter of COVID-19: Wani
Source: APP, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-08-04
ISLAMABAD - Veteran Hurriyat activist Altaf Hussain Wani on Saturday said the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) wabecoming the new epicenter of COVID-19 with no information available on COVID-19 cases as the entire region had been under military siege since August 5, 2019. The IIOJK had been under dual lockdown, the first one was in the shape of military siege which imposed on the valley by India after repeal..... view more

Cabinet told: Economy recovering from virus effects
ISLAMABAD: The federal cabinet was told on Tuesday that there was a positive trend of recovery in the economic process, affected by the coronavirus, and the financial indicators were showing improvement. In terms of investment, foreign direct investment (FDI) in the country increased by $3 billion, and has seen an increase of 7%. The cabinet was informed that out of Rs701 billion, allocated for Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP), Rs586 b..... view more
As Covid dips, more sectors set to reopen
Source: News Desk, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-08-05
Federal Industries and Production Minister Hammad Azhar on Tuesday said consultations were under way with the provinces on the reopening of weddings halls, restaurants and parks that were closed to prevent the spread of Covid-19. Taking to Twitter, the minister said consultations with provinces on the possible reopening of different sectors, which were on the negative list, with standard operating procedures (SOPs) in place had kicked off at the.....view more

Covid-19 wards in twin cities almost empty
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-08-05
RAWALPINDI/ ISLAMABAD: The novel coronavirus situation in the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi appears to have considerably improved with few new cases being registered in each city while the dedicated wards for treating patients have almost emptied. Until a month ago, some of the health facilities in the twin cities were on the brink of running out of beds but are now housing a few active patients. Statistics show that in Islamabad, th.....view more

Number of positive cases significantly reduces in capital
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-08-05
ISLAMABAD: The number of confirmed coronavirus positive cases has significantly reduced in the federal capital, and so far 84.73 percent Covid-19 patients have completely recovered since the outbreak of the deadly virus. According to official data, 84.73 percent coronavirus patients have completely recovered and 14.16 percent are active cases. The number of total cases in the city rose to 15,095, after only 19 more were tested positive......view more

Confirmed COVID-19 cases surge to 281,136 in Pakistan
Source: Web Desk, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-08-05
Pakistan on Wednesday has reported 15 deaths in last 24 hours by novel coronavirus as the number of positive cases has surged to 281,136. The nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 6,014. According to the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) 675 persons have been tested positive for COVID-19 in 24 hours. Sindh remains the worst-hit province by the pandemic in terms of cases followed by Punjab, Khyber Pakh.....view more

28 persons performing corona relief duties abroad: OP&HRD
Source: Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-08-05
ISLAMABAD - Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development (OP&HRD) Tuesday said at least 28 focal persons had been working in collaboration with the Community Welfare Attachees (CWAs) and Pakistani missions to help their compatriots in various countries amid the coronavirus pandemic. “The focal person was appointed by the ministry a couple of months ago to lead ground operations, assist the CWAs/ missions and .....view more

Pakistan reports 432 new Covid-19 cases, 15 deaths
Source: Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-08-05
ISLAMABAD - The country yesterday reported 432 new infections and 15 deaths during the last 24 hours. According to the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) daily statistics, the tally hit 280,461 and the country’s death toll jumped to 5,999. At least 524 patients have recovered during the last 24-hour period, taking the number of recovered patients to 249,397. Islamabad, Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan have collectively .....view more
Child domestic labour banned in Islamabad
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad , 2020-08-05
ISLAMABAD: The Cabinet Division on Tuesday banned child domestic labour in the Islamabad capital territory (ICT) through a notification. Federal Minister for Human Rights Dr Shireen Mazari intweet stated: “Finally cabinet decision enforced through Gazette notification. Child Domestic Labour proscribed under 1991 Child Employment Act valid for ICT. Provinces can adopt through a simple provincial assembly resolution the same way. First time.....view more

Further decrease recorded in new Covid-19 cases
Source: Munawer Azeem | Aamir Yasin, Dawn, Islamabad , 2020-08-05
ISLAMABAD: A slight decrease was seen in the number of new Covid-19 positive cases as 19 people tested positive on Tuesday compared to 24 on Monday. Officials of the capital administration said during the last 24 hours 766 tests were conducted in the city. Four cases were reported from Chak Shahzad, three from Tarlai, two each from G-10, F-7, E-11 and one each from Loi Bher, G-9, Kurri and D-13. The addresses of two patients were not known. Wi.....view more

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As Covid-19 cases fall, NCC meets today to decide future strategy
Source: Ikram Junaidi, Dawn, Islamabad , 2020-08-06
ISLAMABAD: With the number of Covid-19 cases reducing, the National Coordination Committee (NCC) will meet on Thursday (today) to decide the line of action to be adopted to return the country to its normal routine. Talking to Dawn, federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar said: “We have decided, in principle, to lift the restrictions and ensure strict implementation of the standard operating procedures t.....view more

Sania highlights Pakistan’s gender-inclusive response to COVID-19
Islamabad : The PM’s Special Assistant on Social Protection and Poverty Alleviation Dr. Sania Nishtar Wednesday joined a virtual ministerial roundtable as part of an international expert panel to share experiences in ensuring a gender-inclusive response to the COVID-19 pandemic and recovery measures. The roundtable discussion, which was hosted by the Executive Director of UN Women Phumzle Mlambo Ngcuka, combined ideas, responses and exper.....view more

Dr Sania joins high-level virtual ministerial roundtable hosted by UN Women
Source: News Desk, Daily Times , 2020-08-06
Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Social Protection and Poverty Alleviation, Dr. Sania Nishtar has joined a high-level virtual ministerial roundtable with ministers from around the world as part of the expert panel to jointly share
experiences of several countries in ensuring a gender-inclusive response to the Covid-19 pandemic and recovery measures. The roundtable discussion was hosted by Phumzle Mlambo Ngcuka, executive director of.......

