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

Learning from a pandemic
Four months into the pandemic and with no end in sight, corporate leadership must now pause from crisis management and use vital lessons from the pandemic to plan the post-Covid future of their businesses. The pandemic has impacted different sectors differently, and even businesses in the same sector differently. Businesses which managed to sail a steady boat in this period were those that quickly.....
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IMPACT OF COVID ON PAKISTANI EXPORTS: A SURVEY OF EXPORTERS
Source: Dr.Azam Chaudhry, Daily Times, 2020-08-25
The coronavirus pandemic reached Pakistan in March 2020 and like many others, the government responded with a series of lockdowns to limit the spread of the virus. The Innovation Technology Center (ITC) at Lahore School of Economics conducted a survey of exporters in June 2020 to measure the impact of the pandemic on export performance during the last few months. The sample size for this survey wa.....
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Current account surplus
Source: BR Research, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-08-25
The current account has shown a surplus of $424 million in July - highest surplus since Feb-15. This is fourth month of surplus since Oct-19, and third in the last four months. The recent surpluses are primarily attributed to COVID related slowdown, and higher remittances. In June, remittances were highest ever monthly ($2.46bn) and in July, further grew to $2.77 billion. Once the remittances norm.....
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Smog season ahead
Source: Editorial, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-25
THE masks may not come off as yet in Pakistan even if the Covid-19 threat that has loomed large over the world subsides. Wide parts of the country are once again in danger of walking into the misty, foggy phase, referred to as the fifth season in the calendar of acutely suffering places such as Lahore. The reference is of course to the infamous smo that descends around October-November. Mugginess.....
more >>

Three tests for UHC
Source: Muhammad Hamid Zaman, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-08-25
The data from Covid-19's disproportionate impact on communities is sobering. It tells the story of a highly unequal world. Data from New York, Detroit, Houston in the US and other places across the world show that communities that were already struggling from inequity, discrimination and poor access to basic services were hit the hardest. The rate and number of deaths, overall morbidity and ..... 
more >>

Preventing the dreaded second wave
Source: Editorial, Daily Times, 2020-08-25
The sudden outbreak of Covid-19 in Mansehra district, where all tourist hotspots have had to be shut down in Shogran, Naran and Kaghan, underlines just why it is so important to be extremely careful while suddenly opening up something like the tourism sector so soon after the lockdown. It turns out that 47 coronavirus cases have been reported in 19 private hotels in the area, and since travel and .....
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<td>Indian govt’s flawed approach to Covid-19 challenge highlighted</td>
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THE recent 'economic turnaround' has taken many by surprise and spawned optimism about a quicker-than-expected recovery from coronavirus-inflicted losses from the last quarter of the previous fiscal year. Prompted by early signs, Prime Minister Imran Khan tweeted that “the economy is on the right track” as the current account balance swung into a surplus of $424m in July &m.....

As many countries grapple with the Covid-19 fallout, Pakistan is now uniquely positioned to report a sustained low incidence. This has sparked conversations of unpacking how ‘smart lockdowns’ and the governing architecture guided by the NCOC contributed to its success. With business activities returning to pre-Covid levels and urban centres bustling with people eager to return to some .....
**Promoting economic recovery in response to COVID-19**  
Source: Frank F Islam, *Daily Times*, 2020-08-27  
A recently published Congressional Research Service report on the 'Global Economic Effects of Covid-19 states:"Estimates so far indicate the virus could trim global economic growth by 3.0% to 6.0% in 2020, with a partial recovery in 2021, assuming there is not a second wave of infections," The report warns of heavy human costs in terms of 'lives lost', rising le.....  
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**Is NCOC our Covid-19 miracle?**  
At the beginning of the summer, the Covid-19 pandemic was rampaging through countries like South Korea, Italy and Iran at a pace that caused intense anxiety amongst many of us about the impact similar infection and fatality rates would have on Pakistan. As the containment and suppression measures that were put in place through the nationwide lockdown imposed in mid-March began to be relaxe.....  
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**Rise and fall of Covid-19**  
Source: Dr Zafar Mirza, *The News, International*, 2020-08-28  
Defying all projections and against all odds, Pakistan has successfully bent the Covid-19 curve. Slow rise, early peak and steep decline -- what is at work and how have we managed to surprise ourselves and the world? And, is it all over? Simple questions without simple answers. At its height Pakistan witnessed: 31,681 PCR tests on June 20, and 6,825 positive cases on June 14, and highest p.....  
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**Risk and investment in the pandemic**  
Source: Shaheryar Hashim, *The Nation, Islamabad*, 2020-08-28  
The economic shudder of the COVID-19 pandemic has led most investors to lose money, many to assume a holding pattern, and a large amount to pull back on investments in low-income countries. The necessary containment measures, applied to slow the pandemic's spread, together with lower global demand have had a significant impact on economic activity all around the world. Economic shocks, marke.....  
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**Pandemic-driven poverty**  
The latest warning from World Bank President David Malpass, that the coronavirus pandemic might already have driven 100 million people back into extreme poverty, is a cause for very serious concern and goes to show that this particular storm is still very far from over. The Washington-based development lender has been following the effects of the pandemic, especially all the lockdowns that have ha.....  
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**Mandating a minimalist approach to enforcement**  
Source: Vaqar Khamisani, *The Express Tribune, Islamabad*, 2020-08-29  
Whilst reading an article on the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, I was intrigued to learn about the cases in which the principal reason for mortality is not due to coronavirus. In such instances, death occurs as a result of damages inflicted by an overzealous internal reaction to the virus. As the immune system battles to contain the infection, some individuals may experience minor inflammation as a si.....  
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Pandemic travels
At six on a Friday morning, some two weeks ago I got on a plane at Lahore airport and at six in the evening on the same day I landed at the New York’s Kennedy airport. I have made this trip many, many times before and yes it is a tedious, twenty four hour trip. But this was the first time I travelled during the Covid-19 pandemic raging through the world. Almost every day new information is.....
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The future of work
At the beginning of this year, the world became a part of an unprecedented social change. Largely confined to our homes as if our life depended on it, we began operating in a survival mode. This ended up having a visible effect on our work lives. Work from home (WFH) suddenly became an acceptable mode of work on a scale that we, in Pakistan at least, had never witnessed before. A godsend for some.....
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Crises require compassionate corporate support
Source: Sadia Hussain, Daily Times, 2020-08-30
The Covid-19 pandemic is likely to have long-lasting consequences on economic and social conditions, stemming from the disease transmission control policies, and their profound negative impact on businesses and livelihoods in Pakistan. Economic projections have already been revised downward, driven by shocks to both demand and supply, and sharp declines in the circulation of goods, services and pe.....
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Decisions on Papers in the Wake of Covid-19
Source: Dr Rasool Buksh Mirjat, Daily Times, 2020-08-30
Though the spread of Novel CORONA virus (Covid-19) has reduced and the curve has faltered by the grace of Almighty Allah and is reducing further day by day, it is not yet eliminated and the threat of a second wave still exists. Nonetheless, the pandemic Covid-19, besides affecting the lives concerning the business, education, tourism, and social life, has brought a lot of new ideas to carr.....
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National News

AJK

**Pakistan again urges world to ‘use all tools’ to hold India accountable for IIOJK crimes**
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-08-28
Pakistan on Thursday reiterated its call for the world community to use all the tools at its disposal to make India accountable for its crimes against Kashmiri people. "We continue sensitizing the international community, the United Nations and human rights organizations to take cognizance of the brutal suppression of the Kashmiri people’s rights and freedoms in utter violation of int.....

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Balochistan

**Balochistan reports 33 new Covid cases**
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-08-25
QUETTA: Balochistan reported 33 new coronavirus cases on Monday, taking the total provincial tally to 12,560 cases with a recovery rate of 91 per cent. According to the daily report of the Health Directorate of Balochistan, 99 per cent of the total cases in Balochistan are locally transmitted. The active cases in the province currently stand at 959. The total deaths in the largest province of P.....

