E-Newsletter on COVID-19

Issue: 22-24, August 2020
Vol. 01, No, 35

.....About Newsletter

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

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

Newspapers Covered:

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

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A Product of ASRC-SDPI

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Op-Eds/Articles/Editorials

Telemedicine initiatives in Pakistan
Source: Sadaf Liaqat, Daily Times, 2020-08-22
The COVID-19 pandemic has made us face the new norms of life and adapt to new constraints. It has also portrayed the rifts in our healthcare infrastructure. As the pandemic recedes and its threat to the health of people is subsiding, it is time to reflect and contemplate on root causes, plaguing the health service delivery system of Pakistan and to sculpt a strategy which focuses on “Health for all” and reforming and revamping of th.... view more

Covid-19: schools or no schools?
Source: Dr Rana Jawad Asghar, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-08-22
Covid-19 has brought unprecedented challenges for us. The speed and scale of the new disease has surprised many. Uncontrolled outbreaks and resurgence of the second wave has created fear in governments. Schools were closed as soon as lockdown measures were initiated in March. Summer vacations allowed this opportunity to be expanded but the end of summer is here. Opening of schools is a major decision for countries and a technical issue has been p.....view more

Fool’s perdition
Source: Farrukh Khan Pitaf, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-08-22
One of my favourite pastimes these days is to see Pakistanis underestimate their country. A nation given to strong mood swings this is to be expected. But when the negative perceptions transform into automatic negative thoughts (ANTs) and then these ants waylay you of the will to fight, the battle is lost already. How many times has it happened that we thought that the country would not recover only to be proven wrong? Only six years ago it felt..... view more

Not Victorious Yet
Source: Editorial, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-08-22
Despite all odds and predictions, despite being the world’s sixth most populated country and having limited medical infrastructure, Pakistan has managed to evade the worst of the coronavirus pandemic and has fared much better than other neighbouring countries. This reality has puzzled international organisations and media, as they analyse how Pakistan became a relative success story. While it is difficult to ascertain statistics and the..... view more

The tragedy of the commons
When one suffers from a grand calamity, a possible way of rationalizing subsequent travails is by resorting to a search for reason in the mire of seeming chaos. With the current pandemic though, and the continued mysteries that envelop Covid-19, it is quite challenging to understand what the central takeaway is shaping up to be. Nonetheless, one of the tangential lessons that Covid-19 has brought to the fore is from a centuries-old socio-economic..... view more

Immunity against virus
Source: Editorial, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-08-23
With the Covid-19 curve flattening in the country, it is not time yet to go into a celebratory mode. Health authorities have been warning against lowering our guard simply because the coronavirus cases are on a steady decline. A
second wave of the pandemic, they remind us, could strike the populace if the precautionary measures are not adhered to. A recent study on how the population would cope with such an eventuality should give us cause to view more

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<th>Sindh sees a single death due to coronavirus</th>
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<td><strong>Source:</strong> Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-08-23</td>
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<td><strong>KARACHI:</strong> A single death was reported in the province as a result of Covid-19 on Saturday, taking Sindh’s death toll to 2,358. In a statement, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah shared that 274 fresh coronavirus cases were reported in Sindh overnight, taking the total tally to 127,965, while 9,311 people were screened for the virus on the day. Shah added that 121,144 people had recovered from the virus so far, including 268 patients w......view more</td>
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<td><strong>Source:</strong> Kunal Sen, The News, International, 2020-08-24</td>
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<td>The pandemic has increased inequality between workers. Lockdown policies enacted by many governments to suppress the spread of the virus have particularly hurt the working poor in developing countries. For these workers, who depend on a daily wage and casual work, the inability to travel to their places of work has led to a significant loss of earnings, with no protection and high levels of insecurity about the future of their livelihoods. .....view more</td>
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<td>As Covid-19 surged across the world in February this year and countries hurtled towards imposing lockdowns as a preferred course of action, knowing no other way to respond to a pandemic of such ferocity, the world was confronted with a daunting challenge of how to live it out. There was a deep and heightened sense of anxiety generated by the unpredictable nature of a major global health disruption. What added to people’s woes and ra......view more</td>
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<th>Dealing with repercussions of Covid-19</th>
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<td><strong>Source:</strong> Hussain Zaidi, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-08-24</td>
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<td>ISLAMABAD: The Covid-19 outbreak has thrown economies all over the world into a tailspin. In the second quarter of current year (Q2 2020), the United States, the world’s largest economy, contracted 33% year-on-year. The euro area, comprising almost all the major economies of the European Union, registered 40% negative growth. China is the only major economy, which expanded during Q2 2020. For the full 2020, the US and euro area economies .....view more</td>
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<td><strong>Source:</strong> Fatima S Attarwala, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-24</td>
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<td>It has been 12 years since the end of the musical chairs of military rule and bouts of interrupted democracy. Since then, each time a new political party has been elected it faced unprecedented challenges from the devastating floods during the PPP tenure in the era of the global financial crisis, to the civil/military frictions of PML-N period and now the global pandemic. Arguably, PTI was voted in with a lot more hope as the hitherto untried pa.....view more</td>
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Pakistan completed a second consecutive fiscal year (2019-20) of depressed economic performance, culminating in a historic natural disaster — the Covid-19 pandemic. This also coincided with the completion of almost the first two years of the Pakistan Tehrik-e-Insaf government. The two years cumulatively contracted the country’s economic growth rate by almost -6.2 per cent as it dropped from 5.8pc in 2017-18 to about 1.9pc in FY2018-19.

