E-Newsletter on COVID-19

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Newspapers Covered:

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

…..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.

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Op-Eds/Articles/Editorials

Communication or confusion?
The Covid-19 pandemic has exposed our individual, societal and state level capacity gaps like never before. A cross-cutting gap has been with respect to communication, the single most important factor, with its implications almost across all other aspects of Covid-19. Not to any surprise, like polio and family planning, here too we are witnessing a debacle. To say the least, Covid communication has resulted into confusing citizens, rather.... view more

Russia has won the COVID-19 Vaccine race
Source: Shahzada Rahim, Daily Times, 2020-08-15
Since the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic, major powers of the world have invested billions of dollars to develop the coronavirus vaccine. It was a global race just like a space race and nuclear arm race among the major powers during the cold war. Now, it clearly appears that Russia has won the vaccine race despite US billion dollars investment in developing the anti-COVID-19 antidote. Similarly, to develop the anti-COVID-19 vaccine US, Wes..... view more

Under one flag
Source: Fahd Husain, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-15
HAVING celebrated Independence Day yesterday, what should be our aim for the next Independence Day? Here are 10 targets: Covid-19 introduced many Pakistanis to the comfort of travelling from Karachi to Lahore, Islamabad and Peshawar by motorways. Once the Sukkur-Hyderabad section of the motorway is complete, ease and efficiency of travel for private and commercial purpose will increase significantly. Building roads and highways has been g..... view more

Economic growth through tourism
Come summers and while some would start dreaming of vacations in Europe, our burgeoning middle class would start planning vacations in Kalam, Naran or the Galiyat. The more adventurous would take out maps and start looking at Chitral, Hunza or Deosai plains in Skardu. Pakistan’s domestic tourism saw a tremendous boost in the last decade, due partly to more disposable incomes and partly to better connectivity through some amazing road netwo..... view more

Psychotherapy dilemmas
A “The purpose of psychotherapy is to set people free — Rollo May (American psychologist) A few years ago, the administrator of my children’s school approached me at a parent-teacher meeting. After having practiced as a psychiatrist for more than 20 years, when people randomly approach me and start unburdening themselves, I just smile and listen for a couple of minutes and then suggest gently that perhaps we should have this c..... view more

Social fractures
Dear All, From the start of the corona virus crisis up until mid August, there have been almost 750,000 job losses in the UK. That means at least over 500,000 households have been badly affected already and it is almost certain that the number of job losses will continue to rise because nearly every day large companies announce they are cutting
hundreds of jobs. Yet, somehow this fact is not mentioned often enough by the government as their maj.....view more

Covid-19, a blow to remittances?
Labour migration from Pakistan to the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries has been a major source of both employment for Pakistani workers and foreign exchange for the country. The export of human resource started picking up in the early 1970s when people started moving to the Gulf region following a boom in the oil and construction industries there. The then prime minister sought good relations with the Muslim states and urged their governm.....view more

Editorial: The Returning Workforce
As the pandemic continues to reshape economies worldwide through a slowdown of various economic activities resulting in massive job losses, it also continues to alter other aspects of human lives, collective and individual. Our report this week explores the subject of labour migration in the wake of the pandemic that has once again laid bare the vulnerability of the Pakistani workforce abroad. The most significant dimension we explore i.....view more

Returning to uncertainty
“After I was let go by my employer in Dubai, I faced a tough situation. The employer did not as much as hint at the prospects of a future reemployment. The government of Pakistan, too, has not put in place any contingency plan to ensure my economic survival,” says Abu Bakar, who returned to Pakistan following the financial crisis emerging from the Covid-19 situation. Abu Bakar was laid off from his job in the United Arab Emirates wher.....view more

On their own
Two years ago, Muhammad Alam was hired as a heavy machinery driver by a company in the United Arab Emirates. He was hired under a three-year contract. The job meant a lot to him. It allowed him to earn a decent amount to take care of his wife and children and parents living back home in Sargodha. But Alam had to leave the UAE when job opportunities for migrant workers vanished following a slowing down of economic activity due to Covid-19. Chaud.....view more

Pandemic In IIOK
Source: Editorial, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-08-16
The coronavirus pandemic does not impact all communities equally—it hits particularly hard in regions which are already suffering from lack of infrastructure, security and oppressive rule. Thus, it is not surprising that in India, which now has the third-highest rate of infections after the US and Brazil, the pandemic is even deadlier in the areas which the Indian state has kept oppressed and persecuted, including Indian Illegally Occupied .....view more
The ugly politics on virus vaccine
Source: Editorial, Daily Times, 2020-08-16
The race for developing a coronavirus vaccine is becoming a political as well economical issue. Since the emergence of the virus in December last in China and its subsequent resistance-free attack all over the world, the need for developing a resistant vaccine has become the order of the day. Many pharmaceutical companies with the help of their governments and medical research institutions have been trying hard to reach the vaccine destination fi.....view more

New virus wave?
Source: Editorial, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-16
JUST days after the government announced that all sectors of the economy would reopen in light of the decrease in Covid-19 cases in the country, fears of a second wave are beginning to take root. According to a report in this newspaper, the Punjab government has cautioned the divisional commissioners and regional police officers about the possibility of the resurgence of Covid-19 cases across the province as a result of “rampant violations .....view more

