......About Newsletter

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

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

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

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Op-Eds/Articles/Editorials .................................................. 02

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A Product of ASRC-SDPI

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Sustainable Development Policy Institute, SDPI

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Tel: +92.51. 2278134, Fax: 2278135,
Ruminations from the TV couch
Source: Jawed Naqvi, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-11
ONE has watched more TV than was the case before the pandemic triggered a flawed lockdown. Even so, avoiding the minefield of Indian news channels remains a covenant with many. Most news channels are painful to watch for their half-truths. An eligible distraction from the sheer crudeness of the current political din came from the delightfully scripted movie of the 1960s, Mughal-e-Azam. Millions must have seen it a dozen times for its masterly sc.... view more

Capital and Ideology
Source: Dr Kamal Monnoo, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-08-12
Thomas Piketty’s latest book, ‘Capital and Ideology’, which is now also available in the English version, is making a lot of waves worldwide and especially in Europe. The new debate now being that—in order to combat the COVID-19 pandemic—since the European Union countries are receiving perhaps the largest stimulus package ever (from the ECB—European Central Bank) in their respective histories, will the money or.... view more

After stabilization?
Source: BR Research, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-08-12
In its recent State of the Economy report, the central bank rightly noted that the shock from Covid-19 “should not undermine the urgency of addressing long-standing structural impediments to higher and sustainable growth”. This is not exactly a new diagnosis for Pakistan’s economic troubles; the central bank has been pointing to the country’s structural problems since at least the 2000s. But to no avail. What are thes..... view more

The pandemic depression
Source: Rafia Zakaria, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-12
IN the midst of a crisis, whether it’s battle or crime or, in the case of most of the world, a pandemic, there is no time to stop and assess the damage. People and institutions and governments do what they can; there is an emphasis on taking extreme measures for life preservation, the pulling out of all the stops. It is only later, after the storms have passed, that there is time to assess the cost of the cataclysm. It is then that the los..... view more

Addressing economic challenges after COVID19 outbreak (part I)
Source: Syed Ali Imran, Daily Times, 2020-08-11
Allah Almighty helped Pakistan all through Coronavirus Pandemic and government’s strategy of smart lock down proved successful in limiting the outbreak. Business Confidence Index (BCI) and Index for Employment which remained in stress during this period has shown some positive signs from July which is good news for economy and employment opportunities. In the meanwhile, position of Trade Account Deficit has improved where exports increased ..... view more

Addressing economic challenges after COVID19 outbreak (part II)
Source: Syed Ali Imran, Daily Times, 2020-08-12
Fixing a support price didn’t work this year and targets of procurement were missed potentially. Government needs to improve per hector yield of crop so that supply of wheat may result in decrease in market price together with an
increase in support price so that farmers may feel obliged to sow the same. Government on the other hand needs to trade-off between crop of sugar cane and cotton. Where cotton should be given priority as it will re.....view more

Defeating the virus
Source: Editorial, Daily Times, 2020-08-13
If data is anything, the COVID-19 situation in Pakistan is improving but if SOPs are violated at a larger scale, the ugly virus could make a comeback to wreak havoc as it has been doing in its neighbours. In this regard, the coming month of Muharram is an event when mass congregations are arranged in imambargahs and on roads. The government has urged the mourners to follow SOPs under which they are to maintain social distancing, bar the entrance .....view more

Covid-19: from fortune tellers to miracle makers!
Source: Dr Rana Jawad Asghar, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-08-13
Even before Pakistan had its first case of Covid-19, we already had a mushroom growth of very well respected "epidemiology experts" with no experience in epidemiology. I was surprised that in one very high level and sensitive meeting, some senior but non-technical officers were regurgitating complex epidemiological terms so profusely that I reminded them that they needed to first understand the full complexities of those terms. I was .....view more

Russian vaccine
Source: Editorial, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-08-13
A stunning announcement from Russia regarding a potential vaccine for the Covid-19 coronavirus made headlines across the world on Tuesday. Unfortunately, on closer examination, what looked like fantastic news must now be taken with many pounds of salt. This is because, among other things, the Russian vaccine candidate, Sputnik-V, never underwent Phase 3 trials. Phase 3 trials are the most important stage of testing for medicines and vaccines. In .....view more

Rule of law or the jungle?
What we in Iran – the target of a vicious and indiscriminate sanctions regime – have seen from the current US administration is quite straightforward: there is no grand vision for an alternative global community. The US’s fickleness and unpredictability have nothing to do with masterful implementation of game theory. Rather whether it comes to its (mis)management of Covid-19 at home or its undermining of peace and stabil.....view more

Revolving lives
Source: F.S. Aijazuddin, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-13
WHO was the first sentient being to ask the question: ‘Is there an after-life?’ It has taken humans countless millennia to formulate their own separate answers, only to discover that the prism of the human mind works in reverse. It converts a spectrum of possibilities into a single ray of belief. The ancient Egyptians convinced themselves that there was another life after life. They codified their beliefs (as did the Buddhist Tibetan.....view more
Missing LG systems
Source: Editorial, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-13
THE reluctance to work at strengthening the foundations is reflected in the inability to deal with crises. There was much discussion on how the presence of a local government could have helped Pakistan establish a firmer grip on the situation arising out of Covid-19 when the rains added impetus to the debate. Just as the basic local tier of political parties, vital to any system claiming to be democratic, is fiercely discouraged, a local governme.... view more

Reopening schools – smartly
Source: Dr Ayesha Razzaque, The News, International, 2020-08-14
The writer is an independent education researcher and consultant. She has a PhD in Education from Michigan State University. As we entered August, Covid-19 test positivity rates (the percentage of Covid tests that are conducted and come back positive) fell below five percent. This is welcome news, but whether this should be credited to the selective lockdowns and curfews the government dubbed ‘smart-lockdown’ or to reduced te..... view more

Aug 14 thoughts
Source: Editorial, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-14
ON this Independence Day, the nation has every reason to derive a degree of satisfaction from the knowledge that its fight against the coronavirus has been a successful one so far. What contributed greatly to the effort was that the government and opposition, though bitter foes, understood at some point that developing a national narrative to counter the infection was crucial to the fight against the virus which has devastated societies and econ..... view more

Russian vaccine
Source: Editorial, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-14
AS countries race to produce the first coronavirus vaccine, Russia’s claims that it has approved such a vaccine have been met with serious scepticism — and for good reason. Russia announced this week that the Sputnik V coronavirus vaccine has been given the green signal for extensive use and that the country was forging ahead with mass manufacturing and immunisation plans to kick off vaccination as early as October. President Vladimir..... view more

Basics of running an ecommerce platform in Pakistan
Over the past few months, millions of customers across Pakistan have adopted digital solutions to shop for essential and non-essential products. In March, ecommerce platforms witnessed an increase in traffic and demand as the government imposed lockdowns across cities to fight the COVID19 pandemic. As customers remain hesitant to visit retail stores, the trend to shop online has persisted even among customers who had mainly shopped offline before..... view more

Interest rate corridor and private sector financing: A way forward
Source: Muhammad Zubair Mumtaz, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-08-13
Over the past five months, COVID-19 has restricted the business activities in the country. The government had imposed a lockdown to safeguard people from the coronavirus which eventually slowed down the business processes. It is important to note that the government has taken serious measures to prevent the coronavirus from spreading as well as to sustain the lives of people in the poor communities. Besides the preventive measures, the government..... view more
Three major scientific controversies about coronavirus
Source: Manal Mohammed, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-14
Although political leaders have closed borders in response to Covid-19, scientists are collaborating like never before. But the coronavirus is novel — and we don't yet have all the facts about it. As a result, we may have to change our approach as new scientific data comes in. That doesn't mean the science isn't trustworthy — we will get the full picture over time. And there is already great research that can help i.....view more

