## About Newsletter

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

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

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

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Sustainable Development Policy Institute, SDPI

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

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<td><strong>A critical phase</strong></td>
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<td>THE coming weeks are critical for Pakistan’s Covid-19 response. With a national positivity ratio of 10pc and an average of over 150 daily deaths this week, the situation is as alarming as ever. According to NCOC chief Asad Umar, the number of critical care Covid patients on oxygen reached 5,360 on Friday — a figure that is 57pc higher than last June’s peak. Though the federal mini..... more &gt;&gt;</td>
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| Wages of pseudoscience       |
| Source: Farrukh Khan Pitafi, *The Express Tribune, Islamabad*, 2021-05-01 |
| In February this year, Coronil kit by Yoga guru Ramdev’s company Patanjali Ayurved got a formal nod by the Indian government as an evidence-based ayurvedic cure of Covid-19. The event launch of a report supporting the wild claims of the company was attended by the Indian federal ministers of health and transport. Pantanjali CEO even claimed that it could cure the disease in five to 14 days, wa..... more >> |

| Pandemic pains: the plight of Pakistan’s labourers |
| Source: Yusra Salim/Muhammad Ilyas/Ahtesham Bashir/Zafar Baloch, *The Express Tribune, Islamabad*, 2021-05-02 |
| KARACHI: It was over a century ago that a violent struggle between labour protesters and the police in Chicago struck so deep a chord with people that it forever became a symbol of struggle of the rights of the labourers. So profoundly did the protest that transformed into a bloody shootout (where there were both police and civilian casualties) elevate the plight of labourers that the month of Ma..... more >> |

| Ramzan during corona          |
| Source: Saad Rasool, *The Nation, Islamabad*, 2021-05-02 |
| Over the past year, coronavirus has wreaked havoc across the world, denting the ego of a world drunk on its technological feats, bringing the economic engine to a halt, and extracting an immeasurable toll in human suffering. Despite all of our collective resources, science and intellect, we do not know where this virus came from, how long it might last, how many lives it might claim, how it can be..... more >> |

| In search of greener pastures to save cattle heads |
| Source: Hanif Samoon, *Daily Times*, 2021-05-03 |
| Tharis having seen no light at the end of the tunnel have started migrating towards the barrage areas of the province in search of the fodder for their cattle heads, the mainstay of their economy, According to the details gathered by this reporter from certain villages of seven talukas of the desert district, the several thousand owners of the cows, sheep, and goats have found no relief in the sha..... more >> |

| Ershad Mahmud |
| Since India and Pakistan have finally embarked on the path of reconciliation and dialogue, it is time to reflect upon and identify the major roadblocks which have the potential to hinder forward movement once again. These hurdles include: a top-down approach, limited infrastructure for peace-building and, more importantly, the absence of Kashmiri representation and limited support of all the stak..... more >> |
Revitalising education for the Covid generation
Source: Dr Wajeeha Shahid, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-05-03
The Covid-19 pandemic is intensifying pre-existing educational disparities in Pakistan by minimising access to education for many vulnerable and marginalised groups. A predictable count of 930,000 children is expected to drop out from secondary and primary education due to the pandemic, with an already 22.8 million of the school-going population being out of school. Pakistan is expected to have on.....

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The need to lead by example
Source: Editorial, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-05-03
When in distress, citizens are naturally inclined to turn towards their political leaders for understanding, guidance and direction. This is something that the K-P Health Minister, Taimur Saleem Jhagra, should have considered before violating coronavirus SOPs at an iftar dinner he recently attended. As seen in pictures posted on social media, dozens of people present were not following social dist.....

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Bonding in adversity
Source: Andleeb Abbas, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-05-04
In sickness and in health, for better, for worse. These are the vows that the most sacred bond of a marital union promises. Bonds may be legal or political but their endurability depends on the emotional strength. The best of marriages fall apart when hearts do not meet. The best of political unions crack as the minds do not match. Think of Brexit, think of celebrity marriages made in heaven. That.....

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Vaccine Diplomacy
The government's decision to restrict inbound travel on border entry points from both Afghanistan and Iran is the right decision. It comes at a time when it is important to be as vigilant as possible since the past two days saw very minor relief in some areas in terms of both the positivity rate and the total number of infections. Notably, even Pakistani citizens and others who travel throu.....

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Musings in lockdown
Source: Sameer Saud, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-05-04
When Hollywood made movies about it, we went to the theatre, grabbed popcorn, had a good time and wondered 'what if it actually happened in real life?' Little did we know what we were in for a mere few years later. Over the past year, the world has been living in the dire reality of a worldwide pandemic. What started in China (or according to some researchers, in Europe), has spread a.....

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Projecting school dropout and learning loss amid Covid-19
The global health crisis amid Covid-19 has adversely affected the education sector, particularly for school-age children. The Covid-19 crisis has resulted in lockdowns, quarantines, and social distancing to combat disease transmission. To date, the lockdown strategies have been proven effective to slow the transmission of disease, but complete lockdowns might not be efficient in the long run. Inst.....

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Is inequality inevitable?
Source: Knut Ostby, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-05-04
Inequality makes headlines every day. Most of us now, are unfortunately getting used to the bold font condemning racial injustice, gender violence, and the rising costs of living. Inequality has even defined the Covid-19 pandemic; from who gets infected to who gets vaccinated first. Within this context, one can be forgiven for thinking that inequality is simply collateral for the world we live in......
more >>

A new kind of imperialism?
Source: Editorial, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-05-04
As the coronavirus continues to spread across the globe, a new kind of imperialism has taken root. In what is being termed 'vaccine nationalism', developed countries are hoarding on excess vaccines as the developing world struggles with a slow vaccination rollout given limited availability for them. To tackle this, the foreign ministers of Pakistan, China, Bangladesh, Afghanistan and S.....
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Get ready for oxygen emergency!
Source: BR Research, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-05-04
India has amassed millions of new covid-19 cases in a matter of weeks. The number of people needing life-saving oxygen support has gone out of control causing the country to slip into an oxygen supply crisis. Here in Pakistan, the ordeal may just be starting. So far, the supply to the healthcare system was manageable but that might be changing soon. In fact, it may be a matter of time before hospi......
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Which nationalism?
Source: Rafia Zakaria, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-05-05
"INDIA has been successful in saving so many lives, we saved the entire humanity from a big tragedy. India launched the world’s biggest vaccination programme and has inoculated more than 2.3 million healthcare workers in the last 12 days." So said Prime Minister Narendra Modi in January, while addressing the World Economic Forum. Those were relatively better days in India; Covid ..... more >>

Universities and transmission of knowledge a Covid challenge
Universities, high centers of excellence and institutes the world over are considered to be the repository of knowledge and vehicles for transmission of such knowledge. Community colleges also impart knowledge but the major difference between the two is that while colleges usually pass instructions in the form of lectures, universities, centres and institutes are known for their research and intro.....
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Pakistan, India and Covid diplomacy – a chance for peace?
Source: Frank F Islam, Daily Times, 2021-05-05
The World Health Organisation has reported that India is home to approximately 50 percent of all new Covid-19 cases, globally. In real terms, this means 19 million positive cases and 210,000 deaths, by May 1. As the second wave intensified, daily infections topped 300,000 for ten consecutive days and now exceeds 400,000 per day. This has pushed the Indian healthcare system to the brink of collapse.....
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<td>Proceed with caution</td>
<td>Editorial, Dawn, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-05-06</td>
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<td>Once again, Eidul Fitr is around the corner. Last year at this time, the first wave of the coronavirus pandemic had not yet peaked in Pakistan. The authorities had perhaps not realised the scale of the devastation the contagion would end up wreaking across the world. Whatever the reason, and despite the misgivings of some provincial administrations that were urging caution, people were allowed to .....</td>
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<td>Covid and the Age of Ignorance</td>
<td>Mahum Kidwai, Daily Times</td>
<td>2021-05-05</td>
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<td>Ignorance is bliss, as the saying goes. Though the global pandemic has taught us that there is a very fine line between ignorance and indifference. Covid-19 represents one of the world's worst health emergencies in recent history, and most certainly the most devastating any of us will endure in our lifetimes. Yet social media is full of images of the so-called educated classes carrying on as.....</td>
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<td>Is Narendra Modi's leadership on trial?</td>
<td>Dr. Syed Amir, Daily Times</td>
<td>2021-05-06</td>
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<td>Pakistan's recent offer to India to help it in its current battle with Covid-19 has been lauded worldwide as a triumph of humanity over narrow ethnic, religious, and national considerations. India lacks the tools to effectively fight the virus, SARS-CoV-2, as vaccines, life-saving equipment, oxygen, ventilators, and, most crucially, hospital emergency beds are in critically short supply. Eve.....</td>
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<td>Prolonged holidays</td>
<td>Editorial, The Express Tribune, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-05-06</td>
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<td>The government's decision of extended Eid holidays-cum-lockdown from May 8 to 16 appears to have been driven more by the scare caused by the third wave of Covid-19 than practical considerations. It does not seem to have taken into calculation how the closure of workplaces for nine straight days would affect daily wagers and businesses. Both workers and traders have opposed the decision. The .....</td>
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<td>Global Resistance — a Eurasian perspective</td>
<td>Shahzada Rahim Abbas, Daily Times</td>
<td>2021-05-01</td>
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<td>A world state, which embraces the entire globe and all of humanity, cannot exist. The political world is a pluriverse, not a universe; Carl Schmitt writes in his book “The Concept of the Political” (p.153). The beginning of COVID-19 pandemic, a year ago has shattered the socio-political and economic foundations of the so-called globalised and hyper-connected world. Especially, at the s.....</td>
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<td>Death, sickness, and helplessness have become the ‘new normal’ that Indians are being forced to live with as they witness the collapse of an already inadequate health care system and the failure of its political system that was caught napping on the uptick of cases, which showed an upward trend as far back as February. For many families, who have been left to their own devices, social.....</td>
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No one is safe
The coronavirus doesn’t discriminate – it has devastated families and communities all over the world, with more than three million deaths since the pandemic began. Now, the US and other rich countries are starting to see the light at the end of the tunnel. But no one will be safe from Covid until there is global vaccine access. In other parts of the world, the situation is still dire.....
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Modi trying to cover up COVID failures
In order to divert attention from the miserable failures in dealing with the COVID-19 disaster in the country, Narendra Modi led Indian government may opt for an adventure like a false flag operation against Pakistan. The recent ceasefire violation along the Line of Control in Pakistan’s Charwa Sector opposite Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir’s Jammu Sector, in the wee hours.....
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Pandemic, measures and prudence
Source: Dr Kamal Monnoo, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-05-05
Pakistan is in the grip of Covid’s third wave and the NCOC is aggressively announcing measures to counter it, ones that primarily include business closures: Curtailed working hours, shorter working weeks and now the unending Eid holidays! All very well and given the grave situation, perhaps needed, however care needs to be taken that the NCOC Chairman does not get carried away and ends up in.....
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Covid-19: School education crisis in Pakistan
Source: Dr Omer Javed, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-05-07
‘Compared with the scale of South Asia’s first wave, which peaked in September, the second is shocking. …South Asia is logging four times as many, and with hardly a sign of slowing.’ – An excerpt from the Economist article ‘India’s Covid-19 crisis has spiraled out of control’, published on May 3, 2021. According to the same article, since arou.....
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Vaccine apartheid
Source: Malik Muhammad Ashraf, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-05-07
Coronavirus is admittedly a common challenge for all the nations of the world and it demands complete solidarity among them with regards to mitigating its adverse effects on the global economy as well as on poor countries. But unfortunately, the required solidarity was subordinated to traditional rivalry between powerful nations vying to establish their ascendency on the global chessboard of polit.....
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The Bare Minimum
Source: Editorial, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-05-07
At last, the efforts of the developing countries to waive the rules of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property (TRIPS) agreement have proved fruitful. In a major shift from its earlier stance, the Biden administration has come out in favour of waiving intellectual property protections for coronavirus vaccines. The decision of the Biden administration is bo.....
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Lockdown and food ration
Source: Editorial, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-05-07
The government has decided to impose a nine-day countrywide lockdown from May 8. However, before finalising the decision, it should give serious thought to a report by an international humanitarian agency that shows the dreadful state of hunger in the world in 2020 and predicts that the situation might worsen this year. It has identified the coronavirus pandemic and conflicts as the main causes of.....
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National News

AJK

AJK president urges WHO, OIC to take notice of Covid crisis in IIOJK
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-05-05
MUZAFFARABAD: Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) President Sardar Masood Khan has expressed deep concern over Covid-19 situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), saying the valley has become a coronavirus hotspot because of occupation authorities’ mismanagement of the pandemic and their discriminatory policy towards Kashmiris. He said that the coronavirus pandemic in IIOJK h.... more >>

AJK also imposes restrictions on Eid
Source: Tariq Naqash, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-05-06
MUZAFFARABAD: The Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) government on Wednesday announced imposition of lockdown in the name of “mobility control measures” from May 8 to May 16 in the light of the decisions made by National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) late last month. All businesses and shops would remain closed during the lockdown except those dealing with essential services and commo..... more >>

Balochistan

Balochistan to launch two mobile vaccination units today
Source: Our Correspondent, The Economist, 2021-05-03
QUETTA: Balochistan Health Secretary Noor ul Haq Baloch has announced to launch two mobile vaccination units today (Monday) to inoculate the public against Covid-19. Chairing a meeting of the Private Hospital Regulatory Authority, he advised older people to visit these mobile vaccination units along with their national identity cards and get vaccinated. “People aging 50 years and above sho..... more >>

Arrest orders for people not donning masks
Source: Mohammad Zafar, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-05-03
QUETTA: Quetta Deputy Commissioner Maj (retd) Aurangzeb Badini has ordered the police to arrest people not wearing masks and immediately register a case against them as well. “Arrest those on the spot who do not wear masks and register a first information report against them,” he said while addressing a press conference over the weekend with District Health Officer Quetta Dr Zaman Jam..... more >>

Balochistan bans all congregations as Covid-19 cases surge
Source: news Desk, Daily Times, 2021-05-04
Spokesperson of the Balochistan government, Liaquat Shahwani has said that the province has imposed a ban on all sorts of congregations in light of the increasing number of coronavirus cases. The spokesperson, speaking to the media on Monday, said the number of coronavirus cases and deaths in the province have quadrupled — forcing the government to impose a ban on all kinds of gatherings. W..... more >>
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| **Mismanagement mars Covid vaccination drive in Chitral**  
Source: A Correspondent, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-05-06  
CHITRAL: Mismanagement and disorder was witnessed at the anti-corona vaccination centre established in the district headquarters hospital here the other day as hundreds of people were found struggling to reach the counter for vaccination. Also, there is no separate desk for female visitors. The elderly and women complained that all this happened due to mismanagement of the hospital administration. | more >> |

