…..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,
## Covid alarm
Pakistan experienced the peak of the Covid-19 pandemic in June, 2020; and now after nine months the number of the country’s critical patients suffering from the disease is 30 percent higher than what it was in June. According to the head of the National Command and Operations Centre, Asad Umar, oxygen supply capacity is under severe duress. As the third wave of Covid-19 in Pakistan is becoming more serious, we must take necessary precautions to curb its spread.

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## The UK travel ban
Source: EDITORIAL, Daily Times, 2021-04-20
The way the third wave of the coronavirus has got some governments to cut down on foreign travelers is understandable because it is everybody’s duty to be extra cautious in these times. International travel limitations are, in fact, just an extension of various forms of lockdowns that are presently employed in different degrees in different countries precisely so contact between people is kept to a minimum. The travel ban is a sensible move by the UK government.

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## Covid-19: hope is not a strategy
Source: BR Research, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-04-20
In a recent tweet to his followers, Asad Umar, a prominent part of the sitting government, admits that the covid-19 situation in the country is dire. Critical patient care is 30 percent higher than what it was during the peak in June last year, he says. Oxygen supply is constrained and SOP compliance is low. He then opines that the country is making a huge mistake in not following SOPs. This is odious.

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## Digital health: the future of healthcare in Pakistan
Source: Dr Ali M Mir, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-04-21
Our efforts to grapple with the far-reaching impact of the Covid-19 pandemic has fortuitously opened up new avenues of healthcare delivery involving an increasing use of digital technology — an umbrella term that includes the use of mobile devices, health information technology, telehealth, and telemedicine. At the start of the pandemic, the Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Pakistan had to adapt to new ways of delivering care.

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## Vaccine nationalism at its worst
Source: Imtiaz Rafi Butt, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-04-21
As the end of April approaches, cracks in the global effort to fight the Covid-19 pandemic have begun to emerge. Similar to other policy areas, the coronavirus pandemic has become a case of the capitalist/elitist agenda. Rich nations are actively engaging in “vaccine nationalism” or simply, the ‘me first’ rule. Without diving into statistics and elaborate charts, one only needs to look at the data to realize that the world is in a pandemic.

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## Precautionary Measure
Source: Editorial, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-04-21
Observing the dramatic surge in Covid-19 cases in India, along with the havoc it has wreaked across the country, Pakistan imposed a travel ban on India. The pandemic looks to be spiralling out of control in the region; our authorities must also consider expanding such restrictions on travelling to and from other countries as well. Any preventative measure that can safeguard our numbers from rising is welcome.
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<td>Humanity’s transgression of ecological limits has caused widespread damage,</td>
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<td>including a climate emergency,</td>
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<td>catastrophic loss of biodiversity, and extensive degradation of soils</td>
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<td>around the world. Earth abuse is also at the root of the Covid-19</td>
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<td>pandemic, and the grim likelihood that new pathogens will continue to</td>
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<td>emerge from other animal species to infect humans. Cultivation, deforestation, mi…..</td>
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<td>While the situation at external front has been improving, the foreign</td>
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<td>direct investment climate is dreary as usual. Where COIVD-19 pandemic has</td>
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<td>adversely affected FDI flows across the globe including Pakistan, the</td>
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<td>situation at home has been worrisome much before the pandemic hit. The</td>
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<td>continuous decline in FDI since after FY17 is the evidence. Central bank’s</td>
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<td>latest data shows that net fl.....</td>
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<td>more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<td>UK race commission echoes my silence!</td>
<td>Source: Qamar Rafiq, <em>The Express Tribune, Islamabad</em>, 2021-04-22</td>
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<td>I live in one of the Georgian cities of Britain which is known for its</td>
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<td>magnificent architecture for being a destination for the wealthy elite</td>
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<td>in the 18th and 19th centuries. As a citizen of a Western nation, I</td>
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<td>experienced the steep curve of racial and economic inequalities. Last</td>
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<td>summer, as Covid-19 hit world, the UK saw a disproportionate impact on</td>
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<td>African, Asian, and other racial minority commun.....</td>
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<td>Fiscal management</td>
<td>Source: Muhammad Khudadad Chattha, <em>Dawn, Islamabad</em>, 2021-04-23</td>
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<td>THE core principles of good fiscal management of a country find a perfect</td>
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<td>metaphor in our daily lives: save now for a rainy day in the future. We</td>
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<td>are smart enough to realise there will be good and bad times, which</td>
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<td>leads us to save for crises like unemployment, bad health, natural</td>
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<td>disasters etc. We also know from the work of macroeconomists that</td>
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<td>countries are prone to experiencing boom-and-bust cy.....</td>
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<td>Corporate strategists and the business elite have had little choice but</td>
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<td>to contend with supply chain disruptions caused by the unprecedented</td>
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<td>Covid-19 pandemic. Undoubtedly, a tremendous amount of effort and money</td>
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<td>will be dedicated in coming years to build resilience of global supply</td>
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<td>chains against future pandemics and looming threats of climate change.</td>
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<td>Yet, trying to make supply chains more flexib.....</td>
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<td>Reducing vaccine inequality</td>
<td>Source: Dr Omer Javed, <em>Business Recorder, Islamabad</em>, 2021-04-23</td>
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<td>‘Ensuring widespread global access to Covid-19 vaccines, which is necessary</td>
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<td>for preventing cases and deaths and contributing to global population</td>
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<td>immunity, is a critical challenge and one that could threaten the ability</td>
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<td>to control the pandemic. Despite efforts to address vaccine access, most</td>
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<td>notably through the creation of COVAX, which aims to support the</td>
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<td>development and delivery of Covid-19.....</td>
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Let the children play
Things are different in school these days. The classes are smaller. The kids are more subdued. The teachers are exhausted. But that's life as we try to overcome the Covid-19 pandemic and somehow get back to normal. I come into the room every day and sit behind a glass barrier. My kids either stumble in from the hall wearing masks (often below their noses) or they log in to Zoom and particip.....
more >>

The Covid effect
The Covid-19 pandemic has not affected just the health of people. While the local economy has of course been hit by the closing down of restaurants, small businesses, and the work done by domestic labour, carpenters and other people, this also had a far more far-reaching effect. The UAE and Saudi Arabia are among the countries that have stopped work visas for most categories of Pakistanis, though .....
National News

Balochistan

Punjab borrows 25k Covid-19 jabs from Balochistan
Source: Mohammad Zafar, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-04-20
QUETTA: The Punjab government has borrowed 25,000 doses of the coronavirus vaccine from Balochistan due to a spike in the number of positive cases in the province. According to sources familiar with the matter, the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) directed the Balochistan government to dispatch the Covid-19 doses to Punjab on Monday to support the vaccination efforts. The development.....more >>

Rind assures closure of schools
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-04-22
QUETTA: The Parliamentary Secretary for Information Bushra Rind on Wednesday said that repeated interruptions in children's academic year are a matter of concern but decisions such as temporary closure of schools are needed to prevent the rapid spread of coronavirus. "In this regard, we need the support of the public and teachers and private educational institutions. We must work togeth.....more >>

