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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Team:
Data Managed by:
Shahid Rasul, Abid Rasheed

Compile & Layout Design by:
Ali Aamer Javed

Sustainable Development Policy Institute, SDPI

10-D West, 3rd Floor, Taimoor Chamber, Fazl-ul-Haq Road,
Blue Area, Islamabad. Pakistan,
Tel: +92.51. 2278134, Fax: 2278135,
### Op-Eds/Articles/Editorials

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<td><strong>Managing the vaccination drive</strong></td>
<td>Editorial, Business Recorder, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-03-27</td>
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<td>After taking off very nicely the vaccination drive seems to be giving authorities their first reasons to worry. Initially, when vaccine hesitancy was unsurprisingly very common, the few elderly people that made their way to vaccination centres were given their first jabs within minutes and spoke very highly of the first-class treatment they received. Even people that hadn’t registered were a.....more &gt;&gt;</td>
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| **Letter from Rome: facing the third wave** | Daud Khan, The Express Tribune, Islamabad | 2021-03-27 |
| As of March 15, 2021, Rome and much of Italy, has been declared a “Covid-19 Red Zone” for the next three weeks — the government has a system that classifies different regions of the country as white, yellow, orange and red according to indicators including infection and transmission rates, and the situation in hospitals and intensive care units. The imposition of a Red Zone means.....more >> |

| **Surging cases** | EDITORIAL, Dawn, Islamabad | 2021-03-27 |
| MORE than 4,000 cases have been reported across the country over 24 hours, a foreboding benchmark that was last surpassed when Pakistan hit its first peak in summer last year. The national positivity ratio has crossed 10pc — that means that one out of every 10 Covid-19 tests are positive. In some cities, the positivity rate is reportedly even higher. While the first wave saw an alarming numbe.....more >> |

| **Chasing vaccines** | M Waqar Bhatti, The News, International | 2021-03-28 |
| Hardly half a million, or a lower number of people have managed to receive the Covid-19 vaccine jabs in Pakistan where a third wave has started wreaking havoc with the lives in the capital Islamabad, and several cities in the Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Experts believe that is a matter of time before major cities in Sindh and Balochistan register an exponential growth in the Covid-19 cases. Th.....more >> |

| **Vaccination apartheid** | Dr. Rafi Amir-Ud-Din, The News, International | 2021-03-28 |
| The Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf government’s recent step to allow the private sector to import the Covid-19 vaccine Sputnik-V from Russia has raised several ethical, epidemiological and economic questions. The issue of vaccine imports through the private sector caught the media attention only after Transparency International-Pakistan (TIP) called on the prime minister of Pakistan to review its .....more >> |

| **Shot and sweet** | Rana Abdullah Hammad, The News, International | 2021-03-28 |
| Some of my family members have been reluctant to take the vaccine shots. They thought the Covid vaccine could cause serious side effects such as infertility or even paralysis. But overall, Lahore’s elderly population has been quite forthcoming ever since the state rolled out vaccination plans. They obviously want to be safe; or else their children are eager to have them inoculated. The Expo.....more >> |
Vaccination=Vacca=Cow=Mata
Source: Dr Ajaz Anwar, The News, International , 2021-03-28
Of all epidemics the latest one — Covid-19 — has proved the deadliest, at least in living memory or recorded history. Yet, many are still loath to accept that there’s a thing called coronavirus. Preventive measures are routinely and widely publicised, yet the SOPs are largely ignored. Even the simplest advice of maintaining social distancing, wearing facemasks and washing hands w.....more >>

Faith in the time of corona
The police had placed barriers on the road leading from Lohari Gate to the shrine of Hazrat Shah Rukin Alam at Qila Qasim Bagh to restrict entry. An argument ensued between a family and the police near the road barriers. The family insisted on crossing the barriers to visit to the shrine that had been closed since the onset of the pandemic. The frustrated lady introduced herself as Samina Haider. .....more >>

The virus and its implications
Anniversaries are often uncanny occasions, inherently dependent on what they celebrate or commemorate. It has now been more than a year since Covid-19 arrived in Pakistan. There was noise, anxiety, nervousness, poverty and so much more. Yet, one thing took precedence over all of that: human life. Since then, much has been discussed about the spread of the virus and its implications. Forums about t.....more >>

Fear and anxiety
Source: Sana Tahir, The Nation, Islamabad , 2021-03-28
With a year gone by since the words "pandemic", "quarantine", "self-isolation", and “social distancing” became a part of our everyday vocabulary, it is surprising to note that Covid-19 is still surging and spreading its menacing tendrils every which way. As Pakistan endeavours to battle against the third wave of the raging virus, it seems that the co.....more >>

The social sphere
For almost a year now, the Covid-19 has pushed many people to relocate in their social spheres without the remedy of a habitual pace of life. There are fewer gatherings and stricter schedules. Life in a Pakistani society takes many forms and is expected to reflect a diversity of habits, values and attitudes. When the Covid-19 pandemic first hit us, the weakness of an individual was perha.....more >>

The third wave
The third wave of the coronavirus pandemic is now quite visibly upon us. Graphs show a rising trend over the past month, and according to NCOC chief Asad Umar 4,468 cases have been reported in the 24 hours between Friday and Saturday with 68 deaths reported and hospitals packed with people who are in a critical condition. Asad Umar has expressed the fear that a further rise in cases could overwhelm.....more >>

Opportunities for SMEs amid the pandemic
Source: Maryam Anas Ganaie, The Express Tribune, Islamabad , 2021-03-28
The Covid-induced economic slowdown has affected businesses, especially SMEs, worldwide. Sealed borders, trade interdependencies, export restrictions for maintaining stock of critical products to deal with the pandemic have changed global trade practices. About 94 countries adopted export restriction measures and 104 adopted import liberalisation strategy to survive amid the pandemic. As a result,.....more >>
TB in the times of Covid-19
Source: Editorial, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-03-28
The Balochistan government, with the assistance of international and national health organisations, is making all efforts to eradicate tuberculosis from the province. It is providing diagnosis and treatment facilities to patients for free, and is also paying transport fares to patients and their attendants travelling to hospitals from different parts of the province. During the ongoing coronavirus.....
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Surging Cases
Source: Editorial, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-03-28
For the second consecutive day, Pakistan reported over 4000 cases within 24 hours—the majority of which came from Punjab. We have not seen such an immense spike in transmission since June of last year. Once again we have digressed dangerously far towards losing a high number of the population through infections. The importance of adhering to restrictions and practicing preventative prot.....
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Economics of vaccines
Source: Shahid Mehmood, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-03-28
COVID-19 brought the world to its knees. The Covid vaccine has been the most sought-after product. However, as governments around the world rush to vaccinate their citizens, some aspects need deliberation and clarity. For instance, what explains the short supply of vaccines? And there’s the lesser discussed (but very important) aspect of non-production of vaccines in Pakistan. A lot of what.....
more >>

Vaccine nationalism
Source: Ayesha Ijaz Khan, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-03-29
WHEN it comes to vaccinating its population, the United States is in a secure position. With 14 per cent of the country fully vaccinated and 26pc having received a first dose, the US has the added advantage of being self-sufficient in vaccine production. With arguably three of the best Covid-19 vaccines indigenously produced, America need not rely on others. Across the Atlantic, things are not as.....
more >>

Defeating COVID
Source: EDITORIAL, Daily Times, 2021-03-29
Like it or not, the third wave of the pandemic that has wreaked havoc across the globe is back on our doorstep. As Pakistan stumbles through this alarming rise in infections (there have been reports of as many as 4500 new cases in the last 24 hours), the government is busy raising the alarm about crossing the highest-cases peak soon. Stiff health and safety guidelines have been put in place by the.....
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Online teaching and students with special needs
Source: Nabila Chauhdry, Daily Times, 2021-03-29
During the first wave of the COVID 19 pandemic, all academic institutes were forced to discover alternate ways of extending teaching – learning experiences to their students due to lockdown. During the first wave there were 1.2 billion children across 186 countries who were affected by the closure of schools. Higher education institutes and schools alike, had to shift to online mode to conti.....
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Vaccine woes
On the anniversary of the United Kingdom’s first lockdown of the coronavirus pandemic, as candles were lit in doorways and the country mourned 125,000 deaths, the prime minister was in the mood for gloating. “The reason we have the vaccine success is because of capitalism, because of greed my friends,” Boris Johnson reportedly told Conservative MPs, before pleading &ldquo.....
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National News