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| **Experts urge mass vaccination against Covid-19**  
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-05-01  
ISLAMABAD: While Covid-19 continues to affect a large segment of population, efforts to counter it with effective vaccination campaign are far from being satisfactory and this follows a dismal response to following SOPs causing large-scale illnesses and deaths. This was stated by Pakistan Islamic Medical Association (PIMA) Punjab president Dr Shabbir Ahmad Kallu, Dr Iftikhar Burney, PIMA Islamaba. | more >> |

| Pakistan to reduce inbound international flights by 80%  
Source: News Desk, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-05-01  
The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) announced on Saturday that inbound international flights to Pakistan will be reduced to 20 per cent from May 5 to May 20 amid prevailing global and regional disease (Covid-19) trends. According to a notification issued by the NCOC, there would be no change in existing Catagory C list countries. "Pakistani passport holders (stranded / sho... | more >> |

| Country reports 5,112 new corona cases, 131 deaths: NCOC  
Source: Abdul Rasheed Azad, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-05-01  
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Friday, reported 5,112 new coronavirus cases and 131 Covid-19 deaths in the past 24 hours, taking the country's Covid-19 cases tally to 820,823 and death tally to 17,811. According to the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), in the past 24 hours, 3,272 patients have recovered from the deadly disease taking total recoveries to 711,465. According to th. | more >> |

| Parliament Lockdown  
Source: Editorial, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-05-01  
Considering the Covid-19 situation in Pakistan is showing no signs of slowing down, the government proposed to run proceedings of the National Assembly (NA) with minimum attendance in order to protect officials from the mutating virus. Naturally, opposition parties question this decision purely on the basis of the possibility of unequal representation. This is something that must be taken into con. | more >> |

| Covid-19 spike: Next few weeks crucial: Asad Umar  
Source: Tahir Niaz, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-05-01  
ISLAMABAD - As Islamabad is coping with an increase in the critical Covid-19 patients, Federal Minister Asad Umar Friday said that Pakistan had so far managed to handle the increase in oxygen requirements for Covid-19 patients in critical condition. Umar revealed that total number of critical care Covid patients on oxygen reached 5,360 on Thursday — 57 percent more than June last year, when. | more >> |
**Hospitals can run out of facilities if Covid cases rise: President**

Source: Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-05-01

ISLAMABAD - President Dr Arif Alvi on Friday warned that increasing coronavirus cases will make the situation out of control for hospitals. In a video message, he urged the nation to take precautions to overcome this difficulty. He said the count of critical coronavirus patients had reached around 5,000 in the country and the daily death ratio was also on surge. Any more increase in the COVID pati.....

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**Majority of mosques, markets fail to adopt COVID-19 SOPs**


ISLAMABAD -Despite the increasing threat of Covid-19 third wave, majority of the mosques and markets across Islamabad witnessed some serious violation of SOPs. The Islamabad Administration is struggling hard to convince the masses to follow SOPs in order to stop the increasing pace of Coronavirus. Despite the frequent warnings of the government and specifically district administration, majority .....

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**7 cops succumb to Covid-19: IG Islamabad Share:**

Source: Israr Ahmad, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-05-01

ISLAMABAD -Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Qazi Jamil-ur-Rehman on Friday has said that at least seven personnel of Islamabad police succumbed to Coronavirus while protecting the citizens from the infection. In a video message for the residents, the IG also recognised the services and dedication of the police force and said that 262 personnel from the rank of constable to DIG got infe.....

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**Worrying stats: Over 15,000 children contract coronavirus in April**

Source: Anadolu Agency, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-05-01

Over 15,000 children aged between one and 20 years have been infected by coronavirus across Pakistan in April alone, the health ministry said on Saturday, as the country battles with a staggering third wave of the pandemic. Of them, the ministry said, 19 children have lost their lives due to the virus, six of them between one and 10 years of age. It said that out of over 15,000 cases reported amon.....

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**For first time, traders, capital administration join hands to enforce SOPs**

Source: Kalbe Ali, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-05-02

ISLAMABAD: For the first time since the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic in the country, the business community of the federal capital has joined hands with the city administration to enforce official restrictions. Senior leaders of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) and Deputy Commissioner (DC) Hamza Shafqaat visited markets in various sectors, including G-10, G-11 and F-10 Marka.....

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**Prayer leaders asked to help enforce SOPs**

Source: A Correspondent, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-05-02

TAXILA: The Attock district administration on Saturday called upon the religious and prayer leaders of different schools of taught to ensure enforcement of Covid-19 SOPs in religious gatherings. In a meeting of district peace committee which was held at deputy commissioner’s office Punjab Minister for Social Welfare and Baaitul Maal Yawar Boukhari said the government had decided to implement.....

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Covid-19 claims nine more lives in twin cities
Source: Aamir Yasin | Munawer Azeem, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-05-02
ISLAMABAD: Nine people lost their lives to Covid-19 in the twin cities - four in Islamabad and five in Rawalpindi - on Saturday. Besides, 431 more cases emerged in the capital and 171 in garrison city. Officials of the capital administration said the deceased, two males and two females, were in the age group of 60-69, 70-79, 50-59. They were residents of E-11, I-10, F-11 and Sihala. The officials.....
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All available vaccines are safe: SAPM
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-05-02
ISLAMABAD: The Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on National Health Services Dr Faisal Sultan on Saturday said people can get vaccinated with full confidence with any of the available vaccines in the country. The statement from Dr Sultan came after detection of South African and Brazilian coronavirus strains were reported in the country. He said that some variants increase the chance of.....
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NIH detects two new Covid-19 variants
Source: APP, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-05-02
ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination has said that as a result of proactive effort, one sample of the SARS-COV-2; B.1.351 (South African) and one sample of SARS-COV-2; P1 (Brazil) variants have been detected at the National Institute of Health (NIH) through genome sequencing. Authorities are actively engaged in contact tracing of these positive cas.....
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146 more succumb to coronavirus, positivity ratio 9.63pc
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-05-02
ISLAMABAD: At least 146 more succumbed to coronavirus in the country on Saturday, taking the nationwide death tally to 17,957. About 48,740 coronavirus tests were conducted in the country, of which 4,696 tested positive, showed the data by National Command Operation Centre (NCOC). The positivity ratio was recorded at 9.63% in the country as of May 01. With the emergence of new infections.....
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President Alvi telephones Ulema, appeals for Covid SOPs
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-05-02
ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi, Saturday, telephoned as many as 14 Ulema of various schools of thought and appealed to them to play their role for enforcement of anti-COVID precautionary measures during the holy month of Ramazan. During the conversation with the religious scholars, the president urged them to ensure implementation of the COVID SOPs in their respective purview. The presiden.....
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Afghan, Iran borders for inbound pedestrians to be sealed from May 5: NCOC
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-05-02
ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operations Centre (NCOC) reviewed on Sunday the existing land border management policy with Afghanistan and Iran in a bid to curb the spread of Covid-19 variants. The revised policy will only be applicable to inbound pedestrian movement, and is to come into effect from May 5. "With the emergence of various variants and to restrain import of any new mutatio.....
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Pakistan has received 4.06 million doses of Covid vaccines so far
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-05-02
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has received a total of 4.06 million doses of vaccines for the novel coronavirus, according to figures reported. Out of this reported number, 3.5 million doses are of the Chinese Sinopharm vaccine. Other vaccines received include 60,000 doses of CanSino and 500,000 Sinovac vaccines - both also purchased from China. Of the total vaccines, 529,928 doses of the Sinopharm vaccine.....
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Pakistan reports 4,414 new COVID cases in one day
Pakistan has reported 113 deaths in the last 24 hours by novel coronavirus as the number of positive cases has surged to 829,933. The nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 18,070 on Sunday. According to the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) 4,414 persons tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 24 hours. Punjab remains the worst-hit province in terms of de.....
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NIH detects 2 new variants of corona in country
Source: Rahul Basharat, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-05-02
ISLAMABAD - The National Institute of Health (NIH) has detected variants of Brazilian and South African coronavirus in two samples collected. A statement issued by the Health Ministry yesterday said that one sample of the SARS-COV-2; B.1.351 (“South African” variant) and the other sample of SARS-COV-2; P1 (“Brazil”) variant have been detected. It said that ministry and Na.....
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Opp to seek govt response over covid vaccine
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-05-02
ISLAMABAD - The opposition parties will soon submit a call-attention in national assembly secretariat to seek government’s response over availability of corona vaccine. The opposition parties have already criticised the government in and outside parliament over unavailability of Vaccination in the country. The opposition would jointly raise the matter through call attention notice in upcoming na.....
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NCOC bans inbound pedestrian movement from Afghanistan, Iran from Wednesday
Source: news Desk, Daily Times, 2021-05-03
In view of keeping new variants of Covid-19 away from Pakistan, the National Command and Coordination Centre (NCOC) has decided to cease the inbound pedestrian movement from Afghanistan and Iran from Wednesday (May 5) with exception to Pakistani nationals desirous to return. The National Command and Operations Centre (NCOC) reviewed on Sunday the existing land border management policy with Afghan.....
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Pak-Iran-Afghan border: Inward pedestrian crossing banned
Source: Correspondent, The News, Islamabad, 2021-05-03
ISLAMABAD/LAHORE: The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Sunday decided to temporarily suspend incoming pedestrian movement at overland border crossings with Afghanistan and Iran to restrain import of any new mutation of the coronavirus. "The current policy of land border management with Afghanistan and Iran has been reviewed to ensure regulated inbound pedestrian movement and e.....
more >>
Nadra can’t issue certificates for single-dose vaccines: sources
Source: news Desk, The News, Islamabad, 2021-05-03
ISLAMABAD: A startling revelation has come to the fore regarding vaccination certificates issued by the National Database and Registration Authority (Nadra). According to sources, the system used to issue the certificates has a flaw — it only accommodates double-dose vaccines and does not have the option to issue a certificate for those who were administered a single-dose vaccine. The sourc.....
more >>

Controls on Afghan, Iran borders being beefed up to fight Covid
Source: Ikram Junaidi, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-05-03
ISLAMABAD: In a bid to prevent possible arrival of new Covid-19 variants, the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Sunday decided to enhance protocols on borders with Iran and Afghanistan by regulating inbound pedestrian movement and effectively managing health guidelines. On the other hand, vaccination of people in the age bracket of 40-49 years is set to begin on Monday (today). An .....
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President Alvi urges adherence to SOPs
Source: Agencies, The News, Islamabad, 2021-05-03
Islamabad:President Dr Arif Alvi on Sunday, in a telephonic conversation with Allama Sajid Naqvi, stressed upon a strict observance of standard operating procedures (SOPs) during Ramzan and Majalis to contain spread of coronavirus. During the conversation, the president further emphasized that people should wear masks and observe social distancing. “The elderly people should perform religio.....
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Corona claims 8 more lives, 473 new cases reported
Source: Muhammad Qasim, The News, Islamabad, 2021-05-03
Islamabad:Another eight confirmed patients of coronavirus illness, COVID-19 from Islamabad Capital Territory have died of the illness though the virus has not claimed any life from Rawalpindi district in the last 24 hours while another 473 patients have been tested positive for COVID-19 from the twin cities that has taken total number of patients so far registered from the region to well over 98,0.....
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Twin cities see decline in Covid-19 cases
Source: Ikram Junaidi | Aamir Yasin, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-05-03
ISLAMABAD: While six people died of Covid-19 and 394 more cases were reported in Islamabad on Sunday, the Ministry of National Health Services (NHS) has decided to open another mass vaccination center in the capital. The new vaccination centre being established at Pak-China Friendship Centre will be become functional within a week. The centre will have the capacity to vaccinate 10,000 people dail.....
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COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS: Limited number of people to perform ‘Aitikaf’ from today
Source: App, The News, Islamabad, 2021-05-03
Islamabad:A very limited number of dedicated faithfuuls would start performing seclusion activities, known as ‘Aitikaf” at specified and secluded corners of countrywide mosques from Monday afternoon with the pledge to strictly follow Covid-19 guidelines and maintain social distance by avoiding large gatherings. The faithful have been enjoined to adhere strictly to the COVID-19 protocol.....
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<th>Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>Panahgah's management reenergises campaign for combating pandemic</td>
<td>App, The News, Islamabad, 2021-05-03</td>
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<td>Civil society hails Pakistan's offer of medical aid to India amid COVID crisis</td>
<td>App, The News, Islamabad, 2021-05-03</td>
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<td>Pakistan to receive 19m Covid vaccine doses by June: Dr Faisal</td>
<td>News Desk, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-05-03</td>
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<td>Implementation of Covid SOPs; PM finally leads from the front</td>
<td>Sardar Sikander Shaheen, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-05-03</td>
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<td>Virus spreading fast amid third wave: Asad Umar</td>
<td>Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-05-03</td>
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<td>Pakistan reports 4,414 new corona cases, 113 deaths</td>
<td>Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-05-03</td>
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<td>President seeks Ulema’s role for SOPs</td>
<td>Staff Reporter, <em>The Nation, Islamabad</em>, 2021-05-04</td>
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<td>ISLAMABAD - President Dr. Arif Alvi on Sunday underscored the need to ensure Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in mosques as we need to demonstrate the discipline like a responsible nation against COVID-19. Talking to Mohtamin of Wafaq-ul-Madaris Qari Hanif Jalandhari and Allama Sajid Naqvi on telephone, the President appealed them to ensure implementation of all SOPs during Ramazan. During the.....</td>
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<td>FAFEN emphasizes short-term strategic approach to deal with pandemic governance</td>
<td>Staff Reporter, <em>Daily Times</em>, 2021-05-03</td>
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<td>Free and Fair Election Network (FAFEN) has stressed upon short-term strategic approach to cover the gaps, especially in setting up a structural platform that establishes close coordination at various tiers of government, a robust legislative engagement, and oversight that imparts an inclusive and representative character to all measures needed and, lastly to build public knowledge and understandin.....</td>
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<td>Pakistan received 4.06m doses of Covid jabs so far</td>
<td>Agencies, <em>Daily Times</em>, 2021-05-03</td>
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<td>Pakistan has so far received a total of 4.06 million doses of vaccines for the novel coronavirus, including 3.5 million doses of the Chinese Sinopharm vaccine. Other vaccines received include 60,000 doses of CanSino and 500,000 Sinovac vaccines – both also purchased from China. Of the total vaccines, 529,928 doses of the Sinopharm vaccine have been utilised so far. For healthcare workers, 13.....</td>
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<td>Covid death toll below 100 for first time since April 25</td>
<td>news Desk, <em>Daily Times</em>, 2021-05-04</td>
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<td>The national tally of total active Covid-19 cases was recorded 87,953 as 4,213 more people tested positive for the deadly virus across country on Monday. Seventy-nine patients died on Monday, bringing the single-day death toll to below hundred first time since April 25. Of 79 deaths, 73 were under treatment in hospitals and six in their respective quarantines or homes, according to the latest upd.....</td>
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<td>Wearing masks compulsory during shopping at USC outlets: MD</td>
<td>APP, <em>The Nation, Islamabad</em>, 2021-05-03</td>
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<td>ISLAMABAD -Utility Stores Corporation (USC) Managing Director Umer Lodhi on Sunday warned that wearing face masks was compulsory for both buyers and sellers at all countrywide USC outlets while shopping to avoid the spread of coronavirus in the country. The smooth supply of all essential kitchen items has been ensured at all countrywide Utility Stores outlets, under the Ramazan relief package 202.....</td>
<td>more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<td>NUMS, NIH-USA collaborate to train medical professionals in clinical trials</td>
<td>APP, <em>The Nation, Islamabad</em>, 2021-05-03</td>
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<td>Rawalpindi -National University of Medical Sciences (NUMS), in collaboration with the National Institute of Health (NIH), USA, Bethesda, has trained hundreds of medical professionals in clinical research which can help broaden research base and improve Pakistan international funding prospects for its promotion, said organiser of the training Dr. Rehama Gilani here on Sunday. The Covid-19 pandemic.....</td>
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ICT admin impounds 11 vehicles over violation of lockdown orders
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-05-03
ISLAMABAD - Secretary Islamabad Transport Authority (ITA) along with the field staff, ICT police, Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) and Motorway Police inspected public transport in the capital city in order to ensure implementation of the lockdown orders, Covid-19 SOPs, and to check overcharging, overloading, route completion and route permits etc. The officials said that in this regard, 43 vehicles.....
more >>

