…..About Newsletter

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

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

Newspapers Covered:

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

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

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Tel: +92.51. 2278134, Fax: 2278135,
## Op-Eds/Articles/Editorials

### The worst is yet to come
Source: Farrukh Khan Pitafi, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-10-10
Donald Trump has Covid. The United States president is considered the most powerful man on the planet. And yet a microbe infinitely smaller than him plunged the world’s pre-eminent power into a crisis. The seriousness of this crisis will probably never be known owing to the US media’s post-truth meltdown. The US President is around 74, the exact target demographic for the coronavirus.

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### Trump and China
There are certain reasons why the Trump administration continues to attack China. The Trump administration's attitude has become aggressive as the November presidential elections are approaching. Tensions are rising between the two largest economies of the world. President Trump is trailing against Democratic candidate Joe Biden. He thinks that the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic in ....

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### A grey winter
Last Friday, not a single person was wearing a mask at one of the largest mosques in Karachi where hundreds of people gather five times a day to offer prayers and hundreds on Friday afternoon. Everybody, from a three-year-old to elderly people in their 70s and 80s were standing in rows, without leaving any distance between one another. Schools, too, are open and thousands of children are attending.....

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### Measuring decent work
Composite indicators or performance indices are quite popular in current times for assessing the performance of various countries. The popularity owes itself to their simplicity in providing a summary picture of the complex phenomenon allowing comparison and evaluation. Composite indices have been created to monitor country policies and communicate the state of affairs to the public for multidimen....

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### Can cities be pandemic- resilient?
The 21st century has so far seen SARS, MERS, Ebola, Bird flu, Swine flu and now Covid-19. If we have indeed entered an era of pandemics, a new debate has surfaced as to how we should plan the cities of tomorrow so that the outdoors don’t become no-go zones and remain safe and habitable spaces. There are valid reasons to look at historic crises as moments of dramatic urban change. 19th-centur.....

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### Time to invest in mental heath
Source: Asma Humayun, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-10-11
AT least three events this year have underscored the need for Pakistan’s leaders to urgently and proactively invest in mental health. The first is the global pandemic: despite Pakistan's relative success in tackling the pandemic, like elsewhere around the world Pakistanis too have experienced a widespread and heightened state of stress, anxiety, fear and uncertainty as a result of Covi.....

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Inclusive education
Source: Amber Dar, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2020-10-11
AS universities in the UK reopen for a new academic year, they find themselves embroiled in two distinct but equally important challenges. Whilst the first is related to the ongoing pandemic and poses the dilemma of delivering quality education while taking adequate protection against the spread of Covid-19, the second stems from the Black Lives Matter movement that erupted across universities thi.....

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Pandemic and the global economy (Part II)
Source: Hassnain Javed, *Daily Times*, 2020-10-10
Some companies are ahead of the game the Spanish clothing retailer Zara is one of the most successful in the clothing industry, and its shorter supply chains have helped the company weather the Covid19 storm. While most western high street fashion brands have offshored manufacturing to Asia where labour is cheaper distance equals time. So, retailers have to bulk order six months in advance, and in t.....

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Wearing a mask shows a caring attitude
While COVID-19 infections are on an upward spiral, in Pakistan most citizens are ignoring SOP’s, especially the wearing of masks and keeping a safe distance between each other. The bazaars are crowded as are other places where people like to congregate. While SOP’s were not ever followed by small shopkeepers/owners, and most of the general public, even those who used to insist that thei.....

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‘Mental health problems and COVID-19’
Islamabad : Pakistan Institute of Living and Learning (PILL), in collaboration with University of Manchester organised an online event entitled ‘Mental Health Problems and COVID-19.’ The event was organised in line with ‘World Mental Health Day-2020’, which is celebrated world wide every year on 10th of October, says a press release. According to WHO, 450 million pe.....

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Travel Gone 2020
Source: Haya Fatima Sehgal, *Daily Times*, 2020-10-11
If somebody would’ve have told us last year to invest in Zoom shares and stock up at home on pasta, tons of litres of Dettol and toilet paper, I would’ve laughed it off as a joke. I think many memes were floating similarly on the internet about this. Unfortunately, now, it feels like the joke was on us. (No disrespect to any of the things listed) We didn't have a time machine or .....