Balochistan

Section 144 imposed in Quetta
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-03-29
QUETTA: The Balochistan government has imposed Section 144 in Quetta district with immediate effect to ban all public gatherings amid a protest sit-in call given by the teachers’ association against the government’s failure to announce any increase in their salaries. An official notification issued by the Home and Tribal Affairs Department on Sunday night said the government had .....more >>

Islamabad

3rd Covid-19 wave poses downside risks to growth
Source: Zaheer Abbasi, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-03-27
ISLAMABAD: The fiscal deficit for the first seven months (July-January 2020-21) of the current fiscal year stood at 2.9 percent of the GDP (Rs1,309 billion), according to the Ministry of Finance’s (MoF’s) monthly Economic Update and Outlook for the month of March 2021 released on Friday. The MoF said that the prospects of economic growth are showing visible signs of improvement; h.....more >>

Covid-19 positivity rate soars to 10.15pc
Source: Abdul Rasheed Azad, Big News Network China, 2021-03-27
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has reported eight months’ highest coronavirus infections over the past 24 hours, with a positivity ratio of 10.15 percent as 4,368 cases were reported after 42,418 tests were conducted. The Covid-19 data released by the National Command and Control Centre (NCOC) revealed, a total 42,418 tests were conducted across the country, on Thursday, of which 4,368 retuned pos.....more >>

Registration for citizens aged 50, above from 30th
Source: Abdul Rasheed Azad, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-03-27
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan, Friday announced starting registering people over 50 years of age for Covid-19 vaccination from March 30th. The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) chairman Asad Umar announced here in a tweet, saying people aged 50 and above, can sign up to get vaccinated for the Covid-19 starting next week. "This means the oldest person who has registered will be vacc.....more >>

Vaccination of journalists, media workers; Ministry urged to take special steps
Source: Nuzhat Nazar, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-03-27
ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA), on Friday, urged the Health Ministry to take special steps for the Covid-19 vaccination of journalists and front line media workers. The PEMRA sent a letter to the Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Health, Dr Faisal Sultan, highlighting the role of television channels, radio, cable distributors in spreading awareness .....more >>

PIMA unhappy with govt’s policy on Covid vaccines
Islamabad : The Pakistan Islamic Medical Association (PIMA) has expressed deep concern over the government’s decision to allow private sector import of Covid vaccines, uncontrolled price of the vaccines, and a slowdown in the vaccination process, and has called for steps to ensure import of vaccines by the government sector alone, continuation of its campaign to vaccinate health workers, .....more >>
Pakistan may cross first Covid-19 wave numbers, warns Asad Umar
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-03-27
Federal Minister for Planning and Development Asad Umar on Saturday warned that Covid-19 cases in the country could soon cross the numbers seen during the first wave of the pandemic. Addressing the media after chairing a session of the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), the minister said if the cases increase at the current rate during the next few days or week, the situation would be wo.....
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Pakistan records 67 deaths, 4,468 new coronavirus cases in 24 hours
Pakistan has reported 67 deaths in the last 24 hours by novel coronavirus as the number of positive cases has surged to 649,824. The nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 14,158 on Saturday. According to the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) 4,468 persons tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 24 hours. Punjab remains the worst-hit province in terms.....
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Media must play role to counter propaganda against vaccine
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-03-27
LAHORE - Special Assistant to Punjab Chief Minister on Information Dr Firdous Ashiq Awan on Friday said that during last 24 hours 43 people died of coronavirus in Punjab. Addressing a press conference here, Dr Firdous said that 130,987 people had been administered coronavirus vaccine in Punjab. She said that media should play its role in countering negative propaganda against coronavirus vacc.....
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Panic in courtroom after witness declares himself Covid-19 positive
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-03-27
ISLAMABAD- The presence of a Covid-19 positive witness spread panic on Friday in the Accountability Court II of Islamabad. According to details, Accountability Court II Judge Azam Khan was hearing a case regarding mudaraba scandal and everything was going in routine when a National Accountability Bureau (NAB) witness named Ameer Hyder Malik requested for his early testimony. He requested the.....
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Daily count crosses 4,000 first time since July
Source: Syed Irfan Raza, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-03-27
ISLAMABAD: As many as 63 people died of Covid-19 and over 4,000 got infected during the last 24 hours as the third wave of the pandemic intensified in the country. With the latest death toll, the tally of casualties in Pakistan has reached 14,901. On the other hand, Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar on Friday said the government would start registering.....
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Govt must take timely steps for economic recovery: report
Source: Amin Ahmed, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-03-27
ISLAMABAD: In its ‘Monthly Economic Update and Outlook’ report released on Friday, the ministry of finance says that as the third wave of Covid-19 pandemic is posing the downside risk, the government’s timely measures will be helpful in continuation of economic recovery along with decelerating inflationary pressure and preserving external balance. The expectations of economic re.....
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Capital sees slight increase in Covid-19 cases  
Source: Munawer Azeem, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-03-27  
ISLAMABAD: As many as 663 people were diagnosed with Covid-19 in the capital whereas two casualties were reported on Friday. The positivity rate was 9.8pc. Officials of the capital administration said a male patient in the 40-49 age group and a female patient aged between 70 and 79 died of the disease. They were residents of G-10 and F-10. During the last 24 hours, 6,733 tests were conducted. The .....  

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Covid-19 patient stirs panic in Islamabad courtroom  
Source: Malik Asad, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-03-27  
ISLAMABAD: Panic gripped the accountability court on Friday when an active coronavirus patient emerged to testify in the National Accountability Bureau’s (NAB) reference. The NAB prosecution produced Ameer Haider Malik, a Covid-19 patient, as witness in the Mudarabah reference in the accountability court judge Azam Khan. He appeared as a routine witness in the court and remained with the l.....  

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Pakistan records over 4,000 Covid cases for first time since July  
Source: news Desk, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-03-27  
The national tally of total active Covid-19 cases climbed to 40,120, as 4,368 more people tested positive for the deadly virus on Friday in the highest number of cases reported in a single day since July last year. Sixty-three corona patients died on Friday, 60 of whom were under treatment in hospitals and three out of hospitals in their respective quarantines or homes, according to the latest up.....  

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Pandemic threatens lost decade for development: Report  
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2021-03-27  
The Covid-19 pandemic has reversed development gains for millions in poor countries, creating an even more sharply unequal world, according to a new UN report. “The global economy has experienced the worst recession in 90 years, with the most vulnerable segments of societies disproportionately affected,” said the Inter-agency Task Force on Financing in their Financing for Sustainable .....  

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ECC approves Rs 1bn for Covid-19 advertisements  
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2021-03-27  
The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the federal cabinet on Friday approved Rs1 billion for launching advertisement campaigns during the third wave of Covid-19. Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Dr Abdul Hafeez Shaikh, chaired the ECC meeting. The ECC considered and approved a technical supplementary grant regarding allocation of funds amounting to Rs1 billion for launching advert.....  

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ICT crackdown on Covid-19 SOPs violators  
Source: Muhammad Faisal Kaleem, Daily Times, 2021-03-27  
To ensure complete implementation of government directives in a bid to control the spread of Covid-19, the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration on Friday took strict action against those violating the Covid-19 SOPs. The capital territory administration took action against the shopkeepers, hotel owners, marquee owners and common citizens in different areas of the city. During the crac.....  

