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

‘Suicidal ideation up by 35pc during Covid-19 pandemic, effects to last for a decade’
Suicidal ideation or thoughts of committing suicide have increased by 35 per cent during the Covid-19 pandemic all over the world due to economic uncertainty and depression, while symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), growing incidence of depression, anxiety, panic attacks and insomnia are also being observed among people, said an eminent US-based psychiatrist and researcher. ..... more >>

Get children back to school, but business as usual is no option
Source: Henrietta Fore / Henrietta Fore, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-10-24
“One child, one teacher, one book, one pen can change the world.” Words by Nobel Peace Prize winner Malala Yousafzai could not ring more true. Making sure girls and boys all over the world get a good quality education is how we will build a better, more sustainable, more equal and more peaceful world. Global school closures in response to the Covid-19 pandemic have resulted in unpre..... more >>

Climate finance and Covid-19
Pakistan was one of the eight Asia-Pacific countries to conduct Climate Public Expenditure and Institutional Reviews (CPEIRs) in 2015 and 2017 at the federal and provincial levels. This set a reform agenda in policy and action to align and assess climate finance to climate policy objectives. The CPEIR indicated that Pakistan’s climate expenditure was 8 percent of total annual development ex..... more >>

Open and shut
Nida Akhtar, 11, a student of Grade-5 studying in a private school in Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) was happy to go back to her school almost after seven months of its closure amid Covid-19 outbreak. However, her happiness was short-lived. Just a week after her school opened, a team of the ICT administration, found two of the school’s staff members to be Covid-positive during a random sa..... more >>

A bus ride is costlier, but not a flight
“Financially speaking, we can no longer talk of ‘health’; we are almost dead. Economic contraction fuelled by runaway inflation has battered the goods transport businesses massively. No respite is likely in the short or the medium term unless government provides some stimulus package,” says Punjab Goods Transport Association (PGTA) president Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali. “T..... more >>

Thinking globally, acting locally
Source: Shakeel Ahmed Shah, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-10-25
With a disputed history of origin, the phrase “thinking globally, acting locally” comes with a diverse range of understandings depending on what it refers to. Hinted by Patrick Geddes, a Scottish town planner, in his book, Cities in Evolution, the phrase took the stage in late 1900s when writers like Rene Dubos and David Browner used it while writing on environmental strategies. It is n..... more >>
Covid project in doldrums
Source: Editorial, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-10-25
It seems the widening gulf between the provinces and the Centre may have swallowed a critical health project. Just as the country starts to face a second wave of the coronavirus pandemic, the federal government has withdrawn its Rs70 billion Covid-19 Responsive and other Natural Calamities Control Programme at the eleventh hour over a lack of consensus. The project had been designed to provide sup.....

Bracing for the second wave?
Source: Editorial, Daily Times, 2020-10-24
It is no longer just a possibility. It's really happening. Both fresh cases of Covid-19 and the number of deaths caused by it have risen sharply over the last few days. Yet it seems all the government can do is helplessly plead with the people to follow all Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), even though a vast majority of them just doesn't seem to care for some reason. Hospital admi.....

Resurgi
Source: Editorial, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-10-26
The deadly coronavirus is back, and this time with a vengeance. Doctors and public health experts are now witnessing an unprecedented acceleration of the spread — far greater and deadlier than what we saw in the first wave. The situation, particularly in Europe, is rather critical as more than 200,000 novel coronavirus cases are being reported across the region in a single day. The pressure .....
### National News