Covid-19 and the job market
Source: Dr Lalarukh Ejaz, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-08-16
The world’s economy has been thrown upside down with the arrival and impact of Covid-19. America’s economy shrank by over 9% in its second quarter of the current fiscal year, the highest contraction ever in its history. Pakistan’s economy is no different. The SBP has estimated it will shrink by 0.4% in 2020 while multilateral organisations have indicated that the shrinking may be of a greater magnitude. Time will tell how much .....view more

After the vaccine
Source: Editorial, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-08-16
The world seems to be in limbo. Although much economic activity has resumed, life feels far different from how we remember it. Many countries that lifted lockdowns thinking the worst of the novel coronavirus had passed are now seeing resurgence in cases. In those that aren’t as yet, fear still lingers. Until there is an effective and proven vaccine, it is likely this dance between Covid-19 decline and resurgence will continue. But even if i.....view more

COVID-19 vaccination: PRCS steps in global leadership role
The world is in the throes of a long tough fight with the new coronavirus disease COVID-19 since it reared its ugly head in the city of Wuhan in the Hubei province of China in December 2019. COVID-19 – the first pandemic of this scale in one hundred years – has created an upheaval in the world and severely affected global economies and caused unimaginable impact on all sections and segments of societies all over the world. It .....view more

Purposefully but carefully
Source: Andleeb Abbas, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-08-17
It’s gone. Defeated. Let’s go. Back to normal. These are the statements majority of the Pakistanis are expressing as the government announced the opening of nearly all sectors of society. These statements reflect a dangerous mindset. A mindset that believes that the virus is killed and pre-COVID days are back. That is why before these misperceptions turn into missteps and grave mistakes. This is the time to reset the thinking and act.....view more
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<td>Interview with Furquan Kidwai, CEO Dawaai.pk ‘Public sector fell short of opportunities pandemic presented’</td>
<td>Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad</td>
<td>2020-08-17</td>
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<td>Furquan Kidwai is CEO and founder at Dawaai. Prior to this journey, Kidwai was an investment banker for over eight years in London where he was Head of CEEMEA Financing as well as Senior Vice President in the Fixed Income business at the Royal Bank of Scotland. Before joining RBS, Kidwai worked at Merrill Lynch and Lehman Brothers in their London and New York offices. Kidwai has a master’s in international Relations from Cambridge University.</td>
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<td>COVID vaccine: getting any closer?</td>
<td>BR Research, Business Recorder, Islamabad</td>
<td>2020-08-17</td>
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<td>Six months into the pandemic, the race to develop a vaccine for novel coronavirus that has killed over 760,000 people globally, is heating up. Over 170 researchers are rushing to develop the much-needed vaccine. What is the progress? Out of the 170 plus candidates for the vaccine development that kicked off work once China released the genome of the COVID-19 virus in January 2020. Vaccine approval generally takes years and the step-by-step a....</td>
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<td>Coping with Covid-19 pandemic</td>
<td>Shahid Javed Burki, The Express Tribune, Islamabad</td>
<td>2020-08-17</td>
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<td>I am writing this at a time when the world has been hit by a pandemic of exceptional virulence. On January 30 when the World Health Organization called Covid-19 a pandemic and hence declared a public health emergency, there were 9,439 reported cases of the disease worldwide. The disease was caused by a new version of coronavirus. The previous versions had caused the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome.....</td>
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### National News

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<td><strong>Balochistan</strong></td>
<td><strong>Govt offices, hospitals in Balochistan to reopen today</strong></td>
<td>Saleem Shahid, <em>Dawn, Islamabad</em>, 2020-08-17</td>
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<td>QUETTA: The Balochistan government has announced opening of all provincial and divisional departments and outdoor patients departments (OPDs) at all government-run hospitals in the province from Monday (today). According to an official announcement on Sunday, all government employees have been asked to attend their offices from Monday with strict observance of standard operating procedures (SOPs) issued by the provincial government. The Ba.....</td>
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<td><strong>Islamabad</strong></td>
<td><strong>Ease in coronavirus curbs: British Airways' first flight takes off from Pakistan</strong></td>
<td>Agencies, <em>The News, International</em>, 2020-08-15</td>
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<td>ISLAMABAD: The British Airways on Friday fulfilled its promise to resume operations in Pakistan from August 14 after the first flight took off from Islamabad for London, said the British High Commission in Islamabad. The British flag carrier had halted operations for Pakistan after restrictions were imposed in a bid to stem the spread of coronavirus. British Airways’ direct flights resumed in June 2019 after a break of 10 years. The.....</td>
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<td><strong>Best performers in pandemic to be rewarded</strong></td>
<td>Our Correspondent, <em>The News, International</em>, 2020-08-15</td>
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<td>LAHORE: The Punjab Local Government and Community Development Department has decided to reward the best performers during COVID-19 pandemic. LG&amp;CD Secretary Dr Ahmed Javed Qazi has constituted a committee under Special Secretary Babar Aman Babr to prepare the lists of best performers in coronavirus pandemic after which the nature of the reward would be decided. &quot;We will acknowledge the services rendered by officers and officials during C.....</td>
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<td><strong>COAS, Bill Gates discuss Pakistan's Covid-19 response, polio campaign</strong></td>
<td>nil, <em>The Express Tribune, Islamabad</em>, 2020-08-15</td>
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<td>Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa and Co-Chair of the Bill &amp; Melinda Gates Foundation Bill Gates, in a telephonic conversation, discussed Pakistan's Covid-19 response and resumption of the polio campaign. Bill Gates appreciated the Pakistan Army for supporting the national polio drive and ensuring proper reach and coverage. The army chief attributed the effort for a polio-free Pakistan to the grassroot workers includin.....</td>
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<td><strong>Bulk of Covid aid funds remains unspent</strong></td>
<td>Shahbaz Rana, <em>The Express Tribune, Islamabad</em>, 2020-08-15</td>
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<td>ISLAMABAD: The federal government was unable to spend even half of funds it had announced to offset the devastating impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the poor and smaller businesses and upgrade the country’s dilapidated healthcare system to tackle the new challenge. In contrast, industrialists benefitted the most from the government’s financial assistance package, according to finance ministry’s spending data. The ministr.....</td>
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Tech sector grows amid pandemic
Source: Qamar Qureshi, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-08-15
Despite the impact of Covid-19 on the economy of Pakistan and subsequent layoffs by several companies, a few firms have reported expansion in their employee base in the past five months owing to a rise in their volumetric sales. Speaking to The Express Tribune, Priceoye.pk Founder and CEO Adnan Shaffi revealed that his enterprise expanded some of the departments by as much as three times in the wake of rising sales. The company generates revenue......view more