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Islamabad

**Provinces told to take ulema on board to ensure SOPs’ implementation**
Source: Ikram Junaidi, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-25
ISLAMABAD: ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Monday directed the provinces to take religious scholars and other stakeholders on board to ensure implementation of the standard operating procedures (SOPs) during Muharram processions and majalis. Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar also warned that the virus could re-emerge if violations w.....

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Pakistan has miraculously overcome Covid: Yao Jing
Source: DNA, Daily Times, 2020-08-25
Ambassador of People’s Republic of China Yao Jing has said Pakistan has miraculously overcome Covid-19, adding that the government led by Prime Minister Imran Khan needs full credit for this. The Chinese ambassador made these remarks while speaking as chief guest at a tree plantation ceremony organized by Pakistan-China Friendship Association, at the KP House. President Yousaf Ayub and Secreta.....

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‘Pakistan miraculously overcome virus’
Islamabad: Ambassador of People’s Republic of China Yao Jing has said Pakistan has miraculously overcome COVID-19 adding Pakistan govt led by Prime Minister Imran Khan needs full credit for this. The Chinese ambassador made these remarks while speaking as chief guest at a plantation ceremony organised by Pakistan-China Friendship Association, at the KPK House. Yousaf Ayub President a.....

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Coronavirus; Country-wide tally of fatalities increases to 6,250
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-08-25
ISLAMABAD: The country wide tally of fatalities from coronavirus has increased to 6,250. The country has reported nine deaths in the last 24 hours by coronavirus as the number of positive cases has reached 293,261, according to the latest figures released by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC). The data further revealed that 496 persons have been tested positive for the CoVi.....

Govt mulls package for schools affected by Covid-19
Source: APP, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-08-25
ISLAMABAD: Minister for Federal Education, Professional Training, National Heritage and Culture Shafqat Mahmood on Monday informed the National Assembly that a special financial package is under consideration for low fee private schools affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. He said the issue of providing special financial package to schools having low free structure will be discussed with Prime Min.....

21 coronavirus cases reported in Islamabad
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-08-25
ISLAMABAD: At least 21 new novel coronavirus cases were reported in the federal capital on Monday, as the curve of cases has started to show an upward trend again. A report released by the Islamabad District Health Office (DHO) on Monday showed that the new cases were detected amongst 13 men and eight women. The DHO stated that the number of Covid-19 cases in Islamabad since March has reached 15.....

94.4pc patients recovered from Covid-19
Source: Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-08-25
ISLAMABAD - The tally of patients recoveries from COVID-19 in the country has reached 276,829 after the recovery of 993 more patients over the last 24 hours, latest statistics revealed. There are now 10,188 active COVID-19 cases in the country. During the last 24 hours, 496 new coronavirus cases surfaced in the country after tests of 23,655 people. Nine more deaths were also reported during this p.....

Islamabad, AJK report no virus deaths in last 7 days
Source: Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-08-26
ISLAMABAD - The country has reported 9 more COVID-19 deaths and 450 fresh cases as Islamabad and AJK reported no coronavirus death for one straight week. The government’s Covid-19 portal shows that 1,596 more people have recovered from coronavirus in the country, taking the total recoveries to 278,425. According to the portal figures, 672 virus patients are in critical condition at the momen.....

China Cultural Centre goes online amid Covid-19
Source: INP, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-08-26
ISLAMABAD - As the world fought the deadly coronavirus, the China Culture Centre here never gave up its activities - shifting online to promote China, Pakistan’s iron brother. It is the second cultural centre that China established in South Asia, inaugurated by Chinese President Xi Jinping during his last visit to Pakistan, says a report published by Gwadar Pro on Tuesday. Since the Ch.....
Cautious optimism as active cases fall below 10,000
Source: Ikram Junaidi, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-27
ISLAMABAD: While there are fewer than 9,000 active cases of the novel coronavirus across the country and on an average less than a dozen mortalities are being reported for the last 25 days, the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Wednesday warned that there was a possibility of re-emergence of the deadly virus as violation of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) was being reported.

HHRD focused on children during coronavirus
Islamabad: Helping Hand for Relief and Development (HHRD) helped more than half a million people during the coronavirus relief operation and was distributed Rs130 million among 8,350 orphans and 15 million to 1,155 disabled children as financial assistance, said Country Director Muhammad Saleem Mansoori, says a press release. While talking in meeting after completion of corona relief oper.

Economic activity likely to rebound strongly: MoF
Source: Zaheer Abbasi, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-08-27
ISLAMABAD: Minister of Finance (MoFO has stated on Wednesday that based on current economic, fiscal, monetary and exchange rate policies, and on prospects for the international environment, economic activity is expected to rebound strongly within the first quarter of fiscal year 2021 after the Covid-19 pandemic. The ministry’s monthly

12 deaths reported in 24 hours
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-08-27
ISLAMABAD: The country-wide tally of fatalities from coronavirus has reached 6,267, as 12 deaths were reported during the last 24 hours due to coronavirus. The number of positive cases has reached 294,193, according to the latest figures released by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC). The data further revealed that 482 persons had been tested positive for the Covid-19 in 24.

NCOC reviews implementation of Covid-19 SOPs
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-08-27
ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Control Centre (NCOC) after the restoration of tourism in the country on Wednesday reviewed the standard operating procedures (SOPs) and implementation of health guidelines regarding Covid-19 on travel destinations. The body encouraged the steps taken for the testing of coronavirus on specific tourist sites. A meeting of the NCOC under the chairmanship of Fed.

Pakistan reports 445 coronavirus cases in one day
Pakistan on Thursday has reported six deaths in last 24 hours by novel coronavirus as the number of positive cases has surged to 294,638. The nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 6,274. According to the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) 445 persons have been tested positive for COVID-19 in 24 hours. Till now 128,877 coronavirus cases have been confirm.
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<td>India still in search of true strategy</td>
<td>APP / Yawar Abbas, The Nation, Islamabad</td>
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<td>Islamabad - Despite ending its lockdown early and when Pakistan managed to flatten the Covid-19 curve, many international organizations and publications have expressed concerns over sharp increasing virus cases in India due to feeble strategy of Modi’s government. Acknowledging Pakistan’s strategy against Corona “Aljazeera” reported “Pakistan wins rare, fragile s.....</td>
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<td>NCOC for COVID-19 tests at tourist spots</td>
<td>Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad</td>
<td>2020-08-27</td>
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<td>ISLAMABAD - The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) has asked the authorities to ensure COVID-19 tests at the tourist spots. The direction comes days after the government decided to open tourist spots across the country. A meeting held under the chair of Minister for Planning, Asad Umar on Wednesday reviewed implementation of the SOPs at the tourist spots and during the Muharram congregat.....</td>
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<td>Country reports 12 deaths, 482 new COVID-19 cases</td>
<td>Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad</td>
<td>2020-08-27</td>
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<td>ISLAMABAD - The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) has reported 12 more deaths and 482 new COVID-19 cases in the country during the last 24 hours, taking the nationwide tally to 294,193. During the last 24 hours, 12 people succumbed to the virus as the death toll jumped to 6,267, while at least 278,939 patients have recovered so far in the country. There are 8,987 active cases in the cou.....</td>
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<td>Does soap actually ‘Kill’ the coronavirus?</td>
<td>Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad</td>
<td>2020-08-27</td>
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<td>ISLAMABAD - Constantly being told to wash your hands. So we’re diving into the chemistry behind why soap is so effective against viruses like the coronavirus that causes COVID-19. Dr. Thordarson says that hand soap ‘destabilizes non-covalent interactions that hold viruses together’ what he’s saying is that the components of a virus are just not that tightly bound to ea.....</td>
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<td>NCOC calls for opening educational institutions on top-down basis</td>
<td>Staff Report, Daily Times</td>
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<td>The National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) on Thursday said the educational institutions should be opened on top-down basis, starting from universities, colleges and high schools. The NCOC session held with a single-point agenda of opening of educational institutions across Pakistan. The representatives of educational institutions including public, private and madaris were invited to the sess.....</td>
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<td>Global humanitarian group helps orphan children during coronavirus</td>
<td>News Desk, Daily Times</td>
<td>2020-08-28</td>
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<td>The Helping Hand for Relief and Development (HHRD), global humanitarian relief and development organization, has helped more than half a million people during the Coronavirus relief operation and was distributed rupees 130 million among 8,350 orphans and 15 million to 1155disabled children as financial assistance, Country Director of the HHRD Muhammad Saleem Mansoori said on Thursday. Talking .....</td>
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445 people test positive for COVID-19 in past 24 hours, 6 perish: NCOC
Source: News Desk, Daily Times, 2020-08-28
As many as 445 people tested COVID-19 positive and six corona patients died during the past 24 hours across the country. No coronavirus affected patient was on ventilators in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), Gilgit Baltistan (GB) and Balochistan. National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Thursday issued the latest statistics of COVID-19 deaths, positive cases and recovered patients across the ..... more >>

