In order to keep abreast of emerging issues at the National/International and local level, the SDPI brings out a Bi-weekly E-Newsletter on “COVID-19”.

It carries reference information’s to the News items/Comments/Op-Eds appearing in leading National/International dailies.

Newspapers Covered:
- Dawn
- The News
- The Express Tribune
- The Nation
- Business Recorder
- Daily Times
- Pakistan Observer
- Pakistan Today
- Urdu Point

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Tel: +92.51. 2278134, Fax: 2278135,
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<td><strong>Too little, too late?</strong></td>
<td>EDITORIAL, The News, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-04-24</td>
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<td>After a meeting of the National Coordination Committee, Prime Minister Imran Khan has announced that steps will be taken to ensure SOPs are much more strictly followed, warning that otherwise a lockdown would be imposed in major cities where the positivity rate for the Covid-19 virus is high. Till now, the government has been insisting that smart lockdowns have been working well. But the figures d.....</td>
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<td><strong>CPEC progressing smoothly amid pandemic</strong></td>
<td>Muhammad Zamir Assadi, Daily Times</td>
<td>2021-04-24</td>
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<td>China Pakistan Economic Corridor, the symbol of modern development and progress under the dynamic Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has emerged as corner stone of growth in Pakistan. The commitment of China and Pakistan with the passion of friendship having the history of seven decades have been pushing forward the smooth construction of CPEC projects illustrating the deep understanding between two .....</td>
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<td><strong>Covid-19: is it really a blessing in disguise?</strong></td>
<td>Sadaf Sher, Daily Times</td>
<td>2021-04-24</td>
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<td>With the onset of the coronavirus pandemic, it is potentially difficult to imagine good things while it is wreaking havoc all over the world. However, if we follow the “glass half full” approach, there are certain considerable changes brought about by the novel disease following lockdown that have led to a lot of good to appreciate in the long run. The first is family: Before lockdown.....</td>
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<td><strong>Rudderless in the Covid storm</strong></td>
<td>Abbas Nasir, Dawn, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-04-25</td>
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<td>WITH the tragic Covid nightmare unfolding across the border in India bringing closer to home the horror millions in Brazil have been facing for over a year, there still seems little awareness of the consequences of actions or, more appropriately, inaction here. Early last year when the US and Europe were hit by Covid-19, it could be argued that the huge initial ravages of the virus were largely due.....</td>
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<td><strong>India’s Covid disaster</strong></td>
<td>Editorial, Dawn, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-04-25</td>
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<td>INdia is in the midst of a cataclysmic Covid-19 nightmare that has unleashed unimaginable suffering on its people. The stats are getting grimmer by the day; after claims earlier in the year that the government had ‘beaten’ the virus with new cases down to 11,000 a day, this week India recorded the world’s highest single-day coronavirus cases at 332,730. The overall death toll at .....</td>
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<td><strong>New Covid curbs</strong></td>
<td>Editorial, The Express Tribune, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-04-24</td>
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<td>Covid-19 is running riot in neighbouring India – which marked a harrowing milestone of 314,835 cases of the lethal infection in a single day on Thursday – and it appears to have raised the alarm in Pakistan. Concerned about avoiding a similar situation, Prime Minister Imran Khan has – in an address to the nation yesterday – asked the army to come out and assist police in ma.....</td>
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A community on the far fringes of immunisation
Source: Ehtesham Khan, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-04-24
PESHAWAR: 58-year old Nagina, whose weather beaten skin speaks of a tempestuous life, is a motherfigure to some 50 khwaja sirs living under her guardianship in the city of Kohat. The elderly transgender woman, respectfully addressed as guru by her chailas, is the cornerstone of Kohat’s hijra community, which she has been fostering for the last decade. “Nagina runs the show here,”....
more >>

A dose of reality
Source: Hareem Bilal, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-04-24
Desperation is when a single mother of three sprints across a hospital corridor in search of a ventilator to get her 4-year-old on life support. Powerlessness is waiting outside the isolation ward with no answers from the doctors regarding the life of the father who is your anchor, your support and your strength. Hopelessness is seeing the lifeless body of the sister you grew up with being carried.....
more >>

Lax Civil Administration
Source: Editorial, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-04-25
With 157 deaths reported in the last 24 hours, Pakistan has crossed the threshold of the highest number of fatalities ever reported due to the virus. More than the various strains, a serious lack of compliance with protective protocols is to blame for this uncontrollable third wave. As a fix, PM Imran Khan instructed the army to aid the police in strict enforcement with the hopes that it will forc.....
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For the rich?
How much of the vaccines manufactured in the rich countries have gone to the rest of the world? The brutal answer is that the rich countries have kept their supplies almost entirely to themselves. Moderna’s vaccine production has mostly been used to inoculate the population in the United States besides supplying it to some countries in Europe and to Canada. Pfizer has supplied its vaccines t.....
more >>

Welcome to World Immunisation Week
Source: Dr Ghulam Nabi Kazi, Daily Times, 2021-04-25
This weekend, Pakistan joins the international community in celebrating World Immunisation Week 2021 (April 24-30) under the theme: Vaccines bring us closer. Promoting vaccinations to protect people of all ages against disease is as urgent as ever since it is imperative that routine jabs doses are not missed amidst the scramble for COVID-19 shots. Pakistan needs to contribute significantly to this.....
more >>

Coronavirus in Indo-Pak Context
Source: Ali Anwar, Daily Times, 2021-04-26
Both Pakistan and India are nuclear powers but they are helplessly vulnerable, almost down and out against the raging surge of coronavirus. India’s dolorous situation is enough to teach us a lesson that if this gigantic country had good relations with it neighbor; it would not have been afflicted in the wake of this epidemic. People there wouldn’t be beleaguered or died due to the want.....
more >>
Has the time for peace come?
Source: EDITORIAL, Daily Times, 2021-04-26
Anybody with any sanity on either side of the Pak-India divide would have welcomed the news that the two sides have been engaged in back-channel talks ‘on all major issues including Jammu and Kashmir’ very warmly. It turns out, if the press is to be trusted especially since there has been no official denial of the revelation from either country, that Islamabad and Delhi have indeed bee.....
more >>

Vaccination record
Pakistan’s vaccination record is terrible compared to other countries in the South Asian region on a per capita basis. It is hard to know how the government and the National Command Operation Centre (NCOC) are planning to vaccinate Pakistan’s 220 million population as right now they do not seem to have a plan. Covid vaccines have been around since December 2020 and now April 2021 is c.....
more >>

Risky exams
Today, more than 85,000 students are set to sit for their O and A level exams. These 85,000 students (or even considerably more by some estimates) – between 16 and 18 years of age on average – come from 85,000 or more families, with presumably a large number of elderly persons or people with underlying medical conditions. That makes the decision to insist that these exams go ahead even.....
more >>

The price of life
According to the People’s Vaccine Alliance, a coalition of groups that seeks a vaccine for every person on the planet so that they are not at the mercy of corporations and the money they demand, large pharmaceuticals (some of which produce the Covid-19 vaccine) have paid out billions as dividends to their shareholders over the last year – which are to a large extent profits from their .....
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Capital’s green belts indirect victims amid pandemic
Source: APP, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-04-26
ISLAMABAD: Greenbelts, the hallmark of the federal capital, have started developing rough patches, mainly due to their increased and wanton use by residents facing mobility restrictions amid the coronavirus pandemic. The landscaping of greenbelts and parks is imperative to enhance the federal capital’s beauty. Green belts besides ensuring a healthy environment for residents, also helps in d.....
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## National News

### Balochistan

**No Covid patient on ventilator in Balochistan**  
QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Jam Kamal on Friday informed the National Command and Control Centre (NCOC) meeting chaired by Prime Minister Imran Khan that no ventilator was occupied by coronavirus patients in the largest province of the country. Participating in the NCOC meeting via video link, the provincial chief executive said his government was ensuring availability of oxygen throughout.....[more >>](#)

**295 children tested Covid positive so far in Balochistan**  
Source: Mohammad Zafar, *The Express Tribune, Islamabad*, 2021-04-25  
QUETTA: Balochistan government Spokesperson Liaquat Shahwani said so far 295 children tested positive for Covid across the province, while 10 per cent of total virus cases were reported from educational institutions. “The government has taken steps to contain the spread of the virus in the institutions by closing schools from primary to middle classes,” Shahwani said on Saturday while.....[more >>](#)