Islamabad

Pakistan records 5,445 new Covid-19 cases, 137 deaths in 24 hours
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-04-20
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan recorded 5,445 new coronavirus cases in the last 24 hours, taking the country's Covid-19 tally to 766,882. According to the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), the country's death toll climbed to 16,453 after 137 people succumbed to the deadly disease during the last 24 hours. Most deaths occurred in Punjab followed by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa(K-P). Meanwhile, 4,286 pat.....more >>

If my advice was heeded: COVID-19 spread might not have been alarming, claims Sindh CM
Source: Correspondent, The News, Islamabad, 2021-04-20
ISLAMABAD: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that had his suggestion to suspend the operation of inter-city passenger transport been timely accepted by the federal government, the deadly spread of the coronavirus infections in the country would have been not as alarming as is the case in the present day. "Just yesterday there were 150 deaths in the country due to coronavirus.....more >>

Pressure mounts on hospitals: Disobeying SOPs major mistake, says Asad
ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar on Monday said due to non-compliance of the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) set to control spread of COVID-19, the situation in the country was getting worse. In his tweet, he said oxygen supply capacity in the country was now under stress and the SOPs compliance remained low. "We are making a huge mistake b.....more >>

19.8% of patients from ICT up to 20 years of age: 8 COVID-19 deaths, 582 cases from twin cities
Source: Muhammad Qasim, The News, Islamabad, 2021-04-20
Rawalpindi: As many as 582 new COVID-19 patients have been reported from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district in the last 24 hours taking tally to 90,426 while the virus has claimed another eight lives from the region taking death toll to 1,461. Data collected by ‘The News’ on Monday has revealed that as many as six patients died of COVID-19 from the federal capital an.....more >>
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<td>Capital sees decline in Covid-19 cases but positivity rate rises</td>
<td>Mohammad Asghar</td>
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<td>Oxygen supply capacity under stress amid Covid steep surge</td>
<td>news Desk</td>
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<td>Pakistan reports 5,445 coronavirus cases in 24 hours</td>
<td>Web Desk</td>
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<td>UK Red List</td>
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<td>Covid-19: Pakistan puts travel ban on India</td>
<td>Imran Ali Kundi</td>
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<td>Covid-19 SOPs; NA speaker decides to issue limited press cards</td>
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**Capital sees decline in Covid-19 cases but positivity rate rises**

Source: Mohammad Asghar | Aamir Yasin | Munawer Azeem, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-04-20

ISLAMABAD: A decline was seen in the number of Covid-19 cases in the capital on Monday, but the positivity rate increased. During the last 24 hours, 4,093 tests were conducted out of which 523 people were found infected and the positivity rate increased to 12.77pc. On Sunday, 650 people had tested positive out of 5,507 tests with the positivity rate of 11.80pc. Besides, four patients succumbed ...

**Oxygen supply capacity under stress amid Covid steep surge**

Source: news Desk, Daily Times, 2021-04-20

The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Monday said that the country’s oxygen supply capacity is now under stress amid the third wave of coronavirus. Federal Minister Asad Umer, in a tweet, said that critical care patients in the country are now above 4500, which is 30% higher than the peak in June last year. “Hospital fill up continuing to grow. Critical care patients now.....

**Pakistan reports 5,445 coronavirus cases in 24 hours**


Pakistan has reported 137 deaths in the last 24 hours by novel coronavirus as the number of positive cases has surged to 766,882. The nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 16,453 on Tuesday. According to the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) 5,445 persons tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 24 hours. Punjab remains the worst-hit province in terms.....

**UK Red List**

Source: Editorial, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-04-20

The UK’s decision to put Pakistani citizens on the red list of travel-banned countries has sparked outcry from the public and various other government officials—Human Rights Minister, Dr Shireen Mazari, included. As many pointed out the inherent bias against Pakistan seen through this move, the UK has also rightly been lambasted for discriminating against its own citizens—who hap.....

**Covid-19: Pakistan puts travel ban on India**


ISLAMABAD - Pakistan on Monday imposed a ban on all travellers coming from India, through air and land routes, for the next two weeks citing presence of new variant of the coronavirus in the neighbouring country. The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) made the decision in a meeting held under the chair of Minister for Planning and Development Asad Umar. A statement issued by the NC.....

**Covid-19 SOPs; NA speaker decides to issue limited press cards**

Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-04-20

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser, on Monday, chaired the meeting of the House Advisory Committee ahead of the session of the National Assembly and reviewed the agenda of the day. The meeting presided over by the speaker decided to strictly follow the coronavirus SOPs and limited press cards would be issued due to coronavirus pandemic. The ongoing session would undertake I.....
Indian variant: India in list of ‘Category C’ countries
Source: Abdul Rasheed Azad, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-04-20
ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), Monday, placed India in list of Category C countries for two weeks in the wake of spread of Indian variant of Covid-19. The NCOC meeting held here under the chairmanship of Asad Umar decided to place India in the list of Category C countries for two weeks. “There will be a ban of inbound passengers coming from India via a…..

Govt may ban travellers from more countries after India
Source: Ikram Junaidi, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-04-21
ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) for Covid will meet again on Wednesday (today) to consider putting restrictions on the entry of passengers from more countries after slapping a ban on India to prevent spread of the Indian variant in Pakistan through any other country. The NCOC will also take stock of the grim situation as the number of active cases in the country has al…..

Pakistan records 5,499 new Covid-19 cases, 147 deaths in 24 hours
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-04-21
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan recorded 5,499 new coronavirus cases in the last 24 hours, taking the country's Covid-19 tally to 772,381. According to the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), the country's death toll climbed to 16,600 after 147 people succumbed to the deadly disease during the last 24 hours. Most deaths occurred in Punjab followed by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (K-P). Meanwhile, 5,488 pat…..

PM wishes Manmohan Singh speedy recovery from Covid-19
Source: APP, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-04-21
ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan Tuesday wished Manmohan Singh, former Indian prime minister, a speedy recovery from Covid-19. On his twitter handle, the prime minister posted “Wishing ex Indian PM Manmohan Singh a speedy recovery from Covid 19." According to media reports, former Indian prime minister and senior leader of Congress, Singh, 88, was admitted to hospital at…..

Pakistan reports 5,499 COVID cases, 148 deaths in one day
Pakistan has reported 148 deaths in the last 24 hours by novel coronavirus as the number of positive cases has surged to 772,381. The nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 16,600 on Wednesday. According to the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) 5,499 persons tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 24 hours. Punjab remains the worst-hit province in term…..