Cautious optimism as active cases fall below 10,000
Source: Ikram Junaidi, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-28
ISLAMABAD: While there are fewer than 9,000 active cases of the novel coronavirus across the country and on an average less than a dozen mortalities are being reported for the last 25 days, the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Wednesday warned that there was a possibility of re-emergence of the deadly virus as violation of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) was being reported ..... more >>

Auditor General to audit COVID-19 expenditure
ISLAMABAD: The Auditor General of Pakistan has decided to audit all the COVID-19 related expenditure. Since the COVID-19 outbreak in Pakistan in February 2020, the role of the Auditor General of Pakistan has become very important to supporting the government response mechanisms by maintaining public financial management discipline and ensuring transparency and accountability. For a timely ..... more >>

‘Tax relief will be provided to marriage halls’
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-08-28
LAHORE: Punjab Minister of Industries and Trade Mian Aslam Iqbal has said that relief in taxes will be provided to the marriage halls which remained closed during the lockdown on account of Covid-19. The Minister revealed this while talking to a delegation of the Marriage Halls Association representatives here on Thursday. He hoped that the marriage halls would be allowed to operate during ..... more >>

Educational institutions likely to be opened in phases
Source: Kashif Abbasi, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-28
ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Federal Education will likely announce the reopening of educational institutions from Sept 15 in phases, following a meeting of education ministers scheduled for Sept 7. Although advice from the Ministry of National Health Services (NHS) has not yet been given to the education ministry - based on which decisions will be made on the segregation of students - some NHS min ..... more >>

Reopening of educational institutes; Final decision will be taken with consensus on Sept 7: minister
Source: Tahir Amin, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-08-28
ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Education Shafqat Mahmood on Thursday said that the final decision regarding the reopening of educational institutes will be taken with consensus, in the Inter-Provincial Ministers Conference on September 7, after examining the incidence of Covid-19. He said this, while talking to media persons, after the National Command and Operation Center meeting held here ..... more >>
Top auditor set to scrutinise Covid-19 expenditure
Source: Khaleeq Kiani, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-28
ISLAMABAD: The Auditor General of Pakistan (AGP) on Thursday announced the decision to conduct a detailed and special audit of all funds allocated for and spent on Covid-19 activities including Rs1.24 trillion stimulus package. AGP Javeid Jehangir on Thursday presided over a meeting of various wings and field offices “to discuss strategy for audit of Covid-related expenditure”. He to.....
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Countrywide tally of fatalities by Covid-19 reach 6,274
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-08-28
ISLAMABAD: The countrywide tally of fatalities from coronavirus has reached 6,274, as six deaths were reported during the last 24 hours due to the deadly virus. The number of positive cases has reached 294,638, according to the latest figures released by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC). The data further revealed that 445 persons had been tested positive for the Covid-19 .....
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Pakistan reports 415 coronavirus cases in one day
Pakistan on Friday as reported nine deaths in last 24 hours by novel coronavirus as the number of positive cases has surged to 295,053. The nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 6,283. According to the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) 415 persons have been tested positive for COVID-19 in 24 hours. Till now 129,081 coronavirus cases have been confirmed.....
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Active COVID-19 cases drop further
Source: Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-08-28
ISLAMABAD - The number of active COVID-19 cases in the country has dropped to 4 digits to 8,803 as 279,561 patients have so far recovered from coronavirus in the country, according to the official figures. According to the latest statistics, there are now 8,803 active coronavirus cases in the country with 6,274 deaths so far. During the last 24 hours, 23,441 coronavirus tests were carried out and .....
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AGP decides to conduct comprehensive audit of COVID-19 related spending
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-08-28
Islamabad - Auditor General of Pakistan has decided to conduct a comprehensive audit of the COVID related expenditure. The decision was taken in a meeting on strategy formulation for audit of COVID-19 related expenditure. The meeting was chaired by the Auditor General of Pakistan Javeid Jahangir. The meeting was attended by Additional AGP-I&II, all DAGs and concerned DGs of Field Audit Offices.....
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Nine deaths reported in 24 hours; Countrywide tally of fatalities from coronavirus reaches 6,283
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-08-29
ISLAMABAD: The countrywide tally of fatalities from coronavirus has reached 6,283, as nine deaths were reported during the last 24 hours by the deadly virus. The number of positive cases has reached 295,053, according to the latest figures released by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC). The data further revealed that 415 persons had been tested positive for the Covid-19 in .....
PM reviews virus situation ahead of schools’ reopening
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad , 2020-08-29
ISLAMABAD - Prime Minister Imran Khan on Friday directed finalisation of recommendations in consultation with provincial governments and administrations of educational institutions, ahead of a Sept 7 meeting that would take decision about reopening of schools from Sept 15. The prime minister was chairing a meeting of the National Coordination Committee on COVID-19 that discussed the roadmap o.....
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More patients test positive in twin cities
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad , 2020-08-29
ISLAMABAD: Sixteen new Covid-19 confirmed cases were reported in the capital on Friday. Officials of the capital administration said that on Thursday 14 men and two women had tested positive. On Friday, two positive cases each were reported from PWD, D-12, Bahria Town, Korang Town and one each from G-11, I-9, DHA, G-13, Ghouri Town, G-6, F-11 and F-8. Rawalpindi Six patients tested positive an.....
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279, 937 patients recovered from Covid-19 in Pakistan
Source: Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad , 2020-08-29
ISLAMABAD - The country has reported 9 more deaths and 415 fresh coronavirus cases during the last 24 hours. According to the official figures, 279,937 patients have so far recovered from Covid-19 in Pakistan. The latest statistics suggest that there are now 8,883 active coronavirus cases in the country. Of the 23,483 coronavirus tests carried out over the last 24 hours, 415 new cases surface.....
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Over 6,000 healthcare workers infected with coronavirus in country
Source: Rahul Basharat, The Nation, Islamabad , 2020-08-29
ISLAMABAD-Above six thousand healthcare workers have been infected with novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in the country while 78 died since the pandemic emerged, The Nation learnt on Friday. According to the documents of the National Emergency Operations Center (NEOC), 6,995 Healthcare Workers (HCWs) have been infected with the COVID-19 so far and 78 have died. The HCWs include 4,259 doctors, 80.....
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Twin cities see slight increase in Covid-19 cases
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad , 2020-08-30
ISLAMABAD: A slight increase was seen once again in the number of confirmed Covid-19 cases as 19 people tested positive for the virus on Saturday. Officials said 16 cases each were reported in the capital on Thursday and Friday. The District Health Office said it traced 476 contacts of 16 patients reported on Thursday and samples of 453 suspects were sent for testing. Likewise, 368 contacts of .....
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Pakistan reports lowest daily number of COVID-19 cases in 4 months
Pakistan on Sunday recorded its lowest daily count of coronavirus cases in more than four months with 213 new cases. The country reported its first case of the deadly virus on February 26 and went into a three-week lockdown in late March. In the subsequent months, the caseload kept climbing, peaking at 6,825 new cases in a single day on June 13. While it recorded 153 deaths, its highest to date, .....
Masses urged to ensure SOPs compliance during Ashura
Islamabad : The National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) on Saturday urged masses to ensure maximum implementation of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) during Muharram majalis and processions to avoid contracting coronavirus. NCOC meeting discussed the prevailing disease spread situation, opening up of schools with safety guidelines and declining disease trends. The forum termed dec......
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PPE kits, surgical masks given to Sindh government
Islamabad : The donor-funded TVET Sector Support Programme handed over 50,000 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) kits and 40,000 surgical masks to the government of Sindh. The items were produced under a special initiative of the programme to support the Government of Sindh in addressing challenges in the healthcare sector during COVID-19. The ceremony was jointly organised by the National Voca.....
more >>