Country reports 626 new virus cases, 14 deaths in a day
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-08-15
ISLAMABAD - Authorities on Friday reported at least 626 new Covid-19 cases and 14 deathsdue during the past 24 hours. With the new infections, the nationwide COVID-19 tally has risen to 287,300, according to the official figures. The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) reported 14 deaths as the country's death toll hit 6,153. The number of recovered patients in the country stands at 265,215. Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) repor.....view more

Pakistan develops AI system to measure Covid risk
Source: News Desk, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-08-15
Pakistan has made “an indigenously developed, state of the art” system based on the Artificial Intelligence (AI) to mark and divide areas according to their coronavirus risk rating, announced an aide of the prime minister on Friday. “The AI experts of Love for Data, assisted the NCOC [National Command and Control Centre] and the Pakistan Army conduct video-based risk detection, to measure Covid-19 risk at shops and cattle marke.....view more

86 overseas Pakistanis honoured for contribution to Covid-19 fight
Source: News Desk, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-08-15
As part of his initiative to reach out to overseas Pakistanis and in the context of August 14 celebrations, Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi on Saturday honoured 86 overseas Pakistanis for making exceptional contributions to fight against Covid-19. According to a statement of Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFa), Individuals and Organisations that had assisted in alleviating the suffering of humanity during these challenging times in any form.....view more

92% of Covid-19 patients in Pakistan recover
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-08-15
ISLAMABAD: In Pakistan, the rate of recovery of coronavirus patients has jumped to 92.31% as 265,215 people out of the 287,300 people infected by the disease have already recovered. According to the latest statistics released by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Friday, the total number of active Covid-19 cases in the country is 15,932. In the last 24 hours, some 626 people were tested positive for Covid-19 while 14 patients .....view more

PM hopeful about emergence of ‘developed, industrial Pakistan’
Source: Syed Irfan Raza, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-15
ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan said on Friday that he was seeing a "progressing and industrial Pakistan" in future as the government had managed to handle the issue of foreign debt retirement and costly electricity generation. “Although we had a very difficult two years during which we didn’t have foreign exchange and couldn’t pay our debts, things are improving (now) as our stock market is going up, tax colle.....view more
Twin cities see slight increase in Covid-19 cases  
Source: Staff Reporter, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2020-08-15

ISLAMABAD: A slight increase was seen in the number of confirmed cases of Covid-19 in Rawalpindi and Islamabad as the twin cities reported 12 and 19 cases respectively on Friday, sources told Dawn. Official of the capital administration said that during the last six days the number of confirmed cases of the virus remained under 30. On Aug 8, 27 cases were reported, followed by 25 on Aug 9, 20 each on Aug 10 and 11, 15 on Aug 12, 27 on Aug 13 an.....view more

Corona: No death in last 24 hours  

Rawalpindi: In last 24 hours, only six new patients have been tested positive for COVID-19, the disease caused by 2019 novel coronavirus from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district hinting towards a situation becoming normal as it is for the first time after four months that less than 10 patients have been confirmed positive from the region. The addition of six new patients took tally to 21293 on Saturday while no death due .....view more

COVID-19 frontliners resent allowance denial  

Islamabad: The doctors, nurses and paramedics of the CDA Hospital have complained that they've been denied the Corona Allowance despite working as the frontline soldiers against coronavirus. They also resented discrimination against them during the allowance's distribution. According to them, the frontline soldiers have been battling the coronavirus epidemic for the past four to five months but people at the helm haven't car.....view more

Bajwa, Bill Gates discuss Pakistan's response to Covid-19  
Source: Ikram Junaidi, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2020-08-16

ISLAMABAD: While a little over 16,000 active cases of coronavirus have been left in Pakistan, Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa and co-chair of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) Bill Gates spoke on telephone about Pakistan's Covid-19 response and resumption of polio eradication campaign. According to a statement issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations on Saturday, Mr Gates praised Pakistan Army for suppo.....view more

86 overseas Pakistanis honoured for role in fight against Covid-19  
Source: Staff Reporter, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2020-08-16

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi on Saturday honoured 86 overseas Pakistanis for their contribution to host societies during the coronavirus pandemic, saying they were the real ambassadors of the country. “Their acts of kindness, performed without any consideration for reward or recognition, in the face of difficult circumstances, exemplify the true nature and spirit of the Pakistani nation. Such individuals and groups of P.....view more

