E-Newsletter on COVID-19

Vol. 02, No, 32

…..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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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

Dead as a dodo
Source: Farrukh Khan Pitafi, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-04-17
The writer is an Islamabad-based TV journalist and tweets @FarrukhKPitafi Nothing is perfect in this world. Everything comes with two sets of attributes. Fatal flaws and redeeming characters. When you want to cancel something, you look almost exclusively at the former. When you want something to be accepted you talk up the redeeming features. In the end, it is the balance between the two that s.....more >>

The need to invest in antiviral drug development
Source: Muhammad Zaheer, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-04-17
Why doesn't Pakistan have its own Covid-19 vaccine? With around 5,000 new infections reported each day and only 0.5% of the population vaccinated so far, the situation might aggravate during Ramazan due to the rapidly spreading virus strain and people hardly observing any SOPs during social and religious gatherings. At the current rate of 26,471 doses per day, it would take 11 years to vaccina.....more >>

Indo-Pak friendship in post-Covid world?
Source: Dr Akbar Ahmed and Pawan Bali, Daily Times, 2021-04-17
It is a more recent tale of two letters: On Pakistan’s 70th National Day, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi penned a note to his Pakistani counterpart, expressing desire for a “cordial relationship with the people of Pakistan”. Soon enough, Prime Minister Imran Khan reciprocated by saying he, too, wanted “peaceful, cooperative relations with all neighbours”. In bet.....more >>

National population census — seventh time lucky
Source: Muneezay Moeen, Daily Times, 2021-04-17
Before I begin to explain the necessity of a census, it is important to know what is meant by it. There are different types of census, i.e., Census of Governments, Decennial Census (happening every ten years), Economic Census (started in 1810) etc. The term “census” is usually connected with national population and housing censuses whereas other common censuses include the census of ag.....more >>

The Third Wave
Source: Editorial, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-04-18
The most devastating coronavirus statistic which indicates the need for urgent change is not the infection rate, but the fatality numbers. Currently, both are on a surge in Pakistan. According to data released by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), the total number of total deaths climbed to 15,982 while the total number of cases reached 745,182. It is true that Pakistan is cond.....more >>

Vaccine shortfall
Source: EDITORIAL, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-04-19
THE hope that the slew of Covid-19 vaccinations approved for use since the end of last year would vanquish the virus, or at least drastically curb infection levels, is dissipating very fast. Many countries are struggling with their third or fourth wave, more devastating than the last. The global death toll has crossed 3m even if the mortality rate has come down overall, because of improved medical.....more >>
Coronavirus and children
Source: Dr Rana Jawad Asghar, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-04-19
Doctors are reporting more children getting sick with Covid-19 globally. In India, some physicians are saying that sick children in the current Covid wave are five times higher than the first wave. Children as young as a few weeks are now positive for SARS-CoV-2. In the United States alone, three million children of under 10 years have tested Covid-positive. In Brazil, 900 children have reportedly.....
more >>

It’s time to speed up vaccination
Source: Afshan Subohi, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-04-19
Rising mortality in the midst of the third Covid-19 wave and growing anxiety in the business circles over possible restrictions on international travel and trade necessitate ramping up the pace of vaccination in Pakistan. To speed up inoculations, the government of Prime Minister Imran Khan will need to bridge vaccine supply gaps with active participation from the federating units and the private.....
more >>
National News

Balochistan

Smart lockdown imposed in Balochistan
Source: Mohammad Zafar, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-04-18
QUETTA: The Balochistan government imposed a smart lockdown for two weeks on Saturday due to the increasing number of coronavirus cases in the largest province of the country. According to a notification issued by the district administration, the provincial authorities will temporarily close the border with Afghanistan and Iran. However, people will only be allowed to cross the border during an .....more >>

Balochistan govt announces broader smart lockdown from May 1
Source: NNI, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-04-18
QUETTA: Spokesperson for the Balochistan government Liaquat Shahwani on Saturday announced the imposition of a broader smart lockdown across the province from May 01. Making an announcement in a presser and later sharing a notification on Twitter, Liaquat Shahwani said that under the fresh restrictions owing to rising COVID-19 cases, all sorts of gatherings will be barred in the province, bes.....more >>

Islamabad

Pakistan records 4,976 new Covid-19 cases, 112 deaths in 24 hours
Source: News Desk, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-04-17
Pakistan recorded 5,976 new coronavirus cases in the last 24 hours, taking the country's Covid-19 tally to 750,159. According to the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), the country's death toll climbed to 16,094 after 112 people succumbed to the deadly disease during the last 24 hours. Most deaths occurred in Punjab followed by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (K-P). Meanwhile, 4,181 patients recovered.....more >>

Another 110 people succumb to Covid-19 in Pakistan
Source: News Desk, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-04-17
Pakistan recorded a total of 5,364 new coronavirus cases and 110 deaths in 24 hours, the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) reported on Friday. The death toll from pandemic has now reached 15,982 and positivity ratio during last 24 hours remained 8.31 per cent. As many as 4,541 people have succumbed to the deadly contagion in Sindh, 7,271 in Punjab, 2,796 in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, 626 in Isl.....more >>