Pakistan reports 137 more Covid-related deaths
Source: Tahir Amin, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-04-21
ISLAMABAD - Pakistan on Tuesday reported 137 new Covid-19 deaths, raising the total death toll to 16,453. Out of the total 16,453 reported deaths, there had been about 4,556 deaths in Sindh, 7,561 in Punjab, 2,920 in KP and 645 in Islamabad. About 225 deaths were reported in Balochistan, 104 deaths in GB and 442 in AJK. According to the data shared by the NCOC, about 5,445 new Covid-19 cases were…..
IBCC integrating technology in services to facilitate general public
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-04-21
ISLAMABAD - Secretary Inter Board Committee of Chairmen (IBCC) during novel coronavirus (COVID-19) lockdown took decisions in the public interest to facilitate the students, said secretary IBCC on Tuesday. Talking to media during a press briefing here, Prof Dr Ghulam Ali Mallah, Secretary IBCC said that in order to achieve the set targets of IBCC and to maintain its acceptable credibility fo.....

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PIMS postpones all elective, planned surgeries due to Covid-19 patients’ influx
Source: Rahul Basharat, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-04-21
ISLAMABAD - The Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) on Tuesday postponed all elective and planned surgeries due to increasing influx of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) patients. The hospital administration in this regard issued an official order to all heads of clinical departments to postpone elective and planned surgeries due to the increasing number of COVID-19 patients. However, s.....

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Covid-19 claims 137 more lives as ICU occupancy reaches 95%
Source: news Desk, Daily Times, 2021-04-21
The national tally on Monday of total active Covid-19 cases was recorded at 83,298 as 5,445 more people tested positive for the deadly virus while 137 people died from the disease across country. In an alarming situation, the ICU occupancy at top Lahore hospitals has reached 95 percent during the third wave of the deadly Covid-19. The ICU beds at major hospitals in the city including Mayo Hospita.....

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Flow of Covid-19 patients brings Punjab, KP hospitals under stress
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2021-04-21
The hospitals in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces have been under stress due to soaring cases of Covid-19. According to details, occupancy of ventilators by corona patients in Gujranwala has reached 88 percent, while 85 pct oxygenated beds of total capacity have also been filled. In Multan 85 percent and in Lahore 82 percent ventilators have been filled with the coronavirus patients. In La.....

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Major cities may be closed if Covid situation worsens
Source: Ikram Junaidi, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-04-22
ISLAMABAD: With the national positivity ratio of Covid-19 surpassing 11 per cent, Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar on Wednesday said more restrictions could be announced on Friday, hinting at closing down major cities if the current trend continued. On the other hand, the decision to place more countries on the category C list was deferred till Friday as Specia.....

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Covid-19 casualties mount in Rawalpindi, Islamabad
Source: Aamir Yasin | Munawer Azeem, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-04-22
ISLAMABAD: As many as 13 patients lost their struggle against Covid-19 on Wednesday as another 673 people contracted the virus in the twin cities. In Islamabad, four succumbed to the virus whereas 375 tested positive. Officials of the capital administration said two females in the 50-59 age group while a male and another female patient in the 70-79 and 30-39 age brackets, respectively, breathed .....
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<td>Pakistan records 5,857 new Covid-19 cases, 98 deaths in 24 hours</td>
<td>Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-04-22</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asad hints complete lockdown in big cities as virus deaths spike</td>
<td>Tahir Niaz, The Nation, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-04-22</td>
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<td>LCCI donates masks, sanitizers, temperature guns to police</td>
<td>Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-04-22</td>
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<td>Tough decisions likely as PM chairs NCC meeting on Covid-19 today</td>
<td>news Desk, Daily Times</td>
<td>2021-04-23</td>
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ISLAMABAD: National Covid-19 positivity rate, Wednesday, jumped to 11.63 percent as the country recorded 5,499 new coronavirus cases by carrying out 47,301 tests and also reported 148 coronavirus deaths. According to the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) following the emergence of 5,499 new Covid-19 cases the national tally has jumped to 772,381 since the coronavirus outbreak. Th.....

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ISLAMABAD: National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) Chairman Asad Umar Wednesday warned of imposition of more restrictions owing to worsening Covid-19 situation in the country. Umar, who is also Federal Minister for Planning, after chairing a meeting of the NCOC, told a media briefing that there was a lack of implementation of Covid-19 SOPs during the third coronavirus wave. According to him, .....

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ISLAMABAD: Pakistanrecorded 5,857newcoronaviruscases in the last 24 hours, taking the country's Covid-19 tally to 778,238. According to the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), the country's death toll climbed to 16,698 after 98 people succumbed to the deadly disease during the last 24 hours. Most deaths occurred inPunjabfollowed byKhyber Pakhtunkhwa(K-P). Meanwhile, 3,986 pati.....

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ISLAMABAD - As the fast-spreading third wave of Coronavirus is stretching medical infrastructure to a breaking point in the country, Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar Wednesday warned that the authorities will have no other option but to place the big cities under lockdown if people don't observe the SOPs and intensity of the wave is not broken. He sai.....

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LAHORE - The Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LCCI) Wednesday donated face masks, sanitizers and temperature guns to the police department as part of its efforts to prevent coronavirus spread. The donations were handed-over by LCCI President Mian Tariq Misbah to Capital City Police Officer (CCPO) Ghulam Mehmood Dogar at the Lahore Chamber. CCPO Ghulam Mehmood Dogar said that all segments.....

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Prime Minister Imran Khan has summoned a meeting of the National Coordination Committee (NCC) on Covid-19 on Friday (today), wherein some tough decisions are likely to be made amid steep surge in coronavirus cases in the country. The prime minister summoned the NCC on Covid-19 after holding a meeting with Minister for Planning Asad Umar and his Special Assistant on Health Dr Faisal Sultan, who br.....