SOPs and security plan for Muharram reviewed  
Source: Correspondent, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2020-08-16

TAXILA: Representatives and officials from the district administration of Attock on Saturday met members of the district peace committee, religious leaders from different schools of thought and administrators of imambargahs to finalise standard operating procedures (SOPs) for majalis and processions to be held in and after Muharram. The
meeting, held at the deputy commissioner’s office, was presided over by Punjab Minister for Revenue reti.....view more

Covid-19 crisis; Banks defer Rs642bn of clients’ payment of principal on loans: IMF
Source: Tahir Amin, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-08-16
ISLAMABAD: Under the State Bank of Pakistan’s temporary regulatory measures, banks have deferred Rs642 billion of clients’ payment of principal on loan obligations for one year so far, to maintain banking system soundness and sustain economic activity, says the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The IMF in its report, “Policy Actions Taken by Countries” updated on August 14, 2020, reviewed various steps Pakistan has taken.....view more

Only four new Covid-19 cases reported in capital
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-08-16
ISLAMABAD: The federal capital on Saturday reported only four new Covid-19 cases, the lowest daily figure in the last over five months. According to official data, four people were tested positive out of 2,620 tests run in the high-risk areas. Out of four cases, one each was reported from sector I-8/2, sector E-11/4, sector E-11/3 and Tarlai. With the emergence of four new cases, the tally of coronavirus cases in the city has risen.....view more

Combating Covid-19
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-08-16
ISLAMABAD: As part of his initiative to reach out to overseas Pakistanis, and in the context of 14th August celebrations, the Foreign Minister honoured 86 overseas Pakistanis from the world over for contributing to combating the Covid-19 pandemic, the Foreign Office said. Individuals and organisations that had assisted in alleviating the suffering of humanity during these challenging times in any form or manner were recognised for their effo.....view more

Only 9 virus deaths reported across country: NCOC
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-08-16
ISLAMABAD - The COVID-19 caseload in Pakistan had reached 288,047 with only 747 new cases reported during last 24 hours, an official of National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Coronavirus said on Saturday. While sharing the data, he said total 6,162 deaths had been reported from the disease with only nine during last 24 hours. He said 265,624 patients had been recovered while 768 were in critical condition. He added that total 2,253.....view more

Indicators show gradual recovery of corona-hit economy
Source: APP, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-08-16
ISLAMABAD - Despite enormous challenges at external as well as internal fronts due to outbreak of coronavirus and subsequent lockdown, the country’s economic indicators show that coronavirus-hit economy was not only recovering now but was also showing steady growth and gaining stability as suggested by the data of first month of the current fiscal year (July 2020). Likewise, the global entities, monitoring the performance of different .....view more
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<td>COVID-19 situation fast improving</td>
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<td>Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad</td>
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<td>Only 6 virus related deaths reported across country: NCOC</td>
<td>Only 6 virus related deaths reported across country: NCOC</td>
<td>APP, The Nation, Islamabad</td>
<td>2020-08-17</td>
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<td>Pakistan reports lowest death toll from Covid-19 since outbreak</td>
<td>Pakistan reports lowest death toll from Covid-19 since outbreak</td>
<td>Agencies, Daily Times</td>
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For homeopathic students, COVID-19 became an opportunity to serve people
PESHAWAR: After reaching out to the COVID-19 patients and offering them homoeopathic medicines and providing food rations to the poor and needy affected by the countrywide lockdown, the volunteers of the Frontier Homeopathic Medical College have now started work on digging wells using water boring machines to make available drinking water to villagers in parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The three initiatives taken by the students and faculty of the ......

Govt steps helped reduce coronavirus cases: Commissioner
Source: APP, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-08-15
ABBOTTABAD - The district administration here on Friday organized a national flag hoisting ceremony on the occasion of the Independence Day at Jalal Baba Auditorium where Commissioner Hazara Division, Riaz Khan Mahsud was the chief guest. The commissioner also performed the national flag hoisting to mark the occasion. Children of the govt schools and special education institutions presented national songs and also demonstrated other impressi.....

Two more Covid-19 deaths as KP braces for micro smart lockdown
Source: Ashfaq Yusufzai, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-15
PESHAWAR: Two more people died of coronavirus and 70 tested positive for the virus in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Friday as the authorities are set to enforce the new strategy of micro smart lockdown meant to target only specific locations affected by the pandemic. The health officials say micro smart lockdown has been recommended by the National Command and Operation Centre as Covid-19 deaths and cases in the province totalled 1,238 and 35,091, respe.....

Police Services Hospital no longer dedicated Covid-19 facility
Source: Ashfaq Yusufzai, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-16
PESHAWAR: The health department has ordered the resumption of normal operations at the Police Services Hospital, Peshawar, which was declared to coronavirus patients in March. The hospital will no more admit Covid-19 patients. The development comes in line of a sharp decline in coronavirus incidence in the province. The 60-bed hospital was made a Covid-19 facility after the province was hit by the virus outbreak. However, it has reopened its d.....