**Alyani voices concern over rising number of Covid-19 cases in Balochistan**  
Source: Staff Correspondent, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2021-04-26  
QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Jam Kamal Khan Alyani has expressed serious concern over the rising number of coronavirus cases in the province. In a statement issued on Sunday, the chief minister said the new wave of Covid-19 was very dangerous. “The third wave of coronavirus has engulfed the whole world and the situation is worsening in Balochistan as the people are not taking the dis.....[more >>](#)

### Islamabad

**Army called in to curb corona**  
ISLAMABAD/LAHORE: Prime Minister Imran Khan said on Friday he has directed the Pakistan Army to help ensure -- along with police and Rangers -- that the standard operating procedures (SOPs) regarding COVID-19 are strictly implemented and followed. In a televised address after chairing the meeting of the National Coordination Committee (NCC) for COVID-19, the prime minister urged the masses to ado.....[more >>](#)

**Ban on outdoor dining flouted in major cities**  
ISLAMABAD: Although, the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Friday announced a ban on outdoor dining in restaurants amid alarming increase in corona cases, but food outlets were seen serving food to customers in big cities after Iftar and before Sehr. A brief observance in big cities showed that hotels were still serving customers who came to have food, although with some reaction an.....[more >>](#)

**Saudi Grand Mufti says COVID patients can’t mix with others**  
ISLAMABAD: Saudi Arabia's Grand Mufti and Chairman of the Council of Senior Scholars Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al-Ashkeikh reaffirmed that it is not permissible for COVID-19 patients to mix with others. He called upon all the people in the Kingdom to strictly comply with the precautionary measures and preventive protocols announced by the authorities to stem the spread of coronavirus, international .....[more >>](#)
Indian hospitals plead for oxygen, country sets virus record
ISLAMABAD: India put oxygen tankers on special express trains as major hospitals in New Delhi begged on social media on Friday for more supplies to save COVID-19 patients who are struggling to breathe. More than a dozen people died when an oxygen-fed fire ripped through a coronavirus ward in a populous western state, international media reported. India’s underfunded health system is tatteri.....

Another 144 die of COVID-19 across Pakistan
ISLAMABAD: Another 144 people died of COVID-19 across the country in 24 hours, taking the tally to 16,842 since the start of the pandemic last year. According to the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), at least 53,818 coronavirus tests were conducted across the country in the 24 hours, out of which 5,870 were found positive, showing the positivity rate of 10.90. The total active cases c.....

16 PIA staffers stranded in Canada after flight ban for 30 days
Source: news Desk, Daily Times, 2021-04-24
Canada has suspended all passenger flights from India and Pakistan for 30 days, starting from Friday, due to increased Covid-19 cases detected in travellers arriving from these countries. “Given the higher number of cases of Covid-19 detected in air passengers arriving in Canada from India and Pakistan […] I am suspending all commercial and private passenger flights arriving in Canad.....

Sanctions-battered Iran, weary of pandemic, faces worst wave
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2021-04-24
As Iran faces what looks like its worst wave of the coronavirus pandemic yet, Tehran commuters still pour into its subway system and buses each working day, even as images of the gasping ill are repeatedly shown on state television every night. After facing criticism for downplaying the virus last year, Iranian authorities have put partial lockdowns and other measures back in place to try and slo.....

Covid-19 claims 10 more lives in twin cities
Source: Aamir Yasin | Munawer Azeem, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-04-24
ISLAMABAD: As many as 10 people died of Covid-19 in the twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad on Friday. The capital also reported 617 new cases while 197 cases emerged in Rawalpindi. Officials in Islamabad said two males in the age group of 30-39 and 50-59 and one female in the age group of 80-89 succumbed to the virus. They were residents of G-11, E-11 and H-15. During the last 24 hours, 4,713.....

PM Imran expresses solidarity with people of India as Covid-19 surges
Source: News Desk, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-04-24
ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Saturday expressed solidarity with the people of India as the country’s easter neighbour reeled under a devastating Covid-19 second wave. The premier said the country’s prayers are with all those suffering from the deadly virus and for their early recovery in “our neighbourhood and the world”. He added that all countries must figh.....
Covid-19: Saudi Arabia imposes travel ban on Pakistan, other countries Saudi residents have been given 72 hours to return to KSA
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-04-24
RIYADH: The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on Saturday imposed a travel ban on various countries including Pakistan and India amid the growing number of Covid-19 cases. The kingdom also implemented the ban on the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Indonesia whereas the Saudi Civil Aviation Authority General Authority of Civil Aviation (GACA) issued a notification imposing a temporary travel ban on European Union (.....
more >>

Pakistan records highest single-day Covid-19 death toll since start of pandemic
Source: News Desk, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-04-24
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan recorded its highest single-day Covid-19 death toll on Saturday with 157 fatalities registered over the previous 24-hour period. The previous high, 153 deaths, was recorded on June 20 last year. According to the National Command and Operations Centre (NCOC), the country recorded at least 5,908 new coronavirus cases during the same time period, taking the country's Covid-19 tally.....
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Medical supplies offered to Delhi
Source: Baqir Sajjad Syed, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-04-25
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Saturday offered medical supplies to India that has been struggling to cope with an overwhelming wave of Covid-19 while its leaders expressed solidarity with Indian people. After Prime Minister Imran Khan's tweet praying for the 'speedy recovery' of the Indian people affected by the virus and calling for cooperation in fight against the pandemic, Foreign Min.....
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Pakistan sees record coronavirus deaths in a day
Source: Ikram Junaidi, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-04-25
ISLAMABAD: The day Pakistan saw record 157 deaths from Covid-19 since the outbreak of the pandemic in the country, the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) decided to open walk-in vaccination facility for citizens aged 60 and above. On the other hand, the forum also decided to allow the army, Frontier Constabulary (FC) and Rangers to assist law enforcement agencies (LEAs) in enf.....
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Pakistan records 118 more Covid-19 fatalities in 24 hours
Source: News Desk, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-04-25
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan recorded another day of high fatalities due to Covid-19 with at least 118 deaths recorded during the 24-hour period and as many as 5,611 new cases, the National Command and Operations Centre (NCOC) reported on Sunday. The country's tally for confirmed cases has now reached 795,627 whereas the death toll stands at 17,117. The fresh positive cases were recorded against a to.....
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157 die in 24 hours; Highest single-day deaths recorded
Source: Abdul Rasheed Azad, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-04-25
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Saturday recorded highest single-day Covid-19 deaths with 157 fatalities reported in the past 24-hour taking over the previous record deaths on June 20, 2020, when 153 coronavirus patients died. According to the National Command and Operations Centre (NCOC), the country recorded 5,908 new coronavirus cases in the past 24 hours, taking the country's Covid-19 tally to 79.....
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Vol. 2, No. 34, Issue 24-26 April, 2021
People aged 60-64; Walk-in vaccination from today: Asad
Source: NNI, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-04-25
ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning and Development Asad Umar on Saturday announced that from Sunday, government is starting walk in coronavirus vaccinations for 60 to 64 year-olds. Asad Umar, in a tweet, said that all those over 60 years of age who have registered for the vaccine can go to their respective centres and get the jabs. He further announced that vaccination centres will remain open.

Covid-19; Qureshi extends support to Indian people
ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, on Saturday, expressed Pakistan’s support to the people of India in the wake of the current wave of Covid-19 infections in the neighbouring country and emphasised the need for dealing humanitarian issues beyond political consideration. In a series of tweets, the foreign minister pointed out that Covid-19 pandemic is yet another reminder.

NCOC considering lockdown in cities with high positivity ratio
ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operations Centre (NCOC), on Saturday said it is considering the enforcement of a lockdown in cities reporting high positivity ratio. The statement follows an NCOC session held earlier today (Saturday), with Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives Asad Umar in the chair. According to the NCOC statement, in light of increasing...

NA Secretariat suspends activities from 26th to 30th
ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly Secretariat has suspended all its activities from April 26 to 30 amid hike in Covid-19 cases in federal capital. A notification issued by NA Secretariat said that all the offices of National Assembly Secretariat would remain closed from April 26 to 30 to avert a possible spread of COVID-19. “All meetings of Public Accounts Committee, special committ...

Army called in to help enforce Covid-19 SOPs
Source: Zaheer Abbasi, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-04-24
ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan said on Friday that the government had decided to take help of the Pakistan Army to enforce the standard operating procedures (SOPs) along with the police and the law-enforcement agencies. While giving a briefing after chairing the National Coordination Committee on Covid-19 meeting, the prime minister said, “I have asked the Pakistan Army to help th....