Pakistan reports 213 coronavirus cases in one day
Source: Web Desk, The Nation, Islamabad , 2020-08-31
Pakistan on Monday has reported 6 deaths in last 24 hours by novel coronavirus as the number of positive cases has surged to 295,849. The nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 6,294. According to the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) 213 persons have been tested positive for COVID-19 in 24 hours. Till now 129,348 coronavirus cases have been confirmed i.....
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Finance Ministry links rise in debt to GDP ratio to Covid-19
ISLAMABAD - The Ministry of Finance has held the Covid-19 responsible for increasing debt to GDP ratio that has touched 87.2 percent of the GDP. The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has released a latest data that showed the country’s total debt and liabilities had surged to Rs44.5 trillion, or 106.8 percent of gross domestic product (GDP). Pakistan’s total debt stood at Rs42.08 trill.....
more >>

Only one corona-related death reported in country
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad , 2020-08-30
ISLAMABAD - With the 280,340 patients recovering from Covid-19 so far, there are now 8,748 active coronavirus cases in the country. According to the latest statistics, the active coronavirus cases have fallen to 8,748. The official figures show that of the 22,434 coronavirus tests carried out over the last 24 hours, 319 new cases surfaced. Only one new death was reported from the virus during the .....
more >>

Fiscal accounts come under significant pressure due to COVID-19 in Q4
Source: APP, The Nation, Islamabad , 2020-08-30
ISLAMABAD - The country’s fiscal accounts came under significant pressure during the fourth quarter (Q4) of the financial year 2020 due to COVID-19 related expenditures, according to Monthly Economic Update and Outlook. The overall fiscal deficit stood at 8.1 per cent of GDP in FY 2020 against 9.1 per cent of GDP recorded in the previous year, said a report released by the Finance Minist.....
more >>
Coronavirus equipment to be shifted to DHQ hospitals
Source: Ashfaq Yusufzai, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-25
PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has decided to shift the equipment provided to Institute of Hepatology and Peshawar Institute of Cardiology for Covid-19 patients to the district headquarters hospitals after rapid decline in the pandemic. The government on July 10 inaugurated 58-bed Covid-19 ward at Institute of Hepatology (IoH) in collaboration with a non-governmental organisation to.....
more >>

Ex-district nazim, sister die of Covid-19
BATTAGRAM: Former district nazim Attaur Rahman Khan Tarand and his sister, who had died of coronavirus on Sunday, were laid to rest on Monday. Attaur Rahman Tarand had contracted the viral disease before Eidul Azha and was under treatment at a private hospital in Islamabad since then. His medical test for the coronavirus reported negative a week ago but the virus had damaged his kidneys which led.....
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5 Kaghan hotels sealed on virus fears
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-08-25
ABBOTABAD/ BALAKOT: Irresponsible attitudes by visitors have landed several hotels and their staff in the scenic Kaghan valley in peril where authorities were forced to seal five hotels after staff there tested positive for the novel coronavirus (Covid-19). The Kaghan Development Authority (KDA) said that visitors continue to defy the prescribed standard operating procedures (SOPs) and other pre.....
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Tax relief sought for lockdown-hit traders
Source: Bureau Report, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-26
PESHAWAR: The Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry has demanded of the government to announce a special tax relief package for the lockdown-hit business community to help revive businesses. The demand was made by SCCI president Maqsood Anwar Pervaiz during a meeting of trader organisations here on Tuesday. SCCI senior vice-president Shahid Hussain and vice-president Abdul Jalil Jan, Khyber Pak.....
more >>

Online classes stress out students, teachers during pandemic
Source: Sadia Qasim Shah, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-26
PESHAWAR: The Covid-19 pandemic forced educational institutions from primary schools to universities to hold online classes but students as well as teachers are already stressed out with long monotonous classes. "There is no Sunday. A hell of presentations is assigned almost everyday. It is driving me crazy," said a university student requesting not be named. The teachers also said t.....
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K-P issues new SOPs for schools
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-08-26
PESHAWAR: The provincial education department has issued a new set of guidelines for schools in the province to conditionally reopen on September 15. In a notification issued by the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) Elementary and Secondary Education Department (ESED) on Tuesday, all schools in the province will be allowed be reopen on September 15. The notification further listed the precautionary meas.....
more >>
**Fight against Covid-19: Fifty-four new ventilators delivered to KP hospitals**
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-08-26
PESHAWAR: As part of the on-going partnership with Pakistan's National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), the United States government, through the US Agency for International Development (USAID), in cooperation with the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Health Department, has delivered 54 brand new ventilators to hospitals in KP to support fight against Covid-19. Five of these ventilators have ..... 
more >>

**Tourism Dept arranges training on SOPs for tourists’ handlers, hotels’ staff**
PESHAWAR: The second phase of special training on implementing the standard operating procedures (SOPs) and safety measures against coronavirus and raising awareness about the viral disease is going on at Kalam Valley in Swat district and Nathiagali in the scenic Galiyat in Abbottabad district simultaneously. The Directorate of Tourist Services (DTS) – a wing of the Tourism Department..... 
more >>

**NCC praises KP govt’s handling of Covid-19**
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-08-29
PESHAWAR: A meeting of the National Coordination Committee (NCC) held in Islamabad with Prime Minister Imran Khan in the chair, has highly lauded the steps taken by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) government to effectively deal with Covid-19, said an official handout issued here on Friday. The KP Chief Minister Mahmood Khan along with his team attended the meeting through video link. Azad Kashmir pri..... 
more >>

**Health experts fear Covid-19 resurgence**
Source: Ashfaq Yusufzai, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-29
PESHAWAR: Experts have divergent opinions about sharp decline in Covid-19 cases and deaths as some believe that it is still premature to say that the virus is disappearing while others argue that decrease in cases is result of herd immunity developed by the community and measures taken by the government. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, which has recorded 1,249 deaths and 35,893 cases since the onset of the p..... 
more >>
Experts warn of second wave of the coronavirus yet again
Source: Asif Chaudhry, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-25
LAHORE: The medical and health experts have, yet again, warned of the second wave of the coronavirus in Punjab as preventive measures are being ignored during Muharram. A senior health official said the Punjab government had decided to impose micro-smart lockdown in 17 localities/sites of Lahore, Rawalpindi and Gujranwala. Of them, 12 sites had been identified in Lahore, three in Rawalpindi and t.....

