E-Newsletter on COVID-19

Vol. 01, No, 58

…..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

### Post-pandemic support packages

A Business Recorder exclusive reported a dispute between the Ministry of Energy and the Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on subsidies, (given the additional portfolio of SAPM on Revenue since 5 October 2020) on the eligibility criteria for concessionary regime of electricity and RLNG for five zero-rated (export oriented) sectors. The reason for the disagreement is based on the differ.....[more >>](#)

### Why Pakistan Covid-19 numbers are not real
Source: Dr Rana Jawad Asghar, *The Express Tribune, Islamabad*, 2020-11-11

Recently I was asked by a senior government official as to why I said Punjab was not telling the truth about its Covid-19 cases. “This is a very serious allegation,” he told me, and “what proof do you have for this statement?” In the era of social media and rantings on our TV screens, he was right to see where I stand on my analysis. For over a decade, my job has been to l.....[more >>](#)

### Another fiscal squeeze?
Source: Editorial, *Daily Times*, 2020-11-11

The second wave of the pandemic could not have come at a worse time for Pakistan. The government was feeling good for having controlled the spread of the virus better than most countries in the world, and was poised to use that advantage to capture export markets and enhance foreign exchange inflows, but now there’s already talk of another lockdown that could well push the economy over the e.....[more >>](#)

### A knowledge based lockdown
Source: Osama Rizvi, *Daily Times*, 2020-11-11

The fact that COVID19 is here to stay and that we shouldn’t let our guards down so early is quite blatant by now (or at least it is expected to be so). All around the world we are facing what is being termed as the anticipated Second Wave of Coronavirus. Cases in the U.S. hit a new record with exceeding 129,000, while the UK has imposed itssecond national lockdown. Europe is experiencing a s.....[more >>](#)

### The recovery debate

The writer is a freelance contributor. The gloom cast upon the global economy by Covid-19 did not spare Pakistan. Already on the downward trajectory even before the pandemic struck, Pakistan’s economy grinded to a halt as the negative fallouts, and strict lockdown, resulted in negative growth for the first time in more than half a century. However, of late, there have been claims of.....[more >>](#)

### Comparing the Pak-India COVID fights

As the second COVID wave hits the world and nations across the globe grapple with the emerging challenge, it may be important to compare Pakistan’s COVID management strategy with India to draw some lessons to deal with the second wave. Pakistan and India were affected by COVID’s first wave in Feb-March this year, despite a better economy and a reasonably well-structured health sys.....[more >>](#)
COVID-19 and inequality
Source: Dr Kamal Monnoo, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-11-11
One must acknowledge that divine help notwithstanding, the government’s policy vis-à-vis managing the corona pandemic has been quite prudent where it has consistently tried to balance safety with employment and personal income sustainability. However, the challenge may not be as simple as that, as pointed out by two recent reports published on how the pandemic is quietly or rather dis.....

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The Second Wave
Source: Editorial, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-11-11
There was finally some good news internationally on coronavirus developments when it was announced early this week that initial results from the world’s first effective coronavirus vaccine showed an extremely high prevention rate. The RNA vaccine has been developed by pharmaceutical companies Pfizer and BioNTech and is one of eleven vaccines that are currently in the final stages of testing.....

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Two contagions
We are now dealing with two different contagions – the virus and the detrimental emotions that follow. The challenges brought about by Covid-19 are unparalleled and have caused anxiety, fear and uncertainty for many of us. The coronavirus pandemic is an epidemiological and psychological crisis. Staying in closed spaces has never felt as claustrophobic as this. The constant sight of t.....

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Covid-19 and telemedicine
Source: Raja Khalid Shabbir, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-11-12
In the backdrop of Covid-19, access to healthcare has become a worry for all. Hospitals and clinics have become viral hotspots raising fear and alarm in people who have to think twice before visiting these places to seek medical help. During these testing times, the only solution is allowing our healthcare to go digital. Telemedicine is yet to be recognised by our people as the majority are unaw.....

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Covid danger
The coronavirus pandemic is no doubt one of the worst dangers modern humanity has faced all over the world. Other than claiming lives across the globe, the Covid-19 pandemic also presents another quite different type of danger. This danger has been highlighted by both Unicef and the WHO which say that the pandemic has stripped them of resources and attracted attention away from other global diseas.....

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Covid-19 vaccines in a neoliberal world
Source: Dr Omer Javed, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-11-13
[Who owns the patent on this vaccine?] Well, the people, I would say. There is no patent. Could you patent the sun? – Jonas Salk; creator of polio vaccine The first major outbreak of coronavirus happened almost two decades ago in the shape of SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome), after which the virus continue to appear from time to time; for instance, the outbreak of MERS epidemic .....
Interview with Murtaza Khalil, CEO of BIMA Milvik Telehealth consultations increased by more than 50 percent during COVID-19


Murtaza Khalil Hassan is the CE of BIMA Milvik and has over 14 years of experience in the insurance & banking sector in Pakistan where he has been extensively involved in the areas of product development, distribution, and partnerships. Prior to joining BIMA, he was the head of insurance at Telenor Microfinance Bank (Easypaisa) managing and developing the micro-health portfolio. Murtaza also p.....

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National News

Balochistan

Covid-19 SOPs to be enforced strictly in Balochistan, says Shahwani
Source: Correspondent, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-11-10
QUETTA: The Balochistan government has decided to strictly enforce standard operating procedures (SOPs) to prevent coronavirus from spreading in the province. Speaking at a press conference here on Monday, Balochistan government spokesman Liaquat Shahwani said that it had been decided to impose a fine of Rs300 on people who were found at public places without wearing a facemask. He said the visi.....
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Islamabad

Several localities in Lahore, Pindi, Multan go under lockdown amid Covid spike
Source: Dawn.com, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-11-10
Several localities in Lahore, Rawalpindi and Multan have been declared as coronavirus hotspots and put under lockdown with immediate effect, according to notifications from the Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department released late Monday, after 400 new cases were reported province wide for the first time since July 18. The notifications said there had been a "constant increase in .....
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Hyderabad tops virus infection rate: NCOC
Source: Ikram Junaidi, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-11-10
ISLAMABAD: As 15 main cities of Pakistan reel from the rapid rise in Covid-19 positivity ratio, a major development at the international level with regards to a successful vaccine trial has raised hopes of prevention against the deadly virus. International firms Pfizer and BioNTechannounced on Monday that the phase-III clinical trial of their vaccine had shown 90 per cent efficacy in preventing th.....
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Cabinet meets today; Top agenda items are Biden, economy and Covid-19
Source: Mushtaq Ghumman, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-11-10
ISLAMABAD: The federal cabinet which is scheduled to meet on Tuesday (Nov 10) will discuss the prevalent economic situation, Covid-19 impact, political situation, and the expected US foreign policy change in South Asia, especially towards Afghanistan after election of Joe Biden as President. To be presided over by Prime Minister Imran Khan, the cabinet is expected to approve Minimum Support P.....
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Clinical trials of Covid vaccine; Ufone joins hands with AJM Pharma for provision of info
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-11-10
ISLAMABAD: Pakistani telecom Company, Ufone, has joined hands with AJM Pharma (Pvt) Ltd to offer a reliable call centre solution where Centre's representatives will provide information related to the clinical trials of Recombinant Novel Coronavirus Vaccine. People can access information about hospitals/research sites performing the clinical trials in the country, register themselves as volun.....
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A potential vaccine
Source: Editorial, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-11-11
The wait for the development of an effective vaccine for Covid-19 could finally be over. Developers — Pfizer and BioNTech — have been able to formulate a vaccine that can prevent 90% of people from contracting the deadly virus. Having been tested on 43,500 people across six different countries without any safety concerns, scientists remain highly optimistic because no other vaccine has.....