No surge witnessed in Covid-19 cases during Eid holidays in Capital: DHO
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-08-06
ISLAMABAD: Due to effective surveillance and implementation of standard operating procedures (SOPs), coronavirus cases have not surged in the federal capital like in some other parts of the country during Eidul Azha holidays. Zaeem Zia, district health officer (DHO) Islamabad, while talking to Business Recorder said that the Covid-19 cases did not increase in the city during the Eid holidays due to continues surveillance, contact tracing, is.....

Over 250,000 patients recover from coronavirus in Pakistan
Source: Web Desk, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-08-06
The total number of recovered coronavirus patients in the country has reached 256,058 making it a significant count. According to the latest statistics, there are now 19,770 active cases in Pakistan. 727 new cases were reported over the last twenty-four hours. The death toll from the virus has reached 6035 with twenty-one new deaths reported over the last twenty-four hours. .....  

COVID-19 death toll surpasses 6,000
Source: Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-08-06
ISLAMABAD - The COVID-19 death toll has crossed the 6,000 mark in the country as 15 more deaths were reported besides 675 persons testing positive across the country during the last 24 hours. With the 675 new Coronavirus cases confirmed during the last 24 hours, the tally of COVID-19 cases surged to 281,136 while with 15 new deaths confirmed the nation-wid edeath toll has jumped to 6,014. The National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) has confirmed.....

Amid decline in virus cases, govt opens up country
Source: Ikram Junaidi, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-07
ISLAMABAD: The National Coordination Committee (NCC) on Covid-19 on Thursday decided to lift restrictions on tourism sector from Aug 8 and on restaurants and transport sector from Aug 10 and gave a timetable for opening some other sectors, including educational institutions and marriage halls. A meeting of the NCC presided over by Prime Minister Imran Khan and attended by representatives of all the provinces also decided to lift r.....

COVID-19 update: active cases fall below 20,000
Source: News Desk, Daily Times, 2020-08-07
As daily infections fall in the country, active coronavirus cases dropped below 20,000, according to official data released on Thursday. At least 727 new COVID-19 cases and 21 deaths were recorded in the past 24 hours, said the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC). According to the latest figures, the number of total COVID-19 cases in Pakistan has surpassed 282,000 marks and the death toll stands at 6,040. A trend of declining case numbers c.....
Govt eases restrictions on restaurants, gyms, cinemas
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-08-07
Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar announced on Thursday that restrictions on the hospitality and recreational sectors, put in place nearly five months ago to curb the spread of the coronavirus, would be lifted from August 10 (Monday). “Restaurants and cafes, outdoor and indoor, will be allowed to open from Monday, and standard operating procedures (SOPs) will be finalised in the next two to three da.....view more

Various sectors allowed to reopen
Source: Abdul Rasheed Azad, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-08-07
ISLAMABAD: With Covid-19 cases on a decline in the country, the government of Pakistan on Thursday decided to allow various sectors to resume normal operations from next week, with Planning Minister Asad Umar saying standard operating procedures (SOPs) for each sector would be finalised shortly. Addressing a press conference here, Federal Minister for Planning and Development Asad Umar said that dine-in restaurants and beauty salons would re.....view more

Coronavirus cases significantly decline in capital
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-08-07
ISLAMABAD: The number of confirmed coronavirus cases has significantly declined in the capital city as only 19 tested positive on Thursday out of 2,404 tests run in high-risk areas of the city. According to official data, the total of confirmed Covid-19 cases rose to 15,141 after 19 new cases emerged in the city. Out of 15,141 cases, 12,833 people have completely recovered and 167 have died since the outbreak of the coronavirus. As.....view more
**Govt to award Shuhada Package to fallen health workers**

Source: Ashfaq Yusufzai, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2020-08-04

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has decided to award Shuhada Package to all the healthcare providers, who died of Covid-19 in the public sector hospitals. “Each doctor, nurse, paramedic and others will get Rs7 million as one-time Shuhada Package. A committee has been constituted to consider such cases,” Health Secretary Syed Imtiaz Hussain Shah told Dawn. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will become the first province to award compensation.....[view more]

**Few use mask, practise social distancing on Eid**

Source: Ali Hazrat Bacha, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2020-08-04

PESHAWAR: Eidul Azha was celebrated across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Saturday with religious fervour amid tight security measures outside mosques. However, most people didn’t wear masks and practice social distancing as recommended by experts to prevent Covid-19 during Eid congregations and animal slaughter. The festival began on Saturday in most districts. However, Afghan nationals marked the festival on Friday, while the residents of Waziran.....[view more]

**‘Gandhara Trail’ to revive tourism after pandemic**

Source: Sadia Qasim Shah, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2020-08-04

PESHAWAR: A Gandhara festival to showcase archaeological sites and heritage was cancelled in April this year due to Covid-19 pandemic but Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has hinted at launch of a heritage tourism initiative to attract international tourists after Eidul Azha is over and curbs on tourism are lifted in the province. “Gandhara Trail” of the province was to be showcased to tourists, tour operators and pilgrims in April during.....[view more]

**Cop dies of COVID-19 in Nowshera**


NOWSHERA: A policeman died from the coronavirus here, officials said on Monday. The deceased was identified as Sub-Inspector Dilaram Khan. He was laid to rest with state honours at his ancestral graveyard in Katlang tehsil in the Mardan district. Dilaram was the third cop, who has died of Covid-19 in the Nowshera district. He was performing duty as Investigation Officer at the Azakhel Police Station. He had been under treatment for the last two w.....[view more]

**ICIMOD publishes paper on corona impacts, response in Himalaya**

Source: APP, *The Nation, Islamabad*, 2020-08-04

PESHAWAR - International Center for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), an international organization working towards sustaining resources,enhancing livelihood and valuing culture across HKK has published a policy paper on COVID-19 impacts and policy response in the Hindu Kush Himalaya. According to a press release issued here on Monday, the policy paper addressed critical issues for the mountains including impacts across mountain econ.....[view more]

