…..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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Op-Eds/Articles/Editorials

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<td>Covid awareness</td>
<td>Editorial, Dawn, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-05-18</td>
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<td>THE effects of large gatherings over Eid as well as multiple home visits will be apparent in the days to come and will largely depend on how far people complied with the SOPs. Only recently, as the virus ravaged India, and even now continues to bring unimaginable suffering there, officials in Islamabad warned we could be in a similar situation if precautions were not taken. The variant across the.....</td>
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<td>Industrial farming of pandemics</td>
<td>Muhammad Hamid Zaman, The Express Tribune, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-05-18</td>
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<td>For millions around the world, the pain of losing loved ones from Covid-19 is real and raw. For many, there is anxiety, anguish and a sense of unease about the future. Those who have been fortunate to stay healthy and have not lost loved ones are also tired of being socially isolated, worried about the economic aspects, and concerned about what tomorrow may bring. In this climate of fatigue and fr.....</td>
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<td>No room for complacency</td>
<td>Editorial, The Express Tribune, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-05-19</td>
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<td>The lockdown between May 8 and 16 — i.e. before and during Eid — has had a positive outcome in terms of Covid containment. The Covid-positivity rate in the country has come down to 8.6 per cent as of May 17 from a double-digit rate a little more than two weeks back. The lockdown orders were strictly enforced this Eid, pretty understandably because the authorities were serious about avo.....</td>
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<td>Helping pandemic-hit developing countries</td>
<td>M Ziauddin, Business Recorder, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-05-19</td>
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<td>To help developing countries grappling with the Covid-19 crisis, official donors increased foreign aid to an all-time high of $161.2 billion in 2020, up 3.5% in real terms from 2019, boosted by additional spending, according to preliminary data collected by the OECD. Within the total Official Development Assistance (ODA) provided by members of the OECD’s Development Assistance Committee.....</td>
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<td>Vaccine availability</td>
<td>Dr Omer Javed, Business Recorder, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-05-21</td>
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<td>‘But while hundreds of millions of vaccine doses have been administered globally, there are deep disparities. In high-income countries, vaccine supplies are sufficient to provide for around one in four people, on average; in low-income countries, this figure drops to one in 500. At this point, it should go without saying that no one will be safe until we have made these cutting-edge technolog.....</td>
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<td>Covid-19: Through the looking glass</td>
<td>BR Research, Business Recorder, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-05-21</td>
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<td>According to latest numbers released by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), close to 5 million doses of covid-19 vaccines have been utilized across Pakistan to date. A total of 18.7 million doses (till June) have been arranged for which supplies are still coming—the country just recently received a batch of 1.2 million doses of AstraZeneca courtesy GAVI initiative; another batc.....</td>
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National News

Islamabad

‘Digital technology needed to defeat Covid’
Source: APP, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-05-18
ISLAMABAD: International cooperation in digital technology is essential to defeat Covid-19 and achieve the 2030 agenda for sustainable development, said Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Syed Aminul Haque. In a statement on Monday, he said “the world has changed and we are living in the age of information where information is the most significant aspect of society.”

Covid-19 claims 74 more lives across country
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Monday reported 3,232 new Covid-19 cases and 74 deaths, taking the national cases tally to 880,362, and death toll to 19,617, since the pandemic outbreak in the country. According to the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), the Covid-19 positivity ratio in the country over the past 24 hours was recorded at 7.82 percent as nationwide 36,725 tests were conducted.

Maryam’s role akin to Indian politicians who caused Covid crisis: Fawad
Source: APP, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-05-18
ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Hussain on Monday said it was unfortunate that the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Maryam Nawaz was following the same irresponsible attitude adopted by the Indian politicians during the Uttar Pradesh election campaign that caused Covid-19 crisis in India. “If today, people in India are lying helpless on roads….”

Pakistan reports 2,566 new coronavirus cases, 135 deaths in one day
Pakistan has reported 135 deaths in the last 24 hours by novel coronavirus as the number of positive cases has surged to 882,928. The nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 19,752 on Tuesday. According to the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) 2,566 persons tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 24 hours. Punjab remains the worst-hit province in terms of cases.

Ban on tourism to stay
ISLAMABAD - The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Monday said that the ban on tourism, already imposed countrywide to contain the spread of Covid-19, will continue till next decision. According to a statement issued by the forum, the NCOC will issue necessary instructions accordingly on the issue. The NCOC made the announcement in the wake of some media reports that tourists had resumed visits.