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Global efforts needed to fight Covid: PM
Source: Syed Irfan Raza, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-11-11
ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Tuesday said coordinated global efforts were needed to combat Covid-19 and tackle adverse impact of climate change, money laundering and Islamophobia. He also stressed the need for cooperation in education, international peace and debt relief. The prime minister presented these proposals while speaking via video link at the 20th meeting of the Shanghai Coop.....

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Positivity rate exceeds 5pc after three months
Source: Ikram Junaidi, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-11-11
ISLAMABAD: While the positivity rate of Covid-19 cases has again surpassed five per cent after a gap of over three months, the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) was briefed on Tuesday that daily cases confirmed by labs in different cities have climbed up to 16 per cent. The highest increase in confirmed cases has been observed in Azad Jammu and Kashmir i.e. 16.71pc. The cases have incr.....

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Three more die of Covid-19; 10 educational institutions sealed in twin cities
Source: Munawer Azeem | Aamir Yasin, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-11-11
ISLAMABAD: Another three people succumbed to Covid-19 on Tuesday and 10 educational institutions were sealed in the twin cities after their staff and students tested positive for the virus. There were closures in eight educational institutions in the capital while a school and a university were sealed in Rawalpindi. Four areas were also locked down in the garrison city. According to the district.....

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Three more die of Covid-19; 10 educational institutions sealed in twin cities
Source: Munawer Azeem | Aamir Yasin, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-11-11
ISLAMABAD: Another three people succumbed to Covid-19 on Tuesday and 10 educational institutions were sealed in the twin cities after their staff and students tested positive for the virus. There were closures in eight educational institutions in the capital while a school and a university were sealed in Rawalpindi. Four areas were also locked down in the garrison city. According to the district.....

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Corona positivity rising in major cities
ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) on Monday was apprised that COVID-19 positivity ratio was rapidly increasing nationwide which was 4.5 percent in the country amid 15 major cities having higher positivity ratio. The NCOC meeting discussed at length the recent surge in Covid-19 positivity ratio and recent enforcement measures post National Coordination Committee (N.....