Covid-19 claims 110 more lives across country
Source: Abdul Rasheed Azad, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-04-17
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Friday reported 110 more Covid-19 related deaths and 5,364 fresh Covid-19 cases. The number of countrywide deaths now stands at 15,982 while the number of coronavirus cases soars to 745,182. According to the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), in the past 24 hours, 4,123 people have recovered from the deadly disease, taking the number of recoveries to 650,775 .....more >>

Pakistan reports 4,976 new COVID cases, 112 deaths in 24 hours
Source: Web Desk, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-04-17
Pakistan has reported 112 deaths in the last 24 hours by novel coronavirus as the number of positive cases has surged to 750,158. The nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 16,094 on Saturday. According to the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) 4,976 persons tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 24 hours. Punjab remains the worst-hit province in terms.....more >>
Country reports 100 plus virus deaths for 4th straight day
ISLAMABAD - Pakistan on Friday morning reported 110 more Coronavirus deaths, the fourth consecutive day the country reported more than a hundred fatalities. According to the officials, 64,481 tests were conducted during the last 24 hours out of which 5,364 came back positive. The total number of cases in the country so far is 745,182 and the death toll is 15,982. The national positivity rate ..... more >>

Covid-19 patients occupy beds and ventilators in 15 hospitals of Islamabad
Source: Rahul Basharat, *The Nation, Islamabad*, 2021-04-17
ISLAMABAD - Above 60 per cent beds and 50 per cent ventilators allocated for novel coronavirus (COVID-19) patients in the federal capital hospitals are occupied by infected patients, according to Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) COVID-19 situation report. The report said that 807 beds and 112 ventilators have been allocated in 15 public and private sector hospitals of the city. However, till 15 ..... more >>

INGOs collaborate with govt to prevent Covid-19
Source: Agencies, *The Nation, Islamabad*, 2021-04-17
ISLAMABAD - The Pakistan Humanitarian Forum (PHF) launched a report on humanitarian assistance and development programmes in Pakistan encompassing the immense contribution of its members through mobilising over Rs 25 billion in funding to benefit 25 million people across Pakistan. The virtual event was attended by UN-RC/HC, Head of Office Pakistan/Iran EU Humanitarian Office, PHF board of tru..... more >>

110 more die of Covid across country
Source: Aamir Yasin, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2021-04-17
ISLAMABAD: There was no let-up in deaths claimed by Covid-19 as 110 more people died across the country on Friday. The number of total deaths climbed to 15,982 while the total number of cases reached 745,182, says the data released by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC). According to the data, a total of 64,481 coronavirus tests were performed over the last 24 hours out of which 5,3..... more >>

Pandemic impacted parents’ expectations about children’s education: survey
Source: Amin Ahmed, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2021-04-17
ISLAMABAD: The Covid-19 pandemic has drastically affected parents’ expectations about the future of their children’s education, having few concerns about the reopening of schools. Key findings were made in the first phone survey conducted by the World Bank to assess the impact of school closures on girls’ education in Punjab. A series of surveys are to be carried out by the Worl..... more >>

Pakistan reports over 100 Covid deaths for fourth straight day
Source: news Desk, *Daily Times*, 2021-04-17
The national tally of total active Covid-19 cases was recorded at 78,425 on Friday as 5,364 more people tested positive for the deadly virus. One hundred and ten corona patients died on Friday, 104 of whom were under treatment in hospitals and six in their respective quarantines or homes, according to the latest update issued by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC). Most of the deaths..... more >>
Presence of Covid-19 positive lawyer spreads panic in SC
Source: App, Daily Times, 2021-04-17
The presence of a coronavirus positive lawyer in the court of Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Gulzar Ahmad on Friday caused panic. When the CJP asked him that he had sent a leave application, Khalid Mehmood, the lawyer, replied that he had come to the court despite having been tested positive for the virus. The CJP expressed his displeasure over his reply following which Mehmood had to leave the c..... more >>

Citizens asked to strictly follow Corona SoPs in offices, markets
Source: App, Daily Times, 2021-04-17
The Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination has urged the citizens to strictly follow Covid-19 Standard Operating Procedures (SoPs) in offices and markets to prevent the disease in the wake of a sudden increase in the number of infections in the country. “Covid-19 is a deadly virus but we can control it just as we controlled it by following the SoPs during the fir..... more >>

$335m loan being secured for vaccines
Source: Shahbaz Rana, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-04-18
ISLAMABAD: The government is negotiating with multilateral institutions to secure a $335 million loan for the procurement of Covid-19 vaccines but the money cannot be spent on buying Chinese-origin vaccines. The government has approached the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank for getting loans to procure the vaccines, according to the Ministry of Economic Affairs officials. The ADB has b..... more >>

Daily Covid death toll stays above 100 for fifth consecutive day
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-04-18
ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Saturday further expanded the scope of the Covid-19 vaccine reducing age limit for being eligible to get the jab to 50 years, as the country witnessed more 100 fatalities for fifth straight day. The NCOC, which serves as the synchronised government strategy to contain the coronavirus pandemic, said in its daily update that the overall n..... more >>