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Covid-positive witness causes panic in accountability court
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2021-03-27
A National Accountability Bureau (NAB) witness caused panic during a hearing in the accountability court on Friday after the revelation that he was infected with the Covid-19. "I'm Covid-19 positive, please record my statement quickly," the witness named Amir Haider Malik pleaded with the court in the Mudaraba scandal case hearing. The revelation caused panic in the courtroom a.....
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In worrying sign, Pakistan reports 4,000 plus coronavirus cases third day in a row
The third wave of the coronavirus seems to be intensifying in the country as Pakistan reported more than 4,000 cases of the virus in a single day. On Sunday, the country reported 4,767 new cases of the virus over the past 24 hours. Fifty-seven more people died from the virus while 4,767 more contracted the disease on Saturday, according to figures obtained from the National Command and Op.....
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Govt offered assistance for Covid vaccination
Rawalpindi: President of Al-Khidmat Foundation Pakistan (AKFP) Muhammad Abdul Shakoor has said that if the government wants, trustworthy NGOs can provide assistance in the process of vaccination. He said that the process of corona vaccination by the government is welcome across the country. However, with the increasing number of cases and deaths due to the Corona epidemic, it is imperative.....
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Indoor, outdoor gatherings banned with immediate effect: NCOC
Source: News Desk, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-03-28
ISLAMABAD: As the third wave of Covid-19 continued to rage across the country, the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) following a meeting held on Sunday announced that all kinds of gatherings, indoor as well as outdoor, have been banned with immediate effect. This includes all social, cultural, political, sports and other events, the guidelines further stated. As per a statement relea.....
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NCOC warns of tougher Covid-19 restrictions
Source: Nuzhat Nazar, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-03-28
ISLAMABAD: The National Command Operation Centre (NCOC) chief and Federal Minister Asad Umar on Saturday said the government would have no option but to toughen restrictions if the coronavirus situation did not improve. During a media briefing after NCOC meeting to review the alarming rise in coronavirus cases in Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Islamabad Capital Territory, the federal minister.....
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Positivity rate remains over 14pc in Punjab for third consecutive day
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-03-28
LAHORE: There is no let up in the spread of novel coronavirus, as its positivity rate in the Punjab remained over 14 percent for the third consecutive day, while this rate surged to about 20 percent in Lahore spreading alarm among the health authorities apart from putting burden on health facilities. Sources in the Primary & Secondary Healthcare Department said that public sector hospital.....
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Pakistan reports 57 deaths, 4,767 coronavirus cases in last 24 hrs
Pakistan has reported 57 deaths in the last 24 hours by novel coronavirus as the number of positive cases has surged to 654,591. The nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 14,215 on Sunday. According to the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) 4,767 persons tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 24 hours. Punjab remains the worst-hit province in terms of.....
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Centre mulls tougher rules as hospitals overwhelmed by virus spike
Source: Tahir Niaz, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-03-28
Asad Umar says third wave of Covid-19 spreading at a very fast speed with infections rising rapidly | With 67 single-day deaths, Pakistan reports 4,468 new cases ISLAMABAD - Federal Minister for Planning and Development Asad Umar on Saturday said that hospitals were nearing full capacity and warned of tougher restrictions if violations of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Covid-1.....
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Pakistan may soon cross peak of first wave as cases surge
Source: Ikram Junaidi, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-03-28
ISLAMABAD: As the British variant of Covid-19 rages across the subcontinent, Minister for Planning and Development Asad Umar on Saturday warned that the country could soon surpass the peak witnessed in the first wave due to continued violation of standard operating procedures (SOPs) and slow pace of vaccination. The country reported 4,468 new cases during the last 24 hours, which was the highest ..... more >>

Capital traders seek closure of markets once a week
Source: App, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-03-28
ISLAMABAD: Representatives of markets in the capital on Saturday urged the government to notify closure of businesses once in a week for tackling the Covid-19 pandemic. At a meeting, they said they had suffered huge losses due to the previous lockdowns. The participants of the meeting chaired by Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, the president Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), said the bu.....
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Islamabad sees over 700 cases third time since pandemic outbreak
Source: Aamir Yasin | Munawer Azeem, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-03-28
ISLAMABAD: The capital on Saturday reported over 700 Covid-19 cases for the third time since the outbreak of the pandemic in March last year with the positivity rate hitting 10.74pc. Besides, two patients succumbed to the infection. Officials of the capital administration said 709 cases were reported which were the second highest during the third wave. On the other hand, six people died from th.....
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Goodwill ambassadors, WWF call for climate action
Source: Jamal Shahid, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-03-28
ISLAMABAD: Due to the Covid-19 pandemic and an increase in the cases in Pakistan, the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) marked the Earth Hour on Saturday. Just a few government buildings switched off lights, including the Prime Minister’s Office. However, this year, goodwill ambassadors joined WWF to raise awareness through digital media campaigns. WWF said Earth Hour united individuals, businesses.....
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<td><strong>PM Imran Khan asks people to avoid weddings, restaurants amid intensifying third wave</strong></td>
<td>Web Desk, The News, International</td>
<td>2021-03-28</td>
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<td>Prime Minister Imran Khan on Sunday appealed to the nation to avoid going to &quot;super spreader&quot; events such as weddings and places such as restaurants, as the country battles an intensifying third wave of the coronavirus pandemic. His comments came during a video message aired on television channels. &quot;I exercised precaution for a whole year. I never went to any wedding or eve.....</td>
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<td><strong>In worrying sign, Pakistan reports 4,000 plus coronavirus cases third day in a row</strong></td>
<td>Web Desk, The Nation, Islamabad</td>
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<td>The third wave of the coronavirus seems to be intensifying in the country as Pakistan reported more than 4,000 cases of the virus in a single day. On Sunday, the country reported 4,767 new cases of the virus over the past 24 hours. Fifty-seven more people died from the virus while 4,767 more contracted the disease on Saturday, according to figures obtained from the National Command and Op.....</td>
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<td>An association of Pakistani-American physicians have written a letter to Prime Minister Imran Khan expressing concern over the high prices set for COVID-19 vaccines in Pakistan according to the pricing formula approved by Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP). The group of doctors, who belong to the Association of Physicians of Pakistani-descent of North America (APPNA), said that the prof.....</td>
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<td><strong>Third Covid-19 wave has potential to be worse than first, warns Dr Faisal</strong></td>
<td>Web Desk, The Express Tribune, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-03-28</td>
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<td>Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Health Dr Faisal Sultan on Sunday said that the current wave of Covid-19 in Pakistan has the potential to be worse than the first one which struck the country in the summer of 2020. Pakistan's Covid-19 cases reached a nine-month high the past week with over 4,500 cases being reported consecutively. About two weeks ago, Federal Minister for Pla.....</td>
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<td><strong>Covid infected PM rules out complete lockdown in country, again</strong></td>
<td>Web Desk, The Express Tribune, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-03-28</td>
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<td>Prime Minister Imran Khan has urged the masses to follow coronavirus standard operating procedures (SOPs), warning that the number of cases in the country are rising at an alarming rate. &quot;This third wave of Covid-19 is more lethal than the previous ones and I advise everyone to take precautions [against Covid-19] particularly wearing face mask,&quot; the premier who himself infected with th.....</td>
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<td><strong>Drastic steps to blunt Covid surge take effect</strong></td>
<td>Ikram Junaidi, Dawn, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-03-29</td>
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<td>ISLAMABAD: In view of the continuing surge in cases of Covid-19, particularly in cities having a high positivity rate, the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Sunday imposed a ban on all kinds of gatherings with immediate effect but directed that wedding ceremonies be stopped from April 5. The NCOC also suggested a reduction in transportation between provinces and advised the provinc.....</td>
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<td>Peira directs private schools to halt all activities till April 11</td>
<td>Kashif Abbasi, <em>Dawn, Islamabad</em>, 2021-03-29</td>
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<td>Indoor, outdoor marriage ceremonies banned from April 5</td>
<td><em>News Desk</em>, <em>Daily Times</em>, 2021-03-29</td>
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<td>Govt messaging about Covid third wave ‘as confused as ever’: Sherry Rehman</td>
<td><em>news Desk</em>, <em>Daily Times</em>, 2021-03-29</td>
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<td>Doctors express concern over Covid vaccine price gouging</td>
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**COVID_19: E-Newsletter**