#### Islamabad

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Experts mull ways to mitigate economic impact of COVID-19</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Source:</strong> Our Correspondent, The News, International, 2020-10-24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Islamabad: International technical experts joined high-level federal and provincial government officials on Friday for a discussion on ways to improve public spending on health, explore alternative financing mechanisms to enhance revenue generating capacity, reprioritize health budgets, and take measures to revive the economy. The occasion was an international consultative meeting on more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<tr>
<th>‘If we can do it with the Corona pandemic, we can definitely do it with polio’</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Source:</strong> Sundas Irshad, The News, International, 2020-10-24</td>
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<tr>
<td>EOC Coordinator, Punjab “Punjab is the largest province, housing more than 50 percent population of the country in its 36 districts. For the last many years Punjab’s performance in polio eradication has been appreciated at all national and international fora. Punjab’s biggest achievement has been a close synergy with EPI Programme, resulting in a winwin situation for more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<tr>
<th>NCOC declares 40pc raise in nationwide coronavirus cases in 5 days</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Source:</strong> Abdul Rasheed Azad, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-10-24</td>
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<tr>
<td>ISLAMABAD: The country has recorded a 40 percent increase in nationwide coronavirus cases over the past five days, the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) said here on Friday. According to the NCOC, the positivity ratio of Covid-19 cases on average was 40 percent higher in the past four days making it the fifth continuous day with increased positive cases and deaths due to the corona more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Virus infections, deaths on the rise</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Source:</strong> Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-10-24</td>
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<tr>
<td>ISLAMABAD - The National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) on Friday apprised that the positivity ratio of COVID-19 cases on average was 40 percent higher in the past four day making it the 5th continuous day with increased positive cases and deaths due to coronavirus. The NCOC morning session presided over by Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar was more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<tr>
<th>ICT admin continues checking prices, Covid-19 SOPs</th>
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<td><strong>Source:</strong> Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-10-24</td>
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<tr>
<td>ISLAMABAD-The Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration has been continuing price checking and SOPs implementation activity so as to ensure availability of sugar, wheat and other eatables to the residents on controlled prices. As per details, AC (Rural) and AC (Saddar) along with Tiger Force volunteers carried out a crackdown in Sabzi Mandi. Over 15 people were arrested for over-chargi more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<tr>
<th>IMCG F-7/2 sealed due to corona cases</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Source:</strong> Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-10-24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Islamabad - City health authorities on Friday closed Islamabad Model College for Girls (IMCG) in sector F-7/2 after confirmation of two novel coronavirus (COVID-19) cases there. The District Health Office (DHO) requested the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration for closure of school/college premises in the wake of two COVID-19 positive cases at Islamabad Model College for Girls (IMCG), more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<td>WHO reviews lessons learnt from COVID-19: SAPM Dr Faisal</td>
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<td>Islamabad - Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on National Health Services (NHS) Dr. Faisal Sultan on Thursday in a meeting held with the World Health Organization (WHO) team reviewed the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) situation in the country. A statement released by the Ministry of NHS said that SAPM Dr Faisal Sultan chaired a debriefing session by WHO mission from EMRO. The WHO missio.....</td>
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<td>After three months Pakistan records highest single-day surge in corona cases</td>
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<td>ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Saturday reported its highest single-day surge in coronavirus cases after three months, government data showed. As per the data, the country reported 847 news cases on October 23 out of 31,009 samples taken by the health authorities. The country also reported 12 new deaths in the last 24 hours. The last time such a spike was recorded on July 30 when more than 900 ca.....</td>
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<td>Islamabad: Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Capital Development Authority Affairs Ali Nawaz Awan on Saturday said that Islamabad police contributed very well to curb the spread of the coronavirus and its personnel worked hard to ensure effective lockdown as per policy of the government. Addressing an event organised by Islamabad Police in collaboration with Monthly Police Report Maga.....</td>
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<td>Islamabad : Education sector faced unprecedented issues and limitations due to COVID-19, which resulted in widening of the pre-existing divides in the education system. The issue was extensively discussed in a policy dialogue organised by Pakistan Coalition for Education (PCE) as part of its 11th annual convention held in Islamabad themed around “Education in the COVID era and Beyond.....</td>
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<td>847 new Covid-19 cases surface with 12 deaths</td>
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<td>ISLAMABAD - Pakistan Saturday reported 12 more Covid-related deaths and 847 fresh cases during the last 24 hours, fresh data revealed. According to the data, the federal capital has reported 186 new Coronavirus cases during the past 24 hours, the fifth straight day the capital recorded more than 100 daily infections. The number of total infections in the federal capital has risen to 18,764, a.....</td>
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<td>QAU shifts examination centre due to COVID-19</td>
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<td>ISLAMABAD-Quaid-e-Azam University Islamabad (QAU) Saturday announced that examination centre, Islamabad Model College for Girls F-7/2 for B.A, B.Sc &amp; B. Com Part-I &amp; II, has been shifted to Islamabad Model College for Girls F-7/4 (Margalla College) due to closure by the government to avoid the spread of COVID-19. According to a press release, it was directed that all concerned are adv.....</td>
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**NCC on COVID-19 finds irregularities in risk allowance disbursement**

ISLAMABAD: An official body formed on novel coronavirus (COVID-19) by the Prime Minister (PM) has found irregularities in disbursement of the risk allowance to the doctors and healthcare workers of the federal capital hospital, The Nation learnt on Saturday. Documents said that the risk allowance was disbursed amongst the admin staff which had no relevance or direct interaction in dealing with.....