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3,000 screened for virus during ‘smart sampling’ in Gujrat
Source: Correspondent, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-25
GUJRAT: Out of more than 3,000 people screened for the coronavirus, including some 500 Zakireen (orators), organisers and security volunteers for Muharram Majalis and processions, only two were found positive so far, during the smart sampling in the district during the last few days. It is learnt that the administration had to face resistance from the organisers of Muharram congregations to condu.....

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CAA issues SOPs for international, domestic flights until Oct 31
Source: Mohammad Asghar, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-25
RAWALPINDI: The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has directed all scheduled and chartered airlines operators, ground handling agents and private operators to follow standard operating procedure (SOP) for international, domestic and chartered flights between Aug 21 to Oct 31. The SOPs aim to minimise the risks of spreading the coronavirus and keep passengers and crew safe, as cases of Covid-19 conti.....

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COVID-19 cases going up
Rawalpindi: The number of confirmed patients being reported from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district has started showing little upward trend at least for the last four days as a total of 130 new patients have been tested positive for the disease from the region in last 96 hours. The number of patients being tested positive for the illness in this region of the country was on.....

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Punjab reports zero Covid-19 death for third straight day
Source: News Desk, Daily Times, 2020-08-25
Punjab reported 55 new coronavirus cases over the past 24 hours, taking the total number of confirmed cases across the province to 96,233. However, according to Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department, no death related to the contagion was reported in the province for the third straight day. As many as 874,784 samples have been tested for the presence of Covid-19 thus far in the province.....

more >>

Four more fall prey to Covid-19 in Punjab
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-26
LAHORE: Four critical patients of coronavirus died in Punjab during the last 24 hours, taking the death toll to 2,192 across the province so far. Meanwhile, 148 more people contracted the virus during the same time in Punjab and the total number of confirmed cases reached 96,391. According to the official figures released by the Punjab health department here on Wednesday, 29 out of total new cas.....

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Rawalpindi admin imposes micro lockdowns in three areas
Source: Munawer Azeem | Aamir Yasin, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-26
RAWALPINDI: The district administration has imposed limited lockdowns in three areas, including a street that includes the home of the head of the Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA). Homes have been sealed in Chur Harpal, Bahria Phase VIII and RDA Colony. A survey has begun in the district to ascertain where the increased number of Covid-19 cases have come from. Under the government’s.....

Another 20 test positive for COVID-19 No death during 3 days
Rawalpindi: In last 24 hours, as many as 20 patients have been tested positive for COVID-19, coronavirus illness from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district after which the number of confirmed patients so far reported from the twin cities has become 21,536 however after recovery of another 70 patients, the number of active cases of the disease in the region has reduced to 745. The v.....

Virus test a must for teachers before schools reopening: minister
LAHORE: Punjab Minister for School Education Dr Murad Raas has said that it will be mandatory for schoolteachers of public and private schools to get tested for COVID-19 before reopening of schools in the province. Addressing a press conference here Tuesday, he said without COVID-19 test report no teacher would be allowed to enter the school. Dr Murad Raas said that no private school would be al.....

Covid-19: Punjab reports 158 new cases, four deaths
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-08-26
LAHORE: With 158 new Covid-19 positive cases and four deaths across the province in the last 24 hours, Punjab has reported 96,391 cases so far and 2,192 deaths in total. As per the government's Covid-19 portal, about 896,428 tests have been conducted so far across the province while 8,461 tests conducted during the last 24 hours. As per the data made available to Business Recorder, a.....

Another 23 test positive for COVID-19
Rawalpindi: Coronavirus illness, COVID-19 did not claim any life in Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district in last four days, however, still a significant number of patients being tested positive for the disease from the region with as many as 98 new patients reported in the last four days. In the last 24 hours, another 23 patients have been confirmed positive from the twin c.....

Corona safety items provided to police
LAHORE: Punjab IG has said the process of timely provision of safety items and implementation of SOPs must continue for officers deputed on security duty. As per a letter issued from CPO, during Muharram, 13,300 gowns, 22,548 surgical masks and 16,950 surgical gloves, 1,795 litre sanitizers and 2,050 goggles have been provided to all districts. Around 300 coverall gowns have been provided t.....
‘Micro’ lockdown reimposed in six cities
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-08-27
LAHORE: The Punjab government has reimposed a ‘smart micro lockdown’ in six cities of the province including Lahore. Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (PSHD) issued notification on Wednesday confirming the reimposition of smart lockdown in Gujrat, Rawalpindi, Sialkot, Attock and Gujranwala along with the provincial capital. Total 33 areas in the six cities of the pr.....
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Mothers, newborns to receive quality healthcare
Source: News Desk, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-08-27
Clinical Governance and Institutional Strengthening Director Dr Mushtaq Ahmad has said women and their newborns deserve quality medical care along with respect and dignity especially in these challenging times such as the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. He expressed these views during a media briefing titled ‘Respectful Maternity Care (RMC)’. The event was jointly organised in Lahore by th.....
more >>

Moonis for allocation of funds to educational institutions for SOPs implementation
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-08-27
LAHORE - Pakistan Muslim League leader Moonis Elahi Wednesday urged the Punjab government to release funds to the educational institutions for implementation of the COVID SOPs. Moonis said that the Pakistan Muslim League and Eco Friends Workers had rendered unprecedented relief and mitigation services during the coronavirus crisis even risking their own lives. He commended them for providing.....
more >>

One more COVID-19 patient dies
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-08-27
LAHORE - One more COVID-19 patient died on Wednesday, taking death in Punjab to 2,193. Confirmed cases of novel coronavirus reached 96,466 with the addition of 75 new infections in the province. Out of a total of 96,466 infections in Punjab, as many as 93,686 citizens have contracted the virus through local transmission. The remaining 2,780 COVID-19 infections were confirmed among members of Table.....
more >>

Provision of COVID-19 protection items to cops continues: IGP
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-08-27
LAHORE:- Inspector General Police (IGP), Punjab Shoaib Dastgir said timely provision of safety items regarding the COVID-19 with SOPs should continue to officials deputed on security of Majalis and procession. The IG directed that policemen should perform their duties on high alert besides spirit of public service. As per direction of the Additional IG Welfare and Finance, a letter regarding distr.....
more >>

One Covid death, 71 new cases in Punjab
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-27
LAHORE: Punjab reported one death from Covid-19 on Wednesday, while 71 new confirmed cases of the coronavirus surfaced during the last 24 hours. Of the new cases, 26 were reported in Lahore, 11 in Gujranwala, eight each in Rawalpindi and Dera Ghazi Khan, four each in Gujrat and Chiniot, and three in Sialkot etc. According to the figures released by the health department, 906,336 Covid-19 tests h.....
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<td>15 quarantined after random testing in Okara</td>
<td>Correspondent, Dawn, Islamabad</td>
<td>2020-08-27</td>
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<td>Punjab EPA pays no heed to air quality during corona lockdown</td>
<td>Samiullah Randhawa, Daily Times</td>
<td>2020-08-28</td>
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<td>Shi‘ite ulema turn to online majalis amid the pandemic</td>
<td>Asif Mehmood, The Express Tribune, Islamabad</td>
<td>2020-08-28</td>
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<td>‘Chances of another spike can rise if SOPs not followed’</td>
<td>Muhammad Qasim, The News, International</td>
<td>2020-08-29</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 virus-related deaths, 96 new cases across Punjab in 24 hours</td>
<td>Our Correspondent, The News, International</td>
<td>2020-08-29</td>
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OKARA: Fifteen people have been tested positive during random test for coronavirus during the last 10 days or so in Okara. Deputy District Officer Health Dr Gilani said these patients had been quarantined after three teams of the District Health Authority randomly conducted tests. These mobile teams are working in the field at Okara, Depalpur and Renala Khurd tehsils and took samples of people at.....