**ISLAMABAD:** In the wake of the rising Covid-19 cases, the Private Educational Institutions Regulatory Authority (Peira) on Sunday banned all on-the-campus activities in private schools. Sources said Piera noticed that many private schools were still open in the name of holding exams despite the government directive to keep them closed till April 11. Peira spokesperson Zafar Iqbal Yousufzai said r.... more >>

**ISLAMABAD:** As 538 Covid-19 cases surfaced in the federal capital, the administration decided to seal 11 more residential areas and banned all gatherings, including outdoor marriages. Moreover, educational institutions have been stopped from conducting exams. Scores of people were also arrested over violation of the standard operating procedures (SOPs). As per directions of the National Command a.... more >>

Prime Minister Imran Khan has urged the people to follow coronavirus standard operating procedures (SOPs), warning that the number of cases in the country are rising at an alarming rate. "This third wave of Covid-19 is more lethal than the previous ones and I advise everyone to take precautions [against Covid-19] particularly wearing face mask," the Premier who himself infected with t..... more >>

PPP Parliamentary Leader in the Senate, Senator Sherry Rehman has said that the third wave of Covid-19 is extremely dangerous but the government’s messaging is as confused as ever. Addressing a press conference she said the premier is conducting meetings while being Covid positive. Instead of providing free vaccine to the poor who are the most exposed, Na Ehl Sarkar has conveniently placed t.... more >>

The Association of Physicians of Pakistani-descent of North America (APPNA) has written a letter to Prime Minister Imran Khan to express its concerns over the inflated prices of the coronavirus vaccines, voicing fear it would render them too expensive for the poor in the country. The letter begins by bringing to the Prime Minister’s attention to the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan&rsq..... more >>

ISLAMABAD: The third wave of the coronavirus continues to wreak havoc in Pakistan as the coronavirus positivity rate jumped past 11% on Monday. The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) reported that 40,369 tests were conducted in the last 24 hours out of which 4,525 were positive, making the national positivity ratio 11.21%. The new cases took the countrywide tally of positive COVID-19..... more >>
Twin cities heading towards sturdy lockdown
Islamabad: The twin-cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad are heading towards sturdy lockdown after the certain decision taken by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC). Deputy Commissioner Islamabad, Hamza Shafqaat, has issued notification regarding imposing lockdown in various marked residential and commercial areas. DHA-II, G-6/2, Soan Garden, PWD, Bhara Kahu, G-10/2, G-10/3, Bani Gal.....
more >>

60 arrested, 43 cases registered over SOPs violation
Rawalpindi: The local administration has taken action against violators of standard operating procedures (SOPs) during the COVID-19 pandemic and registered 43 cases and arrested 60 violators from different localities here on Sunday. On the other hand, District Regional Transport Authority (DRTA) has impounded 15 vehicles and imposed fine of Rs65,000 against transporters they did violation of sta.....
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No NOC required for provincial govs to procure any registered Covid vaccine: PM's aide
Source: News Desk, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-03-29
As Pakistan continues to grapple with the third and potentially more deadly wave of the novel coronavirus, Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) Dr Faisal Sultan has clarified that no no-objection certificate (NOC) is required for any provincial government to procure any registered Covid-19 vaccine. Pakistan's coronavirus cases reached a nine-month high in the past week with more than 4,.....
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President Alvi, Defence Minister Khattak test positive for Covid-19
Source: News Desk, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-03-29
After Prime Minister Imran Khan, President Arif Alvi and Defence Minister Pervez Khattak have also tested positive for the novel coronavirus. "I have tested positive for Covid-19. May Allah have mercy on all Covid affectees," Alvi wrote on his official Twitter handle. The president said that he had his first dose of vaccine but the antibodies start to develop after the second dose that.....
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Smart lockdown to be imposed in eight areas of Peshawar
Source: News Desk, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-03-29
ISLAMABAD: Positivity ratio ofCOVID-19casesinIslamabadreached 15.9% on Monday, recording 856 cases during the past 24 hours, while in Peshawar, directives were issued to impose micro-smart lockdown in eight more areas. According to District Health Officer Islamabad Dr Zaeem Zia, the ratio of the cases in the federal capital on Sunday remained 15.9 per cent. As many as 653 beds have been allocat.....
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Gatherings banned in cemeteries
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-03-29
ISLAMABAD/RAWALPINDI: The Islamabad administration has banned gatherings in graveyards on the occasion of Shab-e-Baraat in light of orders by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC). The administration issued notifications on Sunday, imposing new restrictions amid the coronavirus surge in the federal capital. The Islamabad police and assistant commissioners would ensure the prevention of .....more >>
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Two Covid-19 cases in KP despite administering vaccine
PESHAWAR: Surprisingly, two positive cases of COVID-19 have been reported in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa despite completion of two shots of the Sinopharm vaccine. However, Health Department sources claimed that five cases were reported in the province three from Peshawar and two from Abbottabad. But health officials confirmed only two cases in the province. 37 years old healthcare professional Muh......

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Several premises sealed, people fined for violation of SOPs
PESHAWAR: In continuation of last week’s implementation of the directives of National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) and provincial government, the district administration pursued its campaign against the spread of third-wave of fatal coronavirus in the provincial capital. On the directives of Deputy Commissioner Peshawar Capt (r) Khalid Mehmood, the administrative officers chec.....

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11.9% Covid positivity sets off alarm bells in K-P
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-03-28
PESHAWAR: The ratio of positive cases during the third wave of coronavirus in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa has reached an alarming rate of 11.9 per cent. Peshawar has been the most affected throughout the province with a positive ratio of almost 28 per cent. Addressing a press conference on Saturday, Health Minister Tamur Saleem Jhagra and Special Assistant to CM on Information and Higher Education Kamran ..... 

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Coronavirus cases surge in Landi Kotal
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-03-28
PESHAWAR: Likewise other parts of the country, the coronavirus spreading rapidly in Landi Kotal as more than forty patients were detected corona positive in the last two weeks. According to the in-charge Covid-19 center in Landi Kotal so far 40 corona patients had been recorded in Landi Kotal although all facilities were available to deal with any untoward situation. He said that on the direc.....

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Corona restrictions; Business activities remain closed across KP
Source: Amjad Ali Shah, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-03-28
PESHAWAR: After reaching consensus between traders’ community and local administration, all major markets and bazaars across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were shut on Saturday to prevent the spread of coronavirus. While welcoming the new announcement of the district administration, President Traders Alliance Ghulam Bilal Javed said that all the business community leaders and the district administ.....

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Complete lockdown being mulled for 11 KP districts
Source: Ashfaq Yusufzai, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-03-28
PESHAWAR: With coronavirus claiming nine lives and infecting 979 people in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Saturday, the provincial government has begun considering to impose a complete lockdown in 11 districts over surging virus positivity rate. During a special meeting of the National Command and Operation Centre in the day, Chief Minister Mahmood Khan and chief secretary Dr Kazim Niaz were advised to go.....

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Work on Mohmand Dam in top gear despite pandemic hiccups

MOHMAND: Work on Mohmand Dam, the country’s largest hydropower project since the construction of Tarbela dam in 1960s, is in full swing despite hiccups caused by coronavirus pandemic. The dam is being built on the River Swat in Mohmand district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, around five kilometers upstream of Munda headwork at the cost of over Rs300 billion, with the capacity to produce 800 megawatt.....