Islamabad to get 2 more vaccination centres
Source: Rahul Basharat, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-05-18
ISLAMABAD - The Ministry of National Health Services (NHS) is preparing two more mass vaccination centres to vaccinate a bigger chunk of the city’s population in less time, The Nation learnt on Monday. Senior officials at the Ministry of NHS informed The Nation that the mass vaccination centres with the capacity of vaccinating around 10,000 persons a day are going to start working in upcoming days.
7 COVID-19 deaths from Pindi, 155 cases from twin cities
Islamabad: The third wave of coronavirus illness, COVID-19 outbreak is still much intense at least in Islamabad Capital Territory where the positivity rate of COVID-19 has turned out to be 6.86 per cent in the last one week, from May 10 to May 16 though the number of cases reported from the federal capital registered a downward trend particularly during Eid holidays. The positivity rate of 6.86 pe.....
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Training to achieve self-reliance in vaccine development in June
Islamabad: Comstech is organising a day long training to promote ‘Collaboration among OIC member countries for Promotion of Research Culture in Medicine and Vaccine Development through Strengthening and Upgrading the Clinical Trials’ on 3 June 2021 at Comstech Secretariat, Islamabad. This is a hybrid event with limited in-person participation of local experts and large scale vir.....
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Innovation vital for recovery from Covid-19 impacts, says minister
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-05-19
ISLAMABAD: Minister for Science and Technology Shibli Faraz said the role of the triad of science, technology and innovation (STI) in driving a sustainable and resilient recovery from the devastating impacts of Covid-19 was equally crucial, especially in the area of health. Speaking during the 24th annual session of the United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD), M.....
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‘Vaccination centres to be increased’
Source: A Correspondent, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-05-19
TAXILA: In order to curb the spread of coronavirus and expedite the vaccination campaign, the Punjab Health Department has decided to increase the number of coronavirus vaccination centres across the province. This was stated by Director Health Services (Provincial Monitoring Wing) Dr Shahid Hussain Magsi during his visit to a vaccination centre in Hassanabad on Tuesday. Dr Magsi inspected the .....
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Covid-19 cases rise in twin cities again
Source: Amjad Iqbal | Aamir Yasin | Munawer Azeem, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-05-19
ISLAMABAD: The capital administration on Tuesday extended the Covid-19 related restrictions on all gymnasiums for two more days. Moreover, the twin cities saw an increase in Covid-19 cases while two patients passed away in Islamabad and one in Rawalpindi. A notification issued from the office of Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Mohammad Hamza Shafqaat stated: “In exercise of powers under Epid.....
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Corona vaccine: Govt extends support to AJK, Sindh: Umer
Source: APP, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-05-19
ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning and Development, Asad Umer on Tuesday said that the incumbent government is extending full support to Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Sindh regarding corona vaccine. The leaders of Pakistan Peoples Party had failed to ensure the availability of vaccine in their respective areas of Sindh, he said in an interview with a private television channel. He further .....
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<td>ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Health Dr Faisal Sultan, while urging the people to get themselves vaccinated against Covid-19, said there is no shortage of Chinese Sinopharm vaccine in the country. The SAPM on health said this in a tweet, and addressing a press conference here on Tuesday he said so far about nearly 0.1 percent of people vaccinated have reported some sor.....</td>
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<td>SAPM Faisal stresses double efforts for polio eradication</td>
<td>Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-05-19</td>
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<td>ISLAMABAD - Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on National Health Services (NHS) Dr. Faisal Sultan on Tuesday stressed to double the efforts for eradication of polio from the country. A statement released by the Ministry of NHS said that the International Monitoring Board (IMB) appreciates the progress the government has made in controlling the poliovirus despite the complex challenges.....</td>
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<td>Govt delays Covid spending report</td>
<td>Shahbaz Rana, The Express Tribune, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-05-20</td>
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<td>ISLAMABAD: In violation of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) agreement, the federal government has asked the Auditor General of Pakistan (AGP) to delay the printing of a special audit report on Covid-related spending after the auditors unearthed serious irregularities in expenditures. The government had committed that the AGP office would perform the ex-post audit of procurements of Covid-re.....</td>
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<td>NCOC drops several Covid restrictions</td>
<td>News Desk, The Express Tribune, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-05-20</td>
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<td>Amid signs of ease in the third wave of coronavirus pandemic, the government cut back restrictions that affected the usual hustle and bustle during the Eidul Fitr celebrations last week. The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), which supervises the government's strategy against the pandemic spread, allowed reopening of educational institutions in Covid safe zones as well as incre.....</td>
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<td>7,000 to receive vaccines in ICT daily</td>
<td>Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-05-20</td>
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<td>ISLAMABAD/RAWALPINDI: Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiative Asad Umar inaugurated a mass vaccination centre at F-9 Park in the federal capital that will vaccinate 7,000 citizens against Covid-19 on a daily basis through 75 counters. Talking to the media on Wednesday, he said that 100 trained vaccinators will remain on duties and standard services will be provided to .....</td>
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<td>Dengue patients twice as likely to catch Covid</td>
<td>APP, The Express Tribune, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-05-20</td>
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<td>ISLAMABAD: People who have had dengue are twice as likely to develop symptoms of Covid-19 if they are infected by the novel coronavirus, states a new study. The study by the University of Sao Paulo in Brazil detected the presence of antibodies against dengue virus and SARS-CoV-2 in blood samples from 1,285 inhabitants of Mancio Lima, a small town in the state of Acre, part of Brazil's Amazon.....</td>
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NCOC allows staggered reopening of educational institutes, outdoor dining from May 24
Source: Naveed Siddiqui, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-05-20
The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Wednesday announced the lifting of a number of restrictions imposed to control the spread of the coronavirus in the country, including the staggered reopening of educational institutions in districts where the positivity rate is less than five per cent and resumption of outdoor dining. Earlier in the day, the NCOC reviewed the existing non-pharm.....

Five more succumb to Covid-19 in Rawalpindi, Islamabad
Source: Aamir Yasin | Munawer Azeem, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-05-20
ISLAMABAD: Five people lost their lives to Covid-19 in the capital and Rawalpindi district while 297 more contracted the virus on Wednesday. Officials of the capital administration said deaths of a male and a female patient – both in the age group of 60-69 – were reported. They were residents of I-10 and Khanna. Death toll from Covid-19 in Islamabad has reached 735, with the positiv.....

Experts shed light on post-pandemic economic recovery
Source: Abdul Rasheed Azad, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-05-20
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has a bright opportunity to take benefit of the digital transformation, biomedical science/technology, healthcare and energy transformation through an expected surge in e-commerce to put the economy on growth trajectory in the post-pandemic recovery period. This was stated by Nobel Laureate Professor A Michael Spence, while addressing a webinar titled, “The Global Ec.....

Capital’s first mass vaccination centre inaugurated
Source: Rahul Basharat, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-05-20
ISLAMABAD - The first mass vaccination centre of the capital was inaugurated on Wednesday in F-9 park to vaccinate over 7,000 people against COVID-19 per day. The vaccination centre was inaugurated by the Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives Asad Umar while the Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on National Health Services (NHS) and Member National As.....

Optimising Covid-19 TRIPS waiver
Source: Zafar Mirza, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-05-21
LIKE every crisis, the Covid-19 pandemic has also brought some opportunities, two in particular. First, it has spurred innovation. In relatively no time, experimental vaccines started queuing up. The mRNA-based vaccine was developed which is a watershed innovation. This is going to profoundly change the future of prevention and therapeutics. Regulatory pathways for emergency use authorisation for .....
CDWP clears Rs20.8b project to help fight Covid in Sindh
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-05-21
ISLAMABAD: The federal government on Thursday cleared two mega projects for constructing an information technology house in Karachi and improving health facilities at district level in Sindh to effectively respond to the Covid-19 health crisis. The Central Development Working Party (CDWP) meeting, presided over by Planning Commission Deputy Chairman Mohammad Jehanzeb Khan, cleared a development ......
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Govt lifts age restriction for people travelling abroad
Source: NNI, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-05-21
ISLAMABAD: People intending to travel abroad for employment or higher studies will no longer have to wait their turn for Covid-19 vaccine as the government has decided to lift age restriction for them. Sources having knowledge of the matter said that people wishing to travel abroad can now get vaccinated against the coronavirus at any vaccination centre in the country from May 21 (tomorrow). ..... 
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Countrywide Covid-19 positivity rate spikes again
Source: Abdul Rasheed Azad, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-05-21
ISLAMABAD: Covid-19 positivity rate has once again crossed eight percent level as the country over the past 24 hours conducted 51,130 tests, detected 4,207 cases with a positivity rate of 8.22 percent. According to Covid-19 data issued by the National Command and operation Centre (NCOC), here on Thursday, 131 deaths from coronavirus were reported countrywide in the past 24 hours. The country ..... 
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Working abroad on work visa, students; Walk-in vaccination for all 18 years, above Pakistanis allowed
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-05-21
ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) has allowed walk-in vaccination for all 18 years and above Pakistanis working abroad on work visa, students studying abroad, and seafarers. According to a notification issued here on Thursday, the NOCOC has directed the people over 18 years of age falling under any above category to simply walk in to any Covid-19 Vaccination centre (....
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Govt to start vaccination for people aged 30, above from tomorrow
Federal Minister for Planning, Development, Reforms and Special Initiatives Asad Umar has on Friday announced that the coronavirus vaccination for people aged 30 and older will start tomorrow. Asad Umar took to Twitter and said the decision was made in the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) meeting today. The messages for those who are being scheduled will go out today, he added. O..... 
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Pakistan records 3,070 new COVID cases, 103 deaths in 24 hours
Source: News Desk, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-05-21
Pakistan has reported 102 deaths in the last 24 hours by novel coronavirus as the number of positive cases has surged to 893,461. The nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 20,089 on Friday. According to the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC), 3,070 persons tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 24 hours. Punjab remains the worst-hit province by the pa..... 
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Walk-in vaccination for over 18 years working abroad
Source: Imran Mukhtar, The Nation, Islamabad , 2021-05-21
ISLAMABAD - The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) Thursday allowed walk-in Covid-19 vaccination of all 18 years and above Pakistanis working and studying abroad besides of registered seafarers. The forum issued the government's vaccination policy for those Pakistanis who have got work or study visas for the first time or had already such visas but they are unable to return to thos.....