Covid snuffs out 13 more lives
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-04-18
ATTOCK/ISLAMABAD/RAWALPINDI: The deadly coronavirus killed 13 more people in Rawalpindi on Saturday. The health department has issued an advisory after a rise in the number of patients requiring oxygen therapy is increasing rapidly. Four patients succumbed to the virus at Holy Family Hospital, two at Benazir Bhutto Hospital and seven at Rawalpindi Institute of Urology and Kidney Liver Transpla..... more >>

Vaccination of people aged 50-59 to begin next week
Source: NNI, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-04-18
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan will start vaccinating people in the age group 50-59 from next week, Planning and Development Minister Asad Umar announced on Saturday. He tweeted that the NCOC in today’s meeting decided to start vaccination of people aged from 50 to 59 from Wednesday (April 21), encouraging once again everyone to register themselves for the vaccination. The National Command and Operatio..... more >>
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<td>NCOC reports 241 new Covid-19 cases in Federal Capital</td>
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<td>Pakistan reports 6,127 coronavirus cases in one day</td>
<td>Web Desk, The Nation, Islamabad</td>
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<td>National corona death toll crosses 16,000 as 112 more die</td>
<td>Tahir Niaz, The Nation, Islamabad</td>
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<td>President urges nation to follow Covid-19 SOPs</td>
<td>APP, Business Recorder, Islamabad</td>
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<td>China’s support in Covid-19 vaccine delivery continues</td>
<td>APP, Business Recorder, Islamabad</td>
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Worst day since June sees 149 Covid deaths
Source: Ikram Junaidi, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-04-19
ISLAMABAD: As Pakistan continues to reel under the effects of Covid-19, the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) has decided to resume matric and intermediate classes from Monday (today). The country recorded the second highest number of deaths and the fifth highest number of Covid-19 cases since the outbreak of the pandemic in February last year. On the other hand, 1.5 million more doses.....
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A doctor far away makes disease go away
Source: Imran Ayub, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-04-19
ABDUL Aziz Khan and his four family members — wife and three children — tested positive for Covid-19 one after the other in May 2020. Matters remained in control in the initial days of their isolation at home but after the fourth day the situation began deteriorating rapidly. Mr Khan, an aviation professional, recalls the horrific days when his 53-year-old-wife, who suffers from diabe.....
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Plan to conduct NA session amid Covid spike to be discussed
Source: Amir Wasim, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-04-19
ISLAMABAD: The government and the opposition representatives during a meeting of the House Business Advisory Committee (HBAC) here on Monday will discuss the plan to conduct the ongoing session of the National Assembly which the government has convened in an effort to meet the constitutional requirement of keeping the house in session for at least 130 days in a parliamentary year. The HBAC meetin.....
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Pakistan records 5,152 new Covid-19 cases, 73 deaths in 24 hours
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-04-19
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan recorded 5,152 new coronavirus cases in the last 24 hours, taking the country's Covid-19 tally to 761,437. According to the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), the country's death toll climbed to 16,316 after 73 people succumbed to the deadly disease during the last 24 hours. Most deaths occurred in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa(K-P) followed by Punjab. Meanwhile, 3,362 pat.....
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Pandemic protocols: restaurants continue to flout safety rules
Source: Zulfikar Baig, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-04-19
ISLAMABAD: With the pandemic dragging on interminably, many in Islamabad’s food service industry appear to be increasingly lax in adhering to Covid-19 health and safety guidelines. While restaurants across the country have been racing to adapt to what is widely known as the new normal of conducting business under stringent safety protocols, many in upscale Islamabad appear to be violating .....
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PM launches campaign at Int’l level to put permanent stop to blasphemous acts
Pakistan has reported 73 deaths in the last 24 hours by novel coronavirus as the number of positive cases has surged to 761,437. The nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 16,316 on Monday. According to the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC), 5,152 persons tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 24 hours. Punjab remains the worst-hit province by the pan.....
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Online Education
Source: Editorial, The Nation, Islamabad , 2021-04-19
After reaching a consensus on the matter, all provinces decided to continue with school closures for grade one to eight in light of the dire circumstances brought upon by the third wave. According to officials, the national positivity rate being as high as 8.53 percent warrants such measures to be adopted. Perhaps this is a necessity for now but what is being overlooked is that such drastic measur.....
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Junior classes to remain shut as 149 more succumb to Covid-19
ISLAMABAD - Pakistan on Sunday morning reported 6,127 coronavirus infections, marking the highest daily number of Covid-19 cases since June 14, 2020, when 6,365 cases were reported from across the country. According to the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), the number of coronavirus cases has reached 756,285 while the positivity rate has climbed to 8.5 percent. During the last 24 h.....
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Covid-19 goes berserk
Source: Agencies, Daily Times , 2021-04-19
The coronavirus situation continues deteriorating in the country, with 149 new deaths — the second-highest coronavirus fatalities since the pandemic emerged last year – were reported during the last twenty-four hours, said the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Sunday. The number of casualties in a single day makes it the highest number of coronavirus deaths reported this.....
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Covid-19: Pakistan bans travellers from India amid Indian variant concerns
Source: News Desk, The Express Tribune, Islamabad , 2021-04-19
Pakistan on Monday imposed a ban on travellers arriving from India via the air, sea and land routes after a more transmissible and potentially more deadly new variant of novel coronavirus originated in the neighbouring country. India is currently recording more new cases of coronavirus than any other country, and this week it is expected to rise above the high tide of the epidemic seen in the Uni.....
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We are making huge mistake by not following Covid-19 SOPs: Asad Umar
Source: News Desk, The Express Tribune, Islamabad , 2021-04-19
Federal Planning and Development Minister Asad Umar warned thenationon Monday of making the 'huge' mistake of not following the standard operating procedures (SOPs) to curb the increase in theCovid-19pandemic cases. "SOP compliance remains low," the minister said on Twitter. "Hospital fill up [is] continuing to grow. Critical care patients [are] now above 4,500, which is 30.....
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Oxygen supply capacity in Pakistan under stress, warns Asad Umar
Pakistan's oxygen supply capacity is now under stress as the third wave of coronavirus intensifies in the country, says Head of the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), Asad Umar on Monday. Sharing his concerns to Twitter, the minister said the critical care patients in the country are now above 4500, which is 30% higher than the peak in June last year. .....
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Corona claims nine lives in Abbottabad
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-04-17