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How long does protection from Covid-19 vaccines last?
Source: AP, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-04-22
How long does protection from Covid-19 vaccines last? Experts don’t know yet because they’re still studying vaccinated people to see when protection might wear off. How well the vaccines work against emerging variants will also determine if, when and how often additional shots might be needed. “We only have information for as long as the vaccines have been studied,” said .....  
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NCC may consider imposing further curbs today
Source: Ikram Junaidi, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-04-23
ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan has convened a meeting of the National Coordination Committee on Covid-19 on Friday (today) to review the pandemic situation and devise a future strategy as over 5,800 persons tested positive for the contagious virus and 98 lost their lives over the past 24 hours. The decision to convene the NCC meeting was announced by the Prime Minister Office after Mr Khan .....  
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No let-up in Covid-19 cases in twin cities
Source: Aamir Yasin | Munawar Azeem, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-04-23
ISLAMABAD: The twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad on Thursday saw 640 Covid-19 cases with capital reporting 549 cases and the garrison city 91. Four casualties were reported in Rawalpindi. During the last 24 hours, 5,344 tests were conducted in the capital which found virus in 549 people and the positivity was 10.2pc whereas on Wednesday 375 cases were reported in the city against 4,388 te.....  
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Army to help LEAs enforce Covid-19 SOPs, says PM Imran
Source: News Desk, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-04-23
ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan said on Friday that the Pakistan Army has been requested to help the law enforcement agencies implement Covid-19 standard operating procedure (SOPs) across the country. The premier’s remarks came following a meeting of the NCOC held to review the overall pandemic situation in the country. The premier appealed to the nation to follow precautions, warning th.....  
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98 more die of Covid-19 across country
Source: Abdul Rasheed Azad, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-04-23
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan, Thursday, reported 98 Covid-19 deaths and 5,857 coronavirus cases after 57,591 tests were conducted reflecting a positivity ratio of 10.17 percent, the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) said. According to the latest Covid-19 data released by the NCOC, at present, there are 84,935 active positive coronavirus cases, and in the past 24 hours 3,986 people have reco.....  
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Developing countries; Call to ensure equitable supply of Covid-19 vaccine
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-04-23
ISLAMABAD: Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood has stressed the need to ensure equitable and affordable supply of coronavirus vaccine for the developing countries and increased global community cooperation to fight the pandemic. He stated this, while representing Pakistan in the China, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka six-country Vice-Foreign Ministers’ Video Confere.....  
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pakistan reports 5,870 coronavirus cases, 144 deaths in one day</td>
<td>Web Desk, The Nation, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-04-23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COVID-19 claims 98 lives, infects 5,857 more people</td>
<td>Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-04-23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakistan records 5,857 new Covid-19 cases, 98 deaths</td>
<td>Tahir Niaz, The Nation, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-04-23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 more die of coronavirus, 632 test positive</td>
<td>Muhammad Qasim, The News, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-04-23</td>
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Pakistan has reported 144 deaths in the last 24 hours by novel coronavirus as the number of positive cases has surged to 784,108. The nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 16,842 on Friday. According to the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC), 5,870 persons tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 24 hours. Punjab remains the worst-hit province by the pa......

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ISLAMABAD - The national tally on Thursday of total active COVID-19 cases was recorded 84,935 with 5,857 more people tested positive for the deadly virus and 3,986 people recovered from the disease during the last 24 hours. Ninety-eight corona patients have died during past 24 hours, 91 of whom were under treatment in hospital and seven out of the hospital in their respective quarantines or h.....

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ISLAMABAD - Pakistan on Thursday reported 5,857 new coronavirus cases, taking the country’s COVID-19 tally to 778,238. According to the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), the country’s death toll climbed to 16,698 after 98 more people succumbed to the deadly disease during last 24 hours. Most deaths occurred in Punjab followed by Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa. During the last 24 h.....

more >>

ISLAMABAD: As many as 98 more people lost their lives as the national tally of active COVID-19 cases reached 84,935 with 5,857 more people testing positive for the deadly virus and 3,986 recovering from the disease in the last 24 hours. Of the 98 who died in the last 24 hours, 91 were under treatment in hospitals, according to the latest update issued by the National Command and Operation Centre .....

more >>

Islamabad: As many as 632 new patients have been tested positive for coronavirus illness, COVID-19 from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district in the last 24 hours showing the outbreak is still much intense in the region while the virus has claimed another four lives from the region, all from Rawalpindi district that has taken death toll from the region to 1,487. Data collected by &......

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Virus situation deteriorating: Major cities may be shut, says Asad  
ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning and Development Asad Umar after chairing a meeting of the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Wednesday warned of more restrictions and imposing a complete lockdown in major cities to control the worsening situation of COVID-19 in the country. “We will have to increase the restrictions and if we do not contain the rapid spread of the pandemic, we.....
more >>

Pakistan records 5,857 new Covid-19 cases, 98 deaths  
ISLAMABAD - Pakistan on Thursday reported 5,857 new coronavirus cases, taking the country’s COVID-19 tally to 778,238. According to the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), the country’s death toll climbed to 16,698 after 98 more people succumbed to the deadly disease during last 24 hours. Most deaths occurred in Punjab followed by Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa. During the last 24 h.....
more >>

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Coronavirus takes 21 more lives in KP  
PESHAWAR: The nonstop coronavirus on Monday took the life of another doctor in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, taking the toll of medics dying of the viral infection to 59 in the province. The latest victim of the infectious disease was Dr Mohammad Kamil. He had retired from the Health Department as a medical officer. Dr Mohammad Kamil had contracted the coronavirus a few weeks ago that turned into pneumonia.....
more >>

Corona takes three more lives in Nowshera  
Source: Correspondent , The News, Islamabad , 2021-04-20  
NOWSHERA: The coronavirus took another three lives in the Nowshera on Sunday as the viral infection continued to spread in the district, forcing the administration to put more localities under lockdown, said a senior official. Deputy Commissioner Mir Reza Ozgan told the media the latest victims were identified as Saleeh Maseeh of Rislapur, Zardad Khan of Kheshgi Bala, and Mohamamd Ali of Aziz Bha.....
more >>

Aimal Wali tests positive for Covid-19  
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad , 2021-04-20  
PESHAWAR: Awami National Party provincial president Aimal Wali Khan has been tested positive for coronavirus. Aimal Wali Khan has confirmed the news on his own Twitter account. According to the ANP’s spokesman, Samar Haroon Bilour, Aimal Wali has self-quarantined himself at his residence in Peshawar after contracting the coronavirus. She appealed to the public and party worker.....
more >>

Pandemic and the rise of online food businesses  
Source: Wisal Yousafzai , The Express Tribune, Islamabad , 2021-04-21  
PESHAWAR: Where the pandemic has thrown a spanner in the works of several large-scale industries, it has also led to the growth of many home-run businesses operating online. The provincial capital in particular, has seen a boon in online food businesses, collectively changing the city’s e-commerce landscape. Many of these new businesses, which operate from kitchens of the city's subu.....
more >>
Two more doctors, nurse die of Covid-19 in KP
PESHAWAR: Two more doctors and a nurse lost their lives to the coronavirus in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Tuesday, taking the death toll of doctors, who have died of the viral infection in the province, to 61. The two doctors, who have died of the coronavirus, were identified as Dr Abdul Kabir and Dr Khair Mohammad Burki. According to the Provincial Doctors Association (PDA), a major organisation of t..... more >>

Courts in Mardan sealed due to growing Covid-19 cases
Source: Correspondent, The News, Islamabad, 2021-04-21
MARDANR: The district courts in Mardan were sealed on Tuesday following an increase in Covid cases among the lawyers. An official said the district administration sealed all the courts in Mardan as well as bar rooms till further order to prevent the spread of the Covid. “The district administration closed local courts due to the increasing numbers of corona positive cases and to control the..... more >>

Covid positivity level drops in Mardan, goes up in Peshawar
Source: Ashfaq Yusufzai, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-04-22
PESHAWAR: Thirty-three more people, including a doctor, died of Covid-19 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Tuesday as the positivity level in Mardan came down but went up slightly in Peshawar and Abbottabad. With fresh mortalities, the count of people passing away from Covid-19 reached 2,953 in the province, a report by health department said. According to it, the province detected 1,153 more cases of co..... more >>