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1,637 new Covid cases, 23 deaths across country
Source: News Desk, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-11-11
The total active Covid-19 cases in Pakistan on Tuesday were recorded at 20,045 as 1,637 more people tested positive for the deadly virus during across country. Twenty-three patients, 21 of whom were under treatment at hospitals and two out of hospital, died, according to the latest update issued by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC). No Covid-19 affected person is on ventilator in A.....
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Pakistan proposes six-point strategy at SCO forum to jointly counter Covid-19
Source: News Desk, Daily Times, 2020-11-11
Prime Minister Imran Khan, at a Shanghai Cooperation Organization session on Tuesday, proposed a six-point strategy to galvanize joint efforts including setting up a knowledge bank to counter second wave of Covid-19, policies to mitigate pandemic's economic impact and declaring vaccine a source of global good. Addressing at the 20th Heads of State meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Orga.....
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Covid-19 cases: Senate closure extended till Nov 13
ISLAMABAD: The closure of the Senate has been extended till November 13 in view of the spread of the coronavirus. According to a notification released by the Senate Secretariat, meetings of all standing, special, parliamentary and functional committees have been postponed till further orders. Previously, the Upper House of the Parliament was shut to any activity till November 09. The decision to c.....
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Capt Safdar, Kaira contract corona on GB campaign trail
ISLAMABAD: PML-N Youth Wing President Capt (retd) Safdar and PPP’s Central Punjab chief Qamar Zaman Kaira have tested positive for the coronavirus while campaigning for their parties in Gilgit-Baltistan, it emerged on Monday. PML-N Youth Wing spokesperson Ali Khan Yousafzai said Safdar had complained of flu and fever while campaigning in Skardu. He returned to Islamabad with his wife.....
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Further spikes expected in ICT in next few days
Islamabad: Further spikes in the number of coronavirus illness, COVID-19 cases in Islamabad Capital Territory are being expected in the next few days through the teams of district health department ICT are following all possible measures to contain the virus that is following the same trend regarding its spread which is being witnessed internationally. There is a certain increase i.....
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Covid-19 cases rapidly increasing
ISLAMABAD - The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) yesterday warned that the Covid-19 positivity rate is rapidly increasing in major cities of the country with the infection rate exceeding 15 percent in at least three cities. The forum met to discuss the surge in Covid-19 positivity ratio and recent enforcement measures taken in the light of the recent decisions of National Coordina.....
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QAU postpones annual bachelors exams  
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-11-10  
Islamabad- The Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU) on Monday postponed the annual bachelors exams of affiliated colleges after the emergence of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) cases. The university has postponed the exams of BA, BSc and B.Com. A statement issued by the university media office said that due to COVID-19, annual exams of 2020 of BA, BSc, and B.Com starting from the 9th of November to.....  
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PRCS on high alert to tackle COVID-19 2nd wave: Chairman Abrar ul Haq  
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-11-10  
Islamabad-The Pakistan Red Crescent Society is on high alert to help tackle the second wave of COVID-19 and is taking all possible steps to augment the government’s efforts to fight off the pandemic, said Chairman PRCS Abrar ul Haq during his visit to a hospital. Secretary General PRCS Khalid bin Majeed and officers concerned accompanied him. Abrar ul Haq said all departments of the st.....  
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NHA headquarters closed to avoid COVID-19 spread  
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-11-10  
ISLAMABAD - The National Highway Authority has closed its headquarter in Islamabad on Monday to avoid community spread of COVID-19 till further orders. A sudden surge in COVID-19 cases at the building was reported last week and in response, the district administration has also asked the authority to take corrective measures. The District Administration has also sealed Sector G-9/1 where the .....  
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PM proposes 6-point Covid-19 strategy  
Source: Zaheer Abbasi, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-11-11  
ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan has called for global initiative on debt relief for the poor countries in order to address their debt vulnerabilities, and create a fiscal space to deal with the impacts of the COVID-19. Addressing the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) through a video link on Tuesday, the prime minister in his first address from his prepared speech, said that Pakistan.....  
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Active Covid-19 cases cross 20,000 mark across country  
Source: Abdul Rasheed Azad, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-11-11  
ISLAMABAD: The total active Covid-19 cases in Pakistan on Tuesday crossing 20,000 mark reached 21,177 as Sindh, the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (KP), and the Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) reported 825 new Covid-19 cases. According to the latest data released by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) and the provincial authorities, at least 30 people lost their lives countrywide owing to Covid.....  
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Coronavirus vaccine; Fawad concerned at monopoly of five richest countries  
ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Science and Technology Fawad Chaudhry on Tuesday said the monopoly of five richest countries on the coronavirus vaccine is a matter of great concern, and urged international organisations to take notice of the situation. This he stated, while addressing a function organised by the Pakistan Science Foundation, the UNESCO, the COMSATS, and the Pakistan Academy of.....  
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<th>Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>NCOC suggests banning public gatherings, extended winter vacations &amp; closure of dine-in, shrines</td>
<td>Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad</td>
<td>2020-11-11</td>
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<td>ISLAMABAD: The country's nerve centre for Covid-19 response on Wednesday suggested multiple measures to stem the rising number of coronavirus cases in Pakistan including limiting large public gathering and enhancing restrictions in high-risk areas. The latest recommendations come days after the government ordered work-from-home policy for half of the staff in both public and private sector o.....</td>
<td>more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<td>The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Wednesday recommended “early and extended winter vacations” for schools due to increasing positivity rate in educational institutes across Pakistan. The body decided that Minister for Education Shafqat Mahmood will chair a special session with provincial education ministers on November 16 where the recommendation will be put forward......</td>
<td>more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<td>NCOC for ban on public gatherings of over 500</td>
<td>Ikram Junaidi, Dawn, Islamabad</td>
<td>2020-11-12</td>
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<td>ISLAMABAD: With daily cases of Covid-19 having crossed the 1,700 mark after a gap of three-and-a-half months, the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Wednesday suggested an early and extended winter vacations to prevent the spread of the deadly virus and ensure safety and health of students. It also recommended banning all public gatherings, including political, cultural and religious.....</td>
<td>more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<td>COVID-19 outbreak gets more intense, 7 deaths reported</td>
<td>Muhammad Qasim, The News, International</td>
<td>2020-11-12</td>
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<td>Islamabad: As many as 401 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 is getting more and more intense as over 400 cases in a day have been reported from the region after June 21. The virus also claimed another seven lives in the twin cities in last 24 hours that has.....</td>
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<td>Schools violate staggered classes guidelines</td>
<td>Our Correspondent, The News, International</td>
<td>2020-11-12</td>
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<td>Islamabad: Residents have complained that some privately-owned educational institutions in the federal capital are violating the health guidelines issued by the government to prevent the spread of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) among staff members and students, especially staggered class schedules. The universities, colleges and schools were allowed to resume in-person classes across the co.....</td>
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<td>Education ministers to mull over winter break on Monday</td>
<td>Our Correspondent, The News, International</td>
<td>2020-11-12</td>
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<td>Islamabad: Amid growing incidence of novel coronavirus among students and teachers, federal minister for education and vocational training Shafqat Mahmood has called a special meeting of the Inter-Provincial Education Ministers Conference next week to discuss the pandemic-related issues and the proposal of early and extended winter vacation for students to ensure their protection from the pandemic.....</td>
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Govt urged to revise SOPs for marriage halls
Islamabad: The government should revise the new SOPs by taking Marquees Association Islamabad on board to save them from bankruptcy, said Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) on Wednesday urged. ICCI President Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan said that the marriage halls and marquees were allowed to reopen last month after remaining closed for about six months due to the Covid-19 pan.....
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HEC to award 10 projects worth Rs150m on COVID-19 research
Islamabad: In response to COVID-19 crisis, the Higher Education Commission (HEC) launched a focused Rapid Research Grant (RRG) in April 2020 to engage academia in research around the clinical management of this epidemic. The grant is aimed to encourage academic research to strengthen clinical management or public health response against this virus. Under the specialised research initiative, pote.....
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Amin Ahmed | Munawer Azeem | Aamir Yasin
Source: Amin Ahmed | Munawer Azeem | Aamir Yasin, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-11-12
RAWALPINDI: Seven more people lost their lives to Covid-19 and over 400 more tested positive in the twin cities on Wednesday. According to the capital administration officials, three deaths were reported in the hospitals in Islamabad. The patients were in critical condition and had been placed on ventilators but could not survive, they added. With these three casualties, the death toll from coro.....
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NCOC recommends early, extended winter vacations in schools as Covid-19 cases surge
Source: Muhammad Faisal Kaleem, Daily Times, 2020-11-12
The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Wednesday recommended early and extended winter vacations in schools due to rising positivity ratio being reported from the educational institutes. Following a meeting chaired by Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar, the NCOC said that Minister for Education Shafqat Mahmood will chair a special session wit.....
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NCOC told; Covid-19 positivity ratio increasing
Source: APP, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-11-12
ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) on Wednesday has called for banning large public gatherings and enhance restrictions in high risk areas due to Covid-19 resurge amid rising possible second wave of the pandemic. The NCOC meeting chaired by Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar reviewed the epidemic curve data and disease prevale.....
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Covid-19 Emergency Response Fund; PPAF dedicates over Rs400m
Source: Sohail Sarfraz, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-11-12
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) one of the largest organizations working towards poverty alleviation took prompt action by dedicating over Rs 400 million to its Covid-19 Emergency Response Fund. PPAF senior officials told Business Recorder here on Tuesday that the amount was allocated to address problems related to food security and socioeconomic needs of the ultra-poor ru.....
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British HC inaugurates robot-operated Covid-19 testing lab
Source: Press Release, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-11-12
ISLAMABAD: In its effort to fight and respond to Covid-19 and increase domestic testing capacity for Covid-19 diagnosis, Future Trust in partnership with technology firm Opencell has launched Future Labs. Future Labs has launched a highly advanced robotic mobile Covid-19 laboratory. Built in the United Kingdom by Opencell, the laboratory is a Biosafety Level 2 plus (BSL-2+) facility built to.....
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Covid-19 situation: Minister calls special IPEMC meeting next week
Source: Tahir Amin, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-11-12
ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, Shafqat Mahmood has called a special meeting of the Inter-Provincial Education Ministers’ Conference (IPEMC) amid rising coronavirus cases next week to review the situation. The pandemic situation in the education sector and the possibility of early and extended winter break will be discussed in detail in the meeting,.....
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Islamabad joins conference on Covid-19 response
Source: Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-11-12
ISLAMABAD - Pakistan on Wednesday participated in the conference on COVID-19 response. The vice-ministerial level conference was chaired by Chinese Vice-Foreign Minister Luo Zhaohui. Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka participated in the conference. Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood while delivering remarks at the video-conference said Pakistan had been resolutely and successfully confrontin.....
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Centre calls for new restrictions to fight virus resurge
Source: Tahir Niaz, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-11-12
ISLAMABAD - The National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) on Wednesday called for banning large public gatherings and enhancing restrictions in high risk areas due to COVID-19 resurge. Minister for Planning and Development Asad Umar chaired the meeting in Islamabad and reviewed the epidemic curve data and disease prevalence in the country. The centre suggested banning all public gatherings.....
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Education ministry calls IPEMC on Nov 16 to discuss COVID-19 situation
Source: Rahul Basharat, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-11-12
ISLAMABAD-Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training (FE&PT) on Wednesday called a special Inter Provincial Education Ministers Conference (IPEMC) meeting next week to discuss the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) situation in educational institutions. Details said that the meeting has been called on November 16 at the National Command and Operations Center (NCOC). Minister for FE.....
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Worsening situation: Coronavirus claims 34 more lives in Pakistan
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has reported its highest single-day coronavirus death toll in four months on Thursday as the infection claimed 34 lives on November 11. According to the data shared by the National Command and Operations (NCOC), the last time the country reported over 30 deaths was on July 24 when 35 people lost their lives. A total of 7,055 people have succumbed to the coronavirus in.....
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3 deaths, 379 more COVID-19 cases in a day
Islamabad: The second wave of coronavirus illness, COVID-19 outbreak is hitting the population much harder in Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district as in last 24 hours, the virus has claimed another three lives while as many as 379 more confirmed cases of the illness have been reported from the region taking tally to well over 30000. In last three days, the virus claimed 13.....