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Ministry seeks $11m to pay for Chinese vaccines
Source: Rahul Basharat, The Nation, Islamabad , 2021-05-21
ISLAMABAD - Ministry of National Health Services (NHS) has sought release of foreign exchange budget of above 11 million US dollar for payment of two China-based novel coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccines procured during the financial year 2020-21. The ministry in its letter said that release of funds had been sought for the payment of Sinovac and Cansino COVID-19 vaccines. The letter's cop.....

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Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Lakki hospital to have oxygen plant
Source: A Correspondent, Dawn, Islamabad , 2021-05-18
LAKKI MARWAT: The provincial government will install an oxygen plant in the District Headquarers Hospital, Tajazai, an official source said on Monday. He said the hospital's administration had increased the number of beds from eight to 20 for better care of the Covid-19 patients. He said medical superintendent Dr Shamsur Rehman had requested the director general health services for instal.....

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Mardan records 17 per cent Covid positivity rate
Source: Ashfaq Yusufzai, Dawn, Islamabad , 2021-05-18
PESHAWAR: Covid-19 claimed 18 lives and infected 186 others in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Monday as the elderly and people with underlying health conditions continued to die of the pandemic in the province. The health department's Covid-19 situation report said that death toll from the infection in the province reached to 3,804 and cases to 127,224 since the advent of the pandemic. There are 767.....

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Mobile Corona vaccination arranged in Peshawar
Source: Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad , 2021-05-18
PESHAWAR - On the direction of Chief Minister, the Health Department has arranged mobile hospital and corona vaccination facility at Basic Health Units in suburbs of Peshawar. Program Manager, Dr. Wisal Mehmood Khan urged masses to abide by the government SOPs and use masks and take all precautionary measures to avoid spread of corona infection. A large number of people get vaccinated themselves .....

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Pashto scholar Salim Raz dies of coronavirus
PESHAWAR: Veteran progressive Pashto research scholar and poet Salim Raz passed away here at the Hayatabad Medical Complex (HMC) on Monday. The octogenarian literatus was admitted to the HMC a month ago after he had tested positive for the Covid-19. His funeral was offered at his hometown in Charsadda and he was laid to rest at his ancestral graveyard in Sukkarr village. A large number of ......more >>
One more dies of covid in Nowshera
NOWSHERA: The fatalities from Covid-19 reached 99 in the Nowshera district as another patient died of the deadly virus here on Monday. Briefing media, Deputy Commissioner Mir Reza Ozgen said that a Covid-19 infected patient, who was under treatment at the Qazi Medical Complex, Nowshera, died while battling for life for the last several days. He said that more suspected patients had reported posi..... 
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Peshawar additional AC among 23 killed by Covid
Source: Bureau Report, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-05-19
PESHAWAR: Coronavirus claimed 23 more lives, including an additional assistant commissioner’s, in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Tuesday with Peshawar recording 13 deaths. According to a health department report, two people died of the virus in Nowshera and Charsadda each and one in Mardan, Swabi, Bajaur, Abbottabad, Haripur and Dera Ismail Khan each. Among the deceased was Shamsul Islam, an additi.....
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Nurses irked over non-inclusion in Covid reparation package
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-05-19
PESHAWAR: Professional Nursing Association (PNA) General Secretary Anwar Sultana on Tuesday lambasted the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa government over non-inclusion of nurses in the coronavirus compensation package. Terming it as gross injustice, Sultana said, “The non-inclusion of nurses from the government's compensation package meant for deceased frontline healthcare workers battling coronavirus.....
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10 patients succumbed to Covid-19 at ATH Abbottabad
Source: APP, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-05-19
ABBOTTABAD: At least 10 more COVID-19 patients on Tuesday have lost their lives at Ayub Teaching Hospital (ATH) Abbottabad during the last 48 hours. During the three waves of Coronavirus, this was the highest death toll caused by the Coronavirus at ATH during 48 hours, according to ATH public relations officer. According to the ATH spokesperson, during the last 48 hours ten Coronavirus p.....
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At least 39 passengers from UAE test positive for Covid at Peshawar airport
Source: Umer Farooq, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-05-20
PESHAWAR: At least 39 passengers, who arrived from the United Arab Emirates (UAE), tested positive for the novel coronavirus after reaching Pakistan on Thursday. According to details, two passenger flights, including Pakistan International Airline (PIA) and Emirates Airline, carrying around 500 passengers arrived at the Bacha Khan International Airport (BKIA) in Peshawar early in the morning. The p.....
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Corona positivity ratio in KP declines to 6.2pc
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-05-20
Peshawar - The ratio of positivity of coronavirus cases has witnessed a slight decline in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, as a report of the Health Department on Wednesday said that percentage of positive cases dropped to 6.2 percent in the province. The statistics of the provincial Health Department said that 23 people died of corona infection in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa during last 24 hours. The number of a.....
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32 CAA workers at Peshawar airport test corona positive
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-05-20
Peshawar - More than 30 workers of Civil Aviation Authority at Bacha Khan International Airport tested positive for coronavirus on Wednesday, a day after dozens of passengers were declared corona positive at the airport. Sources in the Peshawar airport said that the authorities had started disinfecting the airport premises after about 32 CAA workers were found corona positive. The employees h.....
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Swatis reluctant to get vaccinated against Covid
Source: A Correspondent, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-05-21
SWAT: Despite alarming situation of Covid-19 in Swat, the people of the district are hesitant to get vaccinated against the virus. According to the office of district health officer, at least 298 people have died of Covid-19 in Swat so far. However, local sources claim that more than 1,000 people have died of the pandemic in the district. After the decision of National Command and Operation Cent.....
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13 corona vaccination centres set up in Bannu
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-05-21
Lakki marwat - The district administration in collaboration with the Health Department has set up coronavirus vaccination centres in thirteen health facilities of Bannu, claimed an official on Thursday. The official said that all vaccination centres were functional where people could get themselves vaccinated against the pandemic. The Health Department increased the vaccination centres and ma.....
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Punjab