39 including doctor die of Covid in KP
Source: Ashfaq Yusufzai, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-04-23
PESHAWAR: Mardan recorded 34.3 per cent Covid-19 positivity rate as the virus continued to kill and infect doctors and health workers in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. A report by health department said that 39 more people died of Covid-19 and 1,171 new patients tested positive for the virus. Mardan recorded 33.7 per cent positivity rate, it added. Senior dentist Dr Jan Ahmed also passed away on Thursday d..... more >>

Educational institutions warned against violating SOPs
Source: Correspondent, The News, Islamabad, 2021-04-23
MANSEHRA: The district administration has strictly warned owners of the private educational institutions to follow the government instructions about the closure of schools and colleges, otherwise, a strict legal action would be initiated against them. “The district administration has come to know that some schools in violation of the national command and operation centre’s orders runn..... more >>

Four more die of COVID-19 in Swat
Source: Correspondent, The News, Islamabad, 2021-04-22
MINGORA: Four more patients died of coronavirus in the district on Wednesday. With the new casualties, the fatalities from the coronavirus reached 216 in the district. Officials of the Health Department said that 155 patients infected by COVID-19 were under treatment at the Saidu Teaching Hospital. They said that four COVID-19 patients died while battling for life for the last several days at th..... more >>
Schools in high risk districts open for class 9-12
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-04-20
LAHORE: All government and private schools and colleges in 13 districts of Punjab were opened for class nine to 12 students on Monday amid restrictions of 50% attendance. These educational institutes have reopened after a break of 36 days. In its latest decision, the Punjab government allowed schools to remain open twice a week, on Monday and Friday, with only half of the students in 13 districts.....

Traders call for increase in business hours
Source: Correspondent, The News, Islamabad, 2021-04-20
LAHORE: Business community has demanded the government reconsider the decision of closing businesses by 6pm and no business activities on Saturday and Sunday as it has been adversely affecting the domestic trade and commerce. Historically, Ramazan is always a peak season for domestic trade but for the second consecutive year it is being affected due to COVID-19 related lockdown restrictions. The.....

Abrar ul Haq appeals to people to donate blood, help save lives
Source: Staff Reporter, Daily Times, 2021-04-20
Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) Chairman Abrar ul Haq on Monday appealed to the people to come forward and donate blood to help save lives amid serious shortage of blood due to ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. In a statement, the PRCS chairman said over 16,000 people have lost lives to Covid-19 in the country, however hundreds of thousands more are at risk due to blood shortage. He said lives of p.....

Attendance remains thin as schools reopen for classes 9-12
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2021-04-20
The attendance of students remained thin as classes from grades 9 to 12 resumed across the country on Monday. The National Command and Operation Centre, following its emergent meeting on April 18, decided to resume classes under strict adherence to the Covid-19 SOPs. Students of the grades 9-12 are to attend the classes in view of the approaching board exams. However, attendance remained signifi.....

Directive to register 50 plus age group for vaccination
Source: Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-04-20
LAHORE - Secretary Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department Sarah Aslam directed Chief Executive Officers (Health) to make necessary arrangements for the next phase of the corona vaccination drive that starts from today (Tuesday) for 50-59 age group. Chairing the monthly CEOs video link conference at the Committee Room on Monday, she said, "Vaccination teams must ensure online data ent.....

2 persons die of coronavirus in Rawalpindi
Source: Israr Ahmad, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-04-20
Rawalpindi - Two more patients died of coronavirus in the city here on Monday, informed sources. Some 1006 patients got discharged from the hospital after recovery during last 24 hours and 68 patients tested positive of deadly virus, they said. According to sources, Rasheeda Begum, 85, a resident of Chittian Hattian near committee Chowk, was brought to Rawalpindi Institute of Urology on Apri.....
Punjab reports 2,766 Covid-19 cases, 27 fatalities
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-04-20
LAHORE: Out of record 34,681 Covid-19 tests conducted during the last 24 hours in Punjab, as many as 2766 fresh virus cases and 27 more fatalities were reported across the province taking the provincial tally of cases to 270,338 and death toll to 7457. With conducting of more corona tests, the positivity rate of the virus has reached to 7.97%.
With the recovery of 1845 more virus patients, th.....
more >>

Punjab begins vaccination of 50-59 age group from today
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-04-21
LAHORE - Punjab is all set to start the next round of corona vaccination for people of 50-59 years from today (Wednesday). Punjab Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid on Tuesday asked the Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department to make necessary arrangements to make this round of the corona vaccination successful. She said, “People must register themselves at 1166 and get pin code for v.....
more >>

GCU holds webinar on ‘Ramazan amid COVID-19’
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-04-21
LAHORE - A webinar on “Ramazan in the time of COVID-19” was held on Tuesday under the auspices of Disease Awareness and Prevention Society of Government College University (GCU) Lahore. Eminent laparoscopic surgeon and motivational speaker Dr Javaid Iqbal, Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Asghar Zaidi and clinical nutritionist Dr Arooj Gillani addressed the webinar attended online by a large nu.....
more >>

Flow of Covid-19 patients brings Punjab, KP hospitals under stress
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2021-04-21
The hospitals in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces have been under stress due to soaring cases of Covid-19. According to details, occupancy of ventilators by corona patients in Gujranwala has reached 88 percent, while 85 pct oxygenated beds of total capacity have also been filled. In Multan 85 percent and in Lahore 82 percent ventilators have been filled with the coronavirus patients. In La.....
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Flow of Covid-19 patients brings Punjab, KP hospitals under stress
Source: agency, Daily Times, 2021-04-21
The hospitals in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces have been under stress due to soaring cases of Covid-19. According to details, occupancy of ventilators by corona patients in Gujranwala has reached 88 percent, while 85 pct oxygenated beds of total capacity have also been filled. In Multan 85 percent and in Lahore 82 percent ventilators have been filled with the coronavirus patients. In La.....
more >>

Covid-19 casualties mount in Rawalpindi, Islamabad
Source: Aamir Yasin | Munawer Azeem, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-04-22
ISLAMABAD: As many as 13 patients lost their struggle against Covid-19 on Wednesday as another 673 people contracted the virus in the twin cities. In Islamabad, four succumbed to the virus whereas 375 tested positive. Officials of the capital administration said two females in the 50-59 age group while a male and another female patient in the 70-79 and 30-39 age brackets, respectively, breathed .....
## Over 100 Covid deaths for second day in Punjab
Source: Asif Chaudhry, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-04-22

LAHORE: The government healthcare system in Lahore has exhausted from a year-long battle against the coronavirus as more than 100 Covid deaths took place in Punjab on the second consecutive day. These included 46 in Lahore where five mega teaching hospitals have no space for critical patients. The situation has reached an alarming proportion for the patients suffering from infection’s compl.....

[more >>](#)

## Third wave hits Punjab’s youngest
Source: Muhammad Ilyas, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-04-22

LAHORE: As Punjab faces a deadly third surge of the coronavirus pandemic, an increasing number of children are testing positive for the respiratory infection. According to provincial health department documents, more than 26,000 children have tested positive for the virus during the current wave of the super spreader, which has infected more than 273,000 people in the province since its onset. .....