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Initial recipients of potential COVID-19 vaccine identified
Islamabad: Appreciating the intense global efforts to develop a COVID-19 vaccine in the shortest possible time and welcoming initial news regarding the development of a potentially effective vaccine, the Ministry of National Health Services Thursday announced that the government has prioritised groups most likely to be the initial recipients of a potential vaccine. The measure is stated to have.....

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Pakistan records over 2,000 new coronavirus cases in 24 hours
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan recorded 2,304 new coronavirus cases in the past 24 hours - a 27% (of 500 new cases) jump since November 11’s tally. The last time Pakistan reported over 2,000 cases was July 16. The virus claimed 37 lives in a day - another highest in four months, while the number of active cases has shot up to 23,641 across the country. A total of 36,923 tests were conducted acro.....

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First robot-operated Covid testing lab opens in Islamabad
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad , 2020-11-13
ISLAMABAD: With an aim to fight and respond to rising Covid-19 cases effectively in the country by increasing the capacity of diagnosis, Future Trust — in partnership with Opencell UK — has launched a highly advanced robotic mobile laboratory in Islamabad. Built in the United Kingdom by Opencell UK, the laboratory is a Biosafety Level 2 plus (BSL-2+) facility, built to ISO 15189 stan.....

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Ban on indoor wedding ceremonies; IHC seeks explanation from NCOC
ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) Thursday sought explanation from the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) about banning indoor marriages. A single bench of Chief Justice Athar Minallah heard a petition filed by Islamabad Marquees, Catering and Banquet Hall Association (IMCBA) through its chairman Mukhtar Abbas, and issued notices to the respondents. The court directed t.....

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WHO suggests lockdown in Covid-19 hotspots
Source: Ashfaq Yusufzai, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-11-11
PESHAWAR: The World Health Organisation suggested imposing complete lockdown in hotspots to minimise mortalities and infections from second wave of the pandemic as coronavirus claimed lives of four people in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Former deputy medical superintendent of district headquarters hospital in Mansehra Dr Mohammad Bashir and Adnan Haleem, a third year student of MBBS at Khyber Medical Coll.....

Another K-P doctor succumbs to Covid-19
Source: dna, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-11-10
PESHAWAR: Another doctor died of the novel coronavirus in Peshawar on Tuesday, following which the toll of virus-related fatalities amongst doctors rose to 21 in the province. Meanwhile, a top government health official, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) Health Secretary Imitiaz Hussain, also tested positive for the virus. Dr Bashir had contracted the novel coronavirus (Covid-19) while discharging his du.....

Medical student among four more die as coronavirus situation worsens in KP
PESHAWAR: The situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is deteriorating with each passing day as four more people, including a third year student of the Khyber Medical College (KMC), died of coronavirus in the province on Tuesday. Also, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Secretary Health Syed Imitiaz Hussain Shah was among 226 people, who tested positive for the viral infection. Of the four persons, who died of cor.....

Experts for adopting SOPs to contain viral diseases
MARDAN: Experts here on Wednesday emphasised the need for adopting the standard operating procedures (SOPs) to control spread of viral diseases. The Medical Teaching Institution (MTI) Mardan had organised the daylong workshop titled "Infection Prevention and Control". Dean/Chief Executive Office (CEO) Bacha Khan Medical College (BKMC) Prof Dr Muhammad Fazil, Medical Director P.....

Schools, colleges closed in Garhi Habibullah
Source: Correspondent, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-11-12
MANSEHRA: The district administration has closed all government and private educational institutions in Garhi Habibullah town here over a spike in coronavirus incidence and restricted the people’s entry to and exit from the area bordering Azad Jammu and Kashmir. The health department has recorded around 60 Covid-19 cases in the town. In an order issued here, deputy commissioner Dr Qasim Al.....

Charsadda college closed after 5 Covid-19 cases reported
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-11-12
Peshawar - Five students of a private college in district Charsadda have reportedly contracted coronavirus after which the college has been closed for one week. The infected students had participated in a sports gala of the private colleges few days ago. It has created concerns among other students who attended the event. The samples of students of Galaxy Model College, Charsadda, were taken .....
Another patient dies of coronavirus in KP
PESHAWAR: Another patient died of coronavirus while 224 more people tested positive for the viral infection in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Thursday. The latest victim belonged to Haripur district of the Hazara division of the province. After its outbreak on February 26 this year, the Covid-19 has taken 1,303 lives and infected 41,472 people in KP so far. The Health Department that daily issues ..... more >>

PHC CJ Waqar Seth dies of coronavirus
ISLAMABAD: Peshawar High Court Chief Justice Waqar Ahmed Seth, who awarded death sentence to former army chief General Pervez Musharraf (retd) in a high treason case, died on Thursday of COVID-19. According to family sources, Justice Seth admitted to an Islamabad private hospital last week with coronavirus related complications. Chief Justice of Pakistan Gulzar Ahmed and other judges of ..... more >>

Provinces told to start Rapid Antigen Testing for Covid diagnosis
Source: Asif Chaudhry, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-11-10
LAHORE: The federal government has directed all the provinces to commence Rapid Antigen Testing (RAT) for diagnosis of Covid-19. It has also directed the provincial governments to make procurement of the World Health Organization-approved RAT kits to start process with effect from Nov 15 stating that ‘the RAT has certain advantages over RT-PCR, such as relatively low cost and return results..... more >>

10 Lahore localities under ‘micro smart lockdown’ once again
Source: Asif Chaudhry, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-11-10
LAHORE: The provincial capital has been witnessing over 100 coronavirus cases daily since Oct 24, prompting the Punjab government to impose ‘micro smart lockdown’ on 10 localities. Lahore is amongst 36 districts where [fresh] positive cases of the virus and deaths have been surfacing since pandemic of the disease in Punjab in March. Again, on Monday, Lahore reported 174 out of the to..... more >>

Lockdown intensifies as 12 die of Covid-19 in Punjab
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-11-11
LAHORE: Twelve people have died of Covid-19 and the cases crossed the figures of 400 during the last 24 hours (Tuesday) all over Punjab. This is the highest number of positive cases in a day since July, the month when the virus was at its peak. On July 18, as many as 442 cases were confirmed and eight people lost their lives. During the second wave of the virus, the number of deaths is increasin..... more >>

Marriage hall owners rally against closure
Source: Correspondent, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-11-11
GUJRANWALA: The marriage halls association took out a rally on Tuesday and demonstrated at Chanda Qila Bypass against the government decision to close their services from Nov 20 to prevent the spread of coronavirus.
The protesters carrying banners and placards chanted slogans against the government. The rally started from canal bridge and ended at Chanda Qila Bypass. Addressing the participants,.....

Second wave of Covid-19: Punjab to close down markets violating SOPs
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-11-10
LAHORE: In the wake of growing number of Covid-19 cases in the province, the Punjab government has decided to close down markets violating Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). On the instructions of Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar, a special meeting of the Cabinet Committee for anti-corona was held on Monday, which took important decisions for protecting the public from the second wave of.....

Punjab decides smart lockdown in cities
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-11-10
LAHORE - A serious outbreak of COVID-19 across Punjab has forced the provincial authorities to impose smart lockdown in parts of cities most affected by the disease. The decision comes following a significant surge in the number of positive coronavirus cases besides an alarming increase in the COVID-19 positivity ratio in the major cities of the province. In Multan, it was recorded as high a.....