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Literacy losses due to the pandemic
With more than 22 million children out of school Pakistan holds the embarrassing distinction of having the lowest literacy rate in South Asia. As per official figures, for a while the literacy has hovered around 58 percent. Even that seems to be a somewhat exaggerated statistic considering that many of the ‘literates’ cannot read and write, the quality of education in most schools bein.....

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>The second wave</strong></td>
<td>Attiya Munawar, The Nation, Islamabad , 2020-10-11</td>
<td>2020-10-11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Since the onset of the corona epidemic, the virus has killed one million people worldwide, while the number of people infected with the coronavirus has been steadily rising, with 32 million people currently. With the onset of winter, the second wave of corona is being witnessed in most of the northern countries of the world and people are being affected by it on a daily basis. So far, the United S.....</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Knives, footballs and riches</strong></td>
<td>Fatima S Attarwala, Dawn, Islamabad , 2020-10-12</td>
<td>2020-10-12</td>
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<tr>
<td>What do swords and the football-loving British have in common? Not much except the start of a heritage that enabled Sialkot to become the richest city in Pakistan. The blacksmiths of the region had been known to produce swords and daggers for the Mughal emperors. At the end of the 19th century, the manufacturing of surgical instruments began when the American Mission Hospital in Sialkot got its i.....</td>
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<td><strong>How pandemics affect development outcomes?</strong></td>
<td>Tehreem Husain, The Express Tribune, Islamabad , 2020-10-12</td>
<td>2020-10-12</td>
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<td>NORTHAMPTON: The current Covid-19 crisis has posed huge economic, societal and public health challenges worldwide. While discussions on the disastrous impact of the pandemic have primarily revolved around economic challenges that affect global population, the crisis also has deep short-term and long-term consequences for health and development outcomes. History has taught us many cases where th.....</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Covid-19’s resurgence</strong></td>
<td>Editorial, Daily Times, 2020-10-12</td>
<td>2020-10-12</td>
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<td>The government is now realising that it was not the best idea to reopen all of the economy all at once. For now we have the rather discomforting thought of losing some of our advantage over the rest of the world as coronavirus cases, as well as deaths caused by it, are once again on the rise and smart lockdowns have already had to be reintroduced in parts of Karachi and Islamabad. And the governme.....</td>
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## National News

### Balochistan

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<tr>
<th>Lawmaker tests positive for coronavirus</th>
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<td><strong>Source:</strong> Correspondent, <a href="https://dawn.com">Dawn, Islamabad</a>, 2020-10-12</td>
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<td>QUETTA: Bushra Rind, the parliamentary secretary and chairperson of the Quetta Development authority, has been infected with coronavirus and was admitted to the Fatima Jinnah Chest Hospital on Sunday. “I have tested positive for Covid-19 and gone into isolation,” she said in a statement. Medical Superintendent of the hospital Dr Noorullah Musakhail said that she had been put on oxyge.....</td>
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<td><a href="https://dawn.com">more &gt;&gt;</a></td>
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<tr>
<th>Bushra Rind tests positive for Covid</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Source:</strong> Our Correspondent, <a href="https://tribune.com.pk">The Express Tribune, Islamabad</a>, 2020-10-12</td>
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<tr>
<td>QUETTA: Bushra Rind, the parliamentary leader of Balochistan Awami Party and chairperson of Quetta development authority announced on Sunday that she had tested positive for coronavirus and gone into self-isolation. The BAP leader was hospitalised at Fatima Jinnah Chest and General Hospital Quetta. According to the Medical Superintendent of the hospital Dr Noorullah Moosakhel she was admitted i.....</td>
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<td><a href="https://tribune.com.pk">more &gt;&gt;</a></td>
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PTI GB president dies of Covid-19
Source: Correspondent, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-10-12
GILGIT: Veteran politician and Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf, Gilgit-Baltistan chapter president Syed Jaffar Shah, 75, passed away in an Islamabad hospital on Sunday. He was infected with Covid-19, last month, and was admitted to a private hospital in the federal capital. Family sources said from last two days his health had started deteriorating as coronavirus had affected his lungs and heart. They ......