NIH can produce 3m vaccine doses, says Dr Faisal
Source: Rahul Basharat, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-05-04
ISLAMABAD - Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on National Health Services (NHS) Dr. Faisal Sultan on Monday said that the National Institute of Health (NIH) will be able to produce three million doses of CanSino COVID-19 vaccine after transfer of technology. In a statement released by the Health Ministry referring to Dr. Faisal Sultan said that Pakistan will begin producing the single-do.....
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Over 164,000 people vaccinated against Covid-19 in single day: Asad Umar
Source: News Desk, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-05-04
Minister for Planning Asad Umar said that over 164,000 people werevaccinatedfor Covid-19 in a single day on Monday (May 3). The minister's remarks came on Twitter and he also said that the vaccination process of people aged 40 and above had also started a day earlier acrossPakistan. Pakistan reported 3,377 new coronavirus cases in 24 hours, taking the country's Covid-19 tally to 8.....
more >>

Govt to vaccinate 70m people by Dec: Faisal
Source: Abdul Rasheed Azad, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-05-04
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan will vaccinate up to 70 million people against the coronavirus by the end of 2021 and the government is making all out efforts to purchase the required volume of Covid-19 vaccine. This was stated by the Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on National Health Dr Faisal Sultan, here on Monday in a media briefing. He said the country, at present, was vaccinatin.....
more >>

Country sees 4,213 new cases of Covid-19, 79 deaths
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan, after April 25, for the first time recorded less than 100 Covid-19 deaths as the authorities reported 79 fatalities on Monday and 4,213 new positive cases of Covid-19. According to the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), out of 79 deaths reported in the past 24 hours, 73 were under treatment in various hospitals across the country and six died at their quarantin.....
more >>

Country reports 161 Covid-19 deaths, 3,377 new cases
Source: Abdul Rasheed Azad, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-05-05
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan, Tuesday, reported 161 Covid-19 deaths, and 3,377 new coronavirus cases after 37,587 tests were conducted, reflecting a positivity rate of 8.98 percent. According to the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), the country in the past 24 hours, recorded 5,018 recoveries of coronavirus patients taking the national recoveries toll to 733,062, since the pandemic outbreak.....
more >>
Eidul Fitr holidays; NCOC forms monitoring teams
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-05-05
ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) in a bid to contain the spread of the Covid-19 and ensure implementation of the coronavirus Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) during Eidul Fitr holidays from May 8-16, has decided to form monitoring teams at the federal, provincial, and the district levels. The NCOC meeting, which was held here on Tuesday under the chairmanship o.....

COVID-19 claims 161 more lives
Source: Correspondent, The News, Islamabad, 2021-05-05
ISLAMABAD: The national tally of total active COVID-19 cases reached 86,151 on Tuesday with 3,377 more people testing positive for the deadly virus and 5,018 recoveries. One hundred and sixty-one corona patients died during past 24 hours, 140 of whom were under treatment in hospitals and 21 out of the hospitals in their respective quarantines or homes, according to the latest update issued by the.....

Daily Covid tally falls below 4,000 as SOPs compliance doubles
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-05-05
ISLAMABAD: A mix of strict observance of the standard operating procedures (SOPs) and an expanded vaccination campaign appeared to have been paying dividends, as the country’s single-day tally of new coronavirus cases fell below 4,000 for the first time in a month. The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), which oversees the government’s synchronised efforts to control the pa.....

Lowest case tally for capital in 10 days
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-05-05
ISLAMABAD/RAWALPINDI: The federal capital has registered a gradual decline in new cases of the novel coronavirus. District Health Officer (DHO) Dr Zaeem Zia stated on Tuesday that 283 cases were reported in the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) in a span of 24 hours, lowest in last 10 days. The rate of positive cases in the city has been recorded at 7.87 per cent in a span of 24 hours. In the sa.....

Over 164,000 people vaccinated against COVID-19 in a single day
Source: Tahir Niaz, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-05-05
ISLAMABAD - The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Tuesday decided to formulate monitoring teams at federal, provincial and district levels to ensure implementation of non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs) from May 8-16. The forum decided that during the period all business and shops would remain closed with few exceptions like food outlets, grocery stores, paramedics, petrol pumps.....

Four die of COVID-19, another 392 cases in a day
Source: Muhammad Qasim, The News, Islamabad, 2021-05-05
Rawalpindi: The number of patients being tested positive for coronavirus illness, COVID-19 from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district is on a decline for the last one-and-a-half weeks or so however, according to senior officials at the health departments, it is too early to assume that the outbreak is losing intensity in terms of morbidity and mortality. In the last 24 hours, anoth.....
‘Restoring PSM oxygen plants best option for sustainable supply’
Source: Correspondent, The News, Islamabad, 2021-05-05
Islamabad : The Islamabad Policy Institute (IPI) on Tuesday asked the government not to be overwhelmed by challenges in the revival of oxygen plants at the Pakistan Steel Mills (PSM) and to take urgent steps for their restoration in view of critical COVID-19 pandemic situation. The Islamabad-based think tank held a virtual discussion on the aggravating Covid-19 situation and the increasing pressu.....

Compliance of Covid SOPs has doubled after deployment of army: govt
Source: news Desk, Daily Times, 2021-05-05
Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar Tuesday said that a significant improvement has been witnessed in compliance of standard operating procedures (SOP) to control spread of Covid-19 after deployment of military in the country. “National average compliance has doubled from 34 percent on April 25 to 68 percent on May 3,” he said in his tweet. He also str.....

Third wave of Covid-19 a challenge to growing economy of Pakistan
Source: APP, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-05-05
ISLAMABAD - Owing to timely and prudent policies of the incumbent government, the country’s economy had been showing signs of recovery, with construction and manufacturing sectors in lead, however, the economic revival had once again been pitched against the stronger than ever third wave of Covid-19, official sources said on Tuesday. The economy had registered positive signs during first ni.....

UNHCR welcomes Pakistan’s inclusion of Afghan refugees in COVID-19 vaccination programme
Source: news Desk, Daily Times, 2021-05-05
UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency welcomed Tuesday the Government of Pakistan’s efforts to vaccinate Afghan refugees as part of its COVID-19 vaccination programme. In some parts of the country, Afghan refugees who meet the criteria for receiving a vaccine have already started to register themselves. More than 10 refugees so far have received the first dose of the vaccine. “It’s very.....

Pakistan suggests medical corridor for people of occupied Kashmir
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-05-06
ISLAMABAD: The Parliamentary Committee on Kashmir on Wednesday urged the United Nations, World Health Organisation and International Committee of the Red Cross to set up an international humanitarian medical corridor to help provide medical support to the people of India-held Kashmir (IHK). The call was made during an emergent session of the committee held in view of the fast deteriorating Covid-.....

Pakistan terms global cooperation only way out of Covid-19 crisis
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2021-05-05
The Covid-19 pandemic has shown how all countries are connected, underscoring that global cooperation and solidarity are the only way out of the crisis. Munir Akram, Pakistan’s Permanent Representative at the UN and president of UN Economic and Social Council, said during the annual Partnership Forum, organised by ECOSOC. “If ever there was a need for partnership, it is now,” Ak.....
Number of active Covid cases falls by 7pc in less than fortnight
Source: Ikram Junaidi, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-05-06
ISLAMABAD: While about 4,000 people contracted Covid-19 in a single day, the number of active cases has fallen by seven per cent in less than a fortnight, according to data issued by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Wednesday. The concentrate of a vaccine has reached the National Institute of Health (NIH) where the vaccine will be produced. It is expected to be administered to ..... more >>

Covid-19 toll continues to rise in twin cities
Source: Aamir Yasin | Munawer Azeem, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-05-06
ISLAMABAD: The pandemic on Wednesday claimed another nine lives in the twin cities as the capital reported five and Rawalpindi four deaths. However, positive cases in both the cities kept declining as Islamabad saw 204 cases and the Rawalpindi district 112. Officials of the capital administration said out of the total 909 beds allocated for Covid patients in 16 hospitals in capital, 452 beds have..... more >>

Islamabad reports lowest Covid cases in 10 days: DHO
Source: news Desk, Daily Times, 2021-05-06
The capital city on Wednesday reported the lowest number of new cases of Covid-19 in 10 days, a health official said. Islamabad has registered a gradual decline in new cases of Covid-19. District Health Officer (DHO) Islamabad Dr. Zaeem Zia has stated that 204 new cases were reported in the capital territory in 24 hours, which is the minimum in the last 10 days. The ratio of positive cases in the..... more >>

Top court directs govt to fix oxygen cylinder price
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2021-05-06
The Supreme Court Wednesday issued directives to Ministry of Industries and Production to fix the price of oxygen cylinders within two days’ time besides seeking price determination mechanism in the matter. A three-member bench of the top court led by Chief Justice Gulzar Ahmad issued the directive during hearing of suo-moto over coronavirus in response to plea of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa gov..... more >>

Pakistan stresses WHO, ICRC to set up international medical corridor in IIOJK
Source: Staff Reporter, Daily Times, 2021-05-06
Pakistan on Wednesday urged the United Nations, WHO and ICRC to take cognizance of the deteriorating medical supplies for the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and set up an International Humanitarian Medical Corridor to help provide medical support to the Kashmiri people. The urge was made by the Parliamentary Committee on Kashmir which held its special session to urge the wo..... more >>

Oxygen supply under control as Covid-19 claims 131 more lives
Source: App, Daily Times, 2021-05-01
Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar Friday said due to proactive decisions by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) to increase oxygen production capacity and importing more oxygen cylinders, the situation in hospitals is under control despite rapid increase in Covid-19 cases. “Total number of critical care Covid patients on oxygen reached 5,360 o..... more >>
7 martyr, 262 cops contract COVID during the pandemic: IGP
Source: App, Daily Times, 2021-05-01
As many as seven personnel of Islamabad police embraced martyrdom while 262 contracted with coronavirus while safeguarding the lives of citizens during the pandemic. The Islamabad Inspector General of Police (IGP) Qazi Jameel-ur-Rehman informed the citizens in a video message on Friday. The officers ranging from constable to Deputy Inspector General of Police (DSP) were fell victim to the disease.....

COVID-19: Pakistan extends travel restrictions from Category-C countries till May 4
Source: App, Daily Times, 2021-05-01
Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (PCAA) Thursday extended travel restrictions for international passengers arriving from 23 category-C countries till May 4, in line with the government strategy to stem the spread of deadly coronavirus (COVID-19) in the country. “International travel to Pakistan from category-C countries is restricted and only allowed as per guidelines of the NCOC (National.....

COVID-19 claims another 119 lives
Source: Correspondent, The News, Islamabad, 2021-05-06
ISLAMABAD/LAHORE: The national tally on Wednesday of total active COVID-19 cases recorded 84,480 with 4,113 more people tested positive for the deadly virus and 5,665 people recovered from the disease during the last 24 hours. While, the Punjab government have decided to enforce a complete lockdown in the provinces from May 8. According to the latest update issued by the National Command and Oper.....

Covid claims 12 lives in twin cities
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-05-06
ISLAMABAD/RAWALPINDI: The coronavirus infection rate has started to wane a bit in the twin cities, however, seven fatalities were still reported in Rawalpindi and five deaths occurred in the federal capital on Wednesday. According to the Rawalpindi district health office (DHO), one patient at Holy Family Hospital (HFH) while three each at Benazir Bhutto Hospital (BBH) and Rawalpindi Institute of.....

Inventing a metre won’t stop corona: Murad
Source: news Desk, The News, Islamabad, 2021-05-06
ISLAMABAD: Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah on Wednesday said the federal government’s strategy to curb the spread of coronavirus in the country is “incomprehensible”. “Inventing a metre won't stop coronavirus,” he said. The chief minister, addressing a press conference in the capital, said the coronavirus situation in the country was getting more serious b.....