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The Punjab Environment Protection Agency (EPA) has failed in preparing an air quality assessment report during a recent lockdown in the country that was imposed due to COVID-19 pandemic. Experts have been criticized for not measuring air quality during lockdown, saying this was the “golden chance” for the Punjab EPA to assess air quality which could helpful in formulating any policy in ..... more >>

LAHORE: No Covid-19 death was reported while 74 new infections were confirmed across the province during the last 24 hours, according to a report issued by Primary and Secondary Healthcare (P&SH) Department here on Thursday. The toll of fatalities stayed at 2,193 in Punjab, while confirmed cases of novel coronavirus reached 96,540 in the province. Out of a total of 96,540 infections in ..... more >>

LAHORE: Due to the coronavirus pandemic, Muharram gatherings (majalis) have been organised in selected imambargahs of the city. However, for those who prefer not to attend large gatherings because of the spread of coronavirus, arrangements for online majalis have also been done. Many zakirs and scholars, who could not go abroad to attend the yearly majalis due to the pandemic, have also gone onl..... more >>

Rawalpindi : In last 24 hours, another 20 patients have been tested positive for COVID-19 from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district hinting that the situation may not become normal in next few days as was being expected because in last one week, as many as 184 new patients have been reported from the region. On average, over 20 confirmed patients of coronavirus illness are b..... more >>

LAHORE: Two COVID-19 related deaths and 96 new infections were reported across Punjab during the last 24 hours. According to daily situation report issued by Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare (P&SH) Department, the toll of fatalities stayed at 2,195 while confirmed cases of novel virus reached 96,636 in the province. Of 96 new cases, 53 were reported from Lahore, followed by Bahaw..... more >>
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<tr>
<td><strong>96 new cases of COVID-19 reported in Punjab</strong></td>
<td>Staff Reporter, <em>The Nation, Islamabad</em>, 2020-08-29</td>
<td>2020-08-29</td>
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<td>LAHORE - The COVID-19 took away two more lives in the province while</td>
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<td>the number of coronavirus cases in the province reached 96,636 after</td>
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<td>registration of 96 new cases. According to a spokesperson for the</td>
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<td>Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department on Friday, so far</td>
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<td>a total number of deaths has been recorded as 2,195. The P&amp;SHD</td>
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<td>confirmed that 53 new cases of COVID-19 were reported.</td>
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<td>more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<td><strong>Punjab witnesses constant drop in Covid cases</strong></td>
<td>Asif Chaudhry, <em>Dawn, Islamabad</em>, 2020-08-30</td>
<td>2020-08-30</td>
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<td>LAHORE: For the last five consecutive days, Punjab has reported less</td>
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<td>than 100 cases of the Covid-19, showing a constant decrease in the</td>
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<td>transmission of the virus and new confirmed cases. It was almost for</td>
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<td>the first time that no person was confirmed as positive out of the</td>
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<td>total 1,338 contacts of 36 patients during the last 24 hours in</td>
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<td>Punjab. On Saturday, 63 more patients tested positive for the.</td>
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<td>more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<td><strong>23 test positive for Covid-19, no death in one week</strong></td>
<td>Muhammad Qasim, <em>The Nation, Islamabad</em>, 2020-08-30</td>
<td>2020-08-30</td>
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<td>Rawalpindi: No death due to coronavirus illness, COVID-19 was</td>
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<td>reported from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district</td>
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<td>in last one week, since August 23 and it is the first week after</td>
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<td>March witnessed by the population in the twin cities without</td>
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<td>reporting of a death due to the illness. It is worth mentioning here</td>
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<td>that the first death due to the illness was reported on March 25</td>
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<td>this year.</td>
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<td>LAHORE: No COVID-19 death occurred while 63 new infections were</td>
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<td>confirmed across the province during the last 24 hours, according to</td>
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<td>a report issued by Primary and Secondary Healthcare (P&amp;SH) Department</td>
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<td>on Saturday. The toll of fatalities stayed at 2,195 in Punjab, while</td>
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<td>confirmed cases of the novel coronavirus reached 96,699 in the</td>
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<td>province. Out of a total of 96,699 infections in Punjab.</td>
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<td><strong>Balochistan CM reviews Covid-19 situation</strong></td>
<td>Our Staff Reporter, <em>The Nation, Islamabad</em>, 2020-08-30</td>
<td>2020-08-30</td>
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<td>LAHORE - Chief Minister of Balochistan Jam Kamal Khan chaired a</td>
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<td>high level meeting held in Quetta and reviewed matters pertaining</td>
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<td>to coronavirus situation and opening of educational institutions in</td>
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<td>the province. During the meeting, the Chief Minister constituted a</td>
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<td>committee comprised provincial secretaries of Health, Education,</td>
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<td>Information Technology departments and Chief Minister Delivery Un.....</td>
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<td>LAHORE: Punjab reported 63 new coronavirus cases over the past 24</td>
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<td>hours and no death related to the contagion was reported in the</td>
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<td>province. According to Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare</td>
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<td>Department, the total number of confirmed cases across the province</td>
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<td>has reached to 96,699. As many as 935,716 samples have been tested</td>
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<td>to diagnose the presence of COVID-19 thus far, according to a.</td>
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Nawaz ‘at much greater risk’ if exposed to Covid-19: medical report  
Source: DNA, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-08-31  
LAHORE: The counsel of former prime minister Nawaz Sharif submitted his fresh medical reports in Lahore High Court (LHC) on Monday which shows that his client is more vulnerable than a normal person if exposed to Covid-19. The Sharif family patriarch is in London undergoing treatment for complicated coronary artery disease and other ailments. Nawaz’s, given his age and significant disease.....

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Sindh

COVID-19 claims six more lives in Sindh  
The coronavirus has claimed six more lives in Sindh over the last 24 hours, said Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Monday. “As many as six more patients of the coronavirus lost their lives, taking the death toll to 2,373,” he said in his daily COVID-19 situation report. He said 9,426 tests were conducted against which 172 new cases of COVID-19 emerged, which constituted a two per.....

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SEF conducts teachers training on Microsoft software during COVID-19 pandemic  
KARACHI: The sudden outbreak of COVID-19 shook the entire world. People were confined & limited to their home due to this atrocious Novel Corona Virus Disease. Owing to the dreadful situation almost all of the operations of the world’s systems. Not only this but the situation also challenged the education system across the world and forced educators to shift an online mode of tea.....

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Financial markets; Coronavirus drastically damaged performance: FPCCI VP  
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-08-25  
KARACHI: Khurram Ijaz, vice president of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), said that the outbreak of the coronavirus had not only affected trade and industry of Pakistan, but it had also drastically damaged the performance of the financial markets. Chairing a webinar on the "Implications of Covid-19 on the Financial Market/Institutions of Pak.....

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'Epidemic Covid-19 drastically undermined Pakistan’s financial market performance’  
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-08-25  
KARACHI: The coronavirus outbreak has not only affected the trade and industry in Pakistan but has also drastically undermined the performance of the financial market and major economic indicators, said Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) Vice President Khurram Ijaz. Chairing a webinar on the “Implications of Covid-19 on the Financial Market/Institutions of Pak.....

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Eat, drink and be safe  
Source: Peerzada Salman, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-26  
KARACHI: Now that the federal and provincial governments have allowed restaurants and hotels to reopen, it will surely go a long way, albeit slowly, in bringing back the service industry to its feet. However, restaurant owners and their staff who run these businesses on a daily basis must not throw caution to the wind. The pandemic hasn’t gone away. Yes, the fact that its effect has lessened.....