Private schools reopen in Swat
Source: Staff Report, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-08-16
SWAT: Despite clear directions from the provincial government, private schools in the scenic Swat district reopened on Saturday. As per a previous announcement, several private schools in Swat reopened their doors on Saturday, after an extended five-month-long hiatus enforced by the Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdown. Parents were seen dropping off their children to the schools but attendance was low. Even though the district administra.....
Peshawar teaching hospitals unwilling to resume OPD, elective services
Source: Ashfaq Yusufzai, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-17
PESHAWAR: The medical teaching institutions in Peshawar are unwilling to start OPD and elective services in present situation and expose patients and staff to Covid-19 infection, according to sources. “The province’s biggest health facility Lady Reading Hospital (LRH) receives 6,000 patients on average per day in normal circumstances and after resumption of OPDs, the people will get exposed to coronavirus,” said the physicians...... view more

COVID-19 claims another life, 31 test positive in twin cities
Rawalpindi:The disease caused by 2019 novel coronavirus, COVID-19 has claimed another life here in the district in last 24 hours taking total number of deaths caused by the illness in Rawalpindi district to 279 while as many as 31 new patients have been tested positive for the illness in the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi taking total number of confirmed patients so far reported from the region to 21,287. Data collected by &lsquo..... view more

Independence Day; Violations of SOPs witnessed at parks, other public places
Source: Muhammad Saleem / Itrat Bashir, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-08-15
LAHORE: Gross violations of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) were witnessed at the parks, restaurants and other public places on the Independence Day on Friday. During a survey conducted by Business Recorder, it was revealed that a vast majority of visitors in Lawrence Garden and Race Course Park was not wearing face masks while the PHA officials did not restrict the entry of those without masks. Similarly, children in a large number thr..... view more

Ch Sarwar lays foundation of ‘Wall of Coronavirus Heroes’ at Governor’s House
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-08-15
LAHORE - Punjab Governor Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar Friday laid the foundation of ‘Wall of Coronavirus Heroes’ at the Governor’s House to pay tribute to the frontline soldiers against the pandemic on the Independence Day. The wall will have pictures and names of the coronavirus heroes. The ceremony was attended by Punjab Information Minister Fayyaz-ul-Hassan Chohan, Provincial Minister for Minorities Affairs Ijaz Alam August..... view more

128 new Covid cases in Punjab
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-15
LAHORE: With one Covid-19 related death only all over the province, Punjab reported 128 new confirmed cases of the virus during the last 24 hours. According to official figures released by the Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department, the total number of confirmed cases in Punjab has reached 94,993 while death toll 2,180 so far. Of the new confirmed cases, 59 were reported from Lahore, 12 each from Gujranwala and Sialkot while others were re..... view more

Uniform behind peace, corona control, says minister
LAHORE: Punjab Information Minister Fayyazul Hasan Chohan has warned that those who commented and conspired against Pakistan’s armed forces would never get respect in the country. Referring to PML-N Vice President Maryam Nawaz as Mrs Saifdar Awan, he said her mentors are Pervaiz Rasheed and Mehmood Khan Achakzai who
always detracted the Pakistan Army. Talking to media on the occasion of inaugurating a photo exhibition on Saturday, h.....view more

**Corona controlled by true national response: General Qamar Javed Bajwa**

RAWALPINDI: Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa spoke to Bill Gates, co-chair of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, on Saturday to discuss the coronavirus situation and the resumption of the polio vaccination campaign in Pakistan. Gates in his phone call conveyed his appreciation for the Pakistan Army for supporting the national polio drive and ensuring proper reach and coverage. The army chief said it was a national cau.....view more

**210 new coronavirus cases in province**
Source: *Our Correspondent*, *The News, International*, 2020-08-16

LAHORE: The number of coronavirus cases in Punjab reached 95,203 after registration of 210 new cases on Saturday while no death due to COVID-19 was reported in the last 24 hours in the province. According to a spokesperson for Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD), total recorded deaths in the province were 2,180 altogether till the filing of this report. The P&SHD confirmed that 69 new cases of COVID-19 wer.....view more

**Only 6 test positive for COVID-19, no death in last 24 hours**
Source: *Muhammad Qasim*, *The News, International*, 2020-08-16

Rawalpindi: In last 24 hours, only six new patients have been tested positive for COVID-19, the disease caused by 2019 novel coronavirus from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district hinting towards a situation becoming normal as it is for the first time after four months that less than 10 patients have been confirmed positive from the region. The addition of six new patients took tally to 21293 on Saturday while no death due .....view more

**Punjab witnesses another day sans any Covid death**
Source: *Asif Chaudhry*, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2020-08-16

LAHORE: Punjab reported no death from Covid-19 during the last 24 hours, giving credence to the views of some health experts who believe the coronavirus is no more lethal and that the pandemic is going to be over in the region. Since the first death from the Covid-19 was reported back in mid-March, it was the second time during the pandemic that no patient succumbed to the disease during the last 24 hours in Punjab. Earlier, Punjab had marked no.....view more

**Lowest Covid-19 cases reported in twin cities**
Source: *Staff Reporter*, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2020-08-16

RAWALPINDI: Only two patients tested positive for Covid-19 on Saturday while four patients were discharged from hospitals after recovery. With the new patients, the number of confirmed cases in the district increased to 6,598 while 279 people have died and 6,162 patients discharged. However, 196 suspected patients are waiting for their results. Total 153 confirmed patients are under treatment, including 107 in four hospitals and 46 isolated in.....view more
### Health minister meets SAPM
Source: Muhammad Saleem, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-08-16
LAHORE: Punjab Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid in a meeting with Special Advisor to Prime Minister on Health Dr Faisal Sultan here on Saturday discussed progress on Prime Minister Health Initiative, expansion in nursing colleges and other key health interventions initiated by the government. Views were also exchanged on present situation of corona pandemic and implementation of SOPs in the province, sources said. It may be added that Punjab..... view more