Pindi reports seven more Covid-19 deaths
Source: Munawer Azeem | Aamir Yasin, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-05-18
RAWALPINDI: Seven people lost their lives to Covid-19 in the Rawalpindi district and 62 others were found infected on Monday. However, 103 patients were discharged from hospitals after recovering from the disease in the last 24 hours. Mohammad Aslam, 58, a resident of Gulistan Colony, and Qudsia Rohi, 55, of Muslim Town, were brought to the Rawalpindi Institute of Urology (RIU) on May 16 where t.....
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Govt decides to expedite vaccination
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-05-18
LAHORE: The Punjab government on Monday decided to expedite the vaccination process in the province as per the instructions of the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) to control the corona pandemic. The decision was taken at a meeting to review the Covid situation after the lockdown. Law minister Basharat Raja, health minister Dr Yasmin Rashid, the chief secretary, ACS (home), administra.....
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18 officials suspended in Lahore over ‘out-of-turn vaccination’
Source: Khalid Hasnain, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-05-18
LAHORE: The City District administration reportedly suspended on Monday as many as 18 officials of district health and other departments, including the Lahore Metropolitan Corporation, from service for being allegedly involved in receiving bribe for ‘out-of-turn’ Covid-19 vaccination and committing irregularities at various vaccination centres. Since most complaints related to the Lah.....
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Lahore has highest number of critical Covid patients in country
Source: Asif Chaudhry, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-05-18
LAHORE: Punjab reported 44 Covid deaths and 1,700 new infections during the last 24 hours. Official figures show that Lahore is at the top among 16 cities of the country housing the largest number of critical patients followed by Multan and Karachi. According to the data, 221 coronavirus critical patients were struggling for life on ventilators in Lahore, 85 in Multan and 55 in Karachi. Similar.....
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Corona positivity rate surges to 10.93pc in Punjab
LAHORE: The corona positivity rate in Punjab has surged to 10.93% from 8.34%, as out of 15,543 Covid-19 tests conducted during the last 24 hours across the province, as many as 1700 fresh virus cases and 44 more fatalities were reported taking the provincial tally of cases to 327,362 and death toll to 9411. With the recovery of 2008 more virus patients, the number of recovered patients in the.....
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Vaccination of journalists starts at Press Club
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-05-18
LAHORE - Special Assistant to Punjab Chief Minister on Information Dr Firdous Ashiq Awan on Monday said that protection of the lives of journalists was the top priority of the incumbent government. Talking to mediamen after visiting coronavirus vaccination centre set up at Lahore Press Club, she said that for better working of journalists their health and protection of their life and property.....
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Punjab to expedite virus vaccination process
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-05-18
LAHORE - The Punjab government has decided to expedite the vaccination process in the province as per the instructions of the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) to control the corona pandemic. The decision was taken at a meeting held here on Monday to review the situation of corona after the lockdown. Addressing the meeting, Provincial Law Minister Raja Basharat said the government.....
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Maryam commits ‘crime’ by violating SOPs: Health Dept
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-05-18
LAHORE - The Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department has urged the masses to avoid any kind of gathering to protect themselves from coronavirus pandemic. P&SHD Secretary Sarah Aslam said on Monday, while talking to mediamen, that PML-N leader Maryam Safdar had committed a crime by holding a rally at Sheikhupura and putting the masses on risk. She said the department was trying.....
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23,359 COVID-19 patients recovered in Pindi so far
Source: APP, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-05-18
RAWALPINDI - As many as 23,359 COVID-19 patients have recovered while 2174 lost their lives due to the disease in the district so far. As per data released by the District Health Authority here Monday, six patients were on the ventilator, 35 on oxygen and 74 in a stable condition of the total 115 persons admitted in the corona centres of the district. The authority informed that 57 more cases.....
more >>
### ‘Punjab govt utilising all resources to curb COVID-19’

Rawalpindi - Assistant Commissioner Capt (R) Anwar Ul Haq Monday visited Corona Vaccination Centres set up at Tehsil Headquarters Hospital, Kotli Satyan and inspected the facilities being provided to the people. He interacted with the people who came to get themselves jabbed at the centre and inquired about the attitude of the staff. The AC directed the officials to provide maximum possible ...

more >>

### OPD services, surgeries to remain suspended till 23rd: SHC&MED notification says no respite in number of cases noted

LAHORE: Specialised Healthcare and Medical Education Department (SHC&MED) on Monday ordered continuation of suspension of Out-Patient Departments (OPDs) service and elective surgeries in teaching hospitals/specialised institutions to minimise Covid-19 transmission. In a notification addressed to all vice-chancellors of public sector medical universities, principals of Medical Colleges, .....  

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### Govt to expedite coronavirus vaccination: minister

LAHORE: To control the corona pandemic, the Punjab government here on Monday decided to expedite the vaccination process in the province as per the NCOC instructions. The decision was taken at a meeting to review the situation of corona after the lockdown. Law Minister Raja Basharat, Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid, chief secretary, additional chief secretary Home, admin secretaries of the.....  

more >>

### 44 more die from corona in Punjab

LAHORE: Around 44 COVID-19 patients died and 1,700 new positive cases were confirmed in Punjab during the last 24 hours. According to Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD) report issued on Monday, the toll of fatalities reached 9,411 in Punjab, while confirmed cases became 327,362 in the province. After 9,411 fatalities and recovery of a total of 287,376 patients, 30,575 a.....  

more >>

### Surge in Covid cases after Eid lockdown in Punjab

Source: *Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad*, 2021-05-19  
LAHORE: Punjab is again witnessing a surge in Covid deaths, new positive cases and infection rate after the Eid lockdown. According to the official figures released on Tuesday, 89 more patients died during the last 24 hours, taking the toll to 9,500 in the province since the outbreak of the pandemic. Similarly, the total number of infections reached 328,775 across the province after 1,413 more p.....  

more >>

### Shopping discount for the vaccinated

Source: *Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad*, 2021-05-19  
LAHORE: The Super Market Association on Tuesday announced discounts on various items/commodities for those customers who have got themselves vaccinated against Covid-19. The association made the offer after Commissioner retired Capt Muhammad Usman requested them to do so in a bid to attract people to get themselves vaccinated. “If you offer discounts on various commodities to the people va.....  