ISLAMABAD/RAWALPINDI: At least nine patients of the novel coronavirus died at the Ayub Teaching Hospital (ATH) in Abbottabad on Friday. According to a spokesperson, 86 patients were admitted to the ATH Covid ward where 12 patients were declared critical. In the last four days, 35 patients have died at ATH only while 90 more people tested positive across the Hazara division, they added. A day ag.....more >>

Traders inside old city ignore lockdown
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-04-19

PESHAWAR: Despite the so called smart lockdown all the main trading centers inside the old walled city remained open on Saturday and these centers attracted thousands of buyers of all age groups. Government has banned intra districts transportation on Saturday and Sunday but this provided a golden opportunity to the taxi drivers who used to occasion to mint coins. Most shops in Saddar and Unive.....more >>

Punjab

535 Covid patients recover in a day
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-04-17

LAHORE: As many as 535 coronavirus patients recovered, a report presented by the Punjab Health department revealed on Friday. As per the data shared by the health department, 180,383 coronavirus patients have recovered so far in 200 public sector hospitals operating under the control of Specialized, and Primary and Secondary Healthcare departments across the province. Specialised Healthcare and Me.....more >>

Ways to enhance Rescue 1122 performance discussed
Source: Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-04-17

LAHORE - Dr Rizwan Naseer, DG Rescue 1122, called on Speaker Punjab Assembly Ch Parvez Elahi on Friday at his residence here to hold a discussion for making the institution more effective to meet the requirements of modern age. Ch Parvez Elahi said that the head of Rescue 1122 was responsible for saving precious lives by providing timely medical aid to the patients of COVID-19. “Even when .....more >>

Corona SOPs at MRC inspected
Source: APP, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-04-17

SIALKOT - Deputy Commissioner Tahir Farooq visited Model Registration Center (MRC) here on Friday and reviewed the arrangements regarding coronavirus SOPs at the center. Additional Deputy Commissioner (Revenue) Mir Nawaz and Sub-Registrar Rural Malik Ijaz accompanied him. On the occasion, Deputy Commissioner Tahir Farooq said that social distancing should be ensured among the citizens coming for t.....more >>

535 coronavirus patients recovered
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-04-17

LAHORE - As many as 535 coronavirus patients had been recovered on Friday, said a report of the the Health department. According to the data shared by the health department, 180,383 coronavirus patients recovered so far in 200 public sector hospitals being run under the control of Specialized and Primary & Secondary Healthcare departments across the province. Barrister Nabeel Ahmed Awan, .....more >>
119 persons test Covid-19 positive in Rawalpindi
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-04-17
RAWALPINDI - As many as 119 patients tested positive of Coronavirus in various hospitals of the city on Friday, informed sources. That said no patient died or was discharged from the hospital during last 24 hours. According to sources, a total of 119 patients were reported from the district while 83 patients from the garrison city including 31 patients from Cantonment and 27 patients arrived from ......

62 more fall prey to Covid in Punjab
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-04-17
LAHORE: The total number of Covid-19 deaths in Punjab reached 7,271 after 62 more people died of the virus during the last 24 hours. Similarly, 2,732 new infections were reported in the province during the same period, taking the total number of positive cases to 261,173. Of the new infections, 1,402 were recorded in Lahore. According to official figures, the total number of Covid deaths in Lahore.....

Traders want shops to run from 10:00 am till Sehri for 7 days a week in Ramazan
Source: news Desk, Daily Times, 2021-04-17
A joint meeting of the traders of the twin cities was held under the chairmanship of Sardar Yasar Ilyas Khan, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry to discuss the decision of the government to close businesses 2 days in a week and close normal shops by 6:00 pm. Abdul Rehman Khan Vice President ICCI, Mian Akram Farid Chairman Founder Group, Ajmal Baloch President, Anjuman-e-Tajiran.....