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## Punjab starts vaccination of 50 to 59 age group
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-04-22

LAHORE - Secretary Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department Sarah Aslam visited Expo Centre as Punjab started vaccination of 50-59 age group people here on Wednesday. She met vaccination teams and visited different counters where people were getting vaccination. She talked to citizens and took their feedback about the vaccination process. The Secretary PSH Department said, “The purpo.....

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## 15 persons die of coronavirus in 72 hours in Rawalpindi
Source: Israr Ahmad, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-04-22

Rawalpindi-As many as 15 persons died of coronavirus in last 72 hours in different hospitals of the city, informed sources on Wednesday. Similarly, some 298 patients tested positive of the deadly virus in last 24 hours. According to details, Shazia Kamal, 48, resident of Gawalmandi, died at Rawalpindi Institute of Urology on Wednesday where he was admitted from on April 12. Naeelam Mazafa.....

[more >>](#)

## 250 pilots, crew members vaccinated: PIA
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-04-23

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) with an aim to fly with totally vaccinated crew has launched a massive vaccination drive and has so far vaccinated nearly 250 pilots and crew members. A PIA spokesman said the vaccination drive is under progress and the airline has set a target to get it completed by the middle of May 2021. He said PIA Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Air Marshal Arsh.....

[more >>](#)

## Coronavirus cases growing in teachers, students
Source: Malik Tahseen Raza, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-04-23

MUZAFFARGARH: Teachers in government and private schools have been under the constant threat of contracting Covid-19 in the third wave in Muzaffargarh as the ratio of coronavirus cases is going up in south Punjab districts. Within weeks, 19 public schoolteachers have tested positive for Covid-19, and subsequently, their schools were closed. The district education authority has also confirmed that.....

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Main Punjab cities bear the brunt of Covid casualties
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-04-23
LAHORE: The Covid death toll in Punjab reached 7,718 after 56 more patients succumbed to the virus during the last 24 hours. Most deaths were reported from Lahore, Rawalpindi, Multan and Faisalabad. Thursday’s official Covid update showed that all the 84 ventilators at the Mayo Hospital, Lahore were in use and there is no space for the critical patients of the virus to admit. Similarly, al.....
more >>

Bed occupancy rate in public hospitals swells to 60%
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-04-23
LAHORE: Beds reserved for coronavirus patients have been occupied by almost 60% owing to an increase in coronavirus cases across the province. Punjab Specialised Healthcare and Medical Education Department Secretary Barrister Nabeel Ahmed Awan has disclosed that a total of 6,685 beds are reserved in all public hospitals for coronavirus patients, out of which 4,055 beds have been unoccupied. As.....
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Eight more succumb to Covid-19 in Multan
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-04-23
MULTAN: Eight more patients died of coronavirus during last 24 hours in Nishtar Hospital Multan. The total death toll has surged to 587. The number of coronavirus patients undergoing treatment has risen to 587 whereas 22 patients are said to be in critical condition. Coronavirus isolation ward is filled with patients. The number of beds in the ten wards of coronavirus isolation has been increase.....
more >>

Complete lockdown avoided for sake of labour community: Buzdar
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-04-23
LAHORE: Provincial Ministers Muhammad Ajmal Cheema and Khayal Ahmad Kastro met with Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar at his office to apprise him about the problems of their constituencies. The CM said on the occasion that Rs 5.5 billion Ramazan Package has been offered to facilitate the people in the holy month of Ramazan ul Mubarak and asserted that illegal profiteering will not be.....
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Punjab reports 2,902 fresh corona cases, 54 deaths
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-04-23
LAHORE: The corona situation is taking serious turn in major cities of Punjab, as out of 28,829 corona tests conducted during the last 24 hours, as many as 2902 fresh virus cases and 54 fatalities were reported across the province taking the provincial tally of cases to 279,437 and death toll to 7,718. The provincial metropolis is witnessing alarming situation as 1,466 fresh cases and 23 deat.....
more >>

Pervaiz Elahi for closing campuses amid rising corona cases
Source: Correspondent, The News, Islamabad, 2021-04-22
LAHORE: Punjab Assembly Finance Committee meeting was held under chairmanship of Punjab Assembly Speaker Ch Pervaiz Elahi which approved annual budget of financial year 2021-22 of the assembly secretariat here on Wednesday. Keeping in view dangerous surge in third wave of corona and increasing cases in the educational institutions, Ch Pervaiz Elahi said educational institutions and private educat.....
more >>
Two schools sealed over SOPs’ violation
Source: Correspondent, The News, Islamabad, 2021-04-22
DERA ISMAIL KHAN: District administration has sealed two schools for noncompliance with the SOPs meant for preventing the spread of coronavirus pandemics. Assistant Commissioner Nawab Sameer Hussain Laghari visited different schools to ensure the preventive measures during the third wave of the pandemic. Sources said that two educational institutions were found violating the instructions of the g.... more >>

13 COVID-19 deaths, 660 test positive
Rawalpindi: As many as 13 patients from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district died of coronavirus illness, COVID-19 in the last 24 hours and it happened only for the third time in the year 2021 that over 12 patients lost their lives due to the illness from the region in a single day. Meanwhile, the number of patients being reported from Rawalpindi district has registered a sharp in..... more >>

Don’t forget dengue amid corona pandemic, warns Health Minister
Source: Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-04-23
LAHORE - Punjab Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid chaired the Cabinet meeting on Dengue Prevention at the Darbar Hall of the Civil Secretariat here on Thursday. Secretary Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department Sarah Aslam, representatives officials of the police, Civil Aviation, PHA, DHA, Rescue1122, Livestock, Special Branch, Local Government, Punjab Healthcare Commission and other depar..... more >>

Shops, super stores sealed over SOPs violations
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-04-23
LAHORE - The city district administration sealed super stores, shops and restaurants in the provincial capital and imposed fine over violations of the coronavirus related Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), on Thursday. According to a spokesperson for the district administration, Assistant Commissioner (AC) Cantt Zeeshan Ranjha and AC Shalimar Mansoor Ahmed Qazi sealed various super stores includin..... more >>

Unpaid doctor kills self
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-04-20
KARACHI: After failing to receive a salary for four months, a young doctor on government contract reportedly committed suicide in a village near Kashmore city. The incident took place in Mohammad Ishaq Khan Jakhrani village, some eight kilometres from Kashmore city. Dr Q*, 26, joined the health department in July 2020 on an 89-day contract and was posted for Covid-19 patients at a local hospital..... more >>

Pandemic claims two more lives in Sindh
Over 500 new coronavirus cases confirmed in province
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-04-20
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 per cent mortalit..... more >>
Is mix, match of different vaccines beneficial?
KARACHI: At a time when a vast majority of people in Pakistan are desperately trying to get vaccinated at the earliest, some people are looking for the opportunity to get vaccinated with two or more types of vaccines but is it recommended or even safe for them to mix and match the COVID-19 vaccines. “There is no harm in getting vaccinated with more than one vaccine. It is even beneficial fo.....
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COVID-19 claims 3 more patients, infects 737 others
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-04-20
KARACHI - As many as 3 more patients of coronavirus died overnight lifting the death toll to 4,556 and 737 new cases emerged when 14,109 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued on Monday. He added that 3 more patients of COVID-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 4,556 that constituted 1.7 percent(1,9),(997,992)
more >>