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**Islamabad reports highest single day rise in Covid-19 infections in two months**

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad reported its highest single day rise in Covid-19 cases in the last two months, with 186 people testing positive on Saturday, while two people died of the disease in Rawalpindi. An educational institution was sealed and 10 were reopened after being disinfected and cleared. On Friday, the Islamabad Postgraduate College for Women in F-7/2 was sealed once more after two people t.....

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**832 more test positive for coronavirus; nine lives lost**
Source: *News Desk, Daily Times*, 2020-10-26

The total active Covid-19 cases in Pakistan on Sunday were recorded at 10,668 as 832 more people tested positive for the deadly virus across country. Nine coronavirus patients, who were under treatment in hospitals, died, according to the latest update issued by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC). No Covid-affected person is on ventilator in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), Gilgit Baltis.....

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**Khyber Pakhtunkhwa**

**COVID-19 impacts: Private schools seek relief from govt**

PESHAWAR: Owners of the private educational institutions have sought relief from the government claiming that Covid-19 have adversely affected the sector. The demand was made during a meeting of the Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) Standing Committee on Education, which was chaired by the chamber President Sherbaz Bilour here at the Chamber’s House. Saboor Sethi, chairm.....

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**COVID-19 infects 6 students of two govt schools in Hangu**

HANGU: At least six students of the two government schools tested positive for the coronavirus in Thall tehsil in Hangu district on Saturday. According to a notification issued from the office of district education officer, six students of the Government Middle School Torawati and Government Primary School No.1, Thall reported positive for the Covid-19. It said that schools were closed for.....

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### Punjab

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<th>Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>Minister warns of drastic action if corona SOPs defied</td>
<td>Our Correspondent, The News, International</td>
<td>2020-10-24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Punjab considering ‘work from home’ for 55-year old employees</td>
<td>Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad</td>
<td>2020-10-24</td>
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<td>Yasmin appeals people to follow corona SOPs</td>
<td>Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad</td>
<td>2020-10-24</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 deaths, 199 new cases reported from twin cities</td>
<td>Muhammad Qasim, The News, International</td>
<td>2020-10-25</td>
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Rawalpindi: The number of patients tested positive for coronavirus illness, COVID-19 and deaths caused by the virus from the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi has been on a continuous rise as in last 24 hours, the virus has claimed four lives while another 158 patients have been tested positive for the disease. The severity of the outbreak in the region can be gauged from the fact t.....

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LAHORE: Provincial Minister for Law, Parliamentary Affairs and Social Welfare Raja Basharat has said that the government would be forced to take drastic measures if the people defied government SOPs to avoid the virus spread. Addressing a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Corona held at the Chief Minister's House under his chairmanship here Friday, the law minister said the government.....

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LAHORE: Six COVID-19 patients died while 146 new infections were confirmed across Punjab during the last 24 hours. According to the daily situation report issued by Primary and Secondary Healthcare (P&SH) Department Punjab on Friday, the toll of fatalities stayed at 2,329 in the province, while confirmed cases of corona reached 102,253. As per the spokesperson for Corona Monitoring Roo.....

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LAHORE - In wake of second COVID-19 wave, the Punjab Government mulled over a proposal to allow government employees of over 55 years old and women workers to work from home as long as the threat persisted. A final decision in this regard would be taken after the approval of the Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar. The proposal came under discussion in a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on c.....

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LAHORE - Punjab Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid said on Friday that if people did not follow SOPs there is risk of increase in cases. ‘I appeal to people to follow SOPs [Standard Operating Procedures]’. Dr Yasmin also approved a number of new posts at District Headquarters Hospital and different hospitals in Rawalpindi in the 8th Syndicate Meeting of the Rawalpindi Medical Unive.....