Clerics urged to support govt on coronavirus front
Source: Correspondent, Daily Times, 2021-04-17
The District Peace Committee meeting, chaired by Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ali, learned about the current situation of the third and most dangerous wave of coronavirus on Friday. The DC said that wards of government hospitals were nearly filled from patients and precautionary measures/ implementation on SoPs were utmost necessary to defeat the virus. He appealed to the cleric of all sects to s.....

‘You can’t clone us’: Polish doctors cry for help as COVID deaths spike
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2021-04-17
When the pandemic began last year, Kinga Szlachcic-Wyroba, an anaesthesiologist in the Stefan Zeromski Specialist Hospital in Krakow, Poland, had to manage one Covid-19 patient and 10 others in intensive care with three other doctors. Now the third wave has hit Poland and the number of Covid-19 patients in intensive care stands at 17, with just four non-COVID sufferers. Around 80% of the COVID pa.....

APTMA announces donation of 100,000 Covid-19 vaccines
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-04-18
LAHORE: Chairman All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA) Adil Bashir has announced donating more than 100,000 doses of Corona vaccine to the poor, deserving and needy persons to save general public from the onslaught of the deadly third wave of Covid 19. After an emergency meeting at the APTMA House, Lahore that was called to discuss the effects of Covid 19, Chairman APTMA said that AP.....
Punjab reports 2,837 new Covid-19 cases, 62 deaths
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-04-18
LAHORE: The novel coronavirus continued to play havoc, as out of record 38,811 Covid-19 tests conducted during the last 24 hours in Punjab, as many as 2,837 fresh virus cases and 62 more fatalities were reported across the province taking the provincial tally of cases to 264,010 and death toll to 7,271. With more corona tests, the positivity rate of the virus has slightly declined to 7.30 per.....

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10 shops sealed for violation of COVID-19 norms
Source: Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-04-18
MULTAN - District administration has sealed 10 shops over violations of government orders regarding closure of shops on Friday and Saturday during a special crackdown launched here on Saturday. In line with special directives of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ali Shahzad, the Assistant Commissioner City Muhammad Umair Mahmood visited different areas of the city to check implementation of coronavirus.....

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Punjab to focus on contact tracing as coronavirus cases soar
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-04-18
LAHORE - Punjab is all set to scale up contact tracing and increase the number of smart lockdowns in the wake of increasing number of corona cases, said Punjab Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid while speaking at the NCOC meeting through video link on Saturday. Dr Yasmin Rashid apprised the participants about measures to increase the capacity of public sector hospitals, vaccination status, impl.....

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1,748 booked over corona SOPs breach in 20 days
Source: Staff Report, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-04-18
LAHORE - The police registered 1,407 cases and arrested 1,748 persons in different areas of the city for violating coronavirus SOPs in 20 days. As per police data, 713 cases were registered for not using masks while 694 cases were registered over violation of SOPs. DIG Operations Sajid Kiani said the police were high alert to maintain law and order besides taking action for the implementation on S.....

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‘Smart COVID Vaccination Centre’ set up at airport
Source: Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-04-18
LAHORE - Deputy Commissioner Mudassar Riaz on Saturday set up another corona vaccination centre at the Allama Iqbal International Airport. The centre has been named as “Smart COVID Vaccination Centre”. Assistant Commissioner Cantt Zeeshan Nasrullah Ranjha was also present. On the occasion, Mudassar Riaz said that people over an age of 65 coming from abroad would be vaccinated and their.....

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<td>3 persons die of COVID-19 in Rawalpindi</td>
<td>Our Staff Reporter, <em>The Nation, Islamabad</em>, 2021-04-18</td>
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<td>Rawalpindi-Three people died of coronavirus in different hospitals while 117 others tested positive of deadly virus. Similarly, 123 patients were discharged from the hospital after recovery during last 24 hours, informed sources on Saturday. According to sources, Tahir Butt, 74, a resident of Kallar Syedan, was brought to Rawalpindi Institute of Urology on April 5 and he died on Saturday mor.....</td>
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<td>Two more Covid-19 patients die overnight in city</td>
<td>App, <em>Dawn, Islamabad</em>, 2021-04-19</td>
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<td>KARACHI: Two more patients of coronavirus died overnight lifting the death toll to 4,553 while 532 new cases emerged when 11,349 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued here on Sunday. He said that 11,349 samples were tested which detected 532 cases that constituted 4.7 per cent current detection rate. So far 3,473,507 tests had bee.....</td>
<td>more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Known academic dies of Covid</td>
<td>Correspondent, <em>Dawn, Islamabad</em>, 2021-04-19</td>
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<td>SIALKOT: Academic and poet Dr Fartash Syed died of coronavirus here on Sunday. He was professor of Urdu at the University of Sialkot. According to the university management, he remained under treatment for coronavirus but could not survive. He was laid to rest at his native graveyard in Vehari. The management of University of Sialkot and faculty members expressed sorrow over the death of Dr Far.....</td>
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<td>97 more succumb to Covid in Punjab; 3,562 new cases surface</td>
<td>Staff Reporter, <em>Dawn, Islamabad</em>, 2021-04-19</td>
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20,000 seniors inoculated daily to meet targets Provincial secretary vows to improve Covid vaccination service
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-04-19
LAHORE: Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD) Secretary Sarah Aslam has said that the department is working tirelessly to ensure successful coronavirus vaccination drive across the province by inoculating more than 20,000 senior citizens per day. She expressed these views while on a visit to the coronavirus vaccination centre located in Pakistan Kidney and Liver Institut.....
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Punjab loses 97 more lives to Covid
Source: Adnan Lodhi, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-04-19
LAHORE: Punjab on Sunday recorded the highest coronavirus death toll since the outbreak of the pandemic. At least 97 deaths caused by Covid-19 were confirmed across Punjab in 24 hours. Besides the record deaths, highest number of new patients in a single day during the third wave of the pandemic was also recorded as 3,562 patients were brought to the government and private hospitals in the 36 d.....
more >>