5,870 new cases, 144 deaths; Country sees surge in Covid-19 cases
Source: Abdul Rasheed Azad, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-04-24
ISLAMABAD: The country reported 5,870 new cases of Covid-19 and 144 deaths in last 24 hours taking the death tally to 16,842 and cases to 784,108, since the pandemic outbreak in February 2020. According to the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Thursday, 53,818 tests were conducted countrywide of which 5,870 returned positive which is 10.90 percent. Countrywide, Punjab with....
Army mobilised in Islamabad, Peshawar against violation of corona SOPs
Source: News Desk, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-04-25

ISLAMABAD - The Pakistan Army was mobilised to enforce coronavirus safety protocols in the federal capital and Peshawar on Saturday after Prime Minister Imran Khan sought its help in curbing the spread of the virus in the country. Officials of the Islamabad administration visited various areas in the city on Friday with Army personnel in tow to enforce the implementation of coronavirus protoc.....

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Pakistan reports 118 deaths, 5,611 new COVID cases in 24 hours
Source: News Desk, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-04-25

Pakistan has reported 118 deaths in the last 24 hours by novel coronavirus as the number of positive cases has surged to 795,627. The nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 17,117 on Sunday. According to the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) 5,611 persons tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 24 hours. Punjab remains the worst-hit province in terms o.....

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‘Worst situation’ if preventive measures ignored
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-04-25

ISLAMABAD - Special Assistant to Prime Minister on National Health, Dr Faisal Sultan Saturday expressed his fear that the country might face the worst coronavirus situation if strict preventive measures of Covid-19 were not strictly adhered to. The Covid-19 positivity ratio has doubled and requirements for medical oxygen has jumped manifold amid dangerous third wave of Covid, he said while spe.....

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Several G-10 markets sealed, 22 vehicles impounded over violation of lockdown orders

ISLAMABAD - The Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration has sprung into action for implementation of Covid-19 Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in the capital city with the support of Pakistan Army. Different teams of the ICT administration on Saturday visited different areas of the city to inspect hotels, restaurants, bus stands etc. According to the officials, Acting AC (Shalimar.....

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Pakistan reports 5,870 new coronavirus cases, 144 deaths
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-04-24

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan reported 5,870 new Coronavirus cases in the past 24 hours, taking the country’s Covid-19 tally to 784,108. Meanwhile, the country’s death toll climbed to 16,842 after 144 more people succumbed to the deadly disease in a single day. According to the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), total active Covid-19 cases across the country were reported to be .....

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PIMS moves to meet rising demand for oxygen
Source: Rahul Basharat, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-04-24

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) after an increase in oxygen demand has started making alternate arrangements for novel coronavirus (COVID-19) patients. The notification issued by PIMS administration has asked the clinical heads to make alternate arrangements for COVID-19 patients. The notification issued said that due to heavy load of COVID-19 patients in the ind.....

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Since pandemic began: Record 157 die in a day
ISLAMABAD/LAHORE/KARACHI: Pakistan has reported 157 deaths in 24 hours due to COVID-19, which is highest death toll in the country in a single day since start of the pandemic last year. Last time, as many as 153 people died of COVID-19 in Pakistan on June 20, 2020. The authorities are mulling over complete lockdown across the country including closure of markets, malls, transport and schools. The..... more >>

Pakistan receives 500,000 doses of Sinopharm
ISLAMABAD: A special plane from China arrived in Pakistan on Saturday, carrying a consignment of 500,000 coronavirus vaccines. Sources said that the consignment of 500,000 Sinopharm vaccine doses from China reached Pakistan’s Noor Khan Air Base via a special plane. On the other hand, three special planes left Pakistan and arrived in China’s city of Beijing to bring back more vaccine ..... more >>

CAA extends travel restrictions from 23 states till April 30
Source: Sabah, The News, Islamabad, 2021-04-25
ISLAMABAD: Amid spike in coronavirus cases, Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has extended travel restrictions for international passengers, arriving from 23 category-C countries including India, till 30th of this month.According to a list attached by Aviation Division in a brief press note stated that only Pakistanis diplomatic passport holders and their families would be allowed to enter P..... more >>

Incompetence pushed corona out of control in Punjab, KP: Bilawal
ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan People’s Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has expressed concern over the spread of COVID-19 in the country, and said the pandemic has gone out of control in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa due to incompetence and wrong strategy of the “selected government”. “The PPP stands by health workers across the country in this difficult time as the t..... more >>

Pakistan offers help to India: India crumbles before corona
Source: Correspondent, The News, Islamabad, 2021-04-25
ISLAMABAD: Indian authorities scrambled Saturday to get oxygen tanks to hospitals where COVID-19 patients were suffocating amid the world’s worst coronavirus surge, as the government came under increasing criticism for what doctors said was its negligence in the face of a foreseeable public health disaster. For the third day in a row, India set a global daily record of new infections. The 3..... more >>

56 arrested for flouting corona SOPs in Peshawar
PESHAWAR: The district administration here on Saturday launched a crackdown against the violators of the standard operating procedures (SOPs) set by the government to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. According to a press release, 56 people were arrested for violating the corona SOPs in various parts of the provincial capital. It said that 78 shopkeepers were also apprehended for flouting t..... more >>
Clerics ask masses to follow corona SOPs
Source: Correspondent, The News, Islamabad, 2021-04-25
ISLAMABAD: Ulema and Mashaykh across the country have appealed to the people ‘Ruju-Ila-Al-Allah’ (turn to Allah) to seek forgiveness and follow the precautionary measures to ensure safety against coronavirus as humanity is in a state of threat due to coronavirus pandemic. In a joint statement Chairman Pakistan Ulema Council (PUC) and Special Aide to Prime Minister on Interfaith Harmon.....
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Pakistan asks Canada to reconsider ban on flights
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Saturday urged the Canadian government to reconsider its recent decision to impose a ban on all passenger flights from Pakistan for 30 days. Pakistani High Commissioner to Canada Raza Bashir Tarar, in a letter to Canadian Minister of Transport Omar Alghabra, told Ottawa that Pakistan, like all other countries, had been facing the epidemic but it had managed it well due to i.....
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ISLAMABAD: When coronavirus first erupted in India last year, Prime Minister Modi imposed a harsh, nationwide lockdown for months to keep hospitals from being overwhelmed. But the government relaxed restrictions in the face of widespread financial hardship and Modi has refrained from ordering a new lockdown. But a pandemic doesn’t just end. Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah as well as opposition.....
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Another 9 die of COVID-19, 565 test positive
Islamabad: As many as 565 new patients have been tested positive for coronavirus illness, COVID-19 in the last 24 hours from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district while the virus has claimed another nine lives from the twin cities that has taken death toll from the region to 1,506. Data collected by ‘The News’ on Saturday reveals that as many as 53 patients from the twi.....
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Govt calls in army to enforce Covid SOPs
Source: news Desk, Daily Times, 2021-04-24
Prime Minister Imran Khan on Friday decided to call in army troops in cities to ensure strict implementation of standard operating procedures (SOPs) in view of the fast deteriorating situation of Covid-19 in the country. In a televised address after chairing the meeting of the National Coordination Committee on Covid-19, Prime Minister Imran Khan warned that if the surge in Covid-19 cases continu.....
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Pakistan urges world to do more on climate change
Source: news Desk, Daily Times, 2021-04-25
Pakistan has called upon the global community to ‘do more’ on the global climate action to protect the world community from unfolding deleterious impacts of climate change. Addressing the US-initiated Leaders’ Summit, the Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Climate Change Amin Aslam said the world needs to get off the warpath with nature, which would only exacerbate disas.....
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Pakistan reports highest single-day deaths to date
Source: news Desk, Daily Times, 2021-04-25
Pakistan on Saturday reported 157 coronavirus-related deaths, making it the country's highest single-day death toll since the pandemic began last year. The national tally of total active Covid-19 cases was recorded at 86,529 as 5,908 more people tested positive for the deadly virus. One hundred and fifty-seven patients died on Saturday, 143 of whom were under treatment in hospitals and 14 i.....
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Calling in the Army
Source: EDITORIAL, Daily Times, 2021-04-25
The Covid-19 situation is well and truly out of control, not just in Pakistan but pretty much all over the world. The main problem in this country, at least, is people’s inability, rather unwillingness, to follow safety procedures at all times. Even now, when daily cases and deaths have risen to an alarming level, it is common to see most people at most times in public places without even fa.....
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Sindh too seeks troops’ deployment
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2021-04-26
Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed has said that Pakistan Army, at a critical time, has been given responsibility to assist the civil administration to get implemented the standard operating procedures (SOPs) to prevent the spread of Covid-19 pandemic. In a video message on Sunday, the interior minister said to this effect, a notification has been issued under which Punjab, Balochistan, Khyber.....
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FEBR asks traders to follow SOPs in markets to avoid complete lockdown
Source: news Desk, Daily Times, 2021-04-26
The Friends of Economic and Business Reforms (FEBR) President Kashif Anwar Sunday said that in view of combating the coronavirus situation the government can impose smart lockdown where required, as complete lockdown would halt industry, leading to loss of millions of jobs and unemployment. Kashif Anwar said that Pakistan cannot afford to opt for another complete lockdown and also appealed the tr.....
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Pakistan targets corona vaccination for 70m people by year end: govt
Source: Correspondent, The News, Islamabad, 2021-04-26
ISLAMABAD: The procurement of vaccine has become problematic even for developed countries, but Pakistani authorities have envisaged targets to ensure vaccination for 70 million people by end of this ongoing calendar year. India had slapped a ban on exporting its vaccine so it created difficulties for Pakistan because Islamabad had earlier envisaged plans to procure maximum vaccine from its neighb.....
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For SOPs implementation…: Centre notifies Army assistance to provinces
ISLAMABAD: Amid sharp rise in deaths and infections, the Ministry of Interior on Sunday issued a notification stating that Punjab, Gilgit-Baltistan, Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and the Islamabad Capital Territory will (in accordance with their needs) seek the help of the Pakistan Army to strictly implement the coronavirus standard operating procedures (SOPs). The orders, however, do not appl.....
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Islamabad: Two Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) planes carrying coronavirus vaccine doses from China arrived in Islamabad on Sunday. According to the PIA spokesperson, over 300,000 coronavirus vaccine doses arrived from PK6852, while the second flight PK6853 also reached Islamabad with more than 300,000 doses. In addition, a third flight will also reach Islamabad from China by 10pm today, t.....