In Pakistan, the 1st day of Muharram, a sacred month for all Muslims, marks the beginning of the Islamic New year. Ashura, or the 10th day of Muharram, is a time of grief when the Muslim community pays tribute to Imam Hussain, the son of Hazrat Ali (RA) and the grandson of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) who was martyred by the second Umayyad caliph (Yazid-I) in the Battle of Karbala for the security of the world’s humanity, 14 centuries ago. The mo...

All eyes on vaccine trials. Most Phase 2 trials are positive. The Oxford Study has said chances of Phase 3 trials being successful are high. While the medical trials are complicated and so much of what happens in the last quarter of 2020 and the first quarter of 2021 hinge on them, the geo -political and socio-economic trials besetting the world are even more testing and complicated. The vaccine trials may solve the virus issues in a matter of ti...

[view more for each article]
# National News

## Islamabad

**Experts mull mystery of Pakistan’s falling Covid-19 death rates**  
ISLAMABAD: Two months after Pakistan appeared headed for a sky-rocketing COVID-19 outbreak, case numbers and death tolls have fallen in what doctors say is a welcome, but puzzling drop in the disease. While neighbouring India has raced up the world ranking for countries badly hit by the new coronavirus, Pakistan is heading in the other direction, British media reported on Friday. A young population, robust immune systems and a system of localise.....[view more](#)

**11% Pakistanis have developed immunity for COVID-19**  
Islamabad: An estimated 11% Pakistanis have developed protective immunity for Covid-19, meaning that every 10th Pakistani has developed antibodies in their blood against the said virus, reveals a national seroprevalence study. Seropositivity was more in urban areas compared to rural areas; similarly those who had contact with Covid-19 positive persons were more likely to have antibodies in their blood. The virus was more common in young adults .....[view more](#)

**Capital witnesses increase in Covid-19 cases**  
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-22  
ISLAMABAD: An increase was seen in the number of confirmed Covid-19 cases in the capital as 28 new cases were reported on Friday. However, 276 patients recovered during the last 24 hours. Officials said the number of positive cases had been increasing in the capital during the last few days. They said 11 cases were reported on Wednesday, 13 on Thursday and 28 on Friday.Five new cases were reported from DHA, four each from Soan Garden and F-5, t.....[view more](#)

**28 positive cases reported in capital**  
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-08-22  
ISLAMABAD: As many as 28 confirmed cases of the Covid-19 were reported in the capital city on Friday against 13 cases on Thursday. According to the district health department officials, during the last 24 hours, 3,895 tests were conducted in the city. After emergence of 28 new cases, the total number of coronavirus cases in the city has surged to 15,453. Out of the total cases, 14,101 people have completely recovered, and 175 have .....[view more](#)

**Pakistan is coping well with challenges posed by COVID-19**  
Source: Rahul Basharat, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-08-22  
Islamabad - Ministry of National Health Services (NHS) referring to fresh health survey conducted claimed that a study indicated that 11 per cent Pakistanis have developed immunity for COVID-19, increased use of mask, hand washing helping prevent disease spread. Statement released by the Ministry said that National Seroprevalence Study indicates 11 per cent Pakistanis have developed immunity for COVID-19, increased use of mask, handwashing .....[view more](#)
**President Alvi calls for strict adoption of SOPs during Muharram processions**

Source: Our Staff Reporter, *The Nation, Islamabad*, 2020-08-22

ISLAMABAD - President Dr Arif Alvi has called for strict adoption of the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) during the processions and rallies of Muharram to prevent the spread of Covid-19 pandemic. In his message to nation on the beginning of new Islamic year with the advent of sacred Muharram ul Haram, the President called the need for exhibiting same discipline during this month as demonstrated by the public to contain the disease. &ld... view more

**Pakistan drops distancing rule for tested passengers**


ISLAMABAD: The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has lifted a major coronavirus restriction for passengers coming from abroad to Pakistan after it decided to ease social distancing precautions, local media reported. As per details, CAA has issued a new travel advisory regarding coronavirus for passengers coming to Pakistan. The new changes’ notification was issued by CAA’s air transport department. It was mentioned in the notifi..... view more