Pakistan vaccinates over 200,000 people in a day: Asad
Source: news Desk, The News, Islamabad, 2021-05-06
ISLAMABAD: In a positive sign, the number of registrations for the coronavirus vaccine have been increasing significantly as over 200,000 people got vaccinated against the virus on Tuesday, said Federal Minister for Planning and Development Asad Umar. Taking to Twitter on Wednesday, the federal minister noted that the number of registrants of the coronavirus vaccines in the country has exceeded t.....
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<td>First consignment of AstraZeneca arriving on 8th</td>
<td>M Waqar Bhatti, The News, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-05-06</td>
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<td>KARACHI: The first consignment of around 1.238 million doses</td>
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<td>of Oxford-AstraZeneca's COVID-19 vaccine, codenamed AZD1222</td>
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<td>through COVAX facility would be landing at the Islamabad International</td>
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<td>Airport on Saturday, May 08, 2021, federal government officials</td>
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<td>told The News. He said Pakistan is receiving the European vaccine</td>
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<td>from a non-Indian source. <em>Around 12,38,000 (12 lac and thirty e..</em></td>
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<td>Traders reject nine-day lockdown</td>
<td>Muhammad Anis, The News, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-05-06</td>
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<td>Islamabad : Categorically rejecting federal government's decision</td>
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<td>of imposing a nine-day countrywide lockdown from May 08 ahead of</td>
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<td>Eidul Fitr, Markazi Tanzeem-e-Tajran Pakistan Wednesday warned</td>
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<td>of nationwide protests and a boycott of tax payments. Muhammad</td>
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<td>Kashif Chaudhry, president of the organisation, addressing a press</td>
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<td>conference termed the decision of lockdown as ‘economic murder.....</td>
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<td>Another 9 die of COVID-19</td>
<td>Muhammad Qasim, The News, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-05-06</td>
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<td>Rawalpindi : As many as nine patients suffering from coronavirus</td>
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<td>illness, COVID-19 have died of the disease in the last 24 hours</td>
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<td>from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district while</td>
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<td>313 new patients have been tested positive for the illness from the</td>
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<td>twin cities that is the lowest number of cases reported in a day</td>
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<td>from the region after March 10 this year. On March 10 this year, as</td>
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<td>Women’s jobs;‘Covid-19 wiped out a disproportionately higher share’</td>
<td>Tahir Amin, Business Recorder, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-05-06</td>
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<td>ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Social</td>
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<td>Protection and Poverty Alleviation Dr Sania Nishtar, while stressing</td>
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<td>on the need for gender-related targets in programmes, said that</td>
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<td>post-Covid-19 there is a massive mending and rebuilding job to be</td>
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<td>done and women just have to be a major part of this. Dr Nishtar was</td>
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<td>invited to speak at the Asian Development Bank (ADB) annual meeting.</td>
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<td>Covid-19: 200,000 people vaccinated for first time</td>
<td>Abdul Rasheed Azad, Business Recorder, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-05-06</td>
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<td>ISLAMABAD: Chairman National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC)</td>
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<td>Asad Umar has said that Tuesday for the first time 200,000 people</td>
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<td>were vaccinated with coronavirus doses. Taking to Twitter, Umar</td>
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<td>said that so far over five million Pakistanis have registered them</td>
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<td>for Covid-19 vaccination. He urged the people over 40 years of age</td>
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<td>to get them registered for Covid-19 vaccination, and keep taking c..</td>
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<td>ISLAMABAD - The Supreme Court on Wednesday expressed its dissatisfaction over the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) report about COVID-19 pandemic and asked its Chairman to visit the quarantine centers. A three-member bench of the apex court headed by Chief Justice Gulzar Ahmed and comprised of Justice Mushir Alam and Justice Mazhar Alam Khan Miankhel conducted hearing of suo moto not.....</td>
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Country reports 108 more Covid-19 deaths
Source: Abdul Rasheed Azad, Business Recorder, Islamabad , 2021-05-07
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has reported 108 more coronavirus deaths and 4,198 Covid cases during the past 24 hours, on Thursday, the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) said. According to the NCOC, 46,467 Covid-19 tests were carried out across the country in the past 24 hours, of which 4,198 were positive showing a positivity ratio of 9.03 percent. Moreover, according to the NCOC, ther.....

Covid-19 single-dose vaccine; NIH-packed CanSino to be available from month end
Source: Abdul Rasheed Azad, Business Recorder, Islamabad , 2021-05-07
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has started work on formulating and packing the single-dose CanSino Bio vaccine locally, officials said. According to the National Institute of Health (NIH) authorities, the raw material for the vaccine’s production has been imported from China and the work on formulating and packing the vaccine has locally been started. The NIH packed vaccine will be available .....

Country reports 4,198 new corona cases, 108 deaths
Source: Tahir Niaz, The Nation, Islamabad , 2021-05-07
ISLAMABAD - Pakistan on Thursday morning reported 4,198 new coronavirus cases, taking the country’s Covid-19 tally to 845,833. The country’s death toll, meanwhile, climbed to 18,537 after 108 more people succumbed to the deadly disease. According to the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), total active Covid-19 cases across the country were reported to be 84,172. It said the t.....

Alvi urges people to get vaccinated against Covid-19 to ensure safety
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad , 2021-05-07
ISLAMABAD - President Dr Arif Alvi on Thursday urged the people to get vaccinated against COVID-19 to ensure safety against virus. After receiving his second dose of vaccine at a COVID-19 vaccination centre Tarlai in Islamabad, he advised all, particularly elderly, to must get vaccinated and continue observing other precautionary measures. He said besides vaccine, adopting other precautions incl.....

Large stock of Covid-19 vaccine available for eligible population: DG Health
Source: APP, The Nation, Islamabad , 2021-05-07
ISLAMABAD - Director General, Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination Dr Rana Safdar Thursday said that the government has increased COVID-19 vaccination procurement and a large stock of vaccine was available across the country. In a media briefing at the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) along with Chief Executive Officer Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakista.....

Private schools lose case against fee cut
Source: Malik Asad, Dawn, Islamabad , 2021-05-07
ISLAMABAD: The Private Schools Association on Thursday lost their case against the government decision of a 20pc cut in the monthly tuition fee. The Islamabad High Court (IHC) ruled that private schools were profit-making commercial entities and their profit and loss could only be determined through substantial evidence. IHC Chief Justice Athar Minallah dismissed the petition filed by the Privat.....
Essential services exempted from lockdown
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-05-07
ISLAMABAD: The capital administration has exempted essential services from the lockdown being enforced from May 8 to 16. A notification issued from the office of the Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Mohammad Hamza Shafqaat said that in compliance with the decision of National Command Operation Centre (NCOC) Islamabad, exemption are hereby made in this order. Groceries shops, bakeries and sweet shops ar.....
more >

50 beds provided to Pims for Covid-19 patients
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-05-07
ISLAMABAD: As many as 50 beds have been provided to Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (Pims) for Covid-19 patients in need of high flow oxygen. Pims is the only hospital in the twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad, giving medical assistance to Covid-19 patients who are in need of high flow oxygen and comorbidity patients, Dawn has learnt. Pims Joint Executive Director Dr Minhajus Siraj s.....
more >

Three isolation centres set up in Islamabad for expats returning home
Source: Aamir Yasin | Munawer Azeem, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-05-07
ISLAMABAD: The capital administration has set up three centres to isolate expatriates coming to Pakistan in case they test positive of Covid-19. Additional Deputy Commissioner Islamabad (East) Babar Sahib Din toldDawnthat the three quarantine facilities had been set up one each at OGDCL building, Marriott and Redison hotels. The isolation facility is available free of cost at the OGDCL and on the.....
more >>
## Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

### More vaccination centres planned as Covid claims 36 lives
Source: APP, [Dawn, Islamabad](https://www.dawn.com/), 2021-05-01
PESHAWAR: With coronavirus claiming 36 more lives in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the health department has said it will establish anti-virus vaccination centres in 17 more districts within three days. According to the department, eight vaccination centres will be set up in major hospitals, four in Category A hospitals, three in Category C hospitals and two in Category D hospitals. "The director ge.....[more >]

### Nine die of Covid in Abbottabad
Source: [Our Correspondent](https://www.tribune.com.pk), The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-05-01
ABBOTTABAD: Nine coronavirus patients have died at Ayub Teaching Hospital (ATH) in Abbottabad during the last 48 hours, a spokesperson stated on Friday. They added that 17 new positive cases were admitted to the facility. At present, 79 patients are under treatment in the hospital with 16 patients in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) in critical condition. The Abbottabad health department disclosed .....[more >]

### 36 die as K-P’s Covid toll hits 3,310
Source: [Our Correspondent](https://www.tribune.com.pk), The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-05-01
PESHAWAR: Another 36 people succumbed to Covid-19 in the past 24 hours in the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) province, bringing the total number of people killed so far to 3,310. According to a report of Health Department, Peshawar remained on top of the Covid fatality chart with 17 people falling prey to the contagion, followed by Mardan which recorded six deaths. Likewise, Swat reported two deaths, Ab.....[more >]

### BRT service to be closed on weekends
Source: [Our Correspondent](https://www.tribune.com.pk), The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-05-01
PESHAWAR: The Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) service will remain suspended two days a week over the weekend on Saturday and Sunday. Trans Peshawar spokesperson confirmed the development. “The service will remain suspended two days a week as a preventive measure against the spread of coronavirus,” he said. “The citizens are advised to take the third wave of coronavirus seriously.” .....[more >]

### Weeklong lockdown across KP to be imposed from 8th
Source: [Recorder Report](https://www.recorderreport.com), Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-05-02
PESHAWAR: In wake increasing number of coronavirus cases in the provincial capital Peshawar, the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has decided to impose a weeklong complete lockdown across the province, starting from May 08, which will continue till May 16. All business hubs and centres will remain closed during the weeklong complete lockdown in Peshawar and other districts of the Khyber Pakht.....[more >]

### Govt ends lockdown in Mardan
Source: App, [Daily Times](https://www.dailytimes.com.pk), 2021-05-03
The provincial government Sunday decided to end lockdown in Mardan and appealed before the people for adherence to coronavirus preventive standard operating procedures (SOPs). The decision was taken in a meeting held at Divisional Commissioner Office, Mardan with Secretary Home and Tribal Affairs and Secretary Health Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in the chair. Beside, Divisional Commissioner, Muntazir Khan.....[more >]
Mardan admin relaxes lockdown after decline in corona cases
MARDAN: The district administration here on Sunday announced to relax the one-week lockdown which was imposed in the district on 26 April after the ratio of corona positive cases reached 50. It was decided in a high-level meeting at the commissioner's office. Secretary Health Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mohammad Yahya Akhunzada, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) lawmakers Zahir Shah Toru, Iftikhar Ali.....
more >>

Senior citizens asked to get vaccinated
Source: Correspondent, The News, Islamabad, 2021-05-03
TANK: District Health Officer (DHO) Dr Ihsanullah Bhittani on Sunday urged senior citizens aged 50 and above to visit the corona vaccination centre set up here in order to get vaccinated. He said the corona vaccination centre would stay open on Sunday too. He said the third wave of the corona was becoming dangerous so the people must follow corona SOPs to prevent the spread of coronavirus. He sa.....
more >>

Traders oppose businesses closure from 8th
PESHAWAR: The trade community representatives have said that small shopkeepers cannot afford to close down businesses from May 8 to 16 as planned by the government on the pretext of containing the coronavirus spread. A press release said a joint meeting of Traders Alliance Federation Peshawar and National Peace Council Trade Wing KPK was held under the chairmanship of Ghulam Bilal Javed. Major &r.....
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190 held in Mardan for violation of SOPs
Source: Correspondent, The News, Islamabad, 2021-05-03
MARDAN: During the drive to ensure implementation of coronavirus SOPs, the police have arrested 190 people and registered 159 first information reports over violation of the SOPs in the district on Sunday. During actions in various parts of the district, the cops also confiscated 237 vehicles on Sunday. Since the implementation of the lockdown in the district so far, the cops have lodged 1169 FIR.....
more >>

Mardan admin announces relaxation in lockdown
Source: Riaz Khan, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-05-03
Mardan - The district administration here on Sunday announced to relax the one-week complete lockdown imposed in the district on 26 April when the ratio of corona positive cases reached 50. It was decided in a high-level meeting held at commissioner office. Secretary Health Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Yahya Akhunzada, Home Secretary, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) lawmakers Zahir Shah Toru, Iftikhar Mash.....
more >>

1 more fall prey to coronavirus in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
Source: Ashfaq Yusufzai, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-05-06
PESHAWAR: As Covid-19 has claimed 31 more lives and infected 629 others in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, a senior public health expert has urged people to get vaccinated because its efficacy and safety has proven worldwide. A report of health department said that fatalities in the province reached 3,497 and cases swelled to 121,728. Mardan reported 11 deaths, Peshawar seven,Charsadda, Bannu and Bajaur thr.....
more >>
**Torkham border closed for non-Pakistani pedestrian over Covid fears**

Source: Ahmad Nabi, *Daily Times*, 2021-05-06

Crossing at Pak-Afghan Torkham border was suspended on Wednesday for entry of non-Pakistani citizens. Deputy Commissioner, Khyber Mansoor Arshad while sharing details said that with the purpose to control the spread of Covid 19, the government ordered the Torkham border closing, that will be in effect from 6:00 pm, May 05 to May 20, 2021. He said that non-Pakistani will be not allowed to cross in.....

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**Covid-19 cases significantly dropped in Mardan**


PESHAWAR: The coronavirus cases have significantly dropped owing to weeklong complete lockdown imposed by local administration in district Mardan, say health officials. While sharing detail of the coronavirus cases in the district, here on Wednesday Dr Hamid Khan, in-charge of District Command and Control Room Code 19 told the reporters that due to one week of complete lockdown, the covid-19 ..... more >>

**KMU donates Covid-19 response items**

Source: *Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad*, 2021-05-06

Peshawar - In an effort to fight against corona pandemic and to support partners to tackle with COVID-19 pandemic, Khyber Medical University (KMU) formally organised an event of ‘Handing over ceremony of COVID-19 response items to Department of Health, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.’ The event was organised by the Khyber Medical University and GIZ with the financial support of European Union. ..... more >>

**4 more Covid-19 vaccination centres set up**

Source: *Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad*, 2021-05-07

Tank - The District Health Office (DHO) has established four more COVID-19 vaccination centres to facilitate the senior citizens. In a statement issued here, District Health Officer Dr. Ihsanullah Bhittani said that Health Department was taking special measures to protect citizens from the COVID-19 pandemic. Appreciating the role of armed forces and district administration, he ..... more >>
<table>
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<th>Punjab</th>
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| **More lives lost to Covid-19, over 500 test positive in twin cities**  
Source: Aamir Yasin | Munawer Azeem, **Dawn, Islamabad**, 2021-05-01  
ISLAMABAD: Six people lost their battle against Covid-19 in the twin cities on Friday with 427 new cases reported in Islamabad and 89 in Rawalpindi. During the last 24 hours, 5,168 tests were conducted in the capital and the positivity rate was 8.2pc. Officials of the capital administration said two patients, both male in the age group of 50-69, died in the capital. The deceased were residents of..... |
| **Ventilator occupancy ratio slightly drops in city**  
Source: Staff Reporter, **Dawn, Islamabad**, 2021-05-01  
LAHORE: The ventilators’ occupancy ratio amidst the third wave of Covid in the provincial capital dropped from 95pc to 85.4pc here on Friday. However, the city witnessed another sharp increase of infectivity rate of the virus that was reported 28 per cent during the last 24 hours. According to the official figures released on Friday, the virus claimed lives of 83 more critical patients in ..... |
| **Two-day lockdown in Lahore from today**  
Source: Khalid Hasnain, **Dawn, Islamabad**, 2021-05-01  
LAHORE: Keeping in view the worsening Covid-19 situation, the government has decided to place Lahore under a complete lockdown on Saturday and Sunday (May 1 and 2). The lockdown restrictions will not be applicable to the industry operating under coronavirus-related standard operating procedures (SOPs). On the other hand, the Lahore City District Administration urged the public at large to wear m..... |
| **Covid vaccination centre inaugurated**  
Source: A Correspondent, **Dawn, Islamabad**, 2021-05-01  
NAROWAL: Provincial Minister for Auqaf and Religious Affairs Pir Syed Saeedul Hassan Shah inaugurated a corona vaccination centre in Zafarwal tehsil of the district on Friday. The centre has been established by the District Health Authority of Narowal. Deputy Commissioner Zaheer Hassan, DPO Syed Ali Akbar, Chief Executive Officer of the District Health Authority Dr Hafiz Muhammad Khalid, and oth..... |
| **Grants for GCU employees testing positive for Covid**  
Source: Staff Reporter, **Dawn, Islamabad**, 2021-05-01  
LAHORE: The Board of Management of GCU Benevolent Fund Employees unanimously approved an amount of Rs50,000 for each employee who is tested positive for Covid infection. “A grant of Rs25,000 will be given from the Benevolent Fund and the remaining amount will be given from other university funds. The amount from the funds will be readjusted later from the employees’ salary,” a v..... |
| **Five vaccination centres to be set up in Multan**  
Source: Our Correspondent, **The Express Tribune, Islamabad**, 2021-05-01  
MULTAN: The district health authority in Multan will set up five coronavirus vaccination centres to curtail the spread of coronavirus in the district. Sources said health department has decided to increase the number of coronavirus vaccination centres from two to seven after five new vaccination centres will be set up in the city with an aim to accelerate the vaccination process for the facility..... |
Intensive awareness campaign stressed to increase vaccination coverage
Source: Israr Ahmad, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-05-01
Rawalpindi -World Immunisation Week was marked at Rawalpindi Medical University (RMU) here on Friday. Every year, this week is celebrated at April end. Pakistan Paediatric Association Federal Branch and Rawalpindi Medical University (RMU) jointly conducted various activities for the awareness of immunisation in children. Various webinars and sessions with students, parents and their children alon.....
more >>