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Vaccine doses pass 1b mark globally despite surge in corona cases

ISLAMABAD: The total number of coronavirus vaccine jabs administered globally passed the one billion mark on Saturday despite a surge in infections in many countries across the world, including India. At least 1,002,938,540 vaccine doses have been administered in 207 countries and territories, according to an AFP tally. Nevertheless, the number of new infections topped 893,000 worldwide on Frida.....

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Admin responsible for corona SOPs implementation, says Fawad
Source: Correspondent, The News, Islamabad, 2021-04-26

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Fawad Chaudhry Sunday said the army’s assistance had been sought for implementation of the standard operating procedures (SOPs), but mainly the public and civil administration was responsible for this. In a tweet, the minister said that to deal with the corona situation, citizens have a responsibility to comply with the corona SOPs. &ldq.....

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Malik calls for emergency Saarc moot on COVID-19

ISLAMABAD: PPP senior leader ex-senator Rehman Malik has called for an emergency summit of leaders of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc) for devising a common strategy for tackling the deadly COVID-19. “Undoubtedly COVID-19 is getting its dangerous grip in South Asia and the third wave is likely to hit all countries of Saarc,” he said while talking to The New.....

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Vaccine doses pass 1b mark globally despite surge in corona cases

ISLAMABAD: The total number of coronavirus vaccine jabs administered globally passed the one billion mark on Saturday despite a surge in infections in many countries across the world, including India. At least 1,002,938,540 vaccine doses have been administered in 207 countries and territories, according to an AFP tally. Nevertheless, the number of new infections topped 893,000 worldwide on Frida.....

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9 COVID-19 deaths, 494 more cases reported

Islamabad: Coronavirus illness, COVID-19 outbreak is once again getting intense here in Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district where the positivity rate of the illness has recorded a continuous increase in the last week though the number of confirmed cases of the disease is on a decrease mainly because of the lesser number of tests being conducted in the region. According to Distric.....

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Govt commences vaccination drive for 40 and above from tomorrow
Source: News Desk, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-04-26
ISLAMABAD: The federal government on Monday announced that Covid-19 vaccine registration for those aged 40 or above will commence from April 27 (Tuesday). Taking to Twitter, Federal Minister for Planning Asad Umar said the decision was taken during a National Command and Operations Centre (NCOC) meeting held today. The NCOC head further revealed that those registered in the 50 and above age bracket.....
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Covid-19 claims 118 more lives across country
ISLAMABAD: The country on Sunday reported 5,611 new coronavirus cases during the past 24 hours, with 118 people succumbing to the deadly virus. Data issued by National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) showed that 55,128 tests were conducted in last 24 hours, of which 5,611 tests returned positive. The number critical patients, the NCOC added, stands at 4,826, total death 17,117, while 6.....
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Kartarpur Corridor closed since March 16
ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operations Centre (NCOC) on Sunday said that Kartarpur Corridor is closed since March 16, 2021 as part of measures to stop spread of Covid-19. In response to reports that Kartarpur is open for Sikh pilgrims, the NCOC clarified that the ‘corridor is closed since March 16, 2021 for all types of movement’. “Due to recent Covid-19 rise, a.....
more >>

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

LRH’s Corona Task Force head quits
PESHAWAR: Prof Dr Yaseen Khan, chairman of the Corona Task Force of the Lady Reading Hospital (LRH), resigned from his position as a protest over the lack of personal protection equipment (PPEs), face masks and other items for the doctors and other healthcare providers to treat Covid-19 patients in the hospital. Media manager of the hospital, Mohammad Aasim, however, denied reports of the lack of.....
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Two former ANP MPAs infected with Covid-19
PESHAWAR: Two former Awami National Party (ANP) lawmakers Syed Jafar Shah and Saqibullah Khan Chamkani have been infected with Covid-19 and are under treatment. Syed Jafar Shah was twice elected MPA from Swat while Saqibullah Chamkani won a provincial assembly seat from rural Peshawar. ANP sources said they were under treatment and in need of prayers. .....
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Schools sealed in Mansehra
MANSEHRA: The administration on Friday sealed several private schools in parts of the district where running the primary and middle-grade sections as usual. “We have shut many schools in Mansehra, Pulrah and other parts of the district, warning several others to adopt standard operational procedures (Sops) of coronavirus,” Assistant Commissioner Sundus Arshad Malik told reporters afte.....
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KP records 37 more Covid deaths  
Source: Bureau Report, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-04-24  
PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa recorded 37 more Covid-19 deaths and 1,265 fresh cases during the last 24 hours, according to a health department report issued on Friday. It said the highest number of 17 people died in the provincial capital followed by seven in Mardan and six in Abbottabad. Bannu, Dera Ismail Khan, Kohat, Charsadda and Swabi recorded one death each, while Swat reported two deaths......

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Schools, colleges closed for in-person learning  
Source: Bureau Report, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-04-25  
PESHAWAR: Following the National Command Operation Centre’s decision, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government on Saturday notified the suspension of in-person learning for grades 9-12 in the districts with over five per cent coronavirus positivity rate until further orders. The educational institutions had resumed in-person learning for those grades last Monday, while the classes for grades 1-8 r.....

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Free Covid services begin in private KP hospitals  
Source: Ashfaq Yusufzai, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-04-25  
PESHAWAR: With coronavirus claiming 37 more lives in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Saturday, the private hospitals in Peshawar and Swat have begun providing admission, ventilator, medical oxygen, diagnosis and medicines to the people infected with the virus free of charge under the government’s Sehat Sahulat Programme (SSP). The public sector hospitals are already offering those services to Covid-1.....

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63rd doctor succumbs to Covid in K-P  
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-04-25  
PESHAWAR: Yet another doctor has succumbed to Covid-19 in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) bringing the total number of medics killed so far to 63 in the province. Children Specialist Dr Syed Mumtaz Hussain Shah breathed his last at a private hospital in Islamabad where he was admitted after his condition deteriorated rapidly. Due to Covid-19 infection his lungs had been damaged. He was a resident of K.....