How Covid-19 might increase risk of memory loss and cognitive decline
Source: Natalie C. Tronson, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-14
Of all frightening ways that the Sars-Cov-2 virus affects the body, one of the more insidious is the effect of Covid-19 on the brain. It is now clear that many patients suffering from Covid-19 exhibit neurological symptoms, from loss of smell, to delirium, to an increased risk of stroke. There are also longer-lasting consequences for the brain, including myalgic encephalomyelitis /chronic fatigue syndrome and Guillain-Barre syndrome. These effects .....view more

Covid: Pakistan is testing 'enough'
Source: BR Research, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-08-13
Ten days post Eid-ul-Fitr (June 2020) was a disaster. The coronavirus peaked back then, with the share of positive cases going as high as 24 percent, comfortably the highest in the region and amongst the highest in the world. Ten days posts Eid-ul-Adha were feared to be the critical gauge of where Pakistan stood in terms of the outbreak. It seems the country stands rather tall. The latest daily infection rate of 2.63 percent is Pakistan's low.....view more

Private sector credit
Source: BR Research, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-08-13
For private sector credit offtake, FY20 wasn't a good year. Data compiled by the central bank shows that less than Rs100 billion was doled out as net loans to private sector businesses, as the last quarter hit hard on the economy on account of Covid-19, leading to further dent on private sector credit offtake. By nine months ending March 2020, loans to private sector were already down 66 percent on net basis. Then came Covid-19 in March .....view more

Unity during difficult times
Source: Syed M Hamza, Daily Times, 2020-08-14
The situation is fluid enough, that it would be fair to say, extremism is rising in the region. But is it rising? Or is it being raised? The situations, such as the construction of a Hindu temple in the capital and the honour killing over an accusation of blasphemy are events, happening in a very short time span. They are indeed creating a split that is rigidly biased amongst the nation. India has just recently paid a decent toll for the Ladakh .....view more

Global economic growth woes in the midst of pandemic
Source: Dr Omer Javed, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-08-14
“The COVID-19 crisis has been a brutal reminder that, for all of our wealth and technological mastery, we are still vulnerable to catastrophic tail risks. To ensure future prosperity, we must adopt a growth strategy that places collective risks front and center, rather than treating them as an afterthought.” – ‘Minding the perils of progress’ by Daron Acemoglu Global economic systems that under Neoliberalism, fo.....view more
Tiger Force; the right step
Source: Malik Muhammad Ashraf, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-08-14
Nature has imbued human beings with altruistic passions which motivate them to help others in distress situations voluntarily in their neighbourhoods, within the community, on the city and country levels or even at the global level in case of natural disasters and pandemics which pose unsurmountable challenges to governments and the agencies responsible for dealing with such scenarios. It is needless to emphasise that COVID-19 is the biggest.....view more
### National News

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<td><strong>Spike in Covid-19 cases during Muharram if SOPs violated: NCOC</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Source:</strong> Agencies, <em>The News, International</em>, 2020-08-11</td>
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|             | ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) Monday warned of potential spike in COVID-19 infections if the standard operating procedures (SOPs) and Muharram-ul-Haram guidelines were not followed properly. Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umer chaired the NCOC meeting. The forum deliberated on upcoming Muharram and measures to ensure public health and safety. Minister for Religious Affairs and Interf.....*view more*
|             | **Centre directs provinces to draft SOPs for tourist spots**          |
|             | **Source:** Imran Mukhtar, *The Nation, Islamabad*, 2020-08-11        |
|             | ISLAMABAD - The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Saturday directed the provinces to devise guidelines for managing tourism in the country as widespread violations of SOPs have been observed at all tourist destinations. The NCOC warned that health guidelines and standard operating procedures (SOPs) should also be ensured in the tourism sector to contain the resurgence of Covid-19 outbreak. The warning of the centre came follow.....*view more*
|             | **Seating in restaurants to be allowed at 50% capacity**               |
|             | **Source:** Shahina Maqbool, *The News, International*, 2020-08-11    |
|             | Islamabad: Indoor seating in restaurants will now be allowed at 50 percent capacity to maintain recommended social distancing provisions. Moreover, thermal scanning of customers and employees will have to be ensured, surfaces will have to be disinfected on an hourly basis, and menus that are disposable or sanitized between each use will have to be made available. The above instructions, and many more, have been outlined in a set of guideli.....*view more*
|             | **‘Smart lockdown strategy proved beneficial for traders’**            |
|             | **Source:** APP, *The News, International*, 2020-08-11               |
|             | Islamabad: Business community and traders Monday hailed the government's smart lockdown strategy adopted during COVID-19, saying that it benefited the local businesses, especially export and construction sectors. "The government provided good incentives to the local industrial sector, especially export-oriented businesses besides offering huge relief package to the constitution sector," President Islamabad Chamber Commerce and I.....*view more*
|             | **Experts call for safety measures in mines**                         |
|             | **Source:** nii, *The News, International*, 2020-08-11               |
|             | Islamabad: Institution of Engineers, Pakistan (Rawalpindi-Islamabad Center) held a seminar (Technical lecture) on health and safety measures in mines for the professional development of graduate engineers. It was the second such activity arranged by the Center in wake of COVID-19 while following the required SOPs. Engineer Muhammad Yousaf, Secretary General of the Institute of Mining Engineers Pakistan was the resource person who spoke in detail .....*view more*
NA seeks to extend two ordinances for 120 days
Source: Rizwan Shehzad, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-08-11
ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly on Monday gave consent to extend two ordinances for another 120 days, passed a resolution commemorating its 73rd anniversary and discussed issues ranging from TV fee to violent attacks on the transgender community. The assembly passed the resolution, seeking to extend the Covid-19 (Prevention of Smuggling) Ordinance 2020 and the Financial Institutions (Secured Transactions) (Amendment) Ordinance 2020 for another.....view more

Businessmen hail smart lockdown strategy
Source: APP, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-08-11
ISLAMABAD: The business community and traders have hailed the government’s smart lockdown strategy, adopted to combat Covid-19, saying that it benefitted local businesses, particularly the export and construction sectors. "The government provided good incentives to local industrial sector especially export-oriented businesses besides offering massive relief package to the construction segment," Islamabad Chamber Commerce and In.....view more

The way forward
Source: Editorial, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-08-11
Now that the government has deemed fit to reopen a number of public places, considering how the coronavirus situation has largely been brought under control, it is its duty to make sure that all Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) are duly explained in detail and disseminated publically. It is not enough that people should know what to do and how to behave now that public life is resuming, rather the state should make sure that everybody knows j.....view more

Covid-19 situation improves in Pakistan
Source: Abdul Rasheed Azad, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-08-11
ISLAMABAD: While global cases of Covid-19 have crossed the mark of 20 million, the situation in Pakistan has been improved with total 260,796 recoveries out of 284,947 nationwide cases. According to data released by the federal and provincial authorities, Covid-19 has claimed 6,108 lives so far in Pakistan and there are 24,174 active cases in the country. The US with 5.2 million cases and over 66,000 deaths is top on the global chart of.....view more

Virus cases can spike if SOPs ignored in Muharram, warns NCOC
Source: Imran Mukhtar, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-08-11
ISLAMABAD - As the government on Monday ended lockdown restrictions after around five months, the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) again warned of potential spike in fresh coronavirus cases if standard operating procedures (SOPs) were not followed. The NCOC said that there can be surge in fresh infections if health guidelines, SOPs and code of conduct for Muharram -ul-Haram processions are not followed. According to the latest .....view more

Pims to reopen its OPDs from 17th
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-11
ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (Pims) has decided to reopen its outpatient departments (OPDs) from August 17. Under the decision, 50 percent wards dedicated for the Covid-19 patients will be handed over to different departments. After the reopening of OPDs, around 10,000 patients will again start visiting the hospital daily. Last week, the management of the hospital made the biometric attendance, which was suspended in Ma.....view more
Restaurants allowed to resume dine-in services
Source: Munawer Azeem | Mohammad Asghar, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-11
ISLAMABAD/RAWALPINDI: The capital administration has allowed dine-in services at restaurants while waiting for a response from the Ministry of National Health Services (NHS) and the National Coordination Committee (NCC) as to which business activities should be allowed to resume in the city and under what conditions. However, in the meantime restaurants have been conditionally allowed to resume dine-in services and shrines have been opened as we.....view more