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<tr>
<td>CAA warns PAF subsidiary of action over property tycoon episode</td>
<td>Asif Chaudhry, Dawn, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-05-19</td>
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<tr>
<td>LAHORE: The issue of property tycoon Malik Riaz’s refusal to undergo the mandatory Covid-19 test at the Allama Iqbal International Airport (AllAP), Lahore, took an interesting turn on Tuesday when the Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (PCAA) sought an explanation from the Shaheen Airport Services (SAPs) over its failure to ensure implementation of the government’s guidelines on interna.....</td>
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<td>PAMI, PMA offer services to battle Covid</td>
<td>Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-05-19</td>
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<td>LAHORE: The Pakistan Association of Medical and Dental Institutions (PAMI) and the Pakistan Medical Association (PMA) have offered large-scale services to the government to battle coronavirus under “Covid free Pakistan movement”. They offered 43,000 beds, 2,000 ventilators and other such critical facilities at the 93 private sector hospitals across the country for the admission and tr.....</td>
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<td>Punjab eyes 3-fold vaccination in June</td>
<td>Adnan Lodhi, The Express Tribune, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-05-19</td>
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<td>LAHORE: Punjab government has set targets of administering coronavirus vaccine to 324,00 people daily during June and 424,000 in July after increasing the number of vaccination centres across the province. According to health department sources, new vaccination centres will be opened in all 36 districts of the province to increase the capacity to serve 324,00 people daily from June 1. The number.....</td>
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<tr>
<td>Covid-19; 89 more deaths reported in Punjab</td>
<td>Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-05-19</td>
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<td>LAHORE: With 89 more deaths in Punjab, including 31 in Multan and 23 in Lahore, in the last 24 hours, the death toll in the province reached 9,500. Most of the deaths due to Covid-19 were reported from Lahore (23), Rawalpindi (6), Faisalabad (11), Multan (31), Gujranwala (5), Sargodha (2), Mianwali (2) and D G Khan and Rahim Yar Khan one each, taking the death toll in these cities to 3888, 14.....</td>
<td>more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<td>Army orders 2m doses of Russian vaccine</td>
<td>INP, Business Recorder, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-05-19</td>
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<td>RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Army in order to help country fight coronavirus pandemic has ordered two million doses of Russian coronavirus vaccine Sputnik V. According to details, the agreement for the jabs has been finalized and the first consignment of 200,000 doses is all set to arrive in Pakistan. A special aircraft of Pakistan Air Force (PAF) will airlift the vaccine doses from Abu Dhabi. ......</td>
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<td>LDA seals 13 shops, 10 held for violating SOPs</td>
<td>Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-05-19</td>
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<td>LAHORE: The Lahore District Administration on Tuesday sealed 13 shops and arrested 10 persons for violating the Covid-19 Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). As per the details released by the administration, Assistant Commissioner City Faizan Ahmed visited Anarkali bazaar and sealed a shop and arrested 10 persons for not complying with the SOPs while 20 persons were issued warnings. He was .....</td>
<td>more &gt;&gt;</td>
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Commissioner for strict implementation of SOPs
Source: Ch Ashraf, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-05-19
BAHAWALPUR - A meeting of the Health Department was held under the chairmanship of Bahawalpur Commissioner Captain Muhammad Zafar Iqbal to review the situation of corona. Additional Commissioner Rabita Faisal Ata Khan, CEO Health Dr Muhammad Iqbal Makool, Dr Amir Bukhari, Dr. Muhammad Zakir and senior officials of Health Department and officers of other concerned departments were also present. The.....

Nine vehicles impounded over SOPs violation
Source: Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-05-19
FAISALABAD - The Regional Transport Authority (RTA) impounded nine vehicles, issued challan tickets to several others and collected fine from drivers over the corona related Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on Tuesday. According to official sources, the teams led by Secretary RTA Zamir Hussain, checked implementation of the anti-corona SOPs in public transport vehicles and took action against .....

Eight illegal labs sealed in DG Khan
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-05-19
LAHORE - The Punjab Healthcare Commission (PHC) has carried out an action against illegal laboratories, and sealed 8 centres during the last week. The PHC teams visited 37 premises of labs in Dera Ghazi Khan City. Out of these, seven were functioning without PHC registration and had employed unqualified staff, while one was found to be collecting samples for Covid-19 tests sans securing appro.....

13 shops sealed over SOPs violations
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-05-19
LAHORE - The city district administration sealed 13 shops and restaurants over violations of the corona related Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), here on Tuesday. A special team, under the supervision of Assistant Commissioner (AC) Cantt Zeeshan Ranjha, inspected the SOPs implementation at Walton Road, Defence Road and sealed 12 shops for flouting the guidelines regarding COVID-19. AC City Fiz.....

‘Probable theft’ of Covid-19 jabs led to suspension of lower cadre officials
Source: Iqtidar Gilani, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-05-19
LAHORE - A gap of hundreds in the number of registered inoculations and available stock of the Covid-19 vaccinations at the Punjab Kidney and Liver Institute (PKLI) and Research Centre has led to the suspensions of lower cadre employees of the district health authority. A high-ranking official of the Health Department has confided that when the data of the documented jabs and the stock available w.....