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Islamabad

Fawad ‘advises’ opposition to postpone movement till next year amid fears of second wave of coronavirus
ISLAMABAD: Stating fears of a second wave of coronavirus, Federal Minister for Science and Technology Fawad Chaudhry on Saturday ‘advised’ Opposition parties to postpone their scheduled political rallies and sit-ins till next year. It may be recalled that the Opposition alliance Pakistan Democratic Moment (PDM) has announced rallies across the country against the PTI government. The first.....
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New guidelines for marriage halls
Islamabad: The National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) on Friday issued guidelines for marriage halls to hold wedding ceremonies amid strict compliance of standard operating procedures (SOPs) and safety guidelines. The NCOC meeting was briefed that marriage halls have been reopened from 15 September in view of overall positive results of government’s smart lockdown policy about.....
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5 educational institutions sealed over corona cases
Islamabad: The district administration on Friday sealed five educational institutions in Islamabad for five days after the detection of coronavirus among staff members. The development comes in line with the guidelines issued by the national health services ministry to stem the spread of coronavirus after the recent reopening of educational institutions. According to District Health Offi.....
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One more Covid-19 patient dies, 58 new infections confirmed
LAHORE:A Covid-19 patient died while another 58 new infections were confirmed across Punjab during the last 24 hours. According to a report issued by Primary and Secondary Healthcare (P&SH) Department Punjab on Friday, the toll of fatalities rose to 2,248 while the number of confirmed cases of coronavirus reached 100,330 in the province. According to a spokesperson for Corona Monitori.....
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Senate body informed; Number of Covid-19 cases spike in capital
Source: Fazal Sher, Business Recorder, Islamabad , 2020-10-10
ISLAMABAD: The number of deadly coronavirus cases has again shown an upward trend in the country in general, and the federal capital in particular during the last few days but the situation is still under control as we have not yet enter the danger zone. Officials of the Ministry of Health, District Health Department said this, while briefing the Senate Standing Committee on Interior, which m.....
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Marriage halls to close functions within 2 hours
Source: Tahir Niaz, The Nation, Islamabad , 2020-10-10
ISLAMABAD - The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Friday issued guidelines for marriage halls to hold wedding ceremonies amid strict compliance of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and safety guidelines. The NCOC meeting was briefed that marriage halls were reopened from 15 September in view of overall positive results of government’s smart lockdown policy about COVID-.....
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### Five more educational institutes sealed in Islamabad

Source: Rahul Basharat, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-10-10

ISLAMABAD - The city health authorities on Friday sealed five more educational institutions in the same week after confirmation of around 20 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) cases in different institutions in a single day. The District Health Office (DHO) after confirmation of the COVID-19 cases in educational institutions asked the Deputy Commissioner Office (DCO) of the Islamabad Capital Territory (.....

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### Black & Asian patients at increased risk of severe covid-19

Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-10-10

ISLAMABAD - Patients of Black ethnicity have an increased risk of requiring hospital admission for COVID-19, while patients of Asian ethnicity have an increased risk of dying in hospital from COVID-19, compared to White patients, a study has found. Data analysis published recently in EClinicalMedicine, led by researchers at King’s College London, with support from the NIHR Guy’s and St T.....

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### Covid claims 4 lives in two days

Source: Shabbir Hussain, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-10-10

ISLAMABAD: Four people died of novel coronavirus disease (Covid-19) in the past two days, while 164 people were tested positive for the infection raising alarms in the healthcare and district administration of a likely second wave of the pandemic. People in general had lowered the guard against the pandemic, which had waned in August despite repeated warnings by the authorities to observe standar.....

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### Three die, 105 more test positive


Islamabad: Coronavirus illness, COVID-19 has claimed three more lives in Rawalpindi district in last 24 hours while another 105 patients have been confirmed positive from Rawalpindi and Islamabad Capital Territory making situation alarming to an extent that District Health Officer ICT recommended on Saturday to seal at least 10 streets and a road in the federal capital as per criteria of smart lo.....

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### Students urged to ensure anti-COVID-19 guidelines


Islamabad: Superintendent of Police (SP), Industrial Area Zone, Zubair Ahmed Sheikh has urged the students to ensure the anti-coronavirus guidelines to keep them safe against the virus. The SP shared these remarks while addressing a ceremony during his visit at Model School for Boys, located in sector I-14/4, the other day. The officials of Islamabad Police were visiting schools and col.....

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### Islamabad reimposes ‘mini smart’ lockdown

Source: Munawer Azeem, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-10-11

ISLAMABAD: Four weeks after regular activities resumed in the federal capital, the local administration on Saturday decided to reimpose a ‘mini smart lockdown’ in various areas after an increase in Covid-19 cases was reported in the city. The order was issued by the national health services (NHS) ministry under which a number of streets would be sealed on Sunday morning, Th.....