No surge seen in Covid-19 cases in twin cities
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-11
ISLAMABAD: As many as 47 positive Covid-19 cases were reported in the capital in the last two days. Officials of the capital administration stated that on Monday 20 people tested positive and 27 others had been found infected with the virus on Sunday. Out of the 20 cases on Monday, three were reported from I-8 followed by two each from G-9, F-6, F-11, one each from Tarlai, Taramri, Soan Garden, Sihala, Shahzad Town, National Police Foun.....view more

Pakistan’s Covid-19 situation better than that of neighbours: minister
Source: Ikram Junaidi, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-12
ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar on Tuesday said the Covid-19 situation in Pakistan was much better than that of countries in the region, but cautioned that if people showed laxity in precautions, the country could go down the same path as its neighbours. Addressing a press conference, Mr Umar said the positivity rate as per tests in Pakistan was around three per cent, whereas it was 9.4pc in Iran a.....view more

More than 2,100 Covid-19 tests conducted in capital
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-12
ISLAMABAD: A Covid-19 patient died in the capital while 20 more tested positive on Tuesday. On Tuesday, 2,104 tests were conducted for detection of the virus among the citizens while on Monday the number of tests stood at 2,436. With the passing away of the patient from G-9, the death toll in the capital increased to 172, said officials. Out of the 20 new cases, six were reported from I-10, two each from G-10, F-10, and G-5 and one each from G.....view more

Lifting curbs doesn’t mean Covid-19 is over: Asad Umar
ISLAMABAD: Federal Planning Minister Asad Umar Tuesday warned the nation against lowering their guard against the COVID-19, as the pandemic still threatened human lives. People have been seen paying little attention to the COVID-19 related standard operating procedures after the restrictions were eased in almost all sectors a day earlier. Asad said he had heard people saying the COVID-19 pandemic had been eliminated. "Ever since the liftin.....view more
Roosevelt Hotel; Govt likely to extend $125m funding to PIA-IL
Source: Mushtaq Ghumman, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-08-12
ISLAMABAD: The government is likely to extend a funding of $125 million to PIA-IL to pay for severance of employees and debts of Roosevelt Hotel, New York, as the Board of PIA-IL Roosevelt Hotel Corporation has recommended the closure of hotel, well-informed sources told Business Recorder. The government argued that in the backdrop of Covid-19 pandemic, the hotel industry has been severely impacted across the globe. The PIA-IL owned Roosevelt ......

Umar gives credit to people for decline in Covid-19 cases
Source: Abdul Rasheed Azad, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-08-12
ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning Asad Umar on Tuesday, while appreciating the masses for promptly responding to the government measures to deal with the coronavirus said the credit for the decline in the Covid-19 cases in Pakistan went to the people of Pakistan. He said that still the government of Pakistan was not in a position to say that the deadly virus had completely been eradicated from the country. Following the eruption ..... view more

15 more die of coronavirus as nationwide tally nears 286,000
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-08-12
The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) Tuesday said some 531 persons were tested positive for Covid-19 and 15 persons lost their lives across the country due to deadly virus during the last 24 hours. A total of 285,655 coronavirus cases so far have been detected in the country, including 2,150 in AJK, 11,956 in Balochistan, 2,371 in GB, 15,281 in ICT, 34,755 in KP, 94,586 in Punjab and 124,556 in Sindh. As many as 2,165,811 Covid-19 te..... view more

Lifting lockdown doesn’t mean Covid-19 has ended: Asad Umar
Source: News Desk, Daily Times, 2020-08-12
Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar on Tuesday said lifting lockdown or reopening of all sectors in the country did not mean that the Covid-19 pandemic has ended. Addressing a media briefing here, the minister said the government had decided to reopen various sectors only for the sake of people but unfortunately were taking impression that the corona had ended now. He said chief secretaries of all provinces had b..... view more

People urged to adopt spiritual ways to avoid Covid-19 threat
Source: Staff Reporter, Daily Times, 2020-08-12
Renowned intellectual Malik Habibullah Bhutta has stressed upon the people to adopt spiritual ways to avoid coronavirus threat. The well-known social activist from Bahawalpur said that performing ablution and offering prayers five times a day helps avert the threat of coronavirus. He said the people who perform ablution and offer prayers five times a day are most likely to stay safe from the disease. He urged the people to seek forgiveness as we..... view more

263,193 patients recover from COVID-19 in Pakistan
Source: Web Desk, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-08-12
The total number of recovered persons from the virus has now reached 263,193. According to the latest statistics, there are now 16,599 active cases in the country. 730 people were tested positive and seventeen lost life due to the virus over the last twenty-four hours. 20631 tests were carried out during this period. ..... view more
PM Imran Khan apprises Bill Gates of COVID-19, polio issues
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-08-12
ISLAMABAD - Prime Minister Imran Khan spoke to Bill Gates, co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, on Tuesday to discuss the latest situation on COVID-19 response and resumption of Polio vaccination campaigns in Pakistan. During the conversation, the Prime Minister apprised Bill Gates about the improved Covid-19 situation in Pakistan with considerable reduction in new cases and the fatality rate. The Prime Minister shared that th..... view more

Covid-19 situation can worsen if people ignore SOPs: Asad
Source: Tahir Niaz, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-08-12
ISLAMABAD - Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Asad Umar, has said that Pakistan’s positivity rate and death toll due to the Covid-19 was much better than that in its neighbouring countries. He, however, warned that the situation could worsen if people stopped taking precautions. Addressing media here on Tuesday, Umar said the positivity rate in the neighbouring countries of Pakistan was almost three times high..... view more

Govt switches Covid strategy to ‘micro smart lockdowns’
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-08-12
ISLAMABAD: The government is shifting towards a ‘micro smart lockdown’ strategy under which small localities such as one building with multiple units or small neighbourhoods would be targeted instead of big areas, Planning Minister Asad Umar announced on Tuesday. Addressing the media, Umar, who chairs the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), the nerve centre of the government’s unified response to the coronavirus pand..... view more

Two-thirds of Covid-19 relief funds remain unutilised
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-13
ISLAMABAD: With poor utilisation of the Prime Minister’s Relief-cum-Economic Support Package to absorb Covid-related shock, the government on Wednesday rolled over almost two-thirds of the allocated funds into the new fiscal year through a major Rs540 billion supplementary grant. A decision to this effect was taken at a meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the federal cabinet presided over by Adviser to the PM on Finance..... view more

Over two-thirds of PM Imran’s Covid-19 relief package remains unspent
Source: Shahbaz Rana, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-08-13
ISLAMABAD: The Rs540 billion – or a whopping over two-thirds of Prime Minister Imran Khan’s Covid-19 economic relief package that had to be distributed through ministries, could not reach the people during peak crisis times, depriving them of much-needed help. After the money remained unspent in the last fiscal year 2019-20, the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the cabinet approved the usage of Rs540 billion in this fiscal y..... view more

All sectors allowed to operate except for marquees, educational institutions
Source: Munawer Azeem, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-13
ISLAMABAD: The capital administration on Wednesday issued a notification lifting the lockdown allowing all sectors to operate, except for marriage halls, marquees, educational institutions and contact sports, Dawn has learnt. A notification issued from Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Mohammad Hamza Shafqaat’s office will be effective from Aug 10. The notification said: “In compliance with decisions of the NCOC, the lockdown orders are..... view more
Engaging youth key to defeating Covid-19
Source: News Desk, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-08-13
The engagement and mobilisation of thousands of youngsters have helped combat the spread of the novel coronavirus (Covid-19) in the country. “Youth form the biggest asset of the country and given the ongoing pandemic, they can play a crucial role in Covid-19 response and recovery,” said Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Youth Affairs Usman Dar on Wednesday during an online seminar focusing on “Breaking Barriers for Mea.....view more