### No death due to coronavirus reported in Punjab in 24 hrs
Source: Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-08-16
LAHORE - The number of coronavirus cases in Punjab reached 95,203 after registration of 210 new cases, but no death due to COVID-19 was reported in the last 24 hours in the province. According to spokesperson of Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare department (P&SHD) on Saturday, total recorded deaths in the province were 2,180 altogether till the filing of this report. The P&SHD confirmed that 69 new cases of COVID-19 were reported..... view more

### Punjab health dept warns of second coronavirus wave
Source: DNA, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-08-16
LAHORE: Punjab health department has warned of a second wave of coronavirus in the province due to lack of precautionary measures adopted by the masses. The warning was issued by the Primary and Secondary Healthcare department to the divisional commissioners and regional police officers (RPOs) on Saturday. It said that lack of seriousness of the masses has raised chances of another wave of the infection as it has been witnessed that no standar..... view more

### Another 34 test positive for COVID-19 in twin cities
Rawalpindi: After report of only six patients positive for COVID-19 in a day from the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi on Saturday, the number of confirmed patients reported in last 24 hours from the region has jumped to 34 taking total number of patients so far reported from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district to 21,327. The virus did not claim any life in ICT or Rawalpindi district in last 24 hours though a ..... view more

### No general health care yet at Bahawal Victoria Hospital-II, dedicated for Covid-19 patients
Source: Correspondent, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-17
BAHAWALPUR: The administration of the Bahawal Victoria Hospital-II (BVH-II), which was dedicated to treatment of the Covid-19 patients, is not reopening anytime soon for treatment of the general public due to the pandemic threat. There is a demand in the area to restore the normal functioning of the hospital and treatment of all sorts of patients. After the constant decline in the number of the Covid-19 patients, the general public, as well as n..... view more

### Covid-19 claims two more lives in Punjab
Source: APP, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-08-17
LAHORE: The coronavirus disease claimed two more lives in Punjab while the number of coronavirus cases in the province exceeded 95,390 after registration of 188 new cases. According to the spokesperson of Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD) on Sunday, so far the total number of deaths had been recorded
188 new cases of COVID-19 reported in Punjab during 24 hours
Source: APP, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-08-17
LAHORE - The COVID-19 has taken away two more lives in the province while the number of coronavirus cases in the province reached 95,391 after registration of 188 new cases. According to the spokesperson of the Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department on Sunday, so far the total number of deaths has been recorded as 2,182 altogether. The P&SHD confirmed that 94 new cases of COVID-19 were reported in Lahore, 2 in Nankana Sahib,.....view more

Sindh

Another six die of COVID-19 in Sindh
The novel coronavirus claimed six more lives in Sindh during last 24 hours, raising the death toll due to the infectious disease to 2,313 in the province, said Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Friday. “We have lost six more lives due to COVID-19 in the province. Around 343 more people have also tested positive for COVID-19 overnight,” he said in his daily statement on the situation of the COVID-19 pandemic in Sindh. The C.....view more

Atrocities in IOK, Covid-19: Independence Day celebrated with simplicity: Murad
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-08-15
KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that the 73rd Independence Day is being celebrated with simplicity because India atrocities in occupied Kashmir have crossed all limits and the pandemic of Covid-19 claimed valuable lives in the country in general and in Sindh in particular. Earlier, the chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto unveiled the plaque to inaugurate the Peoples Square and underground Parking. “In such a ser.....view more

Sindh reports 343 new coronavirus cases, six deaths
Source: Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-08-15
KARACHI - The novel coronavirus claimed six more lives and infected at least 343 people during the past 24 hours in Sindh. In a statement on the daily COVID-19 situation in the province, CM Murad Ali Shah said that six more people died from the COVID during past 24 hours, taking the death toll from the disease to 2,313. He said that 343 new coronavirus cases emerged in Sindh, taking the total number of infections across the province.....view more

Covid-19 claims six more lives
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-08-15
The novel coronavirus claimed six more lives in Sindh on Friday and infected 343 more people, including 182 from Karachi. In his daily situation report, Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah said that 9,383 samples were tested on the day, yielding a four per cent detection rate. Furthermore, he added, the death toll had risen to 2,313 in the province. According to the CM, 4,294 patients are currently under treatment, with 3,896 in home isolation, e.....view more
6 deaths, 343 Covid-19 cases reported
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-15
KARACHI: Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Friday said that coronavirus claimed six more lives overnight lifting the death toll to 2,313 while 343 new cases emerged when 9,383 samples were tested. In a statement issued here from CM House, he said that currently 4,294 patients were under treatment, of them 3,896 in home isolation, eight at isolation centres and 39 at different hospitals. “Condition of 252 patients is stated to be seri....

Four more die of COVID-19, another 272 infected
The novel coronavirus claimed four more lives in Sindh during last 24 hours, raising the death toll to 2,317, and infected 272 others raising the total number of cases so far to 125,904. Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said this in his daily COVID-19 report on Saturday. The CM said that the 272 new cases were diagnosed after 9,774 samples were tested, which constituted a three per cent detection rate. He added that 400 more pat....

Ignoring safety guidelines may lead to rise in Covid-19 cases, experts warn
Source: Sumaira Jajja, Daily Times, 2020-08-16
KARACHI: As the country opens after months of lockdown, more and more people are coming out of their homes without face masks and under the illusion that the Covid-19 pandemic is over. The Independence Day celebrations across the country were proof enough that the citizens have thrown caution and social distancing to the wind. Health experts warn that foregoing safety measures will lead to a jump in infection rates and urged the people to wear f.....