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Private hospitals to share burden of Covid patients
Source: Ashfaq Yusufzai, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2021-03-29

PESHAWAR: The health department decided to ask private hospitals to allocate beds for Covid-19 patients for their treatment from the funds of Sehat Sahulat Programme as the province recorded 18 more deaths and 922 cases of the virus on Sunday. “We have to involve the private hospitals in the treatment of Covid-19 patients from the funds of Sehat Sahulat Programme (SSP). The private hospital.....

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Smart lockdown imposed in 32 Peshawar areas
Source: Bureau Report, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2021-03-29

PESHAWAR: The district administration, on the recommendations of health department, ordered here on Sunday to impose smart lockdown in 32 areas of Peshawar to control spread of Covid-19 pandemic. The administration also in its week-long operation to enforce the pandemic-related measures has sealed 58 restaurants and more than 100 shops besides imposing fine on 500 people for not wearing masks. A.....

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Punjab

799 cases, 8 deaths

Rawalpindi : Friday is the sixth day in the last seven days on which the number of patients tested positive for coronavirus illness, COVID-19 from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district has crossed the figure of 780, while earlier in the last one year, the number of patients reported in a day from the twin cities crossed the number only twice, On June 7 and June 14 last year. ..... 

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Corona positivity rate in Punjab remains over 14pc

LAHORE: The corona positivity rate in the province remained over 14 percent for the second consecutive day, as out of 17,315 Covid-19 tests conducted during the last 24 hours, as many as 2451 fresh virus cases and 43 fatalities were reported across Punjab taking the provincial tally of cases to 207,765 and death toll to 6140. With the recovery of 1456 more virus patients, the number of recove.....

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Third wave of Covid-19 intensifies in Punjab: Firdous

LAHORE: Special Assistant to Chief Minister on Information Dr Firdous Ashiq Awan has said that the third wave of coronavirus is intensified across the country. "It continues to wreak havoc in the country as 63 people have lost their
COVID-19: E-Newsletter


laives, including 43 from Punjab, during the last 24 hours,” she said this while addressing a press conference here on Friday. Dr Firdous said that the..... more >>

41 shops sealed over SOPs breach
LAHORE: The district administration officers conducted operations to implement the corona related SOPs and sealed 41 businesses here on Friday. DC Mudassar Riaz said a total of 41 shops, stores and marriage halls were sealed and fine of Rs. 93,500 was imposed on the violators of the SOPs. City Assistant Commissioner Faisan Ahmed sealed 11 shops and stores, seven hotels and restaurants and one marr..... more >>

COVID-19 claims 43 more lives
LAHORE: Around 43 more patients died from coronavirus while 2,451 new infections were confirmed in Punjab province during the last 24 hours. According to report issued by Primary and Secondary Healthcare (P&SH) Department Punjab on Friday, the death toll reached 6,140, while confirmed cases became 207,765 in the province. As per the spokesperson for Corona Monitoring Room at P&SHD, 17,315 t..... more >>

Covid-19 claims 43 more lives in Punjab
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-03-27
LAHORE: The coronavirus pandemic has claimed 43 more lives in Punjab over the past 24 hours. According to the spokesperson for Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD) on Friday, as many as 2,451 cases of coronavirus were reported in Punjab over the past 24 hours while the total number of cases across the province exceeded 207,760. Reportedly, the death toll had reached 6,140...... more >>

Over 13,000 medics, citizens get Covid jabs
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-03-27
MULTAN: Coronavirus vaccination of 10,983 health workers and 2,585 citizens has so far been completed in Multan district as per data issued by the district health authority so far. Health CEO Dr Arshad Malik said the process of corona vaccination has been expedited on the direction of Deputy Commissioner. As many as 16,470 citizens have been registered for corona vaccination out of which more than..... more >>

With 43 fatalities, 2,451 new Covid cases emerge in Punjab
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-03-27
LAHORE: As many as 2,451 cases of coronavirus were reported in Punjab on Friday while the pandemic claimed 43 precious lives in 24 hours which pushed the death toll to 6,140. According to data shared by the spokesperson of Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD), the number of coronavirus cases in the province reached 207,765. The P&SHD confirmed that 1,566 new c..... more >>

Ferozsons Laboratories, ABF donate portable ventilators to Rescue 1122
LAHORE: 35 portable ventilators have been donated to Rescue 1122. Chief guest Dr Yasmeen Rashid, Health Minister Punjab, and guest of honour Secretary Health, Barrister Nabeel Ahmad Awan graced the event held at
Rescue 1122 Headquarters and handed over the Umbulizers to the Rescue 1122 team. Commenting on the generous initiative, Dr Yasmin Rashid said, “I would like to thank ABF, Helpi.....

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Lahore citizens not wearing a mask may face a six-month jail term
The Lahore administration has warned citizens they may face a jail term of up to six months if they continue to flout safety precautions and neglect wearing a mask. The move comes after a worryingly high rise in the Punjab capital's positivity ratio, which has now gone up to 18%. A meeting was held on Saturday under the chairmanship of the Lahore police chief and Commissioner Lahore Muhammad.....

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Hospitals in Punjab put on high alert over daily surge in Covid cases
Source: Asif Chaudhry, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-03-27
LAHORE: The Punjab government has put public sector hospitals of the province on high alert after intensification of the third wave of coronavirus, particularly in the provincial capital where the positivity rate of the infection has reached 16 per cent. Health authorities said Lahore was at the top of the districts in the province reporting the highest infection rate, which was determined on the .....

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Coronavirus cases among children rise in Punjab
The spokesperson for the Primary and Secondary Health Care Department in Punjab on Saturday sounded the alarm over a rising trend witnessed of children contracting coronavirus. According to the spokesperson, 12,462 children have contracted coronavirus in the province, with those infected ranging from infants to children of 15 years. In Lahore alone, 5,301 children have contracted coronavirus. Th.....

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WHO donates ambulances, motorbikes to Punjab govt
Source: Staff Reporter, Daily Times, 2021-03-27
In order to cope up with any health emergency situation in Pakistan, the country office of the World Health Organization (WHO) on Friday donated over eight ambulances and 15 motorbikes to the Punjab government. According to the WHO, the ambulances and motorbikes were handed over to the Punjab government by Country Representative Dr Palitha Mahipala at a ceremony which was attended by Chief Minist.....

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Shehbaz administered coronavirus vaccine in jail
Source: Staff Reporter, Daily Times, 2021-03-27
Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Shehbaz Sharif was administered the first dose of the coronavirus vaccine in Kot Lakhpat Jail on Friday. The opposition leader in the National Assembly received the coronavirus vaccine jab as he is old. The PML-N leader will turn 70 this year. Sharif was administered the dose under the supervision of Jinnah Hospital’s medical superintendent. P.....

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Twin cities record highest number of COVID-19 cases
Rawalpindi: As many as 953 patients have been tested positive for coronavirus illness, COVID-19 from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district in the last 24 hours which is the highest number of cases reported in a day
from the region since the advent of coronavirus in Pakistan. It happened only for the second time that over 900 confirmed COVID-19 cases were reported from the twi.....

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### 48 more die from corona in Punjab
LAHORE: Around 48 patients died from COVID-19 and 2,330 new infections were confirmed in Punjab during the last 24 hours. According to report issued by Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD) on Saturday, the toll of fatalities reached 6,188 in Punjab, while confirmed cases reached 210,095 in the province. As per the spokesperson for Corona Monitoring Room at P&SHD, ar.....

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### Online campaign launched for free vaccine for all
LAHORE: Activists from different walks of life agreed to launch a country-wide campaign “Free Vaccine For All” in an online public rally. The rally was addressed by Baba Jan, Hamid Mir, Karamat Ali, Dr Ashraf Nizami, Dr Ammar Ali Jan, Mohammed Tehseen among others. Addressing the rally, Prof Zaighum Abbas from Asian People’s Movement on Debt and Development said that Paki.....