LSM sector shrinks 10.2% in last fiscal year
Source: Shahbaz Rana, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-08-13
ISLAMABAD: For the second year in a row, Pakistan’s large-scale industrial sector shrank by 10.2% in the previous fiscal year, which was steeper than the post-Covid-19 estimate of the government, reported the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) on Wednesday. Large-scale manufacturing (LSM) output contracted 10.2% in fiscal year 2019-20 over the preceding fiscal year, according to the national data-collecting agency. The contraction was s.....view more

Pandemic dents business confidence
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-08-13
Business optimism in Pakistan declined further in the second quarter of 2020 compared to the first quarter in the aftermath of Covid-19 outbreak. In the second quarter of 2020, the Business Optimism Index (BOI) registered a decline of 7.8 points against the preceding quarter to 112.8 - a value above 100 points indicates business optimism, according to Dun & Bradstreet’s third edition of the Business Optimism Index for the second quarte.....view more

More than 90% of COVID-19 patients recover in Pakistan: NCOC data
The latest data shared by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Thursday shows that over 92% of coronavirus patients have recovered in Pakistan. As many as 264,060 people have recovered from coronavirus across Pakistan so far, making it a significant count, as it constitutes 92% of the total number of patients. There are now 16,475 active cases in the country. About 753 new coronavirus cases were reported with 10 new deaths.....view more

Corona vaccine pre-orders worldwide top five billion
ISLAMABAD: Although none of the coronavirus vaccines under development has proved its efficacy yet in clinical trials, at least 5.7 billion doses have been pre-ordered around the world. First shipments of a COVID-19 vaccine created by Western laboratories have often been snapped up by the United States, international media reported. Five vaccines — three Western and two Chinese — are in Phase 3 efficacy trials involving thousands of .....view more

Coronavirus kills 17 more; infects 730 in a day
Source: News Desk, Daily Times, 2020-08-13
Pakistan on Wednesday reported 17 more deaths by novel coronavirus as the number of positive cases surged to 285,924. The nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 6,136. According to the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), 730 persons tested positive for Covid-19 in the last 24 hours. Sindh remains the worst-hit province by the pandemic in terms of cases followed by Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Islama.....view more
17 more deaths, 730 new Covid-19 cases reported
Source: Our Staff Report, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-08-13
ISLAMABAD - The Covid-19 situation appears to be improving in the country with the total number of recovered persons from the virus reaching 263,193 and only 17 deaths reported during the last 24 hours. According to the latest statistics, there are now 16,599 active cases in the country as 730 new COVID-19 cases were reported during the last 24 hours. Islamabad, Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir have collectively reported 33 corona.....view more

Asad Umar praises people for ‘successful fight’ against Covid-19
Source: APP, Daily Times, 2020-08-13
Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar on Wednesday appreciated public’s mature attitude for “successful fight” against COVID-19. Talking to PTV news channel, Asad Umar said Pakistan’s efforts against coronavirus pandemic has set an example before the world as it understood the seriousness of the disease and took timely steps to break the chain of infections. Entire world is praising PM Imran .....view more

COVID-19 continues to claim lives in twin cities
Rawalpindi: Coronavirus illness, COVID-19 outbreak despite losing intensity to a significant level is continuing to claim lives here in the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi as in last 24 hours, the illness has claimed another life here in the federal capital taking death toll from Islamabad Capital Territory to 173 however no death due to the illness was reported from Rawalpindi district in last two days. The virus, however, has so far c.....view more

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Govt starts audit of medical items purchased for Covid-19
Source: Ashfaq Yusufzai, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-11
PESHAWAR: The government has started audit of procurement of diagnostic kits, machines, personal protective equipment and other items by the health department to deal with Covid-19 and has sought personal files of the senior officials involved in the process. Director General Audit Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in a letter issued on August 7 asked the director-general health services (DGHS) to provide him with personal files of the officers and other staff.....view more

OVID-19 troubling students, officials alike
PESHAWAR: The suspension of academic activities due to the Covid-19 pandemic has caused a host of problems that warrant the attention of the relevant authorities. After resolving the issue of annual examinations by promoting the students to next grade, the government and quarters concerned are yet to find solutions to the other issues. The most serious issue being faced by those at the helm of affairs is holding entrance tests for admis....view more

No corona death in KP
PESHAWAR: No-one died of coronavirus in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Wednesday. According to the KP Health department, it was the first time that the viral infection didn’t cause any human loss in the province, where 1,235
people died of the infectious disease. However, 88 people were diagnosed with coronavirus in KP, taking the total number of positive cases to 34,947. The health department said that 409 more patients recovered from coronavirus, ta..... view more

Convid-19 test mandatory before surgery in KP hospitals
Source: Ashfaq Yusufzai, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-14
PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa health department has made Covid-19 test compulsory for patients prior to undergoing surgery at public sector hospitals to know the exact quantum of the infection among the people. The measure has been taken in the fulfilment of the guidelines issued by the World Health Organisation in April. "Today, on the first day of reopening of OPD after its closure in April, four of the five patients admitted for ENT..... view more
### Punjab

**Pre-corona situation returns: CM Usman Buzdar**  
LAHORE: Chief Minister Usman Buzdar on Monday said Punjab had reopened for business and added that the state of affairs in Punjab was much better than other provinces and they had faced different challenges successfully. The Punjab government issued a formal notification announcing the end of lockdown in the province and reopening all the business activities except marriage halls. From Monday, the restaurants and all the public transports ..... view more

**Punjab, Sindh, K-P end lockdown**  
Source: Hafeez Tunio/Adnan Lodhi, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-08-12  
LAHORE/ KARACHI: Sindh, Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa governments lifted most of the coronavirus-related restrictions with advice of taking precautions and following the standard operating procedures (SOPs), warning that the threat of the disease was not over yet. As the provincial governments issued notifications for ending the lockdown, the National Command and Operations Centre (NCOC) warned of potential spike in Covid-19 cases if health gui..... view more

**Resolution in Punjab Assembly for including minority heroes in school curriculum**  
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-11  
LAHORE: PML-N MPA Hina Pervaiz Butt has submitted a resolution in the Punjab Assembly demanding inclusion of minority heroes in the curriculum. “According to the Constitution of Pakistan, all citizens have equal rights. In Pakistan even today the people of the minority community are performing the most important services in various fields. Pakistan has made history all over the world by giving this right to the Sikh community. Therefore, t..... view more

**Limited Urs of Baba Farid allowed, given Covid threat**  
Source: Correspondent, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-11  
SAHIWAL: Punjab Auqaf department on Monday decided to allow a limited number of devotees to attend the rites of the 778th Urs of Baba Farid-ud-Din Ganj Shakar at Pakpattan this year given the threat of resurgence of coronavirus cases which are presently on the decline in the province. The decision was taken in a meeting presided over by Auqaf Secretary Dr Irshad Ahmed at Pakpattan deputy commissioner's office. It was also attended by Sahiwa..... view more

**Most activities allowed as normalcy returns**  
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-11  
LAHORE: Chief Minister Usman Buzdar says all activities in the province except reopening of educational institutions, marriage halls and holding of big congregations have been restored. Cinema houses, Lahore Museum, hotels and other public places reopened on Monday. Punjab has been under lockdown since March when the province started witnessing a surge in the Covid-19 cases. The provincial government on Monday directed all administrative depart..... view more

**109 new Covid cases with four deaths in Punjab**  
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-12  
LAHORE: Punjab reported 109 new patients of Covid-19 during the last 24 hours, taking the total number of confirmed cases to 94,586 so far. Meanwhile, it has also reported four deaths due to the virus during the same period. According
to the official figures released by the primary & secondary health department here on Tuesday, of the new cases most of them (55) were reported in Lahore. The total number of confirmed cases has reached 47,98.....view more