**CM Mahmood Khan says Rs53b spent in KP to control Covid-19**


MINGORA: Chief Minister Mahmood Khan on Tuesday said Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) government had spent Rs 53 billion to control Covid-19 in the province. Addressing the oath taking ceremony of Peshawar High Court Bar
Association Mingora Bench, and later on talking to media, he said the number of patients was decreasing with each passing day. The chief minister said as the Covid-19 was under the control, the provincial government was planning t.....view more

**Covid-19 claims five more lives in KP**

Source: Bureau Report, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2020-08-05

PESHAWAR: Covid-19 claimed five more lives on Tuesday, taking the death toll to 1,213 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The province also recorded 71 new cases raising the total count of infected people to 34,324, according to a report compiled by the health department. It said 105 patients had recovered from the ailment taking total tally to 29,255. Two people died of the virus in Peshawar and one each in Swabi, Haripur and Abbottabad. Peshawar has so f.....view more

**Coronavirus testing in KP must for hospital visitors with respiratory problems**

Source: Ashfaq Yusufzai, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2020-08-05

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has made the Covid-19 testing mandatory for the people visiting hospitals with respiratory illness and flu-like symptoms to learn about the incidence of the infection in the province. Officials told Dawn that special counters had been set up in all tehsil and district hospitals for the testing of such patients. According to them, the department has directed the medical superintendents of hospitals, dist.....view more

**Chitral health centre closed over six virus cases**

Source: Correspondent, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2020-08-05

CHITRAL: A rural health centre in Ayun village was closed down after six of its staff members tested positive for Covid-19.Confirming the news to Dawn, district health officer Dr Haiderul Mulk said the secondary healthcare facility was closed to contain the virus from affecting the patients coming there. He said swab samples from the close contacts of the affected employees had also been sent to a laboratory in Peshawar. He said the health cent.....view more

**Peshawar cinemas also victim of Covid-19 pandemic**

Source: Sadia Qasim Shah, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2020-08-06

PESHAWAR: Covid-19 has taken many human lives and hundreds have recovered from the infection too but film critics and cinema owners say that complete shutdown of cinema has proved last nail in the coffin of dying Pashto films as well as cinema and music industry in Khyber Pukhtunkhwa. “Covid-19 has not affected cinema and film-making business. Pashto films are finished. The Pashto film industry may never recover,” said Pashto film ac.....view more

**IGP hails police role in curbing virus spread**

Source: Correspondent, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2020-08-07

SWABI: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Inspector General of Police Sanaullah Abbasi said here on Thursday that it was the professionalism and determination of the provincial police force that they emerged victorious from all challenges and delivered according to expectation of the masses. Talking to mediapersons and addressing a function at the Police Training School, Shahmansoor, he said the police system had been reformed and the result-oriented changes ha.....view more
K-P records lowest Covid-19 cases
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-08-06
PESHAWAR: The novel coronavirus appears to have substantially subsiding in the province with the three of the largest hospitals in the provincial capital on Wednesday reporting that they had a combined total of 62 patients under treatment there. A daily situation report released by the provincial government on Wednesday said that out of all novel coronavirus (Covid-19) patients under treatment in these hospitals, only 12 are currently on a vent.... view more
### Punjab

#### Eid lockdown lifted early as CM thinks virus spread ‘contained’
Source: Mansoor Malik, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2020-08-04
LAHORE: The Punjab government withdrew its lockdown notification after ascertaining that the coronavirus did not spread from crowding hubs such as cattle markets and bazaars ahead of Eidul Azha as feared. To pave the way for observing ‘Youm-i-Istehsal-i-Kashmir’, a new notification has allowed gatherings of all kinds to express solidarity with Kashmiris on Aug 5 only – under the supervision of respective district administration.....[view more](https://example.com)

#### Recoveries outnumber new Covid-19 cases in Rawalpindi
Source: Aamir Yasin | Munawer Azeem, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2020-08-04
RAWALPINDI: One person was diagnosed with Covid-19 on Monday while 295 others are still waiting the results of their Covid-19 tests. Seven people tested positive for Covid-19 in Rawalpindi district over the three days of Eidul Azha, and 28 confirmed patients were discharged from city hospitals after recovering. There were no deaths reported. Two people tested positive on Saturday, the first day of Eid, while 28 patients recovered. Another four .....[view more](https://example.com)

#### Pindi traders refuse to open markets on third day of Eid
Source: Aamir Yasin, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2020-08-04
RAWALPINDI: Though the Punjab government on Monday lifted the smart lockdown in markets and bazaars, traders refused to open their shops saying they would start business activities from Tuesday (today). The government enforced the lockdown on July 27 till August 5 and closed all markets to avoid the spread of coronavirus during Eidul Azha. The decision as criticised by traders across the province. However, soon after Eidul Azha, the government .....[view more](https://example.com)

#### Punjab records 324 fresh Covid-19 cases, 8 more deaths
LAHORE: There is consistent decline in the spread of novel coronavirus across the province of Punjab, as with 8 more fatalities, during the three Eid holidays, the death toll of Covid-19 in the province has reached to 2148. As per data made available to Business Recorder, as many as 324 fresh cases of Covid-19 were reported in the province during the last three days taking the total number of positive cases to 93,197. During the three E.....[view more](https://example.com)

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#### Punjab lifts 9-day lockdown
Source: *Our Staff Report, The Nation, Islamabad*, 2020-08-04
LAHORE - Punjab government on Monday announced to lift the smart lockdown two days before the announced schedule. Punjab was placed under strict lockdown four days ahead of the Eid-ul-Azha festival. It was to remain in force till August 5 (Wednesday), but the government announced to lift all restrictions on the third day of Eid-ul-Azha citing significant reduction in the number of COVID-19 cases. Punjab Health Department Monday issued a not.....[view more](https://example.com)
Steep decline in number of corona patients: Dr Yasmin
Source: Our Staff Report, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-08-04
LAHORE - Punjab Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid has ordered to start the working of all units in public sector hospitals here on Monday. The Minister made this announcement while chairing a meeting at the Specialized Healthcare and Medical Education Department. Present on the occasion were Secretary SH&ME Nabeel Awan, Special Secretary SH&ME Nadir Chatha, Additional Secretary Dr Asif Tufail, Vice-Chancellor King Edward Medical Univ..... view more