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Hospitals charging exorbitant rates  
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-04-24  
PESHAWAR: Hospitals across KhyberPakhtunkhwa (K-P) have introduced exorbitant charges for their services after Covid19 treatment was included in Sehat Insaf Card. For a single night in Intensive Care Unit (ICU) some hospitals are now charging Rs50,000 per night on a par with the well-known modern private hospitals despite the fact that government hospitals are ill-equipped and their services and .....

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Covid-19 claims 37 more lives in KP  
PESHAWAR: Coronavirus claimed 37 more lives in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in last 24 hours surging the toll from pandemic to 3,066 in the province, an official of the Health Department said here on Saturday. 1265 fresh Corona cases have also been registered in the province during the same period. The total number of corona cases in the province has reached 112,140 and as many as 945 patients infected .....
134 held for violating SOPs, profiteering
PESHAWAR: District administration Peshawar has arrested 56 persons on violation of Corona preventive standard operating procedures (SOPs) and 78 others over profiteering during crackdown on violators of Corona SOPs and profiteering from across the district here Saturday. On the directives of the Deputy Commissioner (DC), Khalid Mahmood, the officers of district administration are visiting baz.....
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Covid-19 pandemic: Educational institutions closed indefinitely in Nowshera
Source: Correspondent, The News, Islamabad, 2021-04-25
NOWSHERA: The local administration closed educational institutions for an indefinite period while directed shopkeepers and traders to down shutters by 6pm to stem the spike of Covid-19 pandemic in the district. Speaking at a press conference on Saturday, Deputy Commissioner Mir Reza Ozgen said that cases would be registered against those flouting the standard operating procedures (SOPs) against c.....
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Doctor among 31 more die of Covid-19 in KP
PESHAWAR: The coronavirus continued to target healthcare providers as another doctor died of Covid-19 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Sunday. So far, 64 doctors have died of the coronavirus in the province. The latest victim of the deadly disease is Dr Mohammad Ali. He was a psychiatrist by profession and was serving at a private medical college in Peshawar. Dr Mohammad Ali had contracted the virus a ..... more >>

Six die of Covid-19 in Abbottabad in 24 hours
Source: Correspondent, The News, Islamabad, 2021-04-26
ABBOTTABAD: Six persons, including two women, lost their lives to Covid-19 during the last 24 hours at the Ayub Teaching Hospital here. The deceased were identified as Zainab Bibi, Parveen Bibi, Khan Bahadur Khan, Nasir Mahmood, Zar Mohammad and Gul Faraz Khan. A spokesperson of ATH Abbottabad said that 80 corona patients were admitted to the hospital while 16 of them were in a critical conditi..... more >>

Rising corona cases: Mansehra admin notifies closure of educational institutions
Source: Correspondent, The News, Islamabad, 2021-04-26
MANSEHRA: The deputy commissioner has notified the closure of all private and public schools and colleges in the district in view of the rising cases of the coronavirus. “According to the Health department, the Covid-19 positivity ratio has jumped to over a 7 percent in the district, therefore, in pursuance of the recommendations of the National Command and Operation Centre all public and p..... more >>

Ulema, elders urged to help implement SOPs
PESHAWAR: Commissioner Bannu Division Shaukat Ali Yousafzai asked the religious scholars and elders to help in the administration in the implementation of the standard operating procedures (SOPs) to contain the spread of Covid-19. Addressing a meeting of religious scholars and elders of Bannu district at his office on Sunday, he said that people should humbly pray to Almighty Allah to eliminate t..... more >>
Over 100 shops sealed, 300 shopkeepers arrested
PESHAWAR: Over 300 shopkeepers were arrested and more than 100 shops were sealed in a joint crackdown of district administration, police and Pakistan Army on the violators of Covid-19 preventive Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) here on Sunday. Joint teams of district administration, Pakistan Army and police are visiting the bazaars of the provincial metropolis to ensure the implementation.....
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Punjab

Covid-19 jabs: 73,583 people inoculated in district
Rawalpindi : Since Rawalpindi Health Authority has launched its COVID-19 vaccination campaign on March 10, around 73,583 people have been vaccinated in the district, District Health Coordinator for Coronavirus vaccination Dr Jawad Zahid said here Friday. Talking to APP, he informed that 14,311 health workers including 59,272 people with senior citizens have received free of cost shots at 24 gover.....
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10 COVID-19 deaths, 795 cases from twin cities
Rawalpindi : As many as 10 more patients suffering from coronavirus illness, COVID-19 from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district have died of the illness in the last 24 hours taking the death toll from the region to 1,497 while another 795 patients have been tested positive from the twin cities showing that the outbreak is much intense in terms of both morbidity and mortality in this.....
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Rs 3.5M funds released for police personnel affected by Corona
Source: news Desk, Daily Times, 2021-04-24
On the orders of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Punjab Inam Ghani, Additional IG Welfare and Finance Muhammad Farooq Mazhar has sent relief funds worth Rs 3.55 million to the offices of all the Regional Police Officers of the province for the 142 police personnel affected by the recent wave of Corona. Additional IG Welfare and Finance Muhammad Farooq Mazhar said that during the recent wave of .....
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CAA extends inbound travel restrictions till 30th
Source: Mohammad Asghar, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-04-24
RAWALPINDI: As Pakistan introduced a stricter travel ban on 23 countries amid the rising Covid-19 cases involving new variants, the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) further extended travel restrictions to April 30. In the wake of a surge in Covid-19 cases in India, the federal government on April 19 placed India in category C countries and banning all chartered and private aircraft flights to Pakis.....
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Saudis living in Pakistan advised to return home
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-04-24
RAWALPINDI: Saudis living in Pakistan and four other Asian countries have been advised to return home “as soon as possible” since no flights would be available from these countries even if Riyadh decides to resume international flights next month. The four other countries are India, Sri Lanka, Indonesia and the Philippines. According to a notification issued by the General Authority .....
81 more succumb to Covid-19 in Punjab
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-04-24
LAHORE: The Covid-19 death toll reached 7,799 after 81 more patients of the virus died during the last 24 hours in Punjab. Of these, 38 deaths took place in Lahore alone where the number of total casualties has reached 3,215. Similarly, 2,902 more people tested positive for the virus during the last 24 hours in the province, taking the total number of infections to 282,469. Out of these, 1,466 we.....
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Coronavirus rate reaches 10pc in Sahiwal
Source: A Correspondent, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-04-24
SAHIWAL: Coronavirus cases have reached 10 percent in April in Sahiwal division. In the previous two waves, the positive rate was just one or two percent. This was informed to Dr Asad, chairman of the corona advisory group, at a meeting at the commissioner’s office on Friday. Dr Sadiq Saleem, health director, told meeting participants that existing health facilities in Sahiwal division hav.....
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Cash for policemen affected by Covid
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-04-24
LAHORE: The Punjab police department has released Rs25,000 each for 142 police personnel affected by the recent wave of Covid. The funds were released by the welfare department of the Punjab police. Additional IG Welfare and Finance Muhammad Farooq Mazhar has sent relief funds of Rs3.5 million to the offices of all the Regional Police Officers of the province to disburse them among 142 personnel.....
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Classes in schools, colleges suspended
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-04-25
LAHORE: Punjab government on Saturday suspended on-campus classes in schools and colleges of the province in the wake of rising Covid-19 cases till further orders. A Higher Education Department (HED) notification states, “All the public and private colleges in high positivity districts (where positivity rate is beyond five percent) have been closed with immediate effects." These dist.....
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Three teachers die of Covid in Bahawalnagar schools
Source: Ejaz Mehmood Chaudhry, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-04-25
BAHA W ALNAGAR: Three teachers have died of Covid-19 in the past three days, whereas 12 teachers have also been diagnosed with the virus in four government schools. Kulsoom Akhtar deputed at the Government Girls Primary School, Amroka died on Saturday. Similarly, Shabana Rasool of the school at Chak 4/58, Haroonabad tested positive for Covid-19 on April 19 and she was later shifted to the Bahawal V.....
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Ventilator occupancy reaches 94pc in Lahore’s public hospitals
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-04-25
LAHORE: With the ventilator occupancy reaching 94 percent in Lahore’s all 16 state-run hospitals, the Covid claimed lives of 98 more people in Punjab during the last 24 hours, taking the total death toll in the province to 7,879. Of these Covid-19 deaths, 43 were reported in Lahore, where the toll reached 3,258. As per the official figures, the bed occupancy situation in the intensive care.....
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Clerics urge people to get vaccinated against Covid-19
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-04-25
LAHORE: Clerics have appealed to the people to get vaccinated and take precautionary measures against the coronavirus as the pandemic was surging in the country. In a joint statement issued here on Saturday, the Pakistan Ulema Council chairman and Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Interfaith Harmony and Middle East Hafiz Tahir Ashrafi and other leaders said the third wave of the coronavirus p.....
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Post-graduate college closed after Covid cases
Source: A Correspondent, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-04-25
BAHAWALPUR: Education and health authorities closed the Government Post-Graduate College at One-Unit Chowk on Saturday for 10 days after five cases of Covid-19 were detected in the college. An official announcement said that the college would remain close till May 3. Those tested positive for the virus are being treated at the Said Sadiq Muhammad Khan Abbasi Hospital on Jhangiwali Road here. Acc.....
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Nearly 910 police officials affected by Covid-19: CCPO
LAHORE: Capital City Police Officer (CCPO) Lahore Ghulam Mahmood Dogar has said, as many as 910 police officers and officials of Lahore police have so far been affected by COVID-19 and out of these 728 police officers and officials have joined their duties after recovery and defeating the pandemic. As many as 177 police officers and officials of Lahore Police affected from COVID-19 are still .....
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Eight more schools sealed in Attock as COVID-19 cases surge
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-04-25
ATTOCK - Eight more schools have been sealed in district Attock as the coronavirus cases continue to rise even at educational institutions, it was learnt on Saturday. With the closure of eight more schools, the total number of schools sealed so far in the district this week had reached 33. The increasing number of cases in educational institutions has made parents anxious. How ordinary people can .....
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Oxygen back up dwindles in seven City hospitals as demand multiplies
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-04-25
LAHORE - Amid a rise in the number of coronavirus cases in the country, oxygen stocks in at least seven hospitals of Lahore have dwindled with back up of 16 to 24 hours. According to details, the use of oxygen due to rising coronavirus cases has increased five folds. Few days ago, Federal Minister for Planning and Development Asad Umar also said that oxygen supply capacity is now under stress. .....
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706 virus patients recovered in Punjab
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-04-25
LAHORE - As many as 706 coronavirus patients recovered during the last 24 hours in Punjab. According to the data shared by the Health Department, 186,376 coronavirus patients recovered altogether so far in 200 public sector hospitals being run under the control of Specialized and Primary & Secondary Healthcare departments across the province. Specialized Healthcare and Medical Education Depart.....
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21 schools sealed for a week in Attock district
Source: Muhammad Sabrin, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-04-25