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Rawalpindi: Coronavirus illness, COVID-19 has claimed four more lives here in Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district in last 24 hours while as many as 199 new patients have been tested positive for the disease which is the highest number of patients reported in a day from the region after July 2. The virus is hitting the region very hard for at least two-and-a-half weeks and .....
Five COVID-19 patients die, 214 new infections reported
LAHORE: Five COVID-19 patients died and 214 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 stayed at 2,334 in Punjab, while the number of confirmed cases of coronavirus reached 102,467 in the province. Out of a total of 102,467 infections in Punjab,......
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PRCS distributes PPE
Source: Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-10-25
LAHORE- Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS), Punjab handed over PPE (Personal Protective Equipment including KN95 masks, surgical masks, OT gowns, PPE suit, thermal guns, face shields, virocid, sanitizer etc) for frontline health workers to management of Jinnah Hospital Lahore. Chairman PRCS Punjab Justice (retired), Sheikh Ahmed Farooq said that threats of COVID-19 are still not over. PRCS.....
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Four more deaths, 170 new cases in a day
Rawalpindi: Another four confirmed patients of coronavirus illness, COVID-19 died here in Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district in last 24 hours taking the death toll from the region to 521 while another 170 patients were diagnosed with the disease taking the tally to 25,638. The outbreak has become much intense in this region of the country as in the last 24 hours, every 5t.....
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One COVID-19 patient dies, 210 new infections reported in Punjab
LAHORE: One COVID19 patient died and 210 new infections were confirmed in Punjab during the last 24 hours, according to a report by the Primary and Secondary Healthcare (P&SH) Department on Sunday. The toll of fatalities stayed at 2,335, while confirmed cases of coronavirus reached 102,677 in the province. Out of a total of 102,677 infections in Punjab, 99,897 citizens contracted the vi.....
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<th>Region</th>
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<td>Sindh</td>
<td>Corona kills three more in Sindh</td>
<td>Our Correspondent, The News, International</td>
<td>2020-10-24</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sindh sees 304 fresh Covid-19 cases</td>
<td>Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad</td>
<td>2020-10-25</td>
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<td>COVID-19 claims four more lives, infects 304 others in Sindh: CM</td>
<td>Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad</td>
<td>2020-10-25</td>
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**Corona kills three more in Sindh**

Three more patients have died from the novel coronavirus and 305 new have cases surfaced in Sindh. As many as 10,261 tests were conducted in a day, said Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Friday. The province’s death toll from the viral disease had reached 2,594, he added. So far, he said 1,572,386 samples had been tested in Sindh and 143,222 of them were positive. In total.....

**Karachi top cop tests positive for Covid-19**

Karachi police chief Ghulam Nabi Memon went on leave on Saturday after he was diagnosed with the novel coronavirus. The additional inspector general of police quarantined himself at his home after he tested positive for the viral disease. Criminal Investigation Agency DIG Arif Hanif has been given additional charge as Karachi’s additional IGP......

**Sindh sees 304 fresh Covid-19 cases**

As many as 304 fresh coronavirus cases were reported in the province overnight, said Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah on Saturday, adding that the provincial virus tally to date consequently reached 143,526 cases. Moreover, Shah stated that four more patients had succumbed to Covid-19, which took the death toll in Sindh to 2,598. The CM further apprised that there were 4,410 active coronaviru.....

**COVID-19 claims four more lives, infects 304 others in Sindh: CM**

KARACHI - As many as 304 new cases of coronavirus emerged when 9,374 tests were conducted raising the tally to 143,526 while four more patients were died, lifting the tally to 2,598 in Sindh. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued from CM house on Saturday. Mr Shah said that four more patients lost their lives overnight lifting the death toll t.....
## Countries News

### Countries battle rising virus cases as WHO sees 'exponential' rise

Source: [AFP, Dawn, Islamabad](https://example.com), 2020-10-25

PARIS: A number of countries tightened anti-coronavirus measures on Saturday, with France extending a curfew and Belgium bringing forward its own, as Germany’s death toll passed 10,000 and the US reported 80,000 infections in a single day. In the Belgian capital Brussels, authorities moved up their curfew by an hour, and in Poland, President Andrzej Duda tested positive for Covid-19. The W.....

[more >>](https://example.com)

### Australia’s COVID-19 epicentre delays lifting of lockdown restrictions on restaurants

Source: [Agencies, Daily Times](https://example.com), 2020-10-26

Victoria state, Australia’s COVID-19 hotspot, on Sunday delayed an eagerly awaited announcement of the removal of lockdown restrictions for cafes, restaurants and pubs in the capital Melbourne because of an outbreak in the city’s northern suburbs. The restrictions have kept most retail businesses in Melbourne providing online services only since early August and 5 million people.....

[more >>](https://example.com)

## Donors News

### WHO mission shares findings on Pakistan’s response to COVID-19


Islamabad: The PM’s Special Assistant on Health Dr. Faisal Sultan chaired a debriefing session for a World Health Organization (WHO) mission from the Eastern Mediterranean Region here on Friday. The mission, which is visiting Pakistan from October 14-24, reviewed lessons learnt from Pakistan’s COVID-10 response with a focus on areas such as surveillance, point of entry, risk co.....

[more >>](https://example.com)
SDPI Engagements

No News items regarding COVID – 19.