Commissioner urges people to follow corona SOPs
Source: Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-11-11
BAHAWALPUR - Commissioner Capt (retd) Zafar Iqbal, in wake of an increase in number of COVID-19 cases in Bahawalpur, has urged all the people visiting markets, public places, government or private offices must wear masks. According to Commissioner Bahawalpur Division Capt (retd) Zafar Iqbal, coronavirus SOPs will be implemented in true letter and spirit to protect the public from this fatal virus......

COVID-9 tally in Attock reaches 683
Source: Muhammad Sabrin, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-11-11
Attock-In Attock, the number of novel coronavirus COVID-19 positive cases rose to 683 on Tuesday. According to health authorities, there are as many as 30 active patients across the district and all of them are under home isolation. District Attock Focal Person for Covid-19, Dr Saeed Akhter has said that the number of suspected cases in the district is 17,863 while screening of as many as 21.....

Some marriage halls start cancelling bookings
LAHORE:Marriage hall owners are divided in two groups on any government plan to close marriage halls in the wake of second wave of Covid-19. A group of owners of oldest marriage halls in the city has started returning advance payments to the clients. A marriage hall owner who introduced the concept of marriage halls in Township area while returning the advance payments of the marriage func.....

Markets may face closure over SOPs breach: minister
LAHORE:The Punjab government is considering closing markets, shopping malls and standalone shops as traders, business community and general public are not complying with Covid-19 SOPs. The authorities concerned are
inspecting shopping areas and sealing stores and shops on violation of SOPs. However, the government is unable to close down shops in markets such as Anarkali, Ichra, Shah Alam ..... more >>

School, shops sealed over corona SOPs violation
LAHORE: The district administration’s field formations continued to strictly implement corona SOPs in the city and sealed several shops, businesses and educational institutions for breaching the SOPs here on Wednesday. Deputy Commissioner Mudasar Riaz directed all assistant commissioners to implement corona SOPs, besides taking strict and indiscriminate action against the violators. A..... more >>

Five more confirmed positive for dengue
LAHORE: Five more patients have been confirmed positive for dengue virus during the last 24 hours, which raised the total cases of dengue fever in Punjab to 190 this year, according to report issued by Primary and Secondary Healthcare (P&SH) Department on Wednesday. Four patients have been confirmed as dengue virus positive in Lahore, and one in Sargodha. At least five dengue fever patients are..... more >>

Punjab objects to Centre-recommended rapid Covid testing
Source: Asif Chaudhry, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-11-12
LAHORE: The Punjab government has raised certain objections over the use of Rapid Antigen Testing (RAT), recommended by the federal health ministry, and said the RAT kits are unregistered, unreliable and a wastage of time and resources. The response came a few days after the federal government directed the provinces to commence RAT for diagnosis of Covid-19. It had also directed the provincial go...... more >>

BVH runs short of Covid testing kits
Source: Correspondent, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-11-12
BAHAWALPUR: The Bahawal Victoria Hospital (BVH) is running short of Covid-19 pandemic testing kits. With the shortage of coronavirus testing kits, both indoor patients and doctors particularly surgeons are facing difficulties in performing duty. Dawn learnt that the unavailability of virus testing kits in accordance with the daily requirements of the doctors in the main operation theatre complex..... more >>

AD&SJ among 10 Covid-19 casualties
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-11-12
LAHORE: An additional district and sessions judge was among 10 coronavirus patients who died in Punjab during the last 24 hours on Wednesday whereas 502 more people tested positive. Punjab witnessed an increase of nearly 100 new cases on Wednesday, showing how rapidly the infection is spreading across the province with every passing day. Additional District and Sessions Judge (Lahore) Azfar Sult..... more >>

Majority of businesses fear second lockdown
Source: Shahram Haq, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-11-12
LAHORE: As the second wave of Covid-19 spreads fast in the most populous parts of the country, the apprehension of another lockdown among various businesses is growing. Among the businesses that fear the lockdown are retail
and services sectors. Meanwhile, the manufacturing sector is not under serious threat of another lockdown as such businesses continued to operate during the first wave of Cov.....

**People flout lockdown orders**
Source: *Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad*, 2020-11-12
RAWALPINDI/ISLAMABAD: At least 322 people contracted novel coronavirus disease (Covid-19) in the federal capital, while some 81 new cases have been reported in the garrison city during the past 24 hours, whereas the government has failed to enforce lockdown in hotspot areas. National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Wednesday said that 322 new Covid-19 cases were reported from the federal.....

**Marriage halls reject curb on indoor events**
Source: *Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad*, 2020-11-12
RAWALPINDI: Marriage hall owners, operators and traders in the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi have rejected the new restrictions imposed by the government, including banning indoor wedding ceremonies, to curb the spread of the novel coronavirus. Meanwhile, traders of the federal capital have urged the government to instead revisit the standard operating procedures for such events to con.....

**Punjab facing sharp rise in coronavirus cases; nine more die**
Source: *Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad*, 2020-11-12
LAHORE - The COVID-19 claimed nine more lives in the province, while 502 new cases of coronavirus were reported on Wednesday. According to the spokesperson of the Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department, the number of coronavirus cases in the province reached 107,831, while so far the total number of deaths in the province recorded 2,429 altogether. The P&SHD confirmed that 233 new ca.....

**Security measures being ensured in smart lockdown areas**
Source: *Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad*, 2020-11-12
LAHORE - On the direction of DIG Operations Ashfaq Khan, security measures are being ensured for smart lockdown in selected areas in view of the second wave of coronavirus. According to the security plan, SPs, DSPs and SHOs of City, Cantt, Iqbal Town and Model Town divisions are performing their duties in their respective lockdown areas. He said that 180 policemen had been deployed in Model Town D.....

**Buzdar asks people to follow corona SOPs**
Source: *Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad*, 2020-11-12
LAHORE - Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar has said the citizens should follow corona SOPs as the number of patients is increasing due to violation of SOPs. In a statement, the CM said that the movement will be restricted through smart lockdown in affected areas. He said that nine coronavirus patients have died; 502 confirmed cases have been reported and 11,388 were tested during the last 24 hours. &.....

**Government-run school sealed after 3 COVID-19 cases emerge**
Source: *Israr Ahmad, The Nation, Islamabad*, 2020-11-12
Rawalpindi-A government run educational institute in Gujar Khan has been sealed after the emergence of three COVID-19 cases, informed sources on Wednesday. Similarly, some 81 coronavirus patients landed in teaching
## Violation of SOPs goes unchecked

Rawalpindi: Though the government has directed the concerned authorities of Rawalpindi to ensure strict implementation of SOPs in all departments, shops, markets, bazaars by the people, however, but the related bodies have failed in enforcement the orders of their high ups. More than 60 per cent population are not bothered to follow SOPs and preventive measures against second wave of coronavirus.....

## Apex Committee agrees to chalk out strategy to curb 2nd wave

LAHORE:A special meeting of the Apex Committee was held under the chair of Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar at his office here Thursday. Lahore Corps Commander Lt-Gen Majid Ehsan, General Officer Commanding 10-Div Maj-Gen Muhammad Aiq-ur-Rehman Malik, DG Rangers Punjab Maj-Gen Muhammad Amir Majeed and higher ranking military officials attended the meeting. Provincial Law Minister Raja Bashara.....