**COVID-19 claims another life**


Rawalpindi : Another confirmed patient of COVID-19, the disease caused by 2019 novel coronavirus died here at Corona Management Centre in Rawalpindi Institute of Urology in last 24 hours taking death toll due to coronavirus illness from Rawalpindi district to 280 while a significant rise in number of patients tested positive for the disease in a day was also witnessed on Saturday. In last 24 hours, as many as 44 new patients have been tested pos..... view more

**19 new cases of Covid-19 reported**


ISLAMABAD: The coronavirus positive cases’ rate on Saturday in the federal capital remained at 0.5 percent as only 19 people were tested positive out of 3,537 tests run on high-risk people. According to the official data, the total coronavirus cases in the city have reached 15,472 after emergence of the 19 new cases. Out of the total cases, 14,370 people have completely recovered, and 175 have died since the outbreak of the virus. ..... view more

**Parliament, provinces be consulted before reopening schools**

Source: Staff Reporter, *The Nation, Islamabad*, 2020-08-23

ISLAMABAD - While the government’s concerned department will review and decide reopening of education institutions in the next month, the opposition parties would ask the government to take the parliament into confidence on this matter. The federal government due to the coronavirus outbreak in the country had decided to close educational institutions for an indefinite period. The decision was taken to avoid spread of the infectious disease...... view more

**537 new Covid-19 cases, 10 deaths reported**

Source: Staff Reporter, *The Nation, Islamabad*, 2020-08-23

ISLAMABAD - The number of coronavirus cases and associated deaths are on the decline as 537 new infections and ten deaths were reported across the country over the last 24 hours. According to the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), so far, 6,231 people have died from complications related to the contagion. The number of confirmed Covid-19 cases reported across the country has jumped to 292,174. The number of active coronavirus cases sta..... view more
Policy makers need to revisit learning journey of students
Source: Rahul Basharat, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-08-23
ISLAMABAD-Re-opening of schools during novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in the country may not imply resumption of pre-closure education activities in institutions and policy makers need to revisit the learning journey of students, said a study report released said on Saturday. Tabadlab released a report this week covering the impact of COVID-19 on education and made recommendations regarding re-opening of educational institutions. Report said ......

Education ministry decides to allow technical training sans classroom setup
Source: Rahul Basharat, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-08-23
ISLAMABAD-Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training convened an interprovincial Technical and Vocational Training (TVET) ministerial conference and decided to allow technical training where no classroom-based training is involved, said a statement. The statement released by NAVTTC said that with the emergence of COVID-19, technical and vocational training institutes were also closed w.e.f. 13th March 2020 along with formal educ.....

Coordinated efforts for science diplomacy stressed
Islamabad : Speakers of a webinar on science diplomacy during COVID-19 agreed that a coordinated effort of diplomats, experts, research institutions, universities, consortiums and social and material scientists is the need of the hour to foster science diplomacy. The webinar was jointly organised by COMSTECH, Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies and Inter University Consortium for Promotion of Social Sciences Humanities and Arts. Coordina.....

IFAD to help small farmers hit by coronavirus
Source: Amin Ahmed, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-24
ISLAMABAD: Small-scale farmers in Pakistan will be among the 1.7 million farmers in three countries who will soon receive personalised agricultural advice through their mobile phones as a means to improve their incomes, food security and resilience to economic shocks caused by Covid-19, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) has announced. Besides Pakistan, two other countries are Kenya and Nigeria, where small-scale farmers .....
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<td>Only 4 new COVID-19 deaths recorded, lowest in 24 hours</td>
<td>Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-08-24</td>
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<td>‘Micro smart lockdowns’ imposed in Lahore, Guj’wala.</td>
<td>Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-08-24</td>
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<td>Pakistan records lowest daily death toll from COVID-19</td>
<td>News Desk, Daily Times, 2020-08-24</td>
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Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

**Mourners urged to follow Covid-19 SOPs during Muharram**
Source: Dawn Report, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-22
KOHAT/DI KHAN: The law enforcement agencies and the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were on the same page to foil the nefarious designs of anti-social elements who wanted to weaken the state. This was stated by Chief Secretary Dr Kazim Niaz and Inspector General of Police Sanaullah Abbasi while addressing a traditional joint jirga of Shia and Sunni elders at the Commissioner House in Kohat on Friday. They said that the paramilitary force had been .....[view more](#)

**Two test positive for COVID-19 in Mardan**
MARDAN: Two people tested positive for coronavirus in the Mardan district on Friday, raising the total number of positive cases to 1,233. According to the statistics released from the Additional Deputy Commissioner office here, around 49,140 people were screened in the district so far and 62 had died in the district. Currently, five suspected patients are at different isolation centres while 2 suspected patients are in isolation at homes. .....[view more](#)