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Coronavirus death toll hits 2,384 as 11 more perish
Eleven more patients have died from the novel coronavirus and another 220 people have been infected in Sindh. The province’s coronavirus death toll stands at 2,384, according to the chief minister’s daily COVID-19 situation report issued on Tuesday. Syed Murad Ali Shah said 8,214 samples were tested that reported 220 positive cases in a day. The total number of coronavirus case.....
more >>

Four more die; 201 new cases of Covid-19 registered: Murad
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-08-27
KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that four patients died overnight lifting the death toll to 2388 while 201 new cases of Covid-19 emerged when 6389 samples were tested. This he said in a statement issued here on Wednesday. He said that four more patients lost the lives lifting the death toll to 2388 that constituted 1.8 percent death rate. Overnight 90 more patients .....
more >>

201 new cases of COVID-19 detected in Sindh Share:
Source: Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-08-27
KARACHI - Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that 6389 tests were conducted in the last 24 hours, of which 201 new cases of coronavirus were detected across the province. He said 4 patients lost their battle against COVID-19 during last 24 hours, said a statement issued here on Wednesday regarding the situation of coronavirus in Sindh. The Chief Minister said a total of 977056.....
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Coronavirus death toll
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-27
KARACHI: Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said on Wednesday that four Covid-19 patients died overnight, lifting the death toll to 2,388 while 201 new cases emerged when 6,389 samples were tested. ..... more >>

Coronavirus death toll
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-28
KARACHI: Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said on Wednesday that four Covid-19 patients died overnight, lifting the death toll to 2,388 while 201 new cases emerged when 6,389 samples were tested. ..... more >>

50,000 PPE kits donated to Sindh govt
Source: From the Newspaper, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-28
KARACHI: The donor-funded TVET Sector Support Programme handed over 50,000 personal protective equipment (PPE) kits and 40,000 surgical masks to the government of Sindh on Wednesday at a small ceremony held at the training institute of ‘Charter for Compassion’. Amin Hashwani, president of CfC Pakistan, said that Charter for Compassion Society of Pakistan is operating schools all across..... more >>
In Pakistan, banks found vulnerable to online fraud
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-08-30
KARACHI: The Covid-19 pandemic has enhanced the pace of Pakistan’s transformation to a digital economy, however, banks in the country are still losing an estimated Rs1 billion in online fraud every year, said Habib Bank Limited Chief Operating Officer Sagheer Mufti. Speaking at the 12th International Information Security Conference of Pakistan, Mufti said after eradication of the Covid-19 .....
## International News

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<th>Countries News</th>
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| **Japan PM in hospital for more checks as health speculation grows**  
Source: Agencies, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-25  
Japan’s Prime Minister Shinzo Abe returned to hospital on Monday for more medical checks, a government spokesman said, a week after a first visit that fuelled growing speculation about his health. “I’ve been told today he will receive additional testing after a check-up” last week, government spokesman Yoshihide Suga told reporters at a regular briefing. “I see him ev..... | more >> |
| **Airplane mode and prepaid SIMs: some Israelis dodge COVID-19 tracking**  
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-08-25  
Israel’s cellphone surveillance for coronavirus contact-tracing may have overcome challenges by privacy watchdogs, but the state tracking policy is hard put to deal with low-tech evasion methods seemingly lifted from TV cop shows. Some Israelis, fearing a quarantine order after unwittingly being near a coronavirus carrier, are rendering themselves untraceable while in public by ..... | more >> |
| **US authorizes plasma treatment against virus**  
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-08-25  
American authorities announced on Sunday an emergency authorization for doctors to use blood plasma from recovered coronavirus patients as a treatment against the disease that has killed over 176,000 in the US. The move by the Food and Drug Administration comes as President Donald Trump faces intense pressure to curb the contagion that has hobbled the world’s largest economy and clou..... | more >> |
| **US approves plasma to treat virus, global death toll above 800,000**  
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-08-25  
The United States announced an emergency authorization to use blood plasma from recovered coronavirus patients as a treatment for the disease, which has killed more than 800,000 people around the world. Many governments around the world are renewing efforts — including the reimposition of lockdowns — to contain the virus, which has infected well over 24 million people. The United States ..... | more >> |
| **Lebanon’s service sector says it will rebel against lockdown**  
Source: AFP, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-26  
BEIRUT: A representative of Lebanon’s hospitality sector said on Tuesday that service and tourism businesses would defy a newly reinstated coronavirus lockdown that has compounded the blast-hit country’s economic woes. “From tomorrow, we will open our doors,” said Tony Ramy, head of the syndicate of owners of restaurants, cafes, nightclubs and pastry shops. “The arb..... | more >> |
| **Spain calls in army to fight virus pandemic**  
Source: AFP, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-26  
MADRID: Spain will call in the army to help identify those who have been exposed to people infected with coronavirus as part of efforts to curb the spread of the disease, Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez said Tuesday. The central |
government will make 2,000 soldiers who are trained in tracking available to the regions, which are responsible for health care, to assist in tracking cases and stem a rise ..... more >>

'Pakistan counts on Russia to supply COVID-19 Vaccine should need arise' says Pak envoy to Russia
Source: Sputnik, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-08-26
Russia would provide Pakistan with a coronavirus vaccine should such need arise in light of the thriving bilateral relations, Pakistani Ambassador to Russia Shafqat Ali Khan said on the sidelines of the Russia-hosted Army-2020 international forum on Tuesday. "I am not in the position to comment on the purchase because we are still assessing various vaccines. But we know that if we need i..... more >>

COVID-19 keeps Rohingya refugees indoors on ‘genocide’ anniversary
Source: Agencies, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-08-26
Kutupalong-Almost a million Rohingya refugees stuck in Bangladesh mark three years since escaping from Myanmar on Tuesday, with coronavirus forcing them to hold a day-long “silent protest” inside their flimsy, leaky huts. An August 2017 military operation -- that has triggered genocide charges at the UN’s top court -- drove 750,000 Rohingya out of Myanmar’s Rakhine sta..... more >>

Over 400 mn children deprived of virtual schooling: UN report
UNITED NATIONS: A study published by the UNICEF on Wednesday has said that over 400 million students around the world lack access to virtual education, which has become widespread after schools were closed because of COVID-19 pandemic. In all, an estimated 463 million children lack the equipment or electronic access to pursue distance learning, said the report from UNICEF. "The sheer..... more >>

Melania offers sympathy over virus, racial suffering in speech
Source: Reuters, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-27
WASHINGTON: First lady Melania Trump urged US voters to re-elect her husband during an impassioned speech to the Republican convention on Tuesday that offered sympathy for victims of the coronavirus pandemic and a plea for racial understanding. On the second day of the convention with 70 days to go until the Nov 3 election, the speech’s warm tone was out of step with a Republican gathering ..... more >>

Women may mount stronger Covid-19 immune response: study
Source: AFP, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-27
PARIS: A new study looking at male and female immune responses to the new coronavirus may shed new light on why men are more likely to become seriously ill with Covid-19, researchers said on Wednesday. Since early in the pandemic it has been clear that men, particularly older men, are at a far higher risk of dying from the virus than women of a similar age, but scientists have not yet been able t..... more >>

Masks compulsory in all Paris as virus cases mount
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-08-28
France’s prime minister announced Thursday that face masks will become compulsory throughout Paris as he detailed a national trend of expanding coronavirus infections. Jean Castex said 19 departments have been added to
a map with “red” zones of active virus circulation, meaning 21 of France’s 94 departments are now classified as such.

Official figures released We.....

Melania offers sympathy over virus, racial suffering in speech
Source: Reuters, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-28
WASHINGTON: First lady Melania Trump urged US voters to re-elect her husband during an impassioned speech to the Republican convention on Tuesday that offered sympathy for victims of the coronavirus pandemic and a plea for racial understanding. On the second day of the convention with 70 days to go until the Nov 3 election, the speech’s warm tone was out of step with a Republican gathering ..... more >>

Coca-Cola to cut jobs as coronavirus hits sales
Source: Reuters, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-08-29
WASHINGTON: Coca-Cola Co on Friday joined a list of big US companies laying off thousands of workers in response to the coronavirus crisis, offering voluntary deals across its businesses and promising to halve its number of operating units. The company was offering voluntary redundancy to 4,000 workers in the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico and would offer similar deals in other markets, i.....