New Covid variant adds to agonising situation in Punjab
Source: Asif Chaudhry, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-05-02
LAHORE: Health authorities in Punjab which is bearing the brunt of Covid deaths and new infections, have detected ‘a novel/unknown variant of the virus’ which is yet to be named. The virus may be local mutation and the health experts and the researchers have joined heads to expand the scope of investigation as they believe that the novel variant may have high infectivity rate than the.....
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New centres to help vaccinate 80,000 people daily in Punjab
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-05-02
LAHORE: The Punjab government is all set to increase the number of centres across the province to vaccinate 80,000 people daily. The facilities are being expanded in the light of the directions issued by the National Command Operation Centre (NCOC) which has given the target to the Punjab government in order to bring a maximum number of people under vaccination coverage to control the virus. The.....
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50pc of district courts’ staff to work from home
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-05-02
LAHORE: In the wake of the third wave of Covid-19, the Lahore High Court has decided that 50 per cent of judges and staff of the district judiciary in Punjab will work from home in two batches. A notification issued by the directorate of district judiciary states that the first batch of the 50 per cent staff, including the judicial officers, would work from home from May 3 to 8 while the second b.....
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Punjab reports 2,086 fresh corona cases, 90 deaths
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-05-02
LAHORE: Out of 18,962 Covid-19 tests conducted during the last 24 hours across Punjab, as many as 2,086 fresh virus cases and 90 more fatalities were reported in the province taking the provincial tally of cases to 303,182 and death toll to 8,500. The overall positivity rate of the virus in the province has declined to 10.91 percent from previous 12.10 percent. With the recovery of 3,587 more.....
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Our target is to vaccinate 80,000 people daily: Punjab minister
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-05-02
LAHORE: Punjab Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid on Saturday chaired a high level meeting to review the emerging corona situation, initiative to increase vaccination centres, boosting health facilities at public sector hospitals for Covid-19 patients and other connected issues. Present in the meeting were Law Minister Raja Basharat whereas Makhdoom Hashim Jawan Bukht joined via video link. Sen.....
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<td>Covid-19 claims 90 more lives in Punjab</td>
<td>APP, The Express Tribune, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-05-02</td>
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<td>LAHORE: The coronavirus pandemic has claimed 90 more lives across</td>
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<td>Punjab while 2,068 fresh infections were reported across the province</td>
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<td>during the past 24 hours. According to the data shared by the</td>
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<td>spokesperson of Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department</td>
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<td>(P&amp;SHD), the number of coronavirus cases in the province exceeded</td>
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<td>303,180 while total deaths had reached 8,500. The total recove......</td>
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<td>Covid’s monthly death toll doubles</td>
<td>Adnan Lodhi, The Express Tribune, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-05-02</td>
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<td>LAHORE: The number of deaths caused by coronavirus in Punjab doubled</td>
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<td>during April as compared to the previous month. The previous daily</td>
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<td>record death toll was surpassed five times successively during the</td>
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<td>month, including four times between April 18 and 28. Families in</td>
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<td>the province lost 1,925 members to the pandemic during the past</td>
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<td>month as compared to 969 in March. The figure is the highest for a.....</td>
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<td>'Govt to increase vaccination centres'</td>
<td>APP, The Express Tribune, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-05-02</td>
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<td>LAHORE: Punjab Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid has said that the</td>
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<td>government was increasing the number of vaccination centres in</td>
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<td>Punjab to achieve the target to vaccinate 80,000 people daily in the</td>
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<td>province. Chairing a meeting at Civil Secretariat to review the</td>
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<td>emerging coronavirus situation, initiative to increase vaccination</td>
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<td>centers, boosting health facilities at public sector hospitals for</td>
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<td>3,026 booked over corona SOPs breach during last 35 days: CCPO</td>
<td>Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-05-02</td>
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<td>LAHORE - Capital City Police Officer Additional IG Ghulam Mahmood</td>
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<td>Dogar has said that most of the people have understood the gravity</td>
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<td>of situation after the increase in positive COVID-19 cases and</td>
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<td>started wearing masks and packing up their business activities at</td>
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<td>scheduled time due to regular awareness campaign by the police</td>
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<td>through its patrolling and flag marches in the city. Ghulam Mahmood</td>
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<td>Dogar s......</td>
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<td>5 persons die of coronavirus in Pindi</td>
<td>Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-05-02</td>
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<td>rawalpindi - As many as five people died of coronavirus in Rawalpindi</td>
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<td>district on Saturday, informed sources. Furthermore, 171 more</td>
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<td>people patients tested positive of deadly virus during last 24 hours</td>
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<td>they said. According to sources, Shaheen Kausar, 53, a resident of</td>
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<td>Chaudhry Zaman Colony, brought to Dr. Akbar Niazi Teaching Hospital</td>
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<td>on April 30 and she died on Saturday. Muhammad Sharif, 65, a re.....</td>
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<td>23 police check points set up for SOPs’ enforcement</td>
<td>Mohammad Asghar, Dawn, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-05-03</td>
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<td>RAWALPINDI: To curb the spread of Covid-19, the city traffic police</td>
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<td>have established 23 checking points in the garrison city and deployed</td>
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<td>137 personnel to ensure the standard operating procedures (SOPs)</td>
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<td>were implemented. Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Rai Mazhar Iqbal</td>
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<td>directed establishment of 23 checking points at different places in</td>
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<td>the city to ensure that people wore face masks. The CTO said the.....</td>
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‘Govt procuring jabs to vaccinate 40m most vulnerable people’
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-05-03
LAHORE: Punjab health minister Dr Yasmin Rashid has said the federal and Punjab governments are procuring enough vaccine to provide cover to some 40 million most vulnerable people in a matter of a couple of months. She, however, admitted that the government gave a delayed response towards procuring the vaccine, explaining that it just occurred because the World Health Organization (WHO) backed ou.....
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1,707 new Covid cases, 50 deaths reported in Punjab
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-05-03
LAHORE: With a slight decrease in the infection and death ratio owing to strict implementation of the standard operating procedures (SOPs), smart lockdowns and weekend lockdown, Punjab reported 1,707 new coronavirus cases and 50 deaths during the last 24 hours. In Lahore alone, 16 deaths were reported, taking the tally to 3,513 deaths in the provincial metropolis so far. The total number of death.....
more >>

Covid positivity rate in Lahore recorded at 18%
Source: APP, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-05-03
LAHORE: Punjab Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid said that the coronavirus positivity rate was recorded at 18 per cent in the provincial capital. Speaking to the media on Sunday, she stated that the coronavirus infection rate could only be overcome by strict implementation of coronavirus SOPs devised by the health department. The provincial health minister said that in the provincial capital, wher.....
more >>

Covid-19 claims 50 more lives in Punjab
Source: APP, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-05-03
LAHORE: The coronavirus pandemic has claimed 50 more lives in Punjab whereas 1,707 fresh infections were reported across the province during the past 24 hours. According to the data shared by the spokesperson for the Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD) on Sunday, the number of coronavirus cases in the province exceeded 304,880. Reportedly, the death toll had reached 8,5.....
more >>

Covid-19 pandemic; APCPLA praises role of Army
Source: Press Release, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-05-03
FAISALABAD: Zonal Vice Chairman All Pakistan Cotton Power Looms Association Muhammad Ajmal Kasuri said that the role of Pakistan Army in saving the people from the Corona epidemic is commendable. Precious lives are being saved by strictly enforcing SOPs, in which the people should extend all possible cooperation to the army to prevent the situation from deteriorating further. For the first ti.....
more >>

No spread of Brazilian, S African variants in Punjab: minister
Source: Abdullah Mughal, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-05-04
LAHORE: Provincial Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid has said that almost all ventilators in Gujranwala were occupied while the occupancy rate in Lahore was recorded at 81.5 percent. The minister provided the details during a press conference held in Lahore on Sunday to update the public regarding the coronavirus situation in the province. She said the health department, however, was making ef.....
more >>
Strict implementation of SOPs can help reduce coronavirus positivity rate: Health minister
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-05-03
Lahore - Punjab Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid said on Sunday that coronavirus infection rate could only be overcome by strictly implementation of coronavirus SOPs devised by the Health Department. Briefing the media here, she said that in the provincial capital, where the infection rate was 23 per cent, the Punjab government implemented SOPs strictly, and now the corona positivity rate had red.....
more >>

41 shops sealed over SOPs violations
Source: Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-05-03
LAHORE - The city district administration sealed 41 shops, industrial units, restaurants and imposed Rs 144,000 fines on them over violations of coronavirus related Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) here on Sunday. According to a spokesperson for the district administration, Assistant Commissioner (AC) Cantt Zeeshan Ranjha sealed HKB, Portpuri stores at DHA Y-Block for SOPs violations. AC Shali.....
more >>

LWMC to ensure cleanliness at corona vaccination centres
Source: Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-05-03
LAHORE - The Lahore Waste Management Company (LWMC) is committed to maintaining the best possible cleanliness arrangements for the citizens at the corona vaccination centres. This was stated by LWMC Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Imran Ali Sultan while talking to the field staff on Sunday. He said the LWMC had deployed more than 60 workers at vaccination centres. The LWMC staff would perform duties.....
more >>

CM visits City areas without any protocol to monitor lockdown
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-05-03
LAHORE - Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar Sunday visited different areas of Lahore without any protocol to monitor the lockdown situation in the provincial metropolis. The Chief Minister expressed satisfaction over the complete implementation on lockdown and thanked the trader community for their cooperation. Usman Buzdar also lauded the services of the administration, police, Army and .....
more >>

All ventilators in Gujranwala, 81.5pc in Lahore occupied, warns Yasmin Rashid
Source: Staff Reporter, Daily Times, 2021-05-03
Punjab Health Minister Dr. Yasmin Rashid has said that in the last 24 hours, 1707 people were Covid-19 positive and 50 people have lost their lives. She said this while addressing a press conference at 90 Shahra-i-Quaid-i-Azam here on Sunday. In the last 24 hours, 16,846 Corona tests have been performed. Present on the occasion were Secretary Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department Ms. Sara.....
more >>

39 malls, restaurants sealed, 30 held for breaking virus rules
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-05-03
FAISALABAD - The district administration sealed another 36 shopping malls and three restaurants besides arresting 30 people and imposing a fine of Rs 26,000 over violation of anti-coronavirus SOPs during the last 24 hours. A spokesperson for the district administration said that during the last seven weeks 1,017 shopping malls, 309 restaurants, 44 marriage halls and113 private schools were sealed.....
more >>
Teaching hospitals reserve two ventilators, 20 beds for corona patients: Health Minister
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-05-04
LAHORE - Punjab Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid reviewed the status of facilities for COVID-19 patients available at private hospitals in a meeting at the Specialized Healthcare and Medical Education here on Monday. Present in the meeting were Prof Dr Mehmud Shaukat, Special Secretary Silwat Saeed, Consultant Prof Asad Aslam Khan, CEO Punjab Healthcare Commission (PHC) Prof Saqib Aziz, Director L.....
more >>

CCPO visits City markets to review corona SOPs
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-05-04
LAHORE - Capital City Police Officer Lahore Ghulam Mahmood Dogar, during his surprise visits to markets to review implementation of anti-Corona SOPs and government guidelines, raided different shops, hotels and restaurants in the city. As many as eight FIRs have been registered in PS Ravi Road in this regard. The CCPO Lahore expressed his displeasure over the violations and said only take away an.....
more >>

30 shops sealed over SOPs breach
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-05-04
LAHORE - The city district administration sealed 30 shops, stores, restaurants and imposed fine over violation of coronavirus related Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) here on Monday. According to a spokesperson for the district administration, Assistant Commissioner (AC) Cantt Zeeshan Ranjha sealed five hotels, a restaurant and a shell petrol filling station in Cantonment area over the SOPs vi.....
more >>

Old Ravian donates for COVID-19 infected GCU employees
Source: Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-05-04
LAHORE - Eminent Old Ravian and businessman Nasir Ali on Monday announced an amount of rupees twenty-five thousand for each staff member of Government College University Lahore who is infected by COVID-19 and require extensive treatment. A few days earlier, the Board of Management of GCU Benevolent Fund Employees had also unanimously approved the amount of Rs 50,000 for each employee infected with.....
more >>

COVID-19 vaccination in full swing, 112,316 persons inoculated
Source: APP, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-05-04
RAWALPINDI - As many as 112,316 people have been inoculated against coronavirus (COVID-19) at 24 centres operating across the district since the vaccination drive was launched on March 10. District Health Officer (DHO) Dr Jawad Zahid told APP that 16,521 health workers while 95,795 people including senior citizens have been administered the vaccine so far. Sharing details, of the COVID-19 situatio.....
more >>

Another four lose battle to Covid in Rawalpindi
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-05-04
RAWALPINDI/ISLAMABAD: The number of active coronavirus cases has reduced in the twin cities as Rawalpindi reported 75 cases in a span of 24 hours while four patients died on Monday. According to details, one patient each died at Holy Family Hospital (HFF) and Rawalpindi Institute of Urology and Kidney Transplant (RIUKT) while two died at Benazir Bhutto Hospital (BBH). The number of patients und.....
more >>
Shehbaz slams govt policy on vaccination; Punjab reports 22 fatalities, 2,040 fresh corona cases
LAHORE: The impact of corona restrictions has started yielding results, as out of 16307 corona tests conducted during the last 24 hours, as many as 2040 fresh virus cases and 22 fatalities were reported across the province. Provincial tally of cases rose to 306,929 and death toll to 8572 with overall positivity rate of the virus in the province to 12.50%. Most of the fatalities were repo.....