**10 hotel staffers contract virus in Shogan**
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-08-23
MANSEHRA: As many as 10 employees of different hotels in the Shogran area of Mansehra district have contracted the coronavirus. Mansehra district administration and district health officials said on Saturday that swab samples of some 10 staff members of four hotels in the Shogran area have been collected after they developed symptoms of the virus. These staffers have tested positive after which the hotels were sealed. .....[view more](#)
31 more test positive for coronavirus
Rawalpindi: After confirmation of another 31 patients positive for COVID-19, the disease caused by 2019 novel coronavirus here in the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi in last 24 hours, the number of confirmed patients so far reported from the twin cities has crossed the figure of 21,400. To date, however, 19,727 patients have recovered from coronavirus illness in the twin cities leaving 1236 active cases on the dashboards on Friday.....view more

HEC approves Rs10.3m for UHS research on COVID-19
LAHORE: The Higher Education Commission (HEC) has approved Rs10.3 million research funding for a project of University of Health Sciences (UHS) that will trace “immunological, viral and genetic basis of COVID-19 in local patients”. The funding was approved under Rapid Research Grant (RRG) initiative launched by HEC with the support of the World Bank. The principal investigator of this research project, which would take one year.....view more

Rs10m grant to research immunity, genetics of Covid patients
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-22
LAHORE: The Higher Education Commission (HEC) has approved Rs10.3 million research funding for a project of the University of Health Sciences (UHS) that will trace “immunological, viral and genetic basis of Covid-19 in local patients”. The funding is approved under the Rapid Research Grant initiative, launched by the HEC with the support of the World Bank. The principal investigator of this project, which would take a year to comple.....view more

Two deaths, 158 new virus cases reported in province
LAHORE: Two COVID-19 related deaths and 158 new cases of coronavirus were reported from across Punjab during the last 24 hours. According to the daily report issued by Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department on Friday, the toll of fatalities has reached 2,188 in Punjab, while confirmed cases of novel coronavirus has reached 95,958 in the province. As many as 7,271 tests were conducted in the last 24 hours, raising the total number of tests to .....view more

University of Health Sciences wins research grant
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-08-22
LAHORE - The Higher Education Commission (HEC) has approved Rs10.3 million research funding for a project of University of Health Sciences (UHS) that will trace “immunological, viral and genetic basis of COVID-19 in local patients”. The funding is approved under Rapid Research Grant (RRG) initiative, launched by HEC with the support of the World Bank. The principal investigator of this research project which would take one year t.....view more

Coronavirus: Punjab to impose ‘micro smart lockdown’
LAHORE: The Punjab government on Saturday decided to impose 'micro smart lockdown' in different areas of the province for a period of two months to prevent the resurgence of deadly coronavirus which has played havoc across the world. Sources familiar to the development said that under the 'micro smart lockdown' small localities such as one building with multiple units or small neighbourhoods would be sealed. The micro smart lock.....view more
No death from COVID-19, 99 new cases in 24 hours
Source: Our Correspondent, The News, Islamabad, 2020-08-23
LAHORE: No death from the COVID-19 was reported during the last 24 hours in the province while the number of coronavirus cases reached 96,057 after registration of 99 new cases on Saturday. According to a spokesperson for the Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department, so far a total 2,188 deaths have been recorded. The P&SHD confirmed that 36 new cases of COVID-19 were reported in Lahore, six in Rawalpindi, one in Jhelum, 12 in Gu.....view more

COVID-19 claims another life in twin cities
Rawalpindi: Another confirmed patient of COVID-19, the disease caused by 2019 novel coronavirus died here at Corona Management Centre in Rawalpindi Institute of Urology in last 24 hours taking death toll due to coronavirus illness from Rawalpindi district to 280 while a significant rise in number of patients tested positive for the disease in a day was also witnessed on Saturday. In last 24 hours, as many as 44 new patients have been tested posi.....view more

Covid-19 vaccine; Phase-III of clinical trials to start in Sept
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-08-23
LAHORE: The Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) is learnt to have accorded approval of Phase-III clinical trial of a Covid-19 vaccine developed in collaboration with a Chinese company. Trial of the vaccine would begin from September. Under the supervision of National Institute of Health (NIH), the vaccine trial would be started and about 8000 volunteers were selected for this purpose. Clinical trials of the vaccine in Pakistan will.....view more

No Covid death in Punjab
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-23
LAHORE: With no death caused by Covid-19, Punjab reported only 99 new positive cases of coronavirus during the last 24 hours, taking total number to 96,057 so far. According to the figures released by the primary and secondary healthcare department here on Saturday, of the new confirmed cases, 36 were reported in Lahore alone. Other cases were reported from Rawalpindi, Jhelum, Gujranwala, Sialkot, Norowal, Gujrat, Hafizabad, Multan, Khanewal, D.....view more