7 persons tested COVID-19 positive during Eid holidays in Rawalpindi
Source: Israr Ahmad, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-08-04
Rawalpindi-As many as seven persons were tested positive of coronavirus in Rawalpindi district in three days of Eid ul Azha and 28 confirmed patients were discharged from the hospitals after recovery from the virus. However, no person died of COVID-19. All the hospitals in the garrison city remained alert but the number of patients was reduced. On the first day of Eid ul Azha on Saturday, only two patients tested positive of COVID-19 while 2..... view more

COVID-19 claims three more lives
Rawalpindi : The Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) claimed another three lives in last 24 hours here in Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district taking death toll to 443 in the twin cities while another 24 patients have been tested positive for coronavirus illness from the region. A 60-year old male patient who was a resident of Ghazi Colony in cantonment board area in Rawalpindi died of COVID-19 here at District Headquarters Hospital in..... view more

More businesses to open under SOPs: Usman Buzdar
LAHORE:A delegation of traders and industrialists led by LCCI President Sheikh Irfan Iqbal met with the chief minister and discussed the problems being faced by the business community. The CM assured them of solving their problems on a priority basis and reiterated the government was business-friendly and urgent steps would be taken for the solution of their problems. He maintained that lockdown was imposed before Eid in the larger public interes..... view more

Five more die of coronavirus in Punjab
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-05
LAHORE: As many as 139 new cases of coronavirus were reported during the last 24 hours across the province, taking the total number to 93,336 in Punjab. Five more patients breathed their last in the last one day, according to the official figures released on Tuesday. Fifty-eight cases were reported from Lahore, 17 from Gujranwala, nine from Bahawalpur, eight from Faisalabad and six from Rawalpindi. According to the official figures, the total ..... view more

Another Nishtar doctor goes down fighting coronavirus
Source: Staff Correspondent, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-06
MULTAN: Another doctor of Nishtar Hospital died of coronavirus at RecepTayyip Erdogan Hospital, Muzaffargarh on Wednesday. Postgraduate Trainee Dr Muzamil Abbas who was serving at the neurology ward of the Nishtar Hospital contracted Covid-19 more than a month ago. He was initially admitted to the Nishtar Hospital but later was shifted to
Recep Tayyip Erdogan Hospital, Muzaffargarh when his condition deteriorated where he was put on a ventilator.....view more

Covid-19 fatalities continue
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-06
LAHORE: Coronavirus claimed lives of four more patients during the last 24 hours across the province, taking the total number of deaths to 2,157. The number of the confirmed cases of the virus in Punjab reached 93,571 after 235 more people tested positive for the virus during the last 24 hours. Of the new cases, 54 cases were reported from Rawalpindi, 52 from Lahore, 30 from Gujranwala, 22 from Sialkot and 11 from Multan. According to the offici.....view more

Fewer Covid-19 cases reported in Rawalpindi
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-06
RAWALPINDI: Two persons tested positive for Covid-19 on Wednesday while 18 were discharged from the hospital after recovery. No death from the virus was reported. The number of confirmed patients in the district now stands at 6,543 while 276 persons have died and 6,105 patients have been discharged after recovery. However, 116 suspected patients are still waiting for their results while the number of confirmed patients under treatment is 162 incl.....view more

Number of COVID-19 patients more than 21,000 in twin cities
Rawalpindi: No death due to coronavirus illness, COVID-19 was reported from the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi in last 24 hours however confirmation of another 29 patients positive for the illness from the region took tally to 21,025. To date, the virus has claimed as many as 443 lives in Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district while a total of 18,270 confirmed patients from the region have so far achieved cure from the dis.....view more

Neurosurgeon dies of Covid-19
Source: APP, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-08-06
MULTAN: A young neurosurgeon of Nishtar Hospital, Dr Muzammil Abbas, died of coronavirus on Wednesday after battling against the disease for over one and a half months. Sources said Dr Abbas was a neurosurgeon in ward 14 of Nishtar Hospital and was diagnosed with the viral disease during his duty. He was shifted to CCU of Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi Institute of Cardiology (CPEIC) which had been set up for treatment of doctors on the request of Nish.....view more

Corona Relief Tiger Force volunteers to get certificates
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-08-06
RAWALPINDI - The government will give honorary certificates to the Corona Relief Tiger Force (CRTF) volunteers for assisting the local administrations in suppressing the novel coronavirus spread in the country, said Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Youth Affairs Muhammad Usman Dar on Wednesday. Addressing the ‘Tiger Force Convention’, he said the CRTF volunteers would be given honorary certificates on the instructi.....view more
31 test positive for COVID-19
The coronavirus illness outbreak continues to hit population in the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi though the number of patients being tested positive has reduced to a significant level. In last 24 hours, another 12 patients have been confirmed positive for disease caused by 2019 novel coronavirus, COVID-19 in Rawalpindi district while 19 tested positive from Islamabad Capital Territory taking total number of confirmed patients so far re..... view more

All airports allowed to handle domestic flight operations
Source: Mohammad Asghar, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-07
RAWALPINDI: The Aviation Division has announced that the domestic flight operation, already under way from some of the airports for some time, will be resorted from all airports in the country from August 6 midnight. A spokesman for the Aviation Division's senior joint secretary, Abdul Sattar Khokhar, said the government had earlier allowed all airports, except Turbat, Pangjir, Dalbandin, Zhob, Pasni, Moenjo Daro, Nawabshah and Bahawalpur ..... view more