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Corona restrictions start yielding positive results
LAHORE: The impact of corona restrictions has started yielding results, as out of 16307 corona tests conducted during the last 24 hours, as many as 2040 fresh virus cases and 22 fatalities were reported across the province taking the provincial tally of cases to 306,929 and death toll to 8572 with overall positivity rate of the virus in the province to 12.50%. Most of the fatalities were repo.....

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Citizens assault police over Covid-19 SOP adherence
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-05-05
LAHORE: A group of citizens in Lahore assaulted police personnel after the latter asked them to adhere to COVID-19 precautionary SOPs. Footage of the incident went viral on social media, with several people seen surrounding the personnel and beating them, according to Express News. According to the police, the officers were urging people to wear face masks when one of the youth engaged in a verbal a.....

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Over 5000 people fully vaccinated in Khanewal
Source: Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-05-05
KHANEWAL - Over 5000 citizens including 1762 frontline workers have received their second doze of vaccine against novel coronavirus as Khanewal administration finalized arrangements for a fifth vaccination center to speed up the process. The officials informed Deputy Commissioner Agha Zaheer Abbas Sherazi, during a visit to a vaccination center at tehsil council Khanewal that total 5029 persons in.....

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3,464 booked over violation of corona SOPs during one month
Source: Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-05-05
LAHORE - Lahore Police have registered 3,464 FIRs during one month over different corona SOPs violations including not wearing face masks. Police lodged 1,414 FIRs on violations of corona SOPs including maintenance of social distance and not following timings of commercial activities whereas 2,050 FIRs were registered against persons for not following the government directions to wear safety masks.....

more >>

‘2,470 patients recover from Covid-19’
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-05-05
LAHORE - As many as 2,470 coronavirus patients recovered on Tuesday in the last 24 hours, the Health Department said. According to the data shared by the health department, 248,518 coronavirus patients recovered so far in public sector hospitals being run under the control of Specialized and Primary & Secondary Healthcare departments across the province. The Specialized Healthcare and Medical.....

more >>
3 people die of coronavirus in Rawalpindi
Source: Israr Ahmad, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-05-05
Rawalpindi - As many as three people died due to coronavirus in Rawalpindi district on Tuesday, informed sources. Some 120 people tested positive of deadly virus while 92 patients discharged from the hospitals during last 24 hours, they said. According to sources, Muhammad Javed, 67, resident of Sanazar Colony, was brought to Benazir Bhutto Hospital on May 3 and he died on Tuesday. Similarly, Mu.......

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Three air passengers found infected by Covid-19
Source: Mohammad Asghar, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-05-06
RAWALPINDI: The Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (PCAA) and health authorities have found coronavirus in three passengers at new Islamabad International Airport on Wednesday. According to airport sources, the three positive cases of Covid-19 came to light when a foreign airline flight from Riyadh landed at Islamabad with 396 people, including 25 crew members on board at 2.35 am on Wednesday. Th.....

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Lockdown in Pindi during Eid days
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-05-06
RAWALPINDI: In view of the extraordinary increase in the number of patients infected with coronavirus, a complete lockdown will be imposed in the four districts of Rawalpindi during Eid holidays. All tourism sites will be closed and no one will be allowed to visit Murree in this period. Commissioner Syed Gulzar Hussain Shah said this during a meeting to review arrangements for Eid holidays in the .....

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Vaccination of police officials begins
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-05-06
RAWALPINDI: Covid-19 vaccination drive has commenced in the police force with a number of officials getting inoculated on Wednesday. About 100 police officers and officials were vaccinated on the first day. Four police officials had succumbed to coronavirus and many others were infected in Rawalpindi district. Vaccination of the police personnel was being carried out at DSP Mohammad Masood Shahe.....

more >>

Agri dept wants flow of inputs during lockdown
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-05-06
LAHORE: As the Punjab government decides to enforce a ‘complete’ lockdown for nine days starting Saturday, banning movement of men and material throughout the province, the agriculture department has sought exception for transportation of fertiliser, seed, pesticides and machines. In a letter to the Punjab government, the department has pleaded that interruption of supply chain of all.....

more >>

Complete lockdown from 8th to15th in Punjab
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-05-06
LAHORE: The Punjab government has decided to enforce a complete lockdown in the province from May 8 to 15 in line with the National Command and Operations Centre (NCOC) decision to restrict movement of people during the Eid holidays. The public transport and tourist destinations will remain close during the holidays and police, rangers, and army personnel will be deployed at the checkpoints to be.....

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<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asif Chaudhry, <em>Dawn, Islamabad</em>, 2021-05-06</td>
<td>Private lab claims two cases of South African variant found in Punjab</td>
<td>Lahore: A private pathology laboratory claims to have detected two cases of the South African variant of coronavirus in Punjab and also confirmed predominance of the UK variant here during the third wave of the pandemic. It stated that a research was carried out by the lab's departments of virology and molecular genetics for which 62 Covid-19 samples had been collected at random at the end.</td>
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<tr>
<td>news Desk, <em>Daily Times</em>, 2021-05-06</td>
<td>Complete lockdown in Punjab from May 8</td>
<td>Punjab government on Wednesday decided to impose a complete lockdown from May 8 to restrict public movement due to the consistent rise in novel coronavirus cases. Provincial government took the decision during a session under the chair of Punjab Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid to mull over steps for curbing the coronavirus. It has been decided to restrict the public movement by imposing a ban on......</td>
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<td>news Desk, <em>Daily Times</em>, 2021-05-01</td>
<td>Vaccination to be done in double shift working</td>
<td>Sialkot Deputy Commissioner Tahir Farooq has ordered the early start of a second shift at an anti-corona vaccination centre established by the district administration at Sport Complex Sialkot. Mr Farooq visited this center on Friday and ordered enhancing the capacity of at least 6,000 people daily to be given an anti-coronavirus vaccine there. He said the second shift should immediately by start.....</td>
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<td>Our Staff Reporter, <em>The Nation, Islamabad</em>, 2021-05-06</td>
<td>Strict compliance of corona SOPs be ensured: Punjab CM</td>
<td>Lahore: Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar has directed Commissioner Lahore Capt (retired), Muhammad Usman Yunis to ensure strict compliance of anti-corona SOPs and no permission be granted to violate government instructions. According to an official handout, the CM directed to constitute monitoring teams for Eid holidays while taking every step to overcome the corona pandemic. He also di......</td>
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<td>Our Staff Reporter, <em>The Nation, Islamabad</em>, 2021-05-06</td>
<td>Baghbanpura Bazaar sealed over violations of coronavirus SOPs</td>
<td>Lahore: The police along with district administration on Wednesday sealed the entire Baghbanpura Bazaar and many other businesses after observing massive violations of coronavirus SOPs in the market. The police put barricades and placed barbed wires and sealed the market till further orders as buyers in the market did not adhere to the guidelines issued by the government. The blatant violation w.....</td>
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<td>Our Staff Reporter, <em>The Nation, Islamabad</em>, 2021-05-06</td>
<td>Smart lockdown imposed in 19 areas</td>
<td>Faisalabad: The district government has imposed smart lockdown in 19 areas of the district due to surge in corona cases. A spokesman for local administration said on Wednesday that smart lockdown was imposed in Muslim Town No.1, Muslim Town No.2, Muslim Town No.3, Jinnah Colony, Khayaban Colony No.1, Khayaban Colony No.2, Eden Valley, Eden Garden, Eden Executive, Saeed Colony No.1, Saeed Colony.....</td>
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<td>Four more vaccination centers established in Attock</td>
<td>Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-05-06</td>
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<tr>
<td>100 policemen administered COVID-19 vaccine</td>
<td>Israr Ahmad, The Nation, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-05-06</td>
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<td>District government announces complete lockdown from May 8 to 16</td>
<td>Israr Ahmad, The Nation, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-05-06</td>
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<td>Punjab reports 1,906 fresh corona cases, 68 deaths</td>
<td>Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-05-07</td>
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<td>Tourist spots to remain closed from 8th to 16th to protect citizens’ lives</td>
<td>Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-05-07</td>
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<tr>
<td>Next 20 days critical for virus control: Health Minister</td>
<td>Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-05-07</td>
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<td>PM, Governor discuss politics, Covid-19</td>
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<td>Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-05-07</td>
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<td>LAHORE - A meeting was held between Prime Minister, Imran Khan and Governor Punjab Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar at Governor House on Thursday. Political, administrative and other issues were discussed during the meeting. Governor Punjab briefed Prime Minister Imran Khan on different matters including Punjab Aaab-e-Pak Authority project, educational reforms in universities and others. As per details, .....</td>
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<tr>
<th>Actress Sumbal Shahid dies of COVID-19</th>
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<td>Source: Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-05-07</td>
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<td>LAHORE - Actress Sumbal Shahid, sister of veteran actress Bushra Ansari, died of COVID-19 at a local hospital, here on Thursday. Bushra Ansari said Sumbal had tested positive one month ago and she was undergoing treatment at a Lahore hospital. She was placed on a ventilator after her condition deteriorated some days ago, added Bushra. Sumbal Shahid was known for her roles in many dramas like Malik.....</td>
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<th>20 ventilators delivered to HFH in fight against COVID-19: Sheikh Rasheed</th>
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<td>Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-05-07</td>
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<td>RAWALPINDI - Federal Minister for Interior Sheikh Rasheed Ahmed has said that 20 state-of-the-art ventilators have been provided to the Holy Family Hospital (HFH) to deal with the rising number of corona patients. During a visit to HFH here Thursday to inspect the facilities being provided to the COVID patients, the Minister said that it is the utmost effort of the g.....</td>
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<th>District government bans tourists’ entry in Murree during lockdown</th>
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<td>Source: Israr Ahmad, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-05-07</td>
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<td>Rawalpindi - The district government has imposed a complete ban on tourism in Murree from May 8 to 16, as the third wave of the coronavirus intensifies across the country. This decision has been taken in the light of meeting of the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) where important decisions were taken by the body. Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rawalpindi Capt (R) Anwaar Ul Haq Mughal and SS.....</td>
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<th>RCCI asks govt to revisit lockdown policy</th>
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<td>Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-05-07</td>
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<td>RAWALPINDI: Representatives of the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) have demanded to revisit the lockdown policy and said that it should be formulated in collaboration with stakeholders. &quot;The proposed lockdown from May 8 to May 16 is not feasible. The business community has been the hardest hit by coronavirus. We have to make a policy based on the ground realities. The wor.....</td>
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<th>14 Covid vaccine centres operative in Bahawalpur</th>
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<td>Source: The Newspaper's correspondent, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-05-07</td>
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<td>BAHAWALPUR: As many as 14 Covid vaccination centres have been made functional for the people in the district. This was stated by Deputy Commissioner Irfan Ali Kathia while opening a centre at government girls higher secondary school, Satellite Town, here on Thursday. The centre has also been provided with a field hospital to tackle any emergency case of Covid-19. The other centres are: special .....</td>
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Eid shoppers throw caution to the wind in Lahore
Source: Imran Gabol, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-05-07
LAHORE: The city markets were flooded with Eid shoppers On Thursday, ahead of a week-long complete lockdown announced by the Punjab government, under instructions of National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), from Saturday (tomorrow), amid large-scale violations of Covid-19 standard operation procedures, especially social distancing. The rush in the markets was expected since the total lockdown.....
more >>

New Covid variants detected in Sindh, warns health minister
Source: Faiza Ilyas, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-05-01
KARACHI: The presence of new Covid-19 variants in the local population was officially confirmed on Friday with a warning that vaccination might not work against them. “A genomic study carried out by Aga Khan University has shown presence of the UK-variant in 10 samples while the South Africa and Brazil variants (of Covid-19) were detected in two samples. Now, you can understand the kind of ..... more >>

Industrialists assured of economy’s uplift, told to cooperate with govt on anti-virus steps
Source: PPI, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-05-01
KARACHI: Sindh Governor Imran Ismail has said that the nation will soon overcome grave challenges of rising unemployment, poverty and weakening economy caused by over a year-long Covid-19 pandemic with joint efforts of industrialists, federal and provincial governments. He said at a meeting of the Sindh Industrial Liaison Committee at Governor House on Friday that industrial sector’s develo..... more >>

50 people held, 30 vehicles impounded over violation of SOPs
Source: Dawn Report, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-05-01
LARKANA: Larkana police on Friday rounded up 50 people in action against violators of the standard operating procedures (SOPs) prescribed by the Sindh government to control spread of coronavirus in the province. Police teams headed by SSP Imran Qureshi enforced ‘smart lockdown’ in various localities and patrolled streets of Larkana to prevent people from violating the SOPs. Shopkeeper..... more >>

Sindh’s Covid tally surpasses 1,000 for fourth consecutive day
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-05-01
KARACHI: Sindhrefor 1,115 fresh coronavirus cases on Friday, with the virus claiming 12 more lives in the province, according to a statement issued by Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah on the day. This was the highest single-day tally reported in the province since January 29, 2021 and marked the fourth straight day that the province saw over 1,000 new Covid-19 cases. A sudden surge had bee..... more >>

Sindh Assembly; Opposition asks govt to step up efforts against Covid-19
KARACHI: Opposition in the Sindh Assembly on Friday asked the PPP government to step up efforts to stem growing Covid-19 threats, saying that “only talks will not work”. PTI’s Hindu minority lawmaker, Dewan Sachal said that the Sindh government should step up efforts instead, as verbal remedy to Covid-19 will not help. The provincial legislature continued its pre-budget..... more >>
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<tr>
<td>Manufacturing of vaccine; Govt urged to involve private sector</td>
<td>Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-05-01</td>
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<td>Sindh govt reopens Field Isolation Centre at Expo Centre</td>
<td>Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-05-01</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 more COVID patients lose lives in Sindh</td>
<td>Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-05-01</td>
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<td>Trade, industry decry long Eid holidays</td>
<td>Aamir Shafaat Khan</td>
<td>Khalid Hasnain, Dawn, Islamabad</td>
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<td>Worsening Covid situation drags PSX down 326 points in April</td>
<td>Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-05-02</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sindh continues to see over 1,000 Covid cases per day</td>
<td>Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-05-02</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
## 58 buses seized for flouting Covid SOPs
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-05-02

KARACHI: As many as 58 buses have been seized since the imposition of a ban on intercity transport in Sindh on April 30, said Sindh Transport Minister Awais Qadir Shah in a statement issued on Saturday. He said the vehicles were seized during a crackdown on transporters and bus drivers flouting Covid-19-related standard operating procedures (SOPs). According to Shah, three passenger buses were se.....