Pandemic has increased importance of e-commerce, says FPCCI VP
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-08-16
KARACHI: The Covid-19 pandemic has increased the requirement of e-commerce and digital Pakistan. Vice President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) Sheikh Sultan Rehman stated this in a webinar on “E-commerce and Digital Pakistan: Prospects & Challenges” held via zoom link. He emphasized on the implementation of e-Commerce and Digital Pakistan Policy for the promotion of e-business in .....
COVID-19 kills another five, infects 278 more in Sindh
Five more people have died due to COVID-19 and another 278 cases have been reported during the past 24 hours in Sindh, with the death toll due to the viral disease reaching 2,322 in the province. Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said in his daily situation report on the health emergency on Sunday that 9,044 samples were tested in the past 24 hours, resulting in 278 people, or 3.1 per cent of those who were screened, being diagnose.....view more

Covid-19 claims five more lives in Sindh: CM
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-08-17
KARACHI: Five patients of coronavirus lost their lives lifting the death toll to 2,322 and 278 new cases emerged raising the tally to 126182. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah here on Sunday. Shah said that five more patients died overnight lifting the death toll to 2,322 that constituted 1.8 percent death rate. He added that 147 more patients recovered raising the number of patients recovered so far to 11.....view more

US Mission brings American speakers on Covid-19
Source: Press Release, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-08-17
KARACHI: Esteemed American scientist and global health advocate Dr Peter Hotez will share his insights with Pakistani audiences as part of the US Mission Pakistan’s Covid speakers series. In collaboration with Dow University of Health Sciences, all are welcome to attend Dr Hotez’s webinar “Preventing the Next Pandemic: A Discussion on Poverty, Social Determinants, and Neglected Tropical Disease” on Tuesday, August 18, 2020.....view more

Coronavirus claims five more lives
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-17
KARACHI: Five patients of the coronavirus died overnight in Sindh, lifting the death toll to 2,322 and 278 new cases emerged, raising the tally to 126,182. This was stated by Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued here on Sunday. He said the five deaths lifted the death toll to 2,322 that constituted a 1.8 per cent death rate. He added that 147 more patients recovered, raising the number of patients recovered so far to 119,572.....view more

Five more succumb to coronavirus in Sindh
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-08-17
Five more people succumbed to coronavirus overnight in the province, which took the death toll to 2,322, said Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Sunday. He further said that 278 more people were diagnosed with Covid-19, taking the total number of infected people in Sindh to 126,182. The CM said that currently, 4,288 people were infected by the virus, among whom 3,888 were in home isolation, 392 were being treated at different hospitals.....view more

Karachi wedding halls begin bookings after lockdown ends
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-08-17
KARACHI -Wedding halls in Karachi have started booking events after the lockdown ended in the city. A manager at a wedding hall told that they were strictly following the government’s SOPs and won’t allow more than 200 people in a hall that used to host at least 600 people before the lockdown. Only six people would be allowed to sit at a table instead of 12, he said, adding that social distancing would be strictly implemented. L.....view more
COVID-19 claims 5 more lives, infects 278 others: CM
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-08-17
KARACHI, - As many as five patients of coronavirus lost their lives lifting the death toll to 2322 while 278 new cases emerged raising the tally to 126182. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued here on Sunday. Syed Murad Ali Shah said that five more patients died overnight lifting the death toll to 2322 that constituted 1.8 per cent death rate. He added that 147 more patients recovered raising th......view more
## International News

### Countries News

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<th>Title</th>
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<td><strong>US, China to discuss trade deal amid Covid-19 disruption</strong></td>
<td>[AFP, The Express Tribune, Islamabad], 2020-08-15</td>
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<td>Washington: Negotiators from the United States and China will on Saturday discuss the “phase one” trade deal signed earlier this year — before the coronavirus slammed the world economy and relations between the two economic powers took a turn for the worse. Washington and Beijing’s January deal represented a partial truce in their months-long trade war, and obligated Beijing to import an additional $200 billion in American goods.</td>
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<td><strong>Chinese firm developing virus vaccine will supply to Pakistan</strong></td>
<td>[Reuters, Dawn, Islamabad], 2020-08-15</td>
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<td>Beijing: A coronavirus vaccine candidate developed by a unit of the China National Pharmaceutical Group (Sinopharm) appeared to be safe and triggered antibody-based immune responses in early and mid-stage trials, researchers said. The candidate has already moved into a late-stage trial, one of a handful of candidates being tested on several thousand people to see if they are effective enough to win regulatory approval.</td>
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<td><strong>One in five inmates of Kashmiri jail tests positive for Covid-19</strong></td>
<td>[Reuters, Dawn, Islamabad], 2020-08-15</td>
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<td>Srinagar: One in five prisoners at the largest jail in Occupied Kashmir has tested positive for the new coronavirus, authorities said on Friday. India’s health ministry, meanwhile, reported a daily nationwide rise of more than 60,000 cases for the third straight day. Authorities at the central jail in Srinagar said they were preparing to shift some prisoners after 102 of the 480 inmates tested positive. “We are taking extra care an.....</td>
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<td><strong>Hard-hit countries step up virus measures as cases mount</strong></td>
<td>[AFP, Dawn, Islamabad], 2020-08-15</td>
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<td>London: Countries among the hardest hit by the coronavirus unveiled further control measures on Friday to battle rising cases, hitting summer tourism and aspects of everyday life around the globe. The US Department of Homeland Security said it was extending a ban on non-essential travel through border crossings with Canada and Mexico throughout most of September “to slow the spread” of the disease. Meanwhile Britain added France to the list of places exempt from self-isolation rules.</td>
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<td><strong>Virus flare-ups in Europe lead to club closings, mask orders</strong></td>
<td>[AP, Dawn, Islamabad], 2020-08-16</td>
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<td>Paris: With fresh flare-ups of Covid-19 disrupting the peak summer vacation season across much of Europe, authorities in some countries moved to reimpose restrictions for travellers on Saturday, closing nightclubs again, banning fireworks displays and expanding mask orders even in chic resort areas. “Unfortunately, this virus doesn't play ball,” British Transport Secretary Grant Shapps told Sky News.</td>
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<td><strong>Britons returning from continent begin 14-day quarantine</strong></td>
<td>[AFP, Dawn, Islamabad], 2020-08-16</td>
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<td>London: British travellers returning home from parts of Europe and beyond began having to quarantine on Saturday under new restrictions, while Russia said it had produced the first batch of its controversial coronavirus vaccine. The UK opted to remove France, the Netherlands, Malta and three other countries from its list of places exempt from self-isolation rules, as a second wave of virus infections threatens more disruption and economic chaos.</td>
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*view more*
Israeli and UAE firms join forces in coronavirus research
Source: AFP, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-08-17
ABU DHABI: Firms from the United Arab Emirates and Israel have signed an agreement to jointly develop research and studies on the novel coronavirus, the UAE’s state WAM agency reported. The business deal comes days after a surprise political agreement between the UAE and Israel to normalise relations, a historic shift which will make the Gulf state only the third Arab country to establish full diplomatic ties with the Jewish state. ..... view more