Pindi plans ‘micro lockdown’ in three areas after increase in Covid-19 cases
Source: Aamir Yasin | Munawer Azeem, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-23
RAWALPINDI: The district administration has finalised three areas where the government’s new ‘micro lockdown’ strategy will be implemented, although the final decision on this matter will be made tomorrow (Monday). The three selected areas are Chur Chowk on Misrial Road, Sara-i-Kala in Taxila and three streets in Bahria Town Phase VIII. Under the new strategy, localised lockdowns will be limited to streets, small neighbourhood.....view more

Syndicate of Sargodha University okays Rs3.788b surplus budget
Source: Press Release, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-08-23
Sargodha-The Syndicate of the Sargodha University has approved Rs3.788 billion surplus budget for the fiscal year 2020-21 with a primary focus on improving facilities for imparting quality education, innovations, applied research,
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facilitating students through scholarships, fee waivers, and development projects. Foreseeing the financial crunch and pressure in the prevailing COVID-19 situation, SU Syndicate meeting presided over by the Vice C.....view more

Coronavirus: Punjab to impose ‘micro smart lockdown’
LAHORE: The Punjab government on Saturday decided to impose 'micro smart lockdown' in different areas of the province for a period of two months to prevent the resurgence of deadly coronavirus which has played havoc across the world. Sources familiar to the development said that under the 'micro smart lockdown' small localities such as one building with multiple units or small neighbourhoods would be sealed. The m.....view more

24 more test positive for COVID-19 from twin cities
Rawalpindi : Coronavirus illness, COVID-19 did not claim any life in Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) and Rawalpindi district in last 24 hours though the number of patients tested positive for the illness from the region was still high particularly from ICT. In the last 24 hours, another 24 patients have been tested positive for the illness from the region taking the tally to 21485 of which 455 patients have already died of the disease. .....view more

No SOPs following at roadside ‘dhabas’
Rawalpindi : The ‘dhabas’ in the city are serving their customers in sheer violation of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), indicating they can become tools to increase otherwise declining virus infection ratio. As soon as the ‘dhabas’ started their ‘operations’ the customers mostly belonging to lower strata of the society turned towards them to have meals at affordable rates. The social distancing between .....view more

No Covid-19 death in Punjab in 24 hours
LAHORE:No Covid-19 death occurred and 121 new infections were confirmed across the province during the last 24 hours, according to report issued by Primary and Secondary Healthcare (P&SH) Department here on Sunday. The toll of fatalities stayed at 2,188 in Punjab, while confirmed cases of novel coronavirus reached 96,178 in the province. Out of a total of 96,178 infections in Punjab, 93,398 citizens have contracted the virus through local tr.....view more

‘Only 95 out of 60,000 tested positive in random sampling after Eid’
Source: DNA, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-08-24
LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Usman Buzdar, taking to Twitter on Sunday, said the government conducted random sampling of as many as 60,000 people in 20 days after Eidul Azha, out of which a meager 95 turned out to be positive. He said the ratio of Covid-19 positive cases out of the total 60,000 samples tested was only 0.16 per cent. The chief minister urged people to continue taking precautions to prevent the resurgence of coronavirus cases. .....view more

Four UET students isolated with Covid symptoms
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-24
LAHORE: Four students of the University of Engineering and Technology (UET) who have been called for final examinations due to begin on Monday (today) were isolated at the campus after they showed symptoms of Covid-19. The students were taken to the Sheikh Zayed Medical Complex where staff collected their samples. They were
later quarantined in the university since the results were awaited. The UET administration had called all the students of .....view more

**Tribute paid to health workers for fighting coronavirus pandemic**

Source: Correspondent, [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-24

TAXILA: Tributes were paid to doctors and paramedical staff for fighting the coronavirus pandemic in Attock on Sunday. An event was held at Jinnah Hall, organised by the Attock Chamber of Commerce and Industry, where speakers paid tribute to healthcare professionals, calling them the frontline soldiers in the fight against the coronavirus. Speakers included Rawalpindi division Director Health Services Dr Khalid Mehmood, Deputy Commissioner Ali .....view more

**No spike seen in Covid-19 cases**

Source: Staff Reporter, [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-24

RAWALPINDI: Five patients tested positive for Covid-19 on Sunday while 10 others were discharged after recovery from hospitals. However, 184 suspected patients are waiting for their results from laboratories. After arrival of the new patients, the number of confirmed patients in the district increased to 6,650 while 280 people have died and 6,207 recovered. Total 163 confirmed patients are under treatment, including 89 in four hospitals and 74 .....view more