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### CM expresses concern over virus surge in Punjab
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-03-28
LAHORE - Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Us-man Buzdar chaired a meeting through video link from Multan to review the recent corona pandemic wave and preventive measures taken in this regard. The meeting expressed concern over the persistent surge in the number of Covid-19 cases in Punjab. Usman Buzdar directed to follow corona SOPs strictly and warned that no negligence will be tolerated in th.....

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### IGP orders strict implementation of corona SOPs
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-03-28
LAHORE - Inspector General of Police (IGP) Punjab Inam Ghani has directed the Police Department to continue its role as the frontline force and strictly implement the coronavirus related Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) during the alarming rise in the virus cases in the province. In a letter addressed to all Regional Police Officers (RPOs), City Police Officers (CPOs) and District Police Offic.....

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### 21 shops sealed over SOPs breach
Source: Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-03-28
LAHORE - The city district ad-ministration sealed 21 shops, restaurants, marriage halls and imposed Rs 70,000 fine over violations of corona-virus related Standard Oper-ating Procedures (SOPs) here on Saturday. According to spokesperson for the district administration, Assistant Commissioner (AC) Shalimar Mansoor Ahmed Qazi sealed 10 shops and stores in his jurisdiction and imposed Rs 70,000 fin.....

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### 48 more deaths, 2,330 new cases of COVID-19 reported in Punjab
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-03-28
LAHORE - As many as 2,330 fresh cases of coronavirus with 48 deaths were reported in Punjab during the last 24 hours. According to the data shared by the spokesperson of Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department
The number of corona-virus cases in the province reached 210,095 while death toll 6,188 and recoveries 182,596. The P&SHD confirmed that 1233 new cases of COVID-19 were recorded in Lahore.

**48 more succumb to Covid in Punjab**
Source: Staff Reporter, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2021-03-28
LAHORE: The Covid-19 claimed the lives of 48 more patients in Punjab during the last 24 hours, taking the death toll to 6,188. Of the new deaths, most occurred in Lahore, Rawalpindi and Multan while the total number of the positive cases in Punjab reached 210,095 after 2,330 more tested positive for the virus. Of the new positive cases, a majority of them 1,233 were recorded in Lahore. Accordin...

**Rawalpindi witnesses surge in corona cases**
Source: Israr Ahmad, *The Nation, Islamabad*, 2021-03-28
Rawalpindi-The district Rawalpindi witnessed a sharp spike in Covid-19 cases as some six persons have died of deadliest virus here on Saturday, informed sources. Some 261 patients have also landed in different hospitals after they tested positive for coronavirus and 292 patients got discharged from the hospitals after recovery, they said. The main reason behind surge in coronavirus case is s.......

**Pakistan squad tests negative for Covid-19 in SA**
LAHORE: The entire 34-member Pakistan cricket squad, including 21 players and 13 officials, have tested negative for Covid-19 in South Africa,Dawnlearnt here on Saturday. This means that now the Pakistan team will start practicing in Johannesburg from Sunday (today). Pakistan is touring South Africa to play three One-day Internationals and four T20Is. The team left for South Africa through a cha....

**21 per cent Covid positivity rate in city**
Source: Staff Reporter, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2021-03-29
LAHORE: The coronavirus infections of British variant in the third wave are raging aggressively and within days touched the first wave's last year June 17 peak with 21 per cent positivity rate in Lahore and 14pc in the province. On June 17 last year when the first wave was massively spreading, as many as 215 patients were admitted to the ICUs of different hospitals in Punjab and almost simi.....

**Case against 44 for not wearing masks in Lahore**
Source: Staff Reporter, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2021-03-29
LAHORE: The capital city police on Sunday registered 44 cases against people for not wearing masks in various parts of the city. The cases were registered for violation of section 6 and 7 of the Punjab Infectious Diseases Act 2020. The Act was passed by the Punjab Assembly during the first wave of the pandemic but is being implemented for the first time. Police also registered 83 cases against t.....

**Token punishment for not wearing mask in public**
Source: Staff Reporter, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2021-03-29
FAISALABAD: The district administration on Sunday started penalising the public for not wearing facemasks and made scores of people stand facing a wall for a couple of minutes. Deputy Commissioner (DC) Muhammad Ali,
flanked by the assistant commissioners of City and Saddar, Ayub Bukhari and Umar Maqbool, respectively visited different locations and found people flouting the instructions to wear f.....

**Six teachers contract Covid**
Source: Correspondent, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-03-29
SAHIWAL: Six teachers of the Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Jahaz Ground, have contracted Covid-19. The higher-ups have not closed the school. The teachers have been quarantined at home after taking two-week medical leave. They are Noreen Akhtar, Yasmeen Akhtar, Razia Mushtaq, Arifa Amin, Nasreen Shafiq and Ume Jawaria.....

**Shutting down of Lahore entry, exit points to be decided today**
Source: Khalid Hasnain, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-03-29
LAHORE: With coronavirus continuing to spread rapidly and 1,725 new cases reported during the last 24 hours in the Punjab capital alone, the divisional administration is considering a proposal to close the entire city to all those travelling to and from here daily. Entry and exit would only be allowed in extreme emergency cases, Dawn has learnt. The Lahore administration also launched a crackdown o.....

**Punjab flexes muscles against SOPs violators; 9 arrested**
Source: news Desk, Daily Times, 2021-03-29
As many as nine people were arrested in Chishtian area of Bahawalpur district over violation of coronavirus-related standard operating procedures (SOPs) on Sunday. According to details, the cases were registered against shopkeepers for not wearing face masks despite clear directions of the Punjab government after an alarming increase in the Covid-19 cases. They were arrested under the Punjab Pandora.....

**Another 10 COVID-19 deaths, 705 cases from twin cities**
Rawalpindi: Another 10 confirmed patients of coronavirus illness, COVID-19 from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district have died of the illness in the last 24 hours taking the death toll from the region to 1,285 which is over nine per cent of the total deaths so far caused by the disease in Pakistan. In the last 24 hours, another 705 patients have been tested positive for COVID-19 f.....

**83 FIRs registered over SOPs breach**
LAHORE: Lahore Police have registered 83 FIRs over violation of coronavirus SOPs, including 44 cases were lodged against persons not following the instructions regarding wearing face mask. Spokesperson for Lahore police said that most of the cases of violation of wearing masks were recorded in City division areas where 33 FIRs were registered. Three each FIRs were registered in Iqbal Town division.....

**Decision to implement emergency in hospitals praised**
LAHORE: Pakistan Medical Association (PMA) lauded the decision of Punjab government to implement health emergency in hospitals across Punjab. An emergency meeting of PMA Lahore executive body was held here on
Sunday at PMA House. The meeting was chaired by President Prof Dr Ashraf Nizami and attended by Prof Dr Malik Shahid Shaukat, Dr Izhari Ahmad Ch, Prof Dr Tanveer Anwar, Prof Dr Khalid Mehm.....

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‘Talk less, do more’: PML-Q criticises PTI govt over ‘slow vaccine rollout’
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-03-28
LAHORE: PML-Q leader Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi on Sunday criticised his ally, the PTI government, over its response to deal with the coronavirus pandemic as number of infections in the country is rising exponentially. “Talk less and arrange more doses of vaccine to deal with coronavirus,” said Elahi, who is also speaker of the Punjab Assembly, at a wedding reception of PML-Q Vice-President.....

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Gatherings banned in cemeteries
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-03-29
ISLAMABAD/RAWALPINDI: The Islamabad administration has banned gatherings in graveyards on the occasion of Shab-e-Baraat in light of orders by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC). The administration issued notifications on Sunday, imposing new restrictions amid the coronavirus surge in the federal capital. The Islamabad police and assistant commissioners would ensure the prevention of ..... 

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Punjab to tighten Covid-19 restrictions from April 1
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-03-29
LAHORE: The provincial government of Punjab on Monday announced multiple smart lockdowns across various provincial districts where the positivity ratio of Covid-19 is 12pc or higher. The lockdowns will be in effect from April 1 to April 11. Chief Minister Usman Buzdar announced the decision while addressing a press conference after a meeting with the cabinet committee on coronavirus. Decisions wo.....