## CM Usman Buzdar for all steps to check corona spread

LAHORE:Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar has said that all necessary measures will be taken to deal with the second wave of the COVID-19. He said that number of corona affectees was increasing and a comprehensive cooperation of citizens was required like before for controlling the virus spread. Legal action will be taken on the violation of SOPs, he said adding the situation was being mon.....

## Nine COVID-19 patients die, 390 new cases confirmed

LAHORE:Nine Covid-19 patients died and another 390 new infections were confirmed in Punjab 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 rose to 2,438 in Punjab, while confirmed cases of coronavirus reached 108,221 in the province. Out of a total of 108,221 infections in Punjab, 105,.....

## Army Chief Bajwa, Bill Gates discuss COVID-19, polio situation in Pakistan

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Chief of Army Staff Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa spoke with Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Co-Chair Bill Gates on Thursday evening about Pakistan’s COVID-19 response as well as the resumption of the polio campaign in the country,Geo Newsreported. According to a statement issued by Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), COAS Bajwa and Bill Gates talked about Pakistan&rsqu.....

## Army Chief Bajwa, Bill Gates discuss COVID-19, polio situation in Pakistan

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Chief of Army Staff Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa spoke with Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Co-Chair Bill Gates on Thursday evening about Pakistan’s COVID-19 response as well as the resumption of the polio
campaign in the country, Geo News reported. According to a statement issued by Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), COAS Bajwa and Bill Gates talked about Pakistan’s.....

**People flout lockdown orders**

Over 400 new Covid-19 cases reported in twin cities

Source: *Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad*, 2020-11-12

RAWALPINDI/ ISLAMABAD: At least 322 people contracted novel coronavirus disease (Covid-19) in the federal capital, while some 81 new cases have been reported in the garrison city during the past 24 hours, whereas the government has failed to enforce lockdown in hotspot areas. National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Wednesday said that 322 new Covid-19 cases were reported from the federal.....

### Sindh

**Three deaths, 665 new Covid-19 cases reported**

Source: *Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad*, 2020-11-10

KARACHI: Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Monday said that three more patients of Covid-19 died overnight and 665 new cases emerged when 12,343 tests were conducted. He said the death toll in Sindh had reached 2,687 that constituted 1.8 per cent death rate. He added that 262 more patients recovered overnight raising the number of patients recovered so far to 140,812 that constituted 95pc re.....

**KU facility resumes Covid-19 testing service**

Source: *Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad*, 2020-11-10

KARACHI: The Dr Panjwani Centre for Molecular Medicine and Drug Research (PCMD) at Karachi University (KU) has resumed polymerase chain reaction (PCR)-based tests of Covid-19 at its laboratory. "The decision has been taken in view of the recent increase in Covid-19 cases. The PCR-based tests will be performed in a limited quantity at the Biosafety Level-III lab," said a KU spokesperso.....

**SBP injected Rs1.7tr during Covid-19, says governor**

Source: *Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad*, 2020-11-11

KARACHI: The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has injected about Rs1.73 trillion, or 4.1 per cent of GDP, in the economy to support individuals and businesses during Covid-19 through various proactive measures, including dramatic reduction in interest rates from 13.25pc to 7pc, loan deferment, employment support and Rozgar Scheme, said SBP Governor Dr Reza Baqir on Tuesday. Baqir said this in an inte.....

**Index gains 369 points on vaccine progress**

Source: *Equities Correspondent, Dawn, Islamabad*, 2020-11-11

KARACHI: Stocks rallied on Tuesday inspired by the upsurge in global oil and equities market which celebrated the big news of pharmaceutical firm Pfizer announcing the soon-to-be launched vaccine for Covid-19 with a success rate of 94 per cent. The KSE-100 index settled with a gain of 369.01 points (0.90 per cent) at 41,153.05. The local market came back to life after a lacklustre trading a day a.....
Vaccine expectations
Source: Editorial, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-11-11
THE world breathed a collective sigh of relief early in the week as drug maker Pfizer announced a significant update regarding its coronavirus vaccine trial. The American multinational pharmaceutical company said early analysis of its Covid-19 vaccine shows more than 90pc efficacy — a development that will give billions of people hope that the end of the pandemic is in sight. The interim ana.....
more >>

COVID19 claims three lives, infects 665 more: CM
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-11-10
KARACHI- Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah on Monday said that coronavirus claimed three more lives lifting the death toll to 2,687 and 665 new cases emerged when 12,343 tests were conducted. In a statement issued from CM House, the chief minister said that overnight three more patients lost their lives lifting the death toll to 2,687 that constituted 1.8 percent death rate. He ad.....
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COVID-19 claims three more lives, infects 518 others: CM
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-11-11
KARACHI - Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that three more patients of coronavirus died lifting the death toll to 2,690 and 518 new cases emerged when 9,273 tests were conducted. This, he said in a statement issued on Tuesday. He said that three more patients lost their lives while struggling against the virus lifting the death toll to 2,690 that constituted 1.8 percent.....
more >>

Fine imposed to COVID-19 SOPs’ violators
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-11-11
HYDERABAD - The district administration has expedited action against the violators of standard operating procedures (SOPs) and imposed fine in different talukas of the district. On the directives of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Fuad Ghaffar Soomro, the Assistant Commissioner (AC) Latifabad Ishtiaq Ali Mangi sealed and imposed fine to Alkaram Biryani at unit number 11. Awareness was also prov.....
more >>

LUMHS suspends academic activities for three weeks due to surge in COVID cases
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-11-11
HYDERABAD-The management of Liaquat University of Medical and Health Sciences (LUMHS) Jamshoro on Tuesday announced the suspension of academic activities for three weeks after a surge in COVID-19 cases. According to LUMHS Registrar Dr Saroop Bhatia, the academic activities will remain suspended for three weeks after increasing in the number of COVID-19 cases in Hyderabad. Majority of the stu.....
more >>