Sudden surge in coronavirus cases after Eid
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-07
LAHORE: The Punjab province has witnessed a sudden increase in the number of Covid-19 new cases after Eidul Azha. The everyday cases which had dropped to [on average] below 100 during the last one week, again increased to around 300. Though, some medical experts were not perturbed and declared it a routine surge, others believed that it might be a signal for the beginning of the second wave of virus.Punjab reported 277 new confirmed cases of Co..... view more

UHS to test Australian vaccine on 50 Covid patients initially
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-07
LAHORE:The University of Health Sciences (UHS) will test an Australian vaccine -- COVAX-19 -- on active coronavirus patients after preliminary data from its phase-I trials on animals showed it is safe for humans and can successfully generate an immune response. The announcement was made by UHS Vice Chancellor Prof Javed Akram in a media briefing here on Thursday. Prof Akram said the randomised test of the vaccine would initially be conducted on..... view more

Slight increase seen in Covid-19 cases in Pindi
Source: Munawer Azeem | Aamir Yasin, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-07
RAWALPINDI: After a week, the number of Covid-19 patients slightly increased as 20 people tested positive on Thursday while 13 were discharged from hospitals. However, Commissioner Mohammad Mehmood told Dawn that eight of the new patients belonged to adjoining districts and regions. He said the administrations of four districts of the Rawalpindi division had been directed to continue checking for standard operating procedures (SOPs) in bazaars ..... view more

Smart lockdown policy worked: Alvi
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-07
RAWALPINDI: Smart lockdown in the country and people following standard operating procedures (SOPs) has helped in controlling coronavirus cases, President Arif Alvi expressed these views while addressing the Virtual International Rawal Expo organised by the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI). “We have to move away from traditional methods and move towards value addition. From raw materials to branded fashion, you can make a..... view more
UHS to test Australian vaccine on Covid-19 patients
LAHORE: The University of Health Sciences (UHS) will test an Australian vaccine, dubbed COVAX-19, on active coronavirus patients after preliminary safety data from phase 1 trials on animals found it safe and successfully generating an immune response. The announcement was made by UHS Vice Chancellor Prof Javed Akram in a media briefing here on Thursday. He said the randomised trial of the vaccine would be made involving 50 Covid-19 patients aged ......

No new case reported in Attock
Source: Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-08-07
ATTOCK - No new positive case of novel coronavirus COVID-19 has been registered in Attock during the last 24 hours, and the tally stands unaltered accordingly, it was officially said on Thursday. According to the report issued by local health department, no new novel coronavirus COVID-19 case was reported during last 24 hours and tally was remained at 578. District Attock focal person for Covid-19, Dr Asif Arbab Niazi said that only t....

Govt taking steps to control polio, corona, dengue: Yasmin
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-08-07
LAHORE - Punjab Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid chaired the cabinet meeting on dengue prevention at the Darbar Hall, Civil Secretariat, here on Thursday. Present on the occasion were Punjab Auqaf Minister Saeedul Hassan Jaffery, Secretary Primary and Secondary Healthcare Captain (retired), Mohammad Usman, Deputy Commissioner Lahore Danish Afzal, Director General Health Services Punjab Dr Haroon Jehangir, whereas Commissioners and Deputy Com.....

COVAX-19: UHS to test Australian vaccine on active corona patients
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-08-07
LAHORE - The University of Health Sciences (UHS) will test an Australian vaccine, dubbed COVAX-19, on active coronavirus patients after preliminary safety data from phase 1 trials on animals found it to be safe and successfully generate an immune response. The announcement was made by UHS Vice-Chancellor Prof Javed Akram in a media briefing on Thursday. He said that that the randomized trial of the vaccine would be made involving 50 COVID-19 patl......
## Improvement seen in Covid-19 detection, death rates

Source: Staff Reporter, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2020-08-04

KARACHI: Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Monday said that 219 new cases of coronavirus were detected overnight when 4,484 samples were tested raising the tally to 121,705 while two more patients died lifting the death toll to 2,226. In a statement issued here from CM House, Mr Shah said that with the latest tests, the current detection rate came to five per cent. He added that so far 777,488 samples had been tested which diagnosed 121,705.....[view more](#)

## Chandio terms price spiral, Covid-19 strike ‘PM’s tsunami’

Source: Staff Correspondent, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2020-08-04

HYDERABAD: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) central information secretary and Senator Maula Bux Chandio has said that the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) government would have to face ignominious exit because of a “failed prime minister, his ministers and advisers”. There was a big difference between democratic political parties and the PTI, he said while speaking to reporters after offering Eidul Azha prayers near his house on Saturday. .....[view more](#)

## Virus puts a damper on Eid economy

Source: Afshan Subohi, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2020-08-04

EIDUL Azha, the festival of sacrifice, did not feel like the same this year. The difference was not in spirit but in the visibility of celebrations owing to mostly Covid-19-inspired reasons. The size of the market did shrink massively for economic and health reasons but the countrywide shrinkage was perhaps less significant than what it felt like in cities like Karachi and Lahore. The slump in the volume of sacrificial activity in major ci.....[view more](#)

## Intensifying Economic Crisis and Fragile State

Source: SOHAIL AHMED SOOMRO, *Daily Times*, 2020-08-04

As the country was already going through the economic crisis but the sudden outbreak of pandemic has further added insult to the injury and it has caused economic despair among all segments of society. All the countries across the globe are facing similar economic crisis, but this current situation can truly prove to be a testing times for the global governments, for how they pull out their nations of these crises. Consequently, Pakistani governm.....[view more](#)

## Six die from COVID-19 in Sindh during Eid


Six people lost their lives due to COVID-19 in the three days of Eid-ul-Azha in Sindh, said Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Monday. Around 666 more people tested positive for the novel coronavirus when 4,484 tests were conducted in the last three days, he added. The province’s death toll from COVID-19 stood at 2,226, while the total number of cases had reached 121,705, said the chief minister. As many as 111,249 of all coronav.....[view more](#)