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Squads to impose Covid-19 SOPs
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-10-11
ISLAMABAD: The Rawalpindi District Health Authority (DHA) has formed public health security squads to impose standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the prevention of the second wave of coronavirus disease. The coronavirus situation is getting more alarming in the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi as a patient succumbed to the virus in the federal capital and 122 new cases were reported o.....
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Micro-lockdown in capital
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-10-11
ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Deputy Commissioner (DC) Hamza Shafqat has directed the residents of different sectors to stockpile basic commodities before Sunday evening as they would be put under micro-lockdown. A circular in this regard has been issued by the Islamabad administration on Saturday. It said that several streets located in different sectors would be sealed off in the federal capital after.....
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PTI holds mammoth convention amid Covid-19 spike
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-10-11
ISLAMABAD: Despite warning to the opposition parties for not holding rallies to avoid further spread of Covid-19, the ruling Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), on Saturday held a mammoth organisational convention at Liaquat Bagh in Rawalpindi. The PTI has repeatedly been warning the opposition parties not to hold rallies since they announced anti-government movement from the platform Pakistan De.....
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Smart lockdown imposed in 10 streets of Islamabad
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-10-11
ISLAMABAD - The city health authorities once again on Saturday imposed smart lockdown in 10 streets of three sectors due to increase in novel coronavirus (COVID-19) cases. The District Health Office (DHO) in this regard wrote a letter to the Deputy Commissioner Office (DCO) of the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) to impose the lockdown in these streets. According to the DHO ICT COVID-19 surveil.....
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Pakistan’s IT exports surge by 24pc despite Covid-19: Aminul Haq
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-10-11
KARACHI - Federal minister for information technology and telecommunications Syed Aminul Haq has said that despite the coronavirus outbreak, the IT exports of Pakistan have increased by 24 percent in the financial year 2019-20, as compared to the financial year 2018-19. He was speaking as the chief guest at the Intellectual Property Excellence Awards co-hosted by the Intellectual Property Ass.....
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Over 50 doctors, paramedics in PIMS test COVID-19 positive
Source: Rahul Basharat, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-10-11
ISLAMABAD-Above 50 staffers including doctors and paramedics of Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) have been infected with the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) on Saturday. PIMS Media Coordinator Dr. Waseem Khawaja talking to The Nation said that above 50 staffs have contracted the virus in the recent COVID-19 wave. Giving the details, he said that 17 doctors and medical staff have .....
SP urges students to ensure implementation of anti-COVID-19 guidelines
Source: APP, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-10-11
ISLAMABAD - Superintendent of Police (SP), Industrial Area Zone, Zubair Ahmed Sheikh has urged the students to ensure implementation of the anti-coronavirus guidelines to keep them safe against the virus. He remarked while addressing a ceremony during his visit at Model School for Boys, located in sector I-14/4. The officials of Islamabad Police were visiting schools and colleges under Police..... 

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Schools, college sealed
Islamabad: The district administration has sealed more educational institutions in Islamabad for five days over the detection of coronavirus among staff members. They'll be allowed to resume classes only after buildings are disinfected and contacts of the confirmed cases are traced to ensure the safety of other students and school staff, said District Health Officer Dr Zaeem Zia. Accor.....

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Covid positivity rate crosses 2pc first time in six weeks
Source: kram Junaidi, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-10-12
ISLAMABAD: With the percentage of positive Covid-19 infections crossing two per cent for the first time in six weeks, Pakistan seems hopeful of acquiring a vaccine in the next six months. An official of the Ministry of National Health Services, requesting not to be quoted, said the University of Health Sciences (UHS) had been collaborating with Oxford University on a vaccine but the UK varsity so.....

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Umar urges public cooperation as Covid-19 positivity rate rises over 2pc
Source: News Desk, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-10-11
ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning and Development Asad Umar said on Sunday that country's Covid-19 positivity rate had risen to over two percent in the last one week. This increase was observed after a six-week stable national average of less than two percent, Umar revealed on his twitter handle. The minister further added that mini smart lockdowns had been re-imposed in Karachi, Isl.....

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RIUKT’s Covid-19 centre shifted to HFH
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-10-12
ISLAMABAD/RAWALPINDI: Amidst fears of a second wave of the novel coronavirus, a dedicated centre to treat patients of the pandemic virus at the Rawalpindi Institute of Urology and Kidney Transplant has been shifted. It has been learnt that the last six novel coronavirus (Covid-19) patients at the Rawalpindi Institute of Urology and Kidney Transplant (RIUKT) have been shifted to a ward dedicated ..... 