Sindh sees 518 new Covid-19 cases
KARACHI: Three more patients of Coovid-19 died lifting the death toll 2,690 while 518 new cases emerged out of 9,273 tests conducted, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah told in a statement issued here on Tuesday. The CM said three more fatalities constituted the death rate to 1.8 percent. He said 9,273 samples were tested against which 518 cases were diagnosed that constituted 5.5 perce.....
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Source</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ikram Sehgal contracts Covid-19</td>
<td>Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-11-11</td>
<td>Pathfinder Group Chairman Ikram Sehgal has requested for his early recovery as he is seriously ill with Covid-19 for last 12 days. Sehgal requested his well wishers to remember him in their prayers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education dept closes doors to visitors</td>
<td>Safdar Rizvi/Rija Fatima, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-11-11</td>
<td>Reports emerged on Tuesday of crowds forming outside the offices of the Sindh education department as visitors are barred from entry seemingly due to the coronavirus. On the same day, a report by the provincial health department revealed that at least 1,317 coronavirus cases were reported from educational institutes of the province between October 12 and November 9. On average, around 22 Covid-19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sindh reports 518 Covid-19 cases, 3 deaths</td>
<td>Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-11-11</td>
<td>The coronavirus claimed three more lives in Sindh while another 518 infections were reported on Tuesday. According to a statement issued by the Chief Minister's House, 9,273 Covid-19 tests were conducted between Monday and Tuesday and 518 new cases were detected. The provincial tally rose to 151,352 and the death toll reached 2,690, while the number of recovered patients stands at 140,997 as</td>
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<td>AKU develops low-cost, 3D printed nasal swab</td>
<td>Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-11-11</td>
<td>Aga Khan University (AKU) has developed 3D printed, low-cost nasal swab for Covid-19 testing in Pakistan, the varsity announced in a statement on Tuesday. According to AKU, Pakistan now has the ability to locally produce nasal swabs- the essential tool required to collect samples for Covid-19 testing- after the university successfully completed clinical trials using a 3D printed swab. The statement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Covid-19 claims three lives as 298 battle for life in Sindh</td>
<td>Our Correspondent, The News, International, 2020-11-11</td>
<td>The novel coronavirus has claimed three more lives in Sindh during the last 24 hours, taking the death toll to 2,690 and showing a 1.8 per cent mortality rate in the province. Another 518 cases emerged when 9,273 tests were conducted, with the 24-jour detection rate standing at 5.5 per cent, said Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in his daily Covid-19 report on Tuesday. He said 333 patie.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Covid-19 kills 14 more, infects 720 in Sindh</td>
<td>Our Correspondent, The News, International, 2020-11-12</td>
<td>Fourteen more patients have died from the novel coronavirus and another 270 cases have surfaced in Sindh. In the last 24 hours, 11,146 tests were conducted and the virus detection rate was recorded at 6.4 per cent, said the Sindh chief minister on Wednesday. The province’s death toll from the infectious disease had reached 2,704, said Murad Ali Shah. The CM recalled 17 patients had d.</td>
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### People either not wearing masks at all or using them wrongly: Dr Azra Pechuho
Expressing concerns over growing number of COVID-19 cases in Sindh as well as mortalities due to the viral infection, Sindh Health Minister Dr Azra Pechuho on Wednesday said people are not only endangering their own lives due to their carelessness but also putting the lives of healthcare workers and staff in danger as they have been risking their lives while treating patients of Covid-19. .....

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### ‘KU fee collection has fallen by Rs600m due to Covid-19 this year’
Karachi University has managed to generate around 63 per cent of its revenue from its own resources, but owing to the situation that occurred due to Covid-19, the fee collection of the varsity has decreased by Rs600 million this year, and that is why the KU is suffering an unfavourable financial situation. However, despite all these difficulties, the teachers are rendering valuable service.....

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### Covid-19 claims 14 more lives
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-11-12
KARACHI: Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Wednesday said that the coronavirus situation in the province was worsening with increasing current detection rate which reached 6.4 per cent when 11,146 tests were conducted and 14 more patients lost their lives. “We all have to bring change in our lifestyle by making SOPs as part of our day to day life, otherwise the government will have no o.....

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### IBCC outsources collection, delivery of A and O level documents amid Covid second wave
Source: Safdar Rizvi, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-11-12
KARACHI: The Inter Board Committee of Chairmen (IBCC), the body that certifies credentials of foreign and international education boards including A and O levels, has temporarily closed its branch offices in Pakistan in wake of the risk associated with the second wave of novel coronavirus. As an alternative, the IBCC has signed an agreement with TCS under which the latter will collect and delive.....

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### Sindh reports over 700 Covid-19 cases in a day
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-11-12
Sindh saw 720 new Covid-19 cases on Wednesday - the highest reported in a single day since the end of July - said Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on the day. Meanwhile, he added, the contagion claimed 14 more lives. Following this, the province’s Covid-19 tally has soared to 152,072 and the death toll has climbed to 2,704. Meanwhile, 449 more patients recovered from the contagion ov.....

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### Coronavirus situation is worsening: Murad
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-11-12
KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that the coronavirus situation in the province is worsening, and 14 more patients have died. He said that the people had to make the SOPs a part of their lives, or the government would have no option but to take some drastic measures. This he said in a statement issued here from the CM House on Wednesday. “We had 17 de.....

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<thead>
<tr>
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<td>Murad says COVID-19 claims 14 more lives, infects 720 others</td>
<td>Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad</td>
<td>2020-11-12</td>
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<tr>
<td>KMC declares wearing facemask mandatory in buildings</td>
<td>Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad</td>
<td>2020-11-12</td>
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<tr>
<td>One patient dies of COVID-19 as 47 more cases reported in Hyderabad</td>
<td>Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad</td>
<td>2020-11-12</td>
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<td>Infections peak as coronavirus rears head in Pakistan again</td>
<td>Anadolu Agency, The Express Tribune, Islamabad</td>
<td>2020-11-13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Labs under pressure amid virus resurgence</td>
<td>Sameer Mandhro, The Express Tribune, Islamabad</td>
<td>2020-11-13</td>
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KARACHI - Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah said that the coronavirus situation in the province was worsening with the increase in current detection rate. In a statement issued from CM House on Wednesday, Murad Ali Shah said that the current detection rate had reached to 6.4 percent when 11,146 tests were conducted and 14 more patients lost their lives. "We all have to brin.....

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KARACHI - Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) on Wednesday made it mandatory for all to wear facemask at its building, all offices and hospitals. The steps is taken in view of the recommendations of National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) in the wake of increasing number of COVID-19 cases, said a statement. Heads of KMC’s all departments were directed to ensure implementation o.....

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HYDERABAD-One more patient has died of COVID-19 the other day, taking the tally to 94 while 47 more positive cases were reported in Hyderabad district. According to official figures released by the district administration late Tuesday night, 47, out of 569 samples taken from different areas, tested positive for COVID-19 during the last 24 hours. As many as 432 active cases are registered in .....

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A day after Sindh reported 14 deaths from the novel coronavirus, fourteen more Covid-19 patients passed away in Sindh on Thursday. The province’s death toll from the infectious disease had reached 2,718, said the Sindh chief minister. As many as 979 positive surfaced when 12,599 tests were conducted in the last 24 hours, which meant a 7.7 per cent detection rate that was the highest of.....

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KARACHI: Pakistan on Friday recorded over 2,300 coronavirus cases for the first time since July 15, as health experts fear the recent spike in infections may hit another peak over the winter months. Another 37 people lost their lives to the virus, the highest single-day toll since July 30, official data showed. The country has recorded over 17,000 cases this month, following health experts'.....

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KARACHI: A day passed, then two. Y* was yet to receive his Covid-19 test results on Thursday. Since the pandemic had abated, it almost never took this long for the results to come and until last week, the majority of Covid-19 screening results were released within 24 hours of testing. But this was not the case any longer, it appeared to Y, a resident of Saddar Town. "I have asked the rest.....

more >>
PPP lawmaker dies due to Covid complications in Karachi
Source: DNA, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-11-13
KARACHI: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leader and member of the Sindh Assembly Jam Madad Ali passed away at a private hospital in Karachi on Friday due to complications caused by Covid-19. He was 58. Ali tested positive for the contagion 15 days ago and was admitted to the hospital in the port city. PPP Chairperman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari expressed deep sorrow over Ali’s death, saying that h.....
more >>

Five restaurants sealed over violation of SOPs
Source: INP, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-11-13
Authorities have sealed five restaurants in the port city over violation of coronavirus related Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). Local Administration conducted raids in Khada Market and Clifton Block 2 of Karachi South District after surge in coronavirus cases in the province. According to Deputy Commissioner South, the restaurants were sealed for violation of closing time set by th.....
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International News

Countries News

‘Milestone’ Covid vaccine claims boost hope
Source: AFP, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-11-10
• Drug shows 90pc effectiveness against illness
• 50m doses can be supplied globally this year and 1.3bn next year
• Stock markets world over turn bullish over the news
• Infections across the planet top 50m
WASHINGTON: One of the teams racing to develop a coronavirus vaccine announced on Monday its drug had shown 90 per cent effectiveness against the illness, sending st.... more >>