**SOPs for educational institutions issued**

Source: Staff Reporter, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2020-08-12

LAHORE: The Punjab government on Tuesday issued standard operating procedures (SOPs) for resuming educational activities from Sept 15. According to a notification issued by the Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare, all indoor games, swings, slides and other sports activities are banned in educational institutions. There will be no seminars, speech competitions, [outdoor] sports and tournaments. It further states that all the people will have.....view more

**Muharram congregations: 5,000 people to be tested for coronavirus**

Source: Waseem Ashraf Butt, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2020-08-12

GUJRAT: Local authorities have decided to conduct Covid-19 tests on at least 5,000 people related to religious activities of Muharram. Up to 1,000 to 1,500 zakareen (who deliver speeches narrating the incidents related to the martyrdom of Imam Hussain during Muharram congregations), around 1,500 organizers of various congregations as well as some 2,000 security volunteers of congregations and processions will undergo Covid-19 screening by the lo.....view more

**Punjab closes down Covid-19 wards in city’s three hospitals**

Source: Aamir Yasin, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2020-08-12

RAWALPINDI: The Punjab government has closed down Covid-19 wards in three government-run hospitals in the city, leaving the Rawalpindi Institute of Urology (RIU) the dedicated facility for patients of the disease following a reported decrease in cases. All the filter clinics and wards for Covid-19 patients at Benazir Bhattu Hospital (BBH), Holy Family Hospital (HFH) and the District Headquarters (DHQ) Hospital have been closed and patients will .....view more

**Population seems ready to say goodbye to COVID-19**


Rawalpindi: Coronavirus illness, COVID-19 outbreak is losing its intensity consistently in Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district with every passing day and in the light of number of patients being tested positive and deaths caused by the virus, it seems as the population in the district is ready to say goodbye to the deadly outbreak. In last 11 days, only 42 patients have been tested positive for COVID-19 from Rawalpindi district .....view more

**Export of vegetables, fruits goes up despite corona**


MULTAN: The country has registered a sharp rise in the export of fruits and vegetables despite COVID-19. In a press release issued here on Tuesday, All Pakistan Fruit and Vegetable Exporters Association chief patron Mian Waheed Ahmed said that the export volume had witnessed more than 12pc increase. He said that the export of fruits had enhanced by 3.8pc as compared to last year while the vegetables reflected an increase in export by 28pc. He s.....view more
**Covid caution thrown to the wind in Lahore’s markets**
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-08-12

LAHORE: After the end of the lockdown, all the small and big business centres and markets have reopened in Lahore, which are drawing crowds of citizens. However, the defined standard operating procedures (SOPs) are not being implemented in most shopping malls and markets to prevent the spread of coronavirus. Traders said they have displayed notices for implementation of the SOPs in their shops and markets, while the Punjab health secretary..... [view more]

**Over 100 new Covid-19 cases emerge across Punjab**
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-08-12

LAHORE: The Covid-19 pandemic claimed four more lives in the province, while the number of coronavirus cases in the province reached 94,586 after registration of 109 new cases. The spokesperson for the Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department on Tuesday said so far the total number of deaths recorded was 2,174 altogether. As many as 55 new cases of Covid-19 were reported in Lahore, five in Rawalpindi, three in Jhelum, one in Chak..... [view more]

**129 more test positive, three die in Punjab**
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-13

LAHORE: As many as 129 more people tested positive for the coronavirus during the last 24 hours in Punjab, taking the total number of confirmed cases to 94,715 across the province. Of them, 46 cases were reported from Lahore that has recorded the highest number of positive cases and deaths in Punjab so far. Other cases were reported from Rawalpindi, Jhelum, Attock, Gujranwala, Sialkot, Gujrat, Hafizabad, Mandi Bahuddin, Multan, Khanewal, Faisal..... [view more]

**Metro bus is back — but with SOPs**
Source: Saleh Mughal, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-08-13

RAWALPINDI: After a gap of nearly five months, the metro bus service between the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi resumed on Wednesday morning. However, only a fraction of people who used to regularly frequent the service were able to avail it on Wednesday while strictly observing health guidelines. Over 70 buses of the Metro Bus Service, which had been parked in two car parks in the federal capital, started running between the myriad o..... [view more]

**Lahore prepares for Independence Day amid Covid-19**
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-08-13

LAHORE: As preparations to celebrate the 73rd Independence Day are in full swing in the provincial capital, special stalls and kiosks set up across the metropolis provide a window to short-term but quick earning opportunity for many. The provincial capital has already worn green as national flags are seen everywhere. Stalls and kiosks have been set up to in every nook and corner to sell I-Day merchandise, including flags, buntings, badges, caps..... [view more]

**COVID-19 claims another life in ICT**

Rawalpindi: The coronavirus illness, COVID-19 outbreak that has started losing intensity in this region of the country has claimed another life here in Islamabad Capital Territory in last 24 hours taking total number of deaths so far caused by the illness to 172 in the federal capital while 278 patients have already lost their lives due to COVID-19 in Rawalpindi district. In last 24 hours, as many as 16 new patients have been tested positive fr..... [view more]
Reopening on Sept 15 SOPs issued for campuses
LAHORE: Punjab government has issued Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for reopening of educational institutions in the province from September 15, 2020 as announced by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC). Primary & Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD) on the recommendations of Technical Working Group (TWG), in a notification addressed to Secretary, School Education Department, all Commissioners and Deputy Commissioner.....view more

SOPs’ rampant violations: Commissioners, RPOs warned of second wave of Covid
Source: Asif Chaudhry, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-14
LAHORE: The Punjab government has cautioned the divisional commissioners and regional police officers (RPOs) about the possibility of “resurgence of the Covid-19 across the province” because of the rampant violations of the standard operating procedures (SOPs) in the markets after it lifted the lockdown in the province. The government, taking notice of relaxed attitude of the administration and police towards enforcement of the Covid.....view more

Govt, public unfazed by coronavirus on Independence Day eve
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-14
LAHORE: Civic agencies, departments, individuals and groups started celebrating the Independence Day on Thursday ahead of the formal flag-hoisting ceremonies, national anthems and events scheduled to be held on Friday (today). The city witnessed several individuals and groups running bikes and cars on roads while holding Pakistani flags and chanting Pakistan Zindabad slogans. “After rendering sacrifices, our forefathers finally succeeded i.....view more

Punjab reporting fewer than 200 Covid cases in a day
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-08-13
LAHORE: The province of Punjab has reported less than 200 cases in a day for the sixth consecutive day, as 129 fresh coronavirus cases and three deaths were reported during the past 24 hours. As per official data, out of 5,798 tests conducted during the last 24 hours, 129 were reported positive taking the tally to 94,715. With three more fatalities, the total number of deaths in the province has reached to 2,177. Pakistan has reported 1.....view more
## Sindh

### Home department issues SOPs for businesses, educational institutions
The Sindh Home Department has issued standard operating procedures (SOPs) that are to be complied with by all the businesses and educational institution across the province. The notification states that while a decline has been observed in COVID-19 cases, the disease is yet to be defeated, warning that the number of infections can rise if precautionary measures are not adopted. The following are allowed to reopen on September 15 subject to.... view more

### Death toll rises to 2,282 as COVID-19 claims 10 more lives in Sindh
Ten more people lost their lives to the novel coronavirus in Sindh during the last 24 hours, bringing the death toll to 2,282 and showing a 1.8 per cent mortality rate in the province. “COVID-19 has claimed 10 more lives in the province, while 278 more people have tested positive for the infectious disease. The number of [positive] cases has reached 124,127 in the province,” said Chief Minister Syed Murad in his daily COVID-19 situat..... view more

### National Minorities Day events cancelled due to floods, coronavirus
Because of flooding from monsoon rains and the coronavirus situation, the Pakistan Peoples Party and minority rights groups have cancelled their activities on the eve of National Minority Day that is marked on August 11 (today). With reference to the famous speech of the father of the nation, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, to the Constituent Assembly on August 11, 1947, the PPP's federal government in 2009 had declared August 11 as Nati..... view more