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Asad Umar shows concern over Covid-19 rising cases
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-10-12
ISLAMABAD - Minister for Planning and Development Asad Umar has expressed concerns over the rising cases of Covid-19 in the country. According to officials, the coronavirus claimed 12 more lives and infected 666 more people over the past 24 hours. The figure of patients recovered from the virus has reached 303,458. There are now 8,904 active cases in the country. In a tweet on Sunday, the minis.....

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### Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

#### Health experts oppose schools’ closure over virus cases
**Source:** Ashfaq Yusufzai, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2020-10-12

**PESHAWAR:** The health experts have opined that hostels and schools shouldn’t be closed on finding few odd Covid-19 cases but infected ones should be isolated and their close contact quarantined while others should continue academic work with adherence to SOPs religiously. Commenting on the government’s policy of shutting down classrooms, schools and hostels on detection of Covid-19 cases.....

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#### Schools, shopping malls sealed for violating corona SOPs
**Source:** Bureau Report, *The News, International*, 2020-10-10

**PESHAWAR:** The district administration here on Friday sealed schools, shopping malls, wedding halls, shops, markets and bakeries for violating the standard operating procedures (SOPs) set by the government to check the spread of the coronavirus. Sajid Khan, a spokesman for the district administration, said that before taking action, the district administration had issued several notices and.....

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#### College sealed in Oghi as lecturers test positive for corona
**Source:** Our Correspondent, *The News, International*, 2020-10-10

**MANSEHRA:** The Government of Degree College Oghi was sealed on Friday after six lecturers and other staff members test positive for the coronavirus. Officials said Assistant Commissioner Oghi Zainab Ahmad Cheema sealed the college’s central entry and exit gates and offices. Following the closure of the degree college, they said, the examination centre established at the college was r.....

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#### SCCI slams sealing of trade centres, marriage halls

**PESHAWAR:** The Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) on Saturday criticised the district administration for sealing commercial and trade centres, marriage halls and shops on pretext of violating the standard operating procedures (SOPs) set by the government to check the spread of the coronavirus. SCCI President Sherbaz Bilour said the traders were following the SOPs to contain the .....

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#### Steps against Covid-induced stress advocated on Mental Health Day
**Source:** Dawn Report, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2020-10-11

**PESHAWAR/SWAT:** The World Mental Health Day was observed on Saturday with calls for people, particularly students, to consult psychologists to come out of stress caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. A function was organised by the department of psychology in the Government Postgraduate Girls College, Saidu Sharif Swat, where the speakers, including psychologists and educationists, pointed out that the.....

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# Punjab

## One death, 147 new cases show outbreak gets intense
Rawalpindi: As many as 147 new patients have been tested positive for coronavirus illness, COVID-19 in last 24 hours from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district showing the outbreak has once again got intense as over 140 cases in a day have been reported from the region after three months. The virus also claimed one life in ICT in last 24 hours taking death toll from the regi.....

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## Dr Yasmin Rashid advises SOPs over rising virus cases
LAHORE: Punjab Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid on Friday urged people to follow safety precautions in the wake of increase in the number of Covid-19 cases in the province. The minister said that for past one week there has been a gradual increase in the number of corona cases. She said implementation of SOPs in educational institutions has to be ensured. The minister said, “In the wa.....

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## 58 new cases of COVID-19 reported in Punjab
Source: Our Staff Reporter, *The Nation, Islamabad*, 2020-10-10
LAHORE - The COVID-19 pandemic claimed one more life in Punjab while the number of coronavirus cases in the province reached 100,330 after detection of 58 new cases on Friday. According to a spokesperson for the Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD), so far the total number of deaths in the province had reached 2,248. The P&SHD confirmed that 39 new cases of Covid.....

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## Covid-19 claims one more life in Punjab 1,353,115 tests conducted for Covid-19
Source: Our Correspondent, *The Express Tribune, Islamabad*, 2020-10-10
LAHORE: The coronavirus pandemic has claimed one more life in Punjab. The number of virus cases in the province exceeded 100,330 after detection of 58 fresh infections on Friday. According to a spokesperson for Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD), so far the total number of deaths in the province had reached 2,248. The P&SHD confirmed that 39 new cases of Covid-19.....