US surpasses 10 million Covid-19 cases
Source: AFP, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-11-10
WASHINGTON: The United States recorded its 10 millionth case of the coronavirus on Monday, according to a count by Johns Hopkins University. A tracker by the Baltimore-based university showed 10,018,278 cases recorded in the United States since the pandemic began, and 237,742 deaths. Both are the highest tolls in absolute terms in the world. The United States is now well into its third and by f..... more >>

One in 5 Covid-19 patients develops mental illness within 90 days: study
Source: Reuters, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-11-10
Many Covid-19 survivors are likely to be at greater risk of developing mental illness, psychiatrists said on Monday, after a large study found 20 per cent of those infected with the coronavirus are diagnosed with a psychiatric disorder within 90 days. Anxiety, depression and insomnia were most common among recovered Covid-19 patients in the study who developed mental health problems, and the rese..... more >>

Court tears up mask rule for German city
Source: AFP, Daily Times, 2020-11-10
BERLIN: The German city of Duesseldorf was forced on Monday to lift an order for residents to wear masks against the coronavirus, after a citizen successfully sued against the blanket rule. The setback for the western city came as Germany is fighting a surging second wave of Covid-19, with new daily cases reaching record levels almost every other day. Duesseldorf authorities on Wednesday ordered..... more >>

How contagious are kids with Covid? Short answer: we don’t know
Source: AFP, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-11-10
Are children a major source of contagion for Covid-19? Ten months into a pandemic that has claimed 1.2 million lives experts are still divided on the question, even as governments must decide whether to keep classrooms open or shut. During the first wave of infection, scientific consensus formed around the concern that children might be a crucial vector — as they are for the flu — in ..... more >>

Pfizer claims vaccine over 90pc effective
Source: Reuters, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-11-10
NEW YORK: Pfizer Inc's experimental COVID-19 vaccine is more than 90% effective based on initial trial results, the drugmaker said on Monday, a major victory in the war against a virus that has killed over a million people and battered
the world's economy. Experts welcomed the first successful interim data from a large-scale clinical test as a watershed moment that showed vaccines cou......

**Nearly $2tr traded on Covid-19 drug news**
Source: Reuters, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-11-11
LONDON: News of a breakthrough in the race to find a Covid-19 vaccine sparked one of the heaviest trading days since the height of the pandemic crisis, according to early data analysed by Reuters, with nearly $2 trillion changing hands on Monday. Traders stampeded to the riskier plays in equities, foreign exchange and bond markets after Pfizer Inc released positive data on its vaccine trial, whil.....

**Palestinian negotiator Erekat dies after contracting Covid-19**
Source: AFP, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-11-11
JERUSALEM: Palestinian veteran negotiator Saeb Erekat died on Tuesday of coronavirus complications at age 65, in a death mourned as a “great loss” for his people and sparking tributes from around the world. Erekat was a long-time architect of plans to end the conflict with Israel through the creation of an independent Palestinian state, a goal he would not live to see achieved. Pales.....

**China to actively consider Covid-19 vaccine needs of SCO countries: Xi**
Source: News Desk, Daily Times, 2020-11-11
China is willing to actively consider the COVID-19 vaccine needs of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) countries, said Chinese President Xi Jinping on Tuesday while addressing the 20th meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the SCO via video link. Xi called on the countries to strengthen joint efforts in prevention and control of COVID-19, support each other, and deepen communicatio.....

**Developers announce vaccine as virus cases rise across the world**
Source: Agencies, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-11-10
Paris - A vaccine jointly developed by Pfizer and BioNTech was 90 percent effective in preventing Covid-19 infections in ongoing Phase 3 trials, the companies announced Monday. The statement was released as coronavirus cases are soaring across the world, and European stock markets and oil prices jumped on the news. According to preliminary findings, protection in patients was achieved seven d.....

**Families in US are reeling due to Covid-19: Joe Biden**
Source: Agencies, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-11-11
Wilmington - President-elect Joe Biden lambasted the Trump administration’s argument in the Supreme Court on Tuesday that the Affordable Care Act should be struck down, calling it “simply cruel and needlessly divisive” and saying that doing so would leave 20 million Americans’ health coverage “ripped away in the middle of the nation’s worst pandemic in a century.&.....

**One in five Covid-19 patients develop mental illness within 90 days**
Source: Reuters, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-11-11
LONDON: Many Covid-19 survivors are likely to be at greater risk of developing mental illness, psychiatrists said on Monday after a large study found 20% of those infected with the coronavirus are diagnosed with a psychiatric disorder
within 90 days. Anxiety, depression, and insomnia were most common among recovered Covid-19 patients in the study who developed mental health problems. The researc.....

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**UK becomes fifth country to exceed 50,000 coronavirus deaths**

Source: Ap, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-11-12

LONDON: The United Kingdom on Wednesday became the fifth country in the world to record more than 50,000 coronavirus-related deaths. Figures from the British government showed that 595 more people in the country died within 28 days of testing positive for the virus, the highest daily number since May. The figure took the UK’s total death toll in the pandemic to 50,365. The UK, which has pe.....

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**Donors News**

**WHO to provide all possible support to Pakistan in fight against COVID-19**

Source: APP, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-11-12

ISLAMABAD - World Health Organization’s (WHO) Pakistan Representative, Dr Palitha Mahipala Wednesday said that WHO would continue to provide all possible support to Pakistan amid the coronavirus crisis. WHO had taken several comprehensive measures to collaborate with the government and formed a coordinated response strategy to the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr Mahipala said this at handing over cere.....

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SDPI Engagements

**Webinars News**

**Steps for trade, food safety amid pandemic stressed**  
Islamabad: Experts in an online workshop called for tangible measures to ensure trade and food safety amid the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. During the event organised by Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) in collaboration with Pakistan Institute of Trade & Development (PITAD), the experts mainly discussed as to how the improved federal-provincial coordination on food saf......[more >>](#)

**Experts discuss trade, food safety amid Covid-19**  
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-11-13  
ISLAMABAD: Experts have stressed the need for taking practical measures to ensure trade and food safety amid Covid-19 so that the pandemic could not impact the life of common man. At a workshop titled "Safe Trade and Food Safety amid Covid-19", they discussed how improved federal and provincial coordination in food safety could enhance the preference of Pakistan's food products.....[more >>](#)

**Steps To Ensure Safe Trade, Food Safety Amid COVID-19 Stressed**  
Source: APP, Urdu Point, 2020-11-12  
ISLAMABAD, (APP - UrduPoint / Pakistan Point News - 12th Nov, 2020 ) :The experts at a workshop stressed the need for taking practical measures to ensure trade and food safety amid COVID-19 so that the pandemic might not impact the lives of common man. The online workshop titled: ‘Safe Trade and Food Safety amid COVID-19’ was organized by Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) in......[more >>](#)

**Steps to ensure safe trade & food safety amid COVID-19 stressed**  
Source: News Desk, Daily Spokesman, 2020-11-12  
ISLAMABAD: Experts at a workshop stressed the need for taking practical measures to ensure trade and food safety amid COVID-19 so that the pandemic might not impact the lives of common man. The online workshop titled: ‘Safe Trade & Food Safety amid COVID-19’ was organized by Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) in collaboration with Pakistan Institute of Trade &......[more >>](#)