### Punjab, Sindh, K-P end lockdown
Source: Hafeez Tunio/Adnan Lodhi, *The Express Tribune, Islamabad*, 2020-08-12
LAHORE/ KARACHI: Sindh, Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa governments lifted most of the coronavirus-related restrictions with advice of taking precautions and following the standard operating procedures (SOPs), warning that the threat of the disease was not over yet. As the provincial governments issued notifications for ending the lockdown, the National Command and Operations Centre (NCOC) warned of potential spike in Covid-19 cases if health gui..... view more

### Sindh govt ends Covid-19 lockdown across province
KARACHI: The Sindh government Monday announced reopening of almost all the sectors which had been closed for months due to the coronavirus pandemic. According to a notification, the Sindh Home Department said businesses have been allowed to reopen across province subject to strict adherence of SOPs in view of the decline in Covid-19 cases in the country, but acknowledged that the disease is still prevalent and likely to increase if no adequa..... view more

### ‘Smart lockdowns’ lead to effective handling of Covid-19 in Pakistan
Source: Staff Reporter, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2020-08-11
KARACHI: The Medical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases Society Pakistan (MMIDSP) has said Pakistan’s Covid-19 pandemic response is appropriate as the decreasing number of cases are the outcome of good decision-making
and advisory role of infectious diseases specialists engaged by the federal and provincial authorities. In a statement issued here on Monday, the MMIDSP said that the strategy of “smart lockdowns”, based on input.....

278 new Covid-19 cases reported, 10 deaths
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-11
KARACHI: Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Monday said that coronavirus claimed 10 more lives lifting the death toll to 2,282 while infecting 278 others, lifting the tally to 124,127. The CM said that so far 834,655 tests had been conducted all over Sindh which detected 124,127 cases, of them 115,984 or 93 per cent patients recovered, including 243 overnight. The CM said that currently 5,861 patients were under treatment, of them 5,463 in ho.....

COVID-19 claims 10 more lives, infects 278 others: Chief Minister Sindh Share:
Source: Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-08-11
KARACHI - Sindh chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that coronavirus claimed 10 more lives lifting the death toll to 2282 while infected 278 others lifting the tally to 124127. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued here from CM House on Monday. He said that 10 more patients lost their lives while struggling against the virus lifting the death toll to 2282 that constituted 1.8 percent.....

4,203 out of total 4,540 COVID-19 patients in Hyderabad recover
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-08-11
DADU - As many as 4,203 COVID-19 patients, out of total 4,540 in Hyderabad district, have recovered since the pandemic began on March 09 while 269 patients are still under treatment at isolation centers or are in isolation at their homes and 60 have succumbed to the viral infection so far. According to official figures released on Monday, out of 269 active cases, 261 COVID-19 patients are isolated at their homes while eight patients are unde.....

8 more Covid-19 deaths
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-12
KARACHI: Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Tuesday said that eight more patients lost their lives overnight lifting the death toll to 2,290 and 429 new Covid-19 cases were detected when 10,050 samples were tested. He said that currently 4,629 patients were under treatment. He added that the condition of 248 patients was stated to be critical, including 38 who were shifted to ventilators. According to the CM, out of 429 new cases, 200 have b.....

COVID-19 kills eight more, infects another 429 in Sindh
Eight more people have died due to COVID-19 and another 429 cases have been reported during the past 24 hours in Sindh, with the death toll due to the viral disease reaching 2,290 in the province. Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah said in his daily report on the health emergency on Tuesday that 10,050 samples were tested in the past 24 hours, resulting in 429 people, or 4.3 per cent of those who were screened, being diagnosed with COVID-19. The pro.....
Pak-Afghan bilateral trade faced challenges due to Covid-19: Motiwala
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-08-12
KARACHI: Pakistan Afghanistan transit and bilateral trade have faced several challenges amid Covid-19 including procedural delays and enhanced time taken to cross border further aggravated by unavailability of trackers, ineffective scanners at the borders, extensive quarantine procedures that not only increased time taken but also cost of doing business. Chairman of Pakistan Afghanistan Joint Chamber of Commerce & Industry (PAJCCI), Zuba.... view more

COVID-19 Eight more die as 429 new cases detected: Murad
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-08-12
KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that eight more patients lost their lives lifting the death toll to 2,290 and 429 new cases were detected when 10050 samples were tested. This he said in a statement issued here from the CM House on Tuesday. He said that eight more patients died overnight lifting the death toll to 2,290 that constituted 1.8 percent. He added that 429 new cases emerged when 10050 tests were conducted.... view more

Massive increase in export of fruits, vegetables despite Covid-19
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-08-12
KARACHI: Pakistan’s fruits & vegetables exports have witnessed a healthy growth during the last fiscal year despite coronavirus global pandemic. Overall, export of fruits and vegetables posted a 12.5 percent or $730 million growth, which is highest-ever revenue in terms of foreign exchange generation. During last year, the export of fruits moved up by 3.8 percent while the vegetables exports registered an increase of 28 percent. Ex..... view more

Eight more die, 429 others infected: Murad
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-08-12
KARACHI - Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said Tuesday that eight more patients lost their lives lifting the death toll to 2,290 and 429 new cases were detected when 10,050 samples were tested. This he said in a statement issued here from CM House. He said that eight more patients died overnight lifting the death toll to 2,290 that constituted 1.8 percent. He added that 429 new cases emerged when 10050 tests were conducted that cons.... view more

‘Epidemics leave profound impacts on human life’
Source: Correspondent, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-13
HYDERABAD: Historian Dr Mubarak Ali has said that epidemics influence man’s thought patterns, beliefs, economics, politics, social perceptions, priorities, religious convictions, culture, art, literature, warfare, folklore and other aspects of life. He said that the 200-year-long Plague of Justinian wiped out millions in several waves across Europe, North Africa and Middle East and crippled expansionary aspirations of Roman Empire alt..... view more

As seven more fall prey to COVID-19, Sindh’s death toll hits 2,297
Seven more people have died due to COVID-19 and another 373 cases have been reported during the past 24 hours in Sindh, with the death toll due to the viral disease reaching 2,297 in the province. Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said in his daily situation report on the health emergency on Wednesday that 7,870 samples were tested in the past 24 hours, resulting in 373 people, or 4.7 per cent of those who were screened, being diag..... view more
Dawood Foundation, ABL to establish HDU at Indus Hospital for COVID-19 patients
KARACHI: The Dawood Foundation (DF), the charitable arm of the Dawood Hercules Group, and Allied Bank Limited have announced a partnership to commit PKR 18.7 million for the establishment of High Dependency Unit (HDU) at The Indus Hospital, Karachi, to enhance COVID-19 patient care and facilities. The Dawood Foundation and Allied Bank Limited will be making an equal contribution of PKR 9.35 million for this initiative. Under this project,......

Covid-19 fails to dampen craze for Jashn-i-Azaadi memorabilia
Source: Shazia Hasan, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-14
KARACHI: As Najma sits on a plastic stool next to her little stall with her toddler son, who is constantly blowing the green vuvuzela in an attempt to make his mother completely deaf, there are several customers making a beeline for the Independence Day memorabilia that she is selling on a footpath on main Korangi Road. There are printed Pakistan flags on sticks fluttering all around. There are the Pakistan as well as Azad Jammu & Kashmir fl.......

10 more die, 360 new Covid-19 cases emerge: CM
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-08-14
KARACHI: As many as 10 more patients of Covid-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 2307 and 360 new cases emerged when 10754 samples were tested raising the tally to 125,289. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued here on Thursday. The CM said that 10 more patients died overnight lifting the death toll to 2,307 that constituted 1.8 percent death rate. He added that 360 new cases emerge.....