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## Four coronavirus patients die in Punjab
LAHORE: Four Covid-19 patients died and another 154 new infections were confirmed in Punjab during the last 24 hours, according to a report issued by Primary and Secondary Healthcare (P&SH) Department on Saturday. The toll of fatalities reached 2,252 in Punjab, while confirmed cases of coronavirus reached 100,428 in the province. Out of a total of 100,428 infections in Punjab, as many.....

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## Elderly woman dies of COVID-19
FAISALABAD: An elderly woman of Madina Town died of coronavirus at Allied Hospital on Saturday. Few days earlier Umat-e-Rasool was brought to the hospital with symptoms of Covid-19. Her six family members with coronavirus symptoms were also admitted to the Isolation Ward of the hospital. Reportedly, the condition of three people of her family is critical. .....

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SI held for violating raid SOPs
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-10-11
LAHORE: Capital City Police Officer Umer Sheikh had another police official arrested for ‘misuse of authority’ during a raid at a private hotel in Nawab Town area. Action was taken against him in the light of an inquiry report which held sub-inspector Arshad Ali guilty of violating standard operating procedures (SOPs) while raiding a hotel. The CCPO had taken notice of the incident w.....

Rashid warns of terrorism, coronavirus spread during rallies
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-10-11
LAHORE: Minister for Railways Sheikh Rashid has warned the opposition parties of possibility of terrorism and coronavirus spread due to their joint protest rallies under the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM). He also said the army was democracy, economy and stability of the country. “Today I want to say to the opposition that there is a threat of coronavirus spread and also terrorism. I re.....

Three schools sealed in Pindi, Gujar Khan
Source: Aamir Yasin, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-10-11
RAWALPINDI: Three government schools in Rawalpindi and Gujar Khan were sealed by the district administration after Covid-19 cases were detected in the institutions on Saturday. Moreover, a fine of Rs10,000 fine was imposed on a petrol filing station in Taxila for not adopting the Covid-19 standard operating procedures (SOPs). Deputy Commissioner retired Capt Anwarul Haq told Dawn that one govern.....

New SOPs irk marriage hall owners
Source: Imran Adnan, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-10-11
LAHORE: Marriage hall owners have expressed reservations over the revised standard operating procedures (SOPs) issued by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), restricting the duration of ceremonies and number of guests. Speaking to The Express Tribune on Saturday, Punjab Marriage Halls Association (PMHA) President Mian Muhammad Ilyas criticised the federal and provincial governments .....
Punjab reports 203 coronavirus cases in single day, highest tally in almost 2 months
Punjab reported 203 cases of the novel coronavirus on Saturday, which is the highest tally of the infection's cases reported in almost two months, data from the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) showed on Sunday. A look at the data shows COVID-19 cases are steadily rising in October. Out of the first 10 days of the month, in seven days more than 100 cases of the virus were reported.....

corona hitting twin cities hard
Rawalpindi: Coronavirus illness, COVID-19 outbreak has resumed hitting population badly in the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi after a break of five weeks or so, from August 1 to September 9 as in last 24 hours, the virus claimed another three lives in Rawalpindi district and 93 more patients have been tested positive for the disease from the region. From August 1 to September 9,.....

Punjab heads towards second wave of Covid-19
Source: Asif Chaudhry, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-10-12
LAHORE: Punjab is gradually heading towards a second wave of the Covid-19 as an upsurge has been witnessed in the confirmed cases of the virus across the province during the last 24 hours. According to the official figures obtained on Sunday, 203 people tested positive in Punjab during the same period, the highest number since Aug 15 when the province had recorded 210 confirmed cases of the virus.....

Rawalpindi reports more deaths, cases of Covid-19
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-10-12
RAWALPINDI: Three people died of Covid-19 on Sunday and nine more were diagnosed with the disease, while nine confirmed patients have recovered. A 52-year-old woman who lived in B-Block Satellite Town was brought to Holy Family Hospital on Oct 10 but died Sunday morning, as did 68-year-old woman who lived in Kallar Syedan and was brought to Fauji Foundation Hospital on Oct 10. An 80-year-old wom.....

Five corona patients die, 203 new cases reported
LAHORE: Five Covid-19 patients died and another 203 new infections were confirmed in Punjab during the last 24 hours, according to a report issued by Primary and Secondary Healthcare (P&SH) Department on Sunday. The toll of fatalities rose to 2,257 in Punjab, while confirmed cases of coronavirus reached 100,687 in the province. Out of a total of 100,687 infections in Punjab, 97,907 citi.....