**COVID-19 cases show upward trend in Attock**

Source: Our Staff Reporter, [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-08-24

Attock-The spike of novel coronavirus in Attock is keeping an upward trend as the number of positive patients has started increasing with each passing day. Five more persons tested positive on Sunday, the official data of the respective health authorities confirmed on Sunday. The graph of COVID-19 in Attock shows an upward trend as during last two days, 12 persons were tested positive. According to District Attock focal person for COVID-19,.....view more
Sindh’s death toll hits 2,357 as seven more lose battle to coronavirus
Seven more patients have died from COVID-19, raising the province’s death toll to 2,357, said Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Friday. He said 8,638 samples were tested that detected 310 new cases in a day, which meant a four per cent detection rate. So far, he said, 934,689 tests had been conducted against which 127,691 coronavirus cases emerged. He said 120,876 patients had recovered, including 119 people who defeated t.... view more

COVID-19 still haunts Sindh as seven more patients die: CM
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-08-22
KARACHI - As many as seven patients of coronavirus lost their lives lifting the death toll to 2357 and 310 new cases emerged when 8638 tests were conducted raising the tally of positive cases to 127691. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued here on Friday. According to the statement, seven more patients died overnight lifting the death toll to 2357. Syed Murad Ali Shah said that 8638 s... view more

36 new COVID-19 cases reported in Sindh police Share:
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-08-22
KARACHI - With 36 new cases reported in last seven days, around 3297 personnel and officers of Sindh Police have been infected with coronavirus so far, informed spokesman to Sindh Police on Friday. He said currently 330 personnel were under treatment while 2949 had returned to their homes after recovering from the disease. The spokesman said 18 personnel had lost their battle against COVID-19. ..... view more

Coronavirus claims one more life in Sindh
Only one person died due to COVID-19 in Sindh during the last 24 hours, Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said on Saturday. “We have lost only one life in the province during the last 24 hours. Now the death toll due to the coronavirus infection has reached 2,358,” he said in daily situation report on COVID-19 cases. Shah said 274 new cases of the coronavirus emerged in the last 24 hours when 9,311 samples were tested, which consti..... view more

Bank borrowings jump amid pandemic
Source: Salman Siddiqui, The Economist, 2020-08-23
KARACHI: The coronavirus pandemic has continued to reshape the economy and change priorities around the world. The latest banks’ statistics suggest some of the businesses stayed optimistic despite the ongoing Covid-19 challenges, while majority appeared cautious. People and businesses have ramped up investment in gold, shares at the stock market, hospitals, pharmaceuticals, readymade garment and fertiliser making in Pakistan during July 202..... view more

Covid-19 claims one more life, infects 274 in Sindh
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-08-23
KARACHI: New 274 positive cases of Covid-19 were emerged out of 9,311 tested samples and one more patient died lifting the death toll to 2358, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said in a statement issued here on Saturday. He said new cases constituted 3 percent current detection rate. So far 944,000 samples have been tested
which detected 127,965 cases all over Sindh, of them 95 percent or 121,144 patients have recovered, including 26.....view more

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Covid-19, legal challenges set to delay next LG polls in Sindh</td>
<td>Azfar-ul-Ashfaque, Dawn, Islamabad</td>
<td>2020-08-23</td>
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<tr>
<td>274 new Covid-19 cases</td>
<td>Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad</td>
<td>2020-08-23</td>
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<tr>
<td>‘COVID-19 can be disastrous for people with uncontrolled, unmanaged blood pressure’</td>
<td>M Waqar Bhatti, The News, International</td>
<td>2020-08-24</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 cops infected with coronavirus in Karachi</td>
<td>APP, The Express Tribune, Islamabad</td>
<td>2020-08-24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coronavirus claims nine more lives in Sindh</td>
<td>Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad</td>
<td>2020-08-24</td>
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Ali Shah shared that 319 more people were diagnosed with Covid-19 in the province, out of 9,027 samples screened on the day. As a result, Sindh's virus tally rose to 128,284 infections to date. Shah further appri.....view more

Nine more people die of coronavirus across Sindh
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-24
KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Sunday said the coronavirus claimed nine more lives overnight, lifting the death toll to 2,367, and infected 319 others, raising the tally to 128,284. In a statement issued here from CM House, he said that nine more patients lost their lives while struggling against Covid-19 lifting the death toll to 2,367 that constituted 1.8 per cent death rate. Mr Shah said that 319 new cases of coronavirus....view more

Legislation planned to regulate telemedicine, virtual health system
Source: Imran Ayub, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-24
KARACHI: Amid growing telemedicine and virtual health systems, mainly after the coronavirus pandemic, the Sindh government is going to focus on the technology-driven venture and planning legislation to address the regulation of this sector both to capitalise on its potential and to regulate the new sector, a top official said on Sunday. The move is part of the provincial government plan of reforms in the health sector which attracted serious att.....view more