China to expedite Covid vaccine delivery to Pakistan
Source: News Desk, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-04-19
LAHORE - China is continuing its support to expedite Covid vaccinatedelivery to Pakistan to strength its fight against pandemic. A spokesperson of health ministry said Sunday that Pakistan has received one million purchased jabs of CanSino and Sinopharm vaccine from China. He said the vaccine is being provided to federating units in compliance with all health guidelines. The Spokesperson said the doz.....
more >>

Over 400,000 senior citizens in Punjab vaccinated against COVID-19
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-04-19
LAHORE - More than 400,000 senior citizens had received the first dose of coronavirus vaccine in Punjab while more than 90,000 citizens were given second dose as well. According to the Health Department sources here on Sunday, the vaccination had been made in two shifts during the Ramazan. The vaccination was being given to the senior citizens of above 60 years of age while registration of 50.....
more >>

‘APTMA to donate 100,000 Covid-19 jabs for poor’
Source: Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-04-19
LAHORE - The All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA) has announced to donate 100,000 doses of the Covid-19 vaccine to the vulnerable segments of the society amid deadly third wave of the pandemic. APTMA Chairman Adil Bashir said on Sunday that its members have decided to bear the burden of importing and administering more than 100,000 doses of vaccine to the public at large who cannot aff.....
more >>

Court suspects Javed Latif’s Covid+ report, seeks another test
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2021-04-19
A sessions court has extended interim bail of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Mian Javed Latif till April 27 in a case pertaining to anti-state remarks. Additional Sessions Judge Wajid Minhas heard the case. At the outset of the hearing, Latif’s counsel presented a Covid-19 diagnosis report of his client, showing him infected with the virus. “My client has tested positive.....
more >>
Nine more patients die due to coronavirus
Source: Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-04-19
FAISALABAD - As many as nine more patients died of the COVID-19 in the district, while 206 persons tested positive during the last 24 hours. A spokesperson for the health department said on Sunday the death toll due to COVID-19 rose to 741 in the district. He said that 1,655 tests for coronavirus were conducted in public and private sectors labs during the same period. He further said that so.....

Sindh

Restart doctors’ registration on priority basis: PMA
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-04-17
KARACHI: The Pakistan Medical Association (PMA) has called for restarting the registration of doctors for vaccination against the coronavirus on a priority basis and expediting the inoculation process. In a statement issued on Thursday, the PMA raised alarm over the "seriousness of the Covid situation in the country, which is worsening day by day." Urging the government and citizens t.....

Sindh govt extends Covid restrictions till May 16
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-04-17
KARACHI: The Sindh Home Department issued on Friday a notification for further extension in the coronavirus restrictions. The two safe days for keeping the business activities suspended in Sindh have been rescheduled. According to the notification, the business activities will remain closed on Saturday and Sunday across the province. However, the restrictions will not apply to compulsory service o.....

BankIslami, TPL Life come together to bring comprehensive Covid coverage for customers
Source: Press Release, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-04-17
KARACHI - BankIslami, one of Pakistan’s fastest growing Islamic finance institutions, has partnered with TPL Life to offer a consolidated COVID-19 coverage plan for customers. The package is a complete Shariah compliant takaful plan for the entire family with up to PKR 30,000 initial benefits upon diagnosis and further Hospital Cash Assistance for each member under the only COVID Protection .....
COVID situation: 561 new cases, three deaths reported across Sindh
Source: Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-04-17
KARACHI - Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that 561 new cases of coronavirus were detected when 11,623 tests were conducted raising the tally to 271,523 and three more patients died lifting the death toll to 4,544. This he stated in a statement issued from CM House on Friday. The CM said that 11,623 samples were tested which diagnosed 561 cases that constituted 4.8 percent c.....
more >>

Political upheaval keeps gains subdued
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-04-18
KARACHI: The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) ended on an upbeat note despite sluggish activity during the outgoing week as the index managed to sustain its level at over the 45,000-point mark and ended with a rise of 119 points or 0.26%. The market finished three out of the five sessions in green to settle at 45,305.63 points. In the wake of rising coronavirus cases and National Command and Operat.....
more >>

Will resume business from April 28, say wedding hall owners
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-04-18
KARACHI: Wedding hall owners in Karachi announced on Saturday that they would be resuming business from the 15th day of Ramazan (April 28), despite the Sindh government having extended coronavirus-related restrictions. Addressing a press conference at the Karachi Press Club, All Pakistan Caterers and Decorators Qais Mansoor said the restrictions on wedding ceremonies on account of the coronavir.....
more >>