PMA warns of second wave of coronavirus
LAHORE: Pakistan Medical Association (PMA) has warned the government and the general public about the foreseeable second spike of coronavirus, which is likely to start from schools as it happened in US, India and Iran. “Unfortunately, the government’s response so far is limited to issuance of notifications of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), whose implementation is non-exis.....
Fears of second wave of Covid-19 rise
Source: Adnan Lodhi, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-10-12
LAHORE: Fears of a second wave of coronavirus in the province are rising due to non-implementation of precautionary standard operating procedures (SOPs) and laxity on part of the departments concerned. In the past few days, confirmed cases of the disease have increased. On Sunday, at least 203 new confirmed cases of the disease and five deaths due to it were reported in Punjab. The big districts.....
more >>

Coronavirus can hit back, warns Punjab CM
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-10-12
LAHORE - Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar has said that precautionary measures are utmost necessary to deal with coronavirus. He appealed to people to follow the restrictions of wearing masks on public places besides maintaining social distance. He said that COVID-19 Virus could hit back again if people do not follow the SOPs. He said that violation of anti-corona SOPs at educational.....
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Sindh

Covid-19 claims two more lives as another 339 test positive
Two more persons have died due to complications of the novel coronavirus infection in Sindh during the last 24 hours, said Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Friday, adding that the death toll in the province had reached 2,543. In his daily Covid-19 situation report on Friday, he said that with two more deaths in Sindh, the mortality rate stood at 1.8 per cent. As many as 182 more patie.....
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PBIF President urges govt to get benefit of post-pandemic situation
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-10-10
KARACHI: President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum Mian Zahid Hussain has said that pandemic and closure of factories in India and some issue in other regional countries have diverted their attention of foreign buyers to Pakistan. Many foreign buyers have preferred India over Pakistan for two decades but now the situation has changed. Many local textile exporters have booked orde.....
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Health risk allowance for parameics discontinued
Source: Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-10-10
KARACHI - The health risk allowance granted for the health personnel of the Sindh Health Department in view of the COVID-19, has now been discontinued with effect from October 01, 2020 considering weakening severity in the coronavirus. This was stated in an order issued here on Friday. .....
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Six more die of coronavirus, 221 test positive
The novel coronavirus has claimed six more lives in Sindh during the past 24 hours, taking the death toll to 2,549 and showing the mortality rate to be at 1.8 per cent. As many as 221 new cases emerged when 7,515 tests were conducted, raising the tally to 140,131, said Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said in his daily Covid-19 situation repot on Saturday. Some 7,515 samples were tested.....
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Hundreds of thousands of masks arranged for PDM’s Oct 18 public meeting: Saeed Ghani
Provincial leaders of the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) have said that the upcoming public meeting of the PDM in Karachi on October 18, 2020, would prove to be a public referendum against the present ‘ineligible, incompetent and selected’ government. Speaking at a press conference on Saturday, Sindh Education and Labour Minister Saeed Ghani said a public meeting on October.....

Covid-19 claims six lives in Sindh
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-10-11
KARACHI: Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Saturday said that six more patients of coronavirus died overnight lifting the death toll to 2,549 and 221 new cases emerged when 7,515 tests were conducted raising the tally to 140,131. In a statement issued here from CM House on Saturday, the Mr Shah said that 7,515 samples were tested which diagnosed 221 new cases that came to 2.9 per cent current.....

‘New mental illnesses have emerged during coronavirus’
Source: APP, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-10-11
KARACHI: Some new types of mental illness have begun to emerge during the coronavirus situation, with some people experiencing post-traumatic stress disorder, besides a new type of depression while an excessive use of medicine was also experienced. These views were expressed by prominent psychologists in an international conference on World Mental Health Day 2020, at Jinnah Postgraduate Medical C.....

Sindh crosses 140,000 Covid-19 cases
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-10-11
With 221 fresh infections reported on Saturday, Sindh crossed 140,000 coronavirus cases on the day, hitting a total of 140,131 detected cases. The province has the highest virus tally in the country. Meanwhile, according to a statement by the Sindh chief minister on the day, six more patients succumbed to the contagious disease overnight, bringing the provincial death toll to 2,549. He further s.....

Sindh records 221 new cases, 6 deaths: CM
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-10-11
KARACHI - Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that six more patients of coronavirus died overnight lifting the death toll to 2549 and 221 new cases emerged when 7515 tests were conducted raising the tally to 140,131. In a statement issued here from the CM House on Saturday, the Sindh CM said that six more patients lost their lives while struggling against the virus lifting death.....