COVID-19 claims nine lives, infects 319 others in Sindh: CM Murad
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-08-24
KARACHI - Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah said on Sunday that the coronavirus had claimed nine more lives in the province during the last 24 hours, increasing the death toll to 2,367. In a statement issued here from the CM House, the CM said that with nine more deaths from the COVID-19, the death toll had risen to 2,367 that showed 1.8 percent death rate. Murad said 319 new cases of the coronavirus were also reported from acro.....view more

Covid-19 can be disastrous for people with uncontrolled blood pressure
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-08-24
KARACHI: People with uncontrolled and unmanaged blood pressure can develop serious complications including multi-organ failure, heart failure or heart attack and large strokes if they contract Covid-19, experts warned on Sunday, and advised people with hypertension to regularly monitor their blood pressure at home in addition to controlling that with regular physical activities, diet control and medicines. In Pakistan, around 40 to 50 percen.....view more

Covid-19 claims 9 more lives, infects 319 in Sindh
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-08-24
KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Sunday said that Coronavirus has claimed nine more lives lifting death toll to 2367 and infected 319 others raising the tally to 128,284. Shah said that 319 new cases of Coronavirus emerged when 9027 samples were tested that constituted four percent current detection rate. So far 953,027 samples have been tested which detected 128,284 cases that came to overall 13 percent detection ra.....view more
## Countries News

### WHO chief hopes coronavirus pandemic will last less than two years
Source: Reuters, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-08-22

GENEVA: The World Health Organisation hopes the coronavirus crisis can be over in less than two years, WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said on Friday. The Spanish flu that hit in 1918 took two years to end, he said. “And in our situation now with more technology, and of course with more connectiveness, the virus has a better chance of spreading, it can move fast because we are more connected now,” he told a briefing in Geneva.... view more

### Global coronavirus death toll tops 800,000: AFP tally
Source: AFP, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-08-23

PARIS: The number of deaths from the new coronavirus has surpassed 800,000 around the world, according to an AFP tally based on official sources at around 1100 GMT on Saturday. In total, 800,044 fatalities have been recorded globally, out of 23,003,079 declared infections. Latin America and the Caribbean is the region the most affected with 254,897 deaths. More than half of global fatalities have been reported in four countries: the United S.... view more

### World virus deaths top 800,000 as nations ramp up measures
Source: AFP, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-23

PARIS: The global death toll from coronavirus has surpassed 800,000, with numerous countries ramping up restrictions in an effort to battle an eruption of new cases. Western Europe, particularly Spain, Italy Germany and France, has been enduring infection levels not seen in many months, sparking fears of a fully-fledged second wave. And in Asia, South Korea, which had largely brought the virus under control, became the latest country to announc.... view more

### Climate fund for poor nations vows to drive green Covid recovery
Source: Reuters, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-23

BARCELONA: The Green Climate Fund has promised developing nations it will ramp up efforts to help them tackle climate challenges as they strive to recover from the coronavirus pandemic, approving $879 million in backing for 15 new projects around the world. At a four-day virtual board meeting ending late on Friday, the fund added Afghanistan and Sudan to a list of more than 100 countries receiving a total of $6.2 billion to reduce planet-heating.... view more

### Missing school poses greater risk to children than coronavirus: UK advisers
Source: Reuters, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-24

LONDON: The chief medical officers of the United Kingdom have said children should return to school after the summer holidays, warning that missing out on their education posed much bigger risks to them than catching Covid-19. The rare joint statement from the top health advisers to the governments of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland represents a boost for British Prime Minister Boris Johnson who has said getting children back to sc.... view more
More than half of Spanish companies reopen after closing at height of pandemic
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-08-24
More than half the companies in Spain which closed at the height of the coronavirus pandemic have reopened, according to government data released on Saturday, suggesting the economy is recovering slowly. The number of companies registered to pay social security by the end of July was 1,282,346, according to figures from the Ministry of Inclusion, Social Security and Migration, or 91,240 fewer firms than in February before the government imposed a.....view more

It’s not the economy, stupid: stock markets soar to record highs
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-08-24
The record highs attained by Wall Street last week might come as welcome news for US President Donald Trump. But the booming stock markets will offer little solace to the many millions of people who have lost their jobs and livelihoods as the coronavirus pandemic pushes economies around the globe ever deeper into recession. “This is the great American comeback!” tweeted Trump’s deputy Mike Pence last Tuesday, after the S&P 500.....view more