ATTOCK - Twenty one schools in Attock district have been sealed for a week owing to appearance of Corona positive cases among the teachers and students during the last three days. CEO Education Attock Mohsin Abbas said this while talking to this journalist. He said that the schools sealed include GGHS Mari Kanjoor, GGES Jalwal, GGPS Dandi Jaswal, GGHS Nowshera, GMPS Bai, GGHS Rangoo, GGPS Sirka, G.....

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4 persons die of Covid-19 in Rawalpindi
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-04-25

Rawalpindi-As many as four people died of coronavirus in the district on Saturday, informed sources. A total of 124 patients tested positive of the deadly virus and 889 people discharged from the hospital, they said. After increasing number of patients, the Punjab health services recommended smart lockdown in three more areas of Rawalpindi as 46 patients were detected from these areas in few.....

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Rs 3.5M funds released for police personnel affected by Corona
Source: news Desk, Daily Times, 2021-04-25

On the orders of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Punjab Inam Ghani, Additional IG Welfare and Finance Muhammad Farooq Mazhar has sent relief funds worth Rs 3.55 million to the offices of all the Regional Police Officers of the province for the 142 police personnel affected by the recent wave of Corona. Additional IG Welfare and Finance Muhammad Farooq Mazhar said that during the recent wave of .....

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Kartarpur Corridor closed since since March 16: NCOC
Source: App, Daily Times, 2021-04-26

The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) has informed that the Kartarpur Corridor was closed for pilgrims since March 16 owing to rising disease spread. The nerve center of the country in the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic took to twitter to give response to various reports claiming Kartarpur Corridor was open for Sikh pilgrims. It said, “In response to reports that Kartarpur ..... 

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Combat COVID: Kashif Siddiqui joins hands through motivational verses
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2021-04-26

Poetry has the power to shape up the perspective, raise the passion and demoralize the frenzy, and when it tends towards nationalism it instills affection for a country in the hearts of its people. The recent coronavirus outbreak, a global pandemic, has hit our motherland hard since its inception and shuttlecocked the smiles of countrymen leaving a sense of dejection and hopelessness. In this era.....

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Buzdar directs for increasing ventilators, oxygen beds in hospitals
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2021-04-26

Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar has directed authorities concerned for enhancing the number of ventilators and oxygen beds immediately in hospitals, besides ensuring the availability of oxygen cylinders. In a statement on Sunday, the chief minister warned that the 3rd wave of coronavirus is getting worse and an increase in the number of patients is putting immense pressure on the medica.....

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### 137 people test positive in garrison city
Source: APP, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-04-26
RAWALPINDI: The District Health Coordinator Dr Jawad Nazir said that with an addition of 137 more Covid cases on Sunday, the tally of confirmed cases rose to 23,132 in the district with 21,320 from Rawalpindi and 1812 from other districts. He informed that 4,012 people having positive results were in quarantine, including 2,293 at home and 1719 in isolation while only 218 confirmed patients were a.....

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### Punjab to increase vaccination to fight Covid spread
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-04-26
LAHORE: Punjab health minister Dr Yasmin Rashid on Sunday said the province had made a commitment to the National Command and Operations Centre (NCOC) to increase its vaccination dispensation to around 35,000 over 50-year old people in the province to control exponential increase in the coronavirus infectivity rate. Speaking at a news conference at the chief minister's secretariat here, she.....

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### 113 children hospitalised, 12 died of Covid since February
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-04-26
LAHORE: As many as 113 children have been infected with coronavirus in the third wave and admitted to the Children's Hospital since February, while 12 of them lost their lives. Chief coordinator for Covid-19 in Punjab, Dr Asad Aslam, told Dawn that the 12 children who died at the hospital were already suffering from co-morbidities such as congenital heart disease and leukemia, adding that t.....

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### Sindh

#### Pakistan heading towards acute oxygen shortage, warn producers
KARACHI: Pakistan may also face shortage of oxygen gas for the treatment of respiratory insufficiencies like India during the third wave of COVID-19 if the life-saving gas continues to be supplied for the industrial sector, oxygen producers warned on Friday, saying at the moment, bulk of the oxygen being produced in the country is being supplied for the treatment of COVID-19 patients. “Hund.....

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#### Sindh Minister warns of complete lockdown if current Covid situation persists
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2021-04-24
Sindh Information and Local Government Minister Syed Nasir Hussain Shah on Friday warned of a complete lockdown if the number of coronavirus cases continue to rise. The Minister revealed that Sindh Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah, has also expressed its concerns over the situation in a meeting of provincial task force on covid 19 held on Friday. Talking to the media at Sindh assembly&rsq.....

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#### Lockdown likely if no improvement in a week: minister
Source: Imran Ayub, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-04-25
KARACHI: Amid growing cases of Covid-19 across the country, the federal government on Saturday warned that it would only wait for a week and if the situation did not improve, then imposing a complete lockdown would be its key option to save the people’s lives. The warning came from a key member of the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf government and its spokesman who reiterated that Prime Minister I.....