10 more COVID-19 patients die; 360 others infected in Sindh: CM Murad
Source: APP, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-08-14
KARACHI - As many as 10 more patients of COVID-19 lost their lives in Sindh during the last 24 hours, increasing the death toll to 2,307 while 360 new cases were also reported during the same period. In a statement released from the CM's House on Thursday, Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah said that with 10 more people dying from the coronavirus overnight, the death toll in the province has reached 2,307 that constitute.....
### Spain again grapples with Europe’s worst virus infection rate
**Source:** AFP, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2020-08-12

**MADRID:** Just seven weeks after bringing its first coronavirus wave under control, experts say Spain is once again in a “critical” situation with the worst infection rate in Western Europe. The country reported an average of 4,923 new daily cases of the respiratory disease during the last seven days, a higher amount than that of Britain, France, Germany and Italy combined, according to a tally based on official figures. Spain counts ..... **view more**

### NZ locks down Auckland after first local virus cases in 102 days
**Source:** Reuters, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2020-08-12

**WELLINGTON:** New Zealand announced on Tuesday it was shutting down its largest city, Auckland, after four new cases of Covid-19 were discovered in the city, the first evidence of domestic transmission after being coronavirus-free for 102 days. New Zealand’s successful fight against Covid-19 was hailed globally and the Pacific island nation of 5 million was seen as one of the safest places, as the pandemic raged globally. Director General o..... **view more**

### Russia denounces criticism; Western scientists sceptical about coronavirus vaccine
**Source:** AFP, *Business Recorder, Islamabad*, 2020-08-12

**MOSCOW:** President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday declared Russia the first country to approve a coronavirus vaccine, but scientists and the World Health Organization said it still needed a rigorous safety review. Putin said the vaccine was safe and that one of his own daughters had been inoculated, though clinical trials were not yet complete and final stage testing involving more than 2,000 people was to start only on Wednesday. Western sci..... **view more**

### Greek town of Preveza bets on slow tourism to overcome virus
**Source:** Agencies, *Daily Times*, 2020-08-12

Yannis Yovanos scans the waters of the Ambracian Gulf with his binoculars for dolphins shooting into the air before curving back down into the sea. His early warnings prompt just a dozen tourists on the deck of Yovanos’ small boat to scramble for their smartphones, hoping to secure a snap of the aquatic mammals’ aerial acrobatics. Officials in his home town of Preveza hope that it’s just this kind of small, family-run business tha..... **view more**

### Mexico’s coronavirus death toll passes 53,000 mark
**Source:** Agencies, *Daily Times*, 2020-08-12

Mexico’s coronavirus death toll passed the 53,000 mark on Monday as the health ministry reported 705 additional fatalities and 5,558 new cases of infection, pushing the country closer to the government’s most negative scenarios. Mexico, which has the third-highest death toll worldwide from the virus after the United States and Brazil, has now reported 485,836 cases and 53,003 deaths, with fatalities rising nearly 5,000 over th..... **view more**

### Trinidad PM predicts win in election with heavy turnout despite pandemic
**Source:** Agencies, *Daily Times*, 2020-08-12

Prime Minister Keith Rowley predicted victory for his ruling People’s National Movement in Trinidad and Tobago’s general election Monday, with turnout strong despite the coronavirus pandemic. Scores of voters remained in line waiting to cast their ballots as polls closed but officials have said they will be allowed to vote. Rowley urged supporters to stay away from the PNM party’s headquarters when celebrating: “We do not wan..... **view more**
Trump weighs blocking US citizens coming home if coronavirus infection feared
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-08-12
The administration of US President Donald Trump is considering a measure to block US citizens and permanent residents from returning home if they are suspected of being infected with the new coronavirus, a senior US official confirmed to Reuters. The official said a draft regulation, which has not been finalized and could change, would give the government authorization to block individuals who could “reasonably” be believed to have con.... view more

Half of daily 100,000 COVID-19 cases in Americas are in US: WHO director
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-08-12
More than 100,000 cases of COVID-19 are being reported daily in the Americas, half of them in the United States, and there are worrisome spikes in countries that had outbreaks controlled, such as Argentina and Colombia, World Health Organization regional director Carissa Etienne said on Tuesday. “Our region remains under COVID’s grip,” Etienne said in a virtual briefing from Washington with other Pan American Health Organization..... view more

Scientists ask: Without trial data, how can we trust Russia’s COVID vaccine?
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-08-12
An announcement by Russia on Tuesday that it will approve a COVID-19 vaccine after less than two months of human testing prompted alarm among global health experts, who said that with no full trial data, the vaccine is hard to trust.Intent on being first in the global race to develop a vaccine against the pandemic disease, Russia has yet to conduct large-scale trials of the shot that would produce data to show whether it works – something i..... view more

Virus returns to New Zealand after 102 days
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-08-12
New Zealand’s dream run of 102 days without locally transmitted coronavirus ended Tuesday, prompting a stay-at-home lockdown order for the country’s largest city. After receiving global praise for successfully containing the virus, Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said four cases had been detected in a single family in Auckland from an unknown source. “After 102 days, we have our first cases of COVID-19 outside of manage..... view more

Russia claims first coronavirus vaccine as global cases top 20 million
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-08-12
Russia claimed Tuesday that it had developed the world’s first vaccine offering “sustainable immunity” against the coronavirus, as the pandemic marked another bleak milestone with 20 million infections globally. President Vladimir Putin said that one of his own daughters had received the inoculation, dubbed “Sputnik” after the pioneering 1950s Soviet satellite.Western scientists have previously raised concerns about t..... view more

Virus pushes Britain into record recession; NZ mulls over election delay
Source: AFP, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-13
LONDON: The global coronavirus pandemic pushed Britain into its deepest-ever recession, data showed on Wednesday, as New Zealand warned the re-emergence of Covid-19 could delay its upcoming election. The British economy — the world’s seventh in size — contracted by an unprecedented 20.4 percent in the period from April to June, far worse than any of its European neighbours and also well below the so-called Group of Seven riches..... view more
Virus surge makes US weak link in global economic recovery
Source: Agencies, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-13
People in China are back to buying German luxury cars. Europe’s assembly lines are accelerating. Now the global economy is waiting for the United States to get its coronavirus outbreak under control and boost the recovery, but there’s little sign of that. The United States’ fumbling response to the pandemic and its dithering over a new aid package is casting doubt on its economic prospects and making it one of the chief risks to..... view more

Pandemic seen changing how women get reproductive health care
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-08-13
The coronavirus pandemic could bring wider use of self-managed abortions and contraception, extending reproductive health care to more women and girls, medical charities said on Tuesday. With movement restricted as nations try to limit the spread of COVID-19, women using medication to end unwanted pregnancies becomes a viable option, said Medicins Sans Frontieres (MSF), a medical charity, and Marie Stopes International (MSI), a family planning org..... view more

Japan faces WW2 anniversary in shadow of coronavirus
Source: Agencies, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-13
In a 4 1/2-minute radio speech on Aug. 15, 1945, Emperor Hirohito announced Japan’s surrender in World War Two, telling his subjects he had resolved to pave the way for peace by “enduring the unendurable”. Seventy-five years later, the unresolved legacy of the conflict haunts Tokyo’s ties with China and South Korea, even as the countries cope with a COVID-19 pandemic that is forcing Japan to scale back its Aug. 15 ceremony..... view more

In Mali’s largest prison, coronavirus kept at bay
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-08-13
Mali’s largest jail is a squalid and overcrowded colonial-era throwback that in theory is an open invitation to coronavirus. Instead, staff at Bamako Central Prison say that so far they have kept the dreaded virus at bay, thanks to time-honoured techniques of hygiene and self-help. Outside the penitentiary’s ochre walls, the Malian capital has registered most of the country’s 2,577 infections and 125 deaths. Inside, the number of..... view more

Seven African countries to start testing for COVID-19 antibodies
Source: Agencies, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-14
Seven African countries will start administering coronavirus antibody tests from next week, a regional body said on Thursday, as part of efforts to understand the extent of the outbreak on the continent. “Liberia, Sierra Leone, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Cameroon, Nigeria, Morocco are the first set of countries that committed to it,” said John Nkengasong, head of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, based in Addis Ababa. Wester..... view more