Business community urges Sindh govt to review two-day closure
Source: N H Zuberi, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-04-18
KARACHI: Chairman Businessmen Group (BMG) Zubair Motiwala and President Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) Shariq Vohra, while expressing sheer dismay over Sindh Govt's decision to allow limited business timings from Sheri to 6:00PM and complete closure of businesses on Saturdays and Sundays, urged to revoke the relevant notification without further loss of time and allow all ty.....
more >>

Seven deaths, 673 new cases of COVID-19 reported in Sindh
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-04-18
KARACHI - As many as 673 new cases of coronavirus were detected in Sindh while seven more patients lost their lives taking the tally of COVID related deaths in the province to 4,551. Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah, in a statement issued on Saturday, has said that 673 new cases of coronavirus were detected when 12,022 tests were conducted raising the tally to 272,196 while the c.....
more >>

SU Dean Prof Dr Saleha dies of COVID-19
Source: Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-04-18
HYDERABAD - Professor Dr Saleha Parveen, Dean Faculty of Education of Sindh University, Jamshoro who passed away on Friday night was laid to rest at the local graveyard on Saturday. Dr Saleha was not feeling well since the last couple of days after contracting the coronavirus, SU spokesperson Nadir Mugheri said. He said Dr Saleha was shifted to a hospital on Friday morning after her condition dete.....
more >>
Sindh reports 532 new cases of Covid-19
KARACHI: Two more patients of Coronavirus died overnight lifting the death toll to 4,553 and 532 new cases emerged when 11,349 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued here on Sunday. He added that 2 more patients of COVID-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 4,553 that constituted 1.7 percent death rate. Shah said t.....
more >>

This week 50 years ago: Vaccination drive, tribute to playwright and colours
Source: Peerzada Salman, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-04-19
Half a century back, the Karachi Municipal Corporation (KMC) looked after a little over 300 miles of the city’s roads. What’s the number now? That’s for the corporation to know. On April 20, 1971 it was announced that the KMC would undertake major road repair works in the city with an estimated expenditure of Rs1.8m. The proposed amount was only for six roads in Karachi. They wer.....
more >>

Pandemic claims two more lives in Sindh Over 500 new coronavirus cases confirmed in province
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-04-19
KARACHI: As many as two more patients of novel coronavirus disease died overnight lifting the death toll to 4,553 and 532 new cases emerged when 11,349 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued on Sunday. He said that two more patients of Covid-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 4,553 that constituted 1.7 percent mortality.....
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COVID-19 claims 2 more lives, infects 532 others
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-04-19
KARACHI - As many as 2 more patients of coronavirus died overnight lifting the death toll to 4,553 and 532 new cases emerged when 11,349 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued on Sunday. He said that 2 more patients of COVID-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 4,553 that constituted 1.7 percent death rate. Murad .....
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### Countries News

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>News</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>India's vaccine maker tweets Biden to allow export of raw material</td>
<td>AFP, Dawn, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-04-17</td>
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<tr>
<td>MUMBAI: The head of the world's largest vaccine maker directly</td>
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<td>tweeted US President Joe Biden on Friday, urging him to lift an</td>
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<td>export ban on raw materials desperately needed to make more</td>
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<td>coronavirus shots. The unusual step by Serum Institute of India's</td>
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<td>boss Adar Poonawalla underlined the crisis in providing vaccines to</td>
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<td>developing nations, many of which rely heavily on the firm.</td>
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<td>India's top seer dies from Covid after attending Kumbh festival</td>
<td>AFP, Dawn, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-04-17</td>
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<td>NEW DELHI: A Hindu seer has died from coronavirus and 80 other</td>
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<td>holy men have tested positive in India after attending a vast</td>
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<td>religious festival where millions of pilgrims ignored Covid-19</td>
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<td>advice despite a national surge in infections. The announcement</td>
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<td>from authorities in Haridwar, Uttarakhand state, came as India</td>
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<td>recorded more than 217,000 fresh cases in 24 hours, taking the</td>
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<td>total number of new i.....more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<td>In virus rebound, China's GDP grows by record 18.3pc</td>
<td>AFP, Dawn, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-04-17</td>
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<td>BEIJING: China's economy expanded at a record pace in the first</td>
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<td>quarter as the country continued its rapid recovery from last year's</td>
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<td>pandemic-fuelled slump, official data showed on Friday. The 18.3</td>
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<td>per cent explosion in gross domestic product growth was the fastest</td>
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<td>pace since quarterly records began three decades ago, but came off</td>
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<td>a historic contraction in 2020 during the depths of th.....more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<td>Palestinians hold Aqsa prayers in largest gathering since Covid</td>
<td>Agencies, Daily Times</td>
<td>2021-04-17</td>
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<td>Thousands of Palestinians streamed to Al-Aqsa mosque in Israeli-</td>
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<td>annexed east Jerusalem on the first Friday of the Muslim holy</td>
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<td>month of Ramadan, in the largest such gathering since the</td>
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<td>coronavirus pandemic. Sheikh Azzam al-Khatib, head of the Waqf</td>
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<td>Islamic affairs council, told AFP an estimated 70,000 worshippers</td>
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<td>came in from Jerusalem, the Israeli-occupied West Bank and from</td>
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<td>Arab communities insid.....more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<td>Germany mourns its 80,000 Covid dead at memorial</td>
<td>AFP, Dawn, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-04-19</td>
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<td>BERLIN: Germany held a national memorial service on Sunday for its</td>
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<td>nearly 80,000 victims of the coronavirus pandemic, putting aside</td>
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<td>deep divisions over Covid restrictions to share the pain of</td>
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<td>grieving families. Chancellor Angela Merkel and President Frank-</td>
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<td>Walter Steinmeier joined an ecumenical service in the morning at</td>
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<td>Berlin's Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church, a memorial against war</td>
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<td>and dest.....more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<td>Growing calls for more oxygen, beds as virus crisis deepens in</td>
<td>AFP, Dawn, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-04-19</td>
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<td>NEW DELHI: More government hospital beds will be freed for Covid-19</td>
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<td>patients, India's health ministry said on Sunday, as the vast</td>
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<td>nation grappled with a worsening virus crisis and states appealed</td>
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<td>for additional supplies of oxygen and treatment drugs. The country</td>
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<td>of 1.3 billion people added a record-high of 261,500 new cases on</td>
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<td>Sunday, with one-in-six people who underwent tests returning pos.....</td>
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‘A very good weird’: Israel drops outdoor COVID mask order
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2021-04-19
Israelis went about barefaced on Sunday after the order to wear masks outdoors was rescinded in another step towards relative normality thanks to the country’s mass-vaccination against COVID-19. With about 81% of citizens or residents over 16 – the age group eligible for the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine in Israel – having received both doses, contagions and hospitalisations are down ..... 
more >>