Vaccination centre’s facilities reviewed
Source: APP, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-05-20
SARGODHA: Deputy Commissioner Naila Baqir on Wednesday visited corona vaccination centres set up at Government Comprehensive Girls School and Government Ambala College. She also inspected counters and asked visitors about facilities being provided at the centre. She was briefed that 21 vaccination centres were operational in the district for free vaccination against coronavirus. On the occasion.....
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<td>The Express Tribune, Islamabad</td>
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<td>vaccination against coronavirus. On the occasion.....</td>
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<td>2021-05-20</td>
<td>Majeed Gill, Dawn, Islamabad</td>
<td>Hundreds of patients await surgeries at BVH</td>
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<td>BAHAWALPUR: Hundreds of patients have been awaiting surgeries in the</td>
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<td>four departments of the Bahawal Victoria Hospital (BVH) since April</td>
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<td>10 when the Punjab government ordered suspension of the procedure</td>
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<td>due to surge in Covid-19 cases. The Punjab health department through</td>
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<td>a letter suspended the elective surgeries in the eye, ENT, dermatology</td>
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<td>and dentistry departments and ordered closure of the OPD.....</td>
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<td>2021-05-20</td>
<td>Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad</td>
<td>63 more fall prey to coronavirus</td>
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<td>2021-05-20</td>
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<td>LAHORE: The Covid death toll reached 9,563 after 63 more patients</td>
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<td>succumbed to the virus during the last 24 hours in Punjab. A majority</td>
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<td>of them was on ventilators due to severity of the infection and other</td>
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<td>complications. Of them 28 breathed their last in Lahore’s public and</td>
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<td>private hospitals. Similarly, 1,138 more people tested positive for</td>
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<td>the virus during the last 24 hours in Punjab, tak.....</td>
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<td>Islamabad</td>
<td>LAHORE: Punjab Deputy Inspector General of Police (Welfare) Agha</td>
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<td>Muhammad Yousuf has disclosed that as many as 14,679 police personnel</td>
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<td>between the age of 50 and 60 years have so far been vaccinated against</td>
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<td>the Covid-19 virus. The senior police officer shared this figure</td>
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<td>while informing participants of a meeting presided over by Punjab</td>
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<td>IGP Inam Ghani at the Central Police Office (CPO) on Wedne.....</td>
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<td>2021-05-20</td>
<td>Recorder Report, Business Recorder,</td>
<td>Outdoor dining in restaurants; Punjab govt to submit recommendations</td>
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<td>Islamabad</td>
<td>to NCOC</td>
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<td>LAHORE: The Punjab government has decided to submit recommendations</td>
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<td>to the National Command and Operations Center (NCOC) for allowing</td>
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<td>outdoor dining in restaurants as per the corona SOPs. The decision</td>
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<td>was taken in a meeting jointly chaired by Health Minister Dr Yasmeen</td>
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<td>Rashid and Chief Secretary Punjab Jawaad Rafique Malik at Civil</td>
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<td>Secretariat on Wednesday. The additional chief secretary home.....</td>
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<td>2021-05-20</td>
<td>Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad</td>
<td>Invasions by alien insects can teach about Covid-19</td>
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<td>2021-05-20</td>
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<td>ISLAMABAD - Invasions by alien insect and animal species have much in</td>
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<td>common with outbreaks of infectious diseases and could tell us a great</td>
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<td>deal about how pandemics spread, according to a research paper</td>
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<td>published recently. Biological invasions, where animals, insects,</td>
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<td>plants, and microorganisms are transported around the globe by humans,</td>
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<td>are becoming more common and have a global annual cost of at.....</td>
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Corona cases to increase in next few days, warns Health Minister
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-05-20
LAHORE - The Punjab government has decided to submit recommendations to the National Command and Operations Center (NCOC) regarding outdoor dining in restaurants under Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). The decision was taken in a meeting chaired by Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid at Civil Secretariat on Wednesday. The Chief Secretary Punjab, Additional Chief Secretary Home, administrativ.....
more >>

21,633 cops vaccinated against coronavirus
Source: Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-05-20
LAHORE - Inspector General of Police (IGP), Punjab, Inam Ghani on Wednesday said that police were performing duties as a front line workers for the protection of lives and property of people during the pandemic as several officials lost lives to the virus. He said the process of corona vaccination should be completed in all districts of the province as soon as possible so that police force could .....
more >>

PHC seals operation theatre, lab of a private hospital
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-05-20
LAHORE - The Punjab Healthcare Commission (PHC) has sealed an operation theatre and a laboratory of a private hospital after surgeries were performed by a doctor, whose licence had been suspended by the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (present Pakistan Medical Commission). As per details, Bilqees Bibi had undergone an unsuccessful surgery at the Zohra Nawaz General Hospital Sangla Hill. H.....
more >>

3 persons die of corona in Rawalpindi
Source: Israr Ahmad, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-05-20
Rawalpindi-As many as three people died due to Covid-19 in Rawalpindi district on Wednesday and 116 people tested positive of deadly virus while 107 patients got discharged from the hospitals during 24 hours, informed sources. Nasira Parveen, 55, resident of Peshawar Road, was brought to Isolation Hospital and Infectious Treatment Centre on May 18 and she died on Wednesday, they said. They s.....
more >>

DSP dies from coronavirus
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-05-21
RAWALPINDI: A DSP died from coronavirus on Thursday after battling with the disease for several days. With the death of DSP Sohail Mumtaz, the total number of police officials who died from the infection has risen to six. DSP Sohail Mumtaz was shifted to Rawalpindi Institute of Urology (RIU) after his condition deteriorated. According to police spokesman, the DSP had been performing his duty as.....
more >>

UET postpones entrance test over Covid
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-05-21
LAHORE: The University of Engineering and Technology (UET) on Thursday postponed its entrance test (ECAT 2021) due to the Covid-19. However, the process of registration will go on and the students can get this opportunity till announcement of new entrance test schedule. The test is a requirement for admission to all public sector engineering/engineering technology institutes/universities of Punj.....
more >>
### 77 more Covid deaths in province
**Source:** Staff Reporter, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2021-05-21
LAHORE: With 77 more Covid deaths reported in Punjab during the last 24 hours, the health department has announced starting vaccination of overseas Pakistan and those intending to travel abroad. Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department Secretary Sarah Aslam said here on Thursday that the vaccination of overseas Pakistani would be started from Friday (today). “Citizens having valid stude.....

[more >>](#)

### Punjab to recruit 4,452 paramedics, vaccinators
**Source:** Our Staff Reporter, *The Nation, Islamabad*, 2021-05-21
LAHORE - Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar chaired the provincial apex committee meeting at his office on Thursday. The meeting was told the Health Department will recruit 4,452 paramedics and vaccinators for corona drive while 10 oxygen generators and 200 oxygen concentrators are being provided to ensure the supply of oxygen in the province. The meeting repeated the commitment to util......

[more >>](#)

### Sindh

#### Sindh may impose tough restrictions if Covid cases increase, warns Murad
**Source:** Tahir Siddiqui, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2021-05-18
KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Monday endorsed the decision taken by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) in respect of relaxation in certain specific non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs) notified on May 15. “We will review the decision keeping in view the impact of Covid-19 in the post-Eid scenario on Thursday and may take strict decisions if the standa.....

[more >>](#)

#### Sindh backs easing of Covid curbs
**Source:** Our Correspondent, *The Express Tribune, Islamabad*, 2021-05-18
KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah endorsed the Centre’s move to relax non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs) designed to curb the spread of coronavirus. Presiding over a meeting of the Provincial Task Force on Coronavirus at the CM House, Murad accepted the decision taken by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on May 15. NPIs for coronavirus prevention included weari.....

[more >>](#)

#### ‘Production of oxygen through electrolysis process explored’; Covid unit at Abbasi Shaheed Hospital closed, CM told
**Source:** Recorder Report, *Business Recorder, Islamabad*, 2021-05-18
KARACHI: Sindh chief minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Monday endorsed the decision taken by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) in respect of relaxation in certain specific Nonpharmaceutical Interventions (NPIs) notified on May 15, 2021. Presiding over a meeting of the Provincial Task Force on Coronavirus at the CM House here, he said, "We will review the decision keeping in......

[more >>](#)

#### Sindh taskforce on COVID-19 endorses latest decisions taken by NCOC
**Source:** Our Staff Reporter, *The Nation, Islamabad*, 2021-05-18
KARACHI - Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah while presiding over a meeting of Provincial Task Force on Coronavirus at CM House endorsed the decision taken by National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) in respect of relaxation in certain specific Non-pharmaceutical Interventions (NPIs) notified on May 15, 2021. “We will review the decision keeping in view the impact of COVID-19 .....