Sindh reports 737 new cases of Covid-19
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-04-20
KARACHI: As many as three more patients of Covid-19 died overnight lifting the death toll to 4,556 and 737 new cases emerged when 14,109 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued here on Monday. He added that 3 more patients of Covid-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 4,556 that constituted 1.7 percent death rate. S.....
more >>

'Covid-19 worst crisis in Asia-Pacific since WW II'
Source: Anadolu Agency, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-04-20
KARACHI: The coronavirus pandemic has created the worst crisis in Asia-Pacific since World War II, exposing structural weaknesses and fault lines, and revealing gaps in health services, social protection, and digital connectivity in the region, according to a new study. The study, Beyond The Pandemic - Building back better from crises in Asia, has been prepared by the Economic and Social Commiss.....
more >>

COVID-19 claims 3 more patients, infects 730 others
Source: Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-04-21
KARACHI - As many as 3 more patients of coronavirus died overnight lifting the death toll to 4,559 and 730 new cases emerged when 11,341 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued on Tuesday. He added that 3 more patients of COVID-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 4,559 that constituted 1.7 percent death rate. He said t.....
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UK Covid-19 variant found in 50pc of positive cases in Karachi: Sindh health minister
Source: Dawn.com, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-04-22
Sindh Health Minister Dr Azra Pechuho said on Wednesday that 50 per cent of the samples in a Covid-19 genomic study conducted in Karachi were confirmed to be of the UK coronavirus variant. In a video message released on Twitter, Pechuho said that the UK variant "spreads very rapidly" and it had already spread in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab as a result of which "a lot of deaths are .....
Four OPDs closed in hospitals
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-04-22
RAWALPINDI: The Punjab government has closed Outpatients Departments (OPDs) of ENT, ophthalmology, dermatology and dentistry for a week due to increasing number of Covid-19 cases in the city. According to Punjab Specialised Healthcare and Medical Education Department, all government hospitals situated in seven districts of Punjab for further one week till April 27. These seven districts are Rawa.....

Covid-19 claims 3 more lives, infects 885 others
KARACHI: As many as 3 more patients of Coronavirus died overnight lifting the death toll to 4,562 and 885 new cases emerged when 12,881 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued here on Wednesday. He added that 3 more patients of Covid-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 4,562 that constituted 1.7 percent death rate. .....
### Higher secondary school closed for 3 days due to COVID-19
Source: Our Staff Reporter, *The Nation, Islamabad*, 2021-04-22

HYDERABAD - The District Education Officer (DHO) has closed Government Boys Higher Secondary School Mirza Qaleeh Baig campus for three days after some of the employees including teachers have tested positive for coronavirus. According to a letter addressed to the principal of the school, DHO also directed to take all necessary measures as per health guidelines for education institution reopening.

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### COVID-19 claims three more lives, infects 885 others
Source: Staff Reporter, *The Nation, Islamabad*, 2021-04-22

KARACHI - As many as 3 more patients of coronavirus died overnight lifting the death toll to 4,562 while 885 new cases emerged when 12,881 tests were conducted in Sindh. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued on Wednesday. He added that 3 more patients of COVID-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 4,562 that constituted 1.7 percent death rate.

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### Smart lockdown imposed in Karachi's Kemari
Source: Staff Reporter, *The Nation, Islamabad*, 2021-04-22

KARACHI - The Sindh government has decided to impose a smart lockdown in the Kemari district for the next two weeks due to an increase in coronavirus cases. A notification has been issued in this regard and the smart lockdown will be applicable from 12 midnight tonight for the next two weeks. Smart lockdowns have been imposed in seven union councils (UCs) hotspots of COVID-19, where the coronavirus.

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### COVID vaccination centre established at Sindh Secretariat
Source: Staff Reporter, *The Nation, Islamabad*, 2021-04-22

KARACHI - Services, General Administration and Coordination Department Sindh has established COVID Vaccination Centre (CVC) at People’s Hall, New Sindh Secretariat for vaccination of secretariat employees. All the administrative secretaries have been requested/advised to get themselves vaccinated (if eligible), along with their staff from Sindh Secretariat, Karachi.

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### 14 die overnight as Covid continues playing havoc with people’s lives
Source: Our Staff Reporter, *The Nation, Islamabad*, 2021-04-23

KARACHI - As many as 14 more patients of coronavirus died overnight lifting the death toll to 4,576 while 734 new cases also emerged when 12,659 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued here on Thursday. He added that 14 more patients of COVID-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 4,576 that constituted 1.7 percent death.

more >>

### Faisal Edhi offers help to India as country reels from devastating Covid-19 surge
Source: Sameer Mandhro, *The Express Tribune, Islamabad*, 2021-04-23

Faisal Edhi, son of celebrated philanthropist Abdul Sattar Edhi and chairman of the foundation, offered help to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi as India reels from a devastating second wave of Covid-19. India reported the world’s highest daily tally of coronavirus cases for the second day on Friday, surpassing 330,000 new cases, as it struggles with a health system overwhelmed by patients.

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### Countries News

#### Delhi locks down as COVID chokes Indian health system
**Source:** News Report, *The Nation, Islamabad*, 2021-04-20
NEW DELHI/ ISLAMABAD: India's capital region of Delhi ordered a six-day lockdown on Monday as daily COVID-19 cases nationwide hit a new record and the health system crumbled under the weight of new infections. India's hospitals are struggling with a shortage of beds, oxygen and key medicines as infections pass the 15 million mark, second only to the United States, a British wire service r.....more >>

#### Thunberg backs Covid vaccine inequity fight
**Source:** AFP, *The News, Islamabad*, 2021-04-20
Geneva: Swedish climate campaigner Greta Thunberg on Monday slammed the "tragedy" of vaccine inequity as she donated 100,000 euros ($120,000) from her foundation to the Covax scheme for global access to Covid-19 jabs. The donation to the World Health Organisation (WHO) Foundation will support the purchase of vaccines destined for the most vulnerable populations and health workers in som.....more >>

#### India records world's biggest single-day rise in coronavirus cases
**Source:** Reuters, *The Express Tribune, Islamabad*, 2021-04-22
NEW DELHI: India marked a grim milestone in the Covid-19 pandemic on Thursday, reporting 314,835 new daily cases, the highest one-day tally anywhere, as its second wave and similar surges elsewhere raised new fears about the ability of health services to cope. Hospitals across northern and western India including the capital, New Delhi, have issued notices to say they have only a few hours of me.....more >>