### Sindh seeks lists of healthcare workers died of COVID
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-05-02

KARACHI - Sindh Health Department has sought lists of healthcare professionals who passed away due to coronavirus in Sindh to pay compensation and directed heads of hospitals send lists in a week. Director General (DG) Health Services Sindh in a letter, stated that provincial cabinet, government of Sindh in its meeting held on 27 April is pleased to allow compensation of Rs1,000,000 to the famil.....

### Karachi’s Saddar mobile market sealed over SOPs violation
Source: Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-05-02

KARACHI - Local administration on Saturday sealed Karachi’s Saddar Mobile Market over violation of the standard operating procedures (SOPs) put in place to stem the third wave of COVID-19. The entry and exit points of the market have been closed with the road leading to it blocked. The market administration said the move to seal the entire market is beyond comprehension. There are more than .....

### Hyderabad’s largest mall sealed for violation of SOPs
Source: Staff Correspondent, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-05-03

HYDERABAD: Latifabad civil administration sealed the city’s largest shopping mall on Autobahn Road and imposed on it Rs600,000 fine for keeping the store open beyond scheduled hours in violation of SOPs for Covid-19 on Saturday. Latifabad assistant commissioner Fatima Saima Ahmed along with ASP Cantonment Dr Ayaz paid a surprise visit to the mall on Saturday and ordered its sealing on findi.....

### Nine Covid-19 patients die in city overnight
Source: From the Newspaper, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-05-03

KARACHI: Nine patients of coronavirus died overnight lifting the death toll to 4,667 and 888 new cases emerged when 16,469 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued here on Sunday. The fresh deaths lifted the overall death toll to 4,667, he said. Mr Shah said that 16,469 samples were tested which detected 888 cases. So far 3,667,984 .....

### ‘No cash for Covid vaccine but Sindh govt buying more vehicles’
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-05-03

HYDERABAD: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Leader of Opposition in the Sindh Assembly Haleem Adil Sheikh has said the Sindh government lacked funds to import Covid-19 vaccines but it is planning to invest millions of rupees to procure vehicles to catch stray dogs. “Punjab government is procuring the vaccine from its own funds but Sindh government is still dependent on the Centre,” She.....
CM visits city to review uplift works, Covid-19 SOPs
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-05-03
KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Sunday visited various city areas to inspect on-going development works, reviewed cleanliness of nullas and implementation of Covid Standard Operating Procedures (SOPS). He was accompanied by his Advisor Murtaza Wahab, Chairman P&D M. Waseem, Secretary Finance Hassan Naqvi and PD Karachi Package Khalid Masroor. The Chief Minister o.....
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CM visits city to review ongoing uplift works, Covid-19 SOPs
Source: App, Daily Times, 2021-05-03
Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Sunday visited various parts of the city and inspected on-going development works, cleanliness of nullas and implementation of Covid-19 Standard Operating Procedures. He was accompanied by his Advisor Murtaza Wahab, Chairman P&D M. Waseem, Secretary Finance Hassan Naqvi and PD Karachi Package Khalid Masroor. The Chief Minister on his visit to Keama.....
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CM Murad inspects drains-roads work, COVID SOPs implementation
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-05-03
KARACHI - Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah on Sunday visited the city areas and inspected ongoing development works, reviewed cleanliness of drains and implementation of COVID SOPs. He was accompanied by his Advisor Murtaza Wahab, Chairman P&D M Waseem, Secretary Finance Hassan Naqvi and PD Karachi Package Khalid Masroor. The chief minister on his visit to Keamari checked the roa.....
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COVID perishes nine more in Sindh
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-05-03
KARACHI - As many as nine more patients of coronavirus died overnight in Sindh, lifting the death toll to 4,667 and 888 new cases emerged when 16,469 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued on Sunday. He added that nine more patients of COVID-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 4,667 that constituted 1.7 percent death .....
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Several shops, hotels sealed for violation of SOPs
Source: Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-05-03
HYDERABAD - The district administration continued actions against Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and Ehtram Ramazan violations in different areas of Hyderabad on Sunday. Assistant Commissioner (AC) Latifabad Fatima Saima Ahmed visited Jama Cloth Market and sealed 3 shops for SOPs violation and three mini hotels were also sealed under Ehtram-e-Ramazan Ordinance. On the occasion, the AC also d.....
more >>

Coordination meeting held to review prevailing situation of coronavirus
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-05-03
MITHI - A coordination meeting held here on Sunday to review the prevailing situation of coronavirus and steps taken for prevention of the virus. Pak Army Brigadier Salman Nazar, Lt Colonel Abdul Khalilq, Captain Jawad, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Tharparkar Muhammad Nawaz Soho, SSP Hassan Sardar Niazai, Additional DC (2) Rajesh Kumar and DHO Dr Gordhan Daas attended the meeting. Speaking on the occas.....
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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SSU Headquarters declared as vaccination centers for police personnel</td>
<td>Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-05-04</td>
<td>2021-05-04</td>
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<tr>
<td>Smart lockdown in 19 localities of Hyderabad extended till 12th</td>
<td>Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-05-04</td>
<td>2021-05-04</td>
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<tr>
<td>COVID-19 claims 11 more patients, infects 895 others</td>
<td>Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-05-04</td>
<td>2021-05-04</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commissioner asks setting up COVID Wards in public, private hospitals</td>
<td>Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-05-04</td>
<td>2021-05-04</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sindh ready to invest Rs1b to revive Steel Mills oxygen plant</td>
<td>M. Waqar Bhatti, The News, Islamabad, 2021-05-05</td>
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<td>Sindh ready to invest Rs1b to revive Steel Mills oxygen plant</td>
<td>M. Waqar Bhatti, The News, Islamabad, 2021-05-05</td>
<td>2021-05-05</td>
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KARACHI - The SSU Headquarters has been declared amongst the COVID-19 vaccination centers for police personnel on the directives of Additional IGP Karachi Ghulam Nabi Memon. Three other locations, DIGP East Office, DIGP West Office and Police Hospital Garden have also been dedicated as vaccination centres for police personnel. The vaccination of police personnel at the center has been initiated......

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HYDERABAD - The district administration on Monday announced to extend smart lockdown for 9 more days in 19 localities of Hyderabad in view of rising number of COVID19 cases in those areas. According to a notification issued by Deputy Commissioner Fuad Ghaffar Soomro here Monday, the lockdown would start from May 04. The areas include GOR colony, Unit 10 block C&D, Rabiul Awal main Chowk comme.....

more >>

KARACHI - Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said that 11 more patients died overnight lifting the death toll to 4,678 and 895 new cases emerged lifting the tally to 286,520. He said this in the statement issued here on Monday. Shah said that 11 more patients died overnight lifting the death toll to 4,678 that constituted 1.6 percent death rate. The CM added that 12696 tests were conducte.....

more >>

HYDERABAD - The Commissioner Hyderabad Muhammad Abbas Baloch has asked officers of the concerned departments to set up COVID-19 Wards in public and private hospitals with round the clock availability of doctors, paramedics, ventilators and oxygen stock. He expressed fears over increasing the numbers of COVID-19 patients in Hyderabad due to different programmes of religious gatherings on Youm-e-Al.....

more >>

KARACHI: The Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah, has said that keeping in view the Covid-19 situation in the country, especially in Sindh, his government would intervene to make both the units of oxygen at Pakistan Steel Mills operational at the cost of Rs 1 billion. “We are passing through a very serious situation; therefore, we have to be prepared to face any emergency,” Mura.....

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IGP distributes cheques among martyred cops’ families due to COVID-19
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-05-05
KARACHI - Inspector General of Police (IGP) Sindh Mushtaq Ahmed Mahar on Tuesday distributed cheques amounting to Rs100,000/- each among the heirs of police officers and personnel martyred by COVID-19 pandemic during their duties. The cheques, donated by a private organisation, to the heirs of 24 martyrs of Sindh police were distributed in a simple but dignified ceremony held at Central Police Of.....

Nine more patients die of coronavirus
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-05-05
KARACHI - Sharing the current COVID situation, Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah said that nine more patients died overnight lifting the death toll to 4,687 and 1,122 new cases emerged lifting the tally to 287,642. It was revealed in the statement issued on Tuesday. Shah said that nine more patients died overnight lifting the death toll to 4,687 that constituted 1.6 percent death rate.....

Complete lockdown in Hyderabad on Eid days on the anvil
Source: Mohammad Hussain Khan, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-05-06
HYDERABAD: The civil administration is considering requesting provincial government to impose complete three-day lockdown in Hyderabad during Eid holidays in view of surge in coronavirus cases and reports of rise in UK variant’s infection among patients as seven more died in Liaquat University Hospital (LUH) during last 24 hours. The proposal was discussed at a meeting here on Wednesday whi.....

Vaccination for housebound people
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-05-06
KARACHI: The Sindh health department announced on Wednesday the launch of free Covid-19 vaccination for people who are housebound. The services will initially be available in Karachi and Hyderabad through their district health officers. “The Sindh health department has initiated a free home vaccination facility for Covid-19. Please register yourself and get the jab,” Sindh parliament.....

Mass vaccination drive urged to control measles in Larkana
Source: M.B. Kalhoro, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-05-06
LARKANA: Measles cases continued to pour in at the children hospital attached with Chandka Medical College Hospital (CMCH), said paediatrics department chairman Prof Dr Arbab Ali Junejo on Wednesday. The disease had attained the level of epidemic, he said while talking to Dawn and suggested to launching a mass vaccination drive in the province to protect children. He said that last Friday, the h.....

‘Traders affected by Covid-19 will be provided loans’
Source: news Desk, Daily Times, 2021-05-01
Provincial Minister for Industries & Commerce and Anti-Corruption & Cooperative Department Jam Ikramullah Dharejo has said that the whole world is in crisis due to the third wave of Corona virus and we have to take effective measures to deal with this situation. Sindh government is aware of the problems of the business community but human lives come first. He said this while addressing a m.....
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<tr>
<td>Two banks, school sealed in Karachi over Covid SOPs violation</td>
<td>App, Daily Times, 2021-05-01</td>
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<td>Over 1,000 Covid cases detected: CM Murad</td>
<td>Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-05-06</td>
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<tr>
<td>Limited centres hamper Sindh's inoculation pace</td>
<td>Tufail Ahmed, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-05-06</td>
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<td>Sharjeel chairs meeting to review Covid-19 situation</td>
<td>Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-05-06</td>
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<td>Hectic efforts afoot to tackle coronavirus: Wahab</td>
<td>Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-05-06</td>
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Sindh allows businesses to operate on Friday, Saturday
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-05-07
KARACHI: The Sindh government has announced that all commercial activities across the provinces will be allowed to operate on Friday and Sunday from 6am till 6pm. In a statement, provincial Information Minister Nasir Shah said that businesses are allowed to operate on May 7 and 8 while ensuring standard operating procedures (SOPs) issued to contain the spread of coronavirus. However, the minister.....
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Eidul Fitr: Parks, zoo, recreational facilities managed by KMC to remain closed
KARACHI: All parks, zoo, safari park, sports complexes and other recreational facilities managed by KMC will remain closed during Eidul Fitr and entry of citizens will be prohibited as per government directives. The decision was taken at a meeting chaired by Administrator Karachi Laiq Ahmed on Thursday. The Administrator Karachi said that these orders have been issued in accordance with.....
more >>

Business centres to remain open today; Sindh govt orders closure of shops including grocery stores at 6pm
KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Thursday decided to close all the shops, including groceries after 6pm, and said that the restaurants would not be allowed to offer takeaway facility after Iftar, however, they would be allowed to offer home delivery service. “We would further tighten enforcement of SOPs after Sunday and close Hawksbay, Sea View and such other recreat.....
more >>

Call to implement SOPs in Hyderabad
HYDERABAD: Divisional Commissioner Hyderabad Muhammad Abbas Baloch has directed all concerned officers to ensure implementation of Covid-19 SOPs during Jumatul wida, 27th Ramazan (Shab-e-Qadr) and Eidul Fitr prayers, and motivate people to wear masks, keep social distance and use sanitizers. He was presiding over a meeting regarding implementation of Covid-19 SOPs in Hyderabad held at his office,.....
more >>

CM orders closure of shops, groceries after 6pm
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-05-07
KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Thursday decided to close all the shops including groceries after 6pm. The restaurants will not be allowed to offer takeaway facility after Iftar; however, they will be allowed to offer home delivery service. The CM said: “We will further tighten the enforcement of SOPs after Sunday and close Hawksbay, Sea View and other such recreational.....
more >>

Seven more succumb to Covid-19
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-05-07
KARACHI: As many as seven more patients of coronavirus died overnight lifting the death toll to 4,698 and 966 new cases emerged when 13,821 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued here on Thursday. He added that seven more patients of Covid-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 4,698 that constituted 1.6 percent death rate. S.....
more >>
Covid testing camp to be functional tomorrow in Benazirabad
Source: Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-05-07
HYDERABAD - District Health Officer Dr Daulat Ali Jamali has announced that corona Sampling Camp will be functional at Rural Health Center Bandhi District Shaheed Benazirabad on May 8 (tomorrow). He said that the sampling work would start at 10am, adding that it would continue till 2pm. The district health officer appealed to the general public to visit coronavirus sampling camp in large numbers......
more >>

Admin for Covid SOPs implementation in letter and spirit at religious gatherings
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-05-07
HYDERABAD - Hyderabad Commissioner Abbas Baloch has asked the deputy commissioners of all districts of the division and other officers concerned to ensure the implementation of Covid-19 SOPs in letter and spirit at religious gatherings during the last 10 days of Ramazan. "The people should be motivated to wear face masks, use sanitizer and maintain social distancing," he said and emph.....
more >>

No 'visibility' of vaccine doses from Germany: Dr Faisal
Source: Anadolu Agency, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-05-04
KARACHI: Pakistan does not have “any visibility” of 15 million coronavirus vaccine doses that Germany promised to provide by May, Dr Faisal Sultan, adviser to the prime minister on health affairs said on Tuesday. “We don’t have any visibility of this delivery at this point,” Dr Faisal told Anadolu Agency in a brief message. Germany agreed to provide the jabs to Islama.....
more >>
## Countries News

### Singapore imposes ban on Pakistani travellers
Source: News Desk, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-05-01
Considering the increase in Covid positive cases, Singapore on Friday announced that travellers from Pakistan would not be allowed entry into the country or transit through the country from Saturday (today), according to a statement issued by the country's ministry. The statement read: "We will further tighten our border measures given the sustained increase in cases reported in the reg....

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### Ex-press attache at Pak Embassy in Washington dies of Covid-19
Source: NNI, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-05-02
WASHINGTON: Nadeem Hotiana, a former press attache at the Pakistan Embassy here, has died of complications from coronavirus. Hotiana, 50, was reported to be covering from the virus but his condition deteriorated over the past couple of days and he breathed his last. He leaves his wife, two sons and a daughter as well as many friends and admirers to mourn his loss. After completion of his.....