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38 more localities face lockdown in Lahore
Source: Imran Adnan, The Economist, 2021-03-29
LAHORE: To rein in the surge in coronavirus cases, the government has decided to further tighten restrictions in areas having high infection rates. The authorities proposed micro-smart lockdown in 38 more areas of the provincial capital on Sunday. The district administration advised the government to impose micro-smart lockdown in selected areas and streets of Defence Housing Authority (DHA), EM.....

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Sindh

Healthcare workers’ registration for Covid-19 vaccination suspended: PMA
The registration of healthcare workers for Covid-19 vaccination has remained suspended at least for the last 10 days, which is resulting in unrest and apprehensions among the medical fraternity at a time when the provincial government is threatening to terminate all medical workers who would not get themselves vaccinated. This was stated by Pakistan Medical Association (PMA) office-bearers while.....

One more succumbs to Covid-19 in Sindh as 293 more test positive
Covid-19 has claimed one more life in Sindh in the previous 24 hours, raising the death toll due to the viral disease in the province to 4,487. In the meantime, 249 patients infected by the novel coronavirus remained under treatment at various hospitals, of whom the condition of 249 patients was said to be critical with 39 of them put onto life support. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Sye.....

Sindh sees 293 fresh Covid-19 cases
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-03-27
KARACHI: Sindh reported one coronavirus fatality and 293 fresh cases on Friday, according to a statement issued by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on the day. Following these developments, the CM said, the Covid-19 death toll in the province had risen to 4,487, while the infection tally had climbed to 264,354. Among the new cases, 128 were detected in Karachi, 18 in Hyderabad, 15 in Gho.....

COVID-19 claims one more life
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-03-27
KARACHI-One more patient of coronavirus died overnight lifting the death toll to 4,487 and 293 new cases emerged when 11,134 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued on Friday. He added that one more patient of COVID-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 4,487 that constituted 1.7 percent death rate. Shah said that 11,134 .....
All religious shrines in Sindh closed due to third wave of Covid-19 pandemic
After allowing the reopening of all religious shrines in Sindh on March 23, the provincial government has once again ordered closing them on an immediate basis in view of the third wave of the Covid-19 pandemic. The decision was taken on Saturday in a meeting chaired by Auqaf Minister Sohail Anwar Sial. The closure order will remain effective until April 8. — By our correspondent.....

9m children in Sindh to start getting polio drops tomorrow
As many as nine million children in 30 districts of Sindh will be given the oral polio vaccine (OPV) during a seven-day immunisation drive starting on Monday, officials said on Saturday, adding that two million children would be inoculated vaccinated in Karachi alone. “The Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) for polio in Sindh will launch a province-wide polio campaign from 29th March t.....

Covid-19 claims four more lives, infects 252 others in Sindh
Covid-19 has claimed four more lives in Sindh during the past 24 hours, raising the death toll to 4,491 in Sindh, said Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in his daily Covid-19 situation report on Saturday. In the meantime, 278 patients were under treatment at different hospitals, of whom the condition of 249 patients was stated to be critical while 39 of them had been put onto life support.....

Pakistan commemorates Earth Hour 2021 completely online
Source: Press Release, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-03-28
KARACHI: On Saturday, 27 March at 8:30 p.m. Earth Hour united individuals, businesses and leaders from all over the world to shine a spotlight on the health of the planet, raising awareness on the importance of nature and inspiring action for a brighter future for nature and people. With COVID-19 safety regulations, Pakistan commemorated Earth Hour 2021 completely online and the virtual event.....

4 more die in Sindh, 252 others infected
Source: APP, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-03-28
KARACHI: As many as four more patients died due to Covid-19 overnight while 252 new cases emerged out of surface and 9,424 tests were conducted so far. Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued here on Saturday, informed that with death of four more patients, the death toll of coronavirus affectees reached at 4,491 that constituted 1.7 percent death rate. Shah said t.....

Lal Shahbaz Qalandar's Urs cancelled due to COVID-19
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-03-28
HYDERABAD - In view of third wave of COVID-19 in the country, Sindh Government has decided to close all shrines/Dargahs in the province for 10 days while annual Urs of Hazrat Lal Shahbaz Qalandar was cancelled. This was announced in a meeting held at the office of Deputy Commissioner Jamshoro on Saturday with Provincial Minister Auqaf Sohail Anwar Sial in the chair. Sohail Anwar Sial said due to t.....

Qalandar’s 769th urs cancelled as all shrines closed for 10 days
Source: Correspondent, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-03-28
DADU: Sindh Auqaf Minister Sohail Anwar Siyal on Saturday chaired a meeting of his department’s senior officials in Dadu deputy commissioner’s office to review the Covid-19 pandemic situation in different parts of the province and decided to keep all shrines closed for 10 days. In order to avoid further spread of the pandemic, all shrines, including that of great Sufi Saint Lal Shahba.....

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COVID-19 claims 4 more lives, infects 252 others
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-03-28
KARACHI—As many as four more patients died due to COVID-19 overnight. Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued on Saturday, informed that with death of four more patients, the death toll of coronavirus victims reached at 4,491 that constituted 1.7 percent death rate. Shah said that 9,424 samples were tested, of them, 252 cases were detected that touched 2.7 percent curre.....

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Sindh reports no death due to Covid-19
Sunday was another day in Sindh without any death reported due to Covid-19, officials said, adding that it was the fourth day in the ongoing month when no life was lost in the province due to the contagious disease. Meanwhile, a total of 282 new cases of Covid-19 emerged when 9,140 tests were conducted, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said in his daily statement of the pandemic situation.....

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Market watch: PSX plummets on lockdown fears as Covid cases soar
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-03-29
KARACHI: The Pakistan Stock Exchange on Monday came under intense selling pressure as the surging coronavirus cases rattled investors and pushed the benchmark index deep into the red with a drop of over 1,000 points. The rising tally of Covid-19 infections across the country, particularly in Punjab, raised alarm in major sectors of the economy as well as the stock market. The government of Punjab.....

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282 new Covid cases reported in 24 hours in Sindh
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-03-29
KARACHI: The Sindh authorities reported that no death had occurred in the province because of Covid-19. The authorities, however, said that 282 new cases were reported in the 9,140 tests conducted. A statement issued here on Sunday from CM House said that to date the number of death from Covid was 4,491. It stated the 282 cases reported constituted a three percent current detection rate. He added .....
## International News

### Countries News

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Article Title</th>
<th>Source</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Vaccine rollout passes 500m mark</strong></td>
<td>AFP, Dawn, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-03-27</td>
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<tr>
<td>PARIS: Health officials have rolled out more than 500 million coronavirus</td>
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<td>vaccine doses around the world, according to a tally on Friday, as European</td>
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<td>rows over hoarding and supply issues escalated dramatically. Despite the huge</td>
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<td>effort to get jabs into arms, the pandemic is still surging in Europe and</td>
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<td>Latin America — where Brazil has now passed 300,000 deaths and Mexico 200,000</td>
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<td>And the role...<a href="#">more &gt;&gt;</a></td>
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| **Tendulkar tests positive for coronavirus**                                  | AFP, Business Recorder, Islamabad                                    | 2021-03-28            |
| MUMBAI: Indian cricket icon Sachin Tendulkar tested positive for Covid-19    |                                                                        |                       |
| on Saturday and said he was in home quarantine in Mumbai with mild symptoms |                                                                        |                       |
| of the disease. Tendulkar, who is widely revered as one of the greatest      |                                                                        |                       |
| batsmen of all time, confirmed the news on social media. "I have been       |                                                                        |                       |
| testing myself and taking all the recommended precautions to ensure Covid is  |                                                                        |                       |
| kept at bay,&quo...[more >>](#)                                               |                                                                        |                       |