## 1,098 patients treated at Expo Centre facility to date

Source: Aftab Khan, *The Express Tribune, Islamabad*, 2020-08-04

As the pandemic struck Pakistan, experts feared the country's healthcare system would buckle under the strain. To support the health infrastructure, therefore, several temporary hospitals were established across the country. Set up jointly by the provincial government and the army, the field isolation centre at Karachi's Expo Centre is one of these, and has treated as many as 1,098 patients to date. The makeshift isolation centre initia.....[view more](#)
COVID-19 Infects 219 others, claims two more lives: Murad
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-08-04
KARACHI - Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that 219 new cases of Coronavirus were detected when 4,484 samples were tested raising the tally to 121,705 while two more patient died lifting the death toll to 2,226. In a statement issued here from CM House, the CM said that 4,484 tests were conducted which detected 219 cases that constituted five percent current detection rate. He added that so far 777,468 samples have been tested.....view more

Corona claims two more lives in Sindh, infects 219 others
Source: APP, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-08-04
KARACHI - Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Monday said that 219 new cases of coronavirus were detected when 4,484 samples were tested raising the tally to 121,705 while two more patients died lifting the death toll to 2,226. In a statement issued here from CM House, the CM said that 4,484 tests were conducted which detected 219 cases that constituted five percent current detection rate. He said so far 777,468 samples......view more

Sindh govt allocates Rs20b to help those suffering due to pandemic
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-08-05
KARACHI: The Sindh government would start cash transfers to the needy who had suffered due to the coronavirus pandemic in September, said Sindh Chief Secretary Syed Mumtaz Ali Shah, adding that to serve the purpose, the government had allocated Rs20 billion in the budget for the 2020-21 fiscal year. Presiding over a meeting of the steering committee to oversee the implementation of the 'Pro-Poor Social Protection and Economic Sustainability.....view more

Sindh govt to give Rs20bn cash to pandemic-hit people from next month
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-05
KARACHI: The Sindh government will start cash transfer from next month to people badly hit by the coronavirus pandemic for their economic welfare. According to a statement issued here on Tuesday, Sindh Chief Secretary Syed Mumtaz Ali Shah chaired a meeting of the steering committee to oversee the implementation of Pro-poor Social Protection and Economic Sustainability Initiatives. The meeting was attended by CM’s Special Assistant Haris G.....view more

Five die of coronavirus overnight, says CM
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-05
KARACHI: As many as 311 new cases of the coronavirus emerged overnight when 3,922 samples were tested, lifting the tally to 122,016, and five more patients died raising the death toll to 2,231. So far 122,016 cases were diagnosed out of the 777,468 samples tested all over Sindh, said Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Tuesday in a statement
COVID-19 kills 14 more, infects another 357 in Sindh
Fourteen more people have died due to COVID-19 and another 357 cases have been reported during the past 24 hours in Sindh, with the death toll due to the viral disease reaching 2,245 in the province. Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said in his daily situation report on the health emergency on Wednesday that 5,436 samples were tested in the past 24 hours, resulting in 357 people, or 6.6 per cent of those who were screened, being d.....view more

Objectives of National Financial Literacy Program achieved: SBP
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-08-06
KARACHI: The National Financial Literacy Program (NFLP) of the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has achieved all the targets for the last fiscal year (FY20) despite the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic since March 2020. Financial inclusion has always been a challenge for Pakistan keeping in view the socioeconomic demographics, low income levels, cultural barriers, gender inequality, low literacy levels and presence of informal economy. The level.....view more

357 new cases, 14 more deaths: CM Murad
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-08-06
KARACHI - Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah while sharing coronavirus report said that 5436 samples were tested which detected 357 cases that constituted seven per cent current detection rate. He added that so far 786826 tests have been conducted which diagnosed 122,373 cases all over Sindh that came to 16 percent overall detection rate, said a statement on Wednesday. Syed Murad Ali Shah said that 14 more patients lost their lives while st.....view more

Sindh’s death toll reaches 2,250 as five more die from COVID-19
COVID-19 claimed five more lives in a day, raising the death toll to 2,250 in Sindh, said Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Thursday. The chief minister said another 386 coronavirus cases surfaced in Sindh when 8,723 tests were conducted in the last 24 hours. He said there were 5,991 active cases of COVID-19 in the province, of whom 5,653 were in self-isolation at homes, while nine were admitted to isolation centres. He said 329 patients we.....view more

Five more Covid-19 patients die overnight: CM
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-07
KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Thursday said that coronavirus claimed five more lives overnight lifting the death toll to 2,250 while 386 new cases emerged when 8,723 samples were tested. In a statement issued here from CM House, he said that five more patients lost their lives lifting the death toll to 2,250 that constituted 1.8 per cent death rate. The CM said that overnight 8,723 tests were conducted in which 386 new ca.....view more
Planes, cars, oil, GDP... the virus bill is coming due
Source: AFP, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-04
OIL majors, plane manufacturers, carmakers, double-digit falls in GDP: the global economy is now paying the bill for the coronavirus pandemic as uncertainty remains over the recovery. The numbers are head-spinning. The economy of Germany, the largest in Europe, contracted by 10.1 per cent in the second quarter from the first three months of the year. Meanwhile the US economy contracted by 32.9pc in the second quarter at an annualised rate. &ld.....

The Covid-19 race gap
Source: News Desk, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-04

Global virus cases top 18m; Australian city imposes curfew
Source: AFP, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-04
MELBOURNE: The number of coronavirus cases recorded worldwide topped 18 million on Monday with the illness continuing its march, after Australia’s second-largest city imposed a curfew to halt the spread. 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 a tally compiled from official sources. Fresh clusters.....

Early in pandemic, frantic doctors traded tips across oceans
Source: AFP, Daily Times, 2020-08-04
Amid the chaos of the pandemic’s early days, doctors who faced the first coronavirus onslaught reached across oceans and language barriers in an unprecedented effort to advise colleagues trying to save lives in the dark. With no playbook to follow and no time to wait for research, YouTube videos describing autopsy findings and X-rays swapped on Twitter and WhatsApp spontaneously filled the gap. When Stephen Donelson arrived at the Universi.....