#### 136 more medics to go to Kuwait to help fight Covid-19
**Source:** Agencies, *Daily Times*, 2021-04-23
A fourth group of Pakistani medical workers will reach Kuwait later this week or early next week to assist in efforts to contain the spread of Covid-19 in the country that has recently seen a spike in infection rates, according to Kuwaiti media. A total of 627 Pakistani doctors and health workers have already arrived in Kuwait in three groups last October, December and March. The fourth batch wil.....more >>

#### UK judges say ‘genuine difficulties’ faced by travellers in hotel quarantine
**Source:** Atika Rehman, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2021-04-23
LONDON: Two High Court judges ordered the British government to improve hotel quarantine services in response to a petition for interim relief filed by a lawyer representing a British family of Pakistani origin. Barrister Zahab Jamali filed the petition on behalf of a family of five that had returned from Pakistan earlier this month and had to follow a mandatory, 10-day hotel quarantine for trave.....more >>

#### India posts global record of 315,000 Covid cases in a day
**Source:** AFP, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2021-04-23
(Clockwise) People wait in queues to receive the Covid-19 vaccine at a health facility in Mumbai on Thursday. Employees put up a notice about the non-availability of beds at a hospital in Allahabad. A nurse administers the vaccine to a man in Gauhati. A health worker wearing PPE gear stands inside an ambulance with a patient while transferring her to the ICU of a recovery centre in Mumbai.— .....more >>
Airlines cut global traffic forecast
Global airlines body predicts industry losses of $47.7 billion in 2021
Source: Reuters, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-04-23
PARIS: Air traffic will recover more slowly than previously expected from the Covid-19 pandemic, as vaccination delays and government "risk aversion" slows the reopening of routes, global airlines body IATA said on Wednesday. Global traffic this year will amount to 43% of pre-crisis levels based on passenger numbers and distance flown, the International Air Transport Association (IAT......
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Covid third wave peak in France ‘appears to be behind us’: PM
PARIS: The peak of the third wave of the Covid-19 pandemic in France "appears to be behind us", Prime Minister Jean Castex said on Thursday, while travel restrictions will be relaxed from early next month. He told reporters there had been a "genuine fall in the circulation of the virus over the last 10 days", confirming that restrictions confining people to a 10-km radius of t.....
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World facing vaccine apartheid: Oxfam
NAIROBI: Ahead of shareholder meetings for the giant pharmaceutical corporations, the People’s Vaccine Alliance calculates that Pfizer, Johnson & Johnson and AstraZeneca have paid out $26 billion in dividends and stock buybacks to their shareholders in the past 12 months. This would be enough to pay to vaccinate at least 1.3bn people, the equivalent of the population of Africa. Oxfam In.....
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Corona becomes deadlier in India
NEW DELHI: India posted a global record of almost 315,000 new COVID infections on Thursday as hospitals in New Delhi sent out desperate warnings that patients could die without fresh oxygen supplies. India’s long-underfunded health system is being stretched to the limit by a devastating second wave blamed on a "double mutant" variant and "super-spreader" mass gatherings......
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Two UK judges slam maltreatment of Pakistanis in quarantine
LONDON: Two High Court judges have criticised the UK government's treatment of travellers from Pakistan who are currently quarantining at various facilities approved by the government, including near Heathrow Airport, in London. Pakistan was recently added to the government "red list" of countries meaning that any individual entering the UK from Pakistan must now stay in a pre-a.....
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France ready to ease curfew, travel limits; Police, protesters clash over virus law in Berlin
Berlin: Police fired tear gas as thousands of people demonstrated in Berlin on Wednesday against a proposed amendment to give Angela Merkel's government power to impose tougher anti-coronavirus measures. With Germany buckling under a third wave of the virus, the amendment allowing for nationwide curbs like school closures and night-time curfews aims to end a political tug-of-war between the.....
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**Canada to suspend passenger flights from India, Pakistan over Covid-19 fears**

Source: Reuters, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-04-23

TORONTO: Canada's government said it would temporarily bar passenger flights from India and Pakistan for 30 days starting on Thursday as part of stricter measures to combat the spread of the coronavirus. The center-left Liberal government of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau acted after prominent right-leaning politicians complained Ottawa had not done enough to combat a third wave of infections.

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**Why India is facing an oxygen crisis as Covid cases mount**

Source: Reuters, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-04-23

By air, by train and by road, India is scrambling to move large quantities of medical oxygen to hospitals in its capital New Delhi and other areas hit hard by a record surge of Covid-19. Are hospitals running out of oxygen? The main problem is that medical oxygen is not reaching hospital beds in time. This delay is a product of where production units are located, a stretched distribution network,

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**Donors News**

**UNICEF to provide PPEs worth $ 14.5m to Pakistan to curtail Covid-19**

Source: APP, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-04-22

ISLAMABAD -United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) would provide US $14.5 million Personal Protective Equipment to Pakistan to help contain the spread of Covid-19 pandemic. According to a UNICEF document, it is supporting Ministry of National Health Services Regulations and Coordination, to procure PPEs test kits and medicines for a total value of US $ 14.5 million with funding support from .....
## SDPI Engagements

### Webinar News

| Experts urge developed countries to support clean and green recovery for the better future |
| Source: News Desk, Daily Spokesman, 2021-04-23 |
| Islamabad: (April 23, 2021). Enhanced global and regional cooperation could play critical role to respond to growing challenges emanating from climate change. Developed countries should come forward to support developing countries for the clean and green recovery. The environmentalists and climate change experts said this while sharing their views with the audience at special webinar on 'More >>' |

| Tapping Renewable Energy Resources To Lead Pakistan To Low Carbon Recovery: Experts |
| Source: APP, Urdu Point, 2021-04-23 |
| ISLAMABAD, (APP – Urdu Point / Pakistan Point News - 23rd Apr, 2021): The experts in webinar on Friday said that Pakistan had a huge potential in renewable energy sector and tapping renewable energy resources would lead country's to low carbon recovery: Tapping the potential could play a significant role in achieving environmental targets, said a press release issued by SDPI here. The experts sai.....more >> |

| Renewable Energy Resources, Crucial To Achieve Environmental Targets: Experts |
| Source: APP, Urdu Point, 2021-04-23 |
| ISLAMABAD, (APP – Urdu Point / Pakistan Point News - 23rd Apr, 2021): The environmentalists Friday underlined the need for tapping the huge potential of renewable energy resources, available in Pakistan, to achieve environmental targets. The experts were addressing a webinar on 'Low carbon recovery in Pakistan-green financing strategies in post-Covid scenario,' organized by Sustainable Dev.....more >> |

| Experts urge developed countries to support clean and green recovery for better future |
| Source: DNA News, DNA News, 2021-04-23 |
| ISLAMABAD, APR 23 (DNA) – Enhanced global and regional cooperation could play a critical role to respond to growing challenges emanating from climate change. Developed countries should come forward to support developing countries for the clean and green recovery. The environmentalists and climate change experts said this while sharing their views with the audience at special webinar on &lsqu.....more >> |

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