Paris masks up as European leaders warn virus fight getting tougher
Source: AFP, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-29
PARIS: Masks became compulsory outdoors all over Paris on Friday as France joined a growing global battle against new virus outbreaks, while Germany warned the crisis will be “more difficult” in the autumn and winter. There has been a surge of infections in many countries as well as a rising global death toll, which now stands at more than 832,000. In the worst-hit United States,.....

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South Korean doctors’ strike escalates even as Seoul races to tackle Covid surge
Source: Reuters, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-29
SEOUL: The South Korean government ramped up efforts to end a strike by thousands of the country’s doctors on Friday, as Seoul took the unprecedented step of restricting eateries in the capital in a bid to blunt a surge in coronavirus cases. The Health Ministry extended a back-to-work order for doctors to the entire country and filed a complaint with police against at least 10 doctors it sa.....

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Berlin police stop anti-coronavirus protest
Source: AFP, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-30
BERLIN: German police on Saturday halted a march by some 18,000 coronavirus sceptics in Berlin because many were not respecting social distancing measures. The mass protest against pandemic restrictions had been allowed to go ahead after a bitter legal battle. But it had barely begun at 0900 GMT at the city’s iconic Brandenburg Gate, when it was forced to stop due to a police injunction. ..... more >>

S. Korea running out of sickbeds in Covid-19 resurgence
Source: Reuters, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-08-30
SEOUL: South Korea reported more than 300 infections of the new coronavirus on Saturday, the 16th day of three-digit rises, fanning concerns about a worsening shortage of sickbeds amid a resurgence of Covid-19. The Korea
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (KCDC) posted 308 new cases as of midnight on Friday, bringing the total infections to 19,400, including 321 deaths from Covid-19. Aft.....

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‘Double lockdown’: Covid-19 adds to blockaded Gaza's despair
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-08-30
On a deserted beachfront in a newly locked-down Gaza, fishermen look impotently at the Mediterranean waters they can no longer access under two separate bans – one by Israel and the other by Hamas police imposing Covid-19 restrictions. In a narrow coastal enclave that is home to 2 million Palestinians, the 40 km coastline in normal times provides an important food source, and employment for 4.....

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College towns growing alarmed over outbreaks among students
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-08-30
As more and more schools and businesses around the country get the OK to reopen, some college towns are moving in the opposite direction because of too much partying and too many Covid-19 infections among students. With more than 300 students at the University of Missouri testing positive for the coronavirus, the local health director Friday ordered bars to stop serving alcohol at 9 p.m. and close .....

more >>

UK moves to fast-track coronavirus vaccine if safety tests passed
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-08-30
Britain's medical regulator will be able to grant temporary authorisation for any coronavirus vaccine that meets safety and quality standards but before it has received a full licence, under new plans set out on Friday. The government said that under its proposals the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) would be able to grant this status to a vaccine while it underwent.....

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Katrina to Covid: New Orleans’ Black community pounded again
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-08-30
Levee breaches from Hurricane Katrina dumped six feet of water into the New Orleans home of Mary Duplessis and her husband in 2005. The house was uninhabitable. Rebuilding meant piles of paperwork in a mountain of bureaucracy. She didn’t return to the city for a year. But as the 15th anniversary of the storm approaches, and as another monster storm narrowly missed the city, it's not m.....

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US closes in on 6 million COVID-19 cases mark
WASHINGTON: The United States closed in on a grim milestone of recording six million coronavirus cases on Sunday, nearly a quarter of the planet’s total, as countries continued to contain the raging pandemic. Global coronavirus infections soared past 25 million, as countries tightened restrictions to halt the health crisis that has upended life for most of humanity. A million additional case.....

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WHO says 172 countries engaging with global COVID-19 vaccine plan
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-08-25
Some 172 countries are engaging with the COVAX facility designed to ensure equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines, the World Health Organization said on Monday, but more funding is needed and countries need now to make binding commitments. Countries wishing to be part of the global COVAX plan have until Aug. 31 to submit expressions of interest, WHO officials said, with confirmation of intention to.....
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USAID delivers 54 ventilators to KP hospitals
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-08-26
Peshawar - Aug 25: As part of the on-going partnership with Pakistan’s National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), the United States government, through US Agency for International Development (USAID), in cooperation with the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Health Department, has delivered 54 brand new ventilators to hospitals in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province to support Pakistan’s fight against CO.....
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54 ventilators given to KP hospitals
PESHAWAR: The US Agency for International Development (USAID), in cooperation with the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Health Department, has delivered 54 brand new ventilators to hospitals in KP province to support Pakistan’s fight against COVID-19. Five of these ventilators have been provided to the Lady Reading Hospital in Peshawar. This equipment is part of the 200 ventilators contributed to Pak.....
more >>

Qatar donates medical equipment to Afghan refugees to fight Covid-19
Source: APP, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-08-29
ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of State of Qatar Sheikh Saud bin Abdulrahman Al Thani on Friday handed over a shipment of N-95 masks, medicines, Pulse Oximeters and other medical equipment to Minister of State for States and Frontier Regions (SAFRON) Shehryar Khan Afridi to facilitate Afghan refugees to fight Covid-19 pandemic. According to the press release, Shehryar Khan Afridi expressing gratitude .....
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## SDPI Engagements

### Researchers Articles

**Export competitiveness under PTI**
As Covid-19 lockdowns are being lifted globally, we are witnessing a recovery in exports and other key economic indicators. In July 2020, the monthly exports ($1.89 billion) still stood below the in July of the previous year ($2.22 billion), however a 20 percent growth was witnessed compared to the previous month - June 2020 value of $1.58 billion. An encouraging feature of this recovery is .....  
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### Webinars News

**Hit by Covid-19: Pakistan’s export sector lacks credit, financing facilities to revive business**
Source: Our Correspondent, *The Express Tribune, Islamabad*, 2020-08-26
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's export sector has been badly hit by the Covid-19 outbreak and lacks credit and financing facilities needed to revive business and trade, said experts from the business and finance industry. Addressing an online dialogue on “Credit and finance issues faced by exporters amid Covid-19” on Tuesday, they shared that all financing schemes should be designed to c.....  
more >>

**Speakers urge better financing facility to revive Covid19 hit export sector**
Source: Tariq Ullah Wardak, *Daily Times*, 2020-08-26
The export sector in Pakistan has been worse hit due to Covid19 and lacks much needed credit and finance facilities to revive the business and trade. Therefore, all financing schemes should be designed to cater this urgent need of the sector. The experts on business and finances, said this while sharing their views with the participants at online dialogue ‘Credit and Finance Issues faced by .....  
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**Speakers urge better financing facility to revive Covid19 hit export sector**
Source: DNA News, *DNA News*, 2020-08-26
ISLAMABAD, AUG 25 – The export sector in Pakistan has been worse hit due to Covid19 and needs credit and finance support to revive the business and trade. Therefore, all financing schemes should be designed to cater this urgent need of the sector. The experts on business and finance, said this while sharing their views with the participants at online dialogue ‘Credit and Finance Issues .....  
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Harmful taxation of IT/telecom sectors
Source: Huzaima Bukhari and Dr Ikramul Haq, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-08-28
ARTICLE: The Pakistan telecom sector contributes steady inflow of heavy tax collections under major heads like Activation Tax, GST/FED, the PTA fee & charges and others. The PTA has been advocating to the government to reduce the tax burden on the sector, which it considers as an impediment for its growth—Vision 2020, Pakistan Telecommunication Authority [PTA] The Musharraf Government f.....

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