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Call for spurring corona vaccination to achieve target of 70pc inoculation
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-04-25
KARACHI: Amid growing number of coronavirus cases, doctors and health experts on Friday expressed serious reservation over slow pace of vaccination and urged the government to expedite the process, open the vaccination centres after iftar and involve private sector as well so that at least 70 per cent of the population could be inoculated against the virus to come out of the Covid-19 threat. The ......
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Six Covid-19 patients die
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-04-25
KARACHI: A total of six patients of Covid-19 died overnight and 923 new cases emerged in Sindh when 12,104 tests were conducted on Saturday. This was stated by Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued here on Saturday. He said that death of six patients during the past 24 hours lifted the death toll to 4,593 constituting 1.7 per cent death rate. ......
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New Covid wave drags PSX down
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-04-25
KARACHI: A turbulent week at the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) ended with a 600-point slump to settle at 44,707 points on back of rising Covid-19 infections across the country, fuelling fear of another nationwide lockdown. "While political noise subsided slightly this week, increasing Covid cases kept investors cautious of fresh buying, as the government warned of amplified steps, includin......
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Bilawal censures govt over 'vaccine shortage'
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-04-25
KARACHI: PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Saturday lamented the "shortage of coronavirus vaccine in the country", saying that Prime Minister Imran Khan would have to account for every rupee that went into the virus relief fund. "He [PM Imran] must understand that it is not possible to accelerate economic activities in the country without bringing the pandemic under control.....
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Health DG defends Sindh Health Department
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-04-25
KARACHI: The health department has reacted to negative reports against it in the media over the alleged suicide of a 26-year-old doctor in Kashmore on April 14. Refuting the reports through a press statement, DG Health Dr Irshad Ahmed Memon claimed that the facts were distorted and that a negative light had been shed on the department. "The Government of Sindh Health Department has great r......
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Sindh records highest one-day tally since Jan
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-04-25
KARACHI: With 923 new cases,Sindh hit its highest single-day coronavirus tally in three months. Besides, six patients lost their lives to the virus over a 24-hour period. This was the highest number of cases reported in a single day since January 29 when 1,323 people were infected. Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah confirmed on Saturday that six more patients succumbed to coronavirus as t......
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Covid raises risk of pregnancy-related complications: study
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-04-24
KARACHI: Pregnant women who contract Covid-19 are 22 times more likely to die and have 50 per cent more chances of experiencing pregnancy-related complications than expecting women unaffected by Covid-19, a global study of over 2,100 pregnant women across 18 countries, including Pakistan, published in JAMA Paediatrics, a monthly peer-reviewed medical journal, has found. Professor Zulfiqar A Bhut.....
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Govt hints at imposing countrywide lockdown
Source: Agencies, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-04-25
KARACHI: The government has hinted at imposing a complete lockdown in the country if the current Covid-19 situation does not improve in a week. Addressing newsmen in Karachi on Saturday, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Fawad Chaudhry said the government will ponder over slapping a complete lockdown in the country if the coronavirus cases do not come down in a week. “Pa.....
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Sindh sees 923 new cases of Covid-19
KARACHI: As many as 923 new cases of Covid-19 emerged while six more patients died overnight, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah told in a statement issued here on Saturday. The chief minister added that the death toll lifted to 4,593 that constituted 1.7 percent death rate. He said 12,104 samples were tested which detected 923 cases that constituted 7.6 percent current detection rate. .....
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Covid-19; Murad urges Centre to ban inter-provincial transport
KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that the detection rate of Coronavirus was lower in Sindh than the other provinces during the last one month but now it has started hitting new highs because the inter-provincial transport was allowed to operate. “Now, we may have to take strict actions, including imposing lockdown to save our people.” This he said while p.....
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Provinces should purchase vaccine for their population: Fawad
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-04-25
KARACHI - Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Hussain on Saturday appealed people to strictly adhere to standard operating procedures (SOPs) against COVID-19 to bring down the positivity ratio of cases. The minister was addressing a press conference at the Sindh Governor’s House. Opposition Leader in Sindh Assembly, Haleem Adil Sheikh and other notables were.....
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President Alvi appeals masses to adopt SOPs for curtailing 3rd wave of COVID
Source: APP, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-04-25
Alvi directs to plan a wider space in ANQA to facilitate free movement of visitors inside museum KARACHI - President Dr Arif Alvi, on Saturday, appealed the masses to determinedly adopt precautionary measures to curtail the spread of COVID-19. He made these remarks while chairing a meeting held at Sindh Governor House to deliberate upon the situation owing to third wave of coronavirus and .....
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<td>COVID-19 claims 6 more patients, infects 923 others</td>
<td>Our Staff Reporter, <em>The Nation, Islamabad</em>, 2021-04-25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sindh Minister warns of complete lockdown if current Covid situation persists</td>
<td>Agencies, <em>Daily Times</em>, 2021-04-25</td>
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<td>160 Coronavirus cases surfaced in last 20 days</td>
<td>Jamal Dawoodpoto, <em>Daily Times</em>, 2021-04-25</td>
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<td>Sindh shuts all educational institutions amid rising Covid cases</td>
<td>Imtiaz Ali</td>
<td><em>Dawn.com</em>, <em>Dawn, Islamabad</em>, 2021-04-26</td>
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<td>Sindh unlikely to get first shipment of 2m CanSinoBio doses for several weeks</td>
<td>Imran Ayub, <em>Dawn, Islamabad</em>, 2021-04-26</td>
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<td>Six coronavirus patients die in city overnight</td>
<td>Staff Reporter, <em>Dawn, Islamabad</em>, 2021-04-26</td>
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<td>Army arrives in Sindh to help police implement Covid-19 SOPs</td>
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<td>Commissioner directs effective measures to halt Covid-19 spread</td>
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**Army arrives in Sindh to help police implement Covid-19 SOPs**

Source: Staff Correspondent, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2021-04-26

HYDERABAD: Pakistan army soldiers have moved to all divisions of Sindh to assist civil administration in implementing standard operating procedures (SOPs) for Covid-19 in line with National Command Operation Centre’s (NCOC) guidelines. They have not yet started patrolling roads or the areas with higher positivity ratio of coronavirus cases. The troops have reached divisional headquarters of.....

[more >>](#)

**Commissioner directs effective measures to halt Covid-19 spread**


HYDERABAD: Divisional Commissioner Hyderabad Muhammad Abbas Baloch presiding over a meeting with the concerned officers of Health Department in his office Sunday has directed for effective measures to prevent the spread of the third wave of Covid-19. He stressed upon implementing SOPs to make people’s lives save from the virus. He directed the concerned officers to inform people about .....
## International News

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Countries News</th>
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| **Covid surge: Airfares soar, private jets in demand as rich Indians flee**  
MUMBAI: Airfares soared and demand for private jets boomed on Friday as Indians who could afford it scrambled to escape a Covid surge before flights to the United Arab Emirates shut down. All flights from the UAE to India -- one of the world’s busiest air corridors -- will be suspended from Sunday as coronavirus cases in the South Asian nation reach record levels and overwhelm hospitals. Pr....*more >>* |
| **Japan declares virus emergency**  
TOKYO: Japan announced a new virus state of emergency in Tokyo and three other regions on Friday, as the country battles surging infections just three months before the Olympic opening ceremony. The nation’s virus outbreak remains much smaller than in many countries, but a recent uptick in cases has officials and medical professionals worried, even as the government and Olympic organisers i.....*more >>* |
| **Canada suspends flights from Pakistan, India**  
TORONTO: Canada on Thursday said it is banning all flights from Pakistan and India for 30 days due to the growing wave of COVID-19 cases in that region, foreign media reported. Transport Minister Omar Alghabra said the ban would start late Thursday, speaking hours after India reported a global record of more than 314,000 new infections in the previous 24-hours. Cargo flights from Pakistan and Ind.....*more >>* |
| **Coronavirus reaches Mount Everest as climber tests positive**  
KATHMANDU: The coronavirus has conquered the world’s highest mountain. A Norwegian climber became the first to be tested for COVID-19 in Mount Everest base camp and was flown by helicopter to Kathmandu, where he was hospitalised, foreign media reported. Erlend Ness told The Associated Press in a message Friday that he tested positive on April 15. He said another test on Thursday was negati.....*more >>* |
| **IndiaNeedsOxygen becomes top trend in Pakistan**  
Source: Agencies, *Daily Times*, 2021-04-24  
As India reported the world’s highest daily tally of coronavirus cases for the second day on Friday, surpassing 330,000 new cases amid a nationwide shortage of oxygen supplies, across the border in Pakistan, people took to Twitter in solidarity, with #IndiaNeedsOxygen becoming a top trend. Social media users came together in solidarity with India and called for the government of Prime Minis.....*more >>* |
| **Pfizer vaccine effective in those with chronic illnesses**  
Source: Reuters, *The Express Tribune, Islamabad*, 2021-04-24  
The following is a roundup of some of the latest scientific studies on the novel coronavirus and efforts to find treatments and vaccines for Covid-19, the illness caused by the virus. Third-trimester vaccination appears safe in early data Among pregnant women who received Covid-19 vaccines manufactured by Pfizer and BioNTech SE or Moderna and who signed up for an online survey, side effects were.....*more >>* |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Article Title</th>
<th>Source</th>
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<tr>
<td>Germany pulls virus ‘emergency brake’ but not all on board</td>
<td>AFP, The News, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-04-25</td>
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<td>Man arrested for infecting 22 people with Covid</td>
<td>AFP, The News, Islamabad</td>
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<td>Worldwide Covid cases surge to alarming 893,000</td>
<td>AFP, The News, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-04-25</td>
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<td>Indian corona variant detected in Switzerland</td>
<td>AFP, The News, Islamabad</td>
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**Germany pulls virus ‘emergency brake’ but not all on board**


BERLIN: Germans are facing tougher nationwide Covid-19 measures from Saturday, including night curfews and school closures, after the government passed a disputed new law designed to slow infections. With many of its neighbours lifting restrictions despite higher virus rates, Europe’s biggest economy is bucking the trend with the new national law dubbed the "emergency brake". Pas.....