Germany remembers nearly 80,000 dead in COVID pandemic
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2021-04-19
Germany is paying tribute Sunday to the nearly 80,000 people it has lost to the coronavirus, even as the country struggles to get a grip on another rise in infections. President Frank-Walter Steinmeier will lead a memorial event with other top officials at Berlin’s Konzerthaus concert hall. His office says it is also dedicated to the bereaved “who could not accompany their relatives wh.....
more >>
## Other SDPI Engagements

### Webinar News

**Experts Suggest Measures To Avert Health Hazards Created By Growing Use Of E-Cigarette**

Source: APP, [Urdu Point](https://www.app.com.pk), 2021-04-17

ISLAMABAD, (APP – Urdu Point / Pakistan Point News - 17th Apr, 2021): Efforts to raise awareness about the harmful effects of E-Cigarette need to be intensified to save people from health hazards resulted by this growing trend said academicians and experts while sharing their views with the participants of the webinar ‘E-Cigarettes myths, realities and the policy, way forward in Pakistan’.....[more >>](#)

**EXPERTS SUGGEST MEASURES TO AVERT HEALTH HAZARDS**

Source: DNA News, [DNA News](https://www.dnapak.net), 2021-04-18

ISLAMABAD, APR 17 (DNA) – Efforts to raise awareness about the harmful effects of E-Cigarette need to be intensified to save people from health hazards resulted by this growing trend. The academicians and experts said this while sharing their views with the participants of the webinar ‘E-Cigarettes – myths, realities and the policy, way forward in Pakistan’ held by the Sust.....[more >>](#)

**EXPERTS SUGGEST MEASURES TO AVERT HEALTH HAZARDS**

Source: DNA, [Daily Islamabad Post](https://www.dailyislamabadpost.com), 2021-04-18

ISLAMABAD, APR 17 (DNA) – Efforts to raise awareness about the harmful effects of E-Cigarette need to be intensified to save people from health hazards resulted by this growing trend. The academicians and experts said this while sharing their views with the participants of the webinar ‘E-Cigarettes – myths, realities and the policy, way forward in Pakistan’ held by the Sust.....[more >>](#)

‘Over 30 countries have banned e-cigarettes’

Source: Our Correspondent, [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](https://tribune.com.pk), 2021-04-18

ISLAMABAD: Efforts to raise awareness about the harmful effects of consuming e-cigarette need to be intensified to save people from the health hazards that have arisen by its growing trend. Academicians and experts gave this input while sharing their views with participants of the webinar ‘e-cigarettes – myths, realities and the policy, way forward in Pakistan’. The event was o.....[more >>](#)

**Reforms programme under EFF to Pakistan is on right track: IMF’s Country Representative**


The Country Representative of International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Pakistan Ms Teresa Daban Sanchez has said that the Extended Fund Facility (EFF) to Pakistan is all set to achieve some major goals including revenue base fiscal sustainability. It is being achieved through the strategy by removing exemptions and privileges, enhancing social and productive spending, coordination with provinces, and.....[more >>](#)
On free and fair elections
The mantra of free and fair elections has been very common in the Pakistani context. All Pakistani elections - from general elections to the election of the president - have been accused of being unfair, rigged or engineered. It is an irony that it is not just the losing parties that raise questions on the transparency of the election process and results. Even the winning party is not satisfied with... more >>