| **Pandemic upsurge hits Europe’s recovery hopes**                            | AFP, Dawn, Islamabad                                                  | 2021-03-29            |
| PARIS: An upsurge in new coronavirus cases is forcing governments across     |                                                                        |                       |
| Europe into new, damaging lockdowns that threaten to delay a much hoped-for  |                                                                        |                       |
| return to growth, economists say. The plan was that mass vaccination        |                                                                        |                       |
| programmes would turn the tide on the pandemic, allowing locked-down         |                                                                        |                       |
| consumers free rein after months penned up at home. Instead the virus has    |                                                                        |                       |
| embarked on a third wave which is pro...[more >>](#)                         |                                                                        |                       |

| **Maharashtra considers total lockdown as virus cases jump**                 | Reuters, Dawn, Islamabad                                              | 2021-03-29            |
| MUMBAI: India’s richest state, Maharashtra, is considering imposing a strict |                                                                        |                       |
| lockdown this week after recording the highest one-day jump in coronavirus   |                                                                        |                       |
| infections of any Indian state since last March, officials said on Sunday.   |                                                                        |                       |
| Maharashtra tightened travel restrictions and imposed night curfews as it    |                                                                        |                       |
| reported 40,414 new coronavirus cases on Sunday, almost two-thirds of the   |                                                                        |                       |
| national total, ma...[more >>](#)                                           |                                                                        |                       |

| **Longest-serving bookseller among 25,000 Czech virus victims**             | Agencies, Daily Times                                                  | 2021-03-29            |
| A year after the Czech Republic recorded its first death from the           |                                                                        |                       |
| coronavirus, the central European nation paused to remember all the        |                                                                        |                       |
| citizens who lost their lives in the pandemic. By the end of the day, the  |                                                                        |                       |
| number had surpassed 25,000. Bells tolled across the country at noon last    |                                                                        |                       |
| Monday to mark the anniversary of when the pandemic’s first Czech          |                                                                        |                       |
| casualty, a 95-year-old man, died in a Prague...[more >>](#)               |                                                                        |                       |

| **Albania starts mass Covid vaccinations before tourist**                   | Agencies, Daily Times                                                  | 2021-03-29            |
| Albania started a mass inoculation campaign Sunday ahead of the summer     |                                                                        |                       |
| tourism season after acquiring 192,000 doses of Chinese coronavirus vaccine |                                                                        |                       |
| Sinovac earlier this week. Hundreds of people age 70 and above gathered at  |                                                                        |                       |
| Tirana’s main Skanderbeg Square to get a jab in two big tents. Liri Bizhiti,|                                                                        |                       |
| 76, one of those waiting in line, was happy to receive the vaccine after a  |                                                                        |                       |
| year of isolation...[more >>](#)                                           |                                                                        |                       |
### Britain’s stately homes struggle to survive with Covid restrictions

**Source:** Agencies, *Daily Times*, 2021-03-29

The sprawling redbrick house and grounds of Kentwell Hall, built up in the time when the Tudors ruled England, have, like so many of Britain’s stately homes, face an existential threat during the pandemic. The turreted house near Bury St Edmunds in eastern England has survived over 450 years of tumultuous history but is in need of critical repairs it cannot afford after closing its doors to.....

[more >>](#)

### Taste and smell gone forever? The anguish of Covid survivors

**Source:** Agencies, *Daily Times*, 2021-03-29

Three days after testing positive for Covid-19, “everything tasted like cardboard,” recalls 38-year-old Elizabeth Medina, who lost her sense of taste and smell at the start of the pandemic. A year later, she fears she will never get them back. Medina consulted ear, nose and throat doctors and neurologists, tried various nasal sprays, and is part of a group of patients undergoing exper.....

[more >>](#)

### Australia ends pandemic wage subsidy despite job loss warnings

**Source:** Agencies, *Daily Times*, 2021-03-29

Australia on Sunday ended a pandemic wage subsidy scheme despite official warnings that up to 150,000 people could lose their jobs as a result. The so-called JobKeeper scheme, which initially saw Aus$1,500 (around US$1,150) a fortnight paid to staff via their employers, was announced last March after Australia imposed a nationwide shutdown that left thousands queueing outside unemployment offices.....

[more >>](#)

### WHO report rules out lab-leak theory of novel coronavirus

**Source:** AFP, *The Express Tribune, Islamabad*, 2021-03-29

An international expert mission to Wuhan concluded in a report seen Monday that Covid-19 likely first passed to humans from a bat through an intermediary animal, with investigators all but ruling out a laboratory leak. The intermediate host hypothesis was deemed "likely to very likely", while the theory that the virus escaped from a lab was seen as "extremely unlikely", accordin.....

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### Donors News

#### WHO donates ambulances, motorbikes to Punjab govt

**Source:** Staff Reporter, *Daily Times*, 2021-03-27

In order to cope up with any health emergency situation in Pakistan, the country office of the World Health Organization (WHO) on Friday donated over eight ambulances and 15 motorbikes to the Punjab government. According to the WHO, the ambulances and motorbikes were handed over to the Punjab government by Country Representative Dr Palitha Mahipala at a ceremony which was attended by Chief Minist.....

[more >>](#)
Other SDPI Engagements

Webinar News

**Experts call for tackling energy, environmental crisis**
Source: Our Correspondent, *The Express Tribune, Islamabad*, 2021-03-27
ISLAMABAD: Energy sector experts have stressed the need for according equal importance to the country’s non-traditional security challenges such as energy and environmental crisis to ensure national security. Speaking at a webinar titled “Nontraditional security challenges - energy and environment crisis” on Friday, they were of the view that by tackling energy and environmenta. more >>

**Policy shift urged as non traditional security threats loom**
ISLAMABAD: Experts on Saturday called on the government to treat the country’s non-traditional security challenges such as energy and environment crises in the same way as traditional ones. A consensus to this effect was reached during a webinar titled “Non-traditional security challenges: energy and environment crises”, organised by the Sustainable Development Policy Ins. more >>

**Tackling energy, environmental crises important to ensure national security: Speakers**
Source: APP, *APP*, 2021-03-27
ISLAMABAD, Mar 27 (APP):The speakers at a webinar on “Non-traditional security challenges- energy and environment crises’ organized by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) Saturday urged the need to give an equal importance to the country’s non-traditional security challenges such as energy and environment crises to ensure our national security. They were of the v. more >>

Researchers Articles

**Securitization of economy**
Source: Shakeel Ahmad Ramay, *Daily Times*, 2021-03-28
Economic security is a fascinating and mesmerizing terminology. It influences the minds and dictate the policy discourse and decision making at individual and national level. The notion of economic security is part of literature and policy from unknown times, but with different angle and perspective. The concept always kept well-being of people at the center. Human are striving to secure the econo. more >>

**Food and energy inflation**
Source: Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri, *The News, International*, 2021-03-29
There are many ways to measure inflation. It can be measured as ‘core inflation’ that looks at change in prices of goods and services excluding energy and food (because their prices keep changing over time); as ‘headline inflation’ that measures change in the prices of everything including energy and food; ‘cost push inflation’ that results from increase in the ..... more >>
Collaboration Between Sialkot And Chinese Industry Urged
Source: APP, Urdu Point, 2021-03-28
ISLAMABAD, (APP – Urdu Point / Pakistan Point News - 27th Mar, 2021): Speakers stressed the significance of cooperation between Sialkot and Chinese industry. They also put forward recommendations including making full use of the existing platform, establishing joint ventures, strengthening the collaboration of chambers of commerce, developing e-commerce, and increasing the scale of visits and exchanges.....
more >>

Cooperation between Sialkot, China stressed
Source: APP, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-03-28
ISLAMABAD: Sialkot has done tremendously well as an economic growth sample, however, some gaps still need to be bridged, said Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Board of Investment and Trade CEO Hassan Daud Butt. Addressing a webinar, titled ‘Branding Pakistan: Complementarity through the development of innovative export market of Sialkot’, Butt requested Chinese entrepreneurs to consider the possib.....
more >>