Former India Test opener Chauhan dies of coronavirus
Source: AFP, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-08-17
NEW DELHI: Former India Test opener Chetan Chauhan, who forged a prolific opening partnership with Sunil Gavaskar, has died aged 73 from coronavirus, his brother told AFP Sunday. Chauhan, who tested positive last month, was put on ventilator support at a hospital in Gurgaon, but his condition worsened after he suffered multiple organ failure. He is one of the highest-profile figures to die from the disease in India, which is the world&r..... view more

New Zealand’s Covid-19 outbreak grows, Australian cases ease
Source: Reuters, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-17
MELBOURNE: A new coronavirus outbreak in New Zealand is still growing, health officials said on Sunday, with the country that had an early triumph over the pandemic recording 13 new cases and putting the September general election in question. After stifling the virus earlier this year before it became a public health crisis and after 102 days without new infections, an abrupt resurgence last week in Auckland prompted an immediate lockdown of th..... view more

How climate change could expose new epidemics
Source: AFP, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-17
PARIS: Long-dormant viruses brought back to life; the resurgence of deadly and disfiguring smallpox; a dengue or zika “season” in Europe. These could be disaster movie storylines, but they are also serious and increasingly plausible scenarios of epidemics unleashed by global warming, scientists say. The Covid-19 pandemic that has swept the globe and claimed over 760,000 lives so far almost certainly came from a wild bat, highlightin..... view more

Returning Brits begin quarantine as second virus wave threatens Europe
LONDON: British holidaymakers returning home from parts of Europe began having to quarantine on Saturday under new restrictions, as a second wave of virus infections threatened more disruption and economic chaos on the continent. The UK opted to remove France, the Netherlands, Malta and several other countries from its list of places exempt from self-isolation rules, sparking a rush for plane, train and ferry tickets by Britons desperate t..... view more

Coronavirus upends conventions, changes TV coverage
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-08-17
The Democratic and Republican conventions will lack for crowds but not television coverage. The standard political gatherings that were to unfold for the Democratic Party in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and for the GOP in Charlotte, North Carolina, will be largely virtual, constrained by the coronavirus. That won’t stop TV scrutiny of the speeches and other activities leading up to Joe Biden’s Democratic Party nomination for presiden..... view more
Homes with grandparents weigh virus risk as school starts
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-08-17
Zita Robinson, who’s 77 and diabetic, has been careful around her granddaughter since the coronavirus pandemic took hold. A door connects Robinson’s apartment in Phoenix to the main house where 8-year-old Traris “Trary” Robinson-Newman and her mother live, but it mostly stays shut. Their only physical contact is if Trary walks in with her back toward Grandma. Then Robinson will kiss her own hand and lightly touch Trary’s....

New Zealand coalition partner calls for vote delay due to COVID-19
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-08-17
New Zealand Deputy Prime Minister Winston Peters called on Sunday for a delay to the planned September general election, given an abrupt reappearance of COVID-19 in the country, increasing pressure on Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern to postpone the vote. Last week’s resurgence of the infections in Auckland – after the country had been free of infections of the new coronavirus for 102 days – was compromising the ability to hold a...
EU agrees first Covid-19 vaccine deal with British drugmaker in WHO blow
Source: Reuters, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-15
BRUSSELS: The European Union has agreed to buy at least 300 million doses of AstraZeneca's potential Covid-19 vaccine in its first such advance purchase deal, which could weaken plans led by the World Health Organisation (WHO) for a global approach. The European Commission, which is negotiating on behalf of all 27 EU member states, said the deal included an option to purchase 100 million additional doses from the British drugmaker should i.....view more

SDPI Engagements
No SDPI engagements during this period regarding COVID-19.