[more >>](#)
**Micro smart lockdown imposed in parts of distt Central**
Source: Staff Reporter, *The Nation, Islamabad*, 2021-05-18

KARACHI - On the directives of District Health Officer (DHO), Deputy Commissioner (DC) district Central Karachi has imposed discrete micro smart lockdown in streets and houses of specified areas in the district for two weeks (16 to 30 May 2021) under Sindh Epidemic Diseases Act 2014 (as amended in 2020). According to a report on Monday, the micro smart lockdown has been imposed in union councils a.....

**Highest third wave daily deaths reported in Sindh with 719 fresh cases**
Source: Our Staff Reporter, *The Nation, Islamabad*, 2021-05-18

KARACHI - COVID has killed 23 more patients in Sindh, the highest casualties since the incidence of the third COVID wave, according to the daily briefing on Monday held by Chief Minister (CM) Murad Ali Shah who said 719 fresh cases were reported in the 24-hour period as well. With new cases reported on Monday, the province now stands with 299,896 COVID-19 infections reported so far since the .....
Sindh allows opening of bakeries, milk-shops till midnight
Source: Sameer Mandhro, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-05-19
KARACHI: The Sindh government issued a fresh advisory on Wednesday regarding the closure of markets in view of COVID-19, allowing bakeries and milk shops across the province to remain open till midnight. “Restaurants, food streets to remain closed with no indoor or outdoor dining. However, home delivery, takeaway and drive-through facilities are allowed,” read a notification issued today.
more >>

Covid-19; Vaccination kicks off at Customs House
KARACHI: The covid-19 vaccine drive at the Customs House, Karachi is going to kick off from May 19. The covid-19 vaccine shots would be given to all customs officials, falling in 40 and above age bracket. The fifth floor of the Customs House is designated for the purpose. Meanwhile, the customs officials confirmed that the shots of Sinopharm vaccine would be given to around 2,000 customs staffers.
more >>

Sindh to launch drive-through vaccination campaign
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-05-19
KARACHI - The Sindh government has decided to start drive-through vaccination strategy in the province to hike the daily vaccination rate. The government under a strategy has decided to inoculate people with coronavirus vaccine at different public places using mobile vans. The vaccine vans will initiate vaccination at the Sea View, shopping plazas and universities. The Sindh government is al.....
more >>

Free facemasks distributed among general public
Source: Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-05-19
HYDERABAD - To prevent spread of corona pandemic, Facemasks were distributed free of cost among general public, by Assistant Commissioners (UT), Mukhtiarkar and other revenue officials on the directives of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Abrar Ahmed Jaffar. During mask distribution campaign awareness was also created regarding observation of SOPs. The DC said that number of coronavirus cases could multiply.....
more >>

Sindh Covid restrictions to remain in place amid surge in cases
Source: Hafeez Tunio, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-05-20
KARACHI: Sindh government decided on Thursday to maintain the current restrictions in the province amid a surge in the Covid-19 cases. The decision was reached at a meeting of the coronavirus taskforce led by Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah. Provincial ministers, chief secretary Sindh, IG police, additional chief secretary, commissioner, additional IG, Core V Rangers and representatives of th.....
more >>

19 more succumb to Covid in Sindh Nearly 3,000 fresh infections emerge
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-05-20
KARACHI: The pandemic claimed 19 more lives in Sindh, which reported nearly 3,000 fresh infections on Wednesday. According to a statement issued by the Chief Minister's House, 2,076 new cases were diagnosed when 20,421 samples were tested for the contagion, indicating a detection rate of 10.2 per cent. Read: Sindh allows opening of bakeries, milk-shops till midnight The provincial pandemic d.....
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<tr>
<td>34 Covid-19 cases reported among international travellers in two weeks at Karachi airport</td>
<td>Faiza Ilyas, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-05-20</td>
<td>KARACHI: Five more Covid-19 positive cases were detected among international travellers arriving at the Jinnah International Airport, Karachi, on Wednesday, bringing the total number of such cases in two weeks to 34, health department sources told Dawn. Most of these passengers arriving from the UAE, Saudi Arabia and Iraq had been quarantined at the isolation centre in Bhtaiabad, the rest at the .....</td>
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<tr>
<td>Covid-19 claims 19 more lives, infects 2,076 people</td>
<td>Tahir Siddiqui, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-05-20</td>
<td>KARACHI: As many as 19 more patients of coronavirus died overnight and 2,076 new cases emerged when 20,421 tests were conducted. This was stated by Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued here on Wednesday. He added that the death of 19 more patients during the past 24 hours lifted the death toll to 4,854 constituting 1.6 per cent death rate. Mr Shah said that 20,421 samples we.....</td>
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<td>Covid containment; Minister for curtailing railway operations</td>
<td>APP, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-05-20</td>
<td>KARACHI: Sindh Minister for Health and Population Welfare, Dr Azra Pechuho, has stressed on maintaining Non Pharmaceutical Interventions (NPIs) and curtailing railway operations to do away with the considerable risks of spreading Covid due to movement of people after Eidul Fitr. She voiced the concerns in an online meeting of NCOC that was also attended by Secretary Health, Dr Kazim Jatoi and.....</td>
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<td>Covid-19 claims 19 more lives, infects 2,076 others</td>
<td>Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-05-20</td>
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<td>Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-05-20</td>
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<td>Sindh health minister expects major rise in COVID-19 cases</td>
<td>Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-05-20</td>
<td>KARACHI - Like last year, Sindh Health Minister Dr Azra Pechuho expects the rate of coronavirus cases to increase post-Eid holidays. Dr Pechuho was attending a National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) meeting to review coronavirus restrictions via zoom link. Health Secretary Dr Kazim Jatoi and Deputy Secretary Dr Mansoor Wassan were also present. The Sindh health minister gave an update .....</td>
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<td>Sindh allows opening of bakeries, milk-shops till midnight</td>
<td>Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-05-20</td>
<td>2021-05-20</td>
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<td>KARACHI - The Sindh government issued a fresh advisory on Wednesday regarding the closure of markets in view of COVID-19, allowing bakeries and milk shops across the province to remain open till midnight. “Restaurants, food streets to remain closed with no indoor or outdoor dining. However, home delivery, takeaway and drive-through facilities are allowed,” read a notification issued on.</td>
<td>more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<td>PMA opposes NCOC decision to relax Covid-related restrictions</td>
<td>Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-05-21</td>
<td>2021-05-21</td>
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<td>KARACHI: The Pakistan Medical Association (PMA) on Thursday opposed the NCOC (National Command and Operation Centre) decision to relax Covid-related restrictions on commercial activities, schools, offices and other workplaces. “The PMA believes that the decision to lift the coronavirus-related restrictions is a bit early. This hasty decision can take us towards the resurgence of Covid-19 g</td>
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<td>Covid-related restrictions in Sindh to remain in force</td>
<td>Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-05-21</td>
<td>2021-05-21</td>
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<td>KARACHI: The Provincial Task Force on Coronavirus on Thursday decided to continue the on-going restrictions across the province as the number of infected patients hit a new high overnight with over 14 per cent of positive cases among the tested people in Karachi alone. The provincial Task Force on Coronavirus in its meeting held under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah at CM H</td>
<td>more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<td>Restrictions to stay amid Covid surge</td>
<td>Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-05-21</td>
<td>2021-05-21</td>
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<td>KARACHI: The Sindh government decided on Thursday to maintain the coronavirus-related restrictions currently in place given the surge of infections observed post Eidul Fitr. Chairing a meeting of the Provincial Task Force on Coronavirus to review the situation, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah expressed alarm at the spike in coronavirus cases. On Eidul Fitr, May 13, there were 1,232 cases</td>
<td>more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<td>KARACHI: The Sindh Task Force on coronavirus in its meeting chaired by Sindh chief minister Syed Murad Ali Shah at the CM House here on Thursday decided to continue with the ongoing non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs) all over Sindh. The task force would meet again on Saturday to review imposition of more restrictions. The meeting was told that there were 1,232 cases on Eid day on May 13,</td>
<td>more &gt;&gt;</td>
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### Vaccination is the foremost solution: experts