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### India’s Covid-19 tally nears 20 million as cases continue to surge
Source: Reuters, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-05-03
India on Monday reported more than 300,000 new coronavirus cases for a 12th straight day, taking its overall caseload to just shy of 20 million, while deaths from Covid-19 rose by 3,417. With 368,147 new cases over the past 24 hours, India's total infections stand at 19.93 million, while total fatalities are 218,959, according to health ministry data. Medical experts say real numbers across .....

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### French police break up mass parties defying Covid curfew
Source: AFP, The News, Islamabad, 2021-05-03
PARIS: Hundreds of people flouted France’s coronavirus curfew over the weekend with underground parties in at least two cities, while police managed to prevent organisers from staging a mass rave in Paris, officials said on Sunday. On Saturday near the eastern city of Dijon, nearly 400 people gathered at an abandoned hangar before police managed to cut power to the sound system at around 2:.....

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### India reports 3,422 deaths, 370,059 infections
Source: news Desk, The News, Islamabad, 2021-05-03
ISLAMABAD: A forum of scientific advisers set up by the government warned Indian officials in early March of a new and more contagious variant of the coronavirus taking hold in the country, five scientists who are part of the forum have reportedly said. Despite the warning, four of the scientists said the government did not seek to impose major restrictions to stop the spread of the virus. Millio.....more >>

### As US vaccine demand falls, states look to new solutions
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2021-05-03
It’s official: America’s Covid-19 immunization campaign is stalling. While vaccination programs are lagging badly in many countries — if they’ve begun at all — mass vaccine sites across the US are closing due to dwindling demand, leaving the authorities exploring new ways to reach people who haven’t yet gotten a shot. The national vaccination rate peaked around.....more >>
IIoJK runs out of Covid vaccine as India ‘diverts’ fresh supplies
Source: news Desk, Daily Times , 2021-05-04
In another act of repression against the Kashmiri people, India has not only stopped supply of Covid-19 vaccine to the occupied valley but is also diverting the allocated stocks to other Indian cities. According to a top health official of IIoJK’s anti-coronavirus operations, vaccine supplies from outside of Kashmir have been stopped since last Thursday, resulting into halt of vaccination i.....
more >>

India crosses 20m corona cases
NEW DELHI: India’s total COVID-19 caseload crossed 20 million and oxygen shortages exacerbated a devastating second wave on Monday, as the EU proposed new rules that could allow travellers who are fully vaccinated to enter the bloc. Cases have soared by around eight million since the end of March, with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi under growing pressure to take decisive action to rev.....
more >>

Eight world rights organisations say…: European leaders must take up HR violations with India
BRUSSELS: European leaders at the May 8, 2021 summit with their Indian counterparts should prioritise the deteriorating human rights situation in India, including the right to health, eight organisations said on Tuesday. A news release issued by the Human Rights Watch said European leaders should press the Indian government to reverse its abusive and discriminatory policies and immediately releas.....
more >>

India reports 3,448 more corona deaths
ISLAMABAD: India halted its hugely popular cricket league on Tuesday as COVID-19 infections surged past 20 million in the world’s second-most populous country and the opposition leader said a nationwide lockdown was now the only way out. Cricket officials suspended the money-spinning Indian Premier League (IPL) as the pandemic spirals out of control, with the country adding 10 million cases.....
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Germany to ease virus curbs for vaccinated people
Source: AFP, The News, Islamabad , 2021-05-05
BERLIN: People who have been fully vaccinated against Covid-19 will no longer have to abide by curfews and contact restrictions in Germany under a draft law agreed by the cabinet on Tuesday. The law, which would also apply to people who have recovered from Covid-19, must still be signed off by parliament but could come into force as early as this week, Justice Minister Christine Lambrecht said. .....
more >>

Rickshaw ‘ambulance’ offers free oxygen for virus patients
Source: AFP, The News, Islamabad , 2021-05-05
BHOPAL, India: When Indian auto-rickshaw driver Mohammad Javed Khan saw people carrying their coronavirus-stricken parents to hospitals on their backs as they were too poor to afford an ambulance, he knew he had to help. Khan, a 34-year-old driver in the central Indian city of Bhopal, sold his wife’s jewellery and converted his three-wheeled vehicle into a small ambulance, fitting it out wi.....more >>
India reports 3,448 more corona deaths
SLAMABAD: India halted its hugely popular cricket league on Tuesday as COVID-19 infections surged past 20 million in the world’s second-most populous country and the opposition leader said a nationwide lockdown was now the only way out. Cricket officials suspended the money-spinning Indian Premier League (IPL) as the pandemic spirals out of control, with the country adding 10 million cases ..... more >>

US backs giving poorer countries access to Covid-19 vaccine patents, reversing stance
Source: Reuters, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-05-06
US President Joe Biden on Wednesday threw his support behind waiving intellectual property rights for Covid-19 vaccines, bowing to mounting pressure from Democratic lawmakers and more than 100 other countries, but angering pharmaceutical companies. Biden voiced his support for a waiver — a sharp reversal of the previous US position — in remarks to reporters, followed swiftly by a stat..... more >>

Vaccine hesitancy slows Africa’s COVID-19 inoculation drive
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2021-05-05
When Edith Serem received her COVID-19 vaccination last month at a hospital in Nairobi where she works as a doctor, nurses jokingly warned she might start speaking in a foreign language. Serem said some colleagues got the AstraZeneca shot after watching her closely for several days to see if she was okay, but others refused, still wary of possible side effects. Health experts worry that public s..... more >>

As Covid-19 rages in India, scientist warns further waves ‘inevitable’
Source: Reuters, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-05-06
NEW DELHI: A top scientific adviser to the Indian government warned on Wednesday the country would inevitably face further waves of the coronavirus pandemic, as almost 4,000 people died in the space of a day. With hospitals scrabbling for beds and oxygen in response to a deadly second surge in infections, the World Health Organization said in a weekly report that India accounted for nearlyhalf t..... more >>

Singapore bans Pakistani travellers amid pandemic
Source: news Desk, Daily Times, 2021-05-01
Considering the growing number of coronavirus cases, Singapore on Friday announced that travellers coming from Pakistan will not be allowed to enter the country, neither will they be allowed to transit via the city-state from May 1 onwards, said a statement issued by the country’s Health Ministry. "We will further tighten our border measures given the sustained increase in cases repor..... more >>

Brazil backs away from the virus brink as deaths top 400,000
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2021-05-01
For most of this month, intensive care units across Brazil were at or near capacity amid a crush of COVID-19 patients, and sedatives needed to intubate patients dwindled. The nation’s biggest cemetery had so many corpses to bury that gravediggers worked hours past sundown. But Brazil has stepped back from the edge – at least for now – as burial and hospital services no longer fac..... more >>
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<tr>
<td>Riyadh to bar overseas Haj pilgrims for second year</td>
<td>News Report, The News, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-05-06</td>
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<tr>
<td>RYADH: Saudi Arabia is considering barring overseas pilgrims from the annual Haj for the second year running as COVID-19 cases rise globally and worries grow about the emergence of new variants, two sources familiar with the matter told UK based wire service on Wednesday. Such a move would restrict the pilgrimage to Makkah once in a lifetime duty for every able-bodied Muslim who can afford it, t.....</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canada authorises Pfizer Covid vaccine for kids age 12 and up</td>
<td>AFP, The News, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-05-06</td>
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<tr>
<td>OTTAWA: Canada on Wednesday approved the use of the Pfizer-BioNTech Covid-19 vaccine in children aged 12 years and up, becoming the first nation to do so. “This is the first vaccine authorised in Canada for the prevention of Covid-19 in children and marks a significant milestone in Canada’s fight against the pandemic,” Health Canada chief medical advisor Supriya Sharma told a ne.....</td>
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<td>Indian virus surge raises questions about Modi’s competence</td>
<td>news Desk, The News, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-05-06</td>
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<tr>
<td>ISLAMABAD: India’s hospitals were packed with coronavirus patients, relatives of the sick scrambled to find supplies of oxygen, and crematoriums were running near full capacity to handle the dead. On Wednesday, India reported as many as 3,841 deaths and 406,628 infections with death toll crossing 230,000, international media reported. Yet despite those clear signs of an overwhelming health.....</td>
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<td>India G7 team in COVID scare as crisis deepens back home</td>
<td>AFP, The News, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-05-06</td>
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<tr>
<td>NEW DELHI: India’s foreign minister was forced to abandon face-to-face G7 meetings on the pandemic in London on Wednesday because he may have been exposed to COVID-19, as the crisis deepened back home with his nation’s daily death toll hitting a record at almost 3,800.The coronavirus continues to ravage India but in Europe and the United States, mass vaccination programmes have allowed.....</td>
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<td>Global Covid-19 death toll more than double official estimates</td>
<td>Reuters, The Express Tribune, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-05-07</td>
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<td>The Covid-19 pandemic has caused nearly 6.9 million deaths across the world, more than double the number officially recorded, a new analysis from the University of Washington's Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) estimated. Deaths go unreported as most countries only record those that occur in hospitals or of patients with confirmed infection, the report showed. The IHME is an.....</td>
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<td>Pandemic drove 230m Indians into poverty: study</td>
<td>AFP, Business Recorder, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-05-07</td>
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<td>MUMBAI: Around 230 million Indians fell into poverty due to the pandemic last year with young people and women the hardest hit, and the current second wave threatens to make matters even worse, a new study has said. India’s stringent months-long lockdown from last March put around 100 million people out of work, the report by the Bangalore-based Azim Premji University said, with around 15 perc.....</td>
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India's virus surge pressures Modi to impose strict lockdown
Source: AP, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-05-07
With coronavirus cases still surging to record levels, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is facing growing pressure to impose a harsh nationwide lockdown amid a debate whether restrictions imposed by individual states are enough. Many medical experts, opposition leaders and some of the Supreme Court judges have suggested the lockdown seems to be the only option with the virus raging in cities and t.....
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Donors News

WHO confident about Sinopharm vaccine efficacy, not happy with data
Source: Agencies, The News, Islamabad, 2021-05-06
GENEVA: WHO experts have voiced “very low confidence” in data provided by Chinese state-owned drugmaker Sinopharm on its COVID-19 vaccine regarding the risk of serious side-effects in some patients, but overall confidence in its ability to prevent the disease, a document seen by a British news agency shows. A World Health Organization spokesman said that the document on Sinopharm vacc.....
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### SDPI Engagements

**Webinars News**

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<td>Rasheed Khalid, The News, International</td>
<td>‘$120m from WB being utilised for eco-system restoration’</td>
<td>2021-05-05</td>
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<td>APP, APP</td>
<td>COVID-19 signifies importance of dealing with threats posed by Climate Change: Amin</td>
<td>2021-05-04</td>
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<td>Sabahat Hussain, NEWSMAN</td>
<td>COVID-19 Stimulates Pakistan To Face Threats Upright; Malik Amin Aslam</td>
<td>2021-05-04</td>
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<td>Zubair Qureshi, Pakistan Observer</td>
<td>Covid-19 signifies threats posed by Climate Change: Amin Aslam</td>
<td>2021-05-05</td>
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<tr>
<td>APP, PK News</td>
<td>COVID-19 Indicates Importance of Addressing Climate Change Threats: Amin</td>
<td>2021-05-04</td>
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Islamabad: Despite Covid-19 posing numerous challenges, it has created an opportunity for Pakistan to respond to threats emanating from climate change, said Special Advisor to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Malik Amin Aslam. Mr Amin was delivering his keynote address at the roundtable webinar on ‘Debt swaps for green recovery: opportunities, challenges and way forward for Pakistan.....

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### Other SDPI Engagements

**Other Webinar**

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<td>‘Salary, pension bills to exceed total revenue within 7 years’</td>
<td>Mehtab Haider, <a href="https://www.dawn.com">Dawn, Islamabad</a>, 2021-05-03</td>
<td>2021-05-03</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ISLAMABAD</strong>: Pakistan’s total salary and pension bills will exceed its total general revenue on annual basis over five to seven years as Islamabad will have to obtain the next IMF loan with major condition to tackle this arising monster. The alarm bells must have rung among the dwellers of Q Block (Ministry of Finance) at the Pakistan Secretariat just ahead of the upcoming budget-making exerc..more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Experts suggest urgent reforms in current pension system of the country</td>
<td>DNA News, <a href="https://www.dna.com.pk">DNA News</a>, 2021-05-02</td>
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<td><strong>ISLAMABAD</strong>, MAY 2 (DNA) – Bringing reforms about pensions is an urgent need to ensure sustainable fiscal at federal as well as at provincial levels. Speakers said this while sharing their views with the participants during the online dialogue ‘Reform of Pensions: Lessons from Successful Examples in Pakistan’ organized by Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), in collabor..more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<td>Islamabad: Brining reforms about pensions is an urgent need to ensure sustainable fiscal growth at the federal as well as at provincial levels. Speakers said this while sharing their views with the participants during an online dialogue on “Reform of pensions: lessons from successful examples in Pakistan” organised by Sustainable Development Policy Institute in collaboration wit..more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<td>Speakers call for reforms in current pension system of the country</td>
<td>Zubair Qureshi, <a href="https://www.pakistanobserver.com">Pakistan Observer</a>, 2021-05-03</td>
<td>2021-05-03</td>
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<td>Bringing reforms about pensions is an urgent need to ensure a sustainable fiscal at federal as well as at provincial levels. Speakers said this while sharing their views with the participants during the online dialogue ‘Reform of Pensions: Lessons from Successful Examples in Pakistan’ organized by Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), in collaboration with Sustainable Energ..more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<td>Islamabad: Despite Covid-19 posing numerous challenges, it has created an opportunity for Pakistan to respond to threats emanating from climate change, said Special Advisor to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Malik Amin Aslam. Mr Amin was delivering his keynote address at the roundtable webinar on ‘Debt swaps for green recovery: opportunities, challenges and way forward for Pakistan..more &gt;&gt;</td>
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Vol. 2, No. 36-37, Issue 01-07 May, 2021
Evolving trend in Pakistan’s trade
Source: Aadil Nakhoda, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-05-03
KARACHI: Exports from Pakistan continue to show an upward trend as they increased 14.37% in March 2021 over the value reported in February 2021 and 30% over the value reported in March 2020, as reported by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS). Export growth was reported across all major categories. Exports of the food group increased 16.5% month-on-month in March 2021. This was dominated by e....

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Telecom sector proposes abolishment of WHT
Source: Tahir Amin, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-05-05
ISLAMABAD: Aimed at making the internet and data services affordable to low-income groups, the telecom sector has proposed abolishment of withholding tax on telecom services. According to budget proposals for 2021-22 available with Business Recorder, the telecom sector has quoted a research published by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), which says Pakistan is among the highest-.....

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