Millions return to lockdown in Philippines as virus cases soar
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-08-04
More than 27 million people in the Philippines — about a quarter of the population — will go back into lockdown Tuesday after overwhelmed health workers warned the country was losing the battle against the coronavirus. Since the beginning of June, when much of the country emerged from one of the world’s longest stay-at-home orders, confirmed infections in the archipelago have increased fivefold, surging past 100,000. The new restr.....

Global virus cases top 18 million as Australian city imposes curfew
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-08-04
The number of coronavirus cases recorded worldwide topped 18 million on Monday with the illness continuing its march, after Australia’s second-largest city imposed a curfew to halt the spread. Six months after the World Health Organization 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. Fresh clusters have bee.....
situationer: Two events that would sadden Iqbal
Source: Jawed Naqvi, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-06
To the sound of conch-shells and revelry that undermined every norm prescribed to fight a raging pandemic, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi told his followers in Ayodhya on Wednesday that the world was looking to a new India as a self-assured nation. The claim was not about a new vaccine for Covid-19 or a magic wand to arrest the steep economic slide. It was not even about his conquest of Jammu and Kashmir on August 5 last year, when he annexe.....view more

US plan for ‘highest level’ Taiwan visit in decades angers China
Source: AFP, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-06
TAIPEI: The United States announced on Wednesday its highest-level visit to Taiwan since it switched diplomatic recognition to China in 1979, a move Beijing blasted as a threat to “peace and stability”. The visit, headed by health chief Alex Azar, comes as relations between the world’s two biggest powers plunge to historic lows. “This marks... the first Cabinet member to visit in six years, and the highest level visit by.....view more

Rajapaksa family set to consolidate power in Sri Lanka after virus-hit polls
Source: AFP, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-06
COLOMBO: Sri Lankan’s voted in large numbers on Wednesday despite the coronavirus pandemic as the ruling Rajapaksa brothers sought to expand their mandate through the virus-delayed parliamentary polls. The election — postponed twice due to the epidemic — closed at 5pm local time (1130 GMT) after 10 hours of voting, with strict hygiene measures in place to prevent the spread of the disease. President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and his .....view more

Virus lays waste to Bulgaria’s tourist hotspot
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-08-06
“We need at least 100 charter flights a day,” says Plamen Kopchev, head of the hotel owners’ association in Bulgaria’s mammoth Black Sea resort of Sunny Beach, laid waste by the coronavirus pandemic. But the trouble is, only a fraction of those flights have been arriving, a disaster for a resort Kopchev explains “is made for mass tourism” — a model that some Bulgarians have long been questioning a.....view more

‘We are no less American’: Deaths pile up on Texas border
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-08-06
When labor pains signaled that Clarissa Muñoz was at last going to be a mom, she jumped in a car and headed two hours down the Texas border into one of the nation’s most dire coronavirus hot spots. She went first to a hospital so desperate for help that nurses recently made 49 phone calls to find a bed 700 miles away to airlift a dying man with the virus. From there, she was taken to a bigger hospital by ambulance. Along the way,.....view more

Australia records deadliest day of pandemic so far
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-08-06
Australia’s worst-hit state of Victoria reported 15 coronavirus deaths on Wednesday, including a man in his 30s, making it the country’s deadliest day of the pandemic to date. An outbreak in Melbourne, Australia’s second-biggest
city and the capital of Victoria, has seen hundreds of new cases recorded daily in recent weeks, including 725 on Wednesday. The epidemic surge continued even though Melbourne has been under a......view more

Single mums feel ‘invisible’ in Germany’s coronavirus crisis
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-08-06
Germany’s huge coronavirus rescue packages have won praise at home and abroad. But for divorced caterer Lulu Pototschnik the financial aid remains tantalisingly out of reach — and she’s not the only single mum slipping through the cracks. “My daughter and I have always coped. But now it’s as if my life is getting off track. I feel more invisible by the day,” Pototschnik told AFP. For over a decade, t.....view more

Doctors say Turkish COVID-19 outbreak worse than reported as hospitalisations swell
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-08-06
Doctors in Turkey’s coronavirus hotspots say hospitals are filling up with more cases than are reflected in the official nationwide count, which resurgence above 1,000 this week. Intensive care units (ICUs) and emergency rooms in hospitals set aside for COVID-19 patients are at capacity in the capital Ankara and the southeastern city of Gaziantep, medics associations from those regions told Reuters this week. The government, which lifted a pa.....view more

Countries tighten measures as global virus death toll tops 700,000
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-08-06
France and the Netherlands imposed stricter mask-wearing rules Wednesday amid signs that the coronavirus pandemic is flaring up again across the globe, with the worldwide death toll exceeding 700,000. Toulouse in southwest France announced that the wearing of face masks is compulsory in particularly busy streets and squares from Wednesday. And Paris and other cities are expected to follow suit soon, authorities said. People alr.....view more

White House experts warn US cities of ‘trouble ahead’
Source: Reuters, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-07
WASHINGTON: White House health experts have warned of a slow rise in the percentage of people testing positive for coronavirus in US cities such as Boston, Chicago, Detroit and Washington and urged local leaders to remain vigilant to avoid a surge. “This is a predictor of trouble ahead,” Dr Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, toldCNNNon Thursday. Fauci’s White House coronavirus .....view more

Risk coronavirus or default: ride-hail drivers face tough choices as US aid expires
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-08-07
Uber driver Johan Nijman faces a difficult decision as federal unemployment aid expires: risk failing to pay for groceries and even lose his home, or resume driving and potentially catch COVID-19.Nijman is among thousands of Uber Technologies Inc and Lyft Inc drivers across the United States choosing between physical and financial health risks as $600 in additional weekly unemployment assistance expire. While drivers are not the only workers strug.....view more
‘Code on the water’: Countries court digital nomads amid coronavirus
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-08-07
Offering sunny beaches, cheap living and low infection rates, countries are competing for a new generation of remote workers in a bid to ride out the pandemic and make up for lost visitors. From Estonia to Barbados, nations have launched visa regimes aimed at wooing “digital nomads” to bolster their economy, chasing the sort of people who mix work with travel and can set up shop any place with an internet connection. Work from Pa..... view more