**Man arrested for infecting 22 people with Covid**


MADRID: A Mallorca man who infected 22 people with Covid-19 has been arrested on suspicion of assault for going to work and the gym despite signs he had the virus, police said on Saturday. Police on the Spanish island began investigating at the end of January after an outbreak in the town of Manacor, following reports an employee had "become infected but hidden his illness", a statement.....

**Worldwide Covid cases surge to alarming 893,000**


PARIS: A daily record of more than 893,000 Covid-19 cases has been recorded worldwide, mainly due to a surge of the virus in India, according to an AFP count on Saturday. The total for cases recorded throughout on Friday is based on official figures at 1000 GMT on Saturday. The previous daily high was some 819,000 cases on January 8. More than a third of the infections occurred in India, which a.....

**Protests in London against remaining UK Covid rules**


LONDON: Huge crowds protested in London on Saturday against Britain’s remaining coronavirus restrictions, the mandatory use of masks and the possible introduction of so-called vaccine passports. Britain began to gradually lift Covid-19 restrictions last month after months of restrictions and a successful mass vaccination campaign. Pubs were allowed to serve customers outdoors this month and.....

**Indian corona variant detected in Switzerland**


GENEVA: Switzerland’s public health authority said Saturday a first case of the COVID-19 variant contributing to the exploding outbreak in India has been detected in Switzerland. “The first case of the Indian variant of COVID-19 has been discovered in Switzerland,” Switzerland’s Federal Office of Public Health (BAG) said in a tweet. The virus variant was found in “a.....

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<th>Thailand curbs shopping mall hours after a COVID-19 daily case record</th>
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<td>Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2021-04-25</td>
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<td>Thailand curbed shop operating hours on Saturday after the country recorded another record daily rise in COVID-19 cases and deaths amid a third wave of the pandemic. Shopping malls in 18 risky provinces, including in the capital Bangkok, will be restricted to operating between 11am and 8pm for a week from Sunday, the Thai Retailers Association said in a statement. Restaurants in the malls will b.....</td>
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<th>Iran bans flights from India and Pakistan</th>
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<td>Source: news Desk, Daily Times, 2021-04-26</td>
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<td>As coronavirus continues to wreak havoc in both India and Pakistan, Iran’s Ministry of Aviation on Sunday banned passenger flights from the two South Asian countries in an attempt to stop the virus spread. The decision was made by Iran’s Health Ministry and has been effective from Saturday midnight. All the routine flights have been halted between Iran and India, and flights are oper.....</td>
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<td>Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2021-04-26</td>
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<td>India set a new global record of the most number of COVID-19 infections in a day, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday urged all citizens to be vaccinated and exercise caution, saying the “storm” of infections had shaken the country. The United States said it was deeply concerned by the massive surge in coronavirus cases in India and was racing to send aid to India. India”.....</td>
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<td>Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2021-04-26</td>
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<td>A fire sparked by an oxygen tank explosion killed at least 82 people and injured 110 at a hospital in Baghdad that had been equipped to house COVID-19 patients, an Interior Ministry spokesman said on Sunday. “We urgently need to review safety measures at all hospitals to prevent such a painful incident from happening in future,” spokesman Khalid al-Muhanna told state television, annou.....</td>
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<td>BAGHDAD: More than 80 people died on Sunday in a fire that ripped through an Iraqi COVID-19 hospital, sparking anger and prompting the suspension of top officials in a country with long-dilapidated health infrastructure. Many of the victims were on respirators and were suffocated or burned in the smoke and flames when the blaze, at eastern Baghdad’s Ibn al-Khatib hospital, started with an e.....</td>
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<td>Source: News Report, Daily Times, 2021-04-26</td>
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<td>NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged all citizens to be vaccinated and exercise caution, saying on Sunday the “storm” of infections had shaken India, as the country set a new global record of the most number of COVID-19 infections in a day. The United States said it will immediately provide raw materials for one of the COVID-19 vaccines, medical equipment and protective gear .....</td>
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Berlin struggling to tame third wave of coronavirus: Germany mulls easing curbs for vaccinated people
Berlin: Germany plans to ease some of the current coronavirus restrictions for people who have been vaccinated against Covid-19, according to a draft text drawn up by the government and seen by AFP at the weekend. The proposal is to be discussed at a meeting on Monday by Chancellor Angela Merkel's government and the powerful regional state premiers. According to the draft text, it was a que.....
more >>

PIA airlifts 1m doses of Covid-19 vaccine from China
Source: APP, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-04-26
BEIJING: Three planes of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) carrying a consignment of one million doses of COVID-19 vaccine left here on Sunday for Pakistan as the country sees sharp increase in new coronavirus cases. Another consignment of two million doses of Covid-19 vaccine will also be transported from China by the national flag carrier on April 29, Qadir Bux Sangi, PIA Country Manage.....
more >>
## Other SDPI Engagements

### Webinar News

| Experts support clean, green recovery for better future  
Islamabad: Participants of a special webinar on ‘World Earth Day, climate crisis and the road to Glasgow’ have asked developing countries to undertake enhanced global and regional cooperation that plays critical role in responding to growing challenges emanating from climate change. The Webinar was organised here by Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) in connection.....more >> | 
|---|---|
| Call for tapping renewable energy sector’s potential  
Islamabad: Pakistan has a huge potential in renewable energy sector and its tapping could play a significant role in achieving environmental targets. This was declared by experts during a webinar held on ‘Low carbon recovery in Pakistan-green financing strategies in post-COVID-19 scenario,’ by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI). Energy Finance Analyst at the .....more >> | 
| Speakers at special webinar pay rich homage to I. A. Rehman  
Source: News Desk, Daily Spokesman , 2021-04-25  
Islamabad:( April 25, 2021)-The speakers during a special webinar paid a rich homage to I. A. Rehman, Pakistan’s iconic human rights activist and journalist, while terming his death as a huge loss for the country. The webinar ‘Remembering the work and life of I. A. Rehman’ was held by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI). The webinar ‘Remembering the work and life of I. A. Rehman’ was held by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI). Speaking on the occasion Secretary General, Human Rights Commi......more >> | 
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| Speakers at special webinar pay rich homage to I. A. Rehman  
Source: DNA News, DNA News , 2021-04-25  
ISLAMABAD, APR 25 (DNA) – The speakers during a special webinar paid a rich homage to I. A. Rehman, Pakistan’s iconic human rights activist and journalist, while terming his death as a huge loss for the country. The webinar ‘Remembering the work and life of I. A. Rehman’ was held by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI). Secretary General, Human Rights Commiss......more >> |
Researchers Articles

Challenges and new economic team
Source: Shakeel Ahmad Ramay, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-04-26
ISLAMABAD: Economic in security is the mother of all insecurities. It impacts every aspect of life and the social fabric in a systematic way. Unfortunately, a big chunk of Pakistanis is feeling the impact of insecurity. Pakistan’s economy has slowed down, which is the result of poor economic policies and execution plans. The World Bank, in its review, underlined that the average GDP growth in.....

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SDPI's Related News

Panelists on IWMI dialogue discuss how Pakistan can achieve food, water and food security
A holistic approach and reliable database on water resources and their usage across the Pakistan is the key to achieving food, water and energy security in the fifth most climate-vulnerable country in the world, according to the panellists who attended a UN Food Systems Summit Independent Dialogue held yesterday. The Dialogue, organised by the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) a.....

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Ways discussed to achieve water, energy and food security
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-04-26
LAHORE: A holistic approach and reliable database on water resources and their usage across Pakistan is the key to achieving water, energy and food security in the fifth most climate-vulnerable country of the world, according to the panelists at a UN Food Systems Summit Independent Dialogue. Organised by the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), the online dialogue highlighted the need.....

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