New Zealand scrambles to trace cluster, reporting 14 new virus cases
Source: Agencies, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-14
New Zealand officials were scrambling to trace the source of an outbreak of the coronavirus, reporting 14 new cases on Thursday, as long queues of people formed to escape a renewed lockdown in the country’s biggest city or be tested for the virus. The discovery of four infected family members in Auckland two days ago shocked a country that
had not recorded a case of COVID-19 for more than three months, raising some criticism of the governm....view more

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<tr>
<th>Last doctor standing: Pandemic pushes Indian hospital to brink</th>
<th>Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-08-14</th>
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<td>Guards armed with rifles escort Dr. Kumar Gaurav as he makes the rounds at his hospital on the banks of the Ganges River. The guards are there to protect him from the relatives of patients, including those suffering from COVID-19. The relatives keep barging into the wards, even the ICU, to stroke and feed their loved ones, often without wearing even the flimsiest of masks as barriers against the novel coronavirus. “If we stop them, they get a.....view more</td>
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<th>Netherlands' Belgian enclave juggles tricky virus rules</th>
<th>Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-08-14</th>
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<td>There is a small Belgian enclave in the southern Netherlands where respecting two sets of rules to fight coronavirus has become a daily challenge, with international borders criss-crossing streets and even running through shops and homes. The tiny town of Baarle-Hertog stands cheek by jowl with its Dutch neighbour Baarle-Nassau in southern Netherlands, but its 22 enclaves are Belgian territory and part of the Antwerp municipality which li.....view more</td>
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<th>Portugal keeps Lisbon under stricter COVID curbs until end-August</th>
<th>Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-08-14</th>
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<td>The Portuguese capital and its surrounds will remain under tougher anti-coronavirus restrictions than the rest of the country until at least the end of August, the government said on Thursday. Portugal has reported 53,223 infections and 1,764 deaths from the coronavirus, much lower than many other European countries including neighbouring Spain, where more than 28,500 have died. But although the sunny southern European nation initially won praise.....view more</td>
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<th>Countries tighten rules as world coronavirus deaths pass 750,000</th>
<th>Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-08-14</th>
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<td>The total number of people killed by the novel coronavirus around the world passed 750,000 on Thursday, with some countries toughening control measures as caseloads once again creep up. The Latin America and the Caribbean region remains the global epicentre, accounting for almost one-third of all deaths and housing two of the worst-affected countries — Mexico and Brazil. However, fear is growing in other regions of new spikes, with countries.....view more</td>
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### Donors News

**LOTTE Pakistan Foundation donates Rs39 million to fight against COVID-19**  
Source: [Press Release, The Nation, Islamabad], 2020-08-11  
Lahore-To combat the current humanitarian and economic crises in the country, LOTTE Pakistan Foundation has donated a package of Rs39 million to help Pakistan fight against the pandemic. LOTTE Foundation Pakistan aims to fulfil corporate social responsibility by creating world of happiness for everyone. It is part of Global LOTTE group, which is a South Korean conglomerate with extensive history of customer-focused investments in Pakistan operati......[view more]

**WHO sees hope despite looming 750,000 virus death toll**  
Source: [AFP, Dawn, Islamabad], 2020-08-11  
GENEVA: The World Health Organisation insisted on Monday there was still hope of conquering the coronavirus pandemic despite the suffering behind the looming landmarks of 750,000 deaths and 20 million cases. With both figures expected to be reached within days, the WHO stressed it was never too late to take action to suppress the Covid-19 crisis that has gripped the planet. “This week we’ll reach 20 million registered cases of Covid......[view more]

**Russia claims developing first coronavirus vaccine**  
Source: [AFP, Dawn, Islamabad], 2020-08-12  
MOSCOW: President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday declared Russia the first country to approve a coronavirus vaccine, but scientists and the World Health Organisation said it still needed a rigorous safety review. Putin said the vaccine was safe and that one of his own daughters had been inoculated, though clinical trials were not yet complete and final stage testing involving more than 2,000 people was to start only on Wednesday. Western scient......[view more]

**China hands over 1000 ventilators to NDMA to fight Covid-19**  
Source: [Kasim Abbasi, The Nation, Islamabad], 2020-08-14  
ISLAMABAD - China on Thursday provided NDMA with additional one thousand Bipap Ventilators to enhance efforts to fight Covid-19 pandemic. Addressing the handing over ceremony of ventilators in Islamabad, Lt. Gen. Muhammed Afzal said, “The friendship between Pakistan and China is as sweet as honey and deeper than the sea. But over the past four months, a new form of friendship has emerged. Cooperation with the Chines......[view more]
## SDPI Engagements

### Researchers Articles

**Post pandemic BRI and Pakistan’s options**  
Source: Ayesha Ilyas, Daily Times, 2020-08-12  
China's Belt and Route Initiative (BRI) is one project that has shaken the status-quo by challenging traditional concepts of power in recent years. As Covid-19 has jeopardized the world, with its vast range of implications for sectors other than health, the future of traditional development projects seems bleak. The impact of the pandemic on economies has put investments in many sectors in a stalemate. China's Belt and Route is unlike.....  
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### Webinars News

**SDPI dialogue: ‘Appropriate taxation measures may enhance textile business, boost exports’**  
Source: Press Release, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-08-12  
ISLAMABAD: The facilitation and appropriate taxation measures could play instrumental role in enhancing the competitiveness of textile business and to boost exports in this crucial sector of the economy, said a press release issued on Tuesday. The experts from public and private sector said this, while sharing their views with the participants at consultative dialogue “Textile sector's competitiveness amid Covid-19” organised by th.....  
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**Special Taxation Measures To Support Textile Sector’s Competitiveness Amid Covid19: Experts**  
Source: APP, UrduPoint, 2020-08-11  
ISLAMABAD, (APP - UrduPoint / Pakistan Point News - 11th Aug, 2020 ) :The facilitation and appropriate taxation measures could play instrumental role in enhancing the competitiveness of textile business and to boost exports in this crucial sector of the economy. The experts from public and private sectors said this while sharing their views with the participants at consultative dialogue ‘Textile sector's competitiveness amid COVID-19' organi.....  
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**Special taxation measures stressed to support textile sector’s competitiveness amid Covid-19**  
Islamabad: The facilitation and appropriate taxation measures could play instrumental role in enhancing the competitiveness of the textile business and to boost exports in this crucial sector of the economy. This was the crux of the thoughts shared by experts from both public and private sectors during an online consultative dialogue organised by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) here on Tuesday. World Bank Programme Le.....  
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**Tax measures needed to support Pakistan’s textile sector**  
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-08-12  
ISLAMABAD: The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has the potential to support exporters in these difficult times, said World Bank’s Programme Lead Public Sector Specialist Clelia Rontoyanni. Addressing a consultative dialogue on “Textile sector’s competitiveness amid Covid-19” on Tuesday, she highlighted various aspects of support for competitiveness in textile businesses. Experts from public and private sectors, who parti.....  
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‘COVID-19 pandemic adversely impacted textile sector’
Islamabad : The facilitation and appropriate taxation measures could play instrumental role in enhancing the competitiveness of the textile business and to boost exports in this crucial sector of the economy. This was the crux of the thoughts shared by experts from both public and private sectors during an online consultative dialogue organised by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) here on Tuesday. World Bank Programme L...... view more

Special taxation measures to support textile sector’s competitiveness amid Covid19: Experts
Source: Tariq Ullah Wardak, Daily Times , 2020-08-12
The facilitation and appropriate taxation measures could play instrumental role in enhancing the competitiveness of textile business and too boost exports in this crucial sector of the economy. The experts on the sector from public and private sectors said this while sharing their views with the participants at consultative dialogue ‘Textile sector’s competitiveness amid Covid19’ organized by the Sustainable Development Policy ..... view more