Kim directs aid to North Korean town under virus lockdown
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-08-07
North Korean leader Kim Jong Un directed his government agencies to act immediately to stabilize the livelihoods of residents in a city locked down over coronavirus concerns, state media reported Thursday. North Korea declared an emergency and locked down Kaesong near the inter-Korean border in late July after finding a suspected virus case there. It hasn’t confirmed yet if the person tested positive and still says the country hasn’t h..... view more

Germany fights virus uptick with mandatory testing for travellers
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-08-07
Germany announced mandatory tests for travellers returning from high-risk regions after new coronavirus cases breached the 1,000-a-day threshold for the first time since May, fuelling fears of a return to an economically disruptive lockdown. Health Minister Jens Spahn said on Thursday free compulsory testing would be in force from Saturday after the Robert Koch Institute, Germany’s public health agency, reported 1,045 new cases in a single d..... view more

Tourism-reliant Thailand shelves ‘travel bubble’ plan as Asia virus cases rise
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-08-07
Thailand has delayed plans for a “travel bubble” agreement with select countries as new daily coronavirus cases rise in parts of Asia, putting pressure on its vital tourism industry and complicating efforts to revive its battered economy. Thailand first proposed the idea in June to allow movement between select countries that have low infection numbers, without the need for travellers to undergo quarantine. But that has been shel..... view more

It’s not for me: speed of COVID-19 vaccine race raises safety concerns
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-08-07
The frenetic race to develop a COVID-19 vaccine has intensified safety concerns about an inoculation, prompting governments and drugmakers to raise awareness to ensure their efforts to beat the coronavirus aren’t derailed by public distrust. There are more than 200 COVID-19 vaccine candidates in development globally, including more than 20 in human clinical trials. U.S. President Donald Trump has vowed to have a shot ready before year’..... view more
WHO warns there may never be a Covid-19 ‘silver bullet’
Source: AFP, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-04
GENEVA: The World Health Organisation said on Monday it had completed the groundwork in China to probe the origins of the new coronavirus — as it warned there might never be a “silver bullet” for Covid-19. WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus urged governments and citizens to focus on known basic steps to suppress the pandemic, such as testing, contact tracing, maintaining physical distance and wearing a mask. “We all ho....view more

ADB’s COVID-19 response reaches $9.3b to end July
Source: Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-08-05
ISLAMABAD - The Asian Development Bank (ADB) committed US $9.3 billion in financial resources in the last six months since early February when ADB started its initial response to support its developing member countries and the private sector to address the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19). In addition, development partners committed $4.6 billion in co-financing, said an ADB press statement received here, adding that the bank’s.....view more

Global recovery could be faster if COVID vaccine made available to all – WHO chief
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-08-07
Economic recovery around the world could come faster if any COVID-19 vaccine is made available to all as a public good, World Health Organization Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said on Thursday. He was speaking in an online panel discussion with members of the Aspen Security Forum in the United States moderated by the NBC network. “Sharing vaccines or sharing other tools actually helps the world to recover together. The economic.....view more
**SDPI Engagements**

### Webinars News

**Better business regulation sought for SMEs**
Islamabad: Sohail Qadri, Director (Projects and Policy), Punjab Board of Investment and Trade, has proposed that the institutions such as Small and Medium Enterprise Development Authority (SMEDA) and Punjab Small Industries Corporation (PSIC) need to collaborate and help SMEs to mitigate COVID-19 related difficulties. Mr Qadri was speaking at online consultative dialogue on Better business regulation for SME sector in Punjab Province orga.....[view more]

### Other SDPI Engagements

**‘August 5 worsened occupation in IIOJK’**
Source: APP, *The Express Tribune, Islamabad*, 2020-08-06
ISLAMABAD: Children of detained Kashmiri leaders from the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), on Wednesday slammed as unjust the domicile law and other attempts at changing the demography of the disputed Himalayan territory adding that actions taken on the day last year had worsened the situation. They shared these during an online dialogue to mark the first anniversary of the forced annexation of Kashmir. The online session ha.....[view more]

**Speakers lash out Indian Government for Human Rights Violations in IHK**
Source: Tariq Ullah Wardak, *Daily Times*, 2020-08-06
The children of detained Kashmiri leadership of Indian-Held Kashmir (IHK), have termed the unjust Domicile Law and attempts on changing the demography of occupied territory as the most disturbing aspect of the occupation for the Kashmiri people. They shared these thoughts with the participants at online dialogue ‘One year of forced annexation of Kashmir; A longer tale of atrocities’ organized by the Sustainable Development Policy Ins.....[view more]

**Speakers lash out Indian Government for Human Rights Violations in IHK**
Source: nil, *The World News*, 2020-08-06
The children of detained Kashmiri leadership of Indian-Held Kashmir (IHK), have termed the unjust Domicile Law and attempts on changing the demography of occupied territory as the most disturbing aspect of the occupation for the Kashmiri people. They shared these thoughts with the participants at online dialogue ‘One year of forced annexation of Kashmir; A longer tale of atrocities’ organized by the Sustainable Development Policy Ins.....[view more]

**Speakers lash out Indian Government for Human Rights Violations in IHK**
Source: DNA, *Daily Islamabad Post*, 2020-08-05
Islamabad: AUG 5 – The children of detained Kashmiri leadership of Indian-Held Kashmir (IHK), have termed the unjust Domicile Law and attempts on changing the demography of occupied territory as the most disturbing aspect of the occupation for the Kashmiri people. They shared these thoughts with the participants at online dialogue ‘One year of forced annexation of Kashmir; A longer tale of atrocities’ organized by the Sustainable.....[view more]