New mental illnesses emerge during coronavirus outbreak: Experts
Source: Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-10-11
KARACHI- Some new types of mental illness have begun to emerge during the coronavirus outbreak, with some people experiencing post-traumatic stress disorder, besides a new type of depression and excessive use of medicine was also experienced. These views were expressed by prominent psychologists in an international conference on “World Mental Health Day 2020”, at Jinnah Post-graduate M.....
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<td>Covid-19 claims six more lives overnight</td>
<td>Staff Reporter, <em>Dawn, Islamabad</em>, 2020-10-12</td>
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<td>KARACHI: Six more patients of Covid-19 died overnight, lifting the death toll to 2,551, while 163 new cases emerged when 8,497 samples were tested, raising the tally to 140,294. The six casualties constituted 1.8 per cent death rate, said Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued here on Sunday from the CM House. Mr Shah said that 8,497 samples were tested against which 163 .....</td>
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<td>KARACHI: Pakistan Stock Exchange witnessed positive trend during the outgoing week ended on Oct 09, due to buying mainly by local investors. BRIndex100 gained 92.69 points on week-on-week basis to close at 4,236.01 points. Average daily volumes stood at 388.697 million shares. BRIndex30 increased by 702.18 points during this week to close at 21,576.30 points with average daily turnover o.....</td>
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<td>Virus claims 6 more lives, infects 163 others: CM</td>
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International News

‘Food is the best vaccine against chaos’; WFP wins Peace Nobel
Source: Reuters, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-10-10
OSLO/GENEVA: The United Nations’ World Food Programme, which has coordinated medical logistics during the coronavirus pandemic, won the Nobel Peace Prize on Friday in what its boss said was a call to action that no one should go hungry with the wealth in the world today. The head of the awards committee called the WFP a driving force in efforts to prevent the use of hunger as a weapon of war a.....

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China joins deal to get Covid-19 vaccine to poorer nations
Source: AFP, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-10-10
BEIJING: China has signed up to a deal to ensure future Covid-19 vaccines are distributed to developing countries, the biggest economy yet to join the World Health Organization-led bid to control the pandemic. The COVAX pledge to get vaccines to poorer nations as soon as they are developed aims to head off fears rich countries will limit distribution of game-changing medicines made by their p.....

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North Korea displays huge new ICBM at coronavirus-defying parade
Source: AFP, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-10-11
SEOUL: North Korea showed off a gigantic new intercontinental ballistic missile on Saturday that analysts described as the largest of its kind in the world, as the nuclear-armed country defied the coronavirus threat with thousands of maskless troops taking part in a military parade. The ICBM, carried on a transporter-erector-launcher with no fewer than 11 axles, rolled through Kim Il Sung square ..... 

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Coronavirus cases surge in Europe
Source: AFP, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-10-11
BERLIN: Germany and Poland enforced new restrictions to fight the coronavirus on Saturday, as the number of cases surged in Europe and breached 10 million in Latin America and the Caribbean. Bars and restaurants are to close at 11pm in Berlin until October 31 in a partial curfew, a measure already imposed — but starting an hour earlier — in the financial capital Frankfurt. With more ..... 

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Over 50pc of French nurses near burn-out: survey
Source: AFP, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-10-12
PARIS: More than half of French nurses are close to burning out, according to a survey of nearly 60,000 of them published on Sunday, which found they were struggling with cancelled holidays and increased work due to coronavirus. The survey carried out by the national French nursing union found that 57 per cent of respondents reported being in a “state of professional exhaustion”, up f.....

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Covid-19 cases surge past seven million in India
Source: AFP, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-10-12
NEW DELHI: India's coronavirus cases surged past seven million on Sunday as the health ministry data showed a rise of almost 75,000 cases, taking the total to 7.05 million — second only to the US which has recorded 7.67 million infections. But experts say the true number may be much higher, with testing rates in the country of 1.3 billion people much lower than elsewhere in the world......

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SDPI Engagements

Webinars News

Strengthening of women's voices at key business forums stressed
Islamabad: The voices of women need to be ensured and strengthened at the key business forums as this participation has become even more important after-COVID-19 scenario to assess the impact of the pandemic on women-led business ventures. This was suggested by experts from public and private sectors while speaking at the online meeting on 'Challenges of women-led exporting enterpri......

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