Miami ICU nurse: I have never in my life seen so many deaths
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-08-24
Their final breaths are tormented. Rublas Ruiz has seen too many of them — the last gasps of 17 men and women who died of the coronavirus. A 41-year-old ICU nurse in Miami’s Kendall Regional Medical Center, Ruiz has witnessed the desperate, pleading, wide-eyed, barely their gasps. “The fear in their eyes when they can’t get enough air. They are so scared,” he says, quietly. “Their eyes are big, desperate to get t.....view more
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| **WHO sees virus over in two years; Lebanon endures new lockdown**  
Source: AFP, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2020-08-22  
GENEVA: The world should be able to rein in the coronavirus pandemic in less than two years, the World Health Organisation said on Friday, as millions of Lebanese wearily entered a new lockdown following a spike in coronavirus infections. Western Europe was also enduring the kind of infection levels not seen in many months, particularly in Germany, France, Spain and Italy — sparking fears of a full-fledged second wave. In the Spanish capi......view more |
| **WHO chief hopes coronavirus pandemic will last less than two years**  
Source: Reuters, *The Express Tribune, Islamabad*, 2020-08-22  
GENEVA: The World Health Organisation hopes the coronavirus crisis can be over in less than two years, WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said on Friday. The Spanish flu that hit in 1918 took two years to end, he said. “And in our situation now with more technology, and of course with more connectiveness, the virus has a better chance of spreading, it can move fast because we are more connected now,” he told a briefing in Geneva......view more |
| **COVID-19: WHO advises masks for children over 12**  
GENEVA: The World Health Organisation on Friday advised that children over 12 should wear masks just like adults to stop the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. The UN health agency, in cooperation with UNICEF, published fresh guidance Friday on when it is appropriate for children to wear masks to impede the spread of the coronavirus crisis. The two UN agencies had convened a group of experts to review the limited data available on children......view more |
| **Covid can enhance resistance to polio vaccination in Pakistan: report**  
Source: Anwar Iqbal, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2020-08-24  
UNITED NATIONS: The Covid-19 pandemic has had some profoundly serious consequences for children’s health in Pakistan and Afghanistan, noted a report released this weekend by the UN Children’s Fund (Unicef). The document is based on statistics collected from 136 countries that responded to a recent Unicef survey about socio-economic impact of the viral disease that has killed more than 800,000 people across the globe. “Violence......view more |
**SDPI Engagements**

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| **Covid-19 Demands Revisiting Planning**  
Source: APP, UrduPoint, 2020-08-22  
ISLAMABAD, (APP - UrduPoint / Pakistan Point News - 21st Aug, 2020) : Covid-19 demands revisiting the planning and initiatives that aimed to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the speakers in webinar on Friday concluded. According to the press release issued by Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) the speakers emphasized the need for multi-stakeholder engagement to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in post-Covid19 s.....[view more](#) |
| **Speakers highlight need of multi-stakeholder engagement to achieve SDGs in After-Covid19 scenario**  
Source: DNA News, DNA News, 2020-08-22  
Islamabad, AUG 21 – Covid-19 demands revisiting the planning and initiatives that aimed to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This revisit is crucial, keeping the fact in view that the pandemic has resulted into new challenges and opportunities that need to be assessed properly as a way forward to achieve the SDGs. The speakers including the parliamentarians serving on SDGs Parliamentary task force, said this while sharing their v.....[view more](#) |
| **Fears expressed over rising out-of-school kids post Covid-19**  
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-08-22  
ISLAMABAD: The novel coronavirus (Covid-19) has created widespread disruptions with education being the most-affected sector, while there is a need to revisit its planning initiatives aimed at achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This was stated by experts, including parliamentarians while sharing their views during an online dialogue on ‘Covid-19 and Pakistan’s SDG Agenda’. The webinar had been organised by the Sus.....[view more](#) |
| **‘Education needs special focus’**  
Islamabad : Riaz Fatyana, Convener, Parliamentary Task Force on SDGs, has said that education is the area that has been worst affected by COVID-19 and requires special focus to get the sector revived. Fatyana was addressing an online dialogue ‘Covid-19 and Pakistan’s SDG Agenda’ organised here by Sustainable Development Policy Institute in collaboration with Nestle Pakistan. Fatyana said that reopening of schools is expe.....[view more](#) |
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<td><strong>1st Intl virtual conference on hydropower sector on Tuesday</strong></td>
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<td>Source: <a href="https://app.thenation.com.pk">APP, The Nation, Islamabad</a>, 2020-08-24</td>
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<td>ISLAMABAD - First International Virtual Conference on Pakistan Hydropower Sector would be held on Tuesday (August 25th) aimed at discussing more opportunities to produce cheap and clean energy. The Energy update in collaboration with Private Power Board Infrastructure (PPIB), Pakhtunkhwa Electric Development Organization (PEDO) and Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) is organising the conference to be participated by energy expert.....<a href="#">view more</a></td>
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