**Source:** Recorder Report, *Business Recorder, Islamabad*, 2021-05-21

KARACHI: The country is in the midst of the third wave of Covid-19, and the number of reported cases and deaths are striking every aspect of life very hard. According to Dr Abdul Bari Khan, CEO of The Indus Hospital, and Dr Asim Belgaumi, chief medical officer and associate dean for clinical affairs at the Aga Khan University Hospital, the foremost solution to curbing Covid-19 cases is widesp.....

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### Free Covid vaccination at Hussain Lakhani Hospital

**Source:** Recorder Report, *Business Recorder, Islamabad*, 2021-05-21

KARACHI: Hussain Lakhani Hospital in collaboration with Government of Sindh and NCOC, has launched free vaccination (drive) for masses. Under supervision of the expert doctors, vaccine doses will be administered to people from 9:30am till 2:30pm daily. People will be inoculated through booking vaccination approximants/tokens to avoid any crowding at the centre. People can get vaccination.....

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### Sindh govt to keep restrictions in place amid rising Covid cases

**Source:** Our Staff Reporter, *The Nation, Islamabad*, 2021-05-21

KARACHI - The provincial task force on coronavirus, during a meeting chaired by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah at CM House on Thursday, decided to continue the ongoing Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions (NPIs)/restrictions across the province. Provincial ministers, police officers, and other officials concerned attended the meeting. The participants were told that in the beginning of the h.....

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### All adults to be administered Covid vaccine from 21st

**Source:** Staff Reporter, *The Nation, Islamabad*, 2021-05-21

KARACHI - The Sindh Health Department on Thursday announced that all individuals, above 18 years of age, would be able to get themselves vaccinated from any Covid vaccination center near them from May 21. The individuals above 18 years of age who hold a CNIC, student visa, Iqama or work permit will be able to get vaccinated. The vaccination center at Expo Center Karachi will be open for 24 hours a.....

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### China’s help to Pak against Covid to strengthen ties

**Source:** Our Staff Reporter, *The Nation, Islamabad*, 2021-05-21

KARACHI - Political analyst Huma Baqai Thursday said that the technology and formula for Covid-19 vaccine that Pakistan would be preparing had been transferred from China, and the provision of coronavirus vaccine by China to Pakistan would further boost the bilateral relations between the two countries. Talking to the media on 70th Pak-China diplomatic relations anniversary, she said Pakistan.....[more >>](#)
International News

Countries News

**Covid-19 obesity risk higher for men**

**Source:** Reuters, *The Express Tribune, Islamabad*, 2021-05-19

The following is a roundup of some of the latest scientific studies on the novel coronavirus and efforts to find treatments and vaccines for Covid-19, the illness caused by the virus. Delaying second Pfizer/BioNTech dose boosts antibodies in elderly Delaying the second dose of the Pfizer/BioNTech, Covid-19 vaccine became available, UK health officials advised that the second dose should be given.....more >>

Other SDPI Engagements

**Webinar News**

‘Renewable energy potential untapped in Balochistan’

**Source:** News Desk, *The Express Tribune, Islamabad*, 2021-05-20

Balochistan Chief Economist Planning and Development Ghaus Bakhsh Marri said that the lack of coordination between various government departments is one of the major challenges for bringing investment in renewable energy projects in Balochistan. He said this at a session entitled ‘Roadmap for Sustainable Development of Balochistan: Aligning development priorities with Clean Energy Transition.....more >>

Better coordination key to develop Balochistan

**Source:** Our Correspondent, *The News, International*, 2021-05-20

ISLAMABAD: Ghaus Bakhsh Marri, Balochistan’s Chief Economist Planning & Development on Wednesday blamed lack of coordination between various government departments as one of the major hurdles in bringing investment in renewable energy projects. “Besides, security related issues are also an impediment in achieving sustainable development in the province.” He expresse.....more >>

**SDPI’s Related News**

Supply Lines Bid to Diversify Trade Sees Pakistan Looking Closer to Home

**Source:** Karthikeyan Sundaram, *Bloomberg*, 2021-05-19

Trucks carrying processed leather from Uzbekistan have arrived in Pakistan, a sign that the southern Asian economy’s efforts to expand land trade in its neighborhood are paying off. The arrival of the cargo in the northwestern Pakistani city of Peshawar via Afghanistan marks the first step in Islamabad’s goal to grow commerce with central Asian nations to about $1.5 billion per year fr.....more >>

Govt plans silos dedicated to farmers

**Source:** Our Correspondent, *The News, International*, 2021-05-21

ISLAMABAD: The government is planning storage houses dedicated to farmers’ produces under the phase two of agriculture transformation plan, a PM aide said. Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Food Security Jamshed Cheema said the training of farmers for better output is necessary and can be done by bringing together farmers and providing extension services from the agriculture.....more >>
EAC sub-group for minimising role of middlemen
Source: APP, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-05-21

ISLAMABAD: The Sub-group of Economic Advisory Council (EAC) on Thursday called for facilitating the farmers by ensuring market access to sell their produces with proper rates of returns in order to made agriculture more profitable, besides reducing the role of middle men. The Sub-group met here with Minister of National Food Security and and Research, Syed Fakhar Imam and Special